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## Wellesley council approves family walking-track membership at rec centre

Reduces age for access to fitness gym and walking track during unstaffed hours

By Galen Simmons

Wellesley Township residents aged 16 and over will soon have access to the fitness gym and walking track at the Bill Gies Recreation Centre during unstaffed hours with the purchase of fitness-gym and walking-track memberships.

Currently, the township offers individual and family memberships for up to five family members that allow residents aged 18 and older access to the recreation centre's fitness gym between the hours of 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. daily. As the recreation centre shifts from winter hours to summer hours when staff are required to spend more time at the township's outdoor facilities, staff will only be present at the recreation centre between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.

While the walking track is currently free for recreation-centre users during normal business hours Monday to Friday, Wellesley councillors discussed a staff recommendation to establish a \$25 annual membership at their April 23 committee of the whole meeting that would give members access to the track from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

"There has been some feedback from the community regarding the hours of the walking track at the Bill Gies Recreation Centre, and also the age limit of unsupervised use," said Danny Roth, township

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Continued on page 2

## East Zorra-Tavistock halfway through strategic-planning process

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

East Zorra-Tavistock has reached the halfway mark as it moves closer to completing its first-ever strategic plan.

The project has three phases remaining.

Town Hall Consulting, the vendor overseeing the process, is currently working on refining the results from public open houses, the now completed survey and information provided by staff and council to present a

draft strategic plan at one of the meetings in May or the first meeting in June.

"Council and senior staff have held two strategy sessions with our consultant which resulted in the formation of the vision, mission and values, strategic priorities and objectives. As well, two public open houses were held in March for the public to attend 'Monopoly Nights' where they were given \$5 million in EZT Bucks and were invited to spend them on what objectives and priorities that were most important to them," said

Mayor Phil Schaefer.

"The public was also able to offer their own opinions and suggestions at these two events."

In the draft vision statement, EZT is described as "a forward-thinking and connected community rooted in a rich history, building our future together." The proposed mission statement is "to serve, support and nurture a vibrant community" while the




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COMMUNITY —

# EZT in midst of strategic planning

Continued from page 1

values are listed as integrity, sustainability, accountability, respect, teamwork and inclusivity.

EZT CAO Karen DePrest said the plan, when completed, will provide a blueprint for the township going forward.

"This being a strategic plan for the future, it is forward-looking in nature. Looking back at what we felt we did well, or what we needed to improve upon, is looking backwards. The strategic priorities will form a blueprint for our actions going forward."

Those six priorities have been identified as good governance, financial stability, service delivery, infrastructure, community vitality and environmental awareness. There are a number of objectives listed under the priorities including the development of communication strategies, enhancing diversity in recreation-and-leisure activities, supporting access to daycare, and electrification and green initiatives.

Schaefer added the pieces of the strategic plan will serve as a guiding force for all facets of what EZT does.

"I think the mission, vision and values statements clearly outline what we want to do, how we will do it and what values we will employ to do it. It reinforces the fact that we will look to the future, but not without remembering the rich history of our township dating back to the mid-1800s. We want to encourage our various communities to feel connected in our common goals, and the municipality pledges to live up to the noble values as it delivers the core services that our residents deserve, no matter where they reside in our township."

More details are available at [eztalks.ca/strategic-plan](http://eztalks.ca/strategic-plan).

# Wellesley council greenlights family track membership

Continued from page 1

director of recreation. " ... There are a few different ways to accomplish opening the walking track for additional hours. One option ... is to introduce a walking-track membership.

"By doing so, all members would be entered into our booking system and be issued a key fob to enter the facility when there is not staff in the facility. There are risks associated with allowing (unsupervised use of the facility) that the township would be taking on. Waivers would be required to be signed by all members."

While Roth said he has concerns with allowing access to the recreation centre during unstaffed hours to residents under the age of 18, he later clarified that anyone under 18 would be allowed access outside of staffed hours if they are accompanied by an adult.

That point, however, led to a discussion among council and staff about offering a family membership for the walking track, which was ultimately approved by council at a cost of \$25 for the primary membership and key fob plus an additional \$10 for each additional person up to a maximum of five family members, similar to the fitness-gym membership.

"If it's (a husband and wife), I don't understand why we would need (both) of them to have a fob," Mayor Joe Nowak said. "They're generally going together."

While the family membership for the track will only allot one key fob per household up to a maximum of five family members, Roth said each family member

will be required to sign a waiver and be entered into the booking system to gain access to the track during unstaffed hours, and it will be the responsibility of the primary member in each family to ensure their other family members are abiding by the recreation centre's rules.

On the topic of reducing the minimum age of residents who can access both the walking track and fitness gym outside of staffed hours, Coun. Derek Brick moved to reduce that age from 18 to 16.

"I'd like to recommend, council, if you do go this route, you say 'with parental sign-off,' " township CAO Rik Louwagie said. "If they're between the ages of 16 and 18, they have their parent or guardian sign a waiver saying they're ok having their 16- or 17-year-old coming on their own."

As programming continues to pick up at the brand-new Bill Gies Recreation Centre, Nowak noted that more staff will be added to the centre roster and the number and frequency of unstaffed hours at the centre will diminish as time goes on.

As part of the motion to reduce the minimum age of those accessing the fitness gym and walking track to 16 and establishing individual and family memberships for the walking track, council also approved a \$500 fine for anyone having gained access to the recreation centre who activates the security alarm by an act of negligence such as accessing an unauthorized area.

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**COMMUNITY —**

**Help the New Hamburg Legion find family members of local First and Second World War veterans**

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

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

This week's list of veterans are the war dead from the first and second world wars, and the Korean War as listed on the Wilmot Township Cenotaph.

**Wilmot Township Cenotaph World War I:**

- Daniells, Pte. Charles Thompson
- Eby, L/Cpl. Elgin Earl
- Erbach, Pte. Herbert Edward
- Forler, Gun. Alvin Jacob
- Goebel, Pte. Glennie Robert
- Kaster, Pte. Elmer
- Laschinger, Pte. Wilfred Cecil
- Marty, Pte. Ivan Bernard
- McFadyen DCM, Pte. Henry Lorne
- Merner, Pte. Albert Edward
- Perry, MM, Pte. Walter William
- Schmitt, Gun. George Hamel
- Schuler, Pte. Theodore
- Sheppard, MM, Pte. Leslie Ernest
- Spahr, Pte. John
- Stier, Pte. Nathaniel
- Strauch, Pte. John "Stroud"
- Walker, Pte. Clinton Tye
- Williams, Lieut. Russell
- Yonge, Pte. Charles

**Wilmot Township Cenotaph World War II:**

- Bier, Capt. Nile Harold
- Ditner, Sgt. Hubert Lawrence
- Foster, L/Cpl. Samuel Wallace
- Fried, L/Cpl. Kenneth Laverne
- Honderich, F/L Robert Wayne
- Hostetler, F/O Charles Woodrow
- Ingold, Spr. Irvin
- Jantzi, Sig. Earl
- Kurt, Pte. Walter Carl
- Milne, Cpl. Donald James
- Reinhart, Pte. Albert George
- Ross, Wo2. John Kerr
- Saltzberry, P/O Russell Arthur
- Stiefelmeyer, Pte. John Henry
- Toman, LAC Burkle
- Wagner, LAC Erhardt George

**Wilmot Township Cenotaph Korean War:**

- Koch, Sgt. Gerald Walter

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

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## COMMUNITY —

# Local restaurants participate in Eggmasters contest

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Egg Farmers of Ontario have teamed up with 40 Ontario restaurants for what's being called the Eggmasters Contest.

Spokesperson Donna Lange said the organization piloted a similar initiative in 2022 to try and boost the food-service industry after being hit hard during COVID-19.

"Our independent operators had great customer bases who did what they could in terms of curbside pickup and that kind of thing, but we really wanted to try and help them get back on their feet, encourage people to come back into the restaurants to raise their profile."

She added they learned from the first initiative two years ago and have taken it up a few notches this time around.

"We created a customized package to help the operators. As part of the Eggmasters kit, they received table cards, wall clings, posters and social-media posts they could put together to allow them to engage and excite their customer base."

Lange said small restaurants and cafés are the lifeblood of so many small communities across the province.

Tavistock's D & D Homestyle Cuisine & Café is one of the participants across the province and decided to add a new egg dish to their menu. They are serving a scrambled egg with ham and cheddar wrapped in a crepe and topped with country gravy.

"This is the third year we have done it and the main reason is to promote the egg farmers. It gets their name out there. We don't do it to win a prize but everyone who comes in and takes a picture has a chance to win. I'd like to see as many of our customers win as possible," said D & D co-owner Doug Sparling.

As for the recipe itself, he said it just popped into his head.

"We wanted something different, so we came up with this. The people who have tried it have loved it."



Doug Sparling from Tavistock's D & D Homestyle Cuisine poses with his new creation for the Eggmasters contest. Photo by Lee Griffi

Schmidtsville Restaurant in Wellesley has also signed up for Eggmasters and, while they haven't added a new dish to the menu, they have an all-day breakfast available for their patrons.

The Egg Farmers of Ontario kept the competition simple on purpose and didn't want to bog it down with rules.

"It becomes harder for the average consumer who's just out having a meal to participate," Lange said. "Each restaurant has the opportunity to serve whatever feature dish they choose that includes eggs. When a patron comes into the restaurant they can snap a picture of their favourite egg dish. There are QR codes on the tables and the photo can be posted where comments can be shared."

At the end of the contest, the group will look at how many posts each establishment has and will receive points for each entry. There are also points awarded based on a promotional they use throughout the restaurant whether it is stickers on takeout containers or menus, or anything to promote the contest.

"They are also given points for any social-media activity and we have an opportunity for operators to show their creativity. We have some great operators out there who have some unique ideas. If they provide photos and an explanation of how their restaurant team went above and beyond, they get additional points," Lange added.

The establishment with the most points will be the winner.

The contest kicked off on April 8 and runs until May 17 following Mother's Day weekend. Both patrons and restaurants have the opportunity to win prizes once it has concluded.

"Consumers who post their experiences can win the monetary equivalent of three months' worth of eggs. Forty entries will be randomly selected to win that prize. The Eggmaster who is crowned will receive paid social media ads in their area to boast that they have won and to increase traffic to their location," Lange said.

The winner will also receive \$500 and a recognition plaque, likely at the end of May.

More information is available at [www.eggmaster.ca](http://www.eggmaster.ca).

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## The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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COMMUNITY —

# Area health unit says no to voluntary merger with two neighbours

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Southwestern Public Health board of health has voted against voluntarily merging with a pair of bordering organizations.

The board recently completed a comprehensive feasibility assessment on the possibility of teaming up with the Brant County and Haldimand-Norfolk health units but ultimately decided against it.

The three health units began exploring potential alignment options in connection with Ontario's Strengthening Public Health Strategy. An independent consulting firm prepared a feasibility assessment report and presented it to all three boards of health.

"A merger is a significant undertaking. We went through an amalgamation in 2018 and are still coming together as an organization," said Bernia Martin, board

of health chair at Southwestern Public Health. "Right now, we intend to remain focused on making measurable impacts to population health, and delivering high-quality programs that meet local needs in this region."

Martin explained the health unit itself had just been through its own amalgamation in 2018 and there is still work to be done.

"We are still coming together as an organization. There are still some aspects of that merger that are being finalized. We do believe it strengthened our public-health programs and services. This board felt the work we are doing is what we need to focus on."

The decision of the board was a unanimous one, something Martin said was a show of solidarity.

"I am so proud of the board. As the chair, there is nothing more uncomfortable than

a split decision and dissension. We had none of that. For the year and a half I have been on this board, the focus is on public health and moving the dial for our community and that continues to be our focus."

She added she couldn't be more impressed with the employees at Southwest Public Health who work hard every day to improve the health of area residents.

"We are nothing without our staff. The board did make a point of articulating they are our priority and they are highly valued and we want to make sure they feel that way. They have our complete confidence moving forward as we continue to deliver on the services we are known for that will impact our community positively."

The province funded the feasibility study, providing approximately \$150,000. While it identified opportunities to enhance collaboration that exists between the three

health units, the Southwestern Public Health board of health found no clear indication the merger would result in improved health outcomes for communities in Elgin County, Oxford County, and the City of St. Thomas.

"We remain committed to the vision of a stronger public health sector that prioritizes innovation, collaboration and a deeper connection to public-health priorities that shape future communities. Exploring voluntary mergers was just one aspect of this work," said Martin.

In August 2023, the Ministry of Health released its Strengthening Public Health Strategy and announced one-time funding, resources and support to health units that voluntarily merge by Jan. 1, 2025. The province said the strategy intends to build a stronger, more connected public-health system.



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# COMMUNITY —

## Entrepreneurship at Sprucedale Public School alive and well

By Gary West

Entrepreneurship was alive and well at Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare recently.

Led by Grade 5 student, Lyla Wilson, Sprucedale students approached the school's parent council with the idea of hosting an entrepreneur event and sale.

The sale was made up of various items that the students had either made or baked or wanted to sell to the the visiting public.

Those purchasing the wares were made up of parents, grandparents, friends and relatives from

the area.

When commenting on the success of the sale, teacher Ms. Wilson said even though it was the sale's second year, it was over-the-top successful due to an increase in advertising and marketing of the event over last year's initial try.

School principal Lisa Cairncross was happy with the success and the initiative taken by the students for the event that occurred from 3-6 p.m. after class.

She was happy to see the young entrepreneurs learning the skills of literacy and math and, at the same time, also learning how to deal with the buying public.



The gymnasium at Sprucedale School was a beehive of activity last week as student entrepreneurs were selling their homemade wares on tables throughout the gym. Contributed photo



Pictured from left are Jen McKone, Brady Wouters, 3, Dylan Higgins, 8, and Judy Sebben enjoying the Sheeptography display by student Dylan Higgins featuring his uncle, Jim Sebben's lambs. Contributed photo



The bracelets and homemade candy sold by these three young entrepreneurs were a hit. Pictured from left are Lilah Elliot, Chloe Cutone and Summer Cutone. Contributed photo

## Watermain flushing takes place in Wilmot from May 6 to 17

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

The Township of Wilmot will begin its annual watermain-flushing program on the water distribution system starting May 6 with an expected finish date of May 17.

The work will take place between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. in New Hamburg, Baden, St. Agatha and Mannheim.

The watermain-flushing program aims to maintain drinking-water quality and increase the capacity of the distribution system by cleaning the pipes.

This is done by forcing water through watermains at high speed and discharging it through hydrants, which are left open until the water runs clear. This scours and cleans out mineral deposits and sediment that have built up over time and settled at the bottom of the pipes.

Water will continue to be available during the flushing. Any temporary discoloration of water while the watermains are being flushed should be short-lived. Residents are encouraged to run their cold water taps until the water runs clear if they experience discolored water.

For more information, visit [wilmot.ca/water](http://wilmot.ca/water).

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COMMUNITY —

# Shakespeare Men's club taco night deemed a success

By Gary West

The "most successful yet" were the words echoed by members of the Shakespeare Men's Club at their annual taco night, raising funds for local projects.

After four hours of building their own tacos, more than 300 hungry, area residents filled the Shakespeare Hall to capacity and Men's Club president Barry Nowack, said "with dozens of members, relatives and friends helping, the night went off

without a hitch."

The club donates shirts for learn-to-play beginner's ball with the Shakespeare Community Athletic Association along with supporting many other village activities.

The president thanked everyone in the area for making their 10th annual taco night one to remember, and he hopes all will be back again next April.



Reuben Hulcoop, 21 months old, from Tavistock is shown enjoying his taco during the Shakespeare Men's Club taco night in the Shakespeare Optimist Hall. Photo by Valerie Kropf



The Shakespeare Men's Club Taco Man (Logan Lisk) kept kids entertained during the 10th annual taco night. Photo by Gary West



Pictured serving during taco night are, from left, Sadie Simons, Mason Simons, Lucas Herlick and Amber Elzinga. Contributed photo

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COMMUNITY —

# Local Vocals concert at Trinity Lutheran Church

By Al Junker

Trinity Lutheran Church in New Hamburg was the scene of a fantastic concert last Friday evening by Local Vocals, Wilmot's new a cappella chorus.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed an evening of wonderful music including favourites such as "Blackbird," "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "Sounds of Silence," "Feels Like a Woman" and many more. A highlight was the Vocals' performance of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

The chorus is directed by Lisa Hagen who arranges the group's music. Some of the members have been singing together for over 40 years and are veterans of The Community Players, which was founded 40 years ago in Trinity's basement and was originally known as The Trinity Community Players.

The concert was in support of Trinity's Major Capital Expenditures campaign as well as a fundraiser for the Local Vocals. The 252 people in attendance were treated to a wonderful evening of music and comedy and gave the performers a well-deserved standing ovation.



The Local Vocals perform at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Hamburg on Friday, April 26. Photo by Al Junker

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| <b>2019 Mercedes GLA-250</b><br><br>\$27,999 + HST & lic<br><b>LOW KMS - 87,492 KM</b> | <b>2019 Ford Ranger Supercrew</b><br><br>\$32,999 + HST & lic<br><b>LOW KMS - 80,655 KM</b> | <b>2018 Mercedes E-400</b><br><br>\$39,999 + HST & lic<br><b>LOW KMS - 80,164 KM</b>        | <b>2011 Mini Cooper</b><br><br>\$9,495 + HST & lic<br><b>LOW KMS - 128,397 KM</b>    | <b>2022 Mazda CX-9</b><br><br>\$39,888 + HST & lic<br><b>LOW KMS - 33,465 KM</b>     |

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COMMUNITY —

**OBITUARY**

**ZEHR, Katie**



Passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of her family on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at Sakura House Hospice, Woodstock, in her 93rd year. She was born in Bright, Ontario on December 18, 1931, daughter of the late Enos and Nancy (Wagler) Zehr.

Beloved wife of Melvin 'Mel' Zehr who predeceased her on December 8, 2021. Loving mother of Judy (Carl) Bender, Connie (Maynard) Yantzi and Steven (Christina) Zehr. Sadly missed by her grandchildren Andrea (Ian), Christopher (Arlene), Matthew (Kelly), Marcus (Tosha), Katie (Trevor), Jesse (Marissa), and her great-grandchildren Jacob, Toby, Lydia, Tiffany, Miles, Oliver and Caleb. She is survived by her sisters-in-law Merva Zehr, Lorraine & Melvin Schultz, Marie Zehr; and brother-in-law Irvin Zehr & Ruth Craig.

She was predeceased by her brothers Earl and Neil, her sister Ruby & Melvin Witzel, her brother-in-law Daniel Zehr and sister-in-law Edna & Arthur Yantzi.

Katie had a deep faith in God and loved her church family at East Zorra Mennonite Church. She was known for her quiet, gentle spirit, her warm and welcoming smile, and her strength and resilience. She was hard-working and enjoyed life on the farm, never happier than when working outside or helping others. She also loved spending time visiting and playing games with her family and her many friends.

Relatives and friends will be received in the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock St. N. Tavistock on Thursday, May 2, 2024 from 2 - 4 and 6 - 8 p.m. A private family burial will take place in the East Zorra Mennonite Church cemetery, 16th Line on Friday, May 3, 2024 at 12:30 p.m., followed by a memorial service in the East Zorra Mennonite Church at 1:30 p.m. Reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Sakura House Hospice, Woodstock, or the East Zorra Mennonite Church would be appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be posted at [www.francisfh.ca](http://www.francisfh.ca).

**OBITUARY**

**JANTZI, Ruth Arlene**



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Ruth Arlene Jantzi (nee Lichti), who peacefully ended her journey in this world, in the presence of her family on April 24, 2024.

Ruth channeled her energetic spirit into every aspect of her life. She was the secretary of the Kitchener Waterloo Council of Churches for many years and an active volunteer with the Kitchener Conestoga Rotary Club Turkey Drive. Ruth was also a dedicated member of Erb Street Mennonite Church, participating as song leader, in the sewing circle, helping manage the kitchen for social activities, supporting families who were new to Canada, and serving breakfast fare at the annual Mennonite Relief Sale in New Hamburg.

A world traveller, Ruth journeyed far and wide, accompanied by her husband Ken who was her partner in life for over 55 years. Together they visited Scandinavia, South Africa, many parts of the USA, and numerous countries in Europe. This love of travel has been inherited by her children, who were introduced to the concept at a young age through cross Canada road trips.

Ruth and her family received tremendous support during her time in hospital, by the many whose lives she had touched. She is described as caring, giving, a treasure, the keeper of family history, an inspiration, the Energizer Bunny...but above all, a dear friend.

Ruth's memory will forever be held in the hearts of her husband Ken and her sons Darrell (Patricia) and Greg (Alison), her grandchildren Michael and Stephanie, her brother Jim Lichti (Jennie), and her sister-in-law Eileen Radstake (Monty Woodyard).

Predeceased by her parents Emmalien (nee Wagler) and Elmon Lichti.

The Jantzi family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the ICU staff at Grand River Hospital who provided wonderful care and comfort for Ruth and her family as she battled her health issues.

Visitation took place at Erb & Good Family Funeral Home, 171 King St. S, Waterloo, on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The funeral service took place at Erb Street Mennonite Church on Thursday, May 2, at 11:00 a.m. The service was preceded by visitation from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Interment followed the service at Erb Street Mennonite Cemetery. A reception took place in the church hall following the interment.

For those unable to attend the funeral, the service will be livestreamed and will remain on the funeral home website for future viewing at [www.erbgood.com](http://www.erbgood.com)

In memory of Ruth, donations to House of Friendship, Mennonite Central Committee (Ontario), Beyond Housing, or the Alzheimer Society may be arranged through the funeral home at [www.erbgood.com](http://www.erbgood.com) or by calling 519-745-8445.

**OBITUARY**

**EMMALIEN LICHTI (nee WAGLER) 1923 - 2024**



It is with both sadness at her passing and gratitude for her life well-lived that the family announces the passing of Emmalien Lichti. She passed away peacefully at Nithview Seniors Village on March 21, 2024 in her 101st year. She was a beloved daughter, wife, mother, aunt, outstanding grandmother

and great-grandmother, and a good friend to many. Emmalien was born on November 29, 1923 on the Wagler family farm at Punkeydoodles Corner. Wife of the late Elmon Lichti, whom she married on November 28, 1945.

Sadly missed by her children Ruth Jantzi (d. April 24, 2024) and husband Kenneth, and Jim Lichti and wife Jennie. Emmalien was blessed with five grandsons and their spouses; Darrell and Patricia Jantzi (North York), Gregory and Alison Jantzi (Georgetown), Philip Lichti and Perri Lo (Vancouver), Timothy Lichti and Rochelle Lee (Kitchener), and Stephen Lichti and Jessica Walsh (Ottawa), as well as three great-grandchildren, Michael Jantzi, Stephanie Jantzi, and Simon Lichti.

Emmalien is fondly remembered by her sister Lydia and husband Glen Schumm, sister-in-law Mildred Lichti and by many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by her husband Elmon Jacob Lichti (d. December 14, 2005), an infant daughter (1952), her parents Daniel and Mary (Zehr) Wagler, brothers and sisters-in-law Stanley and Ruby Wagler, Lloyd and Ruby Wagler, Daniel and Audrey Wagler, and by her sisters and brothers-in-law Erma and Merlin Bender, Alma and Ken Yantzi. Also predeceased by Lichti in-laws: Leona and Mervin Bender, Stanley and Erma Lichti, Lincoln and Maryann Lichti, Elroy and Loretta Lichti, Mervin and Geneva Lichti and Ken Lichti.

Emmalien and Elmon farmed for many years in East Zorra Township. She was a faithful member of Tavistock Mennonite Church. She was a volunteer during the early decades of the New Hamburg MCC Relief Sale, volunteered at the New Hamburg MCC Thrift Store for 35 years, and was active in the women's quilting group at church.

Friends are invited to share their memories of Emmalien with her family during visitation at the Frances Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock Street North, Tavistock on Saturday May 4 from 1-4 pm. The funeral service will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday May 5 at Tavistock Mennonite Church, 131 Wettlaufer St, Tavistock. Pastor Harold Schlegel will officiate. To view the funeral service online, live or later click here or go to <https://boxcast.tv/channel/qxwaylrpfgjhwtjdr4jb> A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a private burial at 16th Line East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery.

In memory of Emmalien Lichti donations to Mennonite Central Committee or Nithview Home Development Fund or Tavistock Assistance Program (TAP emergency aid) may be arranged through Frances Funeral Home, Tavistock ON or by calling 519-655-2431.

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# COMMUNITY —

## OBITUARY

### STOCKIE, Margaret Linda (Wilhelm)



Passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loved ones on Tues April 23, 2024 at Nithview Home. Margaret was a long-time resident of New Hamburg and was born 95 years ago in Kitchener, Ontario, a daughter of the late August and Elizabeth "Elly" (Zeeh) Wilhelm.

She was married to her beloved husband and best friend the former Jerome E. Stockie (JE) who predeceased her in 2001. Loving mother of Linda & Paul (pre deceased), Gary & Margot, Tom & Brenda, Mary Ann & Mike, Jane & Jim, John & Shyanne and Jackie & Ed. Cherished grandmother of 22 Grandchildren and 27 Great Grandchildren.

Margaret will be missed by her many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her siblings and in-laws; Helen and Ed, Loni and Richard, Ruth and August, Walter and Irene and Myrtle Wilhelm, Bob and Fran Wilhelm.

Margaret was a long-time member of Holy Family Catholic Parish and secretary at Holy Family School. She enjoyed canning, baking, and cooking delicious meals for all to enjoy and share conversation around. Margaret was crafty and loved knitting. She enjoyed going bowling with her friends and sharing many laughs. Margaret had a great sense of humour and above all enjoyed spending her time with her family and those she loved dearly.

A special thank you to Nithview Community for all their special care and compassion shown to Margaret in her years of being a resident there.

Relatives and friends were invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Thurs April 25 from 2 – 4 & 6 – 8 p.m. A Celebration of Margaret's Life took place at Holy Family Roman Catholic Parish, New Hamburg on Fri April 26 at 11 am and at Mark Jutzi Funeral Home. Interment took place in Mount Hope Cemetery, Kitchener, after the luncheon, where Margaret was laid to her final resting place with her beloved Jerome (J.E.).

As expressions of sympathy, and in lieu of flowers, donations would be accepted to Holy Family Roman Catholic Parish or the Heart and Stroke Foundation and can be done through the funeral home.

Personal condolences and donation information available at [www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca](http://www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca)

## OBITUARY

### BRENNEMAN, Crystal Ann (Meredith)



It is with broken hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother, Crystal Brenneman at the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at the age of 55.

Loving wife and best friend of Trevor Brenneman

whom she cherished 35 years of marriage with. Proud and devoted mother of Kayla and husband Jesse Francis, Katy and husband Dan Waugh, and Jacob Brenneman. Caring and affectionate Nanny of Bodhi. Crystal will be deeply missed by her husband, children, grandson, mother Theresa, grandfather Martin Bosse, mother-in-law Doreen and Carl Ruby, by sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Kim and Mark Dettweiler, Kelly and Todd McDougall, Luke and Holly Ruby, by her many siblings and by countless nieces, nephews and friends. Crystal is predeceased by her father Karl Meredith, grandparents Mona Bosse and Madilyn and Gordon Meredith and by her father-in-law Gerry Brenneman.

Crystal was employed by the Township of Wilmot for many years before moving to the Township of Brant where she was the Supervisor of Cemetery Operations. Crystal lived her life to the fullest, she enjoyed her days riding her motorcycle with her husband, kids and friends. She enjoyed family and friends camp outs, pig roasts and parties. Crystal cherished her time with her husband and family and supported all of them on various journeys and endeavors. Crystal was so proud of her grandson Bodhi. She cherished her last year with her family, getting to see her 2 daughters get married and family time on various trips to Disney, Nashville, and New York. Crystal touched the lives of many, and her infectious smile and laugh will be remembered forever.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial visitation was held at the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 1 – 5 p.m. A celebration of life service took place at Steinmann Mennonite Church, 1316 Snyder's Road West, on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. and reception followed.

As expressions of sympathy and in lieu of flowers, memorial donations would be accepted to Rotary Hospice, Wilmot Family Resource Centre or Wilmot Youth Council and can be done through the funeral home.

Personal condolences and donation information available at [www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca](http://www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca)

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## COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock  
Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. What is the largest moon in our solar system?
2. How long is an Olympic swimming pool?
3. Yellowknife is the capital of what?
4. How many languages are written right to left?
5. What band sang "What Makes You Beautiful"?
6. How many days are in a leap year?
7. Who is the god of the sea?
8. What does NASA stand for?
9. What is the longest movie ever made?
10. What is the 18th letter of the alphabet?

Answers found on page 19

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.*

**May 2:** Happy birthday to Simon Cressman (10), Jorja Hergott (13), and Jaxon Hergott (16).

**May 3:** Happy birthday to Nixon Stahlke (5), Alex Murray (22)

**May 4:** Happy birthday to Drew Roth (15), Nicole Wilhelm (21), Bella Gingerich (22), Abigail Hallman (23), Jay Schurink (23), and Alyssa Habel.

**May 5:** Happy birthday to Alex Zehr (8), Tyler Bond (14), and Tatum Gaudun Gies (16) and anniversary for John and Joanne Gies (52nd)

**May 6:** Happy birthday to Allison Wilker (17) and Gib Klein, and anniversary for Don and Carol Mordue.

**May 7:** Happy birthday to Amy Loggan (23) and Grant Bronson (92).

**May 8:** Happy birthday to Lucas Benbow (12) and anniversaries for Stewart and Laurie Grant (25th) and Joshua and Carolyn Zehr (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.*

**April 30-May 7, 2014, Edition (10 years ago)**

What does the word internet stand for? What is cyberbullying and what is netiquette? These and many more questions were answered and discussed at Hickson Central School where Heather Stokman educated more than 50 parents and children on Internet Safety.

There are hundreds of kilometers of road in Oxford County and to keep them safe, a new campaign was launched last week intended to encourage motorists and cyclists alike to keep them that way. The Share the Road bicycle safety awareness campaign asks drivers and riders to give space and be patient, to communicate, and be visible and predictable. Mayor and Warden Don McKay stands with the Share the Road sign at the launch of the campaign at the Innerkip Community Centre.

**April 28-May 5, 2004, Edition (20 years ago)**

Highway 59 south of Tavistock to the Maplewood Sideroad is a lot cleaner thanks to the work of volunteers organized last week by the Tavistock Men's Club in their "Adopt a Highway" project. More than twenty people were busy in the ditches and along fence lines gathering about 30

garage bags full of trash.

It was a bittersweet victory for the McLaren family on Friday night when the Stratford Cullitons won their second consecutive Sutherland Cup Championship. Both sons of Dave and Kim McLaren of Hickson were playing in the series final again this year, but on opposite teams.

**May 2-9, 1984, Edition (40 years ago)**

Baby Band was held on April 18th at Grace United Church with 35 moms and 65 children in attendance. The children sang songs, made crafts, and heard a story about the Easter Bunny.

There were lots of spectators at the Arm-wrestling Competition held in the Arlington Motor Hotel, Tavistock dining room on Saturday afternoon. The winner of the Men's heavyweight was Larry Wagler. In the Men's lightweight, it was Steve Barr. In the ladies' open, Mayda Pike came first and in the ladies' lightweight, Heidi Wagner pulled first place.

There will be an open house in the Tavistock Post Office on Friday, May 18th from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Residents may tour the facility at this time and there will be coffee and doughnuts available.

Brad Winhold threw a no-hitter in Tavistock Orioles' first league game for a victory Sunday night. Brad faced 28 batters as one reached base by an error.

**April 29-May 6, 1964, Edition (60 years ago)**

The day of the 25-cent meal at the Waterloo-Oxford District High School is

numbered, according to Harold Schmidt, vice-chairman of the high school board. He told Wilmot Township Council last week that the board is seriously considering an increase in the price of the meal to 30 cents or 35 cents.

One of the landmarks of Shakespeare, a general store at the southwest corner of the intersection of No. 59 and 7 and 8 highways, will be torn down late this summer as a move to further improve visibility at the busy corner.

A bill to eliminate the Ontario poll tax failed to pass the Ontario Legislature last week. The bill was presented by a Liberal member, who described the poll tax as "unfair and discriminatory." The Statute Labor Act gives municipalities the right to levy an annual poll tax on single males 21 years old or over of up to \$10.

More than 100 men, members of the Lutheran Laymen's League, Ontario District of the Missouri Synod, Lutheran Church, attended the 14th annual convention of the organization here in Tavistock on Sunday.

Brian Glen Schumm, 13-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Schumm, 16th line of East Zorra, three and a half miles southeast of Tavistock, died instantly shortly before noon on Monday. The lad was running around the farmyard just prior to being struck by a truck loaded with commercial fertilizer which was being driven by an uncle of the child. Brian is survived by his older sister, Janet, and older brother, Ross. May you rest in peace, Brian Glen Schumm.

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

COMMUNITY —

# Men's Club of Tavistock hosts annual ditch cleanup

By Gary West

The sunny weather was perfect last Friday afternoon for members of the Tavistock's Men's Club and their families to keep the ditches on Highway 59, south of Tavistock, clean of waste that accumulated over winter.

According to the many club members

taking part, the highway cleanup started years ago. The late Ron Brenneman and his brothers came up in discussions of how it all got started.

Many Brenneman family members are still involved to keep the neighbourhood countryside neat and tidy for the motoring public.



The Kropf family were busy picking up garbage in the roadside ditch near their farm on Oxford Road 34 north of Oxford Road 59, west of Tavistock. Pictured from left are Simeon, 5, Chloe, 7, Levi, 3, grandma Valerie Kropf and daughter Melissa Hulcoop, mother of the three young, industrious helpers. Photo by Gary West



Members of the Brenneman family are pictured north of the Castle Sideroad on Highway 59 helping the Tavistock Men's Club with its roadside cleanup on Friday. From left are Paul, Larissa and Morgan wearing rubber boots and fishing garbage out of the ditch. Photo by Katherine Brenneman

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## Tavistock's Deb Stevely retires from local Scotiabank

By Gary West

For all those customers at Tavistock's Scotiabank who were used to the smiling face and bubbly personality of Deb Stevely, you'll have to save the picture in this article.

As of Tuesday at 2 p.m., Stevely has officially retired and leaves the counter to her former colleagues to fill in the void.

Stevely and her husband Bill are ready to do more traveling and spend more time with their three grandchildren.

Stevely has also been involved with the Tavistock Legion and Grace United Church over the last number of years.

The Scotiabank managers and staff say they will miss her smiling face at the Tavistock branch, and wished her all the best in the retirement stage of her life.



Deb Stevely will be missed and all at Scotiabank on Tuesday wished her a long and happy retirement. Photo by Eilen Hurley

### CORRECTION

An error was printed in the April 25 edition of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. In the story, Nine Wilmot churches to participate in Red Dress Day May 5, the author wrote Tammy Gagnon runs a women's healing circle at Mannheim Mennonite Church. In reality, Gagnon participates in the healing circle and it is run by Elder Nina DeShane. We regret any confusion this error may have caused.

SPORTS —

# Firebirds in must-win situation in PJHL semi-final

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

New Hamburg sits in a 3-1 hole in their Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) semi-final series with Lakeshore after a 4-0 loss Tuesday night in Belle River.

The Firebirds outshot the Canadiens 33-29 including 14-8 in the third period but couldn't find the back of the net. Game five in the series is back in New Hamburg on Friday at 8 p.m.

"They are a really good team and they capitalize on their chances. Unfortunately, tonight, we had some really good chances and they didn't find the back of the net,"

said head coach Shane Gerber.

Thamesford Trojans general manager Brad Underwood told this reporter this Canadiens team is the best he has ever seen in Junior C hockey. Gerber said he can't speak for anything other than the series he is involved in and added the Firebirds aren't done.

"They are hard on the puck. They are well structured. They are big and they are fast. You have to play a real good hockey game to beat them and we can, and we proved it."

New Hamburg went zero for five on the powerplay Tuesday night, something

Gerber said contributed to the loss.

"We had a five on three. We score on that, it's maybe a different story. If we go two for five, it changes the complexion of the game. They are a really good hockey team, but I am not taking anything away from our guys. We are right there with them, stride for stride. The difference has been scoring on the chances."

Gerber admitted his squad is disappointed after Tuesday's loss, but added there is no quit in the locker room, especially (for) the next game at home.

"This group won't lay down. We will have our home crowd behind us, and they know

that. It will help, and we will go from there one shift at a time."

The Firebirds earned their first win in the series in New Hamburg on Sunday by a 3-1 margin. New Hamburg came out flying, outshooting Lakeshore 18-5 in the first 20 minutes. Matt Domm scored the only goal of the period, his fourth of the playoffs, from Anthony Pedde and Owen Fischer. Owen Bruder and Jake Thompon scored second-period markers before the Canadiens were able to find the back of the net late in the frame.

Graeme Noye stopped 24 of 25 shots in the Firebirds net to earn the win.

# Braves hand out team hardware at banquet

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Tavistock Braves may have lost in the first round of the PJHL's Doherty Division playoffs but the team's top and graduating players were honoured at the team's end-of-season banquet last week.



Pictured from left are Carter Arseneau - Most Improved Player; Cullen Derry - Most Sportsmanlike Player; Stephen Peppas - Rookie of the Year; Marc Dionne - Heart and Soul; Andrew Van Boekel - Outstanding Leadership/Top Defenceman/Playoff MVP; and Nic Thibodeau - Regular Season MVP/Most Points. Contributed photo



The team also honoured their four graduating players who each received framed jerseys as a thank you for their time with the Braves. From left to right are Ryan Suljack, Ian Glendinning, Nic Thibodeau and Andrew VanBoekel. Contributed photo

# Tavistock Public School boys volleyball team runner-up in TVDSB championships

By Gary West

The Tavistock Public School Grades 7 and 8 boys volleyball team capped off a successful season coming up just short of a Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) "A" championship.

According to their coaches, the team came up short of qualifying for the championships last year, so the boys were hungry for redemption.

According to coach Isaiah Whetstone, they started off the year playing volleyball against local schools in the area. They won most of the league games and the boys continued to improve over the course of the season. The road to qualifying for the TVDSB championships began with a round-robin tournament played at Oliver Stevens Secondary School with six other local teams.

Tavistock came out on top of this qualifier, which put them in a four-team tournament played at Huron Park Secondary School. The winner of this tournament would qualify for the TVDSB championships to be played in London.

They beat Blenheim in the first match two sets to none, which led to a matchup with

Woodstock's Roch Carrier in the finals. They lost the final set of the match, which was a bit of a wake-up call, but then went on to win the second and third sets.

This meant the team was the TVDSB regional champions and would go on to play at the TVDSB "A" championships at Clarke Road Secondary School in London.

According to Whetstone, thanks to the strong play in round-robin, they came out on top of their pool and were set up with a semi-final matchup against Valleyview Public School. They dropped the first set, but then bounced back to win the second and third sets. This win set up a match with the well-known John Dearnness in the TVDSB "A" finals. They ended up losing two respectable sets to a very strong volleyball-minded team.

The coaches were all in agreement that they were super proud of the boys for the season they had. They felt they had very competitive volleyball players and felt it was a huge achievement.

"They worked hard for four months practicing almost every day and it finally did pay off," Whetstone said.



Pictured are members of the Tavistock Public School Grades 7 and 8 boys volleyball team. In the front row from left are coach Sandra Alyea, coach Isaiah Whetstone, coach Craig White, Logan Nahrgang, Koa Thompson, Noah Leis, Jordan Zehr and Spencer Otto. In the back row from left are Levi Fuhrmann, Carter Cook, Camden Bartlett, Ryerson Steckly, Evan Nahrgang, Marshall McKay, Dylan McCann and Peyton Christie. Absent from the photo is Ben Church. Contributed photo

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COMMUNITY —

# Local 911 dispatchers adopt what3words location technology to find those in need faster

By Galen Simmons

Emergency 911 operators in Stratford, St. Marys and across Perth County have adopted a new technology that will make it easier and quicker for first responders to locate those in need of help.

Each of the participating municipalities are encouraging residents to download the what3words app, which allows users to communicate their location to emergency dispatchers in the event they become lost or are otherwise unable to.

"In an emergency, seconds can feel like hours and, when you need help now, you need to know where exactly you are so emergency services can be dispatched," Stratford Police Chief Greg Skinner said. "For any number of reasons, people find themselves in situations where they have no way of telling an emergency dispatcher where they are – there is no address, no street signs, no obvious landmarks. The what3words app allows dispatchers to know exactly where someone is and dispatch help immediately.

"Perth County attracts a lot of tourists who don't always know where they are when tragedy strikes, and when seconds count, responding to the right location matters. The public believes that if they call 911, then emergency services will know

exactly where they are. That is not always the case and often precious time is spent getting that information when using the what3words app would provide that information immediately and accurately, allowing emergency personnel to respond more quickly. The Stratford police are adopting this app because we believe that we should be embracing and implementing any new technology that allows us to more efficiently, effectively and professionally respond to the needs of the public."

what3words has assigned a unique combination of three words to every three-meter square in the world. For example, ///frizz.empty.blot will direct users to the rear door of Stratford city hall and ///showdown.sticks.clash will bring users to the Listowel clock tower.

The app is free to use and it works offline, making it ideal for use in areas with poor cellular service such as the G2G Rail Trail and other remote areas in the county. The technology is available in 60 languages and can be used anywhere in the world. The system does not store or track users' location data, and there are not advertisements in the app or map.

Currently, what3words is used by more than 50 emergency communication centres across Canada with a presence in eight provinces and two territories.

"We encourage residents of Perth County, Stratford and the Town of St Marys to download the app now and become familiar with it," Perth East and West Perth Fire Chief Bill Hunter said. "Most people will go their entire lives and never call 911, however when you do, you may be under an immense amount of stress or be in an unfamiliar area. This app makes it simple to relay your exact location to our dispatchers and get our services to you as quickly as possible."

Using what3words addresses gives callers a simple way to describe precisely where help is needed and allows emergency response crews to get resources directly to the scene. It has helped to rescue people from a range of incidents including locating victims of rural road accidents, people trapped in flood waters, kidnap victims and critically injured hikers and cyclists.

In an emergency, where a location is difficult to describe, 911 callers can give their what3words address from the app. People who do not have the app installed will be sent a link by the 911 operator to a mobile version of the site. They can then open it in a mobile browser and read the three words on their screen to the 911 call operator.

The app only requires a GPS signal to display a what3words address. These three

words can then be used by the 911 dispatchers to identify the precise location and direct resources to exactly where it is required.

"For dispatching centres, it is particularly effective when tourists or others unfamiliar with their area can use the app and provide the three distinctive words to identify their location or that of an emergency incident," Stratford Fire Chief Neil Anderson said. "This can include boating accidents in the water or a farmland incident in the middle of a field. Not only is it effective for emergency locates, but some food-delivery companies have also begun using this app, as well as some major package-delivery companies. Just imagine sitting at Lower Queens Park and having food delivered directly to your location in the field for an instant picnic, or being at the Stratford Fall Fair or a concert and easily meeting up with someone through identifying your location using this app.

"Although our focus is the use and benefits to people and 911 dispatch centres for emergencies, we are equally promoting this app for the multiple other uses it can offer with the hope that more people will download it to their phone knowing that it will also be there to identify your location in a worst-case scenario."



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## OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *All about asparagus*

By Mercedes Kay Gold

Asparagus is the local springtime superstar of May's produce aisle.

This super-popular, spear-shaped vegetable is a member of the lily family. The name is Greek in origin, coming from the word, asparagos, meaning to spring up. This beauty is a bounty of health springing up at your local farmer's field. Whether you eat green, white or power up with purple, this lovely delicately flavoured veggie is versatile.

Asparagus is a staple for dieters. With just three to five calories in a spear, pile the plate sky high. There's an array of awe-



With just three to five calories per spear, asparagus has an awesome array of nutrients including Vitamin K, folate, fiber, beta carotene and quercetin.

some nutrients, but the vitamin K content is huge at half of the daily recommended intake. Vitamin K is essential in blood clotting and linked to bone health. This vital vitamin is the much-needed sidekick for vitamin D, known as the sunshine vitamin. This immune boosting dream team is crucial for anyone living north of the equator. Another fabulous find is folate, vital for DNA formation, a superfood during pregnancy. Asparagus is a mealtime must for those with tingling feet and hands.

Asparagus contains fiber, fueling friendly, good-belly bacteria. Its high-water content supports healthy digestion and tames a growling tummy. Choosing foods that promote satiety are ideal for weight loss and management. Asparagus is a great food-based diuretic, helping relive edema, and, packed with potassium, asparagus supports healthy blood pressure.

Asparagus can be enjoyed raw but potent polyphenols get a boost cooked. Beta carotene, the precursor to eye-health helper vitamin A, and the plant pigment, quercetin, both sky rocket as well with some heat.

With escalating food prices, asparagus is a great green given it's on the Clean Fifteen list. Every year, produce is tested for pesticide residue by the Environmental Working Group. They compile two lists referred to as the Dirty Dozen and the Clean Fifteen. One highlights the fruits and vegetables with very low or no pesticide residue while the other exposes the worst offenders found in conventional produce. These two lists can help guide shoppers to make informed decisions for their health and wallet. Many farms follow organic practices but aren't certified, so keep the list close.

Asparagus is a quick and easy side simply steamed with salt or roasted with a splash of olive or avocado oil. It's spectacular served cold in a salad, perfect in pasta with grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, egg-ceptional in an omelet, an awesome addition in a stir-fry and super center-

stage in soup.

The recipe below is a make-ahead-anytime meal and a soon-to-be family favourite for brunch. Eggs are the real-deal meal, checking all the boxes. Pasture-raised eggs are especially body boosting thanks to the chickens dining on a diet high in grubs. The super sphere is power packed with protein, crazy choline content, loads of lutein and healthy fats. The yolks are as bright as the midday sun. Nothing beats a meet and greet with the chickens when I pick up my eggs at Lynn River Farm.

This lactose- and casein-sensitive holistic nutritionist favours goat milk and cheese for its digestibility, but dairy from a cow works, too. All-star asparagus takes centre stage and any herb is heavenly in this crustless, quick quiche!

#### Asparagus and Goat Cheese Crustless Quiche

*Vegetarian, gluten-free, low carb and low calorie but nutrient dense and a palate pleaser!*

Serves: 6

#### Ingredients:

- Dozen eggs (I used Lynn River Farm)
- Bundle of asparagus or one pound yields 1.5-2 cups
- 2 cups of full-fat goat milk
- 200-gram package of goat mozzarella or feta
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons of avocado oil
- 1 shallot
- 2 tablespoons dried rosemary or fresh

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly grease the 7.5 x 12 inch pan with a tablespoon avocado oil.
2. Chop the washed asparagus into



This crustless, gluten-free asparagus and goat-cheese quiche is low calorie and nutrient dense. Photos by Mercedes Kay Gold

½-inch pieces and dice the shallot.

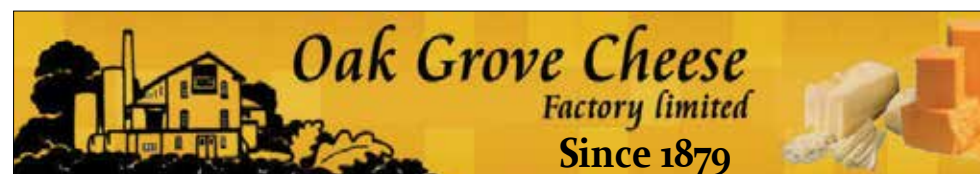
3. At medium heat, sauté the shallot and asparagus in a tablespoon of oil until softened.
4. If using goat mozzarella, grate cheese or crumble the feta.
5. Whisk eggs, milk, rosemary, salt and pepper. Stir in the cheese.
6. Add the veggies and stir.
7. Pour the mixture into the greased pan.
8. Bake in the center of the oven until begins to turn golden brown, approximately 35 minutes. To confirm it's cooked, insert a toothpick. It should be clean.
9. Cool and enjoy!
10. Store in the fridge or freeze in individual pieces for meal prep.

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## TRAVEL —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Working to tell the truth at Mount Vernon



By Paul Knowles

It's a stereotype, but one that contains a fair amount of truth; Canadians and Americans are very different from one another. I feel that distance has increased over the course of my lifetime, although that may or not actually be the case.

At any rate, we certainly seem to deal with the problematic issues of our histories quite differently. Here in Canada, we have seen powerful pushback against putting historic figures on pedestals. In the U.S., the misdeeds of historic American heroes have often been swept under the carpet.

Or maybe less than I thought.

So, when we were invited to visit Mount Vernon, I agreed with some considerable trepidation. Mount Vernon was the home of George Washington, hero of the American Revolution and the first President of the United States. He was also a lifelong slave owner. So, which

Washington would we meet as we visited his estate in Virginia, only minutes from the United States capital that bears his name?

It turned out, both of them. And that openness to often ugly realities turned my skepticism into a forthright recommendation that Canadians should, indeed, visit Mount Vernon. Go for the history, for the honest attempt to deal with a horrendous heritage, and for the sheer beauty of the place on the banks of the Potomac River.

The site is huge. You can walk as much as you want – though there is also a shuttle service from the lowest parts of the estate – near the wharf on the river, to the high ground where the house is situated. The highlight may be the house itself, which was occupied by George and Martha Washington for almost 45 years and contains authentic and often original furniture. But there are many outbuildings, some housing farm animals and some with interpreters like the working blacksmith.

There are gardens, a demonstration farm, Washington's tomb and, close by, the Slave Memorial and Cemetery.

I say the house – accessible via scheduled tours – is the highlight but, in truth, the real high point for us was in a small outbuilding where a wonderful actor in costume and character as Martha Washington, regaled us with the story of the place, added an unending supply of personal anecdotes about her "husband" and confronted the terrible reality of being a slave owner.

She told us Washington had

personally owned 123 enslaved people at the time of his death. Mount Vernon guides share the information that the phrase, "enslaved people," has been adopted wherever possible in an effort to acknowledge their humanity. He reportedly treated them humanely and Washington's will freed all his slaves.

Martha honestly noted the irony in this – a man who had lived his entire life owning enslaved people finally set them free only after his death. In fact, they were to remain in slavery until Martha died, but she freed them early on Jan. 1, 1801, just over a year after George Washington's passing. Martha died in 1802.

And the story is even more complicated because there were actually 317 enslaved men, women and children at Mount Vernon in 1799. Those not owned directly by George Washington were attached to Martha, but she did not own them. She was a widow when she married George, and the enslaved people remained the property of her husband's estate, managed by her, but leaving her no authority to free the slaves.

She appealed to her grandchildren to set them free, but they refused. George even tried to buy them from the estate, but that effort failed. The majority of Mount Vernon's enslaved people remained enslaved after both George and Martha were gone.

All of this is acknowledged at the Slave Memorial and Cemetery – to me, the most moving site on the property.

Surprisingly, Mount Vernon is not a govern-



The striking front view of George Washington's Mount Vernon home. All photos by Paul Knowles

ment-owned-and-operated place. In the mid-1800s, with the place falling into disrepair, it was purchased and restored by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, which continues to own the estate and receives no government funding.

This Ladies' Association made an historic decision in 1929. A marker was placed on the property in the location of the slave cemetery. It honoured an unknown number of enslaved people – certainly well over 100 – who were buried in the area in unmarked graves.

In 1983, the present memorial was added as "a lasting tribute to the memory of those individuals who lived and toiled in bondage here."

The whole of Mount Vernon is fascinating. And yes, you learn a lot about the first president of the United States, the man who led the American forces

to victory in the Revolutionary War. But you also learn so much about the issues that have caused deep divisions in that country, from then to now.

It's a place where there is at least a sincere attempt being made to tell the whole of the story. And it's also an entirely beautiful destination where visitors feel free to stroll, to relax on chairs on Washington's porch or on the nearby lawn, and enjoy the striking view of the Potomac River.

In short, it is very much worth a visit.

*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).*



An amazing actor who played Martha Washington and offered deep insight into the lives and thoughts of the first president of the United States.



A blacksmith at work in one of the many outbuildings on the property.



The Slave Memorial and Cemetery at Mount Vernon.



George Washington's library.

COMMUNITY —

# Wellesley council approves upgrades to splash pad

By Galen Simmons

Wellesley council has approved nearly \$40,000 in upgrades to the Wellesley Splash Pad.

At its April 23 committee of the whole meeting, council voted to award the contract for splash-pad upgrades to Open Space Solutions at a cost of \$39,523.86 including HST. Last year, the splash-pad upgrades were included in the township's capital budget at an estimated cost of \$45,000 after the Wellesley Lions Club – the group that originally funded the construction of the splash pad 10 years ago

– approached township recreation staff about the need to replace some of the features.

Last fall, staff solicited quotes for the project from the only two companies that handle splash-pad maintenance and installation in southwestern Ontario, both of which came in under budget. However, neither company was able to complete the work until this spring, so the project's budget was transferred to the township's more-than \$300,000 facilities reserve to pay for the work this year.

While a bid from ABC Recreation came in

at just over \$22,000 including HST, township director of recreation Danny Roth recommended council accept the higher bid.

"Staff are recommending using the higher of the two quotes received. This is based on the scope of work the supplier submitted," Roth said. "The lower of the two (bidders) quoted removing the umbrella mushroom cap and replacing it with a refurbished, smaller water feature.

"I'm not recommending removing this feature as it is the main attraction of the splash pad."

According to Roth's report to council, ABC Recreation could not source parts for the umbrella, a feature that did not work properly last year, because they do not deal with the company that supplied that piece of equipment initially.

The quote from Open Space Solutions, however, includes a full refurbishment of the umbrella as the company can source the parts required to do so. Open Space Solutions will also add brand-new features and will replace the solenoids and ball valves on the manifold.



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**OPINION —**

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR:  
The Ford government is threatening to expropriate over 700 acres of prime farmland**

Doug Ford looks at farmland and says, "Look at all that undeveloped land!"

He doesn't comprehend that it took a couple hundred years of careful nurturing to turn that chunk of land into rich, productive soil, in many cases by generations of the same families who own them today.

He doesn't understand the complexities of modern agriculture; the balancing act of having enough acreage to support herds of livestock, or the acreage required to disperse the manure in an environmentally responsible manner.

He doesn't understand the planning involved, the balancing act required, the reinvestment year after year that farmers make to put food on his table.

He looks at that farmland and thinks his rich construction buddies can bring industry, housing and urban development to enrich the lives of those poor, country hicks, while lining his pockets with more campaign donations to keep him in power.

He thinks those farmers are panting for the opportunity to unload their farms and escape the drudgery of farm life for the comfort of a condo and the stability of a nine-to-five job with paid benefits. He doesn't understand the pride, the satisfaction and the integrity that goes into each and every acre.

Doug Ford does not comprehend that those carefully developed fields of rich soil are what puts food on his table and holds rural communities together. Nor does he understand the vastness of the food production industry and how many people are employed to provide his urban centres with the necessities of life.

He sees an empty field and thinks "opportunity for my pals".

He doesn't see the thousands of people employed in the industry; the farmers, the farm workers, the GPS technicians, the soil specialists, the fertilizer developers, the universities, the plant-crop specialists, the researchers in plant production, the equipment dealers, the equipment manufacturers, the truckers, the buyers and sellers, the advertisers, the equipment-repair technicians, the parts suppliers, or even the young teens whose first job may well be stone picking in those fields.

Doug Ford would not appreciate the greening of winter wheat, the ripples of a light breeze through a field of rye, the smell of newly mown hay. He would not feel the pride in our country when he sees rolling acres of new crops emerging from the ground, or the joy in seeing young calves rollicking in a field.

Doug Ford believes that the world revolves around the GTA, and the rest of Ontario only exists to provide tax dollars to support the centre of his universe.

If Doug Ford truly cared about Ontario, he would develop plans to diversify the whole province instead of concentrating all new citizenry in the GTA and expanding the urban sprawl. He would plan urban and industrial development on lands that are better suited for those purposes than prime farmland that has taken hundreds of years to evolve into such a valuable resource.

Doug Ford needs to be educated! His ad says he is working for the people. It's time he listened to the people!

*Sal Hoggarth  
Tavistock, Ontario*

*Editor's note: This letter to the editor was originally posted to the author's Facebook page. It has been republished here with his permission.*

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION CENTRE

## William St. Sewage Pumping Station – Tavistock

### Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study

Oxford County is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) study to identify the most appropriate sanitary servicing solution to support ongoing sanitary servicing needs and anticipated community growth to the year 2046 in the William Street area of the Village of Tavistock.

#### About the study

The William Street Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) receives sewage from homes, businesses and institutions within the William Street SPS study area (refer to Study Area map). Oxford County initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study that is considering a wide range of servicing alternatives in order to identify the most preferred solution to support ongoing wastewater servicing needs to the year 2046.

The Class EA study is being planned in accordance with the planning and design process for Schedule B projects as outlined in the Municipal Engineers Association Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (2023), which is an approved process under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*.

#### We want to hear from you

Consultation with stakeholders is a key component of the study process and input will be sought throughout the study.

A virtual (online) Public Consultation Centre (PCC) is being held to provide a project update, present the alternative servicing solutions, present the evaluation criteria for selecting the preferred servicing solution, and present the preferred solution.

**Tuesday, May 14, 2024**  
Online: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Please check the project website at [www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/william-street-sps-tavistock](http://www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/william-street-sps-tavistock) for login details to join. Materials will be posted to the project website following the meeting.

Comments are welcome and should be submitted by **Monday, May 27, 2024.**



Submit your comments or questions through the project website or to the project contacts.

To receive project updates, subscribe to the study mailing list through one of the project contacts.

#### Project contacts

Gemma Charlebois, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.  
Project Manager  
MTE Consultants Inc.  
519-743-6500 ext. 1227  
[GCharlebois@mte85.com](mailto:GCharlebois@mte85.com)

Don Ford, BA, CMM III, C.Tech.  
Manager, Water and Wastewater Services  
Oxford County  
519-539-9800 ext. 3191  
[dford@oxfordcounty.ca](mailto:dford@oxfordcounty.ca)

*Information collected will be used in accordance with the 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 on April 19, 2024

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## COMMUNITY —

# Class President Elections at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School: What Do Voters Want to See?

By Cadence Mailloux, Editor W-O Say-So

Spring is a busy time of year at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School (WODSS), and it will only get busier as we head into the final term of the school year.

On top of midterms, prom-dress shopping and spring fever, students at WODSS are beginning the process of electing their new student government (or co-presidents). The candidates are just beginning their campaigns, each with their own unique angles and goals for WODSS, including plans for a scoreboard, litter management and mascot suits.

However elaborate the co-presidential candidates' plans might be, it was certainly interesting to discover what students at WODSS were looking for in their student president, as well as what they hoped to see from the candidates. All students that were interviewed will stay anonymous in this article.

When asked what big changes students wanted to see in the school, most replied with changes needed in how litter is managed both within the school and around the parking lot. This has been an ongoing issue at WODSS for multiple years, and it negatively impacts students' experiences using spaces like the cafeteria and main hallways.

Running initiatives to solve this problem will certainly gain votes from students, and most candidates have made this a big part of their platform.

Another demand frequently heard from the student body was the need for new and improved events at WODSS. Some

events such as Battle of the Barns – a day of events in competition with Elmira District Secondary School – and both the Winter and Spring Semi-Formal are staples in the Waterloo-Oxford community and are always received well. However, post-pandemic, students are looking for fresh ideas and ways to include even more of the student body in the festivities.

Almost all students interviewed were looking forward to seeing their class president be extremely involved in the school, including in school events. School spirit has been lacking at WODSS because of changing mascots and seeing the head of the school have lots of school spirit, energy and enthusiasm would definitely gain votes.

A large majority of the student body is also looking to their future co-president being invested in their issues and ideas for WODSS, and working to make real, tangible changes to the school. Making time for students of all grades and ages with office hours and creating ways for younger students to have a voice will be an important aspect of candidates' campaigns this year.

While we wish this year's candidates Xin-En Tan, Blake Stere, Jack Tolson and Chloe Duggan the best of luck as they enter the next stage of their election campaigns, it ultimately comes down to what students at WODSS want for their high-school careers in September.

*Editor's note: Cadence Mailloux is a Grade 11 student at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School (WODSS). Cadence also serves as editor of WODSS's W-O Say-So and she will be writing for the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette as an intern this summer.*



Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School hosts a meet-and-greet for the 2024-2025 co-presidential candidates. Photo by Cadence Mailloux

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**SATURDAY, MAY 4**

**Let's Tree Wilmot Tree Planting**  
9 a.m. to noon  
Riverside Park  
Riverside Drive, New Hamburg

**MONDAY, MAY 6**

**Blood Donor Clinic**  
2-8 p.m.  
Steinmann Mennonite Church  
1316 Snyder's Rd. W., Baden

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

**TUESDAY, MAY 7**

**Ostomy Support Group Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.  
"How to Avoid Scams and Frauds" with Constable Darren Fischer (Community Resource and Media Relations Officer) Stratford Police Service. Social time and snacks. Everyone welcome. (519)273-4327  
93 Morgan St., Stratford

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8**

**Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship**  
12 p.m.  
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Wellesley Recreation Complex  
1401 Queen's Bush Rd. Wellesley

**THURSDAY, MAY 9**

**The Community Players of New Hamburg presents: Anne of Green Gables**  
7:30 p.m.  
Price C\$37.00  
tickets@thecommunityplayers.com  
1-800-827-7524  
Trinity Theatre at the New Hamburg Community Centre  
251 Jacob St., New Hamburg

**FRIDAY, MAY 10**

**The Community Players of New Hamburg presents: Anne of Green Gables**  
7:30 p.m.  
Price C\$37.00  
tickets@thecommunityplayers.com  
1-800-827-7524  
Trinity Theatre at the New Hamburg Community Centre  
251 Jacob St., New Hamburg

**SATURDAY, MAY 11**

**The Community Players of New Hamburg presents: Anne of Green Gables**  
2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Price C\$37.00  
tickets@thecommunityplayers.com  
1-800-827-7524  
Trinity Theatre at the New Hamburg Community Centre  
251 Jacob St., New Hamburg

**SUNDAY, MAY 12**

**Optimist Club of New Dundee Mother's Day Brunch**  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
New Dundee Community Centre  
1028 Queen St., New Dundee

**The Community Players of New Hamburg presents: Anne of Green Gables**  
2:00 p.m.  
Price C\$37.00  
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**MONDAY, MAY 13**

**Garden Wilmot's Making soaps with nature's bounty**  
7-9 p.m.  
Wilmot Recreation Complex, Meeting Room A  
1291 Nafziger Rd., Baden

**TUESDAY, MAY 14**

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



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 15**

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

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22**

**Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship**  
12 p.m.  
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Linwood Community Centre,  
5279 Ament Line, Linwood

**THURSDAY, MAY 23**

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

**FRIDAY, MAY 24**

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

**SATURDAY, MAY 25**

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

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5**

**Tavistock Men's Club Fish Fry**  
Serving 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Adults \$30 Children (6-12) \$15  
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For tickets call 519-655-2286 or 519-655-3573 or email: [info@tavistockmensclub.ca](mailto:info@tavistockmensclub.ca)  
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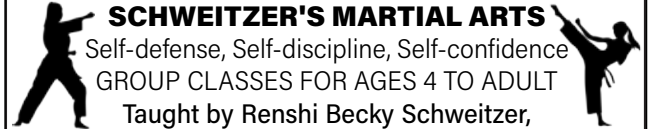
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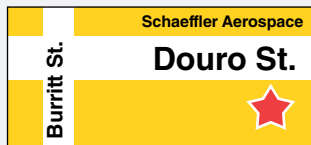


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