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Lillie Riehl Laid to Rest as Tavistock Painted Pink



Pink ribbons line the streets of Tavstock to remember a 16-year-old girl who died tragically in a single-vehicle collision. (Photo credit: Lee Griffi)

By Lee Griffi

If you have been through Tavistock in the last week, you can't help but notice pink ribbons tied to many traffic and hydro poles. The tribute is in memory of Lillie Riehl, the 16-year-old girl who tragically lost her life on June 4 in a single vehicle accident on Road 29 in Perth County, just outside Tavistock.

Victoria White lives just down the street from the Riehl's and is supplying ribbons to anyone asking. "My daughter, Maeve, is best friends with Lillie's younger

sister. Maeve and I wanted to do something for the family and (younger sister) Victoria. We absolutely adore Victoria and the Riehl family. Maeve wanted to do something to help raise the spirits of her best friend so we came up with the idea of ribbons so that every time her family looked outside, they could see her favourite colour, pink, being just as vibrant and beautiful as she was. Maeve, Victoria, and I put them up Wednesday not expecting so many people to want to support the amazing girl we lost." White added she doesn't have enough ribbons

to keep up with the demand. "It is beyond heartwarming."

A visitation was held in Stratford on Sunday at the W.G. Young Funeral Home while friends and relatives attended a Celebration of Lillie's Life at the Stratford Country Club Monday. The dress code was do "you" as Lillie did.

As expressions of sympathy, donations in Lillie's memory can still be made to the KW Stratford Perth Humane Society. The gofundme in memory of Lillie has raised more than \$22 thousand.

Dangerous EZT Intersection Safety Improvements Nearing Completion

Police Closed the Area for Investigation Purposes

By Lee Griffi

The intersection of Oxford Roads 59 and 33 has been and will be a buzz of activity this week and next. The crossing was closed during the morning of Tuesday, June 13, for police to continue investigating the May 29 collision. That crash claimed the life of an area bus driver and 35-year-old Detective Constable Steven Tourangeau from the OPP's Huron-Perth Community Street Crime Unit.

Police have remained tight-lipped about their investigation into the collision, which is being conducted jointly by the London Police Service and OPP. Constable Sandasha Bough from London Police said, "the intersection closure is part of the ongoing investigation of the collision that took place in the early morning hours on May 29, 2023. Investigators will continue the reconstruction of the collision to better understand the circumstances surrounding it." Police have not commented on whether they will release any details once their analysis is complete.

From an Oxford County perspective, work crews will be completing planned road safety measures this week and into next, with an expected completion date of June 21, weather permitting. Frank Gross, Transportation and Waste Management, said the plan is progressing on schedule. "The overhead flashing lights are in place now and is ready to be activated. This week we are going to turn on the 60-kilometre speed zones at all four approaches. Next Monday, we have our line painting contractor, and they will be doing some removal of existing pavement markings and doing the new line painting. On

Continued on page 2



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NEWS —

EZT Council Delays Boundary Adjustment Request

City of Woodstock Looks to Proceed Without Cooperation

By Lee Griffi

The City of Woodstock's request to enter into boundary adjustment talks with East Zorra-Tavistock seems to be ramping up a notch.

EZT council last week passed a motion that said, "resolved that the Township of East Zorra Tavistock advise the City of Woodstock that it will consider their request to enter into Boundary Adjustment negotiations when the Township's current Secondary Planning project, and Strategic Planning process, is finalized."

Mayor Phil Schaefer said they have some of their own work to get done before they are ready to have an annexation conversation. "I would say council had a good discussion on the matter. The consensus was that we were not giving a hard no to boundary discussions, just that we wanted to complete our Settlement Area/Secondary Plan exercise and Strategic Plan prior to considering their request." He added that as far as timing goes, the township has advised Woodstock that while the exact timeline for completion of these projects is not known at this time, it is anticipated they will take at minimum 12 to 18 months to complete.

"The Settlement Area Boundary Expan-

sion study that we have undertaken started last year. The first public consultation was held on September 8 in Hickson. Since then, the consultants have been engaging with staff at the township and county on the next steps, which would identify specific lands in Tavistock and Innerkip that should be added to the settlement areas to handle future growth in these two villages," added Schaefer. "Servicing strategies for water and wastewater are also considered."

The Secondary Plan portion of the exercise would look at establishing specific land uses and official plan policy direction for the identified lands. "The Strategic Plan will allow council to build some consensus on the direction the township wishes to take as we move forward, and to set long-term goals and how we plan to make progress toward those goals. All three of these exercises have public input opportunities."

Schaefer said pushing back negotiations with Woodstock makes sense since "these projects are essential for East Zorra-Tavistock to fully understand our own residential and other development requirements, and that they would like to see them concluded before considering Woodstock's request. We understand Woodstock

has growth concerns, but so does East Zorra-Tavistock. Council simply felt it prudent to address ours first."

Woodstock Asking for Provincial Help

The Gazette reached out to Mayor Jerry Acchione for comment but did not receive a reply by press time. Woodstock Council will discuss next steps to annex land from East Zorra-Tavistock at their regular council meeting today (Thursday, June 15). Councillors will mull over the staff recommendation that "requests the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to establish a Commission for the purposes of developing a proposal for a restructuring of municipalities by annexing a portion of the adjoining Townships to the City of Woodstock."

The report also said, "the Township of Norwich accepted the invitation and established a boundary adjustment committee. The Township of East Zorra-Tavistock declined the invitation. This essentially negates any opportunity for a boundary adjustment to address residential land growth needs for this term of council because the residential land supply needs cannot be resolved through a boundary adjustment with the Township of Norwich due to preexisting industrial, environmental, and agricultural MDS constraints."

The Gazette reached out to EZT Mayor Schaefer for comment but was told he would make a statement following Woodstock's meeting.

The earliest effective date for a residential boundary adjustment will be 2028, when secondary planning for new residential land supply could begin. Secondary planning, including all required studies, can take three to five years before the actual construction of new dwelling units could begin. Therefore, it will likely be 10 years before additional residential land supply will become ready for new housing construction.

The report goes on to say, "Statistics Canada estimated the population of Woodstock at 49,819 as of July 1, 2022, and that Woodstock is experiencing a 3.2% annual growth rate. The City no longer has the luxury of time to allow another term of Council to expire without action on the issue of adequate residential growth land supply. Allowing the vacant residential land supply to slip below a 5 or even 10-year land supply will severely impact housing affordability and have other unfavorable economic outcomes affecting the availability of employees to support a growing and diversified economy."

Pilot Program will Divert Agricultural Wrap from Oxford Landfill

By Lee Griffi

Oxford County is launching a new pilot program for agricultural plastics at the Oxford County Waste Management Facility in Salford.

Local farmers can now dispose of agricultural plastics, including silage bags, bunker covers, bale wraps, fertilizer bags, and salt bags (black, blue, and white). All materials must be reasonably clean and free of contamination, and they need to be sorted according to type, packed in appropriate bags, and tied up. Loose and excessively dirty material will not be accepted and categorized as garbage. Unacceptable materials include net wrap and twine mesh.

Frank Gross is Oxford County's Manager of Transportation and Waste

Management and says it is something the county decided to implement. "There was historically an agricultural plastic drop-off at the Oxford County Waste Management facility in Salford, but it was discontinued in 2015. There hasn't been a viable option for farmers to recycle wrap material. At that time, the markets were very unstable, so a lot of municipalities had discontinued accepting that material." Gross added the markets have rebounded to a certain degree, and the ag sector is keen. "We are aware the farming community is interested in a program, so we wanted to implement the pilot to see if it will be successful." The Zero Waste Oxford Committee heard from representatives from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and others, which Gross said was a big help

in launching the pilot.

Farmers will need to contact Oxford County for plastic bags to be couriered to their locations. "The material can be sorted into separate bags, and they can then be brought to (Salford). There is a \$50 per tonne tipping fee that will be charged, and that's to cover some of the costs if not full cost recovery." Gross added the county is supplementing some of the program costs to manage the material.

"The more we can do to divert waste from the landfill, the longer we can extend the life of the site. In addition to that, material that is recycled and used in manufacturing new products offsets the use of raw materials and has an indirect impact that way as well," said Gross.

According to the county, Oxford farmers generate approximately 300 tonnes of bale and silage wrap annually. As faithful stewards of the county's valuable agricultural resources, farmers now have an environmentally conscious way to dispose of plastics that would otherwise end up in a burn pile or the landfill.

The county is providing the collection bags to farmers free of charge, which, when full, go into a collection bin at the Salford facility. The plastic material will then go to a regional vendor for end-market processing.

The program is underway, and local farmers can request collection bags by contacting the Waste Management Facility at wastemanagement@oxford-county.ca or 1-800-755-0394.

Dangerous EZT Intersection Safety Improvements Nearing Completion

Continued from page 1

Tuesday (June 20) we are planning to activate the all-way stop so we will have a police officer on site for traffic control."

Gross added new signage is also on the

way, as are the stop-sign mounted flashing beacons on the north and south lanes. "We'll get the stop bars painted, get all the other signs put up approaching from all four lanes, and it should be good to go."

Rumble strips are scheduled to be installed on June 21, which will complete the safety upgrades. Residents should expect traffic delays and varying lane restrictions through this area during the day

while work is being completed.

Oxford County reminds drivers to always follow posted signs and speed limits, drive according to weather and road conditions, and drive distraction-free.

COMMUNITY —

Business feature: The Laundry Room in Tavistock



By Veronica Reiner

John Mawhinney is officially the new owner of The Laundry Room in Tavistock. He purchased the business at 2 Woodstock Street North in March, and opened May 1st.

It's a one-man operation for Mawhinney, who is running The Laundry Room with no employees. "It's the cheapest one in the region, from what I've seen," said Mawhinney.

The cost is \$2.50 a wash, and \$2.50 a dry. The big dryer is set at \$0.25 for four minutes.

"It was picking up until construction,

and then it went right back down," said Mawhinney, on how busy The Laundry Room has been lately. He added that because the business is located in an apartment building, there are some regular customers.

"I like the aspect of owning my own business," said Mawhinney. "You can pick your own hours - a lot of laundromats these days are run remotely."

Mawhinney hails from Stratford and has a full time job at Woodcock Brothers, a trucking company in Sebringville. This is his first time running a business.

The hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day.



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COMMUNITY —

Hundreds attend the Tavistock Men's Club's very successful fish fry last week in Tavistock

By Gary West

Area residents and fish eating enthusiasts from the Tavistock and surrounding area were treated to some great fish, fries and the fixings from the Tavistock Mens Club last week in ideal weather conditions.

According to Men's Club President, Ken Kropf, there were over 600 tickets sold, and says all funds raised are used to support Tavistock and surrounding community youth programs.

The over 50 community members, comprised of the Tavistock Mens Club and other volunteers, served over 330 pounds of whitefish and 450 pounds of shoestring french fries along with coleslaw, tomatoes, bread, and tartar sauce like no other.

According to President Kropf, "the earliest records of a men's club fish fry dates back to May 25, 1983, and have been held on the first Wednesday in June, every year since."

He is proud to say, "the men's club has

substantially grown in membership recently, and says it's exciting to see new members participating in the clubs events and activities for the good of the entire community."

The Northeasthope Tractor Club, with their antique tractors, will roll into Tavistock in July, and the Men's Club will serve up a hearty breakfast for the tractor members' annual visit.

The club's June dinner meeting will be the last of the season and includes a visit and tour of the Fryfogel Tavern on Highway 7&8 east of Shakespeare.

The President noted that he and club member Keith Brenneman and their wives recently toured the Embro area farm that grows the cabbage that will be made into sauerkraut for their annual sauerkraut supper in November.

The Oxford County farm grows a total of 1.5 million cabbages annually to sell to various markets in the area.



Longtime Tavistock resident Bev Neeb, being presented with a cheque from Tavistock Men's Club President Ken Kropf, after learning her name was drawn to win the proceeds from the 50/50 draw held following the men's club annual fish fry last week.

Cruising at the pond in Baden



Cruising at the Pond Baden is back this year, with the first event of the year taking place on Wednesday, June 7. The classic car show will take place every Wednesday from June to September at the park next to the Baden pond. The show is open for anyone who wants to display their car. (Photo credit: Brian Campbell)

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

P.O. Box 389, NOB 2R0

info@wilmotpost.ca

thewtgazette@gmail.com

www.wilmotpost.ca | 519-655-2341

Owner/Publisher: Grant Haven Management Inc. /Stewart Grant

Editor: Stewart Grant

Graphic Designer: Tyler Carruthers

Office Administrator/Billing: Wendy Lamond

Sales Representative: Sharon Leis

Contributing writers: Veronica Reiner, Lee Griffi, Jessica Harvey, Nancy Silcox, Gary West, Chris Ehrat, Al Junker, Paul Knowles

Annual subscription:

Canada: \$49.00 (\$46.67 + HST)

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COMMUNITY —

Hampstead United Church closes after 166 years

By Veronica Reiner

A beautiful Closing with Grace ceremony was held at the Hampstead United Church in Gadshill on Sunday morning, June 11 with a church full of people in attendance. It was the final service for the congregation that has been around for about 166 years. It was an emotional goodbye for the church, and there was not a dry eye in the house - it was filled with memories, sadness, grief and laughter for what lies ahead.

Three former ministers joined the celebration in person, others sent video or written messages, a few members shared their personal memories and there was a slideshow to highlight many of the church's memories.

Members of this very tight knit country church family come from Wellesley, Wilmot, Perth County, and surrounding areas, with many members consisting of multiple generations of the same families. Over the years, the church has hosted marriages, baptisms, funerals, church choirs, summer camp, regular services, special services for holidays, including Easter Sunrise services and Christmas

pageants. At one point, there was a thriving Sunday school.

They have supported the United church mission and services, sent three different mission groups to Nicaragua; generously supported the Wilmot Family Resource Centre in New Hamburg and Camp Bimini.

The church has also supported local organizations such as women's shelters, food banks, youth programs, along with other local charities. Over the years, the church has partnered with other churches, including Millbank United Church in Millbank and St. Paul's United Church in Milverton, sharing a minister.

The COVID-19 pandemic hurt the church. Services shut down completely when the pandemic hit Canada in March 2020, and they lost their minister as well. After restrictions eased, the church began to hold services again about once a month. There were various factors that led to the closure, including dwindling attendance numbers, volunteer burnout and a lack of a minister.

Members of the congregation will now decide on their own path to continue to spread God's ministry following the closure of Hampstead United Church.



The inside of Hampstead United Church in Gads Hill.

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A thank you goes out to all participants, sponsors, Committee members, referees, Emcee Joe Richards, Mayor Phil Schaefer, Matt Lamers and his arena staff, computer scorer Sandy Schultz and all scorekeepers, volunteers, trophy presenters, food booths and Firemen's Chicken Barbecue supper for making the 2023 World Crokinole Championship a successful and fun day. Everything was greatly appreciated.

Thanks again, from Paul Epp, John Schultz, Mary Alice Roth, Keith Brenneman, Kathy Rosenberg, Linda Bender, Valerie Kropf, Jason Beierling, Nathan Walsh and Jeremy Tracey.

COMMUNITY —

GRT fares to increase starting July 1

Fare Type	Fares as of July 1
Cash fare	\$3.75
Single ticket/transfer (from the fare vending machine)	\$3.75
Children (age 4 and under)	Free
EasyGO stored value payment	\$2.98
Stored value payment, Affordable Transit Program	\$1.55
Corporate stored value	\$2.53
Monthly pass	\$92
Monthly pass, Affordable Transit Program	\$47.84
Day Pass – single or family use	\$8.50

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Beginning July 1, Grand River Transit (GRT) fares will increase by an average of 2.5 per cent. This is "to meet the rising cost of operating transit, and grow the network to encourage future ridership," according to the Region of Waterloo in a release.

Fare prices were approved during the 2023 budget process.

Discounted fares are available for people living with low income. The Affordable Transit Program provides a 48 per cent discount on monthly passes, stored value and MobilityPLUS tickets.

For more information about fares, including a full list of fare products and prices, visit grt.ca.

WRPS dog Tracker retires



By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

After seven years of dedicated service, Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) dog Tracker has officially retired as of June 11.

"Thank you for your commitment to keeping Waterloo Region safe," said the WRPS in an online post. "We hope your retirement is filled with long walks, new toys,

and of course, treats!"

Tracker is a German Shepard who was born on July 7, 2015 in the Netherlands.

WRPS canines are trained to support officers in tracking and apprehending suspects, locating missing persons, recovering stolen or missing property or evidence, and detecting hidden contraband, such as drugs, firearms, ammunition and currency.

COMMUNITY —

Khanna Running to Retain Federal Oxford Seat for Conservatives

By Lee Griffi

The Brampton native and now Woodstock resident is hoping to keep the riding blue and replace the retired Dave Mackenzie.

Arpan Khanna, a lawyer, and father of one, said he's talked to many Oxford residents about what ails them. "I have knocked on thousands of doors and met residents from all walks of life. Whether it was the dairy farmer whose family has been in Oxford for generations, the CAMI or Toyota auto workers, or a newly moved-in family looking for a fresh start, we had a positive response to my vision for our riding." He added his commitment to the residents of Oxford is that every single day they will see their member of parliament who is working hard to serve them. "Whether it is Tavistock, Thamesford, Woodstock, Tillsonburg, Ingersoll, Norwich or everywhere in between, I will always be easy to reach and be responsive to the needs of our community."

Khanna said he has heard time and time again that people are frustrated with the current Liberal government. "I am concerned about what I have been hearing from hardworking families in Oxford. After eight years of Justin Trudeau, residents are feeling like they are losing control of their lives. The cost of living is rising faster than any time in 40 years. It no longer pays to work and nine out of 10 young people believe they'll never be able to afford a home." He said one in five Canadians are skipping meals, and people are going to foodbanks

and asking for help to end their lives, not because they're sick but because they cannot afford to eat. "I am concerned about the Liberals attacking our farmers. We see that with the carbon tax that puts a financial strain on farmers trying to heat their barns, dry their grain, and run their operations. We see that with the Liberal nitrogen cap in fertilizer that our farmers use."

Oxford County is largely rural and agricultural, and Khanna said he's also worried about Justin Trudeau going after law-abiding firearms owners. "Sad to see him attack our farmers, hunters, sport shooters while repeat offenders, gangsters, violent criminals get a slap on the wrist and are released on bail." Khanna himself is a licensed firearms owner and says he shoots at a local range in his spare time.

Oxford's economy has been growing for years, but Khanna said he wants to renew Oxford's economic prosperity. "We have unique economic advantages and immense potential that many other ridings do not. We are leaders in agriculture and farming. We have a massive automotive industry with CAMI and Toyota. We have highways 401 and 403 intersecting here in Woodstock. We can be that transportation hub and gateway to the world. It's time we champion our economic successes, attract the brightest and best, support our small businesses, make more, grow more, encourage hard work again and unleash Oxford's full potential."



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COMMUNITY —

Green Party's Baker Running for Oxford Seat

By Lee Griffi

Cheryle Baker will be the Green Party of Canada's candidate in the upcoming Oxford by-election. Baker is an advocate for social justice, public service, and environmental issues and has a background in law.

Baker's profile on the Green Party website says she has dedicated her life to empowering individuals and businesses. One of her current passions is the Waterloo Region Grassroots Response, a charity she discovered while working with Stephanie Goertz, her fellow Green Party candidate. Through their efforts, the charity has

experienced remarkable growth and support, even reaching communities beyond Waterloo Region.

Baker's commitment to advocacy extends to various causes, including cancer, epilepsy, food banks, shelters, housing, schools, and healthcare. Her extensive advocacy work has gained recognition from city officials, news outlets, and even other political parties, such as the PC Party. With a strong connection to her community in Oxford, Cheryle's personal investment in the agriculture sector and her expertise in industries like automotive and aerospace have allowed her to support local businesses and create employment opportunities.

She is also actively involved in education and mentoring apprentices, while advocating for policy and legislative changes that benefit the wider community. As an Indigenous Hungarian Canadian and a caregiver, Cheryle brings unique perspectives and problem-solving abilities to Parliament, making her a valuable asset in driving positive change and improving

society.

"I am pleased to welcome Cheryle Baker as the Green Party candidate in the Oxford by-election. With former Conservative MP Dave MacKenzie endorsing the Liberal candidate, this is a by-election where anything could happen. Disillusioned supporters of the mainstream parties should consider Cheryle as their next Member of Parliament," said party leader Elizabeth May. "Like all Green MPs, Cheryle's number one job is to work for her constituents. Greens do not whip votes. Greens work very hard in the interests of their constituents. Cheryle Baker will be a dedicated and outstanding Member of Parliament."

"Cheryle Baker is committed to her riding and to advancing Green policies needed to address the climate emergency," said the Deputy Leader Jonathan Pednault. "I'm thrilled to see Cheryle run again at a time when we all need to double down on this government's failing approach to reducing our emissions and preparing our communities for the devastating impacts of climate change."



June 26, 2023 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the **Clinton Public Hospital, St. Marys Memorial Hospital, Seaforth Community Hospital and Stratford General Hospital** will be held on Monday, June 26, 2023 to:

1. Receive Annual Reports of the Board of Directors, including Financial Statements, together with the Auditor's Report thereon.
2. Appoint Auditors.
3. Amend each of the Hospital Corporation's By-Laws.
4. Receive the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee Report.


Only members of the hospital corporations shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.



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COMMUNITY —

Stratford General Hospital Foundation Executive Director Andrea Page is retiring after 35 years

By Gary West

There is a hard working and dedicated woman in Stratford that has done so much for hospital care in Stratford and Perth County and surrounding areas.

She has to be commended for the goals she has achieved over the last number of decades to bring excellent health care to those in need in our communities.

Andrea Page is the Executive Director of the Stratford General Hospital Foundation. She has over 35 years of fundraising experience in hospitals and nonprofit organizations across the province of Ontario.

She spoke last week to the members of the Shakespeare Optimist Club, in Shakespeare, and stated throughout her career she has worked on capital campaigns, raising over \$178 million.

Page has won 13 national and international awards for fundraising and communications excellence. She wrote a book called "Don't Shoot the Messenger" and was also the communications chair of the association for the healthcare philanthropy Canada Cabinet for over 10 years.

Among her many accomplishments and awards, she was also given a Stratford and Area Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Community Service Award for her service to her community and has been recognized by the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy as one of the "High Performers" in 2020.

Andrea Page is a cancer survivor herself, and since the Stratford General Hospital



With Optimist creed in the background is left, Cheryl Hunt, who will take over from Stratford Hospital Foundation Executive Director Andrea Page, who retires in September, after helping to raise millions of dollars for state-of-the-art equipment for the Stratford General Hospital.

did so much for her and her family at different times in her life, she felt obliged to pay it forward.

She, along with the Hospital Foundation Board, has raised millions of dollars for the purchase of new up-to-date equipment, like C.T. scans and MRI imaging equipment, to ensure hospital care is the

best in the province.

Optimist members were surprised when Page informed them, if they didn't know already, that the province only supplies money for bricks and mortar and paying of staff salaries along with benefits. However, money for new equipment and beds, must be raised from donations in the

community.

She was proud to say that in the past, Stratford General Hospital was the first to do arthroscopic surgery, and even trained doctors from London hospitals in techniques to avoid the long recoveries required before this non-invasive surgery came along.

She was proud to say that the Stratford General Hospital has the lowest wait time (two days) over many hospitals in the province for breast cancer biopsy results, which in her opinion, is phenomenal.

A new chemotherapy unit is now in the construction stage and thanked many local families for their unwavering financial support to see daily chemo treatments taking place in Stratford, instead of making the hour-long trek to London.

The Optimist members commented on how her passion for the job was inspiring as she was all about ensuring that Stratford General will have the most modern up to date equipment needed to be one of the top hospitals for care in the province in years to come.

After decades of dedicated fundraising and working with the Stratford General Hospital Foundation Board, Andrea Page will retire in September and will hand the reins over to Cheryl Hunt, who says she has big shoes to fill, but looks forward to the challenge.

Andrea believes with the right team, any hurdle can be overcome.

Markus Running in Oxford Byelection for CHP

By Lee Griffi

Longtime Oxford County farmer John Markus is the Christian Heritage Party candidate in the June 19 federal byelection for the highly coveted seat.

Markus and his wife Garma have been married over 50 years and have lived in Oxford County since 1967. "We are still involved in farm operations every day. We are blessed with 4 children and 15 grandchildren, one of which has gone home to be with the Lord. I have been a farmer in the Beachville area for my entire life with three children who are actively involved in farming, and my fourth child is in the Grand Rapids area, with her husband being involved in property management."

Markus has been a chairman and elder many times in his local church and was president of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario from 1993 to 1997. He was appointed by Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman to a three-year term to the Normal Farm Practices Tribunal and is a member of the Oxford Land Division committee.

"I'm the local farm boy. We are well-connected in Oxford County, we are a household name, and many people have come up to me and thanked me for running because I am a known commodity which has been quite inspiring," said Markus. He told the Gazette the carbon tax hurts farmers despite being environmentally friendly for years. "Farmers, by nature, lower their carbon footprint year over year because if they don't, they go out of business. To demonstrate the reality of that, we have gone from 40



John Markus.

bushels a year of corn to 200 and milk we have gone on our own farm from one kilogram per five acres to one per acre." Markus said if everyone had done what agriculture had done, there wouldn't be a carbon footprint problem.

He added climate change is actually helping Canada grow from an agricultural standpoint. "We have had a world increase in temperature of .8 degrees since 1900. A professor from the University of Guelph says that has given us a 14 per cent increase in food production. Because Canada is a northern climate, we only contribute one to two per cent of climate change, it is a win win win for Canada."

They City of Woodstock is trying to enter into boundary adjustment negotiations with East Zorra-Tavistock in the hopes of creating future housing options for the city. Markus said there are plenty of other lands housing should be built on. "There are lots of other places outside Oxford where poorer land should be investigated. When you look at it objectively, Canada can handle people since we are growing more food, but immigration has to be done in an orderly way in Oxford County. This land is too good to put houses on."

Markus is running for federal office for a third time and while he admitted the CHP is a fringe party in a way, he is getting support from people who historically voted mainstream, including Conservative. "People outside of our own circles are calling me and telling me they are completely frustrated with the events in Oxford County. They are concerned about everything happening from parachuting in (Conservative candidate Arpan Khanna) to Justin Trudeau. They are telling me its not so much about the party anymore, they feel comfortable with me because of how I have represented myself and the county over the last 56 years."

COMMUNITY —

Baden's WO Secondary School celebrates the end of the school year with a "Barnyard Bash"



Dozens of farm boys and girls brought their farm and lawn tractors to Waterloo Oxford DSS for the barnyard bash.

A Llama named Liarry makes an appearance at Waterloo-Oxford secondary school last week at the schools barnyard bash.

By Gary West

This was the barnyard bash scene at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School last week, as dozens of farm boys and girls brought their farm and lawn tractors to school.

It was "drive your tractor to school day" and grade 11 student, Katie Musselman, brought her barn animals also to school to celebrate the day. She had -Llarry the llama, her Woolly Ram, and a potbelly pig along with her donkey.

Llarry enjoyed trying to steal students' food, while the pig enjoyed the belly rubs. The donkey was comfortable being led around greeting all the students on their noon hour.

According to Katie, this has been a tradi-

tion at the end of the school year for many years - her grandmother from the Wellesley area, Wendy Richardson, remembers the event happening when she went to high school, what only seems like a few short years ago!

Official grand opening of the Mike Schout Wetlands took place June 10



This was the scene of the Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve grand opening. There were speeches by Mike and Christine Schout.

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The official grand opening of the Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve took place on Saturday morning, June 10.

The 55-acre naturalization and wetlands restoration project is located at 28 Smith's Creek Drive in New Hamburg.

Dozens of residents watched and clapped as a rock reading "Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve" was revealed. The event involved guest speakers and greetings from Mike and Christine Schout, a scavenger hunt on the boardwalk, and commemorative gifts celebrating the grand opening.

Those in attendance included Kitchener-Conestoga Member of Parliament Tim Louis, Kitchener-Conestoga Member of Provincial Parliament Mike Harris, Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen, as well as representatives from Enova Power and the New Hamburg Board of Trade.

The Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve features 1.6 kilometres of raised boardwalk that spans multiple wetland ponds, more than 20 acres of pollinator meadows, heron, eagle and osprey nests, thousands of trees, and educational components about turtles, snakes, bats and other species expected to make the wetlands their home.

COMMUNITY —

Wellesley duck race winners



The Wellesley & District Lions Club, along with volunteers, hosted a duck race on Saturday afternoon, June 3.



Ducks swimming to the finish line on Saturday, June 3.

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Wellesley & District Lions Club held their second annual duck race on Saturday, June 3 at the Albert Erb

Conservation Area park. The first place winner was Jennifer Spurgeon, who won \$1,000. Second place went to Alex Cruse, who got \$250 and in third place was John

Stead who won \$100.

There was also a kids version of the duck race, along with food available for sale, including hot dogs, pop, water, freezies,

ice cream sandwiches, and free popcorn. In addition, a sack race for kids and for adults took place.

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FAMILY MILESTONES —

OBITUARY

STEWART, Dale Robert

Two weeks following the death of Donna, his loving wife of 53 years, Dale died of a broken heart.

Dale was an incredible story-teller. His life was full of adventures, and a collection of fond memories.

Dale modelled hard work, relentless determination and appreciated the value of true friendships. He was an incredibly proud papa to his grandkids Jack, Eva, Monique, Finley and Sheamus. These kids lit up his life. They made him so proud.

Dale will be missed by his kids Craig (Julie) and Kelly (Sam), his furball friend Ben, and sister, Janet.

Dale would appreciate donations to the Nutrition for Learning in his honour at nutritionforlearning.ca

Cremation has taken place and no formal service will be held. Personal condolences and donation information available at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, New Hamburg.

"Regrets I have a few, but too few to remember".

THANK YOU

Bruce & Mary Brenneman

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the open house to celebrate our birthdays and anniversary.

It was a wonderful day and so nice to see everyone. Thanks to our children and grandchildren for planning and making it happen.

We appreciate all of your kindness and best wishes.

Thanks again,
Bruce & Mary Brenneman

THANK YOU

Wes and Janice Leis

Thank you to everyone who celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary open house with us. Thanks also for the kind wishes and lovely cards. This made our day special and memorable which will always be cherished.

God bless you.
Wes and Janice Leis

WORSHIP IN WILMOT TOWNSHIP

St George's Anglican Church

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Pastor Nancy Mann

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- Strengthening our Electric Vehicle Auto-Sector
- Reliable Highspeed Internet
- Rural Communities Futures Program

Contact me for more information, or to share your ideas.



TIM LOUIS

Member of Parliament, Kitchener-Conestoga

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Tim.Louis@parl.gc.ca

TimLouisMP.ca

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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) In what country was Elon Musk born?
- 2) What is the smallest US state by area?
- 3) What is a Beaujolais?
- 4) What height is a regulation NBA basket?
- 5) Who was the first Disney princess?
- 6) Name Fred Astaire's famous red-haired dancing partner.
- 7) Paul Newman ate fifty eggs in which film?
- 8) Who was the first woman pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic?
- 9) Which member of the Beatles married Yoko Ono?
- 10) The name of which African animal means "river horse"?

Answers found on page 26

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

June 15: Happy birthday to Nathaniel Berg (8), Rylee Weldrick (8) and Mackenzie Kalbfleisch (31).

June 16: Happy birthday to Jackson MacMillan (13), Wesley Berendsen (13), Daniel Kalbfleisch (34), and anniversaries for Wes and Janice Leis (50th), and Dean and Phoebe Steckley (11th).

June 17: Happy birthday to Colin Jackman (3), Sophia Chemerys (11), Brooklyn McNab (19), and anniversary for Jedediah and Lisa Zehr (17th).

June 18: Happy birthday to Natalie Puklicz (16), Issac Hammer (19), and anniversaries for Jordan and Kim Destun (12th), and Bill and Wanda Brown.

June 19: Happy birthday to Eliot Dart (13), Brooklyn Lange (19), and anniversaries for Dianne and Larry Currah (52nd), Brett and Lindsay Zehr (19th), Jeff and Jenna MacLeod (13th), Bryan and Chantelle McNeish (13th).

June 20: Happy birthday to Jacob Kropf (8), Kaylea Kropf (8), and anniversaries for William and Katherine Gunn (14th), Steve and Laurie Lindner (14th), and Barry and Sharon Zehr (31st).

June 21: Happy birthday to Carling Schlosser (18) and anniversary for Mike and Darolyn Gilmore.

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

The Old Gazettes

By Stewart 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 6-13, 2018 Edition (5 years ago)

Never count out a champion. The 20th Annual World Crokinole Championship final saw two former, multiple winners go head-to-head to decide the title. Justin Slater came back from a 4-0 deficit to defeat two-time champion Jon Conrad (2012, 2013) and win this year's championship and his fourth WCC (2010, 2015, 2016, 2018). This matches Brian Cook who also has four titles (2007, 2008, 2009, 2014).

Hickson Trail Association Chair Ross Campbell has been named East Zorra-Tavistock Senior of the Year for 2018. He was presented with the award by Deputy Mayor Maureen Ralph following the official opening of the Hickson Trail on Saturday, June 2.

Steve Smith Construction has made great strides in the reconstruction of Woodstock Street South in Tavistock over the past few weeks.

June 4-11, 2008 Edition (15 years ago)

Grow up? Never! That was the chant and response as students of Tavistock Public School participated in an interactive story-telling theatre production of Peter Pan last Thurs-

day. Grade 3 students Ethan Haight as Peter Pan and Sierra Pletsch as Wendy faced Grade 7's Connor Drinkwalter as Captain Hook in the retailing of the famous storybook adaptation of the character created by Scottish novelist and playwright J. M. Barrie.

The Tavistock A's Squirt '96 boys earned straight A's in Mitchell this past weekend, starting off the season right and going undefeated to capture the Hornet's Annual Squirt Championship. In the final, Tavistock's Ace, Jared Yantzi, threw a 2-hitter to shut out New Hamburg 2-0. Along with Yantzi, team members included Brendan Hammer, Wade Mogk, Travis Ramseyer, Devin Kaufmann, Shawn Schultz, Aaron Jutzi, Carson Lamond, Dakota Pletsch, Dakota Clement, Angus Rowland, and Cody Brown.

Brian Cook has done it again. The Toronto Public Health researcher won the 2008 World Crokinole Championship in Tavistock on Saturday, June 7 by topping a field of 136 crokinole enthusiasts. On a day that celebrated the 10th anniversary of the tournament, Brian defeated 2005 Recreational division champion Ab Leitch of Goderich in the final to take home the trophy and \$1,000 cash.

June 10, 1998 Edition (25 years ago)

The Rotary Club of Tavistock held their 50th Anniversary Celebration on Monday evening, June 1, 1998 at the Tavistock Memorial Hall, entertaining a sold-out crowd. Pres-

ident James H. Francis, a charter member of the club, emceed the event that featured Parliament Hill reporter and CTV host Mike Duffy as guest speaker.

Ron Becker, or Mr. B, as he is affectionately known at Tavistock Public School, was honoured with a retirement party at the school on Sunday afternoon, June 7th, after a 33-year career at TPS.

Four businesses at 27 Woodstock Street North in Tavistock held a joint grand opening celebration and tour of their modern facility on Saturday, June 6th. Completed in April, the block and frame building houses Schultz Automotive in the front, followed by the Guywear retail clothing outlet, while the rear of the building is shared by Schultz Plumbing and Heating Ltd. and Crescent Ridge Services.

June 13-20, 1973 Edition (50 years ago)

Thursday, June 14, marks the 25th or Silver Anniversary for the Rotary Club of Tavistock. We have had our ups and downs but members have stuck, the club now boasting 31 members, five of whom were with the club from the start. On the anniversary, members join in loving memory of Allan Mulligan, who was chiefly instrumental in helping L. Howard Zimmerman enlist the first 26 local professional and business men to form the provisional club. Allan died a week ago.

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www.tavistock.church

COMMUNITY —

Shakespeare's 76th annual field day organizers, honour a local couple with an Athletic Association service award

By Gary West

A North Easthope township couple was honoured on Saturday at the Shakespeare Community Athletic Association (SCAA) 76th annual field day.

Ken and Pat Eidt, who now live in Almulree, north of Shakespeare, were pleasantly surprised and humbled as award recipients of the Honourary Service Award. The award is presented every year by the town's athletic association, who organizes sports in the community.

In accepting the award, the energetic couple were happy to have been involved in coaching ball teams over many years and also working hard to ensure that all the work and energy that is required at every June's "Field Day."

That's the day when area residents get together to watch ball games and enjoy other activities that include a fireman's breakfast, a parade through town, soap box derby, Optimist club mid-way, children's races, axe throwing, and wrapping up with a fish fry and fireworks.

Many companies and area farm families help in sponsoring the day and support the silent and live auction.

Both Ken and Pat Eidt were happy and excited to be involved in such a great day for the community that celebrates every year the accomplishments of people who have organized and worked hard to ensure sports and activities continue in the area well into the future.

It is the one time of the year when residents from the past and present get together to celebrate field days and ensure memories will live on for many years to come.



SCAA field day chair Deb Bell, presenting the "Honourary Service Award" to Pat and Ken Eidt on Saturday at the town's annual celebration.

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jason@contractframing.ca

Intersection improvements
Oxford Road 59 & 33

Oxford County is working to improve road safety conditions throughout the County. Please be aware of new safety features at the intersection of Oxford Roads 59 and 33, including:

- new all-way stop with flashing red beacons
- overhead flashing red lights
- rumble strips on all four approaches
- reduced speed zones approaching the intersection
- electronic speed feedback signs
- pavement markings

Please do your part to keep our roads safe by driving according to the weather and road conditions, distraction-free, and following the posted road signs and speed limits.

www.oxfordcounty.ca

'Serving You Breakfast Since 1983'

Optimist Club of Petersburg
Breakfast In the Park
Sunday, June 18th
 with Car Show (weather pending)
 8:30 am to Noon Petersburg Park

Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Bacon, Homefries, Toast, Juice and Coffee

Adults \$15 – Under 10 \$10

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Breakfasts:
 June 18th, July 16th and August 13th

Returning – Car Show Father's Day (June 18th) Weather Permitting

Breakfast proceeds go to our youth and community service work. 50/50 draw by The Optimist and Waterloo County Shifters car club with 50/50 proceeds going to Waterloo Oxford auto trades training program.

COMMUNITY —

Wilmot and Waterloo enter fire protection agreement for Erbs Road shelter

By Veronica Reiner

The Township of Wilmot entered a fire protection agreement with the City of Waterloo for the property at 1,003 Erbs Road.

The decision was approved without discussion during a hybrid Wilmot council meeting on May 29.

The Wilmot Fire Department will be responsible for the fire prevention, fire investigation and public education for residents and staff located at the Erbs Road shelter. Waterloo Fire Rescue, on the other hand, will provide fire protection and emergency medical response to the location.

The Region of Waterloo will compensate

Wilmot Township and the City of Waterloo based on the following responses for the location:

- Fire suppression response (for example, odour investigation, report of smoke and/or fire) - \$1,000 per response.
- Emergency medical response, or other types of tiered response incidents, but not fire oriented - \$500 per response.
- False smoke/heat alarm or emergency medical response when a truck is called back to the station before arriving on site - no charge.

Fire prevention, investigations, and public education will not have any fees associated with the Erbs Road shelter.

"Given the geographic location, City of

Waterloo has agreed to provide fire protection services to this location through agreement," wrote Wilmot Fire Chief Rod Leeson in his report. "Should Waterloo Fire Rescue be unable to attend the site, Wilmot Fire Department will continue to respond to the location at the request of Waterloo Fire Rescue."

The regionally owned site at 1,003 Erbs Road, within Wilmot township, will house up to 50 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Each 107 square foot cabin is furnished and equipped with electricity, heating and cooling. A main cabin complex provides amenities, including running water, common space, washrooms, showers and laundry services.

The site will be staff 24/7, managed by The Working Centre (based in Kitchener) and will include support services and security. Services provided include mental health and addictions support, medical staff, cafeteria services, and a focus on connecting residents with permanent housing options.

"It should be noted that a new address has been assigned specific to the shelter and is 1,003 Erbs Road," noted Leeson in his report. "This will direct emergency services or any others to this specific property."

The site includes Region of Waterloo Paramedic Services, Waste Management, Water Services and a training facility for municipal and emergency services.

Sir Adam Beck Park tennis resurfacing contract awarded for \$55,968

By Veronica Reiner

The Township of Wilmot awarded a tennis court resurfacing contract at Sir Adam Beck Community Park to Bourassa Sport Technologie for \$55,968.

The decision was approved without discussion during a council meeting on Monday, June 12.

The scope of this work includes the supply and installation of an acrylic topcoat with court line painting for both tennis and pickleball, atop of newly constructed asphalt.

Staff issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the project and received one submission by the time of closing from Bourassa Sport Technologie. "The submission was evaluated per the proposal criteria and the evaluation team recommended to

the treasurer that the project be awarded to Bourassa Sport Technologie," wrote Amber Schenk, Community Services Project Coordinator, in her report.

Sir Adam Beck Park is the largest recreational amenity in Baden, and includes two softball diamonds, one large playground, two tennis/pickleball courts, a multi-purpose asphalt pad with basketball nets, a fieldhouse with public washrooms and a pavilion.

"The tennis court surface was reconstructed in 2022 due to failure in the integrity of the granular base materials," wrote Schenk. "The tennis underwent multiple repairs between 2017 and 2021 but saw little to no long-term improvement."

The tennis courts were reconstructed in

2022 for about \$132,548.46 and are now ready for the top coat to be applied. The

funding source comes from the infrastructure reserve fund.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Oxford Road 29 and Blenheim Road
Intersection Improvements

Oxford County is preparing to begin construction at the intersection of Oxford Road 29 and Blenheim Road, located east of Drumbo in the Township of Blandford-Blenheim.

The intersection has been identified for improvements to roadway grade, horizontal alignment, and vertical curvature to provide improved sight distances to increase the safety of the intersection.

The project is expected to begin in June 2023 and be completed by October 2023. Expect delays and follow the posted detours.

Legend

- Project Area
- Detour
- Closed – Local Traffic Only

For project updates visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/2023construction

COMMUNITY —

Perth County's Dill racing family with their novice champion racing son, Levi Dill



Levi Dill with his dragster and the many trophies he and his family crew members accumulated over the past year.

By Gary West

The Dill Family from near Wellesley, with a Gadshill address, were one of

the featured parade highlights at the Shakespeare field day parade on Saturday, June 17. Levi Dill drives this dragster in

many races throughout the year, including at Grand Bend in the summer.

In 2022 Levi was named the novice

champion driver of the year. He is looking forward to another summer of racing competition in 2023.

WRC pools closed

Pools at the Wilmot Recreation Complex will be closed for scheduled maintenance starting Monday, June 19 to Friday, June

23. This will run from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Early morning and evening pool programs will run as scheduled.

Attention Parents, Coaches, Trainers Of Minor Sports Teams

Share Your Sports with The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette.

We'd love to print the accomplishments of our youth and share it with our readers.

Deadline: Monday's at 10 am.

Submit your reports and/or photos to Veronica Reiner at v_reiner@hotmail.com

NEWS BRIEFS

Break and enter in Wilmot Township

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) is investigating a break and enter that occurred in Wilmot Township.

Sometime between 9 p.m. on June 7 and 7 a.m. on June 8, an unknown person(s) entered a shed in the area of Erbs Road and Wilmot Line and stole property.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 519-570-9777. Anonymous information can be provided to Crime Stoppers.

Perth East collision causes death

A 65-year-old North Perth man has died after a two

vehicle collision that occurred in the hamlet of Dorking on June 6.

At about 1 p.m., the Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a serious collision on Perth Road 86. Police said that their initial reports indicated that a grey sedan and a grey Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) collided and that all three occupants were seriously injured.

The OPP and emergency services responded. The 66-year-old SUV driver was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries. The 67-year-old passenger of the sedan was airlifted to a trauma centre with life threatening injuries. The sedan driver, a 65-year-old from North Perth, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The section of the road was closed temporarily while the reconstructionist collected evidence. The investi-

gation is ongoing, and the Office of the Chief Coroner was notified.

Investigators are asking anyone with information about this incident to contact the police at 1-888-310-1122.

Theft in Wilmot Township

The WRPS is investigating a theft in Wilmot Township that occurred on June 6.

The victim reported that at around 9:30 p.m., they left their bag briefly unattended at the soccer fields at the Mannheim Community Centre. When they returned, their bag was gone.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 519-570-9777. Anonymous information can be provided to Crime Stoppers.

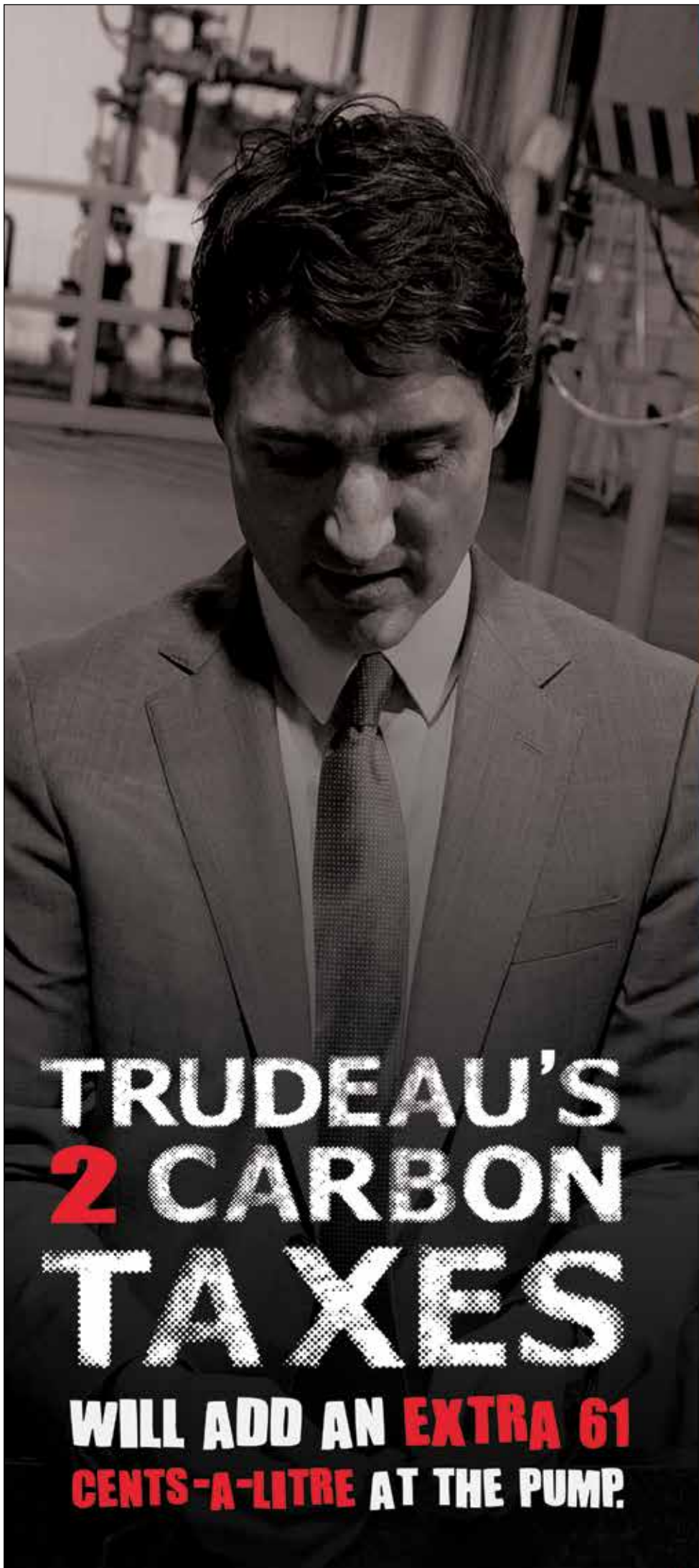


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COMMUNITY —

Great weather greeted hundreds for this year's 76th edition of Field Day in Shakespeare



Left to right, Lee-Anne, Danielle and Lisa wrap Brad Wilhelm as a mommy in toilet paper in one of the relay games played on the ball diamonds at the park before the grandstand crowd.



The Bell family float dressed up in costumes of their Canadian Heroes. The family has had a float in every parade since the very first field day parade 76 years ago.

By Gary West

Hundreds of area residents young and old took part in this year's 76th annual field day and fish fry at the Shakespeare Community Athletic Association Park. The day is a reunion of sorts for families and friends that sometimes only get together once a year on field day.



Shakespeare's Field Day parade would never be complete without members of the Hyde family showing off their western horses. Both Kaitlyn, left, and sister, Jill Hyde, have loved and ridden their horses almost before they could walk. They continue to make sure the Hyde name is always represented at the town's field day parade, as their grandfather Tom Hyde, and grandmother Gail Hyde, together headed up the SCAA in 1965.



Following the Shakespeare Firemen's breakfast, it was soapbox derby time outside the Shakespeare Optimist hall with dozens of racers showing their skills competing for prizes in their home made soapbox cars.

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COMMUNITY —

June 7th EZT meeting highlights

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Catch up with what happened at the June 7 East Zorra-Tavistock Council Meeting with the following highlights:

During the meeting:

Council received the City of Woodstock's request to establish a Boundary Adjustment Committee. Council passed a motion that before a discussion took place with the City of Woodstock about a boundary adjustment, that the Township's own settlement area expansion and secondary plan exercise, along with the new Strategic Plan be completed first.

A resolution from the Township of South-West Oxford calling for an end to homelessness was supported by council.

Council provisionally adopted the engineer's report regarding the McLean drain 2023

The recreation advisory committee meeting minutes were discussed, along with the police services board meeting minutes. Staff were asked to follow up with Detachment Commander Hymers regarding fraud prevention seminars in the township.

Council approved the "R Zone" policy to

help promote respect and responsibility for residents and patrons of municipal facilities. The goal is to create a positive, safe, and supportive environment for all members of the public and staff.

Public works reported that the annual gravel and dust suppressant applications were completed, using different application techniques and application volumes. Council will receive a report in the fall regarding the results. Public works staff also reported that garbage is being left along township roads, ditches, and creeks, and is becoming a serious problem.

Fire Chief Scott Alexander updated council members on training and inspection updates. A ceremony honouring firefighters with long service awards will be held on June 22 at Craigowan Golf Course.

Council passed a bylaw and adopted this year's budget and tax rates. The tax levy increased 8.87%; the tax rate increase was 4.49% over the previous year. East Zorra-Tavistock continues to have the second lowest tax rate in Oxford County.

The next regularly scheduled East Zorra-Tavistock Council Meeting is set for Wednesday, June 21, at 7 p.m.

Local school boards cancel outdoor activities last week due to air quality

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Last week, local school boards, including the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) and the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB), decided to cancel outdoor activities - including outdoor regional track & field events - due to deteriorating air quality.

This was caused by forest fires in north-eastern Ontario and Quebec that affected air quality in Waterloo Region. Environment Canada issued a special air quality statement for the province, including the region.

The WCDSB cancelled their elementary regional track & field event on Wednesday, June 7, as well as cancelled the same event on Thursday, June 8.

"Wildfire smoke can be harmful to a person's health, especially those with pre-existing conditions," wrote the WCDSB in a release. "Air quality and visibility due to wildfire smoke can fluctuate over short distances and can vary considerably from hour to hour and region to region."

The WRDSB said that in consultation with Region of Waterloo Public Health, schools have been advised to reschedule any planned strenuous outdoor activities and postpone any spring camps (for example, football).

Outdoor recess was still permitted to continue, but students were encouraged to avoid any strenuous activities and schools were asked to accommodate those at a higher risk.

"Schools have also been advised to keep doors and windows closed, and continue running HEPA units," wrote the WRDSB.

The Thames Valley District School Board also issued a similar release, stating outdoor activities may continue as normal, but staff and students were asked to monitor their symptoms and reduce strenuous activities as required.

Special attention was asked to be given to staff and students with pre-existing health conditions, such as people with lung disease (such as asthma) or heart disease, older adults, children, pregnant people, and people who work outdoors.

If anyone felt unwell, they were asked to head indoors.

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COMMUNITY —

Watering newly planted trees and shrubs

By Kathy Zuzek

When to water

Newly planted trees or shrubs require more frequent watering than established trees and shrubs. They should be watered at planting time and at these intervals:

- 1-2 weeks after planting, water daily.
- 3-12 weeks after planting, water every 2 to 3 days.
- After 12 weeks, water weekly until roots are established.

How long does it take for tree and shrub roots to establish?

Newly planted shrubs are considered established when their root spread equals the spread of the above-ground canopy.

How to measure tree caliper

Establishment times for trees increases with tree size. Trunk caliper at planting time can be used to determine the time it takes for roots to establish.

Find the caliper of your tree:

Measure the trunk diameter at 6 inches above the ground for diameters up to 4 inches.

If the diameter is more than 4 inches, measure at 12 inches above the ground.

How much to water

When watering newly planted trees, apply 1-1.5 gallons per inch of stem caliper at each watering (see table).

When watering newly planted shrubs, apply a volume of water that is 1/4 - 1/3 of the volume of the container that the shrub was purchased in.



Members of Let's Tree Wilmot mulching their seedling bed about three weeks ago. (Photo contributed)

As roots grow and spread, irrigation volume will need to be increased.

Where to water

Apply water directly over the root ball.

Be sure to keep the backfill soil in the planting hole moist. This encourages the roots to expand beyond the root ball into the backfill soil.

Tree roots grow approximately 18 inches per year in Minnesota, so expand the area being watered over time.

Create a water reservoir by making a circular mound of earth 3 to 4 inches high around the plant at the edge of the root ball.

Use a slow trickle of water to fill the reservoir to allow water to slowly infiltrate into and around the root ball.

Treegrator® bags can also be used to provide a slow delivery of water over the root balls of establishing trees and shrubs.

Mulching trees and shrubs maximizes water uptake

When trees and shrubs are planted into turf, competition for nutrients, water, and space occurs below ground between turf roots and woody plant roots. Turf wins because its dense fibrous root system prevents woody plants from producing water- and nutrient-absorbing roots in the top few inches of soil. As a result, woody plant establishment and growth is slower in turf areas than in mulched or bare soil areas.

To optimize root production, water uptake, and establishment of newly planted trees and shrubs:

Eliminate turf and weeds from the base of the plant out to several feet beyond the plant canopy.

Leave the top of the root ball bare and start the mulch application at the outer

edge of the root ball.

Apply a 3-inch layer of organic mulch around newly planted trees and shrubs in a circle that extends several feet beyond the tree or shrub canopy.

Mulching around newly planted trees and shrubs with organic materials (wood chips, pine needles, etc.) has several advantages over bare soil cultivation.

Mulch:

- Decreases water evaporation from soil.
- Serves as a sponge that prevents runoff around plants growing in heavy clay soils or on sloped sites.
- Helps to control seed germination and growth of weeds.
- Insulates soil and buffers extreme summer and winter soil temperatures.
- Reduces soil compaction from mowing equipment.

Prevents damage to stems and trunks by lawn mowers and weed cutters.

Improves soil health (increases microbial activity, nutrient- and water-holding capacity, soil pore spaces, and air penetration) as it decomposes.

Don't add more than a 3-inch layer of mulch because deep mulch applications may:

Prevent movement of rain or irrigation water into the root ball of newly planted trees and shrubs. This can result in roots drying up and plant stress.

Lead to root production and growth in the mulch. This often results in circling and stem-girdling roots.

Reduce oxygen levels around roots and cause root suffocation.

Keep poorly drained soils too wet, which favors root rot development.

Keep bark excessively wet when piled around trunks and stems. This may lead to bark decay.

Create habitat for rodents that chew bark and girdle trunks and stems.

How much to water newly planted trees based on size of trunk

Caliper of tree trunk	Root establishment time	Gallons of water at each irrigation
1 inch (2.54 cm)	1.5 years	1-1.5 gallons (4.55 - 6.82 L.)
2 inches (5.08 cm)	3 years	2-3 gallons (9.1 - 13.64 L.)
3 inches (7.12 cm)	4.5 years	3-4.5 gallons (13.64 - 20.46 L.)
4 inches (10 cm)	6 years	4-6 gallons (18.2 - 27.3 L.)
5 inches (12.7 cm)	7.5 years	5-7.5 gallons (22.7 - 34.1 L.)
6 inches (15.24 cm)	9 years	6-9 gallons (27.1 - 40.9 L.)

Source: <https://extension.umn.edu/landscaping-and-growing-guides/watering-newly-planted-trees-and-shrubs>

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COMMUNITY —

A.C.W June report

By Margaret Webber

The June Meeting of Christ Church, Huntingford's A.C.W. (Anglican Church Women), was held on Monday, June 5th at 9.00 a.m. in the Church Hall.

This meeting was mostly devoted to planning our Strawberry Tea which we are holding on Wednesday, June 21st, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The last time we held this event was 2019 due to the pandemic. The purpose of holding the Strawberry Tea is to provide a pleasant Community Event for anyone who wishes to attend and would enjoy some local strawberries, served with cake and ice cream, tea, coffee or lemonade. The cost will be \$6 for adults and no cost for children. We decided not to have a bake sale this year but will be selling frozen turkey and beef pies and one person fruit pies.

Following the meeting, we did our annual cleaning of the church, cleaning the windows inside and out, spring cleaning the kitchen, tidying different areas and waxing floors. We had an energetic "crew" and finished the job in three hours.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 21st, at 1:30 p.m. We do not meet in July and August.



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COMMUNITY —

Tavistock U13 majors win Innerkip tournament



Back row left to right: Mackiah Wagler, Peyton Christie, Dylan McCann, Marshall McKay, Jackson MacMillan, Calvin Verkuyl. Front row left to right: Evan Nahrgang, Jordan Zehr, Augy Morschauer, Spencer Otto.

By Dave Nahrgang

The Tavistock 13 majors won the Innerkip tournament this past weekend. Led by strong pitching and great hitting, they posted victories over Innerkip, Napanee,

Norwich, Wilmot Minors, and ended up facing the Wilmot Majors in the final. Tavistock hit four home runs in the game, including a grand slam by Spencer Otto. Congratulations boys!

Zion United Church celebrates three years



A group shot of some of the church's many volunteers who week after week look after the Zion United Church food pantry.

By Pat McGlynn

On June 15, 2020, our Zion United Caring Team, decided to assist our Community by creating our Zion Food Pantry. We stock daily, non-perishable and toiletries each day, to assist the folks in need in our Community, with no questions asked. We

also have folks in our community donating on their own to support our Food Pantry.

Now we are celebrating our third year anniversary and all of our church congregation is so proud how we are assisting the community. Thank you to all for your continued support.

Oxford OPP monthly top issues

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to 3325 occurrences between May 1 and May 31 including but not limited to the following:

- 911 call - 40
- Alarm - 51
- Animal Complaint - 26
- Assault - 26
- Bail Violations - 12
- Disputes - 85
- Domestic - 28
- Fraud - 12
- Impaired - 15
- Mental Health Act - 58
- Mischief - 14
- Motor Vehicle Collision - 181
- Noise Complaint - 25
- Property Related - 57
- RIDE - 45
- Sexual Assault - 5
- Stolen Vehicle - 12
- Suspicious Person/Vehicle - 67
- Theft - 53
- Traffic Complaint - 278
- Trouble with Youth - 32
- Unwanted Person - 27
- Warrant - 53
- Well-Being Check - 29

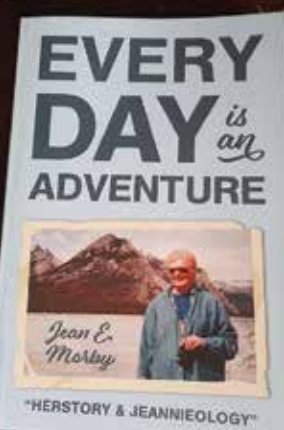
If you need to make a police report, call the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122. If you require immediate assistance in an emergency, call 911.



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COMMUNITY —

Show Us Your Wilmot



Each week, the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette will publish interesting photos from around the community. The inspiration for this came from the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group. This shows a beautiful sunset in Baden in May, taken by Christine Rito. (Photo credit: Christine Rito)

Show Us Your Wilmot



Each week, the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette will publish interesting photos from around the community. The inspiration for this came from the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group. The blossoms in this photo may look like snow, but they have in fact fallen from a crab apple tree with a hazy sunrise in New Hamburg. (Photo credit: Carolyn Bentley)

Rural townships lift open-air burn ban

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Thanks to this week's much-needed rain the open-air burn ban in East Zorra-Tavistock - as well as the townships of Wilmot, Wellesley, Woolwich and North Dumfries - has been lifted.

EZT township wants to remind residents that all controlled burns must be called into the Township Office and approved by speaking with a staff member. They say it helps ensure that fires are being performed in a safe way, dispatch is properly notified, and emergency services are not

unnecessarily sent to your property. It also ensures that resources are available for others in the event of a real emergency.

The Township does not require you to call before having a campfire in a proper fire-pit but they do ask residents to be mindful of your neighbours when it comes to drifting smoke.

The Waterloo Region burn ban was put into effect on June 6. Conditions will continue to be monitored this summer and if dry, hot weather returns, additional burn bans can be implemented.

Gazette Puzzles

Father's Day

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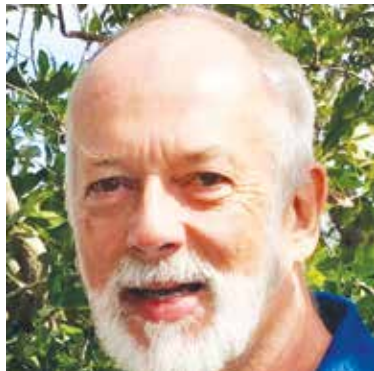
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The Florida Keys are "a musician's paradise"



By Paul Knowles

Michael McCloud, a 76-year-old roots singer with an acerbic and often profane sense of humour, was filling the afternoon slot at the Schooner Wharf Bar, one of my favourite hang-outs on the old Key West harbourfront. Michael has performed in Key West for 45 years. A patron asked him to sing McCloud's favourite song. His response? "That's a very bad idea. After performing for decades, musicians have incredibly bad taste in music." But his true feelings emerged through his actual choice, a soulful rendition of "Somewhere over the rainbow".

And that eclectic combination, dark humour mixed with a true sense of hope and optimism, sums up the prevailing attitude in the Florida Keys.

Key West is known as a party town and parties require music. But when you talk to the local musicians, you realize their love for their job goes way beyond the parties or the paycheques... and also, way beyond the boundaries of Key West proper. You will find music and the people who make it, all the way up the Keys to Key

Largo.

Seven years ago, Sheldon Benton came to Key West from his native South Africa. When I talked to him between ballads at the Hog's Breath Saloon, he made it clear that he has found his happy place: "Key West is my home."

Celtic songstress Eim Grace was in Ireland when "Somebody told me about this magical place called Key West... Little did I know it was a musician's paradise!" Grace has been plying her craft as a working musician since she moved to Key West six years ago. Her comments might be dismissed as hyperbole... until you hear them again and again from folks who love their lives as working musicians all over the self-proclaimed "Conch Republic".

Gabriel Wright was doing a spot-on solo version of Aerosmith's "Dream On" in the fabled Captain Tony's bar when I met him. He told me, "I'm originally born and raised in Ohio and have lived and worked in Key West for over 10 years. I have the greatest job ever. I play music and I bring people joy and happiness every day."

Billy Davidson was born in Syracuse, New York. He's been making music for 50 years but he's been based in Key Largo and Islamorada for most of that time. The Keys he says are the ideal landing spots for good musicians. "There are tons and tons of places that do live music." For 33 years he has played a regular gig at Lorelei Restaurant and Cabana Bar in Islamorada; during Covid, he and his wife,

Cindy, also opened the garden of their Key Largo home for weekly garden party concerts which now pack the place. Admission is by donation and guest musicians usually join Billy on the small stage that fronts his studio.

That conviviality among Keys' musicians is undoubtedly one of the reasons they love the musical environment. "I help anybody who comes down here to find gigs" Billy says. "That's really good karma." Asked who he especially enjoys, at the top of Billy's faves is flamenco guitarist Dave Feder, who lives with his Canadian wife, Suzie in their own little bit of paradise on Plantation Key.

Feder not only performs his unique and often improvised masterpieces in person, on international tours, and on social media, he has also founded a non-profit that runs fundraising music festivals. The proceeds supply instruments - to date, by the hundreds - and scholarships to aspiring young musicians from the Keys.

The fundraising concerts operate on an unusual plan - they're free. Donations are welcome but Feder says they raise most of the money through beer sales. That's because of one man - Canadian Craig McBay, owner, with his wife, Cheryl, and brewmaster at the Florida Keys Brewery in Islamorada. McBay not only provides work to many local musicians at the brewery's popular beer garden, he also donates all the beer to Feder's events, creating a 100% take for the cause.

It's probably surprising that



Long-time Florida Keys entertainer Michael McCloud. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

we've come this far in an article about music in the Keys without mentioning the name "Jimmy Buffet". And

Buffet does maintain a large footprint in Key West. He occasionally returns to town to perform and the original Margaritaville is a popular stop on Duval Street. That's where I met the Baha Brothers, a five-man band from Boston that has backed Buffet in concert. They were thrilled to be back in Key West after an absence of four Covid-racked years. Keyboard player Bill Strojny told me, "It was fantastic to be back playing for an enthusiastic crowd each night." He added, "Playing music isn't about money... it's the pure joy of when a song comes together."

Musicians gotta play music but they all say it only really works when the environment is right. And clearly, the environment is

right in the Florida Keys. Gaby Gabriel is another import. He and singer Millie Duran commute from Miami to Sol by the Sea in Key Largo four times a week. He describes their Cuban-influenced style as "the sound of Miami" and he should know, as the man who for 20 years fronted the band at the Fontainebleau in Miami Beach. The current gig "is my retirement" he says with a grin. Why make the commute? "I love it here" he says. He's been making the regular trip since 2017 and has no intention to actually retire. He laughs and with a sweeping gesture toward his congas, the venue, and the audience, he sums it up: "It's great."

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@gold-en.net.



Veteran Florida Keys singer/songwriter Billy Davidson performs every week in his own backyard, as well as playing local bars and restaurants.



"Miami Sound" performer Gaby Gabriel.



Mustafa is a regular busker at the sundown celebrations at Mallory Square.

COMMUNITY —

Flowers in bloom



A heritage flag iris in bloom in Wilmot township. (Photo credit: Sherry Maurer-Romahn)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - JUNE 2023

<p>June 14th Adult Book Club Taking place at the Wellesley branch library from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 1137 Henry Street in Wellesley village. Monthly book discussion with a friendly group.</p>	<p>June 18th Breakfast in the Park / Father's Day Car Show From 8:30 a.m. to noon at Petersburg Park. The Optimist Club of Petersburg is once again hosting Breakfast in the Park. Enjoy scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, homefries, toast, juice and coffee. Adults are \$15; 10 and under is \$10.</p>	<p>until about 8 p.m. at www.blood.ca.</p>	<p>June 26th Wilmot Council Meeting Hybrid council meeting taking place at 60 Snyder's Road West in Baden at 6:45 p.m. Also streamed on the Township of Wilmot YouTube page.</p>	<p>The Tavistock Hop Co. is hosting a free educational tour at their facility at 2509 Perth Line 26 in Tavistock at 6:15 p.m. The Wilmot Horticultural Society will join. Learn about what is grown locally, and the processes involved in growing and harvesting.</p>
<p>June 14th Book Talk From 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the New Hamburg branch library (145 Huron Street, New Hamburg) in the reading room. Join other local bookworms to chat about your recent reads and swap suggestions for titles to add to your TBR pile.</p>	<p>June 19th Blood Drive Taking place at Steinmann Mennonite Church at 1316 Snyder's Road West in New Hamburg. Booking times are available from around 4 p.m.</p>	<p>June 21st East Zorra-Tavistock Council Meeting In-person council meeting taking place at 695566 17th Line in Innerkip starting at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>June 27th Wellesley Council Meeting Hybrid council meeting taking place at 4805 William Hastings Line in Crosshill at 6:45 p.m. Also streamed on the Township of Wellesley YouTube page.</p>	<p>July 1st Canada Day in Wilmot Featuring Indigenous sunrise ceremony, vendors market, food trucks, live music, family fun and fireworks. To take place at 251 Jacob Street in New Hamburg from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.</p>
		<p>June 25th Strawberry Social A luncheon taking place at the Wellesley Community Church at 3158 Nafziger Road in Wellesley at 10:30 a.m. Attendees are asked to RSVP. Email is talktoWCC@gmail.com and Facebook page is Wellesley Community Church.</p>	<p>June 27th Hop Farm Tour</p>	

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Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) South Africa | 6) Ginger Rogers. |
| 2) Rhode Island | 7) Cool Hand Luke. |
| 3) A type of red wine | 8) Amelia Earhart |
| 4) 10 feet / 3.02 meters | 9) John Lennon |
| 5) Snow White | 10) Hippopotamus |

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