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## Applejacks Historical Season Leads to Schmalz Cup Title



The Wellesley Applejacks defeated the Clarington Eagles 3-2 on May 14th to be crowned the Schmalz Cup champions for the first time in the organization's history.

By Lee Griffi

Winning the Provincial Junior Hockey League's Southern Division title obviously wasn't good enough for Wellesley, so they decided to take it all this past weekend at the league's final four held in Woodstock.

The Applejacks downed Clarington 3-2 to win the Schmalz Cup and complete a dream season which is the last one the team will play in the old Wellesley arena. Connor Doerbecker's eleventh goal of the playoffs two and a half minutes into the third period stood up as the game-winning goal on an assist from Connor

Bradley. Doerbecker says he took what the defence gave him on the play. "I saw a lane in the middle. He pinched me early and cut to the middle and saw that short-side corner, and I just prayed. I'm at a loss for words right now, but I want to say a huge congratulations to Noah Bender. He's a 2006 born goalie, and he carried us the whole way. Everyone worked their butts off from the first to fourth line, every D pair, we deserved this."

Bender was named the PJHL's Playoff Most Valuable Player, something he says is really a team award. "Anyone on this team could have won that. Everyone

deserves it. We all stuck together as a team throughout every game. There wasn't a single game where we were playing as individuals, especially in this game. We all came together, and we got it done." He adds the fan support during their playoff run has been incredible. "Just to be able to win it in front of all of these fans here, it's almost like we were playing in Wellesley with the amount of support we have. This is what we have been working for since the beginning of the season, so to finally be able to do that is huge." About 1,500 fans were on hand

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## Community rallies to support young New Hamburg woman diagnosed with leukemia

By Veronica Reiner

The community in New Hamburg and beyond is rallying to support a local young woman diagnosed with leukemia.

Melanie Austin, a 17-year-old Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School (WO) student, received the diagnosis on April 6. Since then, dozens of people and community groups have stepped up to support in various ways, allowing Melanie and her family to maintain a positive perspective.

"Our family is really overwhelmed with all of the support that the community has been giving us," said Melanie's mother, Kim.

Neighbours of the Austin family on Laschinger Boulevard in New Hamburg tied orange ribbons on their porches and trees on April 16 to welcome Melanie home from the hospital on April 17. The colour orange represents leukemia awareness.

From there, the initiative grew to include houses on Jacob Street, Huron Street, Kropf Street in Baden, and New Dundee.

"When I came home that first time, I was extremely overwhelmed seeing all of the support everyone was showing me," said Melanie. "It just keeps you going every single day, knowing you've got all these people by your side, being there for you always while you go through this journey."

The Wilmot Girls Hockey Association, which Melanie has been a part of since she was six-years-old, created stickers in a heart shape, featuring her initials and her hockey number on it. Five Wilmot Wolverine teams sported the stickers on their helmets, as well as put orange tape on their hockey sticks.

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## NEWS —

# Community rallies to support young New Hamburg woman diagnosed with leukemia



The community has rallied to support Melanie Austin, a 17-year-old New Hamburg resident who has been diagnosed with leukemia. At right, she (fourth from left) is all smiles with staff from Cloverleaf Farms on Friday, May 12.

*Continued from page 1*

Melanie's U18 team also hung up her jersey behind their team bench during games. An opposing hockey team from Ancaster even put orange tape on their hockey sticks to show support.

Holly Bast, president of the Wilmot Girls Hockey Association, lives in the same neighbourhood as the Austin family. "We have always been a very close knit neighbourhood, looking out for each other," said Holly. "Everyone was quick to work together to show Mel and her family we are here for them. It has been amazing to see how the rest of our community has embraced this and we see orange ribbons all over the place."

Local businesses, including Cloverleaf Farms and Hillcrest Service Limited auto repair shop, have also stepped up to support.

Cloverleaf Farms had employees sport the colour orange all week and offered "The Mel" sandwich on Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13. The sandwich is still available and was designed by Melanie. It consists of ham and turkey, mozzarella

cheese, lettuce, cucumbers, pickles, olives and balsamic vinaigrette. There have been more than 40 Mel sandwiches sold.

"We actually just hired Mel right before she was diagnosed," said Angie Scheid, owner of Cloverleaf Farms. "She hasn't started yet, but we wanted to make sure she feels supported by her Cloverleaf family."

Angie added that some customers donated money, which will be offered to the Austin family.

Hillcrest Service tied orange ribbons to several posts at their location on Huron Street. The New Hamburg Dental Group, TLC Pet Food and the New Hamburg Veterinary Clinic also have orange ribbons.

WO students Rachel Ellig and Selyna Burns handed out orange ribbons in the school's library for people to take home to display them on their trees and porches. The United Church Women's group from Zion United Church in New Hamburg also gave out orange ribbons at a recent meeting.

The Wilmot Optimist Club donated money to the Austin family so that they could go to the Garden Stand (Chef Adam Brenner)

for dinner. The Prayer Blanket Ministry of St. James Lutheran Church in New Dundee created a beautiful personalized prayer blanket for Melanie. Zion United Church also gave her a prayer shawl.

"We've also had friends of our family make blankets and prayer blankets for her," said Kim. "We've had so many guests - it's been incredible. We've had a meal train, people were dropping off meals at our house, and lots of thoughts and prayers. It's been really nice."

The initiative has reached as far away as Seattle, Washington in the United States. Ethan Jackson, a former New Hamburg resident and friend of Melanie, tied an orange ribbon to a tree at their residence to show support for Melanie from more than 3,800 kilometres away.

There was a blood donor clinic at Steinmann Mennonite Church on Monday, May 15 that was hosted by two U18 teams in honour of Melanie.

"I've already had three blood transfusions that I needed, so giving blood is really, really helpful for people like me," said Melanie.

Melanie recently finished her first round of chemotherapy, and her next phase will begin on Tuesday, May 23. "The goal of the first phase is to wipe out all of the cancer cells they can see in the bone marrow, and for the rest of the phases, they work on killing the hiding leukemia cells," said Kim. "Her bone marrow results showed that the first phase was successful."

They have been doing treatments at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton, and are starting to do some treatments at Grand River Hospital in Kitchener.

Melanie plans to pursue the psychology program at Trent University, and is hoping to end up in the psychiatric or forensic fields. She has a brother, William, who recently finished his first year at Carleton University. "He's been spending lots of time with me since he's been home; it's been really nice to have him back," said Melanie.

Her father's name is Tim. Melanie said, "My Dad always makes me laugh and keeps me positive." Kim's parents, Anne and Ross Blackshaw, were teachers at local schools. Her mother taught at Grandview Public School, and her dad taught for years at Forest Glen Public School.



At left, Melanie's Wilmot Wolverines jersey is hung up behind her team's bench during games. Middle, family friend Nick Armstrong cuts Melanie's hair shorter upon Melanie's request. Melanie donated her hair before she started chemotherapy to Wigs for Kids. Weeks later, she went there to get a wig that they donated to her. At right, orange hockey tape is put on sticks of the U18 team to represent leukemia awareness.



COMMUNITY —

# Wellesley resident wins \$250,000



Joshua Reitzel picks up his prize at the OLG prize centre in Toronto. (Photo credit: OLG)

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Wellesley resident Joshua Reitzel won \$250,000 after winning on a scratch ticket that he received as a gift.

"I told my wife about the win, and we decided we needed to double check the ticket. It was unbelievable," he said in a release from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG).

Reitzel said he doesn't typically play the lottery, and that the winning ticket was a

gift.

"I thought I did something wrong at first or wasn't reading it right," he said. "It was a little surreal."

Reitzel plans to invest part of his winnings, complete some upgrades to his home and possibly take a vacation.

The winning ticket was purchased at Little Short Stop store on King Street in Kitchener.

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## COMMUNITY —

# Nearly \$1.8 billion in new building permits issued in Waterloo Region in 2022

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

There was nearly \$1.8 billion in new building permits issued in Waterloo Region in 2022 - an almost record year for new building permit value in the region.

New building construction, as measured by building permits issued, is an indicator of the continued strength of the local economy. In 2022, the combined total of residential and non-residential projects was 33 per

cent higher than the ten-year average, an amount supported by a significant increase in non-residential construction.

"Waterloo Region is among the fastest growing communities in Canada, thanks to our vibrant industries, local talent and world class postsecondary institutions" said Regional Chair Karen Redman in a release. "Working with our partners, we must continue to plan and strategically invest to accommodate future commercial and

residential growth across our region."

Over \$1.1 billion in permits were issued for new residential construction in 2022, which represents a total of 4,662 new residential units. While these amounts have come down compared to 2021, it is above the ten-year average. The mix of new units added in 2022 was predominantly apartments and townhouses, and about a quarter were in the region's central transit corridor.

Building permit issuance across the region within area municipalities exceeded the potential growth projections indicated in the Regional Official Plan, rapidly expanding housing and employment growth. In August, regional council adopted an Official Plan amendment that approved the addition of 121,000 new housing units in the region, through the development of a range and mix of housing and 15-minute communities.

## Ward 1 Councillor Pushing Traffic Calming Measures

By Lee Griffi

East Zorra-Tavistock Councillor Steven Van Wyk has decided to run with the issue of speeding and traffic calming in the township.

Van Wyk recently presented at a council meeting after committing to making the speed of traffic in EZT a priority during last year's election campaign. "Now that the winter weather is over, staff will begin to utilize the township's speed data equipment to address areas of concern. The 2023 Draft Operating and Capital Budget includes funding for speed control measures."

The rookie councillor says speeding was brought up as one of the concerns during the campaign's only all-candidates meeting. "I put traffic calming measures on the council agenda to ask what different measures are being employed in the township to help with traffic calming and reducing speed. I wanted to better understand what is being done currently, and depending on the effectiveness of the current measures could we possibly look at bringing back to council in the future for staff to look at further measures should they be required."

As reported in last week's Gazette, the township is committed to a special traffic officer within Oxford. "We are continuing with the enhanced officer with the OPP. This enhanced officer is strictly to monitor for traffic and speeding. As it is data-driven, the officer will review reports about speeding in the township and will target the areas where there are many complaints." EZT residents can file an online report if there are concerns about

speeding at [www.opp.ca](http://www.opp.ca). "This information will be reviewed by the detachment to determine which areas to target for the enhanced officer. Based on feedback from staff since the officer was hired, complaints have been drastically reduced, so this strategy seems to be working," adds Van Wyk.

EZT is also employing what is called a speed 'Armadillo', which is a radar device used to gather vehicle speeds and time of day information to determine if there is a speed issue on certain streets. "If there is excessive speed noted, this information will also be shared with the enhancement officer and would be an area township staff would target for additional measures," adds Van Wyk.

Perhaps the most noticeable traffic calming measure locally are the speed feedback signs. Van Wyk says the township is also looking at purchasing a mobile version that is trailer mounted and equipped with radar tracking like the Armadillo. "This speed feedback sign will be moved to target areas. As it is also equipped with radar tracking so we will be able to get data to determine the effectiveness of the speed feedback signs as we compare the average traffic speeds before the speed feedback sign is placed in an area and afterwards with the radar tracking on the speed feedback signs." He adds it will also allow staff to determine how long the speed feedback signs stay effective and move them around to optimize their effectiveness.

Residents may have also seen the child speed signs

throughout the township over the last few years as another visual reminder for traffic to check their speed. "This again will be placed in target areas and moved periodically throughout the township," says Van Wyk.

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P.O. Box 389, NOB 2R0

[info@wilmotpost.ca](mailto:info@wilmotpost.ca)

[thewtgazette@gmail.com](mailto:thewtgazette@gmail.com)

[www.wilmotpost.ca](http://www.wilmotpost.ca) | 519-655-2341

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COMMUNITY —

# Business Profile: Green Hart Farms



Green Hart Farms in New Hamburg is run by mother and daughter dream team, Linda and Kendra Danner. Their veggie box program starts May 24 and 25.

By Mercedes Kay Gold, CNP, CPT

Farm-to-table or farm-to-fork is about feeding your family fresher, more flavorful food fare produced locally. New Hamburg is home to Green Hart Farms, an adorable homestead with gorgeous great tasting vegetables run by Linda and Kendra Danner, mother and daughter dream team. Growing up on the family farm, Kendra fondly remembers their kitchen garden, and at five years old, tending to her very own section. Kendra's affection for gardening bloomed while attending the Wilmot Horticulture Society's Youth Program. After countless hours of volunteering and a larger plot on the family farm, Kendra was soon selling her sensational produce at small local markets. College was interrupted by COVID, but every cloud has a silver lining, and an official partnership with her mom was written in the stars.

As a certified holistic nutritionist and a strong believer in following a whole food plant-based diet, garden goodness is top-priority. A diet rich in vegetables is your first line of defense against disease. An all-star assortment of longevity promoting produce helps lower blood pressure, reduce the risk of heart disease, prevent cancer, support eye health and

digestion plus has a positive effect on blood sugar. Vegetables contain vast vitamins, mega-minerals and are packed with powerful phytonutrients. Fueling life with a rainbow of fresh produce protects the body thanks to an array of antioxidants. Hindering inflammation is the name of the game. Green Hart Farms begins with non-GMO seeds and skips synthetic chemical pesticides and fungicide sprays. Compost and biodegradable mulch maintain rich soil, which is key to ensuring vegetables contain all the valuable trace minerals our body desperately desires for optimal health. Embrace your inner green thumb and purchase non-GMO seedlings or choose from heaps of heirloom options for home produce planting. This garden gal is to the moon for pansy, marigold and viola seedlings for a fantastic flower bed of blooming beauties.

Green Hart's style of planting provides prime real estate for a wide range of plants and animals. Establishing hedgerows of flowering woody plants, intentionally allowing culinary delights dill and cilantro to go to flower as well as planting an assortment of perennials houses Mother Nature. Lace wings, lady bugs and parasitic wasps are plentiful while wild mustard buzzes with boatloads of bees. Insect

biodiversity equals a thriving ecosystem.

Watching the family farm flourish reaps the rewards outside being paid for a life path built on passion. Seeing kids excited to receive their veggie box and love eating vegetables is key to Kendra's ginormous grin, but she has a clear vision of the farm's future, including a living wage for employees and adding apiaries.

Whether you steam, juice, roast or favor raw vegetables, they are an extremely important part of a healthy eating pattern. Worldwide, 1.7 million deaths or 2.8% of all deaths can be attributed to inadequate vegetable and fruit consumption. As a holistic nutritionist, my advice is to eat more veggies than fruit! Veggies contain less sugar and calories. Eaten raw, they are also powerful pre-biotics, fostering a good biome thanks to beneficial bacteria. Happy gut! Happy life! Eating a sensible

diet doesn't have to be boring. Try something new this growing season. Indulge in endive, get excited over eggplant or reap the benefits of radicchio. Add cilantro, basil or dill to family favorites for healthy herbal happiness and fantastic flavor. I absolutely fell in love with their ravishing radishes. This nutritionist is super pumped to hear the vitamin C stocked super crunchy snacking sensation will be included in their upcoming veggie box.

Take charge of your health and become part of the Green Hart Farm-ily! If you adore digging in the dirt, sustainable grown seedlings for your personal garden are available on-site May 20 from 1-5 p.m. Green Hart Farm is located at 1659 Line 41 in New Hamburg. For all the busy bees, support local with a rainbow of health-boosting favorites delivered right to your door by signing up for the veggie box program starting May 24 and 25.



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## COMMUNITY —

# Woodstock Begins Boundary Adjustment Process with EZT, Norwich Townships

## City Looking to Annex Land for Housing and Industrial Development

By Lee Griffi

Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione has invited East Zorra-Tavistock and Norwich Townships to join a committee made up of members of their councils to discuss a boundary adjustment. The province has been putting pressure on municipalities to come up with a 25-year plan to meet housing demands as part of Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act.

While no specific pieces of land have been talked about, there is no doubt that some of the best farming land anywhere will be turned into housing should Woodstock succeed. Acchione says that fact is something that concerns him. "Absolutely, of course, it does. I still say I am a farming kid at heart. Farming will continue to play a role in Woodstock's future, however, our economy is diversifying and new industries and shifting the needs of the entire community." He adds the city is committed to managing growth responsibly by balancing the need for housing and employment with protecting farmland as best as possible. "With the provincial changes where you can add three units on any farm, can you imagine that impact? More than what the city would ever have. We have to come to some sort of resolution ourselves, or the province is just going to step in and take whatever they think is needed. I'd much rather speak to my neighbours and find a solution that works for everybody. But do I want to take farmland? Absolutely not. This is one of the most uncomfortable positions as a mayor there can be." He adds the province isn't giving municipalities a choice.

Acchione feels the residents of East Zorra-Tavistock will benefit just as much as Woodstock from a boundary adjustment. "With our growth we are going to have

more industry, more businesses, more restaurants, more shopping, more grocery stores. There is a real effect here that benefits them, I would say, just as much as the city of Woodstock.

EZT Council will, in all likelihood, have a discussion once they receive the letter of invitation, but for now, the top two members of council are being tight-lipped about their thoughts. The Gazette reached out to Mayor Phil Schaefer and Deputy Mayor Brad Smith, who both say it is too early to make any sort of statement. "The township has not yet received a formal written request to enter into negotiations. Until we do, and until council has reviewed the request as part of a meeting agenda, there is nothing to say," says Schaefer. "Until we have been formally asked and council has time to discuss it, I don't have any comment," adds Smith.

Woodstock's Chief Administrative Officer, David Creery, says the process is just getting started, and there is a long way to go. "City council has simply made a very preliminary decision to establish a committee of council, one for Norwich and one for East Zorra-Tavistock. Council has also approved the mayor to send an invitation to each township council to respectfully request they accept the invitation to enter into discussions for a boundary adjustment." Creery adds the letter was sent out last week, so it should have arrived at each township's office by mail.

From a pure education standpoint, Creery explains what exactly a boundary adjustment is. "It is a change in geography of the city and the township. There is nothing in this discussion about the city buying land. If you are a property owner in the area that we happen to be discussing moving the boundary line, no one is taking over



Woodstock mayor Jerry Acchione. (Photo contributed)

the property. The only reason for the city having discussions with the township is to increase the settlement boundary of the City of Woodstock to address the housing demand." In terms of Norwich Township, Creery says it is an issue of employment land, which is land zoned for industrial purposes. "We have to the realignment of Pattullo Road in order to continue to develop employment land currently in our city limits."

There is a high demand for employment land in Woodstock and other areas of Southern Ontario, something Creery says isn't going away any time soon and only adds to the need for housing. "It is important to maintain a supply of shovel-ready, vacant industrial land for investments in the community. But all those jobs that are created in the employment land create housing demand, so you have to maintain a sufficient supply of housing."

Oxford County is home to some of the best

agricultural land anywhere in the world, and many residents, along with the Ontario Federation of Labour are concerned about houses being built on the rich soils in the area. Creery says Woodstock recognizes the need to be sensitive in using agricultural land for housing purposes. "We have to use the land we have as efficiently as possible, and we have to intensify and densify, and we are doing that through high-rises, high-density residential developments, but it is still not enough to meet the 20-to-25-year demand." He adds the reality is that any farm Woodstock converts to housing will make more efficient use of that farm when it is within the city limits as opposed to in the county. "We provide urban level services. So, because we have a sewage treatment plant, storm sewers and sanitary sewers and water mains, we aren't using septic fields or drilled wells, it's all municipal connections. Any development we do within (the city) is the most environmentally sensitive development and allows for the greatest density of housing."

Annexation is a word that has been used over the years when larger municipalities acquire land from their smaller neighbours, but Creery says that term and boundary adjustment are interchangeable. Right now, under the Municipal Act, the only way you can affect annexation or boundary adjustment is through what's called the triple majority process. "It has to be an agreement between both municipalities along with the county for which both municipalities are within its jurisdiction. That is a locally made decision. If there is no way to get a local decision, the province has the ability to appoint a provincial facilitator to help move the local governments towards a consensus decision," says Creery.

## Oxford County council highlights

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

Oxford County council meetings take place in person at 21 Reeve Street in Woodstock and are also broadcast live at [www.oxfordcounty.ca/livestream](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/livestream). The following are highlights from the Oxford County council meeting that took place on May 10:

### Provincial funding update

County council receives an update at the next council meeting about updated provincial funding, which will affect the 2023 budget. Oxford County is expected to receive an additional \$4.99 million in provincial funding, which is going to support:

- staffing, training, resident programs, and the Family Transition Program at Woodingford Lodge;
- early learning and child care programs; and the county's green fleet infrastructure.

The funding will offset \$486,061 from the county levy, the amount it collected for tax. More funding is expected in 2023 for community paramedicine programs, infection prevention and control measured at Woodingford Lodge and homelessness prevention.

### County comments on Bill 97 and Provincial Policy Statement

Oxford County staff presented preliminary comments to council on Ontario's Bill 97 - Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023, along with the review of the Provincial Policy Statement, which serves as Ontario's guideline for land use planning.

For the Provincial Policy Statement, the report notes that while some of the wide-ranging changes are positive, others are confusing or even concerning, such as those that could reduce Oxford's agricultural lands or that impact how, when and where the community will continue to grow, including the expansion of municipal infrastructure. The report notes that Bill 97 addresses some, but not all, of the outstanding issues created by Bills 23 and 109, including making further changes to requirements for additional residential units.

Staff is seeking council's direction to prepare and submit initial comments as part of the province's public consultation process, a step to be taken in collaboration with other municipal government partners and advocacy groups that share Oxford's concerns.

### Employee engagement survey results

County council heard results of the 2022 Employee Engagement Service to see progression from the results of previous surveys in 2017 and 2014. The 2022 survey shows a slight decrease since 2017 in the degree to which employees are engaged in both their jobs and the organization. Oxford's results are in line with those of other, comparable municipalities. It is expected that the COVID-19 pandemic, and increasing employee turnover, has had an impact on employee engagement.

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Christopher W. Franklin  
Funeral Director



## COMMUNITY —

# Ingersoll native will represent the NDP in Oxford byelection

By Lee Griffi

Cody Groat will be the NDP candidate on the ballot for the June 19 Federal byelection in the riding of Oxford.

The 28-year-old Ingersoll native feels his life journey gives him a different perspective coming into politics. "I grew up in subsidized housing and spent some time in rented farm properties in Foldens and Mt. Elgin. My family background is one that I don't think has necessarily been reflected in our political system." Groat says his parents both had addiction issues but says he has been sober his entire life. "My grandparents were survivors of the Mohawk Institute Residential School, and I am a band member of the Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve."

Groat adds, despite his young age, he does have extensive governance experience. "I have served on a number of local, regional, and national boards of directors, and that has really given me a taste of what I hope positive politics can be." He is a member of the joint board of directors for Alexandria Hospital in Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, as well as the Stevenson Children's Camp in Dorchester.

"That was a camp I attended as a child that caters to lower income families." He is also on the board at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology in London. "A mix of my personal experiences, as well as some of my community involvement, made me realize that politics is something I was interested in engaging in," he adds.

Groat is an assistant professor in the Department of History and the Indigenous Studies Program at the University of Western Ontario, and he sees sustainability as a major election issue. "Oxford County has a rich history in both agriculture and vehicle manufacturing. Sustainability is going to be something we need to take seriously for a lot of issues that shape our community. There is a lot of money out there to shift to sustainable economies and development, and I think Oxford can really be a leader in securing those investments." He adds it could be securing energy efficient vehicle manufacturing or further incentivizing sustainability within the ag sector, which he says has always been a forward-thinking enterprise. "You have to think about what your successive generations are going to look like on the farm, so sustainability has always been at



Ingersoll native Cody Groat will represent the NDP in the Oxford riding. (Photo contributed)

the forefront of the thought process. But assuring policy-wise that we can support sustainable practices on farms is something I want to see."

Groat adds cost of living is also an issue of great importance to him. "My parents did not have much in the way of financial security for most of their lives. Growing up, we relied on food banks in some cases, and I think recognizing that is a very real experience in our community and trying to assist with that cost of living crisis as best we can." He adds being able to come from that perspective in his own childhood is going to help informed discussions.

Groat defeated former federal NDP candidate Matthew Chambers for the spot on the Oxford ballot following a recent nomination meeting. If elected, Groat would be the first Indigenous person to represent Oxford.

The federal seat opened up after 19-year member of parliament Dave MacKenzie retired in late January due to health reasons. Groat will run against Conservative candidate Arpan Khanna, Liberal David Hilderley, and Wendy Martin who will represent the People's Party of Canada. The federal seat is open after Dave MacKenzie, who held the Oxford riding for the Conservatives for 19 years, retired in late January.

## The affordable housing crisis: it's personal for these three women

By Colleen Dotzert

### Evelyn's story

In the Fall of 2011, at the age of 53, Evelyn found herself on the verge of being homeless. Remembering this time in her life still evokes raw emotion. "I'd never been in that position. I'm an 'in control' person. It was a horrible place to be in. It's hard to think about."

Evelyn had practiced for years as a professional counsellor. But, in the ten years that led up to that moment, she had suffered debilitating pain. As her condition worsened, she had to give up her full-time position. She struggled to work even a day or two a week. By the end, she could not walk, sit, or stand without intense pain.

In those ten years, she used up her all savings and her pension. She found herself in a modest Kitchener apartment with no money left for the next month's rent. Evelyn remembers walking into the Waterloo Region offices to ask if they could expedite her application for Ontario Disability (ODSP). She felt desperate. Miraculously, her first ODSP cheque came two weeks later. She paid her rent, gave her notice, and went to live with a friend while she looked for affordable housing. After moving from place to place, she found geared-to-income housing in a rural area near Kitchener.

### Beth's story

Beth is a warm, welcoming person with a hearty laugh. She has cultivated deep relationships with family and friends over the years. She grew up on a farm outside of New Hamburg and is used to hard work and sunshine.

When she was 21, Beth was diagnosed with

a degenerative eye disease. She was told that she would eventually lose her eyesight. While this was shocking news, she continued working and raising her son. She worked hard for many years, first in the food industry, and later in healthcare services.

Beth's eyesight worsened until she could no longer function properly at work. Because she had a pension and a long-term, incurable disease, she was eligible for monthly CPP payments. She moved with her son to a modest apartment in New Hamburg. However, her rent increased over the years until it was almost equal to her monthly income from CPP.

A few months ago, her son had turned eighteen. She lost her CPP supplement for dependents and the child tax credit. Now, after paying her rent, she had no money left over for groceries and other expenses. While her son contributed to the household budget, they were still not making ends meet. They were out of options. In this moment of crisis, a childhood friend called her on the phone. Hearing about her dire situation, her friend welcomed Beth and her son into her home in Stratford.

### Where from here?

Beth would dearly love to return to New Hamburg, where she has a network of friends and family. But there are few affordable housing options in New Hamburg. She has been on Waterloo Region's waiting list for affordable housing for four years. She was told that she could wait up to twelve years before something became available. She also applied to the Bruce County housing program, where the wait time is only three to four years.

### Remembering the trauma but moving forward

Evelyn emphasizes the trauma she experienced losing her health and her financial independence. "I lost my dreams... My life went from looking like I could do anything to being under a very low ceiling. I had to learn to live with very limited expectations. That was a grief for me. There were so many griefs, and it took time to sort it all out."

Evelyn is in a better place right now. After a twenty-year-long battle with painful illness, her health has improved. "Before, I was feeling like I had succumbed to the pain. I felt defined by it. I'm not defined by it today because of the healing process I've been through."

Retired now, Evelyn is receiving Old Age Security. She has part-time employment helping seniors in their homes. She also volunteers in her rural community.

### Sarah from New Hamburg

Sarah lives in geared-to-income housing in New Hamburg. Her oldest son has grown up and moved out. She no longer receives government assistance for him. She is looking for a smaller, more affordable place in New Hamburg for herself and her younger son. There is nothing available.

Sarah grew up in New Hamburg. She is thankful that her children have been able to grow up there too. She would like to remain in New Hamburg so that her younger son can continue in the local school. But right now, there are few, if any, options in New Hamburg for geared-to-income housing.

Sarah remembers that it used to be different. When she first came back to New Hamburg, there were several options for

geared-to-income housing provided by the region. And it was possible to find an affordable apartment even without government assistance. Twenty years ago, she remembers, you could get a two-bedroom apartment for seven hundred dollars per month. Now it seems you can't get one even for double that amount.

### Requesting anonymity

Sarah gave only her first name. And both Evelyn and Beth asked to remain anonymous. "I'm enjoying my life every day," says Evelyn. "And I don't talk about this stuff because people will define you by it. And I don't want to burden people."

"Bad situations can happen to anyone. People with ability, energy, and discipline can find themselves in a position where they need affordable housing. And I know that from personal experience." Beth agrees. She feels keenly the stigma of needing government assistance because of her loss of eyesight. "There is a misconception about people with disabilities," she notes. "People will say, 'Oh, you're too lazy to work,' or 'We're sick of giving you guys money [as taxpayers]. We've got to pay for all this stuff.' There's got to be some kind of compassion. I guess if they don't have someone directly in their family, or nothing's ever happened to them, they can't put themselves in that position. Maybe they don't have the empathy to do that."

While Beth admits her frustration with how some people respond, she is understanding too. And she understands that many people want to help those who are in need. Sometimes they just don't know how. "Kindness can be in many forms," she muses. "Just think outside of the box and keep your chin up!"



# COMMUNITY —

## Wellesley Township narrowed down 11 names for street sweeper naming contest

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

Wellesley Township has reviewed and narrowed down a list of names submitted by the community for the Name the Street Sweeper Contest.

The winner will be announced on Wednesday, May 24. The winner will receive a small prize, and the new name will be displayed on the street sweeper.

Voting was available on the township website until yesterday, on May 17. The names are as follows:

- Sweeping Beauty
- Jeepers Sweepers
- Curby the Sweeper
- Turtle Racer
- Lightning McClean
- Dream Sweeper

- Sweepasaurus
- Clean Sweep
- Gutter Putter
- Apple Jack
- Wellsweep

A street sweeper is an essential piece of equipment for municipalities to keep the streets clean and safe for all users. The township purchased their first sweeper/vac truck in 2013, and it reaches a top operating speed of eight kilometres an hour. The streets in Wellesley Township are swept once in spring when all the snow and ice have melted to remove winter sand that accumulated on the roads. The streets are also swept again in the fall before the snow comes. Summer sweeping is generally for isolated areas that require cleanup.



## Shakespeare's newest business is now open



In their new Shakespeare showroom, Linton Window and Door owners include left to right, Jason Hill, Melissa Weber, and Brandon Weber. Info available at [b.weber@lintonwindow.com](mailto:b.weber@lintonwindow.com).

By Gary West

There is a new window and door business in Shakespeare on Main Street (Highway 7&8) beside Shakespeare Pies, and the owners are sure they have what you're looking for in dependable windows and doors at reasonable prices.

Linton Window and Door have had many customers in this area over the years who did business from their Cambridge location.

The family-owned company felt the new location in Shakespeare, along with Cambridge, would provide their current customers along with future clients, with the kind of sales and service they were looking for.

While closing in on 50 years in business, they stand behind their products and installations with confidence and want to make sure that any new installation or renovation project is stress free for their customers.

They also say that they carefully handpick manufacturers and product lines from their industry to ensure customers receive the best quality, value and service available, with the reputation for a great service built over the past half-century.

The company has 30 employees. Their hope is now, with their new location and with new business, they will be able to hire new people in the future.



Join the

### Oxford County DEI Action Coalition

Do you have knowledge, perspective or personal experiences related to diversity, equity and inclusion? If so, the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Action Coalition wants you to help make Oxford County a more inclusive community.

The Coalition is looking for five to six new members with personal interest and experiences with diversity, equity and inclusion.

Learn more and submit your application before May 31, 2023.

[www.oxfordcounty.ca/dei-action](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/dei-action)





COMMUNITY —

# Wellesley Township Recreation Centre progress



This is the progress of the Wellesley Township recreation centre off Queen's Bush and Hutchison roads in the village as of Friday, May 12. In addition to the building, there will be outdoor amenities including a multi use pad, skate park, playground and trails. The work is getting underway by Ball Construction in Kitchener and cost about \$27 million. Work is expected to be completed by the fall. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)



New Hamburg  
**Mennonite  
Relief Sale**

**May 26th & 27th, 2023**

*Friday Evening Auction Features*



*The Tractor pictured can be seen at President John Mohr's address in New Hamburg - 247 Good St*  
Massey Ferguson "65" completely restored. Runs and looks like new. John Deere 2120 has been donated by the NorthEasthope Tractor Club (N.E.A.T.) who have raised thousands of dollars the last number of years to support the work of the Mennonite Central Committee. Antique Massey Ferguson three furrow plow

These classics will be auctioned off to the highest bidder Friday Evening May 26 6:30 pm in person or online at this years Mennonite Central Committee's annual Relief Sale in New Hamburg.

*For info: call John Mohr at 226-747-5533 or Ron Neeb at 519-801-5747*

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## COMMUNITY —

## Second Dundee Artisan Festival showcases local artists and musicians



Vendors that appeared at the second annual Dundee Artisan Festival, including Graphite Orchid, which is a mixed media studio run by Meredith Sexton. At right, Millbank Cheese & Butter, a cheese shop with a history that dates back more than a century. (Photo credit: Avery Zehr and Alley Santinhos)

By Veronica Reiner

The Dundee Artisan Festival, which showcases local artists and musicians, took place this past weekend on Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at New Dundee Community Park.

It is the second year in a row for the festival, put together this year by a committee of Rosemary Arthurs, Parma Ashworth, Tammy Funk, Joanne Poel and Shelley Ulmer. Rosemary spearheaded the idea as a way to engage the community and engage artists.

"I really like watching people interacting," said Rosemary. "I was in my booth, and I

could see the field, and it was just nice to see people talking after winter, greeting each other. Being in groups. For me, that's the highlight."

There were about 20 vendors, including BF Wood Designs, Harvest Moon Trading Co, Huckleberry Hives, Purple Martin Naturals, The Safe Soap Company, Momma Bears Quilts, Graphite Orchid Studio, BinkPink Designs, Your Quilts Done, and Thames River Farm.

There were also students from Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School in a tent, displaying different art projects from their arts program. "I was so happy to have them," said Rosemary. "I think it drew a lot

of parents out, and I hope the students could see and appreciate their involvement, and continue to involve themselves in doing art or community projects."

There was also a representative from the Region of Waterloo. "They're doing a strategic plan about where people wanted to see the region in x number of years. They were working on what people wanted for services, and where the region needed to make investments for the future," explained Rosemary.

There were five groups of musicians that performed in the bandshell, including Onion Honey, Eric Jackson & The Willow River Bank, Meg Contini Duo, and the KW

Collective Band.

Rosemary said they received really good feedback, but that some folks in the community were not aware that the event was going on. "People in town were walking by and said 'oh, we didn't know this was happening,'" said Rosemary. "We focused a lot on social media. So I think next year, we're going to rent one of those big yellow signs."

Next year's Dundee Artisan Festival is planned for May 11, 2024. Anyone interested in learning more can visit [www.dundeeartisanfestival.ca](http://www.dundeeartisanfestival.ca).

## Upgrades happening at Shakespeare's ball park last week



By Gary West

There was a bee hive of activity happening last week at Shakespeare's ball park.

The Marco Clay company from near Washington Ont., were busy adding more clay to the Shakespeare & Community

Athletic Association (SCAA) ball diamond to get ready for the upcoming ball season.

The warning track was widened slightly, and a track was added along the third baseline, where there had never been a clay track before.

## Donny Albrecht retires after 40 years



Donny Albrecht. (Photo credit: The Erb Group of Companies)

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

After 40 years, Donny Albrecht has officially retired from the Erb Group of Companies.

Donny started working for the Erb Group in 1983 as a yard worker, then moved into a driving role, then most recently, working out of the Baden shop.

"Thank you Donny, we'll miss you!" said the Erb Group of Companies in an online post.

The Erb Group of Companies, based in New Hamburg, is a leading refrigerated transportation carrier in the food industry, providing service across North America.



**COMMUNITY —**

# Two children injured after corrosive substance put on toilet seats in Baden



The bathrooms at Sir Adam Beck Community Park in Baden.

By Veronica Reiner

The Waterloo Region Police Service (WRPS) said that two children were hurt after a corrosive substance was put on toilet seats at Sir Adam Beck Community Park in Baden.

Officers were called out on Tuesday, May 9 to the area at 215 Snyder's Road East.

WRPS spokesperson André Johnson confirmed that the substance was found in both men's and women's washrooms. Police believe that the substance was put

on the seats on purpose.

"We are still investigating, but believe the substance was from batteries. The substance has since been cleaned and removed," said Johnson.

The victims were children, aged three and aged six.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 519-570-9777. Those who would like to stay anonymous can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit online at [www.waterloocrimestoppers.com](http://www.waterloocrimestoppers.com).

# Dust control on sideroads of Perth East



By Gary West

If area motorists have been complaining about dust on the side roads, Perth East has come to the rescue with dust control - just in time. Pictured is one of the

trucks on a road in South Easthope township, making sure dust from vehicles is looked after to ensure safe and clear visibility when driving, and/or moving farm equipment.



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**Optimist Club of Petersburg  
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June 18th, July 16th and August 13th

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



**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF COMPLETE APPLICATION(S)**

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

**APPLICATION(S) FOR ZONE CHANGE**

**TOWNSHIP OF EAST ZORRA-TAVISTOCK**

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

<b>File No.:</b>	ZN 2-23-03
<b>Owner:</b>	Township of East Zorra-Tavistock
<b>Location of Property:</b>	Township-wide General Amendment
<b>Description of Application:</b>	<p>The purpose of the application for Zone Change is to introduce general amendments to the Township Zoning By-law to implement the policies of Official Plan Amendment No. 285 (OPA 285) adopted by County Council on February 8, 2023. OPA 285 directs Townships to permit Additional Residential Units (ARUs) within single-detached dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, and street fronting townhouses and/or within a detached accessory building on the same lot where appropriate and subject to various requirements.</p> <p>The proposed amendments to the Zoning By-law provisions include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adding a new definition for Additional Residential Unit and amending other related definitions;</li> <li>• Amending Section 5.0 General Provisions to establish standards and requirements for the development of Additional Residential Units, including but not limited to specifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maximum number of Additional Residential Units permitted on a lot depending on lot location and adequacy of water and sewage servicing;</li> <li>• maximum cumulative gross floor area for all Additional Residential Units on a lot;</li> <li>• minimum lot area for an Additional Residential Unit in a detached accessory building;</li> <li>• minimum setbacks and locations for entrances and stairways; and,</li> <li>• minimum requirements for parking.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Deleting Converted Dwellings and adding Additional Residential Units as a permitted use in various zones across the Township where residential uses are already permitted;</li> <li>• Amending the provisions of the Limited Agricultural Zone (A1) and General Agricultural Zone (A2) to require approval by the Committee of Adjustment prior to permitting an Additional Residential Unit within a detached accessory structure on a farm;</li> <li>• Amending the number of residential units permitted within Converted Dwellings in the Residential Type 3 Zone (R3); and,</li> <li>• Deleting Converted Dwellings as a permitted use in the 'mixed use' zones that only permit residential dwellings as accessory to a permitted commercial use.</li> </ul>

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

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

Meghan House  
Development Planner - Policy Focus  
Community Planning  
County of Oxford  
P. O. Box 1614, 21 Reeve Street  
Woodstock ON N4S 7Y3  
phone: 519-539-9800 x 3219  
email: [planning@oxfordcounty.ca](mailto:planning@oxfordcounty.ca)



## COMMUNITY —

## Reconstruction still ongoing in Baden



The reconstruction of Snyder's Road East in Baden as of Friday, May 12. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The reconstruction of Snyder's Road East in Baden as of Friday, May 12. The Region of Waterloo has been reconstructing Snyder's Road between Foundry Street and Gingerich Road since spring 2021.

The construction work, completed by Bel-Air, runs between Monday and Friday between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and occasional weekend work may occur to complete the project in time.

It has been divided into different sections: Foundry Street to Coachman's Lane work started in April, and is expected to take a month-and-a-half to complete. The work involves the construction of separated cycling lanes, sidewalks, driveway aprons and landscaping.

The second section involves Coachman's Lane to Whiting Way East, involving the installation of new sanitary sewer, watermain and storm sewer. This will also include the construction of separated cycling facilities, sidewalks, landscaping and new pavement structure. It is expected to take about three to four months to complete, wrapping up in August.

The final section will be Foundry Street to Whiting Way East, which will cover deficiencies and surface asphalt. It is expected to be completed in August.

The project faced delays in 2022 and 2021, which was attributed to poor ground conditions due to groundwater, material shortages and inclement water.

## Fish fries are popular in June in both Tavistock and Shakespeare



Brian Boland from the men's club shown with Tavistock's Valerie Kropf, who was picking up tickets on Saturday. Brian says don't wait too long, because they usually sell out.

By Gary West

June is the month for fish fries in the area, so for all you fish lovers, get set to enjoy two local fish fries in the area of Tavistock and Shakespeare.

The first one is the Tavistock Men's Club fish fry on June 7 in the backyard of the organization's hall on Woodstock Street North, and the second one is the Shakespeare & Community Athletic Association (SCAA) field day fish fry on

June 10 at the Shakespeare Optimist Hall.

Tickets for both fundraisers are \$25. Not only will you get all the fish you can eat, but also all the fixins that go with it.

For the Tavistock Fish Fry tickets are available from Men's club members and posted times during the week and on Saturdays at the men's club.

The Shakespeare Field Day fish tickets are available from SCAA members.

## NEWS BRIEFS

One person arrested in connection to Perth East theft

One person was charged after being found in possession of stolen property.

On May 1 at around 2 p.m., the Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a reported theft from a business located on Raymond Drive in Perth East Township.

The accused was located and arrested a short time later with stolen property in their possession.

As a result, a 45-year-old from Parry Sound was arrested and charged with "possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000," and "obstruct police officer."

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Stratford on June 12 to answer to the charges.

Anyone with information about this or any incident should contact the Perth County OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Those who wish to remain anonymous can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or leave an anonymous online message at [www.p3tips.com](http://www.p3tips.com).

Two charged after two separate vehicle in Perth East

Two people have been charged after two separate vehicle collisions in Perth East.

The first incident occurred on April 26 around 7:35 p.m. The Perth County OPP responded to a collision on Line 33 in Perth East.

Throughout the investigation, officers determined that a vehicle collided with the rear of a vehicle that was slowing down to make a turn. One person was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.

As a result, a 42-year-old Tavistock resident was charged with "careless driving."

The other incident occurred on May 1 at around 2:41 p.m. The Perth County OPP responded to a collision on Perth Line 119 in Perth East Township.

Throughout the investigation, officers determined that a vehicle collided with the rear of a vehicle that was turning onto Perth Line 42. No injuries were reported.

As a result, a 20-year-old Sebringville resident has been charged with "fail to turn out to left to avoid a collision."

Both were issued a provincial notice for the offence.

Person crashes vehicle moments after the stole it

A Simcoe resident was charged after stealing a vehicle and then crashing it on Road 111 in Perth East on May 6.

Officers arrived on scene and observed an abandoned

vehicle in a field. Officers attended a nearby residence, where they found an injured man. The man confirmed he was the driver and that he stole the vehicle just moments before at a nearby residence.

The driver was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.

A 39-year-old Simcoe resident has been arrested and charged with "possession property obtained by crime over \$5,000," "fail to remain," and "driving while under suspension."

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Stratford on June 12 to answer to the charges.

OPP investigate break and enter at Perth East residence

The Perth County OPP are investigating a break and enter at a Fisher Street address in Perth East.

Sometime between 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on May 6, an unknown person(s) gained entry to the residence. Multiple items including jewelry and \$200 was removed from the residence.

Police are continuing to investigate and ask the public to report suspicious activity immediately, as well as remember to lock doors to vehicles, houses, garages, and sheds. Do not leave keys with vehicles, including ATVs. Consider installing security features, such as increased lighting, cameras, or alarms.



# COMMUNITY —

## Community Unity Charitable Lapghan squares



Some of the squares created for the Community Unity Charitable Lapghan project.



**By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff**  
Here are some of the squares created for the Community Unity Charitable

Lapghans for the Wellesley Fall Fair. The aim of the project was to create an autumn landscape, one square at a time, which will

be assembled into a fall themed lapghan and used for charitable purchases. The next step is for the squares to be

judged for monetary prizes. First place gets \$30, second place gets \$20 and third place gets \$15

## GRT buses resume service

### No fares collected until May 22

**By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff**  
All Grand River Transit (GRT) buses, including MobilityPLUS buses, resumed service as of Thursday, May 11, and customer service centres reopened. There will be no fares collected from then until Victoria Day on May 22.

In a release, the region said that the move was to "show appreciation for [their] customers." The region asks that you do not tap your card before boarding.

This follows a new agreement between

the Unifor Local 4304, representing GRT workers, and the Region of Waterloo. GRT workers will be getting an overall increase of 9.88 per cent in wages and benefits over three years.

Wages will increase by three per cent effective May 1, along with a one-time "market adjustment" of \$1 an hour retroactive to May 1; they increase 2.25 per cent on May 1, 2024, and 2.25 per cent on May 1, 2025.

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement with UNIFOR Local 4304," said Re-

gional Chair Karen Redman. "The agreement was reached following hard work and commitment from the Region and Union membership. It is an agreement that is competitive for employees and fair to taxpayers.

"The Region of Waterloo is a growing community and transit is a key facilitator of that growth. We value transit in this community and we are thankful for the hard work of all employees at Grand River Transit and for their service on a daily basis.

A special regional council meeting was held last week to ratify the agreement.

The local 4304 represents more than 650 transit drivers and nearly 90 skilled trade and support workers. Unifor is Canada's largest union in the private sector, representing 315,000 workers in every major area of the economy. The union advocates for all working people and their rights, fights for equality and social justice in Canada and abroad and strives to create a progressive change for a better future.



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# FAMILY MILESTONES —

## OBITUARY

### CLEMMER, Wilfred

Wilfred Clemmer, 86, of Tavistock, passed away peacefully in Stratford General Hospital on Wednesday May 10, 2023. He was born in Waterloo on December 11, 1936 a son of the late Allan and Pearl (Schlueter) Clemmer.

He had been a dairy farmer for most of his lifetime and was a member of Immaculate Conception Church in Stratford.

Wilfred is survived by his wife, Mary Ann (Waechter) Clemmer whom he married at Maryhill, Ontario on September 26, 1964; two children, Jim Clemmer (Jean), Karen Clemmer; three grandchildren, Jessica Clemmer (Patrick Heming), Matthew Clemmer, Melina Clemmer; his brother, Fred Clemmer (Linda Simpson; his sister, Helen Justason.

He was predeceased by his brother, Robert Clemmer; his brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, Doug Justason, Paul and Frances Waechter.

A private mass to celebrate Wilfred's life will be held at Immaculate Conception Church, 50 Well St. Stratford. Reception following the service. Interment in McTavish Cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home, Tavistock by calling 519-655-2431.

Personal condolences can be posted at [www.fran-cisfh.ca](http://www.fran-cisfh.ca)

## OBITUARY

### WIEBE, Krista Martha (Danner)



Passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones in the comfort of her home on Thursday, May 11, 2023. Krista was born in Kitchener, Ontario, April 14, 1962, a daughter of Arthur Danner and the late Antonia (Kwirant) Danner. Krista Wiebe of New Hamburg at the age of 61.

Cherished and loving mother of Trevor Wiebe and his fiancé Christy Hawkes, Darryl Wiebe and girlfriend Brie Schaub and Jordan Wiebe. Loved dearly by her boyfriend Albert. Krista will be forever remembered by her brothers Perry Danner and Frank Danner. Special aunt of Julia Danner, Robert Danner, Colleen Danner, Kendra Danner and Quentin Danner.

Krista was a dedicated Milk tester for Canwest DHI for over 30 years. She had a great love for all animals which truly showed in her line of work. Krista enjoyed the sunshine while tending to her gardens. She was a loyal member of Shantz Mennonite Church and a loved member by the congregation. Krista loved to travel and above all else she truly loved her family.

Cremation has taken place. All are welcome to join the family on Friday, May 19, 2023, at the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg for memorial visitation from 5 – 9 p.m. A memorial service to celebrate Krista's life will take place on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Shantz Mennonite Church, 2473 Erbs Rd, Baden at 11:00 am Pastor Kendall Jongejan Harder to officiate.

As expressions of sympathy, donations would be accepted to Shantz Mennonite Church and can be done through the funeral home.

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

## OBITUARY

### SCHMIDT, Ralph Philip



After a courageous battle with cancer, Ralph passed away peacefully with family at his side on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at Juravinski Hospital, Hamilton. Ralph was a long-time resident of Baden and was born 67 years ago.

Loving and cherished husband of Pierrette (Leclair) Schmidt whom he celebrated 45 years of marriage with. Cherished father of Jennifer and husband Dave Beaver and Dave and wife Brittany Schmidt. Proud Opa of Mason and Aidan Beaver and Brooklynn and Charlotte Schmidt. Ralph will be remembered by his siblings, Bruce Schmidt, Linda Schmidt, Lisa Wight and Larry Schmidt as well as by their families. He will forever be missed by his mother Frieda (Vogel) Schmidt. Predeceased and reunited with his father C. Ward Schmidt.

Ralph was an avid outdoors man. He loved spending days on the water fishing and being out hunting with his family and friends. He enjoyed tending to his gardens and was a loyal employee of Hitachi for over 30 years. Above all things in life Ralph loved his family dearly and enjoyed his time spent watching his children and now grandchildren play sports cheering them on.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial visitation took place on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, from 5 – 8 p.m. at Wilmot Centre Missionary Church. A Celebration of Ralph's life was held at Wilmot Centre Missionary Church on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, from 11 – 1 p.m. words and memories were shared during this time. Interment followed in the Wilmot Centre Cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy, donations would be accepted to the Grand River Regional Cancer Centre and can be done through the funeral home website.

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

## WORSHIP IN WILMOT TOWNSHIP

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[sgacnewhamburg@gmail.com](mailto:sgacnewhamburg@gmail.com)

Current health and safety protocols are followed.

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1967 Erb's Road St Agatha 519-634-8212

Pastor Nancy Mann

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SERVING OUR  
COMMUNITY

## Thank you!

The Tavistock Opti-Mrs would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who attended our Pub Night featuring Crackerjack Palace on May 6th. It was great to see so many of you come out to our 'sold out' fundraiser!

We'd also like to thank South Easthope Mutual Insurance Company, Upper Thames Brewery and Quehl's Restaurant for your support towards this event.

Thanks to all of you, our Pub Night was a huge success, and it will help our club immensely in being able to continue giving back to our wonderful community.

Many thanks and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!

## OBITUARY

### THE DEPARTED Doris Irene Gladding



It is with sadness that the family of Doris Gladding announce her peaceful passing on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at Stratford General Hospital. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Upon her request there will be no visitation. A private family service will take place. Full obituary next week.



## COMMUNITY —

## OBITUARY

## MacKENZIE, Helen



Helen Anna MacKenzie, 92, of Tavistock passed away with family by her side on Sunday, May 14, 2023 at Stratford General Hospital. She was born in East Zorra Township, Oxford County on March 25, 1931 a daughter of the late Alvin and Marion (Roth) Ramseyer.

She was predeceased by her two husbands, Walter J. Zehr (1986), John T. MacKenzie (2004) and her son, Brian "Butch" Zehr (1972).

She is survived by children, Brenda Wettlaufer (Clare), Tim Zehr (Malaya), Kris Sangers (Gerry); step-daughters, Marilyn McGale (Dan), Janice MacLennan (Earl); sixteen grandchildren; twenty great grandchildren; two brothers, Don Ramseyer, Paul Ramseyer (Diane); two sisters, Edith Schneider, Laina Novak; sisters-in-law, Margaret Ramseyer, Shirley Ramseyer, Carolyn Ramseyer (Rudy), Annie Mae Albrecht.

Predeceased by brothers and sisters-in-law, Oliver & Inez Ramseyer, Melvin Ramseyer, Mayne Ramseyer, Earl Ramseyer, Bernice Ramseyer, Betty Lou Ramseyer and several "Zehr" brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Helen enjoyed her life and spent many years living in New Hamburg, Stratford, Bayfield, Maxville, and Goderich with a large circle of caring friends. For many winters she also enjoyed being a Snowbird living on the Gulf Coast in Florida. Helen spent over 25 years as a school bus driver where she drove many of the country kids to school in all kinds of weather. More than anything Helen loved to travel and was very fortunate to visit many parts of the world. She was especially thrilled to meet Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip at a private invite to Rideau Hall in Ottawa. She was an avid knitter and generously gave away many pairs of slippers, afghans and dish towels. Helen was known quite famously to have a green thumb and her love of plants was admired by many. Her favourite times were spent with friends and family visiting and she was never short of a joke or song. She was very well known for her "one liners" which those close to her knew very well.

Helen was a proud member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #8 in Stratford and always looked forward to attending the meat draws. She was an active member of Hillcrest Mennonite Church, New Hamburg.

She will be deeply missed and loved by all who knew her.

A private family service will be held with burial in East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery, 16th Line. Relatives and friends are invited to a "Celebration of Life Visitation" at the New Hamburg Royal Canadian Legion Branch #532, 65 Boullee St., New Hamburg on Thursday, May 18, 2023 from 4 - 7 pm.

Donations to Ronald McDonald House or the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home, Tavistock by calling 519-655-2431. Personal condolences can be posted at [www.francisfh.ca](http://www.francisfh.ca)

# Lace up your shoes and support people living with dementia in your community

## Alzheimer Society Huron Perth to host annual IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's

The Alzheimer Society Huron Perth is once again hosting the annual IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's, which takes place on May 27, 2023.

The Walk raises crucial funds that allow the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth to offer programs and services to meet the needs of people living with dementia and their caregivers in Huron and Perth Counties. The number of people in Canada living with dementia is rising rapidly. By the year 2050, more than 1.7 million people will be living with dementia in Canada. As the number of people affected by dementia increases, so does the need for services.

"On May 27, we're calling on you to make connections matter and show your support by walking or donating towards a walk event in a community near you," says, Cathy Ritsema, Executive Director at the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth. "Each year, 25,000 more Canadians hear, 'You have dementia.' The funds raised at the walk stay in Huron and Perth Counties and provide crucial funds for the Alzheimer Society to continue to allow accessibility to programs and services for people affected by the challenges of dementia."

Here is how to get involved in the IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's and make a positive difference in the lives of people living with dementia and their families:

1. Register for your local Walk – sign up as a team captain, team member or as an individual at [www.walkforalzheimers.ca](http://www.walkforalzheimers.ca). Choose Clinton, Exeter, Goderich, Listowel, St.

Marys, Stratford, or Wingham.

2. Start fundraising - Share your fundraising page and your reasons for walking on social media using the official hashtag #IGWalkForAlz. Reach out to your friends, family, neighbours, and colleagues (in person and online) to ask for support.

3. Join us on Walk Day on May 27, 2023 – join dedicated people like you, who are committed to helping people living with dementia and caregivers. Get inspired and get moving!

Let's rally for our brain health and make meaningful strides to ensure no one has to face Alzheimer's disease and other dementias alone. Support a walk in a community near you. Registration opens at 9:00 am and the walk starts at each location at 10:00 am.

- Clinton – Central Huron Secondary School
- Exeter – South Huron District Secondary School
- Goderich – Goderich District Collegiate Institute
- Listowel – Between the Lines
- St. Marys – Solis Park
- Stratford – Upper Queen's Park
- Wingham – Maitland River Community Church

You can help Make Memories Matter by supporting the IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's today!

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88 Wellington Street, Stratford, ON, N5A 2L2



COMMUNITY —

# Grace United Church's high noon luncheon with guest speaker Dr. Paul Bartlett on astronomy

By Gary West

If readers have ever had the idea of wishing on a star, there is a person in Tavistock that could probably help you out.

Dr. Paul Bartlett after retiring from medical practice at the Tavistock clinic took up his hobby that he had been most interested in. He spoke to an interested group at Grace United Church last week, following a high noon luncheon prepared and served by members of Trinity Lutheran Church from Sebastopol.

That hobby he took up and continues to study is astronomy.

Bartlett will say that he was interested in it for years, and he wanted to see and take a picture of a galaxy. He then read up on the techniques and added a few more pieces of equipment to what he had before, and took some pictures. One of the first pictures he took was of the Andromeda Galaxy, one of our nearest neighbours in space, and said it's one you can see in the autumn of the year with a set of binoculars.

Bartlett said he was very proud of his first effort, and shared it with many family members and friends. He said he called it his "Journey to the Stars."

His talk included travelling with his wife Joan in their early years to Salisbury England, where they ended up by chance at Stonehenge on June 20, one day before the summer equinox. After taking many pictures, he delved more deeply into the history of Stonehenge and found the huge stones were aligned.

The stones not only align with the rising of the sun on the longest day of the year, but also with the sun's position in winter, and also with the moon's position. As he studied Stonehenge and the people around it, they could actually predict when an eclipse would occur, an amazing engineering feat for some 5,000 years ago.



Dr. Paul Bartlett, whose hobby is astronomy, showing some of his sophisticated telescopes and cameras following his talk, to those at last week's high noon luncheon at Grace United Church in Tavistock.

In his talk, Bartlett also spoke about taking his dog for a walk in the evenings and at 11 at night, he found the stars to be amazing. Spotting the Milky Way and some night stars would be dazzling.

He thought if he was going to be out every night he might as well get to learn the night sky. He got some books out of the library to help get oriented. Bartlett said that if he really felt he was truly interested in astronomy, he should

learn the stars and constellations before he bought a telescope. As time went by, he did.

Many details of various stars and galaxies were covered in Paul Bartlett's talk, and most would agree that he took the group into another world far beyond what we might have learned through today's books and publications, including what we might find on the World Wide Web.



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## COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock  
Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) Where was the first McDonalds in Canada opened?
- 2) Name the Vice-President of the USA?
- 3) What company was initially known as "Blue Ribbon Sports"?
- 4) Who famously crossed the Alps with elephants on the way to war with the Romans?
- 5) Which email service is owned by Microsoft?
- 6) What was Superman's birth name?
- 7) When Michael Jordan played for the Chicago Bulls, how many NBA Championships did he win?
- 8) Which racer holds the record for the most Grand Prix wins?
- 9) What name does deer meat go by?
- 10) John F. Kennedy was assassinated in which city?

Answers found on page 26

BIRTHDAYS &  
ANNIVERSARIES

**May 18:** Happy birthday to Aidan Heinbuch (7) and Jamie Wilker (20).

**May 19:** Happy birthday to Hudson McGlynn (11) and anniversary for Daniel and Kathryn Cressman (16th).

**May 20:** Happy birthday to Kasper Steckley (3), Evelyn Yantzi (4), Hudson Stahlke (7), Jacob Francis (20), Megan Bailey (21), Sarah Bailey (21), Ella Westlake (22), Tye Bond (22), Madelynne Sullivan and Jennifer Himes, and anniversary for Adam and Bethany Zehr (17th) and Bob Gladding and Muriel Percy (28th).

**May 21:** Happy birthday to Fiona Paese (11), Molly Gunn (13), Stella MacDonald (14), and anniversary for Travis and Niki Kropf (12th).

**May 22:** Happy birthday to Lily Saunders (11).

**May 23:** Happy birthday to Rebecca Ropp (2), Olive Adams (6), Crew Munro (8), Lochlan McOrmand (11), Adele Ferguson (1) and anniversary for Cory and Caitlin McKay (8th).

**May 24:** Happy birthday to Avery Brenneman (15) and Leif Gladding (21).

*Does someone in your family have a special day coming up? Let us know at [tavistockgazette@rogers.com](mailto:tavistockgazette@rogers.com) or [wilmotpost@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

**May 9-16, 2018 Edition (5 years ago)**

Shakespeare rural residents were still without hydro on Monday after powerful winds ripped through southwestern Ontario on Friday afternoon. Hickson was without power from 4:30 p.m. on Friday evening until Sunday afternoon. Tavistock and Shakespeare were more fortunate as the power was out for only a little more than a half hour on Friday evening. The power outages did however, close businesses early, only to have workers return to their jobs when the power was restored.

Members of the Tavistock's Men's Club, their extended family members and the Hickson Community 4-H Club all came together last Tuesday evening, May 1, to pick up garbage along Highway 59 south of Tavistock.

The Community Players of New Hamburg have done it again. Their production of Oliver was another spectacular achievement on stage with five performances from May 10-13.

**May 7-14, 2008 Edition (15 years ago)**

Shepherd Gourmet Dairy, the small Ontario dairy on the 10th Line of East Zorra that

made its mark specializing in sheep's milk cheese, is gone. The barn and cheese processing plant was completely destroyed by fire on Wednesday, April 23, 2008.

The opening of the Mountain Mitchell law firm office in Tavistock is somewhat of a first in the history of the village. Now, Tavistock residents have direct access to lawyers practicing in most areas of the law meeting all of a person's legal needs. The Mountain Mitchell law firm consists of seven lawyers, making it Stratford's largest law firm. In addition to their traditional base in Stratford, they have a branch office in Mitchell, and since April 22 at 18 Hope Street East (the old bakery) in Tavistock.

**May 13-20, 1998 Edition (25 years ago)**

Mrs. Joan Bartlett, Tavistock's trustee on the former Oxford County Board of Education, was honoured last Monday, May 4th during an evening gathering at Tavistock Public School. In recognition of her dedication, Tavistock Public School has named the Joan Bartlett Academic Award to be given each year to acknowledge the best academic achievement in Grade eight.

Wiffen's Home Hardware in Tavistock marked their grand opening this past weekend with a ceremonial chain (ribbon) cutting on Thursday morning.

Shakespeare has a slogan - "where the an-

tique and unique meet" and RoseMarie's Family Restaurant owners believe they fit into the unique category. Partners Rose Berg and Kathy Wilker celebrated their 1st anniversary in business last week.

Kevin Zehr received a plaque and gift certificate from Tavistock Police Chief Alex Balazs and LCBO manager Mike Sullivan. Zehr's timely assistance last fall resulted in the recovery of stolen goods from the LCBO.

**May 16-23, 1973 Edition (50 years ago)**

Tavistock Council held a special meeting last Tuesday night. The main item was the 1973 budget, with tax rates set at 90 mills residential and 102 mills commercial. Total expenditures for the year will be \$289,467 for an increase of \$4,295 over the 1972 figure. Major items are \$19,000 for general government; \$40,550 for protection of persons and property; \$71,600 for public works; \$31,665 for sanitation and waste disposal; \$7,408 for recreation (arena and park); and \$80,877 for educational purposes.

Traffic will triple between now and 1990 on the 7 and 8 highway between New Hamburg and Stratford. Each day, an estimated 15,000 vehicles will be using the road unless an alternate route is found to by-pass Stratford and linkup with St. Marys, according to the studies of Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

WORSHIP  
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Rev. Marg Smith

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Masks welcomed but not required.

All Ages JRSS will follow after the worship service.

Stream services online at  
[www.tavistockmennonitechurch.ca](http://www.tavistockmennonitechurch.ca)

## TAVISTOCK BIBLE CHAPEL

(corner William & Oxford Streets)

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Wellington Street, Tavistock

[stpaulstavistock@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulstavistock@gmail.com)

Pastor Rev. Michael Mayer

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677044 16th Line Road, East Zorra

Pastors Ray Martin & Mike Williamson

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

Service audio recordings available at:

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## TAVISTOCK MISSIONARY

77 Mogk St., Box 220, Tavistock NOB 2R0

Pastor Hugh Rutledge 655-3611

Email: [office@tavistock.church](mailto:office@tavistock.church)

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# COMMUNITY —

## The weather has been ideal this year for planting corn near Shakespeare



Paul Heinbuch, who has spent all his life in South Easthope Township of Perth County, is working at cultivating and harrowing a large field for the second time over, before rolling and corn planting occurs. He is doing the work on the farm owned by Chris and Janice Danen and family of Daneholm Farms.

By Gary West

It's been an extremely busy 10 days, and not a lot of sleep, for farmers in area counties for planting various crops that included lots of corn planting just south

of Shakespeare last week near Road 107. (Highway 59).

The farmers we were able to talk to said this spring has been one of the best in years for timely rains for moisture, and

then extended dry weather for cultivation and planting to occur non-stop.

For livestock farmers, the weatherman also co-operated for the job of manure spreading where favourable dry weather

in late March before a week of rain. This ensured their home-grown fertilizer was applied at the ideal time, avoiding field compaction.

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# STONETOWN TRAVEL





## COMMUNITY —

# Driver for Hire Online Training

By Canada Safety Council

The Canada Safety Council (CSC) last week announced its latest innovative training initiative that supports advanced driver skills and safety within the delivery, passenger, and rideshare industries across Canada.

Driver for Hire Online Training is a collaborative venture by the CSC in partnership with Bluedrop ISM (Bluedrop), a leading training solutions provider, and funded by the Government of Canada's Skills for Success Program. The interactive eLearning focuses on advancing job-specific and essential skills for paid drivers within a variety of growing sectors. The program also covers valuable content from the Government's Skills for Success curriculum.

The CSC first announced its partnership with Bluedrop on December 15, 2022, with the intent of enhancing its training delivery and certification through the implementation of a user-friendly digitized platform for the benefit of instructors and learners alike. This new industry-specific initiative was a logical extension of the partnership between the two training and safety-focused organizations.

"The growth and proliferation of employers and drivers within rideshare and related delivery industries presented an opportunity for advancing driver safety and confidence through a relevant and purpose-built training solution," said Gareth Jones, President & CEO of the CSC. He added,

"as such, a nationally standardized program aimed at improving driver skills, safety, confidence, and overall performance was conceptualized in collaboration with Bluedrop."

The online and interactive program will be made available to employers, employment centres, non-profit agencies and drivers. Jones added "offering the training in a modern and easily consumable format for industry stakeholders was key."

Driver for Hire will be available 24/7, and a quick and easy registration is all it will take to get started. As a fully-funded program, there is no cost to employers or individual drivers in completing the training during the rollout phase. Drivers and job seekers will gain a valuable life-long and transferable digital training certificate, and employers will benefit from added safety, confidence, and job readiness skills.

"Beyond the obvious safety benefits, Driver for Hire can also help many people get a valuable credential to help them find a job. It will provide employers and gig economy companies with a competitive advantage and potential for positive business reviews, safer employees and contractors, and a more loyal and confident workforce," said Emad Rizkalla, Founder and CEO of Bluedrop ISM. In addition, Rizkalla noted that the eLearning format "provides consistent delivery and allows drivers to complete the course on

their own time and at a pace that works for them."

Driver for Hire Online Training will be available nationwide July 2023.



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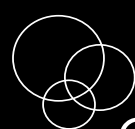
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# COMMUNITY —

## Large machinery is the order of the day, as farmers start on soybean planting



The large sized machinery is still moving on area township roads, as farmers are wrapping up corn planting and ready to start with the planting of soybeans. Most have been very happy with the weather this year as dry weather continues to make for an uninterrupted planting season. (Photo credit: Gary West)

## Stunning sunset



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 was taken on the morning of May 5 at 6:06 a.m. in New Hamburg. (Photo credit: Susan Hammer)

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## SPORTS —

# Rough end to season for WODSS senior boys soccer, girls rugby team headed to finals

By Russel Evans

Waterloo Oxford's senior boys soccer team finished up the spring season last week with a couple of disappointing results, putting the nail in the coffin of a somewhat forgettable season for the squad.

The month of May began on a positive note as WODSS secured their first win four games into a short seven-game season on May 4, with a 2-1 victory over Elmira, and followed it up with a 1-1 draw against Waterloo Collegiate later that same day.

Unfortunately for Waterloo Oxford, the season's final two fixtures were not so positive.

On Tuesday, May 9, WODSS went down 8-2 to Forest Heights Collegiate Institute, a perhaps unsurprising result considering that Forest Heights led the WCSSAA's North Division this season with an undefeated record of five wins, no losses, and two ties.

The final blow came Thursday, May 11. In a match against Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute that WODSS needed to win to have a chance at reaching the postseason. After going down 1-0 a little less than halfway

through the first half, WODSS had some good possessions and drives toward the Cameron Heights goal but was unable to make anything come of these chances. Meanwhile, a less than stellar defensive performance from WODSS meant that Cameron Heights, led by a hat-trick of goals from forward Kemal Omer, sailed to a 6-0 victory – putting the Waterloo Oxford boys' forgettable season to a (somewhat) merciful end.

In better sporting news, WODSS' varsity girls' rugby team has continued their stellar form. Having gone undefeated during the four-game regular season, they have continued this dominant run during the playoffs. After cruising to a 48-0 route over Preston in the May 11 quarter-final, they made similarly quick work of Waterloo Collegiate during the May 15 semi-final – winning by a final score of 36-0.

They will have a chance to complete the perfect season in the final against Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate, who also have a perfect record to this point. That game will take place this Thursday, May 18, at 2:30 p.m. at Grand River Collegiate Institute in Kitchener.



Cameron Heights forward Kemal Omer watches a shot sail just over the Waterloo Oxford net during a match on Thursday, May 11. (Photo credit: Russel Evans)

# Applejacks Historical Season Leads to Schmalz Cup Title

Continued from page 1

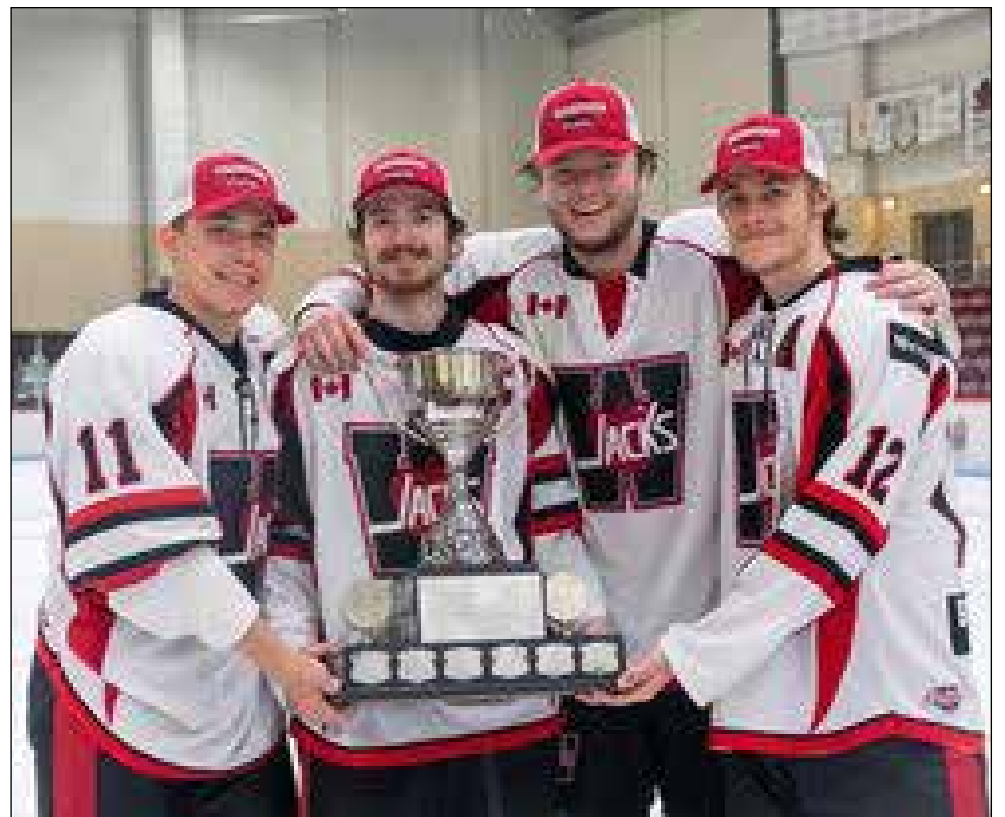
for the title game, the majority being from Wellesley.

The Applejacks opened the scoring less than 90 seconds into the second period as Isiah Katsube netted his eighteenth from Justin McCombs and Kyle Baker. Carson Wicke made it 2-1 after the Eagles tied it, setting the stage for Doerbecker. Clarington would add a goal with six and a half minutes remaining but could not get the equalizer.

Koby Seiling has spent his entire life living in Wellesley, and the 21-year-old defenceman says the championship means so much to him and his family. "You can see how much it means to all of us, but personally it goes way back to when I was three or four. My dad walked me through the (Applejacks) room and let me meet the guys. Watching them play was an inspiration, and it was my dream obviously to make the NHL but to play junior was the next one. To be here right now, I don't know what to say. I'm thinking about my dad, my number one fan, my grandpa who comes to just about every game, the veterans here who supported me. I can't thank them all enough. I want to say thanks to all of them."

Wellesley made it to the final with a thrilling 3-2 overtime win over Lakeshore on Saturday. Seiling scored the game-winner, his third of the postseason, from Adam Hoff. Hoff forced the extra period with a goal at the 13:30 mark of the third on a feed from Curtis Butler. Katsube also scored for the Applejacks.

Wellesley has been blessed by tremendous backing from their fans all season long, something head coach Ryan Gerber says was a huge boost to the team on the weekend. "We couldn't have done it without the support of these fans. It felt like home, we had so many people here cheering. We had a closer drive than the other teams did, but it was just fantastic." Gerber says it's hard to put into words how he feels winning the title. "It's a bit of a whirlwind. Three game weekends are always tough, then add the emotions and how intense this is. [Saturday] was a heck of a game, and we had to get through Lakeshore to get to the championship anyways, and they were a heck of a team. Clarington is a high-powered offensive team, and they have some big kids over there." He adds his number one goalie deserves a lot of the credit. "He was 16 years old coming in here, being the backstop and leading these guys, he's got a bright future ahead for sure."



The four graduating players, from left to right – Kyle Baker, Justin McCombs, Patrick Klazer, and Koby Seiling. (Photo credit: 519 Sports Online and Censational Photography)



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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 shot depicts a cardinal and a goldfinch hanging out in a gazebo in Petersburg. (Photo credit: Lorrie MP)

**Pet of the Week**



**CHASE**

Our pet of the week is Chase, an 8.5 year old golden retriever. Chase loves long walks on the beach, running after his hockey balls, and people! Chase is owned by Gazette graphic designer Tyler Carruthers and his father John.

Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing [info@wilmotpost.ca](mailto:info@wilmotpost.ca)



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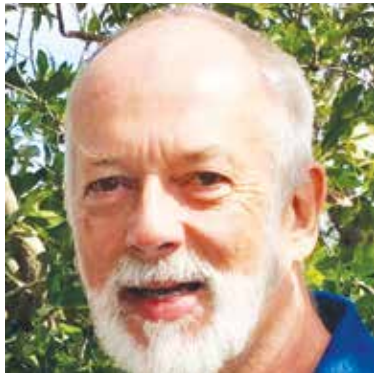


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## TRAVEL —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Hawk's Cay: a great Keys get-away



**By Paul Knowles**

"Now, hold your fore-fingers up in the air and twirl them," she said. So we did – and we were promptly enthusiastically splashed by a dolphin who clearly enjoyed the moment.

It turns out, the dolphin's trainer had instructed us to give the "splash them like the dickens" signal to Indie the dolphin. It was hilarious.

When I say, "dolphin's trainer," by the way, I suspect I have that completely backwards. It struck me that the dolphins were well aware of who was in charge – and those "in charge" creatures did not have two legs.

The splash was just one, very wet, element of our wonderful time spent with Indie. We also got to touch flippers – well, fingers and flippers – and to give Indie a careful, gentle hug.

All of this was just one part of our stay at Hawks' Cay, a resort in the Florida Keys that manages to offer laid-back luxury – a tough combination to achieve, but terrific when it happens.

Getting to Hawk's Cay is a treat in itself, because it's on Duck Key, one in a long string of keys – or islands – linked by the Overseas Highway. To get to Hawk's Cay, you drive over the ocean for kilometer after kilometer; just south of the resort is the renowned Seven Mile Bridge, which spans, in American measurement, seven miles of nothing but ocean. It is spectacularly beautiful, probably my favourite drive anywhere in the world.

Hawks' Cay itself is a large, well-designed resort. We stayed in the hotel, with a suite overlooking one of five pool areas – four entirely family friendly, the other for 21-year-olds and up. To be fair, it was latter, adults-only area, dubbed Oasis Cay, that bore the welcoming sign that read, "Must be 21 or Older (Maturity Optional)". The pools are located throughout the resort, because in addition to the hotel accommodations, there are villas scattered around the spacious property.

There is also a saltwater lagoon, available for swimmers who seek a bit of the briny sea.

When it comes to leisure, Hawk's Cay makes sure there is something for everyone; each day at the Coral Cay Activities & Adventure centre there is something new every hour on the hour, ranging from a family scavenger hunt to a touch tank demo that lets kids and adults get up close and personal with denizens of the sea.

There is a similar menu of activities and entertainment at pool-

side, all day long, along with evening concerts at the poolside fire pit.

Hawk's Cay has the typical, tropical eating options like a Tiki bar and grill, beside the kid-friendly pool, and the Pilar Bar, by the Oasis Cay.

But there are two higher-end dining spots – Sixty-One Prime, in the hotel itself, where the service was superb, and the Angler and Ale, a more pub-style eatery by the docks, with great views of the water.

One activity got our immediate attention – there are many pickleball courts. It was easy to find others of similar intent, and set up a game or two. There are tennis courts, and a putting course for golfers... and non-golfers, too.

Being on an island in the Florida Keys, it's not surprising that the resort also offers every kind of water adventure – fishing, snorkeling, scuba. It's probably illegal in the Keys not to have these choices!

Hawk's Cay offers so many leisure activities I would not be surprised if a family or a couple simply checked in and stayed. But it's also true that, within a twenty-minute drive or less, there is a full menu of interesting destinations.

Like Robbie's of Islamorada, a unique place that almost defies description. There is a very rustic restaurant and bar; booths filled with clothes and souvenirs ranging from the creative to the frankly tacky; and an opportunity to hand-feed enormous, raven-



Feeding tarpon at Robbie's of Islamorada. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

ous tarpon. A must-visit.

Or the new Aquarium Encounter, where you can see just about every creature native to the area, and more, besides.

Or the Turtle Hospital, a wildlife rescue centre so special it will get its own feature in this space. As will Pigeon Key, an apparently uninteresting little island at the Seven Mile Bridge that is actually the site of some astonishing historical events.

All of these locales are minutes away from Hawk's Cay.

The resort is immaculate; and service is superb – the staff at Hawk's Cay seem to really enjoy their jobs, and make every effort to meet the needs, wants, and whims of their guests.

Now, back to the dolphin en-

counter. It would be easy for the folks at Hawk's Cay to advertise a chance to meet a dolphin, line up a bunch of folks on a submerged floating platform, and get the whole thing over as quickly as possible. Not here. We were in a group – one family and one couple. And each and every one of us got lots of personal time with Indie. The trainers were patient with nervous children, hospitable to all, clearly conscious of the welfare of the dolphins, and determined that everyone involved – those with arms and legs, and those with flippers – would have a great experience.

And we did.

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



Hawks Cay – family-friendly and luxurious at the same time.



The author with Indie the Dolphin.



OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *Not Today Marshalls. Not Today*



By Scott Dunstall

I went out to Marshalls the other day because I needed to buy new polo shirts for the summer. Hey Scott, didn't you tell us you have over 30 polos? I did, and I do. That was 10 pounds lighter ago. Now I am 10 pounds, not so light. Because you know, I just can't keep my yap shut when I wander into the kitchen at 3 a.m. like a bear just rising from hibernation.

This is new territory for me because I have been able to maintain my weight within 5 pounds since I started my stylistic journey about 11 years ago. I have literally been dragging around a 10 pound bowling ball since

Christmas. Can't shake it. Gettin' real tired of it. And gettin' real tired of people asking me when "it's" due. I can't motivate myself. I will find a thousand reasons why I should have that Jos. Louis right now. It's sweet. It's delicious. It's creamy. It's chocolatey... be right back. Just kidding. But seriously, I want a Joe Louis right now.

So here is the plan Stan. I will not eat beyond 7:30 at night. I will limit my bread intake to two pieces a day, and I will follow OMAD (One Meal A Day). It's brutal, but it's worked for me in the past. OMAD is about as trendy as I get. In fact, when I was younger, OMAD was called "skipping breakfast" so trendy is as trendy as you want or can imagine. I don't do Keto. Or sticks and bark. I'm not a friggin' elephant. I may look like one, but I sure as heck won't eat like one. And I need to remind myself that it will not happen overnight. I am not one of those people that follows the advice of only weighing yourself once in the morning because you are 5 pounds heavier by the end of the

day. I don't care. It's how I keep score. If I have to take everything off, including my wedding ring, three times a day over the next three weeks while I do this then I'm going to darn well do it.

Eating less is easy. I just eat less. And make everyone around me miserable. Or I could combine that with some exercise...and make everyone around me at the gym miserable as well.

So I just do some simple things on the exercise front. Every other day I do this (or, as my wife just reminded me, I don't. But I'm going to): 20 minutes on the treadmill. Set at 4.2. Either run, jog, walk fast, or if I'm not paying attention go flying off the end into a wall like all those people on YouTube.

I don't do leg days. At my age, leg days can accidentally become hernia days. Treadmill is my lower body.

Touch my toes 15 times. No cheating. Keep your feet together and bend from the waist (shoot your butt out when you bend),

30 curl reps with 10 pound

weights X 2. I blew my shoulder out so I could longer do shorter reps with heavier weights.

"Angels in the snow." Lie flat and swoop your arms up and touch your ear, like you're making an angel wing. 15 times on both sides. This will help to straighten your spine.

15 negative push ups—also

straightens your spine.

15 bird wing flaps holding 10 pound weights.

15 wall crawls. Standing with your back flat against the wall and your arms raised up like you're under arrest (not speaking from actual experience). Slide your arms up and down the wall as low as you can go and as high as you can go.

This straightens out your spine also. Straightening your spine pulls your stomach up.

Anyhow, I didn't buy those "next size up" Polo shirts at Marshall's because at 34.99 a pop it gets expensive fast. Instead, I have chosen to make all the people around me miserable for the next three weeks.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - MAY/JUNE 2023

<p><b>May 21st</b></p> <p><b>New Dundee Community Fireworks</b></p> <p>Optimist Club of New Dundee holding community fireworks event around 4 p.m. Bring together families and friends from all over the region to celebrate the Victoria long weekend with fun and a spectacular fireworks display.</p>	<p><b>Sale</b></p> <p>Includes a treasure trove auction, community hymn sing, plant and flower tent, run for relief, kids zone with Jolly Jumps bouncy castles, face painting, barbecue food including chicken, pork-on-a-bun and more. Takes place starting at 5 p.m. on Friday (May 26th) to 2 p.m. on Saturday (May 27th) at the New Hamburg Fairgrounds &amp; Arena on 251 Jacob Street.</p>	<p>1 Catherine Street at 1:30 p.m. To raise money for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.</p>	<p>on the Township of Wellesley YouTube page.</p>	<p>start at 1 p.m. at the Foxwood Golf &amp; Country Club. Cost is \$165 including harmonized sale tax (HST) per player. For registration and sponsorship inquiries, email paulmackie@rogers.com or troyhoerle@rogers.com.</p>
<p><b>May 21st</b></p> <p>Hickson Fireworks Display</p> <p>Hosted by the Hickson &amp; District Lions at Hickson Park at dusk. Rain date is May 22nd. Cost is entry by donation, suggested is \$5 per person. Food booth available.</p>	<p><b>May 27th</b></p> <p><b>Stonecroft Community Garage Sale</b></p> <p>Taking place at 1476 Haysville Road in New Hamburg from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Multiple homes are participating in this year's community garage sale. Lots of great items being offered. Rain or shine event.</p>	<p><b>May 28th</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast in the Park</b></p> <p>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, home-fries, toast, juice and coffee. Adults are \$15; 10 and under is \$10</p>	<p><b>June 3rd</b></p> <p><b>Morningside Community Yard Sale</b></p> <p>Taking place at Morningside Retirement Village from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Open to the public - all are welcome.</p>	<p><b>June 7th</b></p> <p><b>East Zorra-Tavistock Council Meeting</b></p> <p>In-person council meeting taking place at 695566 17th Line in In-nerkip starting at 9 a.m.</p>
<p><b>May 24th</b></p> <p><b>Food Trucks &amp; Arts Night</b></p> <p>Takes place at Wellesley Public School from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>May 28th</b></p> <p><b>Wellesley &amp; District Lions Club Pet Value Walk for Dog Guides</b></p> <p>Taking place at the picnic shelter at</p>	<p><b>May 29th</b></p> <p><b>Wilmot Council Meeting</b></p> <p>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><b>June 3rd</b></p> <p><b>Wellesley Community Garage Sale</b></p> <p>Taking place at the Wellesley arena from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. To reserve a free space, email wellesleygaragesale@gmail.com. Town wide from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. To add your house number to a map of sales, visit the Facebook event page: Wellesley Community Garage Sale.</p>	<p><b>June 10th</b></p> <p><b>Shakespeare and Community Athletic Association Field Day</b></p> <p>Taking place at Shakespeare park. Kids games and midway during the day along with a parade at noon. Annual fish fry later in the afternoon. For info or tickets, call Deb Bell at 519-276-8109 or Kristene Ankenmann at 519-274-2744.</p>
<p><b>May 26th &amp; May 27th</b></p> <p><b>New Hamburg Mennonite Relief</b></p>		<p><b>May 30th</b></p> <p><b>Wellesley Council Meeting</b></p> <p>Hybrid council meeting taking place at 4805 William Hastings Line in Crosshill at 6:45 p.m. Also streamed</p>	<p><b>June 5th</b></p> <p><b>Golf Tournament</b></p> <p>Hosted by the New Hamburg Board of Trade and Wilmot Lions / Lioness Club. Lunch starts at noon, shotgun</p>	



OPINION —

THE PUBLISHERS DESK: *We're living in the future!*



By Stewart Grant

This year's Stanley Cup will be won by either Las Vegas, Dallas, Carolina, or Florida. I'm not old

enough to remember the days of the "Original 6" of the National Hockey League but my first years were those of the "Original 21" that lasted from 1979 to 1991. Back in these days, who could imagine that the Minnesota North Stars would move to Dallas, that the Hartford Whalers would end up in Carolina, and that professional hockey would make its way to Florida or Las Vegas!

Through the marvels of technology, I'm writing this article today from Copenhagen, Denmark, which I did after watching the highlights of last night's Dallas

Stars vs. Seattle Kraken game 7 via YouTube (invented 2005). Upon finishing this, I'll "email" it to Tyler Carruthers who "works remotely" at his apartment in London who will then "upload" it to our printer in Mississauga as part of this week's newspaper. In this paragraph, practically the only word that is an old-fashioned outlier is "newspaper"!

I remember my early days of travel being so stressful; in particular, not knowing where I was going. Fiddling with our Rand McNally atlas, Laurie and I would argue about whether should turn left, right, or back around. Usual-

ly, the right answer was whatever way she wanted to go.

On Monday of this week, upon arriving via train in Hillerød, despite the lack of signage we knew exactly which way to walk coming out of the train station to get us to Frederiksborg Castle - thanks to the Apple Map guidance on my iPhone. We've had similar experiences throughout our trip, as the wonders of technology have made things go so smoothly. Not only have we always known where we are going, but the sights we've seen and the meals we've had have all been great as we've leaned towards

places that have been favourably reviewed on TripAdvisor, yet another 21st century invention.

My grandparents' generation, whose lives began without electricity in the home or without a family car, and many of whom still continue living today in this modern society, have surely experienced a period of vast technological change that will be unmatched.

But at my relatively young age of 49, I still sometimes marvel at the changes seen so far, and think, "We're living in the future!"

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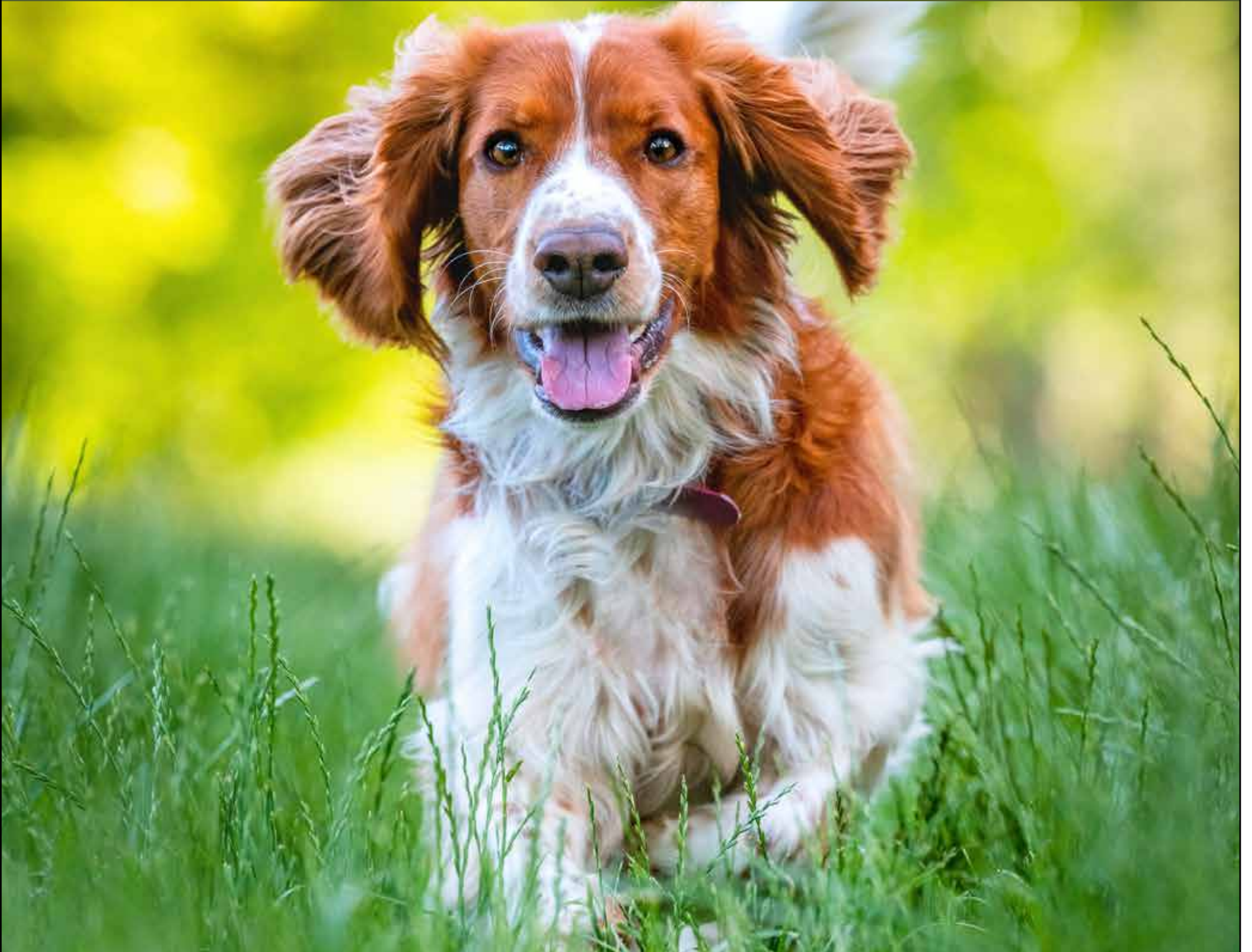
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