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FREE

Fourth annual Foxwood Open disc golf tournament sees athletes attend from across the country



The winner of the 2023 Foxwood Open, Thomas Gilbert, left, with one of the tournament's directors Sean O'Reilly. He won with a score of 28-under par. (Photo credit: Grand River Disc Golf Association)

By Veronica Reiner

About 228 athletes from across the country travelled to Foxwood Golf & Country Club in Baden this past weekend for one of the biggest disc golf tournaments of the year in Canada.

The three-day event, called the Foxwood Open, kicked off on May 20 until May 22.

"It was absolutely phenomenal," said Adam Hussey, one of the tournament directors and president of the Grand River Disc Golf Association. "It couldn't have gone smoother. All the reactions we're hearing is that it was a well-run

tournament. I'm quite happy things worked out the way they did."

The Foxwood Open is a qualifying event for the US Disc Golf Championships, held in South Carolina in October. Competitors came from all across Canada and the United States.

"From Canada, the furthest competitor was from British Columbia, we had a good number of people come from Quebec, and we had a large number of Americans coming," said Hussey. "It's definitely bringing tourists to the area, which I think is pretty cool. It's amazing an event like this can attract people from

so far away."

This was the fourth annual Foxwood Open event. Other than the inaugural year in 2019, this was the first event that there were no restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were several categories, including mixed pro open, women's pro open, mixed pro 40+, mixed pro 50+, mixed amateur 1, women's amateur 1, mixed amateur 40+, women's amateur 40+, mixed amateur 2, and women's amateur 2.

The winner of the mixed pro open was

Continued on page 2

Premier Ford Talks Boundary Adjustment with the Gazette

Defends Province's Housing Growth Agenda

By Lee Griffi

In last week's Gazette, we reported on the City of Woodstock requesting to enter into discussions with East Zorra-Tavistock on a boundary adjustment that would see EZT give up farmland to Woodstock to provide options for future housing development for the growing city.

The Gazette was able to exclusively interview Ontario Premier Doug Ford on the need for land and the effects on agricultural and small-town communities. One of the main arguments against expanding Woodstock's borders is the only land available is prime farmland. Ford said that while he appreciates the concerns of those opposed, the need for housing is real and extensive. "I'd like to know where we're putting the 445,000 people that arrived last year in the fastest growing region of North America. I understand their concerns, but no one is going to put a gun to their head and force a farmer to sell their property. If they want to retain their property, they will retain it forever."

Ford said he could go back in history and show where Woodstock was farmer's fields as well as other cities like Mississauga and Brampton. He added development has happened for years and will continue to occur. "If Toyota is looking to expand and put in a battery plant in and around that area creating another three thousand jobs, should I refuse them and say no, people don't want anyone living in the area." Ford added he isn't about paving over farmland, but he has to be sensible. "We are going to have to make sure we have a happy balance by protecting the green base and creating economic development."

Continued on page 4

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NEWS —

Fourth annual Foxwood Open disc golf tournament sees athletes attend from across the country



The Grand River Disc Golf Association, many of whose members attended the Foxwood Open, has grown in membership over the years up to about 200 now. Members come from across Waterloo Region, including Baden, New Hamburg, Wellesley, Linwood, Waterloo, Kitchener, Cambridge, Elmira and Ayr. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)

Continued from page 1

Thomas Gilbert of California, who scored -28 par overall (54 in round one, 55 in round two, and 52 in round three). "He's an exceptional disc golfer and just a wonderful person, and man - he can throw them far," said Hussey, of Gilbert.

In second place was Casey Hanemayer of British Columbia, who scored -19 par (55 in round one, 57 in round two, and 58 in round three), and third place went to Calvin Roorda of Toronto, who scored -18 par (59 in round one, 58 in round two, and 54 in round three).

Chanel Budinsky was the winner of the women's pro open, scoring +6 par; Greg Grootenboer scored first in the mixed pro 40+ at -10 par; and the mixed pro 50+ winner was Darrell Bankes at -3 par.

The mixed amateur 1 winner was Marco Cannella at -5; Chloe Winter won the women's amateur 1 category at +13 par; Kenneth Alexander scored first place in the mixed amateur 40+ at -6; Jane Logan won the women's amateur 40+ category at +41 par; Neil Engelberg scored -1 par to win the mixed amateur 2 category; and the women's amateur 2 winner was Lauren Williams at +62 par.

General manager of the Foxwood Golf & Country Club, Jim Duggan, noted that Foxwood has three nine hole golf courses and two 18 hole disc golf courses.

"We normally on focus on golf - this weekend is a pretty big disc golf weekend," said Duggan. "We do have a disc golf league on Thursday nights; we have about 60 guys out for that every Thursday."

Disc golf is a flying disc sport in which players throw a disc at a target, using rules similar to golf. The Grand River Disc Golf Association has members from all over the Waterloo Region, including Baden, New Hamburg, Linwood, Wellesley, Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Elmira and Ayr.

Hussey said that disc golf has grown rapidly in popularity over the years, and that disc golf now has a diverse membership base. Seven years ago, the Grand River Disc Golf Association had about 30 members, and is now about to hit 200 members this year.

"Twenty years ago, disc golf was a very small group of people really just focused on themselves, very few kids, very little diversity," said Hussey. "That's been changing quickly - more women are getting into

the sport, and the growth of disc golf for women has been huge. As well as kids - there was a number of kids that were in this tournament."

Disc golf allows the opportunity to connect with other like-minded members. "What I really love about disc golf is that it's a very social sport," said Hussey. "I have met so many amazing people locally because of it, and I've met so many amazing people out of the area because of it."

Hussey recommends anyone interested in trying out the sport is welcome to join the club. "Being around other people, learning the game from other people is a lot easier way to learn the sport than just trying it out on your own."

Anyone interested in learning more can visit www.grdga.ca.



The fourth annual Foxwood Open disc golf tournament saw athletes attend from across Canada and in the United States, including British Columbia and California. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)

COMMUNITY —

EZT Exploring Community Flagpole, Council Supports Flying Pride Flag

By Lee Griffi

East Zorra-Tavistock Council has passed a motion to have staff explore a community flagpole which, if approved, would see a flag available for groups and causes to potentially raise their flags at the new township office in Hickson. The motion says, "resolved that council direct staff to research and develop a policy regarding flags on municipal properties, including the design of a township flag, and the potential of a community flagpole; and that the policy be brought back to council for consideration at the September 6, 2023, council meeting."

While there were no delegations at last Wednesday's meeting in Innerkip, the township did receive a letter from the Oxford Pride Committee requesting their flag to be flown in Hickson this June and one against their cause from Hickson resident Brian Middleton. Middleton's letter citing constitutional issues was not brought up during debate, although councillor Scott Zehr did say he had a chat with Middleton. "We had a good discussion, but I believe the Pride flag is positive for the community. I don't think the Canadian flag makes everyone feel inclusive." Middleton had requested that "only the Federal, Provincial and municipal flags be permitted to be raised in all public spaces, to maintain unity and peace and to respect the equal rights of all citizens according to the rule of law and the charter of rights and freedoms."

Currently, township policy does not allow any community flags to be raised at the township office. "A community flag would take a fair bit of study, and it would be a secondary flag, not primary," said mayor Phil Schaefer. He added that this is new territory for the township and that "many groups are not well-intentioned." The mayor said he would welcome the Pride flag at the township building. "If we go ahead with this flagpole, if Oxford Pride applies to have a flag raising, and is willing to abide by our rules and regulations, I will support that."

Councillors were unanimous in their support to fly the Pride flag this June, but the current building does not have an available pole. The new township building will have three flagpoles for the Canadian, Ontario, and an EZT flag. Deputy Mayor Brad Smith asked if the township actually had a flag, and the consensus was it does not.

Councillor Matthew Gillespie felt a community flag should be located away from the township office in a park where ratepayers have the opportunity to express themselves. "Hickson is not the most well-travelled place in the township, he added. Councillor Jeremy Smith said the most secure place for a flagpole would be at the new office in Hickson. "Remember, we are three separate communities together. Does having three flagpoles open us up to that kind of behaviour?"

While he didn't elaborate on his thought, Schaefer did say the township is entering into new territory. "Some groups are not well-intentioned."

Tami Murray is the President of the Oxford County Pride Committee and said she's pleased with council's decision. "I think it's a progressive move forward. Many of these flag bylaws are from the 90's, and we really need to update them."

Zorra Township had previously agreed to fly the Pride flag despite some criticism and reinforced that stance at their council meeting last week when a delegation asked them to reverse their decision. Southwest Oxford and Norwich Townships have decided not to fly any special interest flags, but another Oxford community has decided to implement a community flagpole. "Blandford Blenheim has reversed their policy. They are going to get a distinct flagpole, and they will let me know when it is installed," added Murray. Oxford County has also agreed to fly the Pride flag at the OCAB building in Woodstock and will be doing a proclamation for Pride Month. Blandford Blenheim has left the decision on what flags to fly solely at the discretion of their CEO. "I don't want to do that. Any flag request should come through council to approve," said EZT CAO Karen DePrest. Councillor Gillespie agreed, saying council should make the decisions on what flags would get to fly in Hickson.

Murray said she is frustrated that not everyone is on board in supporting the cause because in 2023, diversity, inclusion, and equity is a significant component of what society has recognized and learned moving forward. "The disappointment of not embracing that is my concern and it does really continue to perpetuate issues of oppression and marginalization." She added optics and visibility are important for many minorities. "Having Indigenous opportunities to fly a flag, these are marginalized groups that have not had the same rights as the general population. No heterosexual has ever been arrested for getting married. You've always had the right to have children. You never lost your job or your military service as a result of the one you loved."

Councillors did not discuss Oxford Pride's request for sponsorship from the taxpayers of EZT, something Murray says should change going forward. "I think they will have to align those two things. Once the flagpole is up and they find a location next year, that will probably shift as many other townships sponsor our events and activities." Murray adds that Pride Month attracts a lot of tourism dollars to the community. "Our events get two to three hundred people. I can tell you at our Pride Prom, we had people from Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo, Windsor, I was quite surprised." Murray says Ingersoll, Zorra Township and Woodstock have each committed \$500 to sponsor the group's activities this June.



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COMMUNITY —

Region shares more info Snyder's Road and Waterloo Street roundabout

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Region of Waterloo has published answers to questions that were asked at the April 5 public meeting about the proposed roundabout at Snyder's Road and Waterloo Street in Wilmot Township. They were published on the Engage Waterloo Region website at www.engagewr.ca around May 18.

When asked if the region was moving forward with the project, Engineer Jeff Nyenhuis responded, "A roundabout has not yet been approved by council, a project approval report is scheduled to go to council this summer. No additional public consultation has been scheduled for this

project."

From 2016 to 2020 at the intersection, there have been five injury collisions. The most common collision type is the rear end type collision, which represents 60 per cent of the total.

The estimated total daily traffic at this intersection is 14,172. This number was compared to other single lane intersections in the region, including Herrgott Road and Ament Line in Wellesley Township at 6,045 and Fountain Street and Blair Road in Cambridge at 22,817. This ranks this intersection as 23 out of about 3,351 intersections assessed.

Out of the estimated total of vehicles using this intersection daily, about 190 are commercial trucks. The region also said, "The proposed single-lane roundabout, including the entrance and exit to the roundabout, would be designed geometrically to adequately accommodate all types of large commercial vehicles.

The cost for this proposed roundabout is estimated to be \$3,000,000. The cost for new traffic signals with additional turning lanes is estimated at \$2,000,000. The region said that the proposed roundabout would reduce injury collisions, reduce delays, have lower life cycle costs, and reduce idling times. These construction costs will

be funded by development charges.

Those who use the intersection would be forced to take a detour during the construction time frame. Although Nyenhuis said the project has not been officially approved yet, the region has listed May 2025 as the construction start date on the Engage Waterloo Region website, along with fall 2025 as the end date.

"Our staff will work with Wilmot Township staff and emergency services personnel to develop staging and detour plans, and we'll communicate these plans to the public well in advance of construction," reads the published report.

Premier Ford Talks Boundary Adjustment with the Gazette

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The Gazette asked the premier if, in fact, Toyota is looking at opening a battery plant in Ontario and Ford said they will be doing something somewhere. "Toyota and other auto manufacturers, their headquarters will say we're picking 50 sites around the world. If we are fortunate enough to be on that list, I am going to do everything I can to land that battery plant here in Ontario. Where? I can't give you an exact location but is it going to be made close to one of their facilities? I think it will be." Ford added it would be similar to the Volkswagen where they started with 90 locations around the world and whittled it down to two before choosing Ontario over Tennessee. "If you went to St. Thomas a few years ago, you could shoot a cannon through their downtown. People are hungry, and they want it there. Cities wanting it will put their best foot forward, and if someone says no, that's not going to

be very appealing."

The province is taking some steps to increase density, such as building housing on top of transit stations in the GTA, but Ford said not everyone wants to live in a condo. "It's easy for people to say, don't worry, live in a condo downtown, but people want a backyard, they want a white picket fence. If someone has another idea about where we are going to put these people, I'm all ears. I'm open to a discussion with anyone."

It is well known the economy in Ontario is growing but many skilled and unskilled jobs remain unfilled. Ford believes part of the reason is there isn't enough housing. "I believe in a happy balance, an open discussion, and listening to what the people are feeling out there. In saying that, I feel we will have enough land to create a supply. Right now, there is a massive demand but not enough supply. Every single business I go by in Ontario, they need people.

Small, medium, large, they are short people. And when we attract companies like Volkswagen it was based on do you have land ready to build." Ford says he has two choices to make. "Do what the Liberals did and drive every single business, 300,000 jobs out of the province, or we take the happy medium approach and create the environment and conditions for companies to come here." Ford added there are nearly 700,000 more people working in Ontario compared to when he took office five years ago. "We have a massive influx of immigration, massive amounts of businesses are being attracted to Ontario, and everyone benefits, including the farmers."

One of the organizations dead set against a boundary adjustment is the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Tracy Arts is the zone director for Oxford and Elgin Counties and said farmland needs to be saved. "Farmland is precious, it's a finite resource. More than half of Canada's best

farmland, that's Class 1 is in Ontario, is in Oxford County. We need to be more responsible with the land that produces the food we eat. We have a responsibility for us and for future generations." Arts says homes are now being encouraged and, in some cases, funded to create basement apartments, and granny flats. "These things need to be looked at to make sure we've maximized these opportunities within Woodstock first to maximize our infrastructure. Arts pointed to a quote from Kevin Eby, a former member of Ontario's Greenbelt Council who resigned along with six others over concerns about the direction of environmental and conservation policy in the province. He said, "there isn't a shortage of land in Ontario for housing. Municipalities have enough land." Arts pointed out that Waterloo Region was able to meet the government's 25-year growth and stay within the urban boundaries. "I believe we should be able to do it too."

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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COMMUNITY —

On the Wings of a Snow White Dove



New Hamburg's Jim Boshart with a number of his 50 doves that grew from a pair he bought five years ago and now are part of his "Spirit Flights" for weddings, funerals, and celebrations.

By Gary West

If readers are old enough to remember the Ferlin Husky country hit "On The Wings of a Dove," you couldn't help but think of this song if you visited a small and picturesque country property between New Hamburg and Baden in Wilmot Township.

Jim Boshart and his wife Wendy, live on Christner Road, just outside of town with his hobby that he calls "Spirit Flights."

He now has 50 beautiful white doves, when released from their shelter in his nearby shed, fly in the sky over head in perfect patterns and always come back as Jim whistles for their return. They have the same DNA as homing pigeons.

What is interesting about his passion for the doves is that he now offers families who are celebrating weddings, funerals or anniversaries, to have him come with the majestic white birds and add a special



One of Jim Bosharts doves flying from its home. After a short flight overhead, it came back to the comfort of its familiar surroundings with the other doves.

touch to the occasion.

He recalled when his own mother passed, the family released three doves by the graveside following the service, and how unique and emotional it was.

The doves will circle overhead, as if angels had arrived to escort the loved one's spirit to heaven. Then a single dove is released to join the others flying overhead, and they were seen flying off together into the horizon. This represents the Trinity

(Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

For weddings, Boshart says a dove release is symbolic of love, peace and the beginning of a newly married couple's life together. As doves will mate for life, the symbol of fidelity and love are an ideal addition to a wedding celebration.

Dove releases occur between May 1 and October 31 and if interested Jim Boshart can be reached at 519-748-7484 or email jboshart@cwisp.ca.

Wilmot Township opens online survey to get public feedback on its noise bylaw

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Staff at the Township of Wilmot are looking to modernize its noise bylaw, and to that end, are offering an online survey until Friday, June 9, where members of the public can offer their feedback.

Those who fill out the survey will all be entered into a draw to win a "Weekend in Wilmot" prize pack that includes four free skating passes to the Wilmot Recreation

Complex and a family pass to Castle Kilbride.

Proposed changes to the noise bylaw up for consideration include:

- specific times and places when noise is not permitted,
- providing a clear process for noise exemption requests,
- and listed permanent noise exemptions

for council approved community events, for example Canada Day, Victoria Day, Castle Kilbride concerts, etc.

The first part of the survey asks questions about noise related to construction projects, including what time it should stop, what time it should end, and whether it should be allowed on a Sunday.

It also asks questions about the timing of noise from outdoor events and activities,

as well as lawnmowers and other motorized equipment. The full survey is available on the township website until June 9 at 4:30 p.m.

There have also been two in-person engagement events that have taken place to get more feedback on the topic, including on May 11 and May 13.



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COMMUNITY —

Public works week takes place from May 21 to 27

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

From May 21 to May 27 is National Public Works Week, where municipalities recognize employees in Engineering and Environmental Services, and Transportation Services, that provide essential services to the community.

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A big thank you and hats off to the public works teams.

Growing the game



For the last several years, St. Marys resident Ted Fuller has been growing the game of crokinole worldwide by distributing thousands of crokinole boards sold through his website, www.crokinole.ca.

Recently, Mr. Fuller was recognized for “growing the game” in a different way – he is now recognized as the Guinness World Record Holder for owning the World’s Largest Crokinole Board.

To get your Crokinole fix, stop by Ted’s Crokinole Canada store at 5 Industrial Road in St. Marys, or go see the world’s best compete in Tavistock on Saturday, June 3rd when the village hosts the annual World Crokinole Championships at Tavistock Arena. (Stewart Grant photo)

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COMMUNITY —

EZT council meeting highlights

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Check out what happened at the May 17 East Zorra-Tavistock council meeting with a quick read of the following highlights:

Council received a letter from the Oxford County Pride Committee requesting a flag raising; and from Brian Middleton requesting council ban non-government flags on government buildings. Council approved a motion, directing staff to research and develop a policy for flags on

township properties, including a potential community flag pole, and come back with a report by the September 6 council meeting.

Pam Antonio and Frank Gross from Oxford County presented to council about the upcoming transition of the Blue Box Program to Extended Producer Responsibility. Oxford County's planned transition date is December 31, 2025.

Council adopted a new municipal alcohol

policy, with an effective date of September 1.

Council approved a new one year agreement with Hickson Sports and Recreation Inc. regarding shared management facilities with the township, for Hickson Park and associated facilities.

The Request for Proposal for the Tavistock Spray Pad has been issued and a pre-bid site meeting was held with interested bidders.

Sitting as the Committee of Adjustment and then in public meeting, council approved a minor variance at 636584 14th Line in Tavistock. The variance provided relief from the Oxford county bylaw Section 5.1, to increase the maximum height of a building accessory to residential use from 5.5 m (18 ft) to 6.1 m (20 ft).

The next regularly scheduled East Zorra-Tavistock Council Meeting is set for Wednesday, June 7, at 9 a.m.

WRPS host safety information session today aimed at those 55+

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

An information session aimed at those aged 55 and older will take place today (Thursday, May 25) from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the New Hamburg Community Centre at 251 Jacob Street in

New Hamburg. There is an elevator for accessibility. It will be hosted by the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) and cover topics including scamming, safety, traffic, and then a general question-and-answer period.

"During a conversation with David Mullock, Manager, Government Relations at Waterloo Regional Police Services, I expressed concerns I have heard from our 55+ community," said Wilmot Ward Four Councillor Lillianne Dunstall. "I asked if we could have an information session for

this group, and I am very happy to say he made it happen."

According to the 2021 Census, Wilmot's population is 21,429 and about 7,320 of those are 55+.

Members of the North Easthope Antique Tractor club were in Wellesley last week



Milo Westlake admiring the antique tractors from the past, in the parking lot across from Schmidtsville in Wellesley last week.

By Gary West

Famous for their touring to different areas in Perth and Waterloo Counties, is the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club, otherwise known as N.E.A.T., who stopped by the Schmidtsville Diner and Gift Shop for breakfast last week.

Pictured is Milo Westlake from Nafziger Road in Wilmot Township, who has been a member for seven years and enjoys the

social time and driving his tractor when weather permits.

The club President, John Mohr, reminds everyone to take part in the club's tractor auction, on Friday May 26, at 6:30 p.m., at this years Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) relief sale, with all proceeds going to finance the work of the MCC.

More info from John at 226-747-5533.

WRPS Deputy Chiefs sworn in



An official swearing in ceremony took place on Tuesday, May 23 for two new Waterloo Regional Police Service Deputy Chiefs, including Deputy Chief Jennifer Davis and Deputy Chief Eugene Fenton. (Photo credit: Waterloo Regional Police Service)

COMMUNITY —

New Dundee fireworks display takes place over long weekend



The fireworks display around dusk in New Dundee on Sunday, May 21. (Photo credit: Facebook/Ticked Off)



Some Star Wars characters made an appearance at the New Dundee Fireworks event on Sunday, May 21, including Kylo Ren and a Stormtrooper. (Photo credit: Facebook/501st Canadian Garrison)

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff
The New Dundee Community Fireworks event took place on Sunday, May 21. The event took place around the New Dundee

Community Centre at 1028 Queen Street and included a vendors market, beer garden, midway rides, live music, food trucks, and a fireworks display.

Rides were provided by Kiddies Fun Trak, a party equipment rental service based in Cambridge. Food trucks in attendance included The Serial Griller Food Truck, Passado Brasil Food Truck, Hissing Goose

Coffee Roasters, Kono Pizza Catering, Fo' Cheezy Food Truck, Los Rolling Tacos, BeaverTrails Mobile KW - Huron Region and Tastes Moreish to Me.

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COMMUNITY —

At 102 years of age, Tavistock's Jean Houghton is still a very active senior citizen

By Gary West

The Tavistock area has been home to many famous and important residents over the years, and a resident of the Maples Home for Seniors could easily fit into that category.

Jean Houghton, who celebrated her 102nd birthday at the end of April, would probably think otherwise, but those who know her personally, would find that to be true.

There aren't very many days during the week when you don't see Jean walking briskly out of the Maples, around the block or even uptown to keep up her daily exercise regime with her walker.

Son Vernon with his wife Diane visit weekly and we felt it important to ask them to bring us the history behind their ageless mother, who spent much of her life in this village that she calls home.

Jean and husband Russ came to Tavistock in 1946 after Russ's stint in the Canadian Air Force in Western Canada. They rented an apartment above Paul Morgenroth's insurance office in uptown Tavistock.

They then rented a building that housed an old blacksmith shop where Irvin and Larry's Zehr's garage is today.

Jean will say that times were tough, but they saved enough money to build their own shop at the south-east corner of Jacob and William streets, where now the building is a residential house after Bob Stere transformed it from a shop

to a house in later years.

The Houghton business started as a body shop and later expanded into a Ford and Volkswagen sales and service dealership.

In their hay-day, they sold 38 new Volkswagens in one year and serviced many makes and models of vehicles at the same time.

After 24 years, according to son Vern, Russ and Jean started Houghton Rustproofing in Kitchener and the business is now with the third generation, as Vern's son, Jim, is slowly taking over from his father and mother, and manages the day to day operations at the very busy well established rust-proofing business on Victoria Street in Kitchener.

Jean and Russell were always busy and at the same time raised their six children who include Sylvia (Gavin), Vern (Diane), Mary (Theo), Richard - deceased (Cynthia), Tom (Karen), and Bill (Brenda-Lee).

With their busy lifestyle, they also became very involved in Rotary, as Russell was a Rotarian, and Jean was a Rotary-Ann while both are now Paul Harris Fellows, as is their son Vernon.

They spent 18 years travelling to different Rotary global conventions around the world. Jean was also an active member in women's institutes throughout her years.

The youthful senior says she is always thankful for the long life she has lived and even though there were ups and downs she takes every day as one more day worth living.



Diane and Vernon Houghton along with their mom Jean, standing in front of the building on Jacob Street where the Houghton family lived, and the Houghton Rustproofing business got its start.

Wellesley & District Lions Club holding its second duck race

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Wellesley & District Lions Club is holding its "duck race" for the second year in a row at 2 p.m. on June 3 at Firella Creek.

Those participating will race ducks along the waters at the Albert Erb Conservation Area. Ducks cost \$5 per duck or \$20 for five. All proceeds go back into the Wellesley community to host events, activities and more.

The first place winner will get \$1,000, second place receives \$250, and \$100 is the third place prize. There were also two early "duck" draws where the winners received a \$100 prize - Brenda Leis won the first one, and Alex Smythe won the second

one. Those interested in getting a ticket/duck can email and e-transfer their ticket order to wellesleylions@gmail.com. You are asked to include your name, email address and phone number.

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COMMUNITY —

Camp Bimini welcomes hundreds of youth for another summer camp experience in Perth County

By Gary West

With summer time quickly approaching, so is camp time for area youth who would like to attend and one of them could be “Camp Bimini” south of Stratford on the Embro Road in Perth County.

Camp Bimini was established in 1947 and is one of the approximately 55 United Church of Canada camps across Canada. It has a unique history and following World War II, there was a new interest in doing something for the youth of the country. The United Church was caught up in this interest and Perth Presbytery embraced the idea.

Each spring the camp welcomes over 1,000 students through the school program and each summer there will be over 650 campers in the summer program. Bimini Camp employs 60 teenagers as counsellors in training, counsellors, program leaders and much more.

Camp begins July 2-7 for 9-12 year olds and runs through many age groups throughout the summer

and ends with 11-13 year olds from August 20-25. Youth leadership is held September 22-23 for youth born in the years 2009 and 2010.

The camp has projects over the next few years that will include replacing the siding on the mess hall, renovating washrooms to be more inclusive, bridge repair, and tree management.

According to Bimini camp coordinator, Carol Young, their goal is to give every child and youth a camping experience, where they feel loved and valued for who they are. She said they strive to be welcoming and inclusive of each individual and provide a safe and nurturing place where campers may experience nature, grow spiritually, and create lifelong friendships.

The camp will be hosting a 5 km walk, ride or run in late June and they will be having an online auction in the fall to help raise funds for the camp.

For more information on registration, fundraising events and ways to be involved. Please visit www.camp-bimini.ca or call 519-271-4129.



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COMMUNITY —

Free Entrepreneur Training Offered in Oxford County

By Lee Griffi

Rural Oxford Economic Development Corporation (ROEDC) is offering area entrepreneurs free online training to help with the topics most relevant to them. The training modules are applicable for a startup or a growing business and include topics such as market research, business planning, and marketing and sales.

Crystal Van Roekel is the Economic Development Officer at ROEDC and says the coaching is a direct result of what their partners have been asking for. "We are coining it the Quick Wins Business Training, and we took the feedback we received during our Oxford Rural Entrepreneur's Events, understanding that many of the participants would like to have some training since we aren't offering it during the events. We found the social aspect and being at an outdoor experience doesn't lend itself to sit and talk about training." She adds they wanted to make sure they were able to offer something in return. "We have so far partnered with six incredible people to bring six modules to our entrepreneurs."

The videos are described as quick win videos touching on anything from creating and engaging content to help creating policies for your small business

when it starts growing hiring employees to keeping and finding talent. "We based it on the feedback we received on what our local businesspeople wanted to learn, adds Van Roekel." Rural Oxford EDC sent out a survey last year to get an idea of what topics people had an appetite for. "We also wanted to offer training at the events in case they wouldn't attend if it was a topic of no interest to them. The main focus was to network and learn a bit about the host business," she adds.

The small business atmosphere in Oxford continues to flourish and Van Roekel says the training is all about providing on demand education. "We wanted to make sure resources were easy to find. We respect that entrepreneurs already have enough on their plates. Not only do they have to be successful in their business model, now they have to create great content, do office administration, bookkeeping and more. We wanted them to have an education space that could grow with them and that they could take the time to utilize when they have the time."

The videos run anywhere from 10 to 15 minutes and provide high-level explanations of the subject matter, and they are also offering ways to learn more at the

end of the videos. "If it was something engaging for you or you needed a little more context, you are welcome to reach out to us, and we can connect you with these services," adds Van Roekel.

The entire six-part series is available at any time with the first step to subscribe

on the website at <https://ruraloxford.ca/initiatives/training/>. "We are running it so anyone interested adds their contact information and click to subscribe so we can get a taste of the analytics behind it and who is subscribing," says Crystal.

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FAMILY MILESTONES —

OBITUARY

GLADDING, Doris



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 born in Stratford on April 26, 1928, the youngest daughter of William Taylor and Louisa (Shaw) and was the last surviving member of her family.

She attended Anne Hathaway and Shakespeare Public

Schools in Stratford and later Stratford Central High School. At an early age, in her home city of Stratford, she volunteered with a neighbourhood group called "The Happy Helpers" who raised money for the Salvation Army. In her teenage years she worked at "The Very Best Bakery" and during the war years at Swifts Packers where she cleaned chickens and packed butter for soldiers' rations.

Doris "Doll" married C. Robert Gladding on October 1, 1949. He predeceased her on March 6, 2012.

The couple moved to Tavistock in 1952. Here she became a life member of the Tavistock Women's Institute, taught Sunday School at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sebastopol, and later served as secretary of the Grace United Church Board. She helped to coach minor ball and was a leader for the Tavistock Cub Pack for some 15 years. She was a charter member of the Tavistock Home and School Association; treasurer and member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Tavistock Branch 518; a member of the Tavistock Agricultural Society (past president of the Homecraft Division,) a member of the Tavistock Horticultural Society, charter chair of the World Crokinole Championship Committee, and secretary of the Tavistock Royals Senior "AA" Hockey Club for 6 years.

Politically, Doris was elected to East Zorra-Tavistock Council for 1981-82 and 1989-2000. She served on various committees including the Tavistock Recreation Committee for over 10 years as well as being a member of the Tavistock Arena Building Committee.

She and her husband, Bob, were owners/operators of The Tavistock Gazette from 1969 to 1988.

Doris was an accomplished seamstress and enjoyed knitting and bird watching. She loved watching her sons play hockey and continued to be an avid hockey fan and a fixture at the Braves' and Royals' games prior to the pandemic.

She is survived by her four sons, Bob (Muriel), Bill (Sheri), Ted (Debbie) and Bryn (Terry); grandchildren Jonathan Percy-Brother; Luke (Deanne) Gladding, Lesli (Adam) Spylo, Codie Gladding, Brittany (Steve) Gladding, Myles Gomes; Leif Gladding and Evyn Gladding; great grandchildren Clara and Jacob Gladding; Alarik and Augustus Spylo; Landen, Blake and Sloan Douglas. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Connie (Harry) Taylor and many other Taylor and Gladding nieces and nephews and their families.

She was predeceased by her sister Louisa (Jack) Evans; brothers Bill (Isabel, Gwen) Taylor, Jack (Marion) Taylor and Harry Taylor; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Walter and Florence Gladding, Cynthia and Bruce Taylor, Dorothy and Jim Heysel, and Shirley and Jim Uniac.

Cremation has taken place. Upon her request there will be no visitation.

A private family graveside service was held in Avondale Cemetery, Stratford. As expressions of sympathy memorial donations may be made to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 518 Tavistock, or Tavistock and District Minor Hockey Association. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the W. G. Young Funeral, 430 Huron St, Stratford. www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com

OBITUARY

MONCUR, Bernice



Bernice Elizabeth Moncur, 93, of Tavistock, passed away peacefully with family by her side at PeopleCare Tavistock on Thursday, May 18, 2023.

She was born at Manheim on October 25, 1929, a daughter of the late Edon S. and Maryetta (Rudy) Bechtel.

She was an avid swimmer, having competed in a triathlon in her 70's and was an accomplished quilter.

Bernice is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Bruce McKay; six granddaughters, Kayla Shantz (Jason), Julie Neumeister (Dan), Lisa Mealand (Zachary), Michelle McKay-Herlick (Daryl), Rebecca McBride (Michael), Courtney McKay (Keenan Gould); thirteen great grandchildren, Alexis, Zoey, Jorja Shantz; Carson and Rylee Neumeister; Bo, Jolene, Jed and "unborn" Herlick; Rory, Fionn, Declan, Brackley-Ann McBride; John Gould; her sister, Florence Moncur (Don deceased).

She was predeceased by brothers, Elmer, Clayton and Willard; sisters, Mabel, Vera, Verna and Beatrice.

Relatives and friends will be received in the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock St. N, Tavistock on Thursday, May 25, 2023 from 1-2:30pm. where a private service will be held at 3:00pm. The Rev. Mary Boland will officiate. Interment in McTavish Cemetery.

Donations to the Breast Cancer Society of Canada or the Alzheimer Society of Canada 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



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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) How many lines are in a limerick?
- 2) What was the name of the world's first nuclear submarine?
- 3) The restrictive medical condition epicondylitis is commonly known as what?
- 4) Aside from Russia what is the largest country in Europe?
- 5) American explorer Robert Peary is generally regarded as the first to reach where in 1909?
- 6) Which planet has the Great Red Spot in its atmosphere?
- 7) A gift of china is traditionally given to celebrate how many years of marriage?
- 8) Amsterdam lies on which river?
- 9) How many bones are in the human hand?
- 10) What animal is Friar Tuck in the Disney animated version of Robin Hood?

Answers found on page 22

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

May 25: Happy birthday to Reid Wynette (9), Ethan Hanlon (19), Riley Wettlaufer (22), and anniversaries for Daniel and Kathleen Green (10th), Brett and Amber Jackman (10th), Chad and Amanda Blum.

May 26: Happy birthday to Emerson Kalbfleisch (5), Eloise Stock-Bateman (14), Mahalia Bamberry (14), Jaymie Riehl (19), and anniversary for Luke and Angie Wencel (13th).

May 27: Happy birthday to Ellie Green (4), Reid Harold (8), Lindsay Vanderhyden (15), Nicole Danen (19), and anniversaries for Murray and Barb Roth (45th), and Nathan and Amy Yantzi (6th).

May 28: Happy birthday to Cole Mosburger (11), Kenneth Wilhelm (21), Hope Albrecht (22), Katelyn Wagler, and Angie Wettlaufer.

May 29: Happy birthday to Claire Yantzi (20), Mia Kurzatz (21), and anniversary for Kris and Krista Matthews (19th).

May 30: Happy birthday to Carter Cook (12), Arielle McGregor (16), Grace Bender (19), and anniversary for James and Bonnie Kropf (31st).

May 31: Happy birthday to Ruth Wallace (101), Karsen Ankenmann (21) and Jessica Clemmer, and anniversary for Trevor and Sheri Britton (20th).

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

The Old Gazettes

By Stewart Grant

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

May 15-22, 2013 Edition (10 years ago)

Tavistock Public School students Abbey Patton, Jakob Hill, Josh VandenBrink and Keenan Ramseyer are cast members in the two K-W Youth Theatre productions of The Young Sherlock Holmes and Pinocchio coming up on June 6, 8, and 9 in Guelph and Kitchener.

Laughter is the best medicine. This saying couldn't have been more true Friday night when Raymer Financial held their 11th annual charity event in the form of a comedy night. The evening featured Canadian comics David Tsonos as emcee, funny man Even Carter, and headliner David Edwards.

Both the Tavistock Opti-Mrs. Club and the Optimist Club of Tavistock have pledged their support and have helped to raise the Queen's Park "Royal Reno" thermometer to \$456,000.

May 14-21, 2003 Edition (20 years ago)

Ben Eby wasn't totally satisfied with his performance at the Skills Canada Competition held in Kitchener on April 29th, but the judges had a different view. He was awarded the gold medal in precision ma-

chining for Grade 12 students at the contest held April 29, 2003 at the Doon Campus of Conestoga College.

On Sunday, April 6, 2003, close to 100 people gathered at St. Matthew's, East Zorra to celebrate and give thanks for the 150 plus combined years of service of four women of the congregation: Charlotte Brodrecht, Carol Hammer, Lynn Blum, and Marg Schiedel.

Respected health professionals and specialists in disease control are all coming to the same conclusion: Canada has turned the corner on SARS. To put things in perspective, Health Canada believes it is important to remember the following points: The number of people who have recovered from SARS is going up; The total number of people in quarantine is going down.

May 4-11, 1983 Edition (40 years ago)

Competitors from as far away as Toronto converged on the Arlington Motor Hotel in Tavistock on Saturday, May 14th for an Arm Wrestling Championship event. Organized by Bruce and Cindy Kropf of RR 1, Shakespeare, the afternoon competition featured bouts for men in 4 classes, ladies, and a left handed pull. Former Canadian Champion Bob Snarey of Shakespeare walked away with the heavyweight title.

Just short of 100 years, the McDermott

family has operated the old shop on Hope Street East in Tavistock. Four generations of blacksmiths and mechanics have worked here under the McDermott name selling everything from horse shoes and iron rims to rubber tires and catalytic converters. Now under the wrecker's hammer, the two-storey building should be removed by month's end by Orval Stere, son Marvin and Ray Stere.

May 15-22, 1963 Edition (60 years ago)

A tour of the plant of J. G. Field and Co. Ltd., manufacturers of woolen socks, was had by members of the Men's Club & Board of Trade and their wives Thursday night following the regular dinner meeting of the men. The tour was arranged to better acquaint the men's organization of the industries of Tavistock, and the second of the series.

More than \$400 was "lifted" Saturday afternoon during the auction sale of real estate and household effects for the Joseph Schwantz Estate, Woodstock Street North. Auctioneer Amos Zehr told the Gazette that losses reported to him were: \$6, \$185, \$95, \$125, and \$45, approximately. He said there were some strangers in the crowd which was also attended by Police Chief Peter Grant. The losses were not realized until payment was about to be made for an article purchased.

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COMMUNITY —

Wellesley residents share thoughts on proposed 12-unit townhouse

By Veronica Reiner

Wellesley residents made their concerns known about a proposed zone change to allow for a 12-unit townhouse at 1060 Queen's Bush Road.

The matter was discussed during a hybrid council meeting on Tuesday, May 16. There was no final decision made on whether to approve the zoning change, and planning staff will review submissions before coming up with a recommendation.

The proposed building would be two stories (nine metres), and an off-street parking area for 18 spots would be provided on the east side of the property. The applicant, Bradley & Company Inc., is also requesting a reduction in the requirements for a minimum lot area (154 square metres, where 175 square metres is required), the front yard depth (4.5 metres, where 6 metres is required), and exterior side yard depth requirements (4.5 metres, where 6 metres is required).

The current property is 0.185 hectares and consists of a house and garage, which are proposed for demolition.

Some of the issues with the townhouse raised by residents include the location across from Wellesley Public School, increased traffic, an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, noise from construction, precedent setting, removal of trees, and synergy with the neighbourhood.

Suzana Gorenc, who lives on Welwood Avenue, has been living in Wellesley about 14 years ago. She said she has noticed an increase of traffic over the years. "When we moved here, we moved here for a reason - peace, quiet, privacy - what kind of privacy are we going to have? You're taking that away from us if you go ahead with this, for many, many people. We don't want it."



The proposed site for the 12 unit townhouse at 1060 Queen's Bush Road in Wellesley.

Neil Lackey, who resides on Queen's Bush Road, questioned how visitor parking and overnight visitor parking would be

accommodated. "If we expect these people to work, and we don't have public transit here - two works per household - 12 units,

24 parking spaces. So the plan doesn't look like it's going to accommodate the people it's built for."

He also asked where the storm water run off and flow from the site would go, along with the possibility of a specific outdoor property maintenance plan.

Wellesley residents Ron and Amanda Schiller, in a written submission, said the decision would be precedent setting "in more ways than one, which would quickly result in beautiful 'Wellesley style homes' on Queen's Bush Road being purchased and turned over to developers who will request re-zoning based on this approval, and will quickly turn the entire block into a row of multi-plex units."

Other comments were in support of the application. Caitlin Port of St. Clements said that the development will bring "a much needed diversity and mix of housing supply to the village and Township of Wellesley."

Mary Lichty-Neeb, a Wellesley resident who ran for the Ward Three council member position in the last municipal election, supported the proposal because it will allow more housing in the village. Lichty-Neeb said that after knocking on more than 1,100 doors in the election, there were several issues that were raised by residents repeatedly.

"Questions from the voters were affordable housing, lack of available housing for young families and seniors, and longer-term housing for seniors," wrote Lichty-Neeb in an email to township staff.

"Here is a way to add up to 11 more units in our village so that our young people/families can stay here in the village where they were raised, perfect spot for empty nesters that want to downsize or just give someone from the 'city' the opportunity to move to our great community."

NEWS BRIEFS

Kitchener woman charged after two vehicle Wilmot collision

A Kitchener woman is facing charges after a two vehicle collision in Wilmot township on May 18.

At about 5:50 p.m., the Waterloo Regional Police Ser-

vice (WRPS) received a report of a two vehicle collision around Snyders Road East. A gray Toyota travelling west on Snyders Road East failed to stop at a stop sign, striking a black Dodge travelling north through the intersection on Sandhills Road.

The driver of the Toyota, a 27-year-old Kitchener woman, was charged with disobeying a stop sign.

Brampton man charged after two vehicle Wilmot collision

A Brampton man was charged after a two vehicle collision in Wilmot township on May 17.

At about 2:50 p.m., the WRPS received a report of the collision around Erbs Road and Notre Dame Drive. A black Tesla was facing east was stopped for a red light at the intersection of Erbs Road and Notre Dame Drive when it was struck by a tractor trailer also heading east.

The driver of the tractor trailer, a 53-year-old Brampton man, was charged with careless driving.

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COMMUNITY —

Check off these boxes for a safe boating season

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding boaters that a safe boating season comes down to an important checklist before and during a boat outing.

Wear your lifejacket

Only 11 of the 130 boaters/paddlers who have died on OPP-patrolled waterways in the last five years were wearing a life-jacket. With capsized vessels and falling overboard the leading causes of boating fatalities every year, the life-saving value of wearing a lifejacket cannot be overstated.

Boat sober and drug-free

Whether you are a power boater or paddler, alcohol and drug consumption have no place on the water. Every year, impaired operation of a vessel is a contributing factor in boating deaths.

Plan and be prepared

Make sure you and your vessel are up for the type of water adventure you're planning. Always check the weather forecast, make sure your vessel is in good working condition, have sufficient fuel, a fully charged cell phone and always ensure someone knows when and where you are going, and when you expect to be

back.

Be cold water safe

With many of Ontario's waterways very cold year round, even the best swimmers will feel the effects of sudden cold water immersion. Familiarizing yourself with the 1-10-1 principle will help you understand how ending up in cold water can severely impact your ability to swim or even stay afloat. It will also remind you that your best chance of surviving an incident that lands you in the water is to wear your lifejacket.

We are in the middle of Safety Boating Awareness Week, which runs from May

20 to May 26.

The 29 people who lost their lives in OPP-investigated marine incidents in 2022 were made up of 18 boat operators, seven passengers and four people in the water. Only two of the deceased were wearing a lifejacket.

The OPP Marine Program has a fleet of 134 vessels and approximately 400 highly trained marine officers committed to enforcing boating laws and the safety of Ontario boaters on more than 110,000 square kilometres (95 per cent) of Ontario's lakes and rivers.

Perth County council awards contract for courthouse campus project

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Perth County council awarded a contract for the 5 Huron renovation and connecting link addition project to Dakon Construction of Waterloo for just over \$5 million. This decision marks an important step toward a renewed courthouse campus for the county's administration.

Over the past 16 months, staff and the project design team have been working on the 5 Huron reno and connecting link project. The construction tender was issued in April 2023 to eight pre-qualified contractors and closed in early May 2023. A total of six bids were received on the project. This project will renovate both floors of the 5 Huron Street building (former home of Service Ontario) for the purposes of housing the county's administrative staff along with a new connecting link addition which will provide the main entrance and central reception for both the courthouse and 5 Huron facilities.

In a report to county council, the Director of Public Works, John McClelland,

reviewed the progress on the project to date and shared his excitement about reaching this important milestone. "I am pleased to receive council's continued support for this project," said McClelland in a release. "It has been a long journey to reach this point and it is exciting to see this project move forward."

"This is a historic project for the future home of the County of Perth," said Warden and Perth East Mayor Rhonda Ehgoetz. "Council has shown great leadership in moving the project forward. A tremendous amount of preparation and hard work has gone into bringing the project to this stage and I am eager to see the plans come to life."

"I am delighted with the support of council to expand the county's central administration facilities," said Lori Wolfe, Chief Administrative Officer. "County staff are committed to excellence in service delivery and this renewed facility will further support the exceptional work we do for our community."

The project is expected to break ground in summer 2023 with an expected completion date of fall 2024.



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SPORTS —

Waterloo-Oxford varsity girls' rugby falls to KCI Raiders in close-fought Waterloo County final

By Russel Evans

KCI Raiders won their seventh consecutive WCSSAA girls' rugby championship as they narrowly defeated Waterloo-Oxford 24-20 in a nail-biting season finale on Thursday, May 18.

Both sides had dominated their respective pools during the regular season, each going a perfect 4-0 before making quick work of their quarter-final and semi-final opponents. Waterloo-Oxford had not given up a single point to this point in the playoffs – having defeated Preston 48-0 in the quarter-final, and Waterloo Collegiate 36-0 in the semis. KCI had an equally impressive playoffs, with a 50-5 route over Elmira in the quarters before defeating Bluevale 46-7 in the semi-finals.

Given both teams' records and dominant performances to this point in the season, it would have been a safe bet to expect a close and evenly matched contest – and that is exactly what fans and spectators were treated to last Thursday afternoon.

KCI captain Addy Holmes scored the opening try just minutes into the first half. Lucy Charteris then completed the conversion to the Raiders up 7-0 early. While Waterloo-Oxford would fight back with a try of their own to get the score to 7-5



Waterloo-Oxford's Maddy Adam runs down the pitch on her way to scoring a try during the second half of last week's WCSSAA girls' rugby final vs. KCI. (Photo credit: Russel Evans)

shortly afterwards, KCI responded with yet another try and conversion to bring the scoreline to 14-5 in the latter stages of the first half. In the final minutes of the first half, Maddy Adam would score a try

to inch Waterloo-Oxford ever closer as the teams went into halftime with KCI leading 14-10 – the only difference being two made conversions for KCI and none for Waterloo-Oxford.

In the second half, it was very much the same story as both teams traded tries back and forth. This time, it was Waterloo-Oxford who opened the scoring with a strong run down the middle of the pitch by Adam to put her side ahead 15-14. KCI would respond soon after as Charteris scored a try to put the Raiders back up 19-14. Waterloo-Oxford wasn't done yet, however, as Paige Binkel scored a try almost directly afterwards to put her squad back on top 20-19. Unfortunately for Waterloo-Oxford, this would not be enough to prevent the Raiders from securing their seventh consecutive league title, as Charteris would score the game winning try late in the second half to put KCI over the top with a final score of 24-20 – the difference maker being the two made conversions for KCI and none for Waterloo-Oxford.

Both teams now head on to the Central Western Ontario (CWOSSA) triple-A championship in Brantford. Pool play will take place on Wednesday, May 24 at Bisons Alumni North Park Sports Complex in Brantford. Waterloo-Oxford will take on St. John's College at 9:00 a.m. before facing Owen Sound at 1:00 p.m. The championship game will then be held on Friday, May 26 at 12:00 p.m. at Brantford's Kiwanis Field.

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COMMUNITY —

Free workshop aimed at farmers mental health taking place at Schmidtsville

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff
Local residents who are farmers, part of a farming family or work with farmers and in the agricultural community can join Interfaith Counselling Centre and the Wilmot Family Resource Centre

as the organizations host a free mental health training workshop in Wilmot and Wellesley townships.

It will take place on June 1st at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Schmidtsville Restaurant & Gift Shop, with a complimentary lunch

included.

The "In the Know" four hour workshop is a mental health literacy program and participants will cover the topics of stress, depression, anxiety, substance use and how to start a conversation around mental

well-being. The event is held in partnership with the Do More Ag Foundation and Farm Credit Canada.

Register for this free event with hot lunch included by calling 519-662-2731 or on EventBrite. Limited space available.

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For free mental health training on June 1.



'IN THE KNOW'

is a mental health literacy program designed specifically for farmers, their families and those who support them.

The workshop will be lead by a mental health professional with working knowledge of agriculture.

Through this free, four-hour workshop, participants will cover the topics of stress, depression, anxiety, substance use & how to start a conversation around mental well-being.

This event is held in partnership with The Do More Ag Foundation and Farm Credit Canada





Register for this free event

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COMMUNITY —

Stay Alert, Stay Safe!

By Canada Safety Council

Not everybody drives the same way you do.

A long stretch of empty road and a warm and comfortable vehicle would sound like a terrific combination to many driving enthusiasts. Paired with a lack of sleep, an overworked mental state and eyelids that seem to be getting heavier and heavier, however, this combination can spell disaster.

Drowsy driving is a serious problem on Canadian roads. To mark this year's National Road Safety Week, May 16-22, the Canada Safety Council is reminding Canadians of the impacts that drowsy driving can have on not only the driver experiencing it, but road users around

them as well.

One of the biggest risks of drowsy driving is impaired driving performance. When drivers are tired, reaction times are accordingly slower. Decision-making ability is impaired. Attention to the road ahead is diminished. These factors can make it much more difficult to respond to unexpected situations on the road, and in turn increase the risk of accidents and injuries.

Fatigued driving is frequently cited as affecting one in five drivers, and even this statistic is underreported owing to the nature of the issue.

"Fatigue is a serious threat to road safety, and a problem that affects everyone on the road," said Gareth Jones, President and CEO of the Canada Safety Council.

"All drivers must take the risks of fatigue seriously, and take steps to stay alert and focused on the road."

To combat the risks of drowsy driving, there are a number of strategies that drivers can use to stay alert and focused on the road. These include, but are not limited to:

- getting adequate rest before driving
- taking breaks during long trips
- avoiding driving during times when you would normally be sleeping.

Avoid relying on methods including drinking caffeine, rolling down the windows or raising the volume of the car stereo. These are temporary at best and fail to address the root of the issue – namely, a lack of

proper sleep.

For drivers who struggle with getting enough rest, sleep aids like Sleep Tracks can also be helpful. Sleep Tracks is a series of sleep aids that are designed to promote restful sleep and demonstrate how effective the roads can be at putting the user to sleep. The system uses modified sound waves and repetitive sound patterns to help users fall asleep quickly and stay asleep throughout the night.

Ultimately, the risks and impacts of drowsy driving in Canada are significant, but drivers can and should take steps to protect themselves and others on the road. Be a responsible road user and help keep Canada's roads safe for all.

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COMMUNITY —

Flowering crab apple trees in full bloom last week in Perth and Waterloo counties



When flowering crab apple trees are in full bloom, spring must be here, as this one pictured last week in the sunshine of South Easthope township. The lighter coloured trees bloom first and the darker ones come into full bloom later, as in this case. (Photo credit: Gary West)

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 photo was taken on a walk on Thursday, May 18 on Theodore Schueler Boulevard in New Hamburg. (Photo credit: Shoey Karnowski)

Pet of the Week



POPPY & ANGUS

This week we are featuring two purebred dachshunds - Poppy is the short haired, four year old female, and Angus is a long-haired seven month old male. Their owners, Michelle and daughter Abbey Luchardt are from Shakespeare. They were visiting Tavistock Veterinarians last week for their regular checkups and like to tell everyone that besides long walks, their dogs love to go kayaking and eat ice cream.

Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing info@wilmotpost.ca



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Attention Parents, Coaches, Trainers Of Minor Sports Teams

Share Your Sports with The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. We'd love to print the accomplishments of our youth and share it with our readers. Deadline: Monday's at 10 am. Submit your reports and/or photos to Veronica Reiner at v_reiner@hotmail.com

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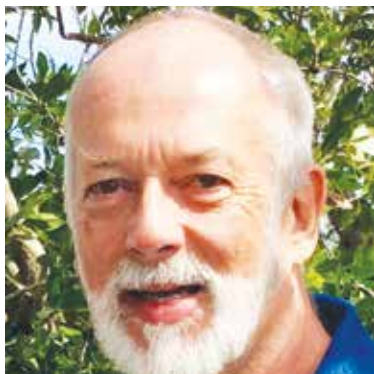
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: AGO art that hits the head and invades the heart



By Paul Knowles

In recent weeks, this space has carried my articles about a sculpture garden in Myrtle Beach, and art galleries in Philadelphia – both arising from our epic road trip in March and April.

My visits to these treasure troves of artistic creative were truly inspiring. And one of the results of that inspiration was a determination to experience an artistic treasure trove much closer to home.

It's almost a cliché – the observation that we never visit the attractions that are in our back yards.

I decided to take some personal steps to rectify that – I headed off to downtown Toronto (I know, not exactly in my back yard, but close enough, if the traffic cooperates) to spend an afternoon at the Art Gallery of Ontario, which I have long neglected. And I am very glad I did.

It rather felt that I was doing two completely different things at the same time. One, I was enjoying the time-honoured masterpieces,

from the great European painters to my beloved Group of Seven artists. I will never, ever get tired of seeing the work of Lauren Harris, Frederick Varley and their Canadian colleagues.

But two, the AGO has clearly made a decision to expose visitors to the latest in art. Some of it is, honestly, rather incomprehensible to me, but there was a lot of new stuff that was also truly inspiring. Works by Indigenous artists; thought-provoking art by contemporary female artists; and a temporary exhibit (at the AGO until October 1) of dozens and dozens of photos by Wolfgang Tillmans. The exhibition is called "To look without fear", and it, alone, demands your attention for a lengthy period of time.

Tillmans is a German photographer, born in 1968. The AGO show is described as "a major retrospective of artist Wolfgang Tillmans." This is the first Canadian showing of the multi-room, multi-media exhibition.

There are a few rather graphic photographs – I would think carefully before taking children to see the works – but other than that, I would recommend a slow, thoughtful stroll through the expansive exhibition.

It's easy to spend several hours at the AGO. There are a number of galleries featuring Canadian artists. And I have to say, as much as I enjoyed galleries I have visited in the past year – in Dublin, Philadelphia, and Myrtle Beach – I always feel the absence of Canadian works. And our own artists – like the members of the

Group of Seven, or Emily Carr, or Norval Morrisseau, or Kent Monkman – certainly deserve wider attention.

They get it, at the AGO. And that makes it a must-see destination for Canadian art lovers.

The AGO was founded in 1900, then known as the Art Museum of Toronto. Today, the gallery's collection includes more than 120,000 works of art; only about 4,000 can be exhibited at any one time. So it's worth annual pilgrimages to the place, to see what has been changed about.

This time around, I especially enjoyed strolling around the massive Henry Moore sculptures in the gallery dedicated to Moore's work – most of them actually donated by the artist to the AGO.

I also appreciate the AGO's extensive collection of paintings by David Milne, a Canadian artist (1882-1953) who followed his own muse, developing a unique style and creating paintings that are unmistakably his.

One of the pleasures of visiting an excellent art gallery is that you will, inevitably, be introduced to artists you have not met before. One such, this time, is the Indigenous artist David Ruben Piqtoukun, whose intriguing sculptures currently occupy several rooms of the gallery.

You will also find yourself walking through a hallway gallery currently showing an exhibit called "Her Space", "works spanning nearly a century of representing the interior lives of women." Especially striking was



"witness", by Rebecca Belmore, a work that evokes a powerful, emotional response. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

a wall-sized photographic piece entitled "Rhythm of a True Space #2", by Suzy Lake.

And speaking of wall sized: the six-panel painting, "Man Changing into Thunderbird, 1977" by the incredible Canadian Indigenous artist Norval Morrisseau (1932-2007) is worth the trip to Toronto. Traffic jams and all. It's just that good.

One thing that consistently draws me through the doors of art galleries, anywhere in the world, is the very real possibility that I will experience a breath-taking moment, an emotional gut-punch that simply stops me cold in front of a special work.

It happened three times, this time. One was the Morrisseau. And then, the work, "The Deluge", by Kent Monkman, carried all the emotional freight I have

come to associate with this terrific, bold, contemporary artist.

And while I am not usually a fan of photography as an art form considered equivalent to painting or sculpture, I may have to change my mind, based on the sheer, overwhelming impact of a work called "witness". By Rebecca Belmore.

It may not be these same works that grab your attention – and your heart – as you tour the AGO, but if you take your time at this Toronto treasure house... those moments will happen. You will come away with a head full of new ideas, and a heart filled with empathy.

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



"Rhythm of a True Space #2" by American artist Suzy Lake.



"Draped Seated Woman" by the famed British sculptor Henry Moore, who donated many works to the AGO.

OPINION —

THE PUBLISHERS DESK: *Expanding news coverage south of Tavistock*



By Stewart Grant

Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to speak with the New Hamburg Board of Trade. I understand it is standard procedure for each new member to have a chance to share their sto-

ry with the group.

In preparing for my speech, I marveled at how this July 1st will already mark three years since I purchased the Tavistock Gazette from Bill and Sheri Gladding. I guess it's true that time flies when you're having fun!

There certainly has been no shortage of changes with the Gazette in three years; the first year was spent in the old Tavistock office, vacating when the building was sold. We quickly expanded into the New Hamburg area with the introduction of the Wilmot Post in October 2020, led by the excellent reporting of Lisa Hagen, who gave us our start.

She then passed the torch to Veronica Reiner, who has done a fantastic job during the last two years.

About 18 months ago, we combined the Wilmot and Tavistock papers into the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette, and also converted the Gazette from a "paid" newspaper to a "free" newspaper. As a result, we've been able to roughly double our readership as well as increase our overall page count.

Still, there are a number of improvements that we'd like to make to the Gazette. Personally, I'd like to see an improved sports section, and more personal sto-

ries. We could always use more community involvement, so we encourage folks to send their story ideas, submissions, or photos.

Reflecting back to Tavistock Gazette, we do get some feedback that our coverage south of Tavistock could be improved. On this point, we're about to have some extra editorial resources in this area which will indirectly benefit the Gazette readers in this area.

On June 16th, we are launching the first issue of the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo, which will start as a monthly newspaper and hopefully increase in print frequency as time goes on. Similar

to the Gazette, it will be a free newspaper available to everyone either in print copy or online PDF. The editor of the Echo is Hannah MacLeod of Ingersoll. She is the former editor of newspapers in Kincardine and Lucknow and has a true passion for telling positive community stories. With the Echo just starting as a monthly, I also expect Hannah to have time available to help with reporting for the Gazette, which I think will be of great benefit to our readers.

For more information or to get involved in the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo, please reach out to us at info@theecho.ca or call us at 519-655-2341.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - MAY/JUNE 2023

<p>May 26th & May 27th New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale 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 & Arena on 251 Jacob Street.</p> <p>May 27th Stoncroft Community Garage Sale 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>May 27th Paint the Town Red</p>	<p>Help the Wellesley Applejacks celebrate their winning the Schmalz Cup this past season for the first time ever. The drive around celebration will take place at 1 p.m. in the village of Wellesley. Barbecue and awards will take place 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.</p> <p>May 28th Wellesley & District Lions Club Pet Value Walk for Dog Guides Taking place at the picnic shelter at 1 Catherine Street at 1:30 p.m. To raise money for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.</p> <p>May 28th Breakfast in the Park 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>May 29th Wilmot Council Meeting Hybrid council meeting taking place at 60 Snyder's Road West in Baden at 6:45 p.m. Also streamed on the Township of Wilmot YouTube page.</p> <p>May 30th Wellesley Council Meeting Hybrid council meeting taking place at 4805 William Hastings Line in Crosshill at 6:45 p.m. Also streamed on the Township of Wellesley YouTube page.</p> <p>June 3rd Morningside Community Yard Sale Taking place at Morningside Retirement Village from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Open to the public - all are welcome.</p> <p>June 3rd Wellesley Community Garage Sale Taking place at the Wellesley arena from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. To reserve a</p>	<p>free space, email wellesleygarage-sale@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>June 3rd Touch-A-Truck The Wellesley & District Cooperative Preschool is hosting a touch-a-truck event at 257 David Street from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Free will donation.</p> <p>June 5th Golf Tournament Hosted by the New Hamburg Board of Trade and Wilmot Lions / Lioness Club. Lunch starts at noon, shotgun start at 1 p.m. at the Foxwood Golf & 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>June 7th East Zorra-Tavistock Council Meeting In-person council meeting taking place at 695566 17th Line in Innerkip starting at 9 a.m.</p> <p>June 10th Shakespeare and Community Athletic Association Field Day 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>June 10th Free will concert A free will concert featuring Jack the pianist to benefit the Wilmot Family Resource Centre at Zion United Church New Hamburg at 7 p.m.</p>
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New Hamburg
Mennonite Relief Sale

MAY 26-27

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Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1) Five | 5) The North Pole |
| 2) USS Nautilus (launched in Connecticut 1954) | 6) Jupiter |
| 3) Tennis elbow | 7) Twenty |
| 4) Ukraine | 8) Amstel |
| | 9) 27 |
| | 10) Badger |

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