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Coun. Kris Wilkinson (left) and Coun. Harvir Sidhu stand with Fight for Farmland leader Alfred Lowrick at a press conference on Wednesday morning. Photo by Lee Griffi

Pair of Wilmot councillors demanding transparency from the Region of Waterloo on land grab

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Two Wilmot Township councillors have broken their silence on the controversial Region of Waterloo land acquisition plan citing a lack of respect.

Harvir Sidhu and Kris Wilkinson invited members of the media and concerned citizens to a press conference on Stewart

Snyder's farm right in the heart of the 700-plus acres of land up for potential industrial development.

Sidhu, Ward 3 councillor, said it is time for the region to talk.

"Over the past few months, we have heard from our community loud and clear. Wilmot residents are angry. They are angry that farmers and landowners have not been

treated fairly or with respect during this ongoing land acquisition. It honestly comes down to respect or a lack thereof," Sidhu said.

He added no one should be forced to live in such uncertain times and he challenged the region to release the technical details behind the land acquisition and tell residents why this particular site is being assembled.

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Hardeman looking to protect grieving consumers

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman tabled a motion in the Legislature this week that aims to ensure bereaved consumers are protected and have freedom of choice when dealing with third-party sellers.

The motion asks the government to study the practices of the bereavement sector and determine if the current legislative and regulatory framework is fair and prioritizes consumers. It reads:

"That, in the opinion of this House, the Government of Ontario should conduct a comprehensive review of the practices in the funeral, burial and cremation services sector to ensure they prioritize protecting vulnerable families in their time of bereavement, promote freedom of choice in access to third-party sellers and determine if the current rules and framework under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 are fair and achieve the highest level of consumer protection."

Hardeman said a review of the act is long overdue since the act is over 20 years old. He added it allows companies to own a funeral home, cemetery and monument operation.

"Over time, there were some questions that somebody could come in for a funeral and then be sold a plot and a stone from the same company. The fear is they would have an unfair advantage over a small business selling just one service," Hardeman said.

Hardeman explained he isn't accusing anyone of using dishonest business practices but instead a potential unfair advantage. He has met with the Ontario Monument Builders Association which has expressed legitimate concerns.

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COMMUNITY —

Region called out on a lack of transparency

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Wilkinson, who represents Ward 2, explained Wilmot council is not the decision-making body on the issue, but they do represent the people directly impacted. He also called out the Region of Waterloo to be honest with ratepayers.

"I am publicly calling on the region to come to Wilmot to hear directly from our residents and farming community," Wilkinson said. "We've tried to play by the rules, but the process has not shown for our residents. The farmers are hardworking individuals, they bring a lot to our small community and honestly, enough is enough."

Following statements from the pair of councillors and the face of the Fight the Farmland campaign, Alfred Lowrick, the trio took questions from the media including one asking why the township can't say more.

"All of our information has been provided to us in closed sessions (of council). As you are aware, anything discussed in a closed session means we are bound by the Municipal Act and we can't disclose that information to the public," said Sidhu.

If any member of council were to release details from an in-camera session, they would be in breach of the act, terminated from their position and banned from ever running for municipal office again. The Region of Waterloo has so far ignored all requests to be more transparent. Sidhu said there is no Plan B yet, but hoped the press conference would make waves.

"I would say calling them out in public should be pressure enough for them to listen. We will continue to advocate for our people. We have been following the rules to no avail but that's why we have come out today, to make it more public. You would have to ask the region why they aren't coming out and accepting our asks."

Wilkinson explained at the end of the day the region receives the message and added he is seeing a disturbing trend in local politics of late.

"I want to remind our bureaucrats who they work for. You work for the people. We work



Members of the media and Wilmot residents attended a press conference organized by two councillors fed up with a lack of transparency from the Region of Waterloo. Photo by Lee Griffi

for the people. We represent them and we are asking for information and action and the bureaucrats who work for us who perform these tasks and duties need to listen and respond. At the end of the day, we are the ones who pay for them to be there."

The media released information on the land acquisition 14 weeks ago, yet the public knows no more details about why the land has been chosen and for what potential purpose.

"Truthfully, I thought we would probably see some resolution to this issue and have conversations happen," Wilkinson said. "We have been trying to respect the process but it isn't being led by our level of government. We have not wanted to muddy the waters, not wanted to involve ourselves in something we don't have any control over."

He added he and Sidhu are doing their jobs, which is to represent the ratepayers of Wilmot.

"At the end of the day, that is what we are on council to do and we have to make sure we are bringing those voices to the forefront."

Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen released a statement following Wednesday's event and said she supports everything said by her fellow elected officials.


"It's no secret that our residents have many outstanding questions about the region's land assembly in Wilmot Township. I echo the concerns that Coun. Sidhu and Coun. Wilkinson have raised about the process. I'm continuing to work behind the scenes to advocate that the landowners are respected during the process and will continue to advocate for the region to provide

information to the general public."

Lowrick and the Fight for Farmland group said they have filed a total of 21 Freedom of Information requests. He added his hope is the township will pass a motion saying they are unwilling hosts for any development that takes away prime farmland.

"We are trying to learn more about these regional and provincial secret backroom meetings and dealings," Lowrick said.

He also announced a pair of Fight for Farmland town-hall meetings tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 20 and Monday, June 24 at 7 p.m. at the old community centre in downtown New Hamburg. More information will be released by the group shortly.



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COMMUNITY —

Hardeman aims to safeguard grieving consumers

Continued from page 1

"If a monument is going to a cemetery owned by someone who also sells stones, all of a sudden there is an issue scheduling the installation or the family finds out they have to hire a different company to put the base in because it is their cemetery," said Hardeman. "We were first looking at changing the bill, but we decided to put it through a review to ensure everybody is acting in the best interest of the consumer."

Hardeman said the priority is not having excessive pressure put on customers at the time of bereavement to pay more and buy everything at a funeral home, the first stop after someone passes away.

"Grieving people may not always be in the position to make rational decisions. We have heard from people the prices on those types of sales are a lot higher than they are from the small businesses who never get to talk to the customer."

He said he has heard from independent monument builders and other third-party sellers in the riding and across Ontario that the current framework may not be adequately prioritizing consumer protection and freedom of choice.

"Having the ability to easily comparison shop where consumers have full knowledge and choice as to where they can get services for their loved one is very important to prevent them from being taken advantage of at a very difficult time."

"The timing for this comprehensive review could not be better," said Gary Foster, executive director of the Ontario Monument Builders Association. "It has been 25 years since consumer groups and industry participants have had the opportunity to address fairness in the bereavement sector. The Ontario Monument Builders believe that freedom of choice for the consumer affords the best consumer protection for those who have lost a loved one."

Hardeman added people should be able to comparison shop and not be taken advantage of during a difficult time.

"Ontarians deserve and expect the highest level of consumer protection and freedom of choice in the bereavement sector. My motion, if passed, will make sure that Ontarians have a fair marketplace where they are not stifled from choosing which seller they believe is best for their loved one."

Frequent accidents at Perth East intersection highlight need for clearer traffic signals



Firefighters from Shakespeare and the Sebringville OPP were on hand last week at another collision between two cars at the busy Sebastopol intersection of Highway 59 and Perth Line 29 in Perth East. Both drivers were not injured, but the reason for many accidents at the corner, according to officials on the scene, seems that motorists continue to say they thought it was a four-way stop. Photo by Gary West

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COMMUNITY —

New Hamburg service club makes call for more community involvement

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Optimist Club of New Hamburg has made an emotional plea for the younger generations to join service clubs. Any club, not just their own.

Scott Dunstall, president of the New Hamburg Optimist Club, took to social media in an attempt to get more of the community to sign up.

“Support a club. Any club. Take your pick. Any of the five Optimist Clubs. The Wilmot Lions/Lioness, the New Hamburg Legion, the Rotary Club, The New Hamburg Board of Trade, Community Care Concepts and the Firebirds. We are all aging and we are not engaging new and younger members.”

Dunstall said there are many new people in the community who they would love to see step up and volunteer.

“It’s not just a matter of hey, get your ass off the chair and come out and help us. We have our target audience of people in their 30s to 50s but they have families and commitments and life is different now than it was 30 or more years ago when these clubs were formed.”

He added both parents are in the workforce today, the kids have sports and clubs they are active in and the parents go to where the kids are. A unique initiative by the Optimist Club was the implementation of a junior version to get young people interested early in life.

“It is not only to create future members but it is also putting me in touch with younger parents because they are coming out to join their children at the meetings. I am hoping to develop more younger members that way.”

The junior version of the Optimists currently has 12 members and eight are needed to charter as a club. Those members will be front and centre at Wilmot’s Canada Day celebrations.

“We have two scavenger hunts, a three-legged and potato



The New Hamburg Optimist Club recently donated \$10,000 to Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School for a brand-new football field score board. Photo courtesy New Hamburg Optimist Club

sack race, and face painting. They are managing all of that. Not only are these kids developing as volunteers for the future, but they are developing as people. They are learning life skills they would never learn at school; how to work towards a common goal, manage money and constructively debate ideas.”

Dunstall explained that if anyone were to talk to any local service club along with the legion, the story would be no different regarding the number of members and their current demographic, which he said is happening across the country. At the same time, he added organizations need to pivot to create more interest.

“They are outdated. The Optimist creed is “Friend of Youth.” We recite it after every dinner meeting and it was written decades ago. We have to modernize the clubs and make them youth oriented so our kids are attracted to it.”

He added many people don’t know what service clubs do and he would like to see a volunteer fair held at the New Hamburg Legion where organizations could set up tables to attract new members along with a dedicated Facebook page to get the word out.

“I was that way when I came to the community five or six years ago. I didn’t know the difference between the Lions, Optimists, Legion and the rest of them. If we can educate people about what we do, that might generate more

interest.”

Dunstall would also like to see a dedicated community page in the Gazette to provide readers with volunteer opportunities in the Wilmot area. He added two types of people donate their time to raise money for worthwhile causes – those who organize and those who show up at events to help out.

“We have members who have been with the club for 30, 40 years and they just can’t get out and do the events anymore. It’s not that the interest is waning with these folks, it’s the ability. We just aren’t getting people into the organization like we used to.”

The New Hamburg Legion has been and still is a focal point of the community and service clubs raise money for many local causes. If any of these organizations shut down, there will be a noticeable effect.

“It’s a multi-headed monster. The groups are dated and don’t appeal to the masses. You look at our club. We have 75 guys over the age of 50 and closer to 60 and they are all white and we have no women in our club either. As president, I have led some discussions at our business meetings about recruiting women.”

Dunstall is hopeful he can shift the culture of his club but he understands it won’t be an easy task, but the conversations are begging to happen.

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COMMUNITY —

New Wilmot Township staffer to support council and other endeavors

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Carly Pettinger has returned to her roots to help the township navigate the difficult process of council and ratepayer relations. But there is more to her new role.

The Gazette was recently able to sit down with Pettinger and Mayor Natasha Salonen to have a candid discussion regarding the new position and what benefit it is to rate-payers. Pettinger is the recently hired executive officer to the mayor and council.

Pettinger grew up in Waterloo, but her mother and step-father decided to move to Wellesley the week before her first year in high school. She was 14 and a bit apprehensive but decided to embrace the community as she went to Waterloo Oxford District High School.

"I ran the Relay for Life, was on the student leadership team and I worked at Schmidtsville restaurant for seven or eight years, and I loved the townships," she said.

After high school, she completed a double major in human rights and women and gender studies at Ottawa's Carleton University and wasn't sure if she would ever move back home after her parents both died of cancer before she was even 20 years old. She eventually decided to take a post-graduate program in public service at Conestoga College.

"I did a co-op placement with Waterloo New Democrat MPP Katherine Fife's office and there was a vacancy in her constituency office so that was my first professional job. It was a fast-learning environment and then I was asked to work for former NDP Centre MPP Laura Mae Lindo at Queen's Park."

Pettinger decided to come back to work at Fife's community office when she and her wife decided to have a baby.

"We have a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter and she is the light of our lives."

The job listing came out for the role at Wilmot and Pettinger explained the attraction for her was the heart of the people who live there.

"From the first week I started at W-O as a transplant from the big city, I knew people cared about the community and how it grows. I also know from my work provincially, communities across Ontario are growing and I want to be part of working with the mayor and council here to see that growth is intentional and community informed."

Pettinger, at the age of 31, is three years junior to Salonen, the youngest elected female mayor in Ontario history. The mayor explained while she comes from a similar role with the provincial Progressive Conservative Party, the pair see eye to eye when it comes to doing better for constituents.

"Getting that more immediate support when we have



Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen and newly hired Carly Pettinger discuss township business in the mayor's office. Contributed photo

ideas about community engagement like wanting to do town halls; we see larger municipalities facilitating that and generally they do have roles that do that."

Based on previous council's experience, Salonen said she was reflecting on some of the issues that frustrated people in the community. She added that all elected officials are in part-time roles, but with today's instant digital world, people have elevated demands.

"We have 24/7 connection through our phones and with that, people have great expectations of our councillors. I say that because I have taken this on as a full-time role, although it is still deemed as a part-time job," said Salonen.

"You don't need to come and be a jack of all trades if you have good ideas. Carly is a support person to fill in the gaps. A great example is social media. Mine has sat silent since the election because I haven't had time and, from a mental health perspective, because of the trolls, I haven't

had the bandwidth to want to go there."

She added Pettinger can support her and councillors with social media if they want to venture into that world and share the great work they are doing. Salonen said the new role will assist her and the rest of council with work-life balance.

Pettinger's first day on the job involved a five-plus hour council meeting that includes a few people who weren't permitted to speak on something not on the agenda. Coun. Harvir Sidhu came to her with an idea regarding an open-mic policy.

"There would be X number of spots where people would be able to speak for several minutes. He asked me to go out and research best practices and I spoke with other municipalities to build relationships and he then spoke with our clerk. Part of my role is to have a pulse on what everyone's hopes and dreams are and do some of the behind-the-scenes work."

Salonen said another part of Pettinger's role involves government relations. Other municipalities in Waterloo Region received funding under the federal government's Housing Accelerator program, which Wilmot applied for.

"Our staff have been phenomenal with the application and following up when they can, but a big part of other areas receiving the funding is they have government-relations advocates who are actively working those channels. We are a heck of a lot smaller than the City of Kitchener, but having someone who can follow up on those relationships will really help us."

Pettinger said she's excited about her new role and has met one on one with each member of council to connect with constituents in a more direct way.

"I would say it's been a busy-but-exciting couple of weeks. There are deadlines already but it's exciting to be learning the municipal world and translating my skills from provincial politics to the folks here."

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COMMUNITY —

The 77th annual Field Day and Fish Fry in Shakespeare deemed another huge success

By Gary West

Sunshine was the order of the day in Shakespeare on Saturday, and rain later in the day didn't seem to dampen the spirits of those who celebrated Shakespeare's 77th edition of the town's Field Day and Fish Fry.

The day started in the morning with a full-menu Firefighters Breakfast and continued with a soap box derby, ball games, a parade through town, children's races, an Optimist mini-midway, axe throwing, a live and silent auction, a pie-eating contest and wrapped up with hundreds lining up for the ever-popular fish fry and later fireworks.

It was a very successful day according to organizers.

The day is one that the Shakespeare Community Athletic Association (SCAA) organizes every June with the help of hundreds of village and area volunteers who have made it happen for 77 years.



The Field Day Parade includes horses and colts from the Stratford and District Saddle Club along with western riders from the Shakespeare area. Photos by Gary West



The Horst family, whose parents Sanford and Donalda Horst were a Shakespeare couple who helped get the original Shakespeare Field Day off the ground 77 years ago, are shown here frying fish. Pictured from left are Don, Brenda, Doug and Chris, who are happy to see the Horst family tradition continue year after year at Shakespeare's Field Day and Fish Fry.



The Bell Family have had a float in the parade since the start of Field Day and never ceases to amaze onlookers at the detail provided by five generations that originated with Bill and Emmalene Bell 77 years ago.



Members of the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club paraded with their polished farm tractors that worked area farms decades ago.



Blair Gautreau, 8, from Shakespeare drives the New Hamburg Optimist soap box derby car to victory in one of the races she competed in.



The Shakespeare Opti-Mrs float included, from left, Mary Lynn Slobozian, Ellen Fuhr, Angie McPherson and Charlotte McTavish. In front are ball players Grayson Fuhr and Hadley Fuhr.



The soap box derby cars lined up to compete for prize money at the annual derby in the Optimist Hall parking lot during morning activities. Pictured from left are Kadense Bell, 9 and Emmett By, 8, in the yellow car that finished first.



CJCS radio and Linton Window and Door help keep the younger set entertained throughout the day as the sun shines over Shakespeare.



Pictured left is Jennifer Jackson, a registered nurse from St. Joseph's Hospital in London, who said she has always wanted to drive a farm tractor in a parade. It was a dream come true for her in Shakespeare on Saturday when she was invited by friends Gerald and Gail Scheerer from west of Shakespeare to drive their 1962 Ford 2000 tractor in the town's annual Field Day Parade. The retired couple, who have been close friends with the nurse for years, said they gave her a 10-minute lesson and she was able to drive it like a pro. Afterwards, the RN for close to 25 years said she can now cross that experience off her bucket list. Photo by Gary West

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Framing is more than what meets the eye at Profiles In Art in New Hamburg

By Galen Simmons

When it comes to finding the best way to preserve and display those photographs, art pieces, collectibles and other items we hold most dear, finding the right frame is important.

Dawn and Garry Malo, co-owners of Profiles In Art in New Hamburg, have dedicated the last 35 years of their lives to designing and building custom frames for their customers' most treasured items and their most precious memories.

"We do custom picture framing," Dawn said. "A lot of what we try to do is reuse and redo, update what someone already has. This week, I had someone come in, they didn't have a big budget, so I found an old frame and I spray painted it black and got it ready for him. The important things for custom framing, if it's something of value, is what touches it. So, it's got to have good glass, good matts. The framing can change.

"It worked out well. He was happy with the price (and) I used stock on hand."

When it comes to finding or designing that perfect frame, Dawn says she takes the time to speak with her customers, learn about the photo or piece of art or item being framed, and understand what the piece being framed means to them.

Dawn says it's important not to have the frame overshadow the piece being framed and she uses symmetry, lines, different styles of edges, materials and colours to tailor each frame to the item, its owner and the space it will be in – though she says she is definitely not an interior decorator.

The Malos do not sell prefabricated frames. Instead, they provide a custom service, meaning every frame they make or repurpose or spray paint or cut down to size is unique.

Though Profiles In Art was originally



Dawn Malo stands inside the Profiles In Art shop at 6-73 Hincks St. in New Hamburg. Photo by Galen Simmons

located in Wellesley, during the pandemic the business took a big hit and Dawn and Garry made the decision to move their business to New Hamburg, first to 148 Peel St. and then to 6-73 Hincks St. where they are currently located – a little out of the way, but somewhere their loyal customers can still find them for all their framing needs.

"We've had a lot of support in New Hamburg. ... We've been around for a long time, so we knew we could hang in there and business has bounced back, and it's bounced back abundantly," Dawn said.

Dawn and Garry pride themselves in being able to design, build and mount a custom frame for nearly anything. From piano keys to military medals, Dawn says she finds joy in learning about why each item to be framed is important to its owner. In that way, she says she gets a glimpse at a small piece – be it a snapshot or a keepsake – of each of her customers' lives.

"You know what you like. My job is to

help you make it work in your home within your budget," Dawn said. "If I do a really good job, you don't really notice what I've done because all you see is the pictures or the art, and you don't realize it may have taken hours to measure and that sort of thing."

Dawn says she also likes to include a small, laminated card at the back of each frame to allow her customers a chance to write a description of whatever's in the frame – something that adds context for whoever is lucky enough to inherit it as it's passed down through the generations.

Having found success in their business, the Malos make sure they give back in any way they can. For the past 20 years, for example, Profiles In Art has sold prints by Bolivian artist Tania Maldonado with proceeds going to support the Bolivian Children Foundation.

For more information on Profiles In Art, visit profilesinart.com.

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COMMUNITY —

New Hamburg's Riverside Brass sells to new company

By Hannah Kavanagh

After 58 years of being a family business, Riverside Brass has been sold to a new company which has retained all of its original employees.

Riverside Brass of New Hamburg was founded originally in Cambridge in 1966 by Ervin Steinmann and Elmer Schlegel. They moved to New Hamburg in 1969 and have since become a well-known family-owned foundry for brass, bronze, aluminum and zinc castings.

Recently, Canerector bought the business and its Hamilton Road location. Canerector will be leasing the Waterloo Street building from Riverside Brass. The purchaser's name of their business will be Riverside Foundry Inc.

Canerector of North York, Toronto is a third-generation Canadian company started in 1947. They now own 10 foundries and over 30 other related companies. David Seyler, president of what was formerly Riverside Brass, is pleased with the decision to sell to a company that is in the foundry industry.

"I liked it, that it's a similar type of business. It's not a buy-and-sell type of thing," said Seyler.

While he will no longer have anything to do with Riverside Foundry Inc., his



The facilities on Hamilton Road and Waterloo Street will become Riverside Foundry Inc. Contributed photo

brother-in-law and vice president, Doug Steinmann, will have an operational contract with the company to ensure things transition smoothly if they have any questions.

On top of that, Seyler and Steinmann still remain landlords of the Waterloo Street plant, a facility that shares a space with other thriving businesses.

"Hopefully they'll make the business prosperous and even better than we were able to do," said Seyler.

The most important part for Seyler, his wife Susan Seyler, who is a shareholder in the company, and Steinmann is that the

transition is as smooth as possible for current employees.

"It was really important to myself and Doug and Susan," said Seyler.

He held a meeting with all union and non-union employees after the announcement of the sale to express his gratitude for the team's leadership and work.

"A business is not successful because there's a president and a vice-president or shareholders. It's successful when there's a team effort ... and the end result is positive for everyone."

The end decision to sell, said Seyler, was based on overall workload and age factor.

"I'm not a young man anymore," said Seyler, who was working 70 to 80 hours over the past four or five months to complete the sale details and will now be able to take more time for himself.

"We didn't have many opportunities in keeping the legacy going, as far as family is concerned."

The sale took 18 months to finalize. Now, with the end in sight, Seyler is hopeful that Canerector will continue the great legacy that has been established.

"We were successful, and I'm sure the new company will be successful as well," said Seyler. "I'll be surprised if they aren't."



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COMMUNITY —

Waterloo Rural Women host Children's Farm Safety Day

By Gary West

The Waterloo Rural Women run a program every year on Children's Farm Safety at a Waterloo Region farm.

This year, Rick and Erin Koch hosted the 26th children's Farm Safety Day on June 1 at their farm on Carmel-Koch Road.

The day consisted of six safety stations - fire safety, large-machinery safety, large-animal safety, electrical safety, brain-injury safety and a small-animal talk with a vet.

According to leader Susan Martin, the children are divided into six groups and move from station to station with their group leaders.

Each station is manned by a volunteer

who presents safety tips pertaining to their station.

At the large animal station, the group learned that a large animal sees the world much differently than humans do. Children had an opportunity to try on glasses that copied how a large animal measures depth perception. Each station had valuable safety lessons to be learned.

Children ages five to 12 take part in the farm-safety day. This year, they had 62 children registered along with several younger siblings attending with their parents.

The organizing committee with Waterloo Rural Women says the day could not have been run without the generosity of sponsors and the many volunteers.



A group photo of the 62 children who learned about farm safety during the Waterloo Rural Women's Children's Farm Safety Day in early June. Photos by D. Rogers



Inside the dairy barn of Waterloo Region's Rick and Erin Koch, area children learn about feeding and managing a profitable dairy cow and what they eat to produce milk.

School Crossing Guard Week recognized those who keep students safe

By Gary West

There are special days and weeks dedicated to our communities' unsung heroes.

Last week was recognized as School Crossing Guard Week and we in the Tavistock area took time to recognize a couple of crossing guards who, day in and day out, keep children safe while they walk to and from school in Tavistock.

As with the feed truck in background of the picture, the pair remain cognizant of how important their job really is to make sure students arrive at school and get home safely every day, no matter what traffic or weather they encounter.



Val MacQueen and Lori Snider have spent years making sure student safety remains their first priority. Val is in her 25th year and Lori is 22nd year as crossing guards on the very busy five corners of Tavistock. We salute all area school crossing guards and say thanks for another year of a job well done. Photo by Gary West

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 75TH BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn (12th) and George (16th)



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COMMUNITY —

OBITUARY

HAASE: Paul William



It is with deep sorrow we announce the passing of Paul William Haase at the Stratford General Hospital on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at the age of 78 years.

Cherished husband of Jeanette Haase (nee Kelly). Beloved father of Colleen Michaelis (Dan), Cathy Fidler (Phil), and Mike Haase (Sherri). Most cherished

papa of Luke, Mark (Rachel), Maggie Danner (Ryan), and Max Michaelis; Aaron and Noah Fidler; and Abbie, Emma, and Lillian Haase. The greatest great grandpa to Eva and Dean Michaelis. Much beloved brother of Helen Cronk (Bill) and Sandra Haase, and cherished brother-in-law to Sharon and Jerry Pospeich and Ginette Kelly. His great sense of humour will be missed by many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his parents Clayton and Monica Haase, sister and brother-in-law Marilyn and Peter Dawe, brother and sister-in-law Bob and Jeannie Haase and sister Mary Haase, father and mother-in-law Cletus and Rita Kelly and brother-in-law Patrick Kelly.

Paul taught for the London District Catholic School Board for many years teaching grade 7 and 8, even supply teaching after retirement at many schools throughout Woodstock. He was a life-time member of the Tavistock Optimist Club and a member of the New Hamburg Legion, with a passion for serving his community.

He loved sports and played ball as a pitcher for Tavistock Optimist Slow Pitch and the Stratford Army & Navy Slow Pitch teams. As a high school student he was an avid basketball player representing Notre Dame in Guelph and Waterloo-Oxford in Baden. Throughout his life he has coached many ball teams with great joy. He was also a former President and Manager respectively of the Tavistock Royals Hockey Club.

The family would like to sincerely thank the nursing staff on the Critical Care Unit at Stratford General Hospital with special thanks to Dr. Kara and Marin Delaney, RN.

Relatives and friends will be received in the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock St. N., Tavistock on Wednesday, June 12 from 4-7 p.m. with Vigil prayers to follow at 7pm. Memorial Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at St. Joseph's RC. Church, Stratford at 11:00 a.m. with a visitation before Mass at 10 a.m. at the church. Interment to follow at Avondale Cemetery, Stratford. Reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Stratford General Hospital Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

OBITUARY

OLIVER REID HARPER 1943-2024



Oliver Reid Harper died peacefully at home, with his wife by his side, on Friday, May 31, 2024 at the age of 81. Reid leaves his loving wife Mary Lou Schwartzentruber; daughters Angela (Craig) Cox and Tracey (Darin) Veilleux; stepchildren Erin, Rachel and David (Damaris) Schmucker; grandchildren

Emma and Ethan; stepgrandchildren Declan, Eli, Naomi and Anika; brother-in-law Tim (Pam) Schwartzentruber; nieces and nephews; and special friends Carol and Wayne Sayeau, and Tim and Jacqui Schmucker.

He was predeceased by his parents Oliver and Harriet (Burns) Harper; brothers Walter (and Beverley), Albert, Edward, and sister Barbara; father and mother-in law Glenn and Fannie Mae (Schumm) Schwartzentruber; and brother-in-law Brian D. Schwartzentruber.

Born and raised in Kingston, Ontario, Reid enjoyed his career of over 30 years as an Insurance Broker for Crown Life Insurance, and was a member of the Million Dollar Roundtable Club.

His daughters grew up with a father who enjoyed being active with horseback riding, swimming, boating, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and travelling on summer vacations.

Reid's interests in woodworking and Intarsia provided a creative outlet. To the delight of his grandchildren and friends, Reid was an avid model railroader, bringing joy to many.

Cremation has taken place. There will be a Celebration of Life service on Saturday, June 22, 2024 with Interment of Ashes at 2 pm, East Zorra Mennonite Church Cemetery 16th Line; service at 3 pm, Tavistock Mennonite Church, followed by a light fellowship meal and visitation. The service will be live-streamed for those unable to attend.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation or Tavistock Mennonite Church would be appreciated. Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Francis Funeral Home, Tavistock



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

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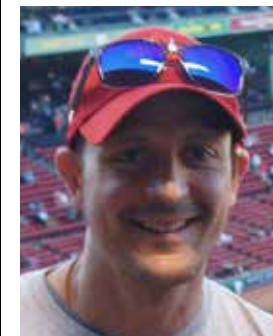
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Pastor Jim Brown

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OBITUARY

BAECHLER: Steven William "Steve"



Passed away peacefully with his wife and sons by his side, on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Steve Baechler of Wellesley in his 50th year.

Beloved husband of Beth (Wagler) Baechler whom he married January 24, 2007. Dear father of Sam and Alex Baechler both at home. Dear son of Donna (Peter Lesouder) of Stratford, brother of Jim Baechler of RR#1 Shakespeare, son-in-law of Judy & the late Clare Wagler of Wellesley, brother-in-law of Sherry Wagler & Jamie Gaulton of Waterloo and Tanya & Damon Johnstone of Wellesley. Sadly missed by his nieces Lauryn, Erin, Hannah and nephews Jonas, Ethyn and Evan. Lovingly remembered by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Predeceased by his father Harry Baechler (October 30, 2022).

Steve will always be remembered for his infectious laugh, hard work ethic, determination and his willingness to help others despite his own health struggles He has left a remarkable and amazing legacy for his boys.

Relatives and friends were received in the Francis Funeral Home on Tuesday from 1-4pm and 6-9pm. Burial took place at Rushes Cemetery, Wellesley on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 11:00am, followed by the Memorial Service at Shakespeare Presbyterian Church at 1:00pm. Reception followed in the Shakespeare Optimist Hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth would be appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

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GRANTHAVEN.COM/WILMOT-TAVISTOCK-GAZETTE**

COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. What is the first name of Batman's butler?
2. In Crokinole, how many points are awarded for landing in the centre hole?
3. What is the capital of Canada?
4. What is the Spanish word for "cat"?
5. Who does Harrison Ford play in Star Wars?
6. What does the word "ethos" mean in Greek?
7. What is the smallest unit of matter?
8. Who was the first PM of Canada?
9. What country would you find Machu Picchu?
10. What does C.I.A stand for?

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.

June 11: Happy birthday to Mateo Roman Reyes (5), Nolan Yantha (10), Jack Bisch (12), Benjamin Bisch (12), and Fran Eekhof, and anniversaries for Keith and Eileen Erb (59th), Brad and Laura Witzel (13th) and Jean and Ernie Faulhafer.

June 12: Happy birthday to Kierra Mason (6), Kaelynn Schlegel (15), Carson Gilmore (15), Sophia Bailey and Nicholas Danen, and anniversary for Tim and Jayne Whetstone, Cathy and John Young.

June 13: Happy birthday to Liam Weldrick (3), Ava Brooks (11), Shelby Zehr (17) and Jaris Marriott, and anniversary for Susan and Gord Mills.

June 14: Happy birthday to Rianna Forthuber (19), Payge Schlosser (22), and Julia Harmer (22).

June 15: Happy birthday to Nathaniel Berg (9), Rylee Weldrick (9) and Mackenzie Kalbfleisch (32)

June 16: Happy birthday to Jackson MacMillan (14), Wesley Berendsen (14), Daniel Kalbfleisch (35), and anniversaries for Wes and Janice Leis (51st), and Dean and Phoebe Steckley (12th).

June 17: Happy birthday to Colin Jackman (4), Sophia Chemerys (12), Brooklyn McNab (20), and anniversary for Jedediah and Lisa Zehr (18th).

June 18: Happy birthday to Natalie Puklicz (17), Issac Hammer (20), and anniversaries for Jordan and Kim Destun (13th), and Bill and Wanda Brown.

June 19: Happy birthday to Eliot Dart (14), Brooklyn Lange (20), and anniversaries for Dianne and Larry Currah (53rd), Brett and Lindsay Zehr (20th), Jeff and Jenna MacLeod (14th), Bryan and Chantelle McNeish (14th).

The Old Gazettes

By Jake Grant

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

June 11-18, 2014, Edition (10 years ago)

Volunteer Robert Brodrecht and members of the Tavistock Men's Club fed approximately 600 patrons at their annual fish fry last evening, June 4, 2014. From left are members Bob Rudy, Calvin Schwartzentruber, Larry Zehr and Jack Wettlaufer.

Waterloo-District Girls Secondary School girls' soccer silver-medalist team defeated St. John's, Brantford, to earn a spot in the finals. Unfortunately, the team lost to St. James Secondary School of Guelph.

Sometimes, their time out of school is as important as their time in the classroom. For students at Tavistock Preschool, Monday and Tuesday of last week were those days. Monday morning's group of children and their parents went for a tour through Valu-Mart and then New Orleans Pizza to make their own pizzas.

About 180 packed Christ Church, Huntingford on Sunday, June 8, 2014, for their 175th Anniversary Service.

June 9-16, 2004, Edition (20 years ago)

Joe Fulop of Exeter is creating a dynasty in the world of crokinole. He has won the World Crokinole Championship in Tavistock three times in the past six years of its existence and has always placed in the top 16 each year.

On May 31, 36 residents of the Village Manor held their monthly potluck supper and meeting of the friendship Club.

Dr. Alan Low, his associate and staff donated \$1,000 to Camp Bimini last week as a result of some creative in-house fundraising over the past year and to mark the

fourth anniversary of the new building at 48 Woodstock St. N in Tavistock.

Ken Ferguson of Hickson has one of his wishes. He's off to represent Canada on the trampoline at the Indo-Pacific Games in Kelowna, B.C. from July 11-19.

On Wednesday, June 9, 2004, Tim Hortons restaurants invited customers to buy a cup of coffee and help send over 9,000 kids, who could otherwise not afford it, on the camping adventure of a lifetime. Camp Day, the single largest fundraiser for the Tim Hortons Children's Foundation, raised nearly \$6 million this year from the more than 2,300 participating Tim Horton stores in Canada and over 180 stores in the United States.

Participants in the sixth-annual World Crokinole Championship held in Tavistock on Saturday, June 5, 2004, may see themselves on television this Thursday evening as a seven-minute documentary of the day's events will be broadcasted on TVOntario's Studio 2 program.

With the help of the Trillium Foundation grant of \$57,000, the Optimist Club began reworking their access routes at the park by the baseball diamond to make the park more accessible for those in wheelchairs.

June 13-20, 1984, Edition (40 years ago)

Two Tavistock businesses were officially joined together under one roof on Thursday, June 7 with a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new Tavistock IDA Pharmacy. For the first time in 15 years, Tavistock now has a full-service pharmacy. John Sinclair, Phm.B., cut the ribbon and declared the IDA Pharmacy officially open in front of 40 customers and staff.

Don's Food Market Catalogue: 1 lb. Ground beef \$1.69, 1 lb. Fresh Peaches \$0.99, 1-litre sunflower seed oil \$2.79, 8 kg bag of Butcher's Blend Dog Food \$8.99, 30-metre roll saran wrap \$1.99, 1 lb. Maple Leaf

Deli Sliced bologna \$1.99.

Although Mother Nature takes her toll on all things erected in Queen's Park, Tavistock, the merchants in the village and surrounding area always respond when asked to help. Tavistock Minor Ball Association would like to thank all who gave their financial support in helping to replace the scoreboard in Queen's Park.

About 160 senior citizens enjoyed an afternoon of music and entertainment on Wednesday, June 13 at the Tavistock Memorial Hall. The annual picnic was sponsored by the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock and convened by Wilfred Rosenberg and Mervin Zehr, councillors.

Tavistock Public School held their own Olympics on Friday, June 15 with all the fanfare and color of the World Olympics. Students marched around the school athletic field bearing the banners of 20 nations and participated in events such as three-legged race, ring toss, potato-sack race, shot put and others.

June 10-17, 1964, Edition (60 years ago)

At a meeting of the executive of the Shakespeare Athletic Association, held at the home of Joe Anderson, it was decided to give \$100 toward the new Tavistock Arena, now in the course of erection.

Construction of the new arena is progressing on schedule according to latest information, but contributions toward the project are lagging behind anticipations for the \$80,000 structure located at the south end of the park and east of the Memorial Hall.

Close to 700 men, women and children from Tavistock and Shakespeare attended the open house at the Bell Telephone Company of Canada building on Hope Street West last Wednesday night, Thursday afternoon and again Thursday night.

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COMMUNITY —

Louis focused on his constituents and his job during tumultuous times in Ottawa, Khanna working to oust Liberals from office

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Controversy over increased corporate gains taxes. Foreign interference in our democracy. The ArriveCan app scandal. These are just three of the contentious issues in Ottawa these days as the governing Liberals struggle to regain public support.

Despite the constant drama at Parliament Hill, Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis said it still doesn't compare to what members of parliament went through during the pandemic.

"There was no playbook. We were just trying to help people and do it on the fly. There is certainly no shortage of topics we are dealing with now and we are trying to pass legislation before the end of June. It's certainly a hectic time in the house," he said.

He doesn't feel the controversy is a distraction but admitted it adds time to his already long days.

"It's in addition to representing people in the riding, the committee and caucus work, the work as a parliamentarian. I am having those conversations whether I am home or here in Ottawa. It adds extra conversations and extra time but that's the responsibility I have."

He added the government counters by forcing long hours to get legislation passed and, at the same time, government committees are trying to wrap up their work

before the summer break.

"It's no different than any other job where you have deadlines to meet and things to do. Make a pot of coffee and get it done," Louis said.

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna says he tries to connect with the Oxford community as often as possible by hosting events open to the public.

"My email and cell-phone number are out there so I receive a lot of feedback. The cost of living is still top of mind," Khanna said. "People are struggling to put food on the table and it's getting worse every day. Food banks in Oxford are telling me they are over capacity."

He added that is why the Conservatives attempted to pass a bill to provide Canadians with some relief by removing the federal gas tax. Khanna said he also hears about the constant scandals plaguing the Trudeau team.

"I think they have come to the conclusion that, after nine years, this is what the Liberal government is. There are allegations of potential corruption. Every single day in parliament we are unravelling a new one. We are trying to get the RCMP involved where necessary and hold them accountable for their actions."

Surprisingly, Louis said the majority of worries heard by him and his staff are still the day-to-day issues affecting those living in Kitchener-Conestoga.

"The things hitting them at home. Affordability, housing and the environment. Those are the three topics still front of mind. That's what I remain focused on and what I hear when I go home on weekends," he said.

Some of the so-called political pundits are saying the prime minister will resign this summer while others say he is in for the long haul until the next election. Louis explained his loyalty remains with Justin Trudeau.

"The people I am hearing from who don't want the prime minister to run again are people who have never supported him to begin with. If people are frustrated, they are looking at the current government, no matter what country it is, to express those frustrations and that's fair in a democracy."

Louis wondered if the people who said Trudeau shouldn't run again are the ones who understand he defeated the last three Conservative leaders.

"Maybe that's part of the reason they would like to see a change in leadership," he said. "I do see people on the far right expressing their anger with unbelievable flags and messaging along with the emails and calls we are getting. I still think it's our responsibility to focus our energy on Canadians. The short answer is I have confidence in Prime Minister Trudeau and I find him quite accessible."

The Gazette also asked Louis if he was worried about his job come the next

election be it next fall or sooner. He said the polls are the polls and they don't concern him.

"The party is not doing well. It sounds cliché, but I've never looked at them. My responsibility every day is to focus on what needs to be done and how can I help people. If I were to get discouraged from polls that don't reflect well on the party, then I wouldn't do my job to the fullest."

The confidence and supply deal between the Liberals and NDPs shows no signs of breaking any time soon, something Khanna said is the only reason an early election hasn't been called.

"I think the marriage they have is a problem," Khanna said. "I put out a video of my recent speech in parliament where I say the NDP has sold out Canadians. Once they were a party of blue-collar, hardworking Canadians. Now they are backing the Liberals on nearly every single vote. They are trying to hold onto power as long as they can because they want their leader to get his pension."

Khanna added his party will continue to work hard to topple the government and allow voters to vote for change at the polls.

"From the conversations I have had across the country, Canadians are tired of this government. I want (Trudeau and Singh) both gone and voters will have that chance hopefully sooner rather than later to make the right decision for Canada."

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Annual Relay for Life event has raised over \$107,000 since the event began



Students at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School participated in the annual Relay for Life from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. June 7. The event has thus far raised more than \$107,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Photo by Téa Rogers.

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Dylan wants to know two things:

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- 2. Why her Grampa likes Elvis so much

Photo of Goldie Garratt by Gemma James Smith

Saving Graceland

Written by Gil Garratt

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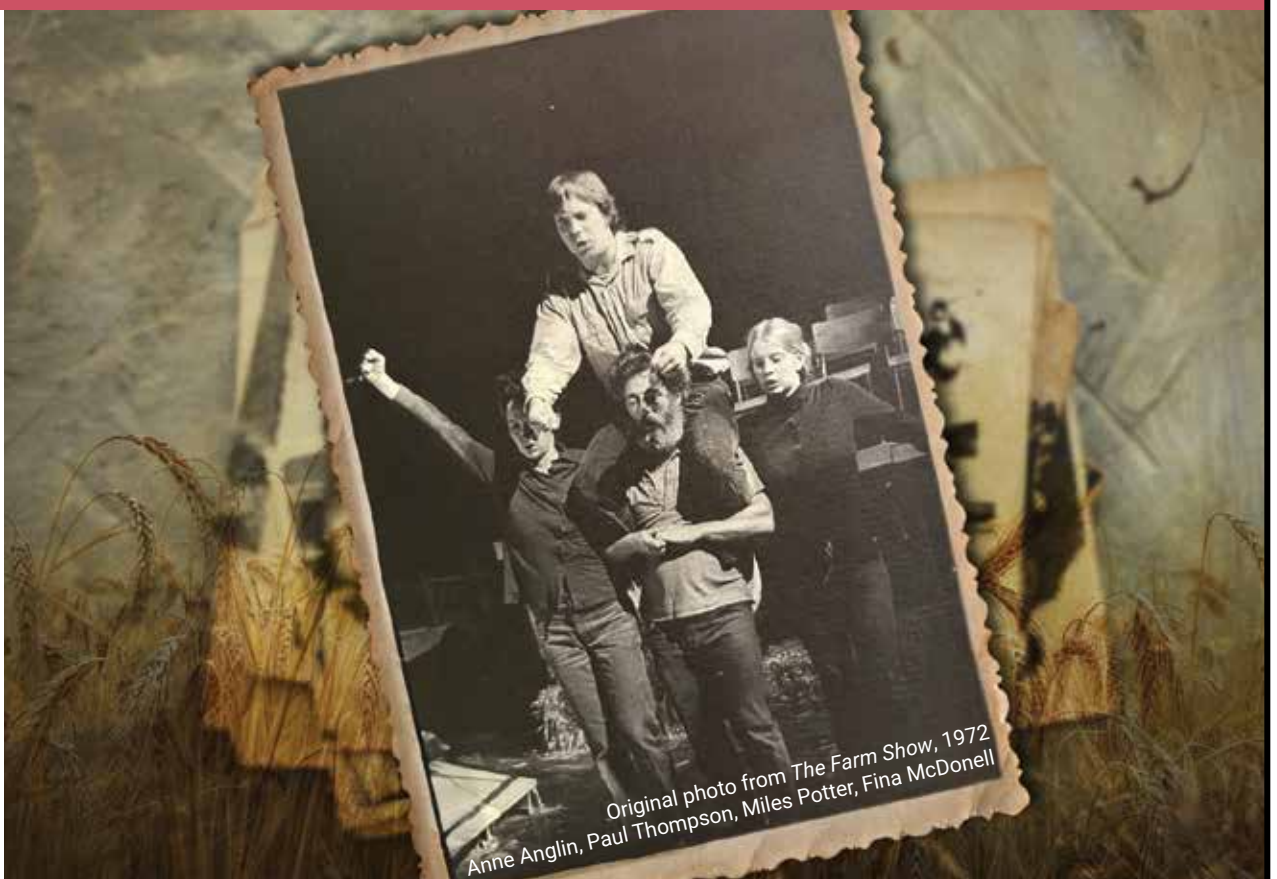
The Farm Show: Then & Now

PREMIERES

JUNE 12 - AUGUST 4

Outdoors on the Harvest Stage

The Play that inspired the Blyth Festival. In 1972 a group of actors volunteered on some farms in Huron County. Then they made a play about it and the farmers went to the play. Folks laughed and cheered and saw themselves onstage for the first time ever. 52 years later, we're celebrating by putting that magic onstage all over again.



Original photo from The Farm Show, 1972
Anne Anglin, Paul Thompson, Miles Potter, Fina McDonnell

SPORTS —

Tavistock resident doing lines in the Stanley Cup final

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Devin Berg is working his first-ever National Hockey League final series.

Berg, who wears number 87, is an eight-year veteran who has done over 70 play-off games in his career. After three trips to the conference finals over the past six seasons, Berg is working his first Stanley Cup Final.

He was offered a linesman minor league contract in the summer of 2015. He worked his first NHL regular season game in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Oct. 15 of that year when the Nashville Predators were in town to play the Islanders. His teammates that night were referees Dave Jackson and Frederick L'Ecuyer while his partner on the lines was Brian Murphy. He was promoted to a full-time NHL linesman status in the summer of 2016.

Officials get paid per round in the post-season, with referees earning \$27,000 and linesmen \$17,250. Standby referees earn \$1,000 for being on call, with an increase to \$2,750 if they get into the game. Linesmen pick up a \$650 check, which bumps to \$1,775 if they take the ice.

As in previous seasons, the league will continue to cut down on the pool of



Tavistock's Devin Berg is working as a linesman in the Stanley Cup finals. Contributed photo

officials after each round of the playoffs.

Berg started his refereeing career in Tavistock as a minor hockey official.

2023-24 curling in Tavistock shows an increase in membership

By Gary West

Curling in Tavistock has wrapped up for the 2024 season with the Tavistock Curling Club's annual meeting and pork barbecue.

The club had a very successful curling season showing an increase in membership with lots of activity happening at the club.

Several draws now include Youth Curling, Learn to Curl, Scotch Doubles and several bonspiels.

With the recent mounting of the Canadian and provincial flags, there has also been 19 sign advertisements mounted on the walls of the rink.

They include Brian Wilhelm Apple Homes, B W Feed and Supply, D&D Electric, Denise Drinkwalter, Five Star Custom Concrete, Josslin insurance, Mohr Construction, Premier Equipment, Quehl's Restaurant and Catering, Raymer Financial, Sam's Valu-Mart, Scotiabank, SouthEasthope Mutual, Tavistock Chiropractic, Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette, Tavistock IDA Pharmacy, Tavistock Veterinarians, Yantzi Home Building Centre and Zehr Automotive.

The club thanks those sponsors for continuing to support the ever-expanding curling programs in Tavistock.



Pictured is the new, updated look at the Tavistock Curling Club. Contributed photo

Wilmot Canada Day 2024

Monday, July 1, 2024

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SETTLEMENT AREA BOUNDARY EXPANSION AND SECONDARY PLAN STUDY

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY JUNE 20, 2024
 FROM 6:00PM TO 8:00PM
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The Open House will be a drop-in event that will continue the conversations from the previous Visioning Workshop while also looking at the policy component of the Secondary Plan and allowing members of the public to further engage with the Project Team.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/GWPGEWJUeXewNJMC?ref=Link>

COMMUNITY —

Plattsville & District Heritage Society's 2024 exhibit opening June 22

By Carol Coombs, Plattsville & District Heritage Society

The Plattsville & District Heritage Society welcomes you to their 2024 annual exhibit, A Decade of Treasures, showcasing highlights from the society's last nine displays, which began in 2015, plus vintage Barbie dolls on display in celebration of Barbie turning 65 this year, and a Disney princess display.

Our friend, Mickey and his gang celebrated their 100th birthday in 2023. Elvis is in the building and you can play pinball. There is a scavenger hunt for kids of all ages. The society is excited to open their doors on June 22 at 10 a.m. for another fun summer full of history, discovery, reminiscing and catching up with old friends.

The shows from past years include A Gathering of Quilts (2015), Past to Present (2015) and Interactive Toys and Game Display (2015), Weddings Through the Ages (2016), Windows to the Past for Canada's 150th (2017), Open the Doors to Christmas (2018), Remembering the '50s and '60s (2019), Hobbies, Crafts & Collections (2021), A Journey Back to the Roaring '20s (2022), Dirty '30s (2022), War Years (2022), Baby Boom of the '40s (2022), and Clubs, Teams and Organizations (2023). Each exhibit has its own photobook which can be purchased for your bookshelf and is filled with personal and delightful pictures.

There will be items from every exhibit for you to see including:

- A platform of Christmas Trees from old tinsel to new green spruce sparkling and twinkling with lights of all ages, a roaring fireplace, snow globes and wrapped presents;
- Quilts made by your grandmother and some made by ladies with nimble fingers, needles and thread or a smooth running sewing machine of today;
- Wedding Dresses from more than 100 years ago up to



Jenny Harvey's Mouse House from 2016 Open the Doors to Christmas display! Contributed photos

a modern one of just yesterday, wedding accessories, member's wedding photos, and a man's attire of the past;

- Interactive toys and games, books and teddy bears ready for a picnic;
- '50s and '60s diner with stools along with a pinball machine that actually works;
- '20s, '30s and '40s flapper dresses, parlor decor, and ladies of the night all dressed for you and ready to entertain;
- Club, team and organization pictures and newspaper clippings depicting the history from Bright, Chesterfield, Plattsville, Ratho, Washington and the community;
- Hobbies such as tracing your roots or scrapbooking, craft demonstrations such as woodworking or knitting and collections of Beanie Babies in a basket or salt-and-pepper shakers on a shelf; and
- A celebration of Canada's 150th with a replica pioneer farm and antique tools.



Egg Cup Collection and Napkin Placemats specially folded in 2021 Hobbies, Crafts & Collections display.

Yes, there is much to see, so come and spend awhile and travel from the past to the present as you view the treasures before your eyes.

The Society was invited to use the old Chesterfield Church building in 2012 after the church closed and the congregation joined Peace United Church in Plattsville--a dream come true for the Society incorporated in 2001! You will find a permanent Mason's display in the building, books and binders filled with tidbits and history of the community as collected and donated by residents past and present and many artifacts and pictures on display here and there. Cemetery books are also available for location of stones up to 2006.

Where will you find the Society--at Chesterfield Museum/ Archives, 816661 Oxford Road 22 which is two roads north of Bright. They are open on Saturdays from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. from June 22, 2024 to September 14, 2024 or by appointment. Donations are welcome.



Let's play baseball with Bright from the 2023 Clubs, Teams & Organizations exhibit.

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

OPINION —

Tractor parade to Rotary Hospice Stratford-Perth honours neighbour and friend

By Gary West

It's not every day in the City of Stratford one sees a parade of 50 or more farm tractors travelling on city streets in a friendly convoy.

That was the case on Sunday afternoon, June 9, when a group of farmers from Perth and Oxford counties got together and honoured one of their fellow farmers, who is now

a resident of the Rotary Hospice Stratford-Perth.

Roger Lupton, who dairy farms with his family southwest of Tavistock, was proud to see all his neighbours driving their farm tractors on the street to the west, immediately behind the Rotary Hospice, to offer support with friendly, neighbourly waves to their lifelong neighbour and friend.



The large group of farm neighbours and friends, who congregated at the Dave and Christine Meadows farm south of Stratford, then drove their 40 tractors of all sizes and colours into the city. The tractor parade was in honour of Roger Lupton, a resident at Rotary Hospice Stratford-Perth. The tractor drivers waved to Roger as he looked out from the large, picture window from his room. Roger's wife, Marianne, along with his parents and daughters also looked on with a smile of gratitude to all the caring neighbourhood farmers. Marianne said she will picture forever the smile that came to Roger's face as the tractors went by. Photos by Gary West



The parade of tractors could have been called an honour guard as they drove behind the Rotary Hospice Stratford-Perth. They were showing their heartfelt appreciation to friend and neighbour Roger Lupton as he watched through the back window of his room at the hospice.

Open House

Sat. June 15th 10:30-Noon
Sun. June 16th 2:00-4:00 pm



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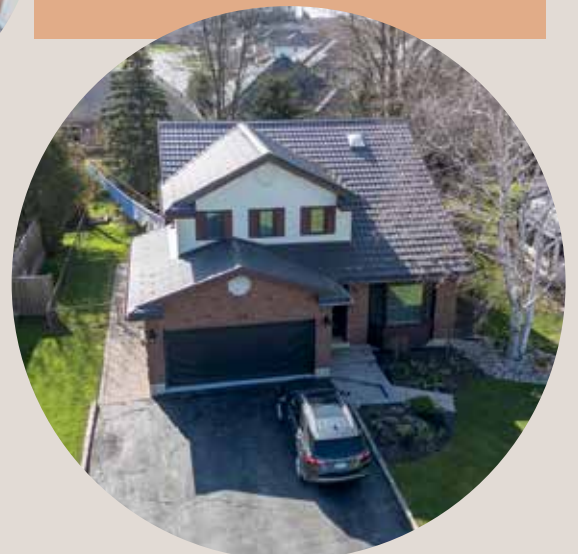
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Open House

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259 WOODSTOCK ST. S. TAVISTOCK
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OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *Scintillating strawberries*



By Mercedes Kay Gold

After a fun-filled, power-picking strawberry session or a quick pickup, the stunning supersized strawberry is sure to be the superstar of slews of sensational recipes.

Pinehill Farms welcomed berry lovers on May 27 roadside and to those who love a little earthing, pick-your-own opened June 1.

A recap of my strawberry feature on May 30: The bevy of body-boosting benefits is impressive. Strawberries are low in calories, just 32 in a cup. The low-carbohydrate content makes them a favourite in keto diets and those in Phase 1 of a carnivore diet. Strawberries are truly a superfood; fiber-filled, awesome anthocyanins, crazy quercetin and high in immune boosting vitamin C. The ravishing red color highlights its high antioxidants, anti-inflammatory properties, and the power-packed berry combats free-radicals throughout the body.

Strawberries are portable perfection and a great hydrator during the summer thanks to a 91 per cent water content.

This healthy recipe creator loves their versatility. Strawberries are magical in meal planning. From a good morning smoothie, dried for a berry burst in hand-crafted granola, super spinach salad toppers, superlative in salsa, perfect as a pancake add-in, and dynamite in dozens of dreamy desserts.

My top picks from the patch for sunrise to sunset! Start off by soaking strawberries in a stainless steel bowl filled with filtered water and a few spoonfuls of aluminum-free baking soda, rinse and hull.

Toss out boxed cereal and go for granola sweetened with dried strawberries. Wash and slice berries, pat dry and spread out on a parchment-paper-lined baking sheet without touching. Bake at 180-degrees Fahrenheit for about two hours or until the moisture is gone. Set aside to cool. In a large bowl, mix three cups of granola, a ¼ cup of maple syrup or honey, 1 cup of your favourite chopped raw nuts, 1 tsp of vanilla, 1 tsp Himalayan pink salt, and a ¼ cup of melted coconut oil. Combine well and spread out evenly on a baking sheet. Cook at 325-degrees Fahrenheit for about 25 minutes or until golden brown. Stir half way through. Remove, cool, add ½ a cup of dried berries, a ¼ cup of shredded unsweetened coconut, and store in a glass jar. Granola is a great grab-and-go or as a yogurt and ice-cream topper.

Commercial fruit snacks can contain corn syrup, chemicals and colors. Wash, hull and blend strawberries in a food processor. Pour into a food dehydrator and ta-da, it's ready to cut into strips for on-the-go snacking.

This awesome appetizer is all about brie cheese. Go for goat and love your gut. Place the goat brie in a preheated 350-degree Fahrenheit oven for 12-15 fifteen minutes or until softened. In a small saucepan on low to medium heat, add 3 Tbsp maple syrup, 1 cup washed, hulled and sliced berries and 4 Tbsp balsamic vinegar. Stir until softened, approximately three to five minutes. Be careful not to burn. Top cheese with the warm compote and raw walnut pieces. Serve with crackers.

The perfect lunch or dinner can be meat or plant based. Combine 2 cups of washed and sliced strawberries, and one diced mango, small red onion, medium tomato and avocado. To boost protein, add a can of rinsed black beans or 2-3 cups of chopped, cold roast chicken. The strawberries at Pinehill are so sweet, skip the

dressing. Just in case, combine ¼ cup avocado oil, juice of one lime, 1 tbsp maple syrup, a ¼ cup apple cider vinegar, salt and pepper to taste. Pour over and serve. Top with fresh chopped cilantro.

Add pizzazz to summer drinks. Rim the glass with maple sugar. Place sliced strawberries into ice cube trays, cover with water and freeze.

Beat the heat with popsicles. Add washed, hulled and sliced berries into popsicle molds and cover with pure coconut water, Mother Nature's exceptional electrolyte replacement.

The local season is short-lived and Wendy the strawberry will be gone by July 13. Pick extra and freeze for winter sweet smoothie love or embrace canning and make jam. Pinehill Farms is located at 2662 Huron Road. On June 14 and 15, have fun on a hayride, fill up on Crystal's fries and have a bouncing good time in the jumping castle. See you there!



Strawberries picked fresh at Pinehill Farms. Mercedes Kay Gold photos



Brie goat cheese topped with strawberry compote.



Grab-and-go strawberry fruit leather.



Strawberries are perfect in a salad.



Granola sweetened with dried strawberries.

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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: "Doubleday didn't invent baseball – baseball 'invented' Doubleday"



By Paul Knowles

A few weeks ago, I wrote a feature about quirky things that can befall you on a road trip. I mentioned our recent journey through the eastern United States had included a stop at Cooperstown, N.Y.

This brief reference inspired a reader to send me a rather passionate warning. He wrote, in part, "The story about baseball being invented in Cooperstown, N.Y. in 1839 by Major Abner Doubleday is apparently a total lie. Evidence suggests that Cooperstown is not the birthplace of baseball. The first recorded baseball game may very well have occurred in Beachville, Ont. on June 4, 1838."

So, I thought it appropriate to reassure my correspondent that the Cooperstown Hall of Fame does acknowledge the

fact that the Doubleday story is a myth. An exhibit makes this clear; the explanatory poster is headlined, "Inventing Abner Doubleday," and the text reads, "In 1905, the United States was taking its place on the world stage, eager to establish its distinct heritage. In that spirit, sporting goods magnate Albert Spalding handpicked a special commission to prove the national game's American roots. The eventual verdict? Civil War hero Abner Doubleday created baseball in Cooperstown in 1839.

"In fact, baseball was played decades earlier, evolving from similar bat and ball games. Doubleday didn't invent baseball; baseball 'invented' Doubleday."

This certainly doesn't support the Beachville story, but it does acknowledge the Doubleday myth is simply that – a myth with no historical foundation, even though the baseball diamond in Cooperstown still bears his name.

Now, about the museum; the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is most definitely designed with the baseball fanatic in mind.

There are some great features that would appeal to almost anyone – a really fine movie, for example, and some very well executed statues – but the bulk of the exhibits are memorabilia with explanatory notes that demand time and attention.

A non-fan could probably visit the hall in about half an hour.

A fan can spend a day. You can get immersed in baseball trivia, linger over bats, balls, gloves, jerseys, hats, shoes, water bottles, all of which have direct ties to specific, special moments in the history of the game. My favourite? The bat with which Joe Carter hit the home run that won the game – and the World Series – for the Toronto Blue Jays in 1993. That was the famed "Touch 'em all, Joe," moment described by Blue Jays announcer, the late Tom Cheek.

There are exhibits focused on heroes of the game – Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Hank Aaron, Cy Young and more. There is a noticeable attempt to be honest about the challenges of race relations within baseball. There are exhibits about women in baseball.

And then there is the plaque gallery, where fans can view the plaques of every member of the Hall of Fame – a decidedly non-digital, non-virtual experience that is relaxing and rewarding.

Most visitors come to Cooperstown to visit the Baseball Hall of Fame. But they soon discover there are two other fine museums in this small town, as well.

The Fenimore Art Museum features a number of exhibitions, some permanent and some temporary, but it specializes in American folk art. There is also an extensive exhibition titled, "The Thaw Collection of American Indian Art." I was intrigued – and a little disgruntled, given the exhibit's title – to discover that a significant number of the



The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York. All photos by Paul Knowles

decorative artifacts on display were created by Indigenous people from Canada. But that quibble aside, the Fenimore is well worth visiting.

Just across the road is The Farmers' Museum, a living museum with many historic buildings, lots of live farm animals and helpful docents. I learned from one that that the phrase, "bar and grill," did not originally refer to cooking – it was "bar and grille," the grille being the screen that was pulled down to close the bar.

The Farmers' Museum is a great place to wander, with lots to interest people of all ages.

I don't always highlight accommodations in my features, but in this case, I do want to recommend The Inn at Cooperstown, a historic building that maintains a bed-and-breakfast feel, has comfortable rooms and offers a terrific breakfast.

But the best thing is, guests who check out in the morning

are welcome to leave their cars in the lot for the day. Since the inn is a five-minute walk from the hall of fame, this solves the ever-present tourist parking problem.

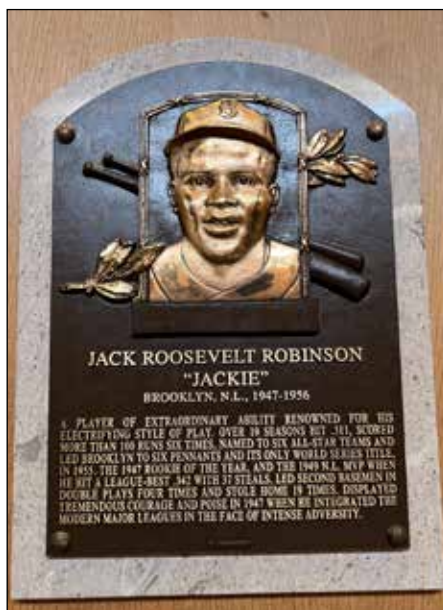
During the warm months, Cooperstown also operates a free trolley, which runs from parking lots on the outskirts of town and will take you to all the attractions I have mentioned. Of course, you can leave your car at the inn and use the trolley to get to the Fenimore and Farmers' museums.

Cooperstown is about a six-hour drive from our area. I highly recommend it as a weekend get-away for families, couples, or baseball fanatics, even if baseball wasn't actually invented there.

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.



Hall of Fame heroes Babe Ruth and Ted Williams.



The bronze plaque honouring the great Jackie Robinson.



The Farmers' Museum is a great family attraction.



The kitchen in one of the historic homes at the Farmers' Museum.

OPINION —

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK: *The tough decisions I need to make as an editor*



By Galen Simmons

When it comes to editing a newspaper, having enough content to fill the paper is my primary concern.

Without enough stories, photos, columns and other content, the quality of the paper suffers and, more importantly, we've failed to keep our readers properly informed of what is going on in their communities.

While every editor has, at one point or another, found themselves scrambling for content after a story – or several – has fallen through or reporters are sick or on vacation, recently, I've found myself with the opposite problem.

I have more content than I can fit in my papers.

It's a good problem to have. For all three of my papers – the St.

Marys Independent, Stratford Times and Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette – I've found myself having to pick and choose what goes in the paper and what has to wait for the next edition.

Though I prefer having too much content over not enough – it's the sign of a healthy news publication – selecting stories that aren't particularly timely or urgent and holding onto them for another week, or two in the case of the Stratford Times, is difficult.

I know there will be a reporter or a columnist who will be at least a little disappointed their story isn't running in the edition of the paper they'd written it for. On top of that, the subjects of any story

that gets delayed who were eagerly anticipating having their story and photo in the paper may also be disappointed.

As an editor, I too feel as though I've been unable to deliver all the content I could have without the limitations of print.

Luckily, Grant Haven Media recently launched a newly redesigned website, www.granthaven.com, where we can post all the stories we were unable to include in the paper that, for whatever reason, can't wait for the next edition. I encourage all of our readers to check out our website for any stories that may not have made it to print.

I would also encourage our business communities to consider supporting our local papers by purchasing advertising. The more advertising we sell, the more pages I have to share the local stories our readers want to read most. Email our director of business development, Heather Dunbar, at heather@granthaven.com for more information on advertising.

Our editorial team works hard every day to bring our readers quality, local content that informs, entertains and generally enriches life in their communities. Your support helps us share all of that hard work.

EXPERT ADVICE: *Don't let time and words redefine you*



By Scott Dunstall

June is designated Seniors' Month in Ontario and I am pleased to see all the well wishes and recognitions to the folks that have worked in this province and contributed to its growth and success.

But I think it's time we change some terminology around this current greatest generation. The words we use in the geriatric space create a negative connotation about these people. When a younger person learns they are talking to someone over the age of 65, they automatically have alarm bells go off in their head.

"Ok Tiffany, this is your left brain calling. Talk slower to this person. Don't make any sudden moves and be ready to catch them when they fall over."

So, I think we should stop counting after, let's say, 60.

"How old are you?"

"Well, I'm in my third lifemester." (I can't use trimester because they use that one at the other end of the timeline)

And how about that word, "senior?" Nah. Let's change that to IBAHLY (I've Been Around Here Longer Than You). "Hearing Aids?" How about NICHYTAMS (Now I Can Hear You Talk About Me). Retirement will now be SATSMEW (Stop Asking To See My Everlovin' Will).

The point is this. If you're cognitively and physically able, defy how the world views you and the words they use to define you. At 92, this is what Clint Eastwood recently said.

"Every day when I wake up, I don't let the old man in. My secret has been the same since 1959 – staying busy. I never let

the old man into the house."

Do the things that are fun. Learn a new skill. Stay social and don't do what many people I know have done when they stopped working – never leave the front of the TV. So that is why I do a lot of things to prevent them from naming a month after me.

I learn new things. When I left corporate life, I decided to keep developing, so I followed something that interested me throughout my marketing career and that was to learn Canva and graphic design. It is simply Photoshop for idiots. I use it for designing social media posts, videos of events, presentations, posters, t-shirts, business cards, price lists, etc. I also acquired a Hubspot account (designing and deploying emails and newsletters) and now I have a WIX Premium account for designing websites.

Why, Scott? There's more. I used all those tools to create things in support of the New Hamburg Optimists, New Hamburg Legion and, on rare occasions, the Wilmot Lions/Lioness Club. I used

it to create e-blasts for the 2021 Shop Local event and a whole ton of other things including designing my wife's monthly newsletter.

But wait, that's not all! I am currently the president of the Optimist Club of New Hamburg, founder and lead advisor for the New Hamburg Junior Optimist Club that launched this year – now with 12 members – public relations officer with the New Hamburg Legion, member of the New Hamburg Board of Trade, member of 100 Men of Wilmot Who Give a Damn (and also co-presenter to this organization on behalf of the New Hamburg Legion gaining a more than \$14,000 donation that night).

What else? I am co-organizer of the Canada Day Decorate Your Place contest, chair of the Spring Thaw Local League Hockey Tournament for three years showcasing 2000 visitors and 500 players, member of the Legion Colour Party, and I walked in last year's full Remembrance Service as well as Canada Day.

I also write this column fairly

regularly along with community interest pieces for the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette as well as being a contributing feature story writer and cover photographer for Embracing Change magazine. Check out the June edition. I was a Citizen of the Year nominee last year. I took up Karaoke during the pandemic, singing regularly at the Scran & Dram and bars in Strafford and Cambridge, and finally, I started my own company, Community Connect, that provides marketing services to small businesses with three clients already.

Could I blow my horn any louder? Probably not, but I recited all of this for two reasons. First, creating my own style through my fashion was fundamental to building confidence. Confidence is the fuel that has taken me on all these journeys. Never forget, confidence is not conceit. And second, don't let a timeline define who you are and don't let words label you.

I am in my third lifemester and I am literally having the time of my life.

Optimist Club of New Dundee awards Youth Appreciation Scholarship to Emily Dopko

Submitted by the Optimist Club of New Dundee

Emily Dopko of New Dundee is this year's recipient of the \$1,500 Optimist Club of New Dundee Youth Appreciation Scholarship.

Emily, who lives in New Dundee and attended Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School (WODSS) is planning to enroll in a post-secondary program related to business with the goal of a career in business.

This is a scholarship with a difference.

It does not depend on marks or financial need. It recognizes students who have volunteered their time and talents helping others through service in their community, school and/or church beyond the requirement for graduation. It is open to New Dundee area students who are graduating from high school and going on to college or university.

"In keeping with the Optimist motto, 'Friend of Youth,' " said Beth Mehring, Optimist scholarship co-chair, "the New Dundee Optimist Club hopes to encourage young people to see the benefits of getting

involved in volunteer activities."

Emily has been an active volunteer for many years. In her community, she volunteered with the Optimist Club of New Dundee, The New Dundee Women's Institute, the New Dundee beautification committee, the New Dundee Vacation Bible School and Scripture Union Camp. For several years, she has also volunteered for the Plattsville Church as a Sunday school teacher and youth camp leader. Emily was also a very active volunteer at WODSS where she was always eager to help with events and activities

happening at the school like the Seniors' Feast and Barnyard Bash.

Along with her plans to enroll in a business program, Emily would like to continue to engage in volunteer work both locally and globally, hoping to travel to Africa to help build a school and further broaden her understanding of the world.

The Optimist Club of New Dundee is very pleased to be able to provide this scholarship to a very deserving candidate who represents the spirit of this award well by being an active volunteer in her school and community.

COMMUNITY —

Show us your Wilmot



This photo of a faint double rainbow over Alder Lake in New Dundee was posted to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page June 5. Photo courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot

Author and retired paramedic spoke at the Braemar WI meeting

By Laura Green

Author and retired professional paramedic Ron Gillatt from Woodstock spoke on his personal progression from an ambulanceman to a professional paramedic in Great Britain.

In his non-fiction book, *The Green Man*, he retells the stories of being an ambulanceman from the roadside and describes the improvements made in equipment and skills and training. He describes how his career developed into being a professional paramedic over a 30-year period in Great Britain.

When Gillatt first started his career, ambulances had very small, revolving blue beacons with no two-tone horns or sirens. They had a large, chrome electric bell which was bolted to the front bumper and was operated by the driver pressing a switch. The stretchers were made of wood with a canvas base. The mattress was filled with horse hair and covered in a washable leathercloth material. The blankets were referred to as ex-army blankets because they were hairy like the old-fashioned military issue ones. The first aid box had less equipment than today's motorist first aid kits.

Why did Gillatt write his book, you are wondering? He was asked to volunteer to join a civilian medical team being sent to treat people displaced by the Gulf War on the Iran-Iraq border. On his return, he went immediately back to his regular paramedic work but his mind was still on the trauma he had seen and lived through on the Iran-Iraq placement. Writing has given him some peace and has been therapeutic in helping Gillatt overcome his flashbacks and symptoms of PTSD.



After purchasing Ron Gillatt's book, *The Green Man*, Kathryn Walton enjoyed a visit with the author with a cup of tea. Gillatt spoke at the Braemar Women's Institute branch meeting held on June 5. Photo by Laura Green

As Bernice Marsland was thanking Ron Gillatt for his presentation to the Braemar Women's Institute, she asked, "Who was the Green Man?" Ron responded with his British humor. "You have to read my book to find the answer."

For the business portion of the June meeting, which was held at Christ Church in Huntingford, plans were finalized for our garage sale table in Embro on July 1 and plans for the exhibit entry for the Tavistock Fair were put into motion.

For the July meeting on July 3, we are not smelling roses but smelling French and English Lavender at the Deep Purple Lavender farm on the 35th Line in Embro in the fresh morning air. If you are interested in joining the tour, contact lauracgreen77@gmail.com.

Gazette Puzzles

THE MEANING OF "DAD"

T	J	G	D	P	Z	J	Y	A	Q	I	O	R	T	O	U	F	L	G	A
C	P	Q	W	A	G	E	N	E	R	O	U	S	O	B	Q	J	C	H	L
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K	A	V	A	T	I	G	F	D	X	R	A	W	X	G	E	V	E	K	L
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Pet of the Week

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Our Pet of the Week is Brooklyn, a five-month-old merle American bulldog from Shakespeare. Her owners are the family of Nick and Nicole Spence. They say she loves kids and to play fetch when outdoors in the fresh, open air.

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COMMUNITY —

Tavistock's Grace United Church hosts food trucks on Monday evenings all summer

By Gary West

Instead of the cooks in a family being worried about what to make for supper, the congregation at Grace United Church have a suggestion.

Food Truck Mondays is a new project hosted by Grace Church and their first evening was last Monday.

According to organizers, it was very well attended with comments such as "what a great idea."

Several families purchased their food and

then sat on the lawn for an impromptu picnic. The menus offered many choices and most said it was difficult to make a decision.

Nevertheless, folks did enjoy the food purchased from the food trucks.

The menu included Beavertails, brisket on a bun, jerk chicken sandwiches and a grilled cheese sandwich with bacon.

Each Monday, three or four food trucks will park in the front parking lot of Grace Church at 116 Woodstock St. S. The food-truck schedule was organized by Sandor

Dosman, the contact person for OMG food trucks.

Church organizers said there will be a different lineup of trucks each Monday night, each one providing unique specialty cuisine.

Grace United is providing the space for the food trucks, but this weekly summer event is organized to benefit one of the local not-for-profit organizations in Tavistock.

Once the food trucks reach their minimum threshold to cover overhead costs,

they donate a portion of the proceeds to the designated non-profit organization for the evening.

Sometimes, that organization is Grace United Church and sometimes it is another organization in the Tavistock community.

Next Monday night, Camp Bimini will receive financial support from that evening and the following week will benefit the Tavistock Assistance Program (TAP).

Each week, a lineup of trucks will be posted on The Real People of Tavistock Facebook page.

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LOW KMS - 66,999 KM

2020 GMC Terrain Denali



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LOW KMS - 78,044 KM

2018 Nissan Altima SV



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LOW KMS - 71,716 KM

2020 Nissan Kicks SV



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LOW KMS - 13,037 KM

2022 Toyota Corolla Hybrid



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LOW KMS - 51,688 KM

2020 Range Rover Evoque



\$43,499 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 63,530 KM

2016 Nissan Rogue SL



\$18,498 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 110,321 KM

2018 Mazda CX-5



\$25,499 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 55,971 KM

2023 Tesla Model Y LR



\$59,495 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 43,800 KM

2023 Volkswagen Tiguan



\$31,999 + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 36,232 KM

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COMMUNITY —

Emerson Weitzel's General Store has travelled back home

By Marilyn Pearson, Tavistock and District Historical Society

The Tavistock & District Historical Society (TDHS) travelling museum display is presently set up at D&D Homestyle Café & Cuisine and is filled with items from Emerson Weitzel's General Store that operated at this same location at 4 Woodstock St. N, Tavistock, for over 45 years from 1918-1964.

As general merchant, Emerson sold clothing, footwear, hats, gloves, dry goods, material and linens, confectionery, linoleum floor covering, rugs, dishes, china, groceries, drapery and tobacco products. Saturday nights were a busy time at the store when farmers came into town to pick up their groceries, supplies and clothing

for the next week.

Some of the items in the display have been preserved by his granddaughter, Marilyn (Kaufman) Pearson, a volunteer at TDHS. When you bought a bag of Quaker Oats for 49 cents, you would receive a piece of chinaware that is in the display. The hand-sewn red and white gingham dress and bonnet was worn by Marilyn at a Centennial parade in Hickson. The cotton material, thread, cotton-lace edging and rick-rack trim was all purchased at the store.

Emerson's wife, Sarah, spent her spare time tatting lace edging that was then sewn on runners, doilies and handkerchiefs that complements the display, all keepsakes for their 12 grandchildren.

Sarah's fur-trimmed galoshes that fit over her high heel shoes are prominently displayed. When is the last time you have seen a pair of these prize boots?

Pictures of the Weitzel family, Emerson and Sarah, with their three children, Henry, Beatrice (Kaufman) and Dorothy (Berg), along with advertisements and write ups on the history of the store published in the Tavistock Gazette are displayed on the walls of D&D Homestyle Café & Cuisine for your reading pleasure.

The front-window display showcases complimentary calendars that were given out each year, along with crocks, kitchenware, trivets and oil lamps – all collectible items from days gone by.

The original wooden floors and preserved

“heart” post can be seen in the early photos of the store. Present owners Doug and Diane Sparling can show you the nine round holes in the old wooden floor where nine different sizes of rope came up from the basement that was then measured and cut on the main floor.

A QR code is located in the front window where a complete history of the blocks 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 Woodstock Street North (previously known as the Pletsch Block) has been compiled by the TDHS. You can learn about the businesses and their owners and about Captain Henry Eckstein, the founder of Tavistock from 1948. There is lots of Tavistock history to learn about as you enjoy your next breakfast or lunch and, of course, a prize-winning buttermilk at D&D Homestyle Café & Cuisine.



Showcase for Emerson Weitzel's General Store. Photos courtesy of the Tavistock & District Historical Society



Wall display for Emerson Weitzel's General Store featuring Tavistock Gazette articles and advertising.



Front window display for Emerson Weitzel's General Store.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Region of Waterloo

**Public meeting — Public Consultation Centre #2
June 20, 2024**

**Wellesley Water and Wastewater Master Plan
Class Environmental Assessment Study**

We want to hear from you.

Your feedback is an important part of this study. Please join us for a virtual meeting on June 20, 2024 at 7 p.m. To sign up for this virtual meeting, please visit: www.engagewr.ca/wellesleywater

Study purpose:

The Region is responsible for the water and wastewater systems in the Village of Wellesley, as well as planning for new growth while meeting regulatory requirements. The Region is developing the Wellesley Water and Wastewater Master Plan (WWWMP) that will look at water and wastewater needs to 2051. The WWWMP will incorporate recent population forecasts, assess existing asset conditions, and identify new opportunities to maintain or upgrade the water and wastewater systems while considering climate change impacts.

Study process:

The study will be carried out as a Master Plan in accordance with the Municipal Engineers Association's (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) Process (MEA 2000, as amended 2007, 2011, 2015, 2023), which is an approved process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. The study will follow MCEA Approach #2 for completing a Master Plan, which involves the preparation of the WWWMP at the end of Phases 1 and 2 of the MCEA process, while including sufficient supportive studies and investigations required to proceed to Phases 3 through 5. This includes public and external agency consultation and an evaluation of alternative solutions.

Project Information

If you would like more information regarding this project, including material from the first public meeting (PCC#1), visit regionofwaterloo.ca/wellesleywater or contact us directly.

Contacts

Kaoru Yajima
Project Manager, Region of Waterloo
KYajima@regionofwaterloo.ca

Tom Mahood
Project Manager, Jacobs
tom.mahood@jacobs.com

All personal information included in a submission, such as name, address, telephone number, and property location, is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in Section 37 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. Questions regarding the collection of this information should be directed to Kaoru Yajima at the Region of Waterloo. This Notice was first issued on June 6, 2024.

COMMUNITY —

Tri-County Mennonite Homes hosts Pride flag raisings in New Hamburg, Baden and Stratford

By Emily Shannon, Tri-County Mennonite Homes

On Friday, June 7, Tri-County Mennonite Homes (TCMH) hosted its first-ever Pride flag raising event.

During this inaugural event, TCMH CEO Dr. Steven Harrison, hoisted the colours at Nithview Community and at Aldaview Services homes in New Hamburg and Baden. A flag was also raised at Greenwood Court in Stratford.

The Pride flags will remain raised until the end of June to mark the importance of acceptance and respect for all individuals, regardless of their sexual or gender orientation.

TCMH welcomed staff to attend and t-shirts were handed out to celebrate the event. TCMH believes that celebrating Pride Month will not only strengthen our community but also enhance our workplace culture by promoting a sense of belonging and mutual respect for all.



Aldaview Services Pride flag raising with supported individuals Rob and Georgina, along with Bev Hagedorn, Dr. Steven Harrison, Mark Coburn and Emily Shannon.



Nithview Community flag raising with Tri-County Mennonite Homes CEO Dr. Steven Harrison, Mark Coburn and Emily Shannon.



Nithview Community staff listen to Tri-County Mennonite Homes CEO Dr. Steven Harrison talk about the importance of Pride Month. Contributed photos

“Most conscientious teacher I’ve ever known,” Tavistock teacher retires this June

By Hannah Kavanagh

A teacher who spent her entire career at Tavistock Public School is retiring next week.

Sandra Alyea spent her 35-year teaching career dedicated to the Tavistock community. Now, her fellow teachers are throwing her a drop-in party on Tuesday, June 18 from 3:30-6 p.m. to celebrate her involvement in the community.

“She’s the most conscientious teacher I’ve ever known,” said Barb Westelaken, a retired Tavistock teacher. “She’s caring, fair and consistent.”

Westelaken cites Alyea’s great attitude and professionalism for why she deserves the support of the community during the retirement party.

“If I was the parent of a kid at the school, I would request that they be in her class,” said Westelaken.

Alyea graduated teacher’s college in 1989 and started teaching in Tavistock soon after.

“You kind of take a job where there was one,” said Alyea. “But I really liked the community and that’s why I stayed.”

She said the amazing staff and supportive parents are what kept her attached to the school and community. She taught grades 4, 5, 5/6 splits and then moved on to primary in 2008.

“There’s enough change in education ... that it still always felt fresh,” said Alyea.

She’s hopeful that staff, former students and everyone interested will drop by the party.

“I hope it’s fun for them to come back to



After 35 years teaching at Tavistock Public School, teacher Sandra Alyea is retiring next week. Photo courtesy of Sandra Alyea

this school and maybe not just to see me, but to see the school and remember their times there too,” said Alyea.

As for the future, Alyea is looking forward to staying connected with the school community and hopes to do some supply teaching if there’s room for her.

Anyone who wants to send Alyea off with well wishes or see the school and staff again are invited to stop by.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2024

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Food Truck Night
4:30-7:30 p.m.
North Easthope Public School
4672 Road 108, Stratford



SUNDAY, JUNE 16

**Optimist Club of Petersburg
Breakfast In the Park**
8:30 am to Noon
Car Show (weather permitting)
Petersburg Park

**Tavistock Bible Church
Sunday Drive-In Meeting**
7-8 pm
With Kevin Yantzi and Dave Randall
Shakespeare Truck Centre
Hwy 7 & 8 Shakespeare

MONDAY, JUNE 17

Food Truck Mondays
4:30 until 8:00 pm
Proceeds supporting Camp Bimini
enjoy delicious food prepared by:
The Serial Griller, Born2Eat,
Pablas Street Food of India, and
Hissing Goose Company.
Grace United Church,
116 Woodstock St. S., Tavistock

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

**Interfaith Counselling Centre's
40th Anniversary Gala**
Doors open at 6 p.m.
For more information or to buy
tickets call 519-662-3092 or visit
interfaithcounselling.ca
Puddicombe Banquet Hall
145 Peel St., New Hamburg

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19 CON'T

**Township of East-Zorra
Tavistock council meeting**
7 p.m.
Council chambers
89 Loveys St. Hickson

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



FRIDAY, JUNE 21

**TCP Presents: Auditions for
"Our Town"**
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Due to the casting requirements of
the show the audition panel will
be seeking people 16+. Visit www.thecommunityplayers.com/onstage/auditions/
for more information and
book your audition today! Callback
HOLD - Sunday June 23 from 12:00
- 5:00 p.m.
New Hamburg Community Centre
251 Jacob Street, New Hamburg, ON

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

**TCP Presents: Auditions for
"Our Town"**
9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Due to the casting requirements of
the show the audition panel will
be seeking people 16+. Visit www.thecommunityplayers.com/onstage/auditions/
for more information and
book your audition today! Callback
HOLD - Sunday June 23 from 12:00
- 5:00 p.m.
New Hamburg Community Centre
251 Jacob Street, New Hamburg, ON

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

**Tavistock Bible Church
Sunday Drive-In Meeting**
7-8 pm
Shakespeare Truck Centre
Hwy 7 & 8 Shakespeare

MONDAY, JUNE 24

Food Truck Mondays
4:30 until 8:00 pm
Proceeds supporting Tavistock
Assistance Program (TAP)
enjoy delicious food prepared by:
'Fo Cheezy, El Milagro and
BeaverTails
Grace United Church,
116 Woodstock St. S., Tavistock

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



MONDAY, JULY 1

**Township of Wilmot Canada
Day**
11 a.m. opening ceremony
William Scott Park
75 Hunter St. W, New Hamburg

FRIDAY, JULY 5

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

TUESDAY, JULY 9

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

THURSDAY, JULY 11

**20th Annual Childhood Cancer
Fundraising BBQ**
11am to 6pm
All proceeds will go to-
wards Scotland's Yard
(Grand River Hospital),
Children's Health Foundation
(London) and Walk to Conquer
Cancer (Princess Margaret
Hospital)
1239 Notre Dame Drive, Petersburg



FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

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

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COMMUNITY —

CLASSIFIED ADS —

Tavistock Men's Club Fish Fry deemed another successful night for area fish lovers

By Gary West

Members of the Tavistock Men's Club would like to thank all Tavistock and area residents for attending their annual fundraising fish fry last week at the home of the Men's Club on Woodstock Street North.

The sold-out crowd of 600 enjoyed a feast of perch with all the fixings on the side cooked up by the men's club members, their spouses and volunteers.

With the threatening weather overhead, the club set up tables inside the hall and in the



Tavistock Men's Club president Ed Learn presents a cheque to Tavistock's Dianne Harris for her substantial winnings in the club's 50/50 draw following the fish fry. Contributed photo

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2. 20 points	8. Sir John A. Macdonald
3. Ottawa	9. Peru
4. Gato	10. Central Intelligence Agency
5. Han Solo	
6. Character	

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