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Giving a thumbs up for the end of the school year on Bring Your Tractor to School Day at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School are, in the front row from left, Connor Huband (Grade 11), Max Metzger (Grade 9), Travis Moore (Grade 11) and Isaiah Wight (Grade 10). Pictured in the back row, from left, are Blake Zehr (Grade 10), Loggan McMillan (Grade 10), Tom Arms (Grade 11), Ryken Bretz (Grade 11) and Wyatt Gerber (Grade 9). Continued on page 5. Contributed photo

## Have your say on 2025 budgets for municipal services

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Oxford County passed a budget in 2024 with a tax that cost taxpayers an extra 16.7 per cent. The planning of the 2025 version is underway and residents now have a chance to offer their input online.

The survey takes about five to 10 minutes to complete and the information collected will help participating municipalities know how well their services are understood, how they are valued and which ones are a priority for residents.

Residents who live in Blandford-Blenheim, East Zorra-Tavistock, Ingersoll, Norwich, South-West Oxford, Tillsonburg and Zorra are being asked about local area municipal services such as fire services, building and drainage services, parks and recreation, bylaw enforcement and more.

Oxford CAO Ben Addley said the more input the county gets from residents the better.

"I believe we had about 1,000 responses last year so that's great, but with a population the size of Oxford it would be nice to see that even higher to really give us a good understanding of what the public is thinking," Addley said.

County Warden Marcus Ryan has always welcomed public engagement and feedback throughout his political career as mayor of Zorra and warden of Oxford. He said if twice the amount of people responded, his next thought would be how can they get more.

"I'm not going to pretend that all engagement with the public for people in public office is positive, but frankly that's part of the job. We need to hear from residents about what they like and what they don't like. They can tell us the services they

Continued on page 3

## Cressman wants to let the land acquisition process play out

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

While answers on the Region of Waterloo's land acquisition in Wilmot Township remain far and few between, the opinions on what should or shouldn't be done are aplenty.

Wilmot Coun. Stewart Cressman said in a Waterloo Region Record article last week he wasn't impressed with the press conference

held by fellow councillors Harvir Sidhu and Kris Wilkinson on one of the affected farms. Cressman said the best strategy for the township is to see what happens.

"We don't manage negotiations so it's about letting the process play itself out. The farmers would like us to stop it. I believe in many ways the train has left the station," Cressman told the Gazette.

When asked if he was for or against the

land acquisition, Cressman said he's a two-handed politician.

"All I can do is say farmers should be treated fairly. As a farmer myself, I would expect that if they were trying to purchase my property and I was an unwilling seller. I think that has been council's position right from the get-go."

Cressman added as a father of four sons

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## COMMUNITY —

# Ontario Federation of Agriculture asks for an unwilling host resolution

Continued from page 1

and nine grandsons, he understands the importance of good-paying jobs locally.

"The future of the region is going to be different than where it is now. How do we balance those competing interests for farmland? We have immigration. Jobs are required. How do we address that and retool an economy where productivity is slipping behind the rest of the G7? I'm not saying we do it all on the backs of a few Wilmot farmers."

He added the municipality is a desirable place to live by virtue of housing, people moving in and quality of life. Given that and the economic development mandate from the province, he said the big question is how to move that forward with farmers who have rights as landowners.

"When you have a person who wants to purchase something and unwilling sellers, usually it's price that determines who is going to move on that paradigm."

Local Ontario Federation of Agriculture director Mark Ruesser attended the press conference last week and while he isn't completely satisfied, he did say it's something.

"Good for them for at least beginning the process," Ruesser said. "I appreciate that and told them that. Have they gone far enough? No, but it's a start. It's appreciated when elected people recognize the process isn't proceeding the way it should."

Reusser said if Wilmot declares the municipality as an unwilling host for a potential industrial development, it would send a very big statement.

"The region would have to respond and the province would have to respond. When you are looking at votes, we are in a swing riding provincially and federally. We have politics invading this all over the place."

When asked about Reusser's idea of declaring the township an unwilling host, Cressman explained that move could result in incurring the wrath of the Region of Waterloo and the province.

"There are ramifications without actually having any teeth in it. In many ways that creates an uncomfortable position for the township to be in because we just don't have the ability to stop a process that initiated with considerable money spent already."

Cressman, a rookie member of council along with the rest of his fellow elected officials, thought the Prime Minister's Path would be the biggest issue they would have to face. He added he is worried about the township's leadership going forward.

"It has put a strain on interpersonal relations between councillors and between councillors and staff. Then we have the polarizing issue with our residents and that is unfortunate. How do we bridge this once it's in the rearview mirror to be unified on any issues going forward."

Reusser called out Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Mike Harris for his lack of engagement and also had some strong words for Wilmot's mayor and some councillors.

"Natasha Salonen, I think, is looking to be premier someday. She will do nothing to antagonize this government. We have at least two (local) politicians, and probably three or four, who are very concerned about their future. I would suggest that when one is elected as a politician, one should be far more concerned about your constituents, not yourself."

It appears as though any councillor who breaks in-camera confidentiality would be removed as an elected official and banned from running again. Reusser admitted he isn't a lawyer and isn't familiar with municipal law, but he does question whether that is true.

"I do know the leader of the provincial NDP (Marit Stiles) said last week screw you to the (Ford) government and sue me if you don't like what I am saying. I think there are times when one needs to make a stand and do what's right. I would expect my elected councillors to seriously consider making a statement."

He added when everyone remains quiet, staff and elected officials, it breeds disrespect for the institution of government.

"If you can't trust your own government, who can you trust? I want my government to do the right thing. I think most people do."



Local Ontario Federation of Agriculture director Mark Ruesser is backing Wilmot Township councillors Harvir Sidhu and Kris Wilkinson' recent calls for the township to declare itself an unwilling host for the Region of Waterloo's controversial land assembly. Contributed photo

They want decisions to be open and transparent. They want to be involved in decision making."

## Action needed to get Waterloo Region back on track with emissions-reduction goals

By Galen Simmons

The Waterloo Region is not on track to meet its carbon-emissions reduction goals, according to a greenhouse-gas inventory report presented to Wellesley council June 11.

During the township's regular council meeting, manager of Climate Action Waterloo Region Kyra Chisholm told councillors urgent action is required to reduce the region's carbon emissions by 50 per cent of its 2010 baseline emissions levels by 2030 – a goal adopted by the regional council and all local councils in Waterloo Region.

"In 2022, our emissions are 12 per cent less than the 2010 baseline," Chisholm said. "This is only slightly higher than what we reported for 2020, about 15 per cent, which is to be expected because of the reduced travel during the COVID-19 pandemic. While 12 per cent shows great progress from our previous six per-cent target, I'd also like to stress that we are not on track to meet this 50-by-30 target."

According to Chisholm, meeting the 2030 target is crucial to meeting the region's longer-term target of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by 80 per cent of the

2010 baseline by 2050, getting the region much closer to net-zero emissions.

Chisholm said councils and communities must understand where emissions are coming from so they can be reduced. In Waterloo Region, the top carbon emitter is transportation, accounting for 47.2 per cent of all emissions or nearly 1.9 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2022. Broken down further, passenger vehicles – especially larger vehicles like trucks and SUVs – are responsible for 65 per cent of those transportation emissions in the region, while non-passenger vehicles and busses make up the remaining 35 per cent.

Buildings were the next highest carbon emitter at 45.4 per cent of overall emissions or nearly 1.8 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2022. Broken down, 60 per cent of building emissions were attributed to industrial, commercial and institutional buildings, while 40 per cent was residential. When it comes to building emissions, natural gas was the highest emitter in the region followed by gasoline and diesel.

Chisholm said the emissions data shows a need for communities to further promote active, passive and public transportation over personal vehicles, help residents

reduce their reliance on fossil fuels at home, at work and on the road, and to adopt green-development standards so new builds do not contribute to the region's overall greenhouse-gas emissions.

Also delegating to council on the Climate Action WR report, Wilfrid Laurier University associate professor in the department of geography and environmental studies Alex Latta told council to revisit the guidance from the original Transform Waterloo Region report to determine what the township's top priorities should be in reducing emissions, identify immediate actions the township can take to address those priorities and find where township dollars can go that will have the greatest impact on reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

"That Transform Waterloo Region final report that councils across our region endorsed outlines six statements that characterize what our transformed future needs to look like by 2050 if we're going to do our part in combatting this global crisis," Latta said before sharing the three most important statements of those six. "... Number one, most trips are taken using active transportation with the support of a

robust public-transit system. That's most trips. Remaining personal and commercial vehicles are all zero-emission vehicles – that's number two. And number three, businesses and homes no longer use fossil fuels for space heating and cooling, and for hot water.

"These seem like a completely different reality from the one that we live right now. Indeed, they are in terms of our practices. These aren't just aspirations. These are a description of the reality that we have to build in order to achieve those greenhouse-gas reduction goals that will be our contribution to keeping global warming from reaching catastrophic levels."

After listening to Chisholm's report on the state of greenhouse-gas emissions in the region, Wellesley Mayor Joe Nowak had a simple question.

"Is there any hope?"

"I have hope," Chisholm said. "I think we have really strong public will and a lot of support to see ambitious action taken, but it really is an all-hands-on-deck approach. We need to be acting quickly, but I don't think it's an insurmountable task, at least from my point of view."

COMMUNITY —

# Oxford County seeks input for the 2025 budget

Continued from page 1

like and appreciate what they want us to spend more on or spend less on. We need to know that.”

He added there are 10 people on county council and five to seven on township councils, and what they choose to do with the information is up to them. Residents then decide if they are happy with the results.

“One thing I can tell residents is if they don’t tell us what they want, we can’t build what they want,” he added.

The county’s population has broken the 130,000 mark and, if you did the math, that means way less than one per cent of residents filled out last year’s survey. Addley explained each municipality has its own survey and the results are shared with staff and councillors.

“Each township wants feedback on services they deliver and the county wants feedback on services we deliver. We are able to do that under one survey. We get county feedback on water, wastewater, long-term care, paramedic services and housing. At the same time, you can provide your area municipality with things like arenas, roads and fire services.”

The survey allows residents to rate services by asking if they want it maintained at the current level, enhanced or even decreased. Last year’s nearly 17 per-cent increase could motivate more people to get involved, something Ryan welcomes.

“Democracy is engagement between the representatives and the people who are represented. We need to talk more than we do. Is this not what’s wrong with all levels of government? We really don’t talk very much anymore about actual policy stuff.”

Ryan added he wants to hear from residents about what they are hoping for, fearing and what they want the county not to touch at all in the 2025 budget. Ryan also doesn’t believe next year’s tax hike will be anywhere close to the 2024 result.

“There is no way that is going to happen. But in terms of results, I wouldn’t have voted for it if I didn’t think there was value,” he said. “The three big drivers of that budget were paramedic services,

long-term care and homelessness. When I talked to residents, and I talked to a lot after that budget was passed, every single one of them said they didn’t want us to cut those things.”

He added that’s where council ended up. No one wanted the increase but the only thing worse would have been cutting the services that residents depend on. Ryan said unlike provincial and federal levels of government, the county isn’t able to borrow and go into debt for operational expenses.

“If we as a community want these services, we pay for them. I don’t think that is necessarily a bad thing. Sometimes the bill for things can hurt but that’s real life we all experience with our own personal finances. We might say, ‘I don’t really want the payment for that SUV but I really need it because my kids are big and they play hockey now.’”

Municipal property taxes collected from Oxford County residents are distributed to their local area municipality (township, town or city), Oxford County and the local school board designated by the homeowner according to the education tax rate set by the Government of Ontario.

Addley said he can’t speak for how other municipalities share the survey information they receive but the county will share their thoughts.

“We will have that feedback of what the survey told us in council reports. We are advising them and the public at that point what the results are.”

Funding for municipal programs and services comes from a range of sources including funding from federal and provincial governments as well as user fees and charges, which are special fees for bag tags, recreation, transit, water and wastewater set through bylaws enacted by each council.

Oxford County’s special budget meetings for 2025 take place on Nov. 20 and 25 with deliberation of the budget taking place at the regular county council meeting on Dec. 11.

The 2025 budget survey is open now until Aug. 30. To take the survey, visit Speak Up, Oxford! at [www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup).

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# COMMUNITY —

## Fire destroys barn in East Zorra-Tavistock

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

On June 12 at approximately 11:30 a.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police along with Oxford County Fire and Emergency Services were dispatched to a structure fire on the 10th Line in East Zorra-Tavistock.

First responders arrived to find a barn structure on fire just north of Maplewood Sideroad. Firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze.

East Zorra-Tavistock fire chief Scott Alexander said there was no loss of life.

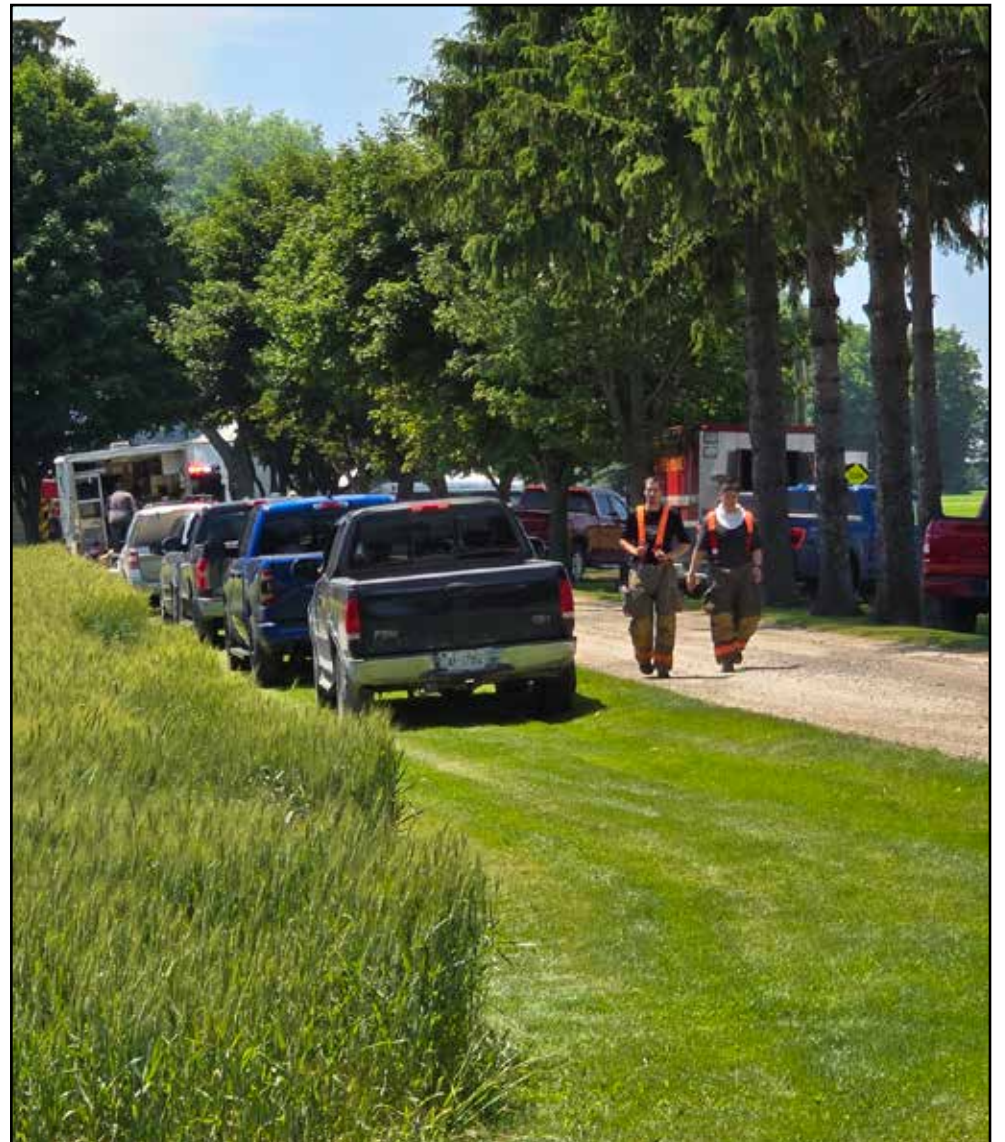
"The old barn on the site is the one that was destroyed and was empty at the time of the fire. There were no animals harmed," he said.

He added there is no damage estimate yet but all contents as well as the structure were completely destroyed in the fire. There is also no word yet on a cause. Alexander added it was a team effort to extinguish the blaze.

"All three East Zorra-Tavistock departments – Tavistock, Hickson and Innerkip – were there with tanker assistance from Embro, Uniondale and Shakespeare."



Firefighters are dousing the barn with water as a piece of machinery works to cave in what is left of the structure. Photos by Lee Griffi



Firefighters from all three EZT departments worked together to put the fire out.

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### The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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COMMUNITY —

# Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School students bring their tractors to school

By Gary West

Friday June 14, 2024, will be etched in the minds of many Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School (WODSS) senior students who took part in the school's Bring Your Tractor to School Day, also known as the Barnyard Bash.

WODSS is situated in a country setting, near Baden, unlike most high schools in cities and urban centres, and many students come from surrounding rural-farming communities.

WODSS is a school with a student population approaching 1,400 students, and all students and teachers were taking part in this year's well-organized student council activities.

These included a stage and microphone system in which teachers and students matched their wit and knowledge against each other for fun and good times.

A number of food trucks were also on site and over 30 North Easthope Antique Tractor (NEAT) Club owners drove their tractors there to remember the good old days.

Most of the antique tractors ranged in the 25 to 50 horsepower range, while most students' tractors were more in the neighbourhood of 200 to 400 horsepower.

There were some members who did remember being in the first classes when the new school opened in 1955 under principal McNaughton along with Mr. Fife, Mr. Hambly and Mr. Moore.

What has become a tradition began a number of years ago when farming students began bringing their farm tractors to school, close to the end of the school year and before the start of final exams.

All in all, teachers and students enjoyed getting together to take time to relax and socialize before the school year ends.



North Easthope Antique Tractor club president John Mohr and his wife Elaine with their daughter Krista Mohr-Beamish in the tractor seat of the Oliver Super 55. Mohr-Beamish said she wanted to be part of the antique tractor parade to Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School, from where she graduated in the early '90s. Mohr-Beamish herself became a teacher, first in the Thames Valley District School Board teaching in Woodstock at College Avenue Secondary School, and for the last nine years with the Waterloo District School Board as principal at Janet Metcalfe Public School in Kitchener. Photo by Gary West



Teacher Jonathon Marsh gets a picture with four senior girls in front of the International Farmall H he drove to the school. Contributed photo



Pictured is the large crowd of Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School students at the Barnyard Bash where dozens of tractors, new and old, were lined up to help celebrate Bring Your Tractor to School Day. Contributed photo

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# COMMUNITY —

## Tim Hortons raises \$17,145 for Wilmot Family Resource Centre

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

Tim Hortons restaurant owners and millions of generous Tim Hortons guests helped raise nearly \$18.8 million for local charities and community groups across the Canada and the United States.

This year in Wilmot Township, local Tim Hortons restaurant owner Jeff Walker and guests helped raise \$17,145 to support the Wilmot Family Resource Centre. The Centre provides wraparound care to individuals and families in both Wilmot and Wellesley townships, offering services such as food support, free clothing, Indigenous supports, parent and family support and family violence prevention as well as early years and youth programming.

"We're so grateful for the support of our community," said Trisha Robinson, executive director for the Wilmot Family Resource Centre in a press release. "Things are getting more

expensive, and more and more people are needing support to meet their basic needs - whether that's food, clothing, gas cards, mental-health support or counselling, or helping them get connected to other supports such as housing - we're able to help people be a part of the community with dignity."

The funds raised will be used to support these irreplaceable programs and service in the face of increasing need.

The first-ever Smile Cookie campaign in 1996 raised funds to support Hamilton Children's Hospital. Since then, the annual charitable campaign has raised a total of more than \$111 million for charities and organizations that are selected every year by Tim Hortons restaurant owners.

Nationally, Tim Hortons restaurant owners support over 600 local charities and community groups through the Smile Cookie campaign.



This year's Smile Cookie campaign raised \$17,145 in support of the Wilmot Family Resource Centre and a nearly \$18.8 million total for local charities and community groups across Canada and the U.S. Contributed photo

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COMMUNITY —

# Food trucks help with fundraising at North Easthope Public School

By Gary West

North Easthope Public School held a food truck fundraising evening June 13 to celebrate the end of the school year, as well as to raise money for a new school playground for the students.

Hundreds of area friends, neighbours, parents and grandparents showed up for this well-attended event and organizers deemed the first-ever event a huge success.

The playground committee thanked the community as well as food truck owners for all of their support in this fundraising effort. They say fundraising will continue into the 2024-2025 school year.



Student Noah Harper stands on the primary playground equipment installed a few years ago at the front of the school. The playground committee is now fundraising to replace the worn out Intermediate playground at the back of the school, which they said "is at the end of its life." Photos by Gary West



There was lineups at all three food trucks at North Easthope Public School, east of Amulree, where the weather was ideal and the food was well received for the fundraising effort last week.

# Brocksden Country School Museum has a busy summer of activities planned

By Gary West

The Brocksden Country School Museum is never short of activities happening in June as many area school students and teachers take the time to experience what school was like in generations past.

The school northwest of Shakespeare on Perth Line 37 in Perth East was busy again Tuesday as a Wingham homeschool class came to experience the way the classroom and lessons were taught many decades ago.

The visitors were amazed at the way the school has been kept over the years, just like it used to be when there were eight grades in one room.

Pictured from left are homeschool students Sara McCue, Kaitlyn McCue and heir brother, Joel McCue, as well as Christine McCue, who said they were thoroughly impressed with the teachings of the history in the Brocksden Country School Museum. Photo by Gary West



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COMMUNITY —

# Grade 12 Waterloo Oxford Student wins prestigious Laurier Scholarship

By Cadence Mailloux

Charlotte English, a Grade 12 student at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School (WODSS), has recently been awarded the Laurier Scholars Award, a prestigious scholarship only given out to one student per department.

Along with paying her full tuition during her time at Laurier, it's a testament to the kind of student English is, as well as the amazing work she's done for WODSS, and her future aspirations.

"I'd like to make some change within politics, specifically with things like welfare systems we have set up in the country," English told the Gazette about her future ambitions.

Though English had lots of extracurriculars to speak of from her four years at WODSS, she found the most helpful for this scholarship to be Social Action Initiative, a group of students dedicated to raising awareness and running campaigns for various social issues. This club is completely student-led, leaving English to imagine, design and plan the majority of events and fundraisers. She was able to focus on what she wanted to improve

at WODSS, leading her to reinstate free period products into the women's and all-gender washrooms and run frequent period-product drives. These extremely impactful experiences were very useful during her scholarship-application process.

"I got menstrual products reinstated in our school after they got taken away and have been hosting drives, and now have individual bins in each (bathroom) stall with a variety of sizes and types of products," English said.

The Laurier Scholar Award requires a personal statement revolving around one of the UN's Sustainable Development goals, providing English with the perfect opportunity to talk about her passion for gender equity and what she's accomplished so far to help achieve that at her school.

"I was able to talk about, obviously, my experience as a woman, but also the work I've done with Social Action Initiative throughout high school, all the campaigns I've led on gender-based violence and menstrual equity," said English.

It's clear the amount of passion English has for social justice will lead her to do

much bigger things during university and in her career. She will be attending Laurier's Sussex Law program, a program that will allow her to major in political science, attend Sussex Law School and finish her degree in Canada.

While she applied to other law programs at schools like The University of Waterloo, Queen's University and Western University, Laurier was her first choice even before the scholarship. It's the only program of its kind and is perfectly suited for her future career.

English has an obvious interest in becoming a lawyer first and foremost with a special passion for criminal law and human-rights cases. She also hopes to divert to politics later in life, possibly work with the UN and use her passion for social justice and gender equity to help change the world for the better.

It's clear Laurier chose not only a very capable and smart student, but a passionate, driven and focused young woman who is undoubtedly going to make big change in the world. WODSS can't wait to see what's in store for English.



Charlotte English, a Grade 12 student at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School, was recently awarded the prestigious Laurier Scholars Award, a scholarship given out to just one student per department at Wilfrid Laurier University that will pay English's full tuition at the school. Photo courtesy of Charlotte English

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COMMUNITY —

# Dark and stormy: A walk through Baden Hills

By Louis Silcox

It was a dark and stormy night – at least that was the forecast.

Still, it was time for another Let's Tree Wilmot Wednesday Walk in Wilmot's Wonderful Woods on Wednesday, June 5. So, umbrellas in hand, we ventured out to walk the Baden Hills Trail.

Most of the trees we planted there last year are coming along. Somewhere in the woods on the hill are (apparently) hop hornbeams Hop hornbeams are so named for its flower that looks like hops, horn for hard and beam, an old English word for tree. These are also called ironwood trees as they have the hardest and densest wood of any Canadian tree. Can we find one?

There are people living in our community who planted the pines on the hill as a school outing about 80 years ago. We did see dog-strangling vine, an invasive species, and black cherry on our way up, but just as we got to the top of the kame, the rain started and the umbrellas went up. Back down we went. We'll return later to find the hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*).

An air photo located Spongy and Hofstetter

Lakes, kettle lakes formed just north and south of the hills and at about the same time as the last ice age was receding. For the last 100,000 years, this area has been under the sometimes thick and oscillating Laurentide Ice Sheet that had flowed this way from northern Ontario and Quebec.

When it was over Toronto, it was about three kilometres thick – six times the height of the CN Tower (553 metres). Perhaps it was a bit thinner here, but still many times the height of the tower on Baden Hill (303 metres). After the last glacial maximum about 20,000 years ago, the glacier started a long period of melting, punctuated by smaller oscillations at the margins.

Many rocks the size of sand and gravel it had picked up on its long journey washed out to form the hills (kames). Enormous blocks of ice calved off and were later surrounded by water, sand and gravel flooding off the glacier. When the blocks eventually melted, they formed the lakes surrounded by low-nutrient soils.

Other nearby kames include Chicopee Hill, Pinnacle Hill near Doon and others.

Join us for future walks. Go to events at [letstreewilmot.ca](http://letstreewilmot.ca) to learn more.



Members of Let's Tree Wilmot ventured out in the rain to walk the Baden Hills Trail June 5. Photos courtesy of Let's Tree Wilmot

## Official opening of the Nith River Promenade and Trail in New Hamburg set for June 24

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

Local politicians and Township of Wilmot staff will be on hand to mark the official opening of the Nith River Promenade and Trail in New Hamburg June 24.

This event celebrates the completion of the Nith River Promenade and Trail and recognizes the government partners that have assisted with funding. The completed Nith River Promenade and Trail allows all downtown-core visitors to enjoy panoramic views of three prominent New Hamburg landmarks: the New Hamburg Reservoir Dam, the New Hamburg Waterwheel and the Hartman Bridge.

The township's mayor, as well as federal, provincial and local dignitaries, will speak about the completed construction of the Nith River Promenade and Trail and will participate in a ribbon cutting. The community is also invited to participate and join the photo.

In a press release, the Township of Wilmot said it is grateful for the partnership with the federal and provincial governments. In 2021, the Township of Wilmot received funding notifications from

both the Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant and the Canada Community Revitalization Fund.

The construction for the promenade and trail enhancements addressed erosion below the promenade, stabilized the riverbanks during high-water events and reinstated the trail lighting using innovative materials and construction methods.

The improvements include adding two spacious gathering areas, replacing deteriorating trees and plantings, relocating the electrical-field panel and meter base, expanding floodwater storage and putting in place armor stone bank stabilization. The improvements also saw the widening of both the promenade and trail pathways, the construction of an accessible-ramp connection, the installation of terra-seed in place of high-maintenance grass species, the installation of resilient concrete light poles and the provision of safety receptacles at each upper and lower gathering space.

The official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. June 24 at 121 Huron St. in New Hamburg near Wilmot Fire Station #3. Parking is available in the adjoining public lot.

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# COMMUNITY —

## St. George's Anglican Church in New Hamburg launches mini community library

By Galen Simmons

There are books free for the taking just outside the door to St. George's Anglican Church at the corner of Waterloo Street and Byron Street in New Hamburg.

The church council recently mounted a mini community library with books, children's books and puzzles for anyone who wanders by and sees something they like.

"It's not all church books," said St. George's church warden Carol Massel, who led the effort to build, install, fill and maintain the library with church librarian Irma Godber. " ... We're hoping for people to just come and take a book. You don't have to put it back."

Massel and Godber got the idea for a mini community library from a story published in this paper's predecessor, The Wilmot Post, about a similar library at a church in Philipsburg.

"When I saw that, I went up and took a picture of it and brought it back to our council at the church and said, 'Hey, look what this church is doing. Why don't we try that?'" Massel said.

She and Godber then visited the Wilmot Seniors Woodworking & Craft Shop in Baden to see if anyone there might be interested in building the library box that houses the books and keeps them from being damaged by weather and the elements.

Jim Burkart stepped forward and volunteered to make the library box.

"Basically, we only paid for the materials," Massel said. " ... (The Wilmot Seniors Woodworking & Craft Shop) does



St. George's Anglican Church warden Carol Massel stands next to the mini community library recently installed just outside the church door at the corner of Waterloo Street and Byron Street in New Hamburg. Photo by Galen Simmons

a lot of work making things for people in the community and it gives these retired seniors who have all this knowledge of woodworking and so on something to do."

Once the library box was finished, Massel and Godber brought it back to St. George's and painted it.

Massel says everyone is welcome to stop by, peruse the selection of books and take whatever they like. Locals are also free to leave books inside the library box, if they choose. Massel says drivers passing by in their vehicles are free to park in the church driveway off Byron Street while they look through what the library has to offer.

"It's just about connecting with the community," Massel said.

## WORSHIP IN WILMOT TOWNSHIP

### St George's Anglican Church

Corner Waterloo St. and Byron St., New Hamburg  
In-person service and online worship Sundays at 10:15 a.m.  
Programs each Sunday for children during service.  
<https://www.stgeorgesnewhamburg.com/>

### St James Chapel of Ease

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### St Agatha Mennonite Church

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# COMMUNITY —

## The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. What are the two Zodiac signs for June?
2. What is Canada's national flower?
3. What is the main body of a boat called?
4. What is the baby's name in The Incredibles?
5. What reptile cannot stick its tongue out?
6. Who went #1 in the 2024 WNBA draft?
7. Which U.S. President had the middle name, Milhous?
8. In which sport are barani, rudolph, and randolph all techniques?
9. What is the singular word for spaghetti?
10. How many eyes does a bee have?

Answers found on page 20

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

**June 20:** Happy birthday to Jacob Kropf (9), Kaylea Kropf (9), and anniversaries for William and Katherine Gunn (15th), Steve and Laurie Lindner (15th), and Barry and Sharon Zehr (32nd).

**June 21:** Happy birthday to Carling Schlosser (19) and anniversaries for Mike and Darolyn Gilmore, Bob and Dorothea Faulhafer (50th)

**June 22:** Happy birthday to Alex Baechler (14), Ed Heise (91), and anniversaries for Ron and Carol Roth (56th), Chris Roth and Jen Moore (11th).

**June 23:** Happy birthday to Jolene Herlick (5), Carter Faulhafer (16), and anniversaries for Jacob and Jessica Byers (12th) and Joshua and Amy Stemmler (6th).

**June 24:** Happy birthday to Gracelyn Pearson (4) and Lucas Hartmann (19).

**June 25:** Happy birthday to Shae-Lynn Arbuckle, Larry Berger, and anniversaries for Herb and Shirley Wagler (58th), Jim and Donna Witzel (47th), and Jamie and Jessica Hergott (19th).

**June 26:** Happy birthday to Austin Green (7), Connor McDermott (16), Madelyn Hammer (24), and anniversaries for Dennis and Yvonne Roth (25th), and Shaun and Amanda Miller (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 19-26, 2019, Edition (5 years ago)**

A blessing of the Community Prayer Garden behind Tavistock Mennonite Church was held on Saturday, June 15, 2019. A grateful group of contributors and friends gathered under overcast skies to thank God for the many people who have contributed to creating the garden and those who had come together to celebrate.

The Hickson Lions Club once again donated a portion of the proceeds of their Sunday Brunch to the Tavistock Assistance Program (TAP). Brunch Committee chair Geraldine Claessens presented TAP program director Sharon Walkom with a cheque for \$2,000 last week along with thanks to all the TAP volunteers who came out to help with the brunch held on Sunday, June 2.

More than 500 students at Hickson Central Public School spent last Thursday, June 13, 2019, learning about farm safety. The day was organized and sponsored by the Embro and Zorra Agricultural Society in cooperation with more than 30 different clubs, businesses and organizations.

This is the 13th year the Community 4-H Club has participated in the Woodstock Relay for Life. In the past 12 years they have raised \$114,800 with this year achieving \$20,000 raising the total over

\$135,000 for cancer research.

Tavistock Community Health Inc. has reached \$22,000 in their first fundraising drive since forming the community-owned business in 2002.

**June 17-24, 2009, Edition (15 years ago)**

Last week, the Tavistock Rotarians began their 13th season of Summer Rides for Seniors. Each week from June to October, three seniors from each of the three nursing homes, Bonnie Brae, PeopleCare and the Maples, are taken for rides in the county.

The County of Oxford is one of 14 Ontario municipalities moving forward with plans to build local broadband infrastructure in partnership with the provincial government. The province is providing Oxford County with \$988,333 for the installation of high-speed internet across the county.

**June 15-22, 1994, Edition (30 years ago)**

Const. Ronald Rudy accepts a commemorative plaque from the Tavistock Police Service and the Ontario Police Association for 20 years of service with the Tavistock Police Service.

Hieberts Dulcimers Etc will be performing at Hidden Acres Camp, RR1, New Hamburg on Sunday, June 26, 1994, at 7:30 p.m. Eddie and Robert Hiebert are a wife-and-husband musical Duo from Abilene, Kan. who perform a variety of musical selections varying combinations of dulcimer, guitar and autoharp sprinkled with warm vocal harmonies.

Spectators found a shady tree then headed for the air-conditioning comfort of the community hall Saturday when the annual field day, fish fry and parade was held under 32-degrees-Celsius temperatures.

The late Sanford Horst was honored to be the sixth individual added to the memorial at Shakespeare Park last Saturday. Good friend Lawrence Diamond unveiled the plaque and made the dedication in the presence of Mrs. Donald Horst and family and a large gathering on behalf of the Shakespeare Community Athletic Association.

The Township of Wilmot's Fitness Club Program is now under way with Aerobics, Step and Aquafit classes all in New Hamburg on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

**June 19-26, 1974, Edition (50 years ago)**

Persistent rain cut short the annual campout for the Tavistock Cub Pack Saturday. The pack had planned to stay from Friday night to Sunday noon at the Tavistock Rod & Gun Club grounds.

On Thursday, June 13, the regular meeting of the Tavistock PUC was held. In recognition of growing demand for hydro, Tavistock faces a 10 per-cent increase in hydro rates in the face of a provincial average of some 15.3 per cent.

The Tavistock Bantam Boys' Softball Team is off to a very good start for the 1974 season. The team won their first five straight games and have the next home game Wednesday, June 26 with Linwod providing the opposition.

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[www.tavistockmennonitechurch.ca](http://www.tavistockmennonitechurch.ca)

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COMMUNITY —

# Shakespeare's Brenda Mohr presented with Honorary Service Award

By Gary West

Every year, the Shakespeare and Community Athletic Association (SCAA) recognizes individuals who go above and beyond to help the organization prosper.

This year, during the town's field day activities, the yearly Honorary Service Award was presented to Brenda Mohr.

Field Day chair Deb Bell, thanked Mohr for her many years of hard work and dedication and her willingness to always help before and after field day.

She was presented with a plaque bearing the names of those who have won it in the past, beginning in 1990 when service award winners were Emmalene and Bill Bell along with Donald and Sanford Horst.

The award has been presented every year since.



Shakespeare Field Day chair Deb Bell presents the Honorary Service Award to Brenda Mohr for her years of dedicated service to the Shakespeare and Community Athletic Association. Contributed photo

# Tavistock Chamber of Commerce members put finishing touches on flower and shrub beds



Last week, Tavistock Chamber of Commerce members took turns, when time and weather allowed, to bring in fresh mulch and plants for the town's flower and shrub beds. Their work did not go unnoticed by area travellers and local residents. Pictured from left are Barb Wilhelm, Patti McKay and crew chief Andrew Raymer, all of whom were happy to see the sunshine and love doing what it takes to dress up the main streets. The chamber is also happy to look after the hanging flower pots and sidewalk planters to make the town look more inviting to visitors and townsfolk during the warmer weather. The Saturday crew also wanted to thank other helpers who included Jen Reibling and Cher Peng Tan, as well as Ross Yantzi who donated the mulch. Contributed photo

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## SPORTS —

# The New Hamburg Firebirds: A Legacy of community and excellence

By Scott Dunstall

This past season, the New Hamburg Firebirds made their deepest run in the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) playoffs since 1975 when they reached the Conference Semifinals.

Although they haven't won the league's pinnacle trophy, the Schmaltz Cup, since 1967, the team that defeated them in the Conference Semifinals went on to win the cup. Being in the final four in a 63-team league is quite impressive.

I sat down with current Firebirds president Gord Mills this past week to learn more about the team and why it creates such a buzz in our community. Mills has been with the club for over 12 years and joined the executive because he felt the team culture was highly regarded and had a positive impact on our community, reflecting his personal values.

The more-than 72-year history of junior hockey in New Hamburg

For those who are unfamiliar with the team timeline and the various iterations that came before the Firebirds, here it is. The Legion Juniors (1953-56), The CL Roths (1957-61), The Hahns (1962-82), Spirit 83 (1983-96) and finally their current version, the Firebirds (1997-present).

Overcoming two occasions when the team was in jeopardy.

In 1982, the team was in deep financial trouble. The Hahns had moved up to Junior B level in the late '70s and by 1982 the extra costs of running a team at that level had caused a debt problem and it looked like the team would have to fold. A town meeting was held and it was decided that the team's best bet for survival was to go back to the junior C level. A new executive was created with Bernie Shantz as the president and a new team name of Spirit 83 was chosen by the fans. The team received the backing of two prominent businesses in the community, Don J. Pestell and ERB Transport, to obtain a bank loan to cover the debt.

In 2007, the team was faced with a second debt crisis. Fortunately, at that time a group of junior hockey alumni were planning a reunion to celebrate more than 50 years of junior hockey and moving from the "Old Barn" arena in New Hamburg to the new Wilmot Recreation Centre. The reunion was a huge success and the reunion committee decided to donate the \$15,000 profit to the Firebirds to get them back on solid financial ground.

Through both these difficult times, two individuals that believed in the club and the



New Hamburg Optimist and Firebirds club booster Doug Miller presents the newly minted Paul Diebel Memorial Award for MVP for the current season. This year's winners were Matt Domm (left) and Jake Thompson (right). Diebel was a devoted New Hamburg Optimist and Firebirds supporter. Contributed photo

community it served shone through. Enter Shantz and Bryan Pfaff. Both were instrumental on the club side through these transitions. Pfaff played for the CL Roths, Shantz was awarded the very prestigious OHA Golden Stick Award two years ago for his work with the Firebirds, advocating for the development of players as well-balanced young men. That determination and sense of community can be seen in every player and every single person that supports the club off the ice today.

And supporting the team this past season were 11 executives, 10 staff members, 16 Booster Club members and many contributing parents. Impressively, all but seven players were from the Waterloo Region, underscoring the team's local reputation.

"Our staff and volunteers' strong leadership has created an environment for success," Mills emphasized. "Our staff's team-first philosophy has led us to a number of successful seasons, all leading into our great playoff run this past season. The Firebirds also request that our players give back to our community that does so much for our organization. Our goal is for our players to excel both on the ice and in our community."

Here are just a few examples of those things the players have participated in over the past few years:

- The Ritz Printing Food Drive in association with No Frills New Hamburg, Sobeys New Hamburg and with the support of the local public schools raised over 9,391 pounds of food.
- Teddy Bear and Clothing Toss held each year during a game near Christmas.

- Santa Claus Parade.
- Christmas Food Hamper Drive.
- Reading with the Birds at the Baden Library.
- Holy Family and Baden Public School End of Year BBQ in collaboration with the New Hamburg Optimists.

Two years ago, the Firebirds goaltender organized a goalie clinic fundraiser for breast cancer research inspired by his mom. The event raised significant funds which were donated entirely to the cause.

On the ice, the Firebirds had a remarkable season. Mills noted they were strong all year with exceptional speed and skill, and the players played for each other, reflecting that team culture.

On June 8, the team celebrated their success at the annual banquet, where 14 awards were given out to the players, executives, and supporters. Notable awards reflecting the club culture include: For the Love of the Game Award, Local Player Contributing the Most to the Firebirds this Season Award, Most Important Person Award, and Award of Merit.

This year, the newly created Paul Diebel Memorial Award will honour the most prolific player in the past year's playoffs. Paul Diebel, a longtime Optimist and key member of the Firebirds family, will be fittingly remembered through this award.

I promised Mills I will attend more games next year. Of the 63 teams in the league, Mills said the Firebirds are consistently in the top 10 in attendance each year. Let's aim to be number one in the 2024-25 season!

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COMMUNITY —

# Watercourse Theatre stages Belonging in the Township of Wellesley this week

By Galen Simmons

A 10-act play featuring scenes from life in the Township of Wellesley is being staged across the township this week.

Belonging in the Township of Wellesley is an original collection of scenes and songs about life today in Wellesley Township. Since February, Watercourse Theatre has worked with a core group of residents, reaching out to people who shared their stories about life in the township. The show is being presented by community actors with local musician Allister Bradley providing original music.

"I met with, I think, 15-20 people and I heard different stories about the township and belonging in the township," Catherine Frid, playwright and artistic director of Watercourse Theatre, told Wellesley council at its June 11 meeting. "One of the things I can say is people are very, very proud to live in Wellesley. It was a beautiful opportunity to meet with so many people.

"Then I took those stories and worked with the story originator to turn them into scenes in a play. Our play has 10 scenes and four songs. They're all standalone vignettes about different aspects of life in the township."

Some of the vignettes, Frid continued, are humorous, like the scene about the ghost that may or may not live in Linwood town hall – a story that gained traction after William Lyon Mackenzie King gave a speech there in 1911. Others are more serious, like the scene about an on-going agricultural mental-health and wellness initiative across Ontario. Scenes range from perspectives of the fall fair scarecrows and local experiences with Facebook to the resident blue bird population and more.

"I worked with James Gordon, who is a quite famous singer-songwriter, and he co-created songs with our group as well," Frid said. "So that's where the four songs come



Pictured, from left, are ghosts played by Peter van der Maas, Josie Willett and Mary Lichty-Neeb. Photos by Catherine Frid

from."

"I'm grateful to be part of this unique and compelling community collaboration," Gordon said in a press release.

Belonging in the Township of Wellesley hit the stage for a sold-out show at the Bill Gies Recreation Complex on June 17 and played at the Linwood Recreation Complex June 19. Two shows remain. One on the day this paper comes out, June 20, at the Hawkesville Community Centre, and the final performance at the St. Clements Community Centre June 21. All shows start at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is free and attendees can give an optional donation to the Wellesley Food Cupboard. To reserve tickets, email [watercoursetheatre@gmail.com](mailto:watercoursetheatre@gmail.com).

Watercourse Theatre is a Guelph based theatre company that explores innovative ways to creatively and theatrically share the stories of those whose voices are often not heard.



Pictured are actors Tom Bolton and Cara Wakem in the square-dance scene of Watercourse Theatre's Belonging in the Township of Wellesley.

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OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *Do it yourself DIY day!*



By Mercedes Kay Gold

The countdown for summertime fun times has begun. School is almost out. Craft activities are more than rainy day art projects. Crafts are opportunities to engage the five senses and allow children to learn valuable life skills.

Expressing emotions is challenging at any age but crafting helps youngsters communicate feelings.

Drawing, cutting, glueing and colouring uses fine motor skills while teaching kids to follow instructions step by step. Crafts

can help improve schoolwork.

Group activities encourage teamwork and improve communication and cooperation. Being a team player is necessary throughout life from sports to the workforce to being part of a family.

One-on-one time builds strong attachments and leads to long-term relationships with parents and extended family. Receiving loved ones' undivided attention shows children they are worthy, building self-confidence.

Crafts are opportunities to discover, learn and grow. You don't need to be a budding artist to fall in love with crafting.

Crafts are a beautiful way for children to give gifts and show gratitude. The best artwork is made and given from the heart. There's nothing more precious than a beaming child handing a loved one their work of art, and the proud receiver displaying it forever.

Let's craft! This DIY is inexpensive, educational and gives you time inside the house and enjoying fresh air. To get started, the list is short and sweet; clear Hodge Podge, child-safe craft scissors, synthetic paintbrushes and plain glassware.

Living in the country, we often take the beauty surrounding us for granted. Put the tablet down and take a trail walk hand in hand with your mini through one of the many nature trails in the Township of Wilmot. There's 58 kilometres to nurture your mind, body and soul.

My fun-filled DIY begins with picking gorgeous greenery and blossoming flowers. Pack up the supplies but be sure to add some water to the vessel to preserve the fresh foliage and flowers until needed. Ready set craft! Pick flowers, cut the stems and paint a coat of Hodge Podge on the vessel. Place the flowers and leaves on the glass and dab the glue on the edges of the greenery, allowing it to set. Once dry, paint a coat of Hodge Podge over and let it dry. Ta-da! This one-of-a-kind glassware is a keepsake or the perfect gift!

As a holistic nutritionist, I love herbs, but flowers are fabulous and the common

daisy, phlox and Yellow Rocket Cress surround Wilmot. They are easy to spot roadside and along stream banks and hedges. The adorable pint-sized forget-me-nots are gorgeous ground cover and a dime a dozen in blue, but pink is another story. Teaching children the beauty of Mother Nature is key to a successful day of crafting.

Be a shutter bug, take photos and do a google image search on the spot. I fell in love with the petite purple Herb Robert flower, a native geranium, believed to be named after Robert Goodfellow, the legendary Robin Hood. Dandelions have disappeared but the Meadow Salsify, at a quick glance, has the same bright sunshine look and is edible as well. The lovely White Champion Flower belongs to the carnation family and has a unique scent attracting moths during the night.

Many happy holistic hours can be spent as an amateur herbalist. Wild carrot, milk thistle, red clover and ginseng all call Schmidt Trails home. Keep an eye out for wild rhubarb and saddle mushrooms. Wild raspberries, blackberries and strawberries are small but snacking favorites.

Enjoy the day, have fun and watch out for poison ivy! Please share photos or video of your beautiful keepsakes with me on Instagram! @mercedeskaygoldfitness



A photo of all the supplies you'll need.



This one-of-a-kind glassware is the perfect indoor-outdoor craft to do with the little ones. Mercedes Kay Gold photos



There are plenty of native, local flowers to choose from for your glassware on a hike through Schmidt Trails.



Wild strawberries may be small, but they're a perfect little snack on any hike this time of year.

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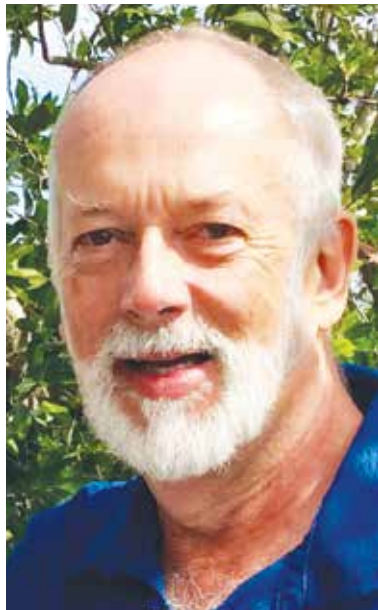
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: *The courage to bounce back from disaster*



**By Paul Knowles**

You probably don't associate the word "courage" with the word "tourism" unless you are about to drop straight down on a zip line in the Jamaican rainforest. But that's another story.

In this case, I am talking about tourism in an established tourist area where there are comfortable places to stay, good restaurants and interesting (not life-threatening) excursions.

That description fit the connected islands named Sanibel and Captiva on the Gulf coast of Florida. At least they were comfortable, established and thriving until Sept. 28, 2022, when Hurricane Ian smashed into the islands.

Ian destroyed a lot of the tourism infrastructure on these islands, as it did on the nearby mainland city of Fort Myers. Restaurants were flattened, resort hotels were damaged to

the point of no return, and attractions approached the point of ruin.

On Sanibel and Captiva, "attractions" does not mean theme parks or golf courses. Here, the victims of Ian included the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge and the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum and Aquarium. The Ding is an extensive waterfront sanctuary where, especially at low tide, you can spot hundreds, perhaps thousands of shore birds. They report 245 different species of bird in the refuge. But the facility was closed for many months after Ian as both the buildings and the land suffered from the hurricane.

The Shell Museum, a unique facility that is way more interesting than it might sound, was flooded to the ceiling of the first floor and drenched from roof breaches on the second storey.

At the top end of Captiva Island sits South Seas Resort, a destination in its own right, where its hotels were so damaged that authorities ordered their demolition.

I know, so far this doesn't sound like a great recommendation to visit Sanibel and Captiva, right? But wait.

This is where the courage comes in. The folks behind these attractions and destinations did not allow Hurricane Ian to destroy their vision or their commitment to these wonderful islands. So, when we visited earlier this year, only a year and a half after the hurricane, the islands were well on their way to recovery.

We toured the Shell Museum. The upper floor is being completely remodeled as a display space and executive director Sam Ankerson admitted the hurricane had created an opportunity to upgrade and modernize displays that had become a bit tired.

This was another of those places I thought might take 20 minutes and, instead, deserved at least a couple of hours. The ground floor is completely restored – including a mark high on an interior wall indicating the height of the storm surge. There are touch tanks with living creatures introduced by careful guides, there is an active octopus, there are aquariums and displays and lots of information from helpful docents.

Not far away is the Ding Darling sanctuary, named for a conservationist who, in real life, was a political cartoonist. You can tour the large sanctuary by car, by bike, on foot, or in a trolley; we did the latter.

One codicil: our tour was at high tide. We saw birds – white pelicans, egrets, herons, ibises, ospreys and more – but our guide said the variety of wildlife is much richer at low tide. If you can, go at low tide.

During our time on the islands, we stayed at the South Seas Resort in a fine condo-style unit on the water. Virtually everything here is right on the water – the resort covers the entire end of Captiva.

The resort was slammed by Ian, but it was able to reopen in July, 2023. There has been some adaptation – restaurants are



**The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum and Aquarium on Sanibel Island; now reopened after being severely damaged by Hurricane Ian. All photos by Paul Knowles**

not yet open, so there are food trucks. All the pools are open and the marina, where you can see a herd of manatee almost any time.

There are hundreds of units already available for guests. And if that sounds crowded, it's not – the entire resort covers 330 acres including a lot of natural area, and guests use golf carts to get around the whole area, from reception (and a Starbucks) at the south end to Sunset Beach, the pools and Land's End in the north. Frankly, driving around in that golf cart added a lot to our enjoyment of the place.

Not every restaurant or hotel on Sanibel or Captiva has reopened, but it is amazing how many are available – and how many followed Sam Ankerson's example and treated the hurricane as an opportunity to create

something even better. We ate in a brand-new restaurant, the Crow's Nest at the 'Tween Waters Island Resort, and also at a venerable and popular eatery, Doc Ford's on Sanibel Island. Both offered terrific cuisine.

So, should you summon up your own courage and take the risk of visiting a place like Sanibel and Captiva in the aftermath of a natural disaster? My vote: don't be stupid, be sure they are again ready for guests, but if they are – like these two amazing islands – then go. Reward their courage with yours; it's a great match.

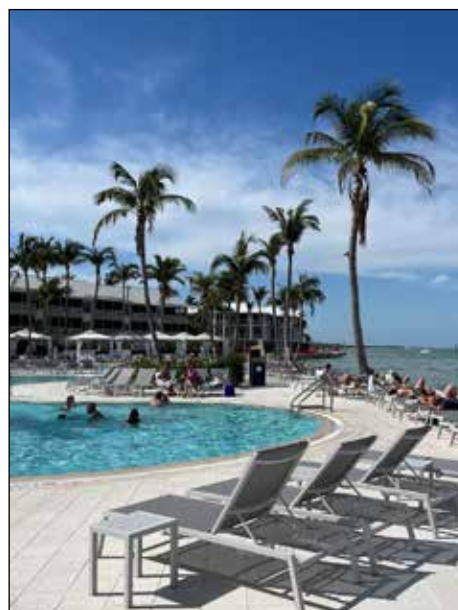
*Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and president of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email [pknowles@golden.net](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



**A touch pool at the Shell Museum with docent Chris Whitt.**



**A manatee at leisure at the South Seas Resort on Captiva Island.**



**Tourists have returned and are enjoying one of the seaside pools at South Beach.**



**Sunset on Captiva Island.**



# COMMUNITY —

## A busy day on farms in North Easthope Township

By Gary West

Farmers in Perth County have been busy trying to get planting and hay harvesting done in between rains.

With some hot, dry weather on the farms of James and Dan Van Nes in North Easthope Township, every machine and worker were busy not only cutting and harvesting haylage, but also applying manure fertilizer to those hay fields immediately after.

Many farmers are working long days with very short nights to catch up on work not completed during the rainy spring in the area.



A self-propelled forage harvester makes short work out of a large field of hay destined for a large bunker silo on the Van Nes dairy farm near the Stratford airport. Photos by Gary West



Once the hay is harvested, liquid manure from the dairy herd is immediately spread, ensuring a good second cutting four to six weeks from now depending on rainfall amounts.

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COMMUNITY —

# Crackerjack Palace rocks Kirkpatrick Park



June 11 saw the first performance by Crackerjack Palace's new line-up. The new members include Stephanie Martin from St. Marys on vocals and guitar and New Hamburg native Diego Vitello, a.k.a. the parts guy, on drums and vocals. The concert held on the bandstand in Kirkpatrick Park in New Hamburg attracted a large, appreciative audience. The band played a variety of tunes of what emcee Tom Elliott termed hard rock for the geriatric crowd. Call it what you want, the crowd loved every minute of it. Songs in their set included favourites like "Only The Lonely," "Go Your Own Way," "Brown Eyed Girl" and "Live and Let Die." The concert was sponsored by the New Hamburg Board of Trade. Follow Crackerjack Palace's Facebook page to learn about future gigs. Photo by Al Junker

# SHOW US YOUR WILMOT



This photo of Trinity Lutheran Church on Church Street on New Hamburg was recently taken by Susan Hammer and posted to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page. Photo courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot

# Gazette Puzzles

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# Pet of the Week



## JULES

When she isn't watching the birds and squirrels in the yard or playing with her sister and their many toys, you can find Jules on the closest open pair of legs. That's her favorite spot to stretch out and sleep while getting as many pets as she can says owners Danielle and Scott from Stratford.

Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing: [thewtgazette@gmail.com](mailto:thewtgazette@gmail.com)



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**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF COMPLETE APPLICATION**

pursuant to Section 34(12) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended

**APPLICATION FOR ZONE CHANGE**

**TOWNSHIP OF EAST ZORRA-TAVISTOCK**

Please be advised that the Community Planning Office has received an application applying to the following lands:

<b>File No.:</b>	ZN 2-24-02
<b>Owner:</b>	Township of East Zorra-Tavistock
<b>Location of Property:</b>	All lands within the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock
<b>Description of Application:</b>	<p>The purpose of the application is to undertake a housekeeping amendment to the Township's Comprehensive Zoning By-law [By-law 2003-18] that will provide administrative updates for clarification purposes and to update provisions that are reflective of recently amended Provincial policy. The full amendment package should be reviewed for all the details and is available as per the instructions below. The following is a quick summary of the proposed changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add and amend definitions and provisions affecting a Private Home Day Care and a Daycare Centre;</li> <li>• Amend definitions for greater clarification as well as grammatical modifications (Multiple Unit Dwelling, Farm, Gross Floor Area);</li> <li>• Add definition and provisions regarding shipping containers as an accessory use for storage purposes;</li> <li>• Add definition and amend provisions for Public Uses in a residential area;</li> <li>• Amend provisions for Accessory Uses, Buildings and Structures (Section 5.1) for greater clarity and consistency;</li> <li>• Amendments to general parking provisions (Section 5.19), landscape strip provisions and front yard setbacks in the Residential Type 3 Zone (R3) to reflect current trends; and</li> <li>• Delete various temporary zonings that have expired.</li> </ul>

Please note this is **not** a notice of Public Meeting. Prior to the Public Meeting, you will receive a "Public Notice" informing you of the date, time and location of the public meeting, together with a description of the proposal.

If you have any questions regarding the application, please contact this office to arrange an appointment with **Dustin Robson, Development Planner**. Written inquiries may also be forwarded to the regular mail or email addresses provided below. Please include the applicant's name and file number on all correspondence.

Dustin Robson  
 Development Planner  
 Community Planning  
 County of Oxford  
 P. O. Box 1614, 21 Reeve Street  
 Woodstock ON N4S 7Y3  
 phone: 519-539-9800 x 3211  
 email: [planning@oxfordcounty.ca](mailto:planning@oxfordcounty.ca)

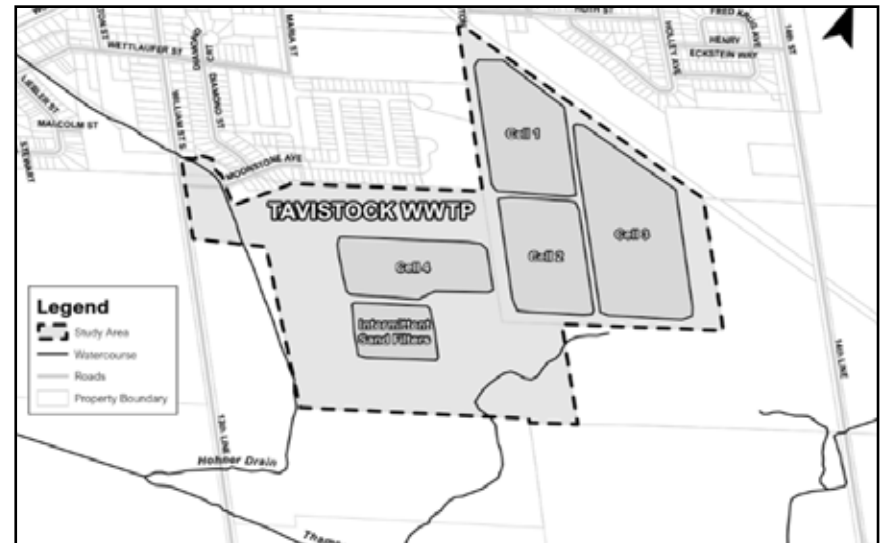
Dated: Thursday, June 20, 2024

**NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT**

**Tavistock Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Expansion**

**Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study**

Oxford County is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study to explore a range of possibilities for expanding the Tavistock Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in order to determine the most appropriate solution that will support the growing wastewater servicing needs within the Village of Tavistock in the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock.



**About the study**

Oxford County owns and operates the Tavistock WWTP, which provides treatment for residential and non-residential wastewater generated in the Village of Tavistock. The WWTP consists of three aerated facultative lagoon cells, one effluent storage lagoon, and four intermittent sand filters that polish the WWTP effluent prior to discharge to the Hohner Drain and eventually the Thames River.

Oxford County is initiating a Municipal Class EA Study that will consider a wide range of enhancement options for the Tavistock WWTP. The Study objective is to identify the most cost-effective, environmentally sound, and sustainable approach to provide wastewater treatment capacity at the existing Tavistock WWTP to service the existing sewage flows as well as future growth in the Village of Tavistock.

**About the process**

This notice signals the commencement of the Class EA Study which will: define the project; identify and evaluate alternative solutions; and, determine a preferred solution in consultation with the public, Indigenous communities and regulatory agencies. Social, cultural, economic and natural environment impacts will be evaluated and assessed during the Class EA Study.

This study is being carried out in accordance with the requirements of Schedule C of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (2024), approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

Public Information Centres (PICs) to present the Study findings are anticipated to be held later in 2024 and will be advertised as the Study progresses. Upon completion of this

study, an Environmental Study Report documenting the process will be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and made available for public review for a minimum period of 30 calendar days.

**We want to hear from you**

Public, Indigenous, and technical agency consultation is a key component of the Class EA process. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive notices and information, or if you wish to provide comments at any time during the Class EA process, you can do so by contacting the project contacts listed below. Project information and updates are on Speak Up, Oxford! at [www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup)

**Project contacts**

Rina Kurian, P.Eng.  
 Project Manager  
 R.V. Anderson Associates Ltd.  
[RKurian@rvanderson.com](mailto:RKurian@rvanderson.com)  
 416-497-8600, ext. 1429

Rob Wiersma, P.Eng.  
 Project Engineer  
 GM BluePlan Engineering Limited  
 Oxford County  
[rob.wiersma@gmblueplan.ca](mailto:rob.wiersma@gmblueplan.ca)  
 905-643-6688, ext. 6228

Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

This notice first issued June 7, 2024



**CLASSIFIED ADS —**

**HELP WANTED**

**Zion United Church is seeking a summer student** to design a new webpage, prepare a training manual for the updated webpage, coach staff on navigating and adding information to the webpage, update our social media, and assist with administrative tasks in the office including organizing files for the archives. The position is for 30 hours per week for six weeks.

**Full job description at:**  
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**Please forward your application to:**  
[office@zionnewhamburg.ca](mailto:office@zionnewhamburg.ca)

**Weekly Quiz Answers**

1. Gemini and Cancer
2. Bunchberry
3. Hull
4. Jack-Jack Parr
5. Crocodiles
6. Caitlin Clark
7. Richard Nixon
8. Trampolining
9. Spaghetti
10. Five



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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR - JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2024

### FRIDAY, JUNE 21

**TCP Presents: Auditions for "Our Town"**  
6:30 - 9:30 pm  
Due to the casting requirements of the show the audition panel will be seeking people 16+. Visit [www.thecommunityplayers.com/onstage/auditions/](http://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 am - 6 pm  
Due to the casting requirements of the show the audition panel will be seeking people 16+. Visit [www.thecommunityplayers.com/onstage/auditions/](http://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  
With The Torchmen and Matt Williams  
Shakespeare Truck Centre  
Hwy 7 & 8 Shakespeare

### MONDAY, JUNE 24

**Food Truck Mondays**  
4:30 - 8 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 pm  
Council chambers  
60 Snyder's Rd. West Baden

### THURSDAY, JUNE 27

**Community Design Workshop about High Performance Development Standards (HPDS)**  
7 - 8:30 pm  
"Green" building standards are necessary to help the Region reduce GHG emissions. The workshop will educate residents about HPDS and get feedback from the community. For more information go to [nvecoboosters.com](http://nvecoboosters.com) and check out upcoming events. Hosted by The Nith Valley EcoBoosters, Climate Action WR and WR Community Energy.  
New Hamburg Community Centre  
251 Jacob Street, New Hamburg

### SUNDAY, JUNE 30

**Tavistock Bible Church Sunday Drive-In Meeting**  
7 - 8 pm  
With The Shatford 6 and David Gray  
Shakespeare Truck Centre  
Hwy 7 & 8 Shakespeare

### MONDAY, JULY 1

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

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

**Township of East Zorra-Tavistock council meeting**  
9 am  
Township office  
89 Loveys St., Hickson

### 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 pm  
Council chambers  
4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill

### THURSDAY, JULY 11

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



**Civic Holiday**  
August 4, 2024

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

**Tavistock Optimist Club Friday Night Fries**  
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Tavistock Optimist Park  
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We are looking for an Administrative Support Specialist to fill a 12-month contract position.

The successful candidate will provide administrative support to the Underwriting Department and report to the Underwriting Manager. Although this is a one-year contract position, there may be potential for extension or permanent placement based on performance and business needs.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Provide data entry support for new insurance policies, policy changes and policy renewals
- Prepare letters, emails, and other written communications
- Assemble policy documentation
- Collaborate with agents, brokers, and other stakeholders to gather necessary information
- Maintain organized and up-to-date records of underwriting files and documents
- Assist in the preparation and distribution of underwriting reports and documentation
- Provide general office support across various departments within the company
- Assist with special projects as required
- Support continuous improvement initiatives within the company

#### Experience & Skills Required:

- Previous experience in an administrative or support role is preferred
- Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint Outlook)
- Ability to quickly learn new software applications and must be familiar with office equipment
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment
- Proactive and positive approach to customer service
- Superior verbal and written communication skills
- Strong analytical skills with attention to detail

If this position is of interest to you, and you feel you have the attributes we are looking for please submit your resume and cover letter by **July 5, 2024** to [info@southeasthope.com](mailto:info@southeasthope.com)

More information about our Company can be viewed at [www.southeasthope.com](http://www.southeasthope.com)

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

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