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FREE

Double Fatal Collision in EZT Comes Weeks Before Intersection Improvements

Police Officer One of the Victims



An orange air ambulance hovers over the accident scene where a bus driver and OPP officer both lost their lives on Monday.

By Lee Griffi

A two-vehicle collision at the dangerous intersection of Highway 59 and Oxford County Road 33 has claimed the lives of two drivers. The collision happened shortly before 7 a.m. on Monday, May 29. Provincial Police say an unmarked Ontario Provincial Police vehicle and a school bus collided in the intersection. Both drivers died as a result of their

injuries. There were no students on the bus and no passengers in either vehicle. Detective Constable Steven Tourangeau was with the Huron-Perth Community Street Crime Unit, part of the Perth County OPP Detachment. He was just 35 years old. The OPP will not be releasing the identity of the other driver, out of respect for the family's privacy. "We are deeply saddened over this

tragic incident, as two families mourn the loss of their loved ones. I offer my deepest condolences to the families, friends and colleagues affected," said OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique.

The intersection has been the scene of a number of collisions in the last few years, some fatal, and one last Thursday where two pick-up trucks collided.

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New Hamburg Mennonite Relief sale raises \$333,000

By Veronica Reiner

The New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale surpassed the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) goal, raising about \$333,000 this year.

"We had initially set a \$300,000 goal, and so we were very, very pleased with the sale," said event chair John Reimer. All the proceeds are forwarded to MCC Ontario, which will go toward the MCC's relief work and global humanitarian efforts.

The two-day event, now in its 57th year, took place on Friday, May 26 and Saturday, May 27, at the New Hamburg fairgrounds. Reimer estimated that around 15,000 people attended over the weekend.

"Everybody just enjoyed themselves so much," said Reimer. "The atmosphere was joyous, it seemed to have a lot of energy. People were thankful that the weather was so nice, and they just loved being out."

"I think overall, the event went off really, really well. There were no emergencies, there were no major issues. People really enjoyed just being there, eating spring rolls, or tea balls, or donuts, or sticky rice, or pies."

Fundraising efforts included various types of auctions, including a quilt auction (featuring unique one-of-a-kind quilts), treasure trove auction (vintage quilts, vintage tractors, furniture, collectibles and more), and a work and play outdoor auction (home and garden equipment, hardware, sporting goods and more).

All auctions were held in a hybrid format - in-person and on the Internet. The quilt auction had already been held in a hybrid format for several years, but this was a new endeavor for the treasure trove auction and work and play auction.

Continued on page 2



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NEWS —

Tavistock Optimist Holding Spray Pad Fundraiser with Woodstock Comedian

By Lee Griffi

The local Optimist Club is hoping residents will come out on June 17 to not only support a local cause, but to have a good laugh thanks to the talents of a former Oxford County resident and world-renowned comedian.

Greg Morton, a semi-finalist on America's Got Talent and a Woodstock native, is the headliner for a Tavistock Spray Pad fundraiser that will also feature live music. Club President Danny Roth said all of the money raised will be going straight to the future pad at Queen's Park. "The club has pledged \$15,000 towards this project, and the fundraiser is to raise money to cover our pledge. All proceeds will go towards that donation." Roth is hoping they will be able to take a good chunk out of that bill. "We have sold 50 percent of the 300 tickets we have available. I think if it's a good night, we could get in the

five-to-seven-thousand-dollar range. We have a silent auction available which will also help."

Morton started his performing career as a DJ who spent many nights at the Tavistock Memorial Hall when he was younger playing music." My wife Haley and I were talking two years ago, trying to figure out what kind of fundraiser we could have to help this. I reached out to Greg on Twitter with a personal message just after he was done on America's Got Talent, saying who I was and that I was from Tavistock and no word of a lie, five minutes later, he replied," said Roth. He added that he doesn't know what Morton's regular cost is, and he doesn't want to disclose the cost to bring him in. "But I think we got a pretty good deal just based on where we are located and his history of coming to Tavistock."

Roth says we can expect a fun night with

pretty good odds of some local ribbing. "It's not an R-rated show. That's not what this is about. I will be talking to him and his agent next week about the night. If he wants anything from me to help with material, I'll help."

The Optimist Club is previewing their brand-new food trailer this weekend at Parkfest, a family-fun day at their park on Saturday. "That's going to be shown off to the public this Saturday, and then it will be at the fundraiser that night with hot dogs, burgers, and Optimist French fries for sale."

The Spray Pad has garnered interest from 11 companies to date following the release of the request for proposals which will close in about two weeks, but unfortunately, construction won't begin until after the Tavistock Fall Fair. "It would have been great if things had happened quicker. I am the director of recreation for

a local municipality, so I understand these things take time. I also know the impact on the camp (Alliwannado) this summer, so I think there was some communication to not affect the camp this year." Roth added it's great to see the Spray Pad will go ahead this year and be ready for the spring of 2024.

To date, \$12,800 of the Spray Pad's \$10,000 goal has been raised thanks in large part to local businesses. Tickets for the fundraiser are available at www.eventbrite.com by searching Tavistock Spray Pad or by scanning the QR code on the group's Facebook page. Ticket prices are \$25 plus service charges and if there are any tickets available the night of the event, they will be available at the door for \$35.

Tickets are available on www.eventbrite.com by searching Tavistock Spray Pad story.

Double Fatal Collision in EZT Comes Weeks Before Intersection Improvements

Continued from page 1

Injuries to the drivers were minor. Area residents have called for safety improvements over the last few years, and to date, red flashing beacons have been installed on top of stop signs on the east and west sides. The next phase of construction begins late next month, and a county spokesperson said some of the preparatory work required is now underway.

The biggest of those improvements is a 4-way stop with flashing red lights both on the ground and above, which means a speed reduction to 60 km/h along with

speed feedback signs at all four approaches. Overhead flashing red lights will also be activated once power connections to the new infrastructure are complete.

Frank Gross is the manager of transportation and waste management with the county and said in a recent interview with the Gazette that several safety measures are coming. "With the all-way stop, traffic will have to stop before proceeding, which will hopefully mitigate what is happening there now. We should be able to get all the construction done at once,

and if the capital budget gets approved, we will proceed in the second quarter of the year, so April to June." Rumble strips will also be installed as part of the intersection upgrades.

Many residents on area Facebook pages are pushing the county to speed up construction so there are no more fatalities. One concerned resident is Alexandra McKay, who lives on 59 near Hickson. "I am pleased that finally, these changes will be implemented. I wish it could have been taken more seriously before more fatalities occurred." McKay travels the

stretch of road daily and said her main concern is the amount of people running the east and west stop signs. "Many times, I have had to slam on the breaks after seeing people running the stop signs." She added Hickson's stop sign on 59 has been very successful, to her knowledge, at reducing accidents, and she would like to see an increased police presence in the area until the construction is completed. "It's heartbreaking, I guess I would just say that time and time again, we are taking too long to adapt to population and traffic increases, and it's costing local lives."

New Hamburg Mennonite Relief sale raises \$333,000

Continued from page 1

Reimer noted that the two restored tractors sold particularly well.

"We were very pleased, and so was the group that restored those tractors. I think that had to do with being on the Internet, which allowed bidding to happen both locally and on the Internet. That means that more people can participate, which helps our numbers," said Reimer.

Other activities include a community hymn sing, a thrifty-craft tent, Menno Eats and Treats, Menno Cafe (featuring freshly roasted coffee from the Baden Coffee Company), KidsZone (face painting, games, scavenger hunt and more), MCC marketplace, Ten Thousand Villages tent, sweet stems plant and flowers tent, and a run for relief (two kilometre run, five kilometre run and

nature walk).

There are about 2,000 volunteers involved in putting on this event, while some of the work is contracted out to professionals.

"It's a lot of committed people who feel that this is a very good cause, and that they are willing to do this year in and year out," said Reimer. "It's very much appreciated."

Months of planning go into putting on the MCC Relief Sale. A ten-person committee will do a wrap up and final numbers total over this week and the next. Planning for next year's event typically starts in September. In the weeks leading up to the event, there will be promotional dinners and events hosted to raise money for expenses.

The 2024 MCC Relief Sale will take place on May 24 and May 25.



The quilt auction at this year's New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale (NHMRS) took place in person and virtually Saturday, May 27. There were about 200 quilts created for this event, according to the NHMRS website. (Photo credit: New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale)

COMMUNITY —

Swedish Crokinole player Participating in World Tournament

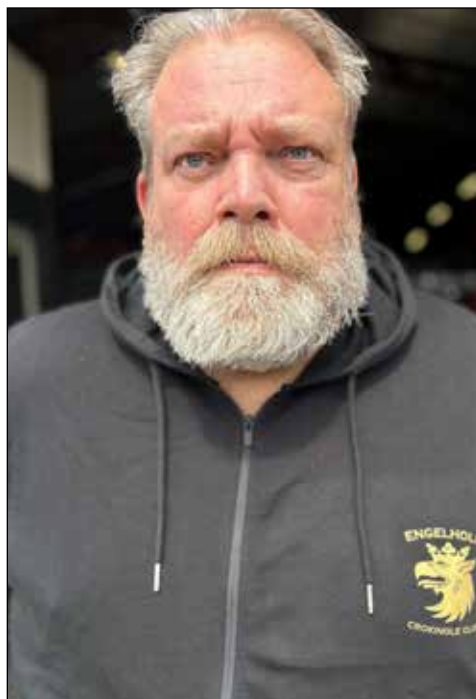
By Lee Griffi

Competitors often travel long distances to play in Tavistock's world championship competition, but maybe no one as far as Magnus Rundstrom.

The 53-year-old is coming from Engelholm, Sweden, a small coastal city of about 40,000 people at the country's southern tip. His nearly nine-hour flight takes off from Copenhagen, Denmark, and lands in Toronto. Rundstrom says he is hoping the game becomes more popular in his country. "Crokinole is not known in Sweden, and our club is, to my knowledge, the only one. We have a related game called Couronne which is a variant of Carrom but with cues. This is a singles game, and I've been setting up tournaments since 2010." He adds the idea to try and grow the game all started with an internet search. "In early 2018, I wanted to add a game for a new discipline of tournaments and looked for a game that offers more of a social atmosphere while still having that competitive touch. I browsed the net for games, and I found a picture of a Crokinole board which led me to Youtube, checking out some matches from (Tavistock)." He says the game was awesome and matched what he was looking for. "I went back online and found a dealership in Denmark and purchased a board. I then gathered three friends, and we played doubles for 10 hours straight. We were hooked! The word spread, and some other friends tried the game. They all went nuts for this game. I had found the game I was searching for."

Rundstrom works as an after-sales manager in forklift industry and previously served in the Swedish Armed Forces an explosive ordinance disposal specialist. He purchased five more boards and held the first-ever City Championships (doubles) in June of 2018 in Engelholm. The tournament is limited to 32 players and is now running annually in March, with an addition of the Summer Cup in July and Winter Cup in December. "I enjoy planning and hosting tournaments, and I hope to one day set up an official Swedish Championship. I have an opportunity to learn about larger tournaments during my visit (in Tavistock)," he says.

Rundstrom feels the key to being successful at Crokinole comes from good hand-eye coordination. "I always enjoyed activities such as shooting, archery, and darts. It gets even more interesting since you need



Magnus Rundstrom is coming from Engelholm, Sweden to participate in Tavistock's world championship crokinole tournament.

to factor in who holds the final shot of the round (the hammer) and also apply different tactics depending if you are ahead or trailing the round." One of his favourite parts about the game is that anyone who can sit and move a finger can play. "No previous skills are needed. It's a competitive game but offers at the same time a social atmosphere, especially in doubles. Most first-timers understand the game quickly and realize they are managing quite well even on their first time playing, which makes them want to play again. To be honest, I never heard anyone disliking it."

As for his chances of doing well at this Saturday's tournament, he says you never know what could happen. "Although these guys are great players with massive skill-sets and lots of experience, there is always a chance. Just look at 2019, where Mr. Carr, who was relatively unknown, played very well and proceeded to the final. You can only do your best; my plan is to stay positive, focused, and get lucky."

This will be Rundstrom's first trip to Canada. He was hoping to play in the 2019 tournament, but for a number of reasons, he wasn't able to come, then the pandemic cancelled three straight events.

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COMMUNITY —

Forest Glen Public School breakfast club receive a boost from 100 Men of Wilmot

By Gary West

With world hunger day on May 28th, it was great timing for organizers and volunteers of the Forest Glen Public School "Breakfast Club" to be chosen last week to be the recipient of \$10,000 from 100 "Men of Wilmot," who actually "give a damn."

First, an explanation of the incredible organization called 100 Men of Wilmot.

100 Men of Wilmot is made up of approximately 100 registered members from the New Hamburg and Wilmot area community that are committed to seeing their charitable efforts have a direct and immediate local impact.

Every member who registers is committed to donating \$400 a year, \$100 per member, four times a year to four different charities. This allows the members' group to donate \$10,000 or more quarterly, which is over \$40,000 per year, to four different local charities that directly have an impact on Wilmot Township.

After a very detailed description and presentation to the organization of 100 men of Wilmot, the Forest Glen

Public School Breakfast Club, were chosen to receive \$10,000.

Paulette West, Kathy Bender and Dianne Satchell explained to the group at the Puddicombe House banquet hall in New Hamburg, how 26 hard working volunteers from Hillcrest Mennonite Church and Steinman Mennonite church make a complete hot breakfast meal every Wednesday morning from 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. They feed approximately 80 to 100 students every week from the 320 students at the school.

They also pack lunches for those in need on Thursdays and Fridays.

They explained to the group that they do appreciate the help from area farmers and producers and generous donations, so the breakfasts can be made for minimal costs.

The Men of Wilmot were certainly impressed with the work the group does and said, "we're more than happy to donate money to such a worthy group of hard-working volunteers feeding those students who really need it."

For more info, call or text Mark Murray Sr. at 905-693-5400.



Front left to right, Lukas Stoll, Jared Shantz and Mark Murray Jr. (holding a \$10,000 donated cheque). Back left to right, Dianne Satchell, Kathy Bender, and Paulette West were happy about the "100 Men of Wilmot" generous donation.

Supportive Housing of Waterloo to dedicate housing for seniors facing homelessness

By Russel Evans

As the number of seniors experiencing homelessness continues to rise, Supportive Housing of Waterloo (SHOW) has announced that it will be shifting the focus of the organization's affordable housing building at 144 Erb St. E. in Waterloo to prioritize supportive housing for individuals 60 years of age or older experiencing homelessness.

In a press release, SHOW says they are the first organization of its kind in the region to designate a building for the purpose of housing older individuals from PATHS, Waterloo Region's waitlist for individuals facing chronic homelessness. SHOW purchased the building from the Kitchener

Waterloo Civitan Club in 2020 for \$2.4 million.

"Since the purchase ... I've been gauging or hearing stories about the aging population of those experiencing homelessness," said Brian Paul, Executive Director at SHOW. "I came to realize that seniors, older adults, it's the fastest growing population for those experiencing homelessness, and the shelters are seeing more older adults than ever before."

Paul said his organization had noticed a gap in services and decided that they would "lean into our expertise, our experience and leverage that and house these individuals."

The building at 144 Erb St. E. consists of

25 units which are a mixture of fully furnished one bedroom and studio apartments, with staff on-site to help support residents.

"Support can be... all the way from crisis to just having someone to talk to," Paul said. "The things we do change daily, and we develop and tailor a support plan that's specific and unique to each individual person," Paul continued.

SHOW has committed to not displacing any of the current residents as part of this process. Paul said that SHOW would be placing individuals into the building as vacancies arise.

"We are not displacing any of the current residents, on turnover. We are going to be

placing older adults from the centralized waitlist for those experiencing homelessness," said Paul, noting that SHOW had placed the first such individual – a 75-year-old man named Eugene – just a few months ago. Paul said there are generally between three and five turnovers per year.

These units are not transitional housing, but permanent fixed-site supportive housing, Paul said. "Our residents sign a lease. They are protected under the Residential Tenancy Act... they have the same rights as any renter in the province," said Paul.

"It's permanent as long as they want. People deserve an opportunity to age in place in a safe and affordable home with dignity, and that's the goal of what we do."

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FEATURE —

Where are they now? Sharlene Heipel & Hans Hanson



High school sweethearts Sharlene Heipel and Hans Hanson started a family, with one biological daughter, Clare, born in 2004 and the adoption of infant son, Sean, in 2010.

By Nancy Silcox

After getting married, high school sweethearts (W-O class of '95) Sharlene Heipel and Hans Hanson decided that "family" was part of their long-range plans. "We wanted one biological child and wanted to adopt another," offers Sharlene.

The birth of their daughter Clare in 2004 fulfilled part one of their plan. Part two was joyfully realized with the adoption of their infant son Sean in 2010.

An active baby, Sean thrived physically, but at six months, when Sharlene expected her son to begin babbling in early language acquisition, he was not making this key milestone.

"It was like he was growling, making vibrating sounds, and I began to wonder if he was hearing properly," recalls Sharlene of these worrisome days. "I hadn't remembered these types of vocalizations from our first child, Clare."

A hearing test as Sean approached his first birthday confirmed the Hansons' fears. Sean was profoundly deaf and had been since birth.

Sharlene recalls the family's emotions after the diagnosis. "Well, of course, there was denial. I spent literally hours each day on the computer trying to find out everything I could about raising a deaf child."

Hans, whom she affectionately calls a pragmatist, urged her to "take one day at a time."

That "one day at a time" philosophy would, however, necessitate the Hansons making an immediate decision. One that would affect their son's future.

"We needed to make the choice if he would be raised in the Deaf Culture—that is, with sign language, and probably attending E.C. Drury School for the Deaf or have surgical cochlear implants to give him the chance to give him some level of hearing."

Whatever the Hansons' choice, significant medical, educational, psychological and social supports would be afforded to the family, as is the case for all deaf children in the Province of Ontario.

"It was a very tough decision," admits Sharlene, "but in the end, we decided we wanted both options: for Sean to have the supports given to deaf children and their families, and to have the cochlear implant surgery.

A cochlear implant is an electronic device which uses a sound processor to capture sound signals. It then sends sounds to a receiver implanted under the skin behind the ear. The signals stimulate the auditory nerve, which then directs the signals to the brain.

While the implants would not restore hearing, they would allow for sounds to be heard, thus facilitating language development.

Extensive supports after surgery for both the individual and his or her family would be provided.

Sean's surgery took place just before his second birthday at Children's Hospital in London, Ontario. On his return home to Baden, changes began in earnest for the entire family.

Twenty-five hours per week of language and speech was initiated, with professionals coming into the home to work with Sean. "Of course, that training also involved Hans, Clare and I too," recalls Sharlene. "We all needed to learn sign language."

And while Sean was now a three-year old, his language acquisition was at the newborn stage after the implants. "We were told that we shouldn't expect any language from Sean for one year—as you wouldn't from a hearing one-year-old."

Those early days were tough for the entire family. Sharlene admits: "You lose yourself. It's all-consuming, as the child is all that matters."

The couple's daughter Clare, only 10 by the time her brother received his implants, was particularly impacted.

But as time, therapy and intervention continued, Sean's acquisition of language improved. "He would use some speech, which, usually our family only could interpret, but he much preferred using sign language," says Sharlene.

Oral speech remained a deficiency and eventually, Sean would also be diagnosed with Speech Apraxia.

At age 5, Sean Hanson began school at Smithson Elementary School in Kitchener. He would join four other deaf and hearing-impaired students in the congregated Hearing program. One teacher and one Educational Assistant taught a number of essential skills, academic as well as practical, to their class.

Later, the program moved to a newly-built school in the Chichee Hills area which provided state-of-the-art sound systems for the Hearing class.

The Waterloo Public Board of Education provided a special bus for transport from Sean's home in Baden to the school and returned home.

Spring 2023 sees Sean in the final days of Grade 6 at Chichee Hills Public School. Instruction is led by one teacher assisted by up to 3 teaching assistants. He will eventually begin high school at Kitchener-Collegiate Institute in

the school's hearing class.

As is the case with many children with disabilities, Sean Hanson shows giftedness in areas outside of speech and language.

"He is very mechanical and loves to take things apart and put them back together," says Sharlene. She adds that the cochlear implants also allow her son to hear and enjoy music.

He is "strong, clever and knowing and is motivated to communicate," using signing and writing," she says proudly. "Computer programs for deaf children open up the world to them."

Sharlene calls her son's achievements "magical." "What he has overcome is magic, and every day, we celebrate his successes."

This retired Secondary School Special Education teacher does too!

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) What is the only domesticated animal not mentioned in the Bible?
- 2) Okinawa is a volcano in which country?
- 3) When facing forward on a ship, which direction is starboard?
- 4) In the 60s what was the first name of John F. Kennedy's wife?
- 5) What is the largest country in South America?
- 6) Who was the first country artist to sell over 10 million copies of an album?
- 7) How many flowers are in the design stamped on each side of an Oreo cookie?
- 8) Black-eyed peas are not peas. What are they?
- 9) What was the first city to be levelled by a plutonium based atomic bomb?
- 10) What sport did Herve Filion top with a record of 14,084 wins?

Answers found on page 26

COMMUNITY —

Let's Tree Wilmot update



Let's Tree Wilmot held three plantings over the spring, including this one at Catherine Street Park in New Hamburg on May 7. (Photos contributed)

By Veronica Reiner

Let's Tree Wilmot (LTW) wrapped up three tree plantings this past spring, including one at the Wilmot Recreation Complex on April 22, another at Catherine Street Park in New Hamburg on May 7, and another at Baden Hill Regional Forest on May 13.

Their biggest project of the year will be the Baden Hills forest. They planted 230 trees there at their past event, and will be planting trees and shrubs there several times in the fall again. "We'll be expanding the forest there, and there's going to be a pollinator prairie garden area," said Marlene Knezevich, a member of LTW.

While the group is unsure how many trees will be planted there in the fall, they will be focusing on planting current gooseberries, current elderberries and nut trees, etc. There were about 50 volunteers that came to help plant the trees.

Marlene added that there had been a shortage of native trees, with a combination of factors leading to this, including the federal government's 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program. Municipalities are participating, such as Mississauga, who has a goal to plant one million trees by 2032.

"There's just been a high demand, so it's been hard for the nursery industry to keep up. Often when we put an order in, we have to put in 'here's the list and here are our top choices,'" said Marlene.

She said a challenge this year will be keeping up with the watering for all of the plantings that Let's Tree Wilmot has done. Volunteers from LTW will help with that, as well as the township plans to water some with a watering truck and an arborist.

Let's Tree Wilmot has purchased a used truck, and will soon acquire a water tank and pump to use to water the planted trees.

LTW volunteers will water them for at least two summers. This was funded through the 2BT grant from Natural Resources Canada.

Not all trees would die without watering, said Marlene, but a watering schedule would increase the survival rate. There are some aspects that they have no control over, for example, there was frost about two weeks ago. Some trees that were not done growing were damaged as a result.

Let's Tree Wilmot volunteer and arborist Mike Yost has been monitoring tree survival rates and health, as well as helping with pruning and watering. "So we're getting an idea of what works and what doesn't," noted Marlene.

There are also five LTW volunteers who will be taking their Tree Seed Collection Certification through Forest Gene Conservation Association. It is an online course and outdoor workshop that will

be funded by Reep Green Solutions in Kitchener through their 2BT grant from Natural Resources Canada. They are in the process of working with Rare Charitable Reserve, Cambridge, to create a native tree nursery, so collected seeds will go to that project as well to Trees for Woolwich nursery.

LTW keeps in contact with these groups from across Waterloo Region, including Reep Green Solutions and Trees for Woolwich, to discuss trees and what kind of funding options are available. The 2BT grant will be finished in March next year, so Let's Tree Wilmot is applying for other grants, such as the Region of Waterloo environmental grant.

LTW is planning to take a bit of a break for the summer, with the exception of watering trees. "That never goes away," said Marlene.



About 50 volunteers helped out at the Baden Hills regional forest tree planting by Let's Tree Wilmot on May 13. (Photos contributed)

COMMUNITY —

Optimist Club of Petersburg holds free breakfast in the park event

\$4,000 raised for Wilmot Family Resource Centre and ICC

By Veronica Reiner

The Optimist Club of Petersburg held their breakfast in the park on Sunday morning, May 28, which saw about \$4,000 raised for the Wilmot Family Resource Centre and Interfaith Counselling Centre (ICC).

Warren Bechthold of the Optimist Club of Petersburg estimated that about 375 came out to enjoy a free breakfast at the Petersburg Community Park. In recognition of 40 years of community support, the Optimist Club of Petersburg decided to give back to the community as a way of saying 'Thank you for your support!' with this free breakfast. A variety of breakfast foods and drinks were on offer, including bacon, eggs, pancakes, syrup, jam, toast, potatoes, apple juice, orange juice, peach juice, tea, coffee, and water.

"It's always been a community get-together - a lot of people sometimes meet old friends, or they arrange to meet there," said Bechthold. He added that the event draws attendees from Wilmot Township and beyond, including Wellesley, Kitchener and Waterloo.

Around 11 a.m., attendees heard speeches from members of the Optimist Club of Petersburg. There was a free will donation box for those interested in donating to the two benefitting organizations.



Warren Bechthold, member of the Petersburg Optimist Club, makes a speech at the Breakfast in the Park event on Sunday, May 28. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)

"Over the years, numerous fundraisers and numerous projects have been done in the Petersburg area by the Optimist Club of Petersburg," said Optimist Club of Petersburg President Jim Pipe in his speech. He noted that the club helped Wilmot township to build the picnic

shelter in the park, where the breakfast in the park events hosted.

Also in attendance were Optimist Club of New Dundee Co-President Rick Berry, Optimist District Governor Joe Paul, former Wilmot Mayor Les Armstrong, Ward Two Councillor Kris Wilkinson and Ward

Four Councillor Lillianne Dunstall. There were representatives from the two benefitting charities, including Kristin Oliver from the ICC and Kathryn McEwin from the Wilmot Family Resource Centre.

The Optimist Club of Petersburg are celebrating 40 years this year since its inception on February 16, 1983. Over the years, the club has supported Scouts, Girl Guides, bike rodeos, sports teams, London Children's Hospital, Grand River Hospital, families with children with cancer, Wilmot Family Resource Centre, ICC, Lutherwood, disaster relief programs, and more.

"Thank you very much for the hard work and dedication that you bring to this community - your service is so appreciated," said Wilkinson on behalf of the township, during a speech at the event. "What you've been able to build and bring to the people of Petersburg is fantastic, and we look forward to working with you for an additional 40 years."

The Optimist Club of Petersburg will continue to hold Breakfast at the Park events throughout the summer, including Sunday, June 18 (along with a Father's Day car show, weather permitting), July 16, August 14 and September 10. They take place from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Petersburg Community Park.

Kitchener-Wilmot WCDSB trustee officially resigns

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Wendy Ashby, a Waterloo Catholic District School Board trustee for Kitchener-Wilmot, resigned from the position after controversy surrounding online media posts.

The WCDSB officially accepted her resignation during a special board of trustees meeting on Wednesday, May 24.

Ashby said she chose to vacate her seat "so that we can all return our focus back on the important work that we have dedicated ourselves to doing."

Controversy followed after a series of tweets posted on Wendy Ashby's now deleted Twitter account. A screenshot of one of Ashby's tweets reads: "The most dangerous creature on the planet is the white Christian male. They're a threat to anyone that is not them."

Another deleted tweet read "Hush money. Buying silence about being underpaid. White women make obedient soldiers for the christofascist patriarchy."

The board of trustees denounced the actions in late April, saying that the WCDSB "does not support statements made by



Kitchener-Wilmot WCDSB trustee Wendy Ashby resigned from the board. The board does not know how it will fill the empty trustee seat - at a recent meeting, trustees voted down the idea of a by-election but never made a decision as to how to proceed.

Trustee Wendy Ashby in social media posts." Ashby, at the time, issued an apology and deleted her Twitter account.

Further, the WCDSB announced that there

would be a review by an outside consultant to follow up to see if there was a breach in the code of conduct. That motion has since been rescinded following Ashby's resignation.

The posts also led to calls for her resignation - dozens of people also paced into the WCDSB meetings over the past several weeks to voice their concerns with Ashby's comments. A meeting on April 24 was recessed briefly due to disruptive demonstrators. There were Waterloo Regional Police Service officers present, but no arrests made.

Further, there were about 3,520 signatures on the Parents as First Educators website calling for Ashby to resign. "Wendy Ashby has shown prejudice based on race and religion, which shows she is unfit to represent her white Christian constituents as a trustee, and she should resign," reads the petition.

In her resignation statement, Ashby said, "I stand, as always with our Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Particularly with transgender and nonbinary folks at this time of great uncertainty and fear. I will be continuing my advocacy in a capacity where I will be able to challenge tough issues and bring lasting change in a way that is positive and meaningful. I hope that one day advocacy for these groups will no longer be considered an act of bravery."

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COMMUNITY —

Hoof trimming cattle feet has become an art on dairy and beef farms in Southwestern Ontario



Brian Cook is shown trimming feet on a Holstein cow at Wim Scherpenzeel's 340-cow dairy, west of Woodstock.



Hoof trimmer Brian Cook shapes the front foot of this relaxed Holstein cow as she looks on.

By Gary West

There are many jobs on livestock farms today that require many facets of management that most consumers would not comprehend or realize.

One such task on dairy and beef farms is hiring outside specialists for hoof trimming, to keep their animals from lameness and walking on feet that will ensure top milk and beef production.

One such specialist is Brian Cook, who, along with his wife and two young children, live in Tavistock, on the northern border of Oxford County (the dairy capital of Canada). This is where large numbers of dairy cows are housed and where his hoof trimming expertise is very much in demand.

Brian was raised on the beef farm of his father and mother, Owen and Carol Cook, south of New Hamburg in Wilmot Township.

He started working on dairy farms in 1997 while still in high school, milking cows for area dairy farmers. Following high school, he attended the University of Guelph while still milking and chore duties on weekends. Upon graduation in the spring of 2002, he started working full time for the Don Myers

family dairy farm south of New Hamburg, and later at Faromor Inc., a ventilation company near Shakespeare that installed equipment in many dairy barns throughout the area.

After working at the Nestle Waters Company south of Guelph, he quickly learned that factory work was not for him, and in September 2003 got a job working on another dairy farm in Oxford county, for Steve and Teresa MacKay near Embro.

Brian states that it wasn't long until he was a dairy herdsman, looking after everything herd related, including the breeding program, fresh cows, calves, and heifers. Still today, he credits Dr. Wayne Shewfelt, the award-winning veterinarian from Tavistock Veterinarians, for teaching him more than he ever learned in university about animal care and treatment. Brian feels Shewfelt's willingness and patience went a long way in helping him understand the complicated workings of the dairy cattle that were in his care.

He said, at one time, he helped with not only the dairy herd but also with fieldwork, but as the herd grew, he was mostly only limited to packing the bunks at harvest time. He says when he first started, they were milking 120 cows, and when he left

years later, the milking herd grew to 230 milking cows.

He says, as the herd grew, so did the foot troubles, and that's how he got started hoof trimming, with trying to help lame cows in between, when the outside contracted hoof trimmer visited.

As time evolved, Brian married Elysia Haid, who, along with her father, pushed him to find a business opportunity of his own. In 2015 with their family growing, they were motivated to start their own hoof trimming business.

He took a hoof trimming course with the experienced and well-known Vic Daniels, to ensure he was trimming correctly and correcting any wrongs he might have been doing during the shaping of the hoof, with the correct depth of heal, etc.

Brian and his wife when deciding to set up their own hoof trimming business, travelled to Michigan in March 2017 and purchased a used Appleton steel hoof trimming chute, and "Cookhaven Hoof Care" began.

He would do chores at the MacKay's dairy in the morning and then rush off to trim cows during the day and then come back for evening chores. At that time, he was only trimming cows, one or two days a month,

while working part time at the dairy.

Timing is everything, and when the regular hoof trimmer at MacKays wondered if Brian wanted to take over his business, he jumped at the chance, and in the fall of 2019, he was busy full time.

Brian states that after trimming 40-50 cattle a day for five days straight, his wrists were so sore that he wasn't sure if he was going to continue the next week. But he did, and he is glad that he did. He states it's sometimes a dirty job, and cows don't always co-operate, but he loves the job, and working in agriculture with farmers is something he has always appreciated.

In summary, Brian says he's very thankful for the love and support of his wife, who most days she has to get the kids up, fed, and to school before she heads off to work at Stratford General Hospital or also at the Woolwich Community Healthcare Centre. He said it's not easy juggling running a business, family time, and serving on the board at Grace United Church in Tavistock, but he is very thankful for the many blessings bestowed on him and his family, throughout the last number of years in the Tavistock area. For more info, email cookhavenhoofcare@gmail.com.

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COMMUNITY —

St John's Lutheran celebrates its 151st anniversary on June 11

The public is invited to attend



St. John's Lutheran Church, on Hessen Strasse in Wellesley Township, will celebrate its 151st anniversary on June 11. Located at right is a memorial for those laid to rest from 1852 to 1909. (Photo credit: Nancy Maitland)

By Nancy Maitland

On Sunday, June 11, St. John's Lutheran Church will celebrate the 151st anniversary of its dedication. The 150th anniversary was last year but plans to celebrate were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. There will be a service in the church at 2:30 p.m. on June 11. All are welcome!

An earlier log church was built on the north side of Hessen Strasse in 1850 and dedicated in 1852. It was destroyed by fire in early 1870 and was replaced almost immediately on the south side of the road on land donated by the Reichert family. Parishioners gathered stones from neighbouring fields for its construction. It was

completed and dedicated in June 1872. The church served as a place of worship for the congregation until 1982.

The structure has several unique elements, including the octagonal spire and finial, the large wooden door with original locks that are opened by an eight-inch iron key, the window in the tiny vestibule so that caskets could enter the church without maneuvering the tight turns. The engraved dedication stone reads, "Duetsche ev. Luth./St. Johannes/Kirche/1872."

Mr. Fred Von Heyking has been instrumental in keeping the church alive and the cemetery useful to family history researchers. St. John's was his sponsoring

church when he moved to Canada, and it has been his lifelong dedication. Many stones in the cemetery had deteriorated and were becoming illegible. Mr. Von Heyking transcribed the names on all the at-risk headstones, and the church paid for a new stone listing those names, a decision made out of respect for the families and those researching genealogy. Now in his 99th year, Mr. Von Heyking hopes to be able to attend the service.

The church was designated as a historic building by the Wellesley Township LACAC in 2003. It is also in the register of Canadas' Historic Places.

Four services are held each year in May,

June, September and December under the auspices of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Linwood.

June 11, 2023, is your opportunity to attend the service, view the inside of the church and donate toward planting trees on the property. Many of the older trees have been destroyed by Ash Borer beetles.

The church is located at 4260 Hessen Strasse, Wellesley Township.

For more information, please contact Karen Doerner rdoerner@golden.net or Susanne Von Heyking susanne.vonheyking@gmail.com.

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COMMUNITY —

Hilderley Representing Liberals in Oxford By-election

By Lee Griffi

One of Woodstock's most familiar faces hopes to be the next Member of Parliament in the riding of Oxford. David Hilderley is running to replace former Conservative MP Dave MacKenzie, who retired due to health concerns.

Hilderley came second in Woodstock's mayoral race in November and said he's ready to run again. "I am running as the Liberal Candidate because Oxford County needs a strong voice in Ottawa. I have lived and worked here for nearly my whole life. My wife and I raised our family here, and I have served in leadership roles serving our community for over 24 years. I know Oxford, and I am ready to serve the community that I have seen grow and evolve into what it is today."

The real estate agent said if elected, he wants to continue the Liberal plan to help residents make ends meet. "Time and time again, I hear about the need to make life more affordable for families – to keep building on Liberal programs like \$10 a day childcare and investments in more affordable housing in our communities. For our farming communities, it's about preserving farmland and protecting the environment to maintain Oxford as a prime, prosperous farming community." He added it would also be critical to protect and support our growing senior population and ensure everyone has a safe and secure retirement.

The City of Woodstock is attempting to enter into annexation talks with East Zorra-Tavistock, something Hilderley said isn't a federal matter. He added that his focus will be on housing. "Although the boundary adjustments are a local matter between the Townships and the City, I am committed to bringing more affordable housing options to municipalities while protecting our environment."



David Hilderley is running to replace former Oxford Conservative MP Dave MacKenzie.

The Liberal plan is to make housing more affordable by doubling the rate of home construction over the next 10 years, banning foreign ownership and cracking down on speculation, and supporting renters who are struggling with the costs of housing. "This past April, the Liberal government introduced the tax-free First Home Savings Account to help Canadians save up to \$40,000 towards the purchase of a home. We have a strong plan to make housing more affordable, and as your Member of Parliament, I will be a champion for this issue," he added.

The Liberal party and Justin Trudeau have been slumping

in the polls as of late, but Hilderley doesn't think that will be a factor on June 19. "This by-election is about local representation and local issues. We want the kind of practical, positive vision for the future that the Liberal Party offers, and a plan that will put the needs of Oxford residents at the forefront." He added that Pierre Poilievre and the Conservative Party continues to push reckless policies that would roll back positive progress.

On the campaign trail, the candidate said he has been getting a lot of support as someone who is homegrown. "That the most important issue in this by-election is local representation. I am very thankful to have received our former Conservative MP Dave MacKenzie's endorsement in this race. Even as a former Conservative, Dave knows that local representation is vital to our community's success, and I'm glad to have earned his trust."

Hilderley has lived and worked in Oxford County for all but two years of his life. He and his wife Patrice have three children and eight grandchildren. "I was an educator for 34 years, working as a teacher, consultant, vice-principal, and principal at several schools throughout Oxford County. I have been a realtor for the past 17 years, helping families settle into homes here."

His community involvement includes the Chair of the 2001 Canada Games Committee, and he has co-chaired the Golden Gala, helping to raise \$1.5 million for local charities and the new Woodstock Hospital. "A lifelong resident, I am ready to serve the community that I have seen grow and evolve into what it is today. And as Member of Parliament, I will work with the Liberal team to keep Canada moving forward and continue to make life more affordable, deliver clean air and a strong economy, make housing more affordable, and deliver on the priorities that matter most to the residents of Oxford and all Ontarians."

Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve grand opening to take place June 10

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve grand opening celebration is scheduled for Saturday, June 10 at 10 a.m. at the wetlands location at 28 Smith Creek Drive in New Hamburg.

The event will include guest speakers and greetings from Mike and Christine Schout, a scavenger hunt on the boardwalk, and limited quantities of commemorative gifts celebrating the grand opening.

"The Township is truly grateful to the Schout's for their vision and generosity in creating this incredible green space and educational opportunity for our community," said Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen.

"Utilizing this property to create a new and vibrant ecosystem that supports many different species, including habitat for species at risk, and a home to a wide diversity of plants and trees is a gift that will keep on giving for generations."

The Mike Schout Wetlands is a 55 acre property in the Township of Wilmot. The project began in 2019 when Mike approached the township about using undevelopable floodplain land given to the township to create a preserve that would combine wildlife, the environment, learning, and the health and well-being of the community that all could enjoy for years to come.

The Wetlands Preserve provides the



The Mike Schout Wetlands preserve is a 55-acre property located at 28 Smith's Creek Drive in New Hamburg.

following features:

- 1.6 kilometre long raised boardwalk that spans multiple wetland ponds.
- Over 20 acres of pollinator meadows for bees, birds, and insects.
- Heron, eagle, and osprey nests, with poles and installation donated by Enova Power Corporation.

- 10,000 trees planted with the help of the Grand River Conservation Authority, Let's Tree Wilmot and local residents.

- Educational components that teach visitors about turtles, snakes, bats, and other species expected to make the wetlands their home.

"The Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve

is something I've been envisioning for a number of years as an opportunity to invest in environmental wellness and build community through environmental change," said Mike Schout, philanthropist, designer, and constructor of the wetlands project.

"We are truly excited to be able to deliver our goal of creating new habitats, improving flood management, and offering opportunities for the community and visitors to learn about wetlands and all their benefits through interactive learning. My wife Christine and I hope to see a great crowd at the grand opening to celebrate with us."

"The township of Wilmot is thrilled with the incredibly generous donation from Mike and Christine Schout as well as the other organizations and individuals who helped make this project happen," said former Community Service Director Sandy Jackson.

"The finished result of several years of planning, planting, and constructing is beyond what the township could have imagined, and we look forward to seeing the community and visitors to our township enjoying the recreational and environmental benefits the wetlands has to offer for many years to come."

Parking is not available on site for the event, but there is parking available at 66 Hincks Street, with a short walk to the entrance of the wetlands.

COMMUNITY —

Wellesley's street sweeper to be named "Lightning McClean"



By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Township of Wellesley street sweeper competition has wrapped up, with the new name of the machine voted to be Lightning McClean.

The name was submitted by Troy Cluthe, who received a small prize for the win. It was chosen out of 11 shortlisted names, which included Sweeping Beauty, Jeepers Sweepers, Curby the Sweeper, Turtle Racer, Dream Sweeper, Sweepasaurus, Clean Sweep, Gutter Putter, Apple Jack and Wellsweep. There were more than 80

names submitted throughout the course of the contest.

The name will be proudly displayed on the street sweeper in the coming weeks.

There will be another opportunity to name another street sweeper in the fall. 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.

peopleCare Officially Breaks Ground



Residents, families, friends, and special guests gathered on Friday at Tavistock's peopleCare long-term care home for an official ground-breaking. When completed in 2024, the new, larger home will be the first phase in what the company calls a 'planned care campus.' Pictured, left to right, are O'Derald and Mary Gingerich, Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman, Heather Gingerich, Long-Term Care Minister Paul Calandra, East-Zorra Tavistock Mayor Phil Schaefer, and peopleCare CEO Brent Gingerich. (Contributed photo)

WRPS issue cheque fraud warning

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) issued a warning after receiving reports of young people throughout the Waterloo Region becoming victims of cheque fraud through instant messaging applications.

In this scam, the fraudster sends a message about a money-making opportunity, via an instant messaging application, to the victim. The fraudster then asks the victim to deposit a cheque for them, and tells them to keep a portion of the funds after e-transferring the other portion of the funds to the fraudster.

The fraudster provides photos of the front and back of a cheque. The victim then auto-deposits the cheque, which initially provides them access to the funds, but results in the loss of funds or causes the victim's account to be overdrawn after the cheque later bounces.

In one case, on May 19, a Kitchener youth became a victim of this scam after receiving a message from a fraudster. The victim was asked to cash a cheque for \$1,200 and was instructed to keep \$600 and to e-transfer the remainder to the fraudster. The victim also shared the messaging application contact with friends, who

subsequently became victims after depositing fraudulent cheques.

Members of the public are encouraged to consider the following tips to help protect themselves from fraudulent cheque scams:

A general warning sign is when someone gives you a cheque and asks you to send some of the funds elsewhere. If you are told that you will receive money and to forward part or all of that money to someone else for any purpose, know that this is a scam — no matter how reasonable the explanation.

Whether you are accepting funds or making payments, it's always important to be comfortable with the transaction and aware of who you are accepting cheques from.

Do not spend money from any cheque until the money has been cleared from the financial institution (bank or credit union) the cheque is being drawn upon.

If you believe you have been a victim of a similar scam, you can file a complaint with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre or contact Waterloo Regional Police at 519-570-9777.

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FAMILY MILESTONES —

OBITUARY

BRENNEMAN, Nelda (Jutzi)



It is with profound love and sadness that we, as a family, announce the peaceful passing of Nelda (Jutzi) Brenneman.

Nelda passed away in the early hours of May 23, 2023, at St. Mary's General Hospital, Kitchener. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Nelda passed

away surrounded by those she loved and cared for at the age of 83 years old.

Nelda was a cherished and devoted wife to Ray C. Brenneman, celebrating 62 years of marriage. Loving mother of Douglas and Valerie Brenneman, Dwight Brenneman and Paulette West, and Michael Brenneman and Kathy Maucec, grandmother to Tyler, Shea, and Taite.

Nelda will be lovingly remembered by her brothers, sisters in law, and brothers in law; Ken and Joan Jutzi, Mark and Karen Jutzi, John and Juanita Jutzi, Irene Jutzi, Bill Jantzi, Louise Jutzi, Walter and Arlene Brenneman, and by her many nieces and nephews.

Nelda was predeceased by her father and mother, Rudy and Irene (Jantzi) Jutzi, father-in-law and mothers-in-law Christian S. Brenneman, Edna Lichty Brenneman and Reta Gingerich; brothers, sisters, brothers in law and sisters in law; Elaine and Walter Fretz, Robert Jutzi, Lucille Jantzi, Grant Jutzi, Helen Brenneman, Jean and Delton Bowman, and Lois Ann Brenneman.

Nelda lived her life with compassion, integrity, kindness, and love. She devoted much of her time to her family, and friends, ensuring others around her were supported physically and emotionally. She was an integral part of her husband Ray's dream and accomplishment of establishing and building Expressway Motors. Over the years, Nelda held many roles at the dealership as a cleaner, driver, and most importantly, receptionist always eager to provide exceptional customer service.

Nelda was a dedicated mother and grandmother and made it a priority to ensure everyone had what they needed and more. Nelda was an active volunteer with the Nithview Auxiliary, and a long-time member of Wilmot Mennonite Church with strong faith and determination. Nelda had a great love for music, spending time at Chesley Lake, and travelling around the world with Ray. She was a consummate hostess, loved to 'lunch', and had a keen fashion sense.

Relatives and friends were invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Friday, May 26, 2023, from 2 – 4 p.m. and 6 – 8 p.m. The funeral service took place at Steinmann Mennonite Church, 1316 Snyder's Road West, Baden on Saturday, May 27, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Susan Allison Jones officiated. All were welcome to join the family at 12 noon on Saturday at Wilmot Mennonite Church Cemetery from the time of interment.

Donations in Nelda's honour can be made to Mennonite Central Committee, Heart and Stroke Foundation, or Harmonize for Speech. Personal condolences and donation information available at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

OBITUARY

CAVALIERE, Maria (Laudano)



Peacefully passed away on Monday, May 22, 2023, at Freeport Hospital, Kitchener. Maria resided in New Hamburg and was born 86 years ago in Conca dei Marini, Italy. Maria was a daughter of the late Antonio and Maria (Grazia) Laudano.

Cherished and loving mother of Andrew Cavaliere and Tony and wife Maria Cavaliere. Proud and devoted grandmother of Jessica (Luigi), Cody (Mira), Ryan, Jaclyn (Aaron), Lindsay and Gabrielle and great-grandmother to Isabella, Alessia, Bennett, Taylor, and Jake. Maria will be missed by her siblings Andrea, Pancrazio, Lucia, Raphael, Assunta, Luigi and Mario and their families.

Predeceased and now reunited with her beloved husband Alfonso Cavaliere who predeceased her on October 11, 2002, her parents, and brothers Salvatore and Vince.

Maria was a devoted Catholic and was a dedicated member of Holy Family Roman Catholic Parish, New Hamburg. Above all else in life Maria was a proud, devoted, and loving Mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. They were most important in her eyes.

Friends and relatives were invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Thursday, May 25, 2023, from 6 – 8 p.m. A Funeral Mass was held at Holy Family Roman Catholic Parish, New Hamburg at 11:00 am. Interment followed at Riverside Cemetery, Holy Family Section in New Hamburg.

As expressions of sympathy, donations would be accepted to the Heart & Stroke Foundation, Holy Family Roman Catholic Parish or St. Anthony Orphanage, Italy.

Personal condolences and donation information available at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

OBITUARY

STEWART, Donna Lee

It is with saddened hearts that we share Donna Lee Stewart, passed away peacefully at home on May 25, 2023.

She was loved by her husband of 53 years Dale, son Craig (Julie), Daughter Kelly (Sam) and her five favourite, most adored grandkids Jack, Eva, Monique, Finley, and Seamus. Also, her furball friend, Ben.

There is no doubt, she was our rock. She will be missed.

Donna would love to see donations to the "Nutrition for Learning" program of Waterloo Region, in lieu of flowers.

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

Personal condolences and donation information available at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

OBITUARY

REIST, Marilyn Ruth (Poyntz)



Passed away peacefully, on Monday, May 29, 2023, at Grand River Hospital, KW Health Centre, Kitchener. Marilyn was born 80 years ago in Ingersoll, Ontario, a daughter of the late Cyrus and Coral Ruth (Harris) Poyntz.

Cherished and loving wife of Irvin Douglas Reist, whom she enjoyed 54 years of marriage with. Devoted mother of Tanya and husband Joe Fenton, Deanne and husband Luke Gladding and Jason Reist and wife Annemarie. Proud grandmother of Clara and Jacob Gladding and Connor and Madison Reist. Marilyn will be missed by her brother Allan and his wife Elizabeth Poyntz, sisters in law Armintha Belbeck and Joanne Kipfer and husband Reynold.

Predeceased by her brother Paul, brothers-in-law Lester and wife Marjorie Reist and Elroy Belbeck.

Marilyn was a long-time member of Bethel Evangelical Missionary Church, New Dundee and was active with the Bethel Women's Ministries. Marilyn was a devoted church secretary, librarian and grounds keeper which was truly shown in her own gardens. Marilyn and Irvin enjoyed travelling together and travelled to many areas.

A private time of Goodbyes was held with interment at Union Cemetery, New Dundee. A Celebration of Marilyn's life will be held at Bethel Evangelical Missionary Church, 1531 Bridge St, New Dundee, on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. a time of fellowship will follow in the church hall.

As expressions of sympathy, and in lieu of flowers, donations would be accepted to Bethel Women's Ministries or Evergreen Christian Ministries and can be done through the funeral home. 519-662-1661.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, New Hamburg. Personal condolences and donation information available at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

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Pastor Nancy Mann

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COMMUNITY —

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

June 2: Happy birthday to Evelyn Kalbfleisch (9) and Mac Alexander (19).

June 3: Happy birthday to Hannah Cressman (12) and Kayle Roth (14).

June 4: Happy birthday to Erin Baechler (16) and anniversaries for Ralph and Irene Baker (63rd), Mark and Jennifer Ropp (12th), and Kevin and Susan Luckhardt.

June 5: Happy birthday to Beau Witzel (17), Emma Michaels (18) and anniversaries for Bill and Fran Eekhof (58th), Gerald and Judy Zehr, and Terry and Jill Berg.

June 6: Happy birthday to Owen Yantzi (11), Morgan Weicker (17), Ashley Ropp (18), and Kamryn Lamond (21), and anniversaries for Chris and Melissa Stahlke (8th), and Tom and Lori Dufton (14th).

June 7: Happy birthday to Quinlan Brodrecht (9) and Elijah Bamberry (21) and anniversary for Brian and Elysia Cook (9th).

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 23-30, 2018 Edition (5 years ago)

Together for a lifetime: The late Russell Yausie, Frank Bickle and Harvey McKay were all born in East Zorra, a short distance from each other, attended Rockett's School, lived their lives only miles apart, and each one passed away this year within a week of each other – Russell (age 93) on March 13th, Frank (age 91) on March 9th, and Harvey (age 97) on March 14th.

On April 9, 2018 Tavistock area residents welcomed a new business to the community. The Tavistock Chiropractic and Wellness clinic opened in the professional space, on the first floor of the former Bonnie Brae building on Woodstock Street North. The 1,100 sq. ft. office space is equipped with four treatment rooms.

Six Tavistock Public School students advanced to the Thames Valley Track & Field Finals to be held in London on June 5th: Nathan Bast, Charlie Harnack, Aubrey Shewchuk, Alex Michiels, Keaton Bartlett, and Ashlyn Witt.

May 21-28, 2008 Edition (15 years ago)

Commercial, Union, Royal, Grimm's, Bau-

er's, Zoellner's, Progress House, Arlington, Oxford. What do these names have in common? You guessed it. Each was a hotel in Tavistock at one point in our village's history. On March 3, 2008, Milan "Mike" Yarich, owner of the Oxford Hotel for the past 40 years, died in his sleep. Will the old building see another hotel-keeper? What's in store for this 102-year-old building? Only time will tell. Last Saturday, about 900 people went through the building during an open house sponsored by the Tavistock & District Historical Society.

The Township of Wilmot is pleased to announce the Official Grand Opening of the Wilmot Recreation Complex. The event will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2008.

Players, executive members, parents and guests gathered at the Tavistock Legion Hall last Thursday evening, May 22, to celebrate the past season for the Tavistock Braves who won the McConnell Conference. Awards were won by Kyle Gunn, Jeff Roes, Marcus Yantzi, Blair McKay, Brett Meadows, Billy Whaling, Trevor Rose, and Kyle Alyea.

May 27-June 3, 1998 Edition (25 years ago)

The Tavistock Merchants fastball club captured the championship prize of \$1,000 at the Woodstock tournament, Victoria Day weekend, May 16, 17 and 18. In the title match, the Merchants won 12-11 in extra innings on a solo shot by Dave Kollman.

Designated hitter Brian Stere also paced the attack with two home runs and a triple.

John Wright, the newly elected Mayor of Tavistock, Devon, England, notified the Gazette that he looks forward to joining in the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Village of Tavistock, Ontario, coming up between July 30th and August 3rd.

Decorating for the 150th is appearing around town – the sidewalk planters exhibit the 150th colours as well as the centre island flower bed – store fronts and homes are also beginning to show the 150th spirit.

May 30-June 6, 1973 Edition (50 years ago)

Over 350 parents and players sat down for supper at the Tavistock Memorial Hall last Wednesday night for the Annual Tavistock and District Minor Hockey Banquet. The guest speaker was Steve Monteith, who spoke on "the Effect Russians have on hockey in Canada." He was a member of the Canadian team in Europe and on one of the Olympic teams.

Miss Lucille "Babs" Lemp was the guest of honour at a reception held in the Tavistock Library Hall by the Tavistock Women's Institute on Sunday, June 3rd. The high point of the afternoon was the presentation of a hi-fi set to Babs. Mr. Carl J. Seltzer, in making the presentation, said, "May its music swing you into many happy hours and enjoy it for many years to come."

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COMMUNITY —

A German mechanic is on a 40,000 km trip on a moped, with an early stop in Perth County



Olle Huber, who landed from Germany only two days before, camped in his one person pup tent, as he travelled through Perth County, on the first leg of his trip to visit friends in Detroit.

By Gary West

With the Victoria Day long weekend over, many area travellers were coming and going through the Perth County area in campers and fifth wheel trailers. Some were paying the price for a fully equipped campsite or heading to their cottage.

A young traveller who flew into Toronto - only two days before - was 47 year old Olle Huber, who landed from the Black Forest area from a city called Achern in southwest Germany, with his shipped in antique

looking motor bike.

He stopped for an unexpected overnight stay at the Murray Schlotzhauer farm in North Easthope township, with his small moped which will only travel at 50 kilometres an hour (top speed) and a pup tent.

He was happy with his free overnight accommodation which consisted of an out-house used for horse shows held at the farm many years ago, and a high and dry grassed area near Line 37, east of Stratford.

Huber could be called the “happy



Travelling with his moped is Olle Huber from Germany, waking up on a cool morning from his tied down tent, anchored by his bike on the Schlotzhauer farm in North Easthope Township in Perth County.

wanderer”, and after a night of rest in three degree weather, was heading to see a friend in Detroit. You had to admire his adventurous demeanour and his free-wheeling lifestyle.

He has taken a sabbatical from his work as a lumber man and mechanic in Germany, and has carefully planned a year of travelling throughout North America planning on heading to see friends and family in Mexico and onto the Panama area.

The traveller also talked about

hoping to visit New Jersey, New York and Newfoundland in his travels and wanting also to eventually get to Portugal, where he also has friends.

He knows his 40,000 kilometre trip will have its challenges, but looks forward to meeting many friends along his way. He was happy to be treated to breakfast and coffee, courtesy of the Schlotzhauer's, who Ollie says is one new friend he will never forget due to incredible down home hospitality.

Tavi Construction Update



Construction is well underway at Tavistock's famous five-corner intersection. It kicked off on May 15 and is expected to last for another six weeks. An Oxford OPP officer was on scene to direct traffic on Monday when the work required the lights to be turned off. Oxford County had warned residents and businesses there would be some “temporary disruptions.” (Photo credit: Lee Griffi)

A Wisteria in bloom in Baden



A Wisteria in bloom in Baden as of Monday, May 29. “We have lived in this house in Baden for nine years and I have never seen this Wisteria bloom like this ever! It's breathtaking,” said Melinda Bleay, who posted the photo to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group. The Wisteria is a long lived vining plant with cascades of blue to purple flowers. (Photo credit: Melinda Bleay)

COMMUNITY —

Celebration of life for Woolwich-Wellesley school board trustee

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Members of the public and the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) community are invited to join a celebration of life for WRDSB Woolwich-Wellesley Trustee and long-time teacher Fred Meissner.

The event will take place on Sunday, June 4 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lions Hall in Elmira (40 South Street West).

The WRDSB announced Fred's passing on May 10 and described him as an exemplary board member. "His passion and dedication to improving public education in the region was second to none," said the WRDSB. "His priority was always students, their success and well-being, and his commitment to them was boundless."

Fred, 62, was a teacher for 27 years at Elmira

District Secondary School, where he worked in both English and Special Education departments until his retirement in 2018.

After that, he joined the Board of Trustees in October 2022 and quickly integrated into a committed and thoughtful member of the governance team.

As a Trustee, he advocated passionately for inclusive, accessible and safe classrooms and schools. He prioritized student voice and engaging families, caregivers and others with a vested interest in developing an effective educational experience for all students.

He was married to Terry, a father to Jeremy (Kelly) and Joe (Karen), along with being a grandparent to Jamieson, Kate; Grey, William and Charles.



A celebration of life will be held for former EDSS teacher and Woolwich-Wellesley school board trustee Fred Meissner.

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COMMUNITY —

230 charges laid in Perth County throughout Canada Road Safety Week

Canada Road Safety Week sees 12,600 charges laid across the province

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

There were about 230 charges laid by Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) during Canada Road Safety Week, which took place from May 16 to May 22. Across the province, there were about 12,600 charges laid throughout this week.

In Perth County, there were six impaired driving charges, 11 stunt/careless driving, six seatbelt, 140 speeding, and 70 other highway traffic act offences. The Perth

County OPP noted officers paid attention to the "big four" factors in serious collisions, including impaired driving, distracted driving, aggressive driving and failure to wear a seatbelt.

Across the province, OPP responded to seven road fatalities during the annual initiative, with three of the fatal collisions occurring over the long weekend.

While the results are preliminary, the OPP laid close to 6,900 speeding charges

across the province. Aggressive drivers also racked up more than 175 stunt driving/racing charges.

Preliminary charge numbers associated with other road behaviours targeted during the campaign are as follows:

Impaired driving: 245

Distracted driving: 144

Careless driving: 124

No seatbelt: 622 (charges apply to drivers

and passengers)

The OPP maintained a strong presence of highways and roads as they joined policing partners across Canada to enforce and educate road users about traffic laws.

The OPP thanks all drivers and other road users who did their part to help keep the motoring public safe during the annual campaign... and do so throughout the year.

Canada Road Safety Week is led by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

Children's Farm and Home Safety Day taking place on June 3

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Dennis and Helen Martin of Winterose Farm in the Waterloo Region are looking forward to hosting their 25th annual Children's Farm and Home Safety Day on their farm on Saturday, June 3.

The focus of the day is creating safety awareness with school age kids. Children are divided into small groups and tour stations around the farm, including fire safety for farm and home (older kids will learn

how to operate a fire extinguisher), bike safety, machinery, tractor safety, as well as small and large animal safety.

"If we can protect children from serious injury by taking the time to demonstrate the dangers around the farm and home, then it is time well spent," noted Sharon Grose, committee member of Waterloo Rural Women Farm and Home Safety Day. "Farm families live where they work, and reminders are a good thing for folks of all ages."

Grose is part of a six-member committee that spends hours planning and organizing the one-day event.

"People wonder why we bother to host a farm safety day each spring - we do it for the kids, we want to keep our future farmers safe," said Grose. "We're a committed group of volunteers who feel strongly about educating children about farm and home safety- we have been organizing a farm safety day annually for the past 24 years."

Farm safety day presenters aim to make children aware of dangers found on the farm. At this event and in previous years, Walter Grose dresses up as a clown called Safety Sam to help share safety messages.

"Kids will go home and share what they have learned with their families - it's a good reminder for everyone," said Grose. If we can prevent one accident by hosting a farm safety day, it is time well spent."

Wellesley Pet Valu walk raises \$3,330



By Veronica Reiner

The Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides in Wellesley raised about \$3,330 for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG).

The took place early Sunday afternoon, May 28. About 15 people - along with their dogs - made it out to the event, which started at the pavilion near the arena at 1 Catherine Street. Walkers travelled along several streets in Wellesley, including through Queen's Bush Road and Greenwood Hill.

There were "pit stops" with water dishes for dogs to help cool them off in the heat, including one across from Wellesley Public School. Dogs were treated to a "puppuccino" afterward.

Located in Oakville, the LFCDG provides highly trained dogs across Canada and relies on public support. Each Dog Guide cost about \$35,000 to breed, train and place with qualified applicants.

The seven Dog Guide programs include canine vision, hearing, service, seizure response, autism assistance, diabetic alert and facility support.



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COMMUNITY —

50th birthday display



A 50th birthday display, featuring posters and pop up pictures for Alex, was on display on Ferris Drive in Wellesley on Sunday, May 28. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)

Information session for those 55+ in New Hamburg



Members of the WRPS joined adults 55+ at the New Hamburg Community Centre on May 25. (Photo credit: Lillianne Dunstall)

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

An information session aimed at those 55 and older took place on 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.

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) shared insights and tips on how to protect from theft and scammers, as well as discussed traffic and speeding concerns.



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COMMUNITY —

Wellesley splash pad open



The Wellesley splash pad near the arena at 1 Catherine Street is officially open as of Wednesday May 31. The splash pad will be open daily from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. until Labour Day weekend. The Township of Wellesley originally planned to open it the day before, however, it was delayed because their original health unit meeting was cancelled.

PD Day for WRDSB on June 2

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

On Friday, June 2, there will be a professional development (PD) day for elementary school staff. Students will not attend school, in person or virtually.

All board operated extended day and youth development programs will be open from 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. only, due

to staffing shortages.

The focus of the PD Day will be teacher-directed assessment and evaluation activities. Paraprofessional staff (educational assistants/child youth workers) will be participating in professional learning at their respective school sites, as well as supporting the completion of year-end responsibilities.

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COMMUNITY —

Sir Adam Beck PS students team up with WO



Grade six students at Sir Adam Beck Public School in Baden loved their collaborative work with Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School green industry students in the greenhouse on Wednesday, May 24. "We have great neighbours!" said Sir Adam Beck PS in a Tweet. (Photo credit: Sir Adam Beck PS)

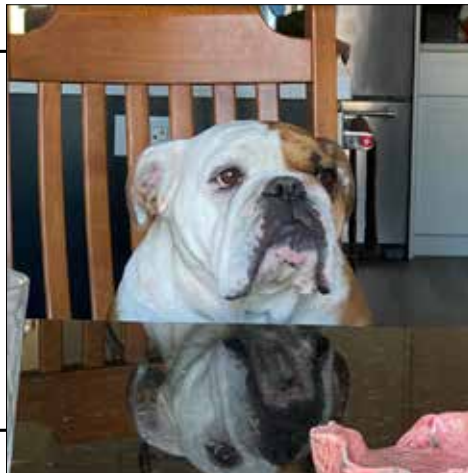
Pet of the Week



WINSTON

Our pet of the week is Winston, a six year old English bulldog known to frequent Wellesley Township. He is a sweetheart, a snuggler, and not a fan of the heat.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

pursuant to Section(s) 34(12) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended
APPLICATION(S) FOR Zone Change
in the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock

Township of East Zorra-Tavistock
90 Loveys Street East
Hickson, ON N0J 1L0 | Telephone: 519-462-2697

DATE: Wednesday, May 31, 2023
FILE: ZN 2-23-03 (Township of East Zorra-Tavistock)

Purpose and Effect of the Proposed Zone Change

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.

The proposed amendments to the Zoning By-law provisions include the following:

- Adding a new definition for Additional Residential Unit and amending other related definitions;
- Amending Section 5.0 General Provisions to establish standards and requirements for the development of Additional Residential Units, including but not limited to specifying:
 - maximum number of Additional Residential Units permitted on a lot depending on lot location and adequacy of water and sewage servicing;
 - maximum cumulative gross floor area for all Additional Residential Units on a lot;
 - minimum lot area for an Additional Residential Unit in a detached accessory building;
 - minimum setbacks and locations for entrances and stairways; and,
 - minimum requirements for parking.
- Deleting Converted Dwellings and adding Additional Residential Units as a permitted use in various zones across the Township where residential uses are already permitted;
- 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; and,
- Deleting Converted Dwellings as a permitted use in the 'mixed use' zones that only permit residential dwellings as accessory to a permitted commercial use.

Public Meeting

The Council of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock will hold a public meeting to consider the proposed Zone Change on:

Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2023
Time: 7:15 p.m.
Place: Innerkip Community Centre
695566 17th Line, Innerkip, ON N0J 1M0

Other Planning Act Applications: None

Please be advised that Council may approve, modify or refuse the requested application(s) at the meeting. If you do not provide written comments or register to speak as a delegation, Council may proceed and may not advise you of any proposed modifications. If a by-law is approved, notice of passing of the by-law will be mailed or published in a local newspaper.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock in respect of the proposed Zone Change does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock before the proposed amendment is adopted, the Ontario Land Tribunal may dismiss all or part of the appeal.

If you have any questions regarding the above-noted application and how to preserve your appeal rights, please contact Meghan House, Development Planner – Policy Focus, Community Planning Office (519-539-9800 ext. 3219). Written comments may be forwarded to the address below or emailed to: planning@oxfordcounty.ca. Please include the applicant's name and our File Number on all correspondence.

Yours truly, Meghan House, RPP
Development Planner – Policy Focus
Community Planning Office, County of Oxford
21 Reeve Street, Woodstock ON N4S 3G1
Telephone: 519-539-9800 / Fax 519-421-4712

SPORTS —

Wellesley Applejacks celebrate historic season



The Wellesley Applejacks players were driven around town in a trailer, along with a fire truck escort, on Saturday, May 27 to celebrate their big win this past season. The team won the Schmalz Cup for the first time in history. (Photo credit: AppleJacks21_22)

By Veronica Reiner

The Wellesley Applejacks held a “paint the town red” event on Saturday, May 27 to celebrate their winning the Schmalz Cup this year, as well as presented players with 10 awards.

The team passed through the village while on a trailer attached to a truck, along with a fire truck escort. They passed through streets in the village of Wellesley, including Schweitzer Crescent, Ferris Drive, Henry

Street, Molesworth Street, Nithbank Road, Meadows Drive, Parkview Drive, Reiner Crescent, David Street and Lawrence Street. There was music blasting and good energy all around. Food and drinks were available to purchase, and players and coaches ate for free.

“The drive around celebration was perfect!” said Nicole Gerber, Wellesley Applejacks Executive. “A beautiful day, amazing presence from our community and fun had by

all. Thanks to our community, our Wellesley Lions Club for volunteering their time and to everyone that came to congratulate the team.

There was also a year-end barbecue at the Wellesley arena, as well as food and drinks were available to purchase - players and coaches ate for free. There was also an awards presentation, with award winners as follows:

Leading scorer: Kyle Baker

Most Sportsmanlike: Curtis Butler

Coaches Award: Connor Bradley

Most Valuable Defenseman: Koby Seiling

Rookie of the Year: Noah Bender

Unsung Player: Carson Wickie

Most Improved Player: Jake L’Heureux

Most Valuable Local Player: Austin Stemmler

Verna Metcalfe Award: Isiah Katsube



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COMMUNITY —

WRPS, Waterloo Region Crime Stoppers and Circle K team up for “operation freeze”

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

With the arrival of the warm weather, young people in the Waterloo Region have the chance to be given a cool treat from the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS).

With the return of Operation Freeze, WRPS members will be on the lookout for

youth demonstrating good behaviours and positive interactions. Once spotted, members will give the youth a cool treat coupon. These coupons can then be taken to any Circle K convenience store to be redeemed for a free Froster drink.

Officers will issue coupons to any young person they see doing a good deed, like

wearing a bike helmet, picking up garbage, doing volunteer work, or offering help to someone in need. The program is a way to acknowledge responsible and caring actions by Waterloo Region youth.

“We are excited to once again partner with Waterloo Region Crime Stoppers and Circle K convenience stores to launch

Operation Freeze,” said Mark Crowell, Chief of Police. “It’s a great way for officers to build and foster relationships with some of our youngest community members and encourage positive interactions.”

The program will run until the end of summer.

Wilmot Pet Valu walk for dog guides



The Wilmot Lions / Lioness Club held their first Pet Valu walk on Sunday, May 28 to support the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. According to the dog guides website, the group raised \$1,390 for the cause. (Photo credit: Carolyn Massel)



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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. These photos depict a raccoon peaking out of a hole in a tree in Walker Woods in New Hamburg. (Photo credit: Darryl Gingerich)



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 of foxes was sent in via email by Douglas Rielly. "We have eight of these babies in our backyard at Nith River campground," he said. (Photo credit: Douglas Rielly)

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OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *It's Normal to Not Always Feel Normal*



By Chip Bender RP(q)

Today, the spring sunshine, which we have reveled in for over a week, has given way to clouds and drizzle. My house is currently quiet, and it feels like my body, mind, and spirit need

time to recover from a week packed too full, mostly with good stuff, though with enough of my own stress and minor conflicts, in addition to the weight of witnessing the pain and suffering of clients. Some decent rest this weekend, along with a couple of gatherings with friends, should aid in my recovery.

Our mental health can ebb and flow like the weather around us or from season to season. This is normal. Unfortunately, it seems like we have come to believe that it is not normal to not feel normal. Perhaps this misperception is aided by seeing everyone's highlight reels on social media or the constant bombardment of

marketers suggesting life can be perfect. The stark reality is that life is not always sunshine, highlight reels, or anything close to perfect. Sometimes life is stormy, difficult, and even terrible, which can put a strain on our mental health.

One thing we should have learned from the pandemic is sometimes our health is not optimal; sometimes we do get sick. The fortunate part is our bodies are geared toward wholeness, which means we will recover from whatever has made us ill, most of the time. The same holds true for our mental health. Like our bodies, our minds are geared toward wholeness, though some-

times our mental health suffers when the difficulties in life exceed our ability to cope with them.

It is normal to encounter mental health challenges and not feel normal. Significant strides have been made to de-stigmatize mental health issues and normalize difficulties we encounter as humans. Unfortunately, it seems like people feel they will be judged as flawed if they admit to dealing with a mental health related problem.

The month of May is mental health month, which has spurred some workplace conversations regarding encountering clients out in public. On the one hand,

we recognize the importance of client confidentiality, which entails not acknowledging any connection to them and, in turn, them to a mental health organization. On the other hand, we hope the public would view relationships with a mental health practitioner as commonplace as a nurse, or barber, or mechanic. As humans, it is completely normal to need other professionals to help us function optimally. Hopefully, we will get to the point where we can be grateful for all the various supports in our community instead of being ashamed that we need a needle, a haircut, an oil change, or a counselling session.

EXPERT ADVICE: *Don't Lament. It doesn't have to be as hard as cement*



By Scott Dunstall

Men!! Would you like some quick tips to help you take the lament out of shopping for clothes? No?? Ok, put your wife on the phone.

Lament #1: Clothes are too expensive!

Buy on sale. Locally, The Bay is your best bet for these deals. They have two national sales each year called "Bay Days." They happen each Spring and Fall. One of the tricks I use during these sales is to rely heavily on their online store.

Don't waste your time running around the store like a meshugana. The chances you are going to find your size in the colour you want is slimmer than my chances of weighing what I did in my 20s. When that happens, most guys will buy a pale facsimile. Too big, wrong colour and style. Anything just to get out of the store. But then, you have to wear that crappy looking crap until it breaks, or you squirt mustard all over it. And when you wear those "second choices," it does nothing for your confidence—and that is the whole purpose of all of this fashion stuff. Make you confident. Not a smartass. Just quietly confident. Regarding sales, look for regional ones at The Bay. For example, the store in Conestoga Mall may be running a weekly sale on Perry Ellis shirts, while the Fairview stores is promoting Steve Madden shoes.

Buy quality. This has the highest aversion factor for men. Why in the name of heck would I buy a \$150 pair of shoes when a \$50

pair will stop the same gravel from cutting my feet. Simple. Durability. You'll have to buy those lower quality \$50 pair of shoes four times over before you'll have to replace the \$150 pair for \$200 versus \$150. Additionally, better quality looks better and feels better.

Buy Clearance. This is different than a sale because, for places like The Bay, clearance means final sale. So, you have to be careful. However, places like Winners or Marshalls are really just clearing houses for retailers and Designers (Manufacturers). But you can return items purchased here (within 10 days for a full credit or a store credit after that).

Buy at the end of the season (or start of season). This is a combination of timing and diligence. This really applies to general retailers, again like The Bay. You have to be there at the right time and be willing to dig around in the clearance racks. I typically will be looking for Fall and Win-

ter sweaters going on clearance as early as March... and not all their clearance inventory will go out at this time. Look for those items at the leading edge of the season, starting as early as late August or early September.

Lament #2: OMG I hate trying on clothes. Make it easy on yourself.

Measure yourself. Knowing your size by the designer is probably 50% of the battle. Knowing which designers and their sizing look best lets you eliminate a lot of noise when you walk into the men's section. If you're buying jeans, before you walk in the stores, wrap a tape measure around your waist and then measure your inseam. If you're buying a shirt, wrap that same tape measure around your neck (the first measurement when you read the size of a shirt) but don't pull too hard. We need your breathing to pull this off. The second measurement of a shirt size is the length of your arm from armpit to wrist.

Take Two. If I am not familiar with a designer before I go into the changing room, I will always take in the size I think I am and the next size up. I rarely need to go to a smaller size (see my last article and that bowling ball I have been carrying around since Christmas). The last thing you want to do is go back out onto the selling floor staggering around the racks with your pants down around your ankles and your gut hanging out.

Take a complementary article with you into the change room. If I'm buying pants, I always like to take a pair of shoes in the style and colour that I will wear with those pants to see how they break at the bottom and whether I will have to go to a tailor afterward. And also, I want to see how that colour and style will look together with the pants.

"Style is just fashion filtered through your personality"

Letter to the Editor:

We are concerned about the proposed changes in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and their impact on agricultural lands.

Ontario has some of the best farmland in the country, but is under pressure because of the housing crisis. A significant amount of farmland is being lost every day. It is extremely important for the province to strengthen protections for this critical resource. Farming is an important economic driver and contributes to our food security.

The proposed changes to the PPS weaken municipal planning policies that support intensification. They also disregard the threat to the agricultural sector caused by climate change. Our government needs to ensure that regulations regarding land use help mitigate the impacts of climate change, not contribute to them.

Allowing severance of three residential lots on farm properties has the potential of removing more acres of farmland than are already being lost. The policy

will increase the price as developers get involved in purchasing parcels of severed farmland. New farmers will not be able to afford to buy land, furthering the decline of the agricultural sector.

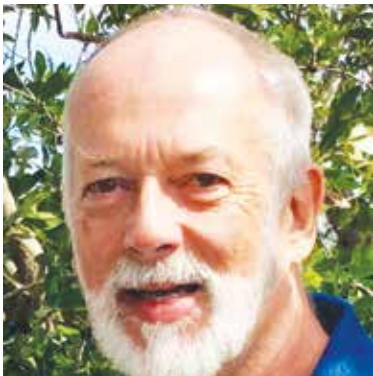
The province must focus on the long-term health of our farms.

Dorothy Wilson,
New Hamburg

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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The complete surprise of the Six Mile Cypress Slough



By Paul Knowles

The Six Mile Cypress Slough came as a complete surprise. Who would have imagined that there would be this astonishing nature preserve, right in the heart of Ford Myers, a Florida city known for beaches and resort hotels.

But there it was – and is. The highly unexpected “Six Mile Cypress Slough” is just waiting to show the wonders of natural Florida... and to do it for free at that (you will pay a small fee to park here, never more than \$5 for the day).

So, some basics first. A “slough”, which is pronounced “sloo”, is a long, narrow wetland with slowly flowing fresh water. Despite the number in its name (which has some historic origins), the slough is actually 11 miles or 17.7 kilometers long. The entire preserve includes over 3,500 acres.

The heart of the place for visitors is the 2 km boardwalk, a walk that you could probably do in less than half an hour, but which

should really take several hours. There's just that much to experience. In fact, the Boardwalk Trail Guide (also free) specifically suggests that you “walk slowly”.

So we did. Accompanied by Program Specialist Adrienne Martin, we took a leisurely, often-interrupted stroll all along the boardwalk and enjoyed every minute.

There are two major categories of interesting things in the slough, the flora and the fauna. We saw plenty of both – unique vegetation, an incredible number of air plants (including many bromeliads), cypress trees and much more.

But I was most interested in the fauna category. There are alligators here, including two large beasts in the appropriately named “Gator Lake”. We didn't see those gators this time but we did spot their trails and an alligator nest from last season, and farther along the boardwalk, we saw a smaller alligator in the “Wood duck pond”.

We also spotted a curled up cottonmouth snake, cleverly camouflaged, a couple of meters off the boardwalk.

I was especially entranced with the variety of birds we encountered. Adrienne explained that the wildlife has become quite accustomed to the presence of human visitors – as long as we stay on the boardwalk. She told us that if she or her colleagues ever have to leave the walkway to go into the wetland, the animals and birds scatter in an instant.

They have figured out that we're okay if we stay inside our wooden boundaries!

That meant that, not only did we spot birds, we got to observe them close-up as they went about their lives. We saw woodpeckers – the slough is home to six of the eight species of woodpecker found in Florida.

We watched a little blue heron do its fishing dance, spreading its wings to create shade, and thus a sense of shelter for small fish... which the heron promptly ate.

The oddest moments involved an anhinga that had caught quite a large catfish. We wondered how it would eat it. It was too big to swallow whole and since the fish was still alive, too active for the bird to release it from the bird's beak.

But the anhinga was smarter than I. It started beating that fish on a log; the percussive display lasted longer than a drum solo in a rock concert. Eventually, the fish was dead and the anhinga could proceed to eat it in a more leisurely fashion. Fascinating.

Even though the slough is in the heart of an urban area, it is a true sanctuary for many living things. There are otters and raccoons, and from time to time, larger creatures including white-tail deer, panthers, bobcats and even bears.

Fifty years ago, it wasn't at all certain that this very precious ecosystem would survive. But a group of Fort Myers students created a petition calling for a



Adrienne Martin, program specialist – and enthusiastic fan of all things at the slough. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

referendum on a Lee County municipal ballot. And even though a “yes” vote to save the slough was going to add to their tax bill, the residents supported the students and the slough and this natural treasure was declared protected land.

The boardwalk was built in 2008 and is very popular. The slough features guided tours – yep, free of charge – at 9:30 a.m. every day in season. They are usually conducted by volunteers. The very dedicated and knowledgeable volunteer brigade at Six Mile Cypress Slough numbers 87. These volunteers, by the way, have to endure what Adrienne described as “a robust training program”, including writing an academic paper on some plant or animal related to the slough. One recent bit of research discovered a new

species of plant!

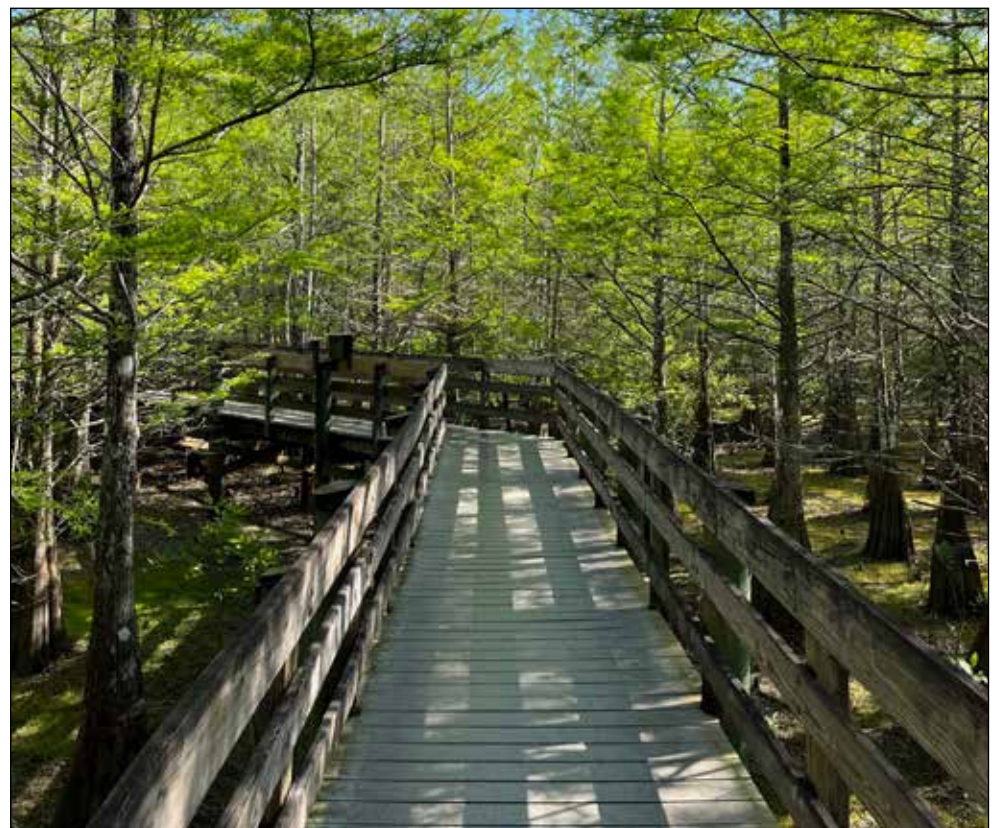
You could argue that most visitors to the Fort Myers area are unaware of the Six Mile Cypress Slough but those who know are instant fans. The slough attracts over 10,000 visitors a month in season, more than that in February and March. And yet for many, including friends I talked to who spend time in the area, it is a complete unknown.

Therefore, I decided to do my small part to correct that situation. If you are in the Fort Myers area, the Six Mile Cypress Slough is a “must-do”. Trust me. You're going to love it.

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



A little blue heron on a fishing expedition at the Six Mile Cypress Slough.



The two kilometre boardwalk – with something fascinating at every turn.

COMMUNITY —

A.C.W May report

By Margaret Webber

The May Meeting of Christ Church, Huntingford's A.C.W. (Anglican Church Women) was held at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, May 18th.

President Barbara Bruce welcomed eight ladies to the meeting. The meeting was opened with the singing of a hymn; Judy Birtch accompanied us on the piano.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

We are going to make beef and turkey pies on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 30th and 31st 1 p.m. This will be our last time to make meat pies until the fall. Donna Pullen is going to provide the beef for us. We cooked turkey in our freezer from Quehl's Restaurant in Tavistock.

We are planning to have a strawberry tea in the third

week of June, once the berries are ripe. The date will be determined later when we have a better idea of when the strawberries will be ready. We plan to sell meat and fruit pies at our strawberry tea. We will be serving cake, ice cream and strawberries, juice, tea and coffee.

Barbara Bruce and Margaret Webber attended the A.C.W. annual meeting, which was held on April 29th at St Paul's Cathedral in London. Barbara gave a detailed report on the meeting. The speaker, Diane Dance, talked about the Anglican Foundation and described the wonderful work that they do.

The Celebration of New Ministry Service will be held on Sunday, May 21st, at 3 p.m. at Christ Church. We will be celebrating the Ministry of our new priest, Reverend Katherine Loynd. She has committed to be our permanent priest for two years. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Brenda Mc Curdy and Betty Yeoman showed us the quilt that Brenda had finished for Betty. The quilt had been originally sewn by Betty Yeoman's mother many years ago but had never been finished.

Margaret Webber gave a talk about Bermuda, where she lived during her teenage years. The Anglican Church in Bermuda was part of a Diocese with Newfoundland for many years and shared a Bishop. Bermuda was given its first Bishop in 1919 and became a separate Diocese of the Anglican Church in the U.K. at that time. Bermuda has the oldest Anglican church outside the U.K.

A delicious lunch was served by Donna Pullen and Judy Birtch.

Wilmot council approved noise exemption in New Dundee for June 3

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Wilmot council approved a noise exemption bylaw for a property on Queen Street (Cottage Lane) in New Dundee on June 3rd.

The exemption was requested by Ken and Tracy, who are celebrating Ken's 50th birthday party from 4 p.m. until about 12 a.m. The event will feature a two man east coast band playing from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

"Neighbours have been circulated a notice regarding this request including residents surrounding Alder Lake, as the applicant was conscious that noise travels further across water," wrote Erin Merritt, municipal law enforcement supervisor in her report.

As of the submission of the report, staff received zero objections or any feedback about the request.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - JUNE 2023

<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 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>June 3rd Duck Race Takes place starting at 12 p.m. at the Albert Erb Conservation Park in Wellesley. Rain or shine. Will feature hot dogs, kid's games, colouring stations, bubbles, and a duck race. The official duck race starts at 2 p.m., followed by a mini duck race for the kids.</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 6th Choirs in the Park Taking place at Kirkpatrick Park in New Hamburg at 7 p.m. Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School is holding a free concert at Kirkpatrick Park in New Hamburg. Bring a lawn</p>	<p>chair and come hear some amazing student performances. Admission is free!</p> <p>June 7th East Zorra-Tavistock Council Meeting In-person council meeting taking place at 695566 17th Line in In-nerkip starting at 9 a.m.</p> <p>June 9th Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night Taking place at the Wellesley Community Centre. Hosted by the Twin Centre Hericanes. Doors open at 8 p.m., show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets for \$25. For tickets Jaime at 519-504-0853 or Kerrie at 519-998-5042.</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</p>	<p>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. Jack is a piano performance student at Laurier and is excited to share his love of music and extraordinary talent with the community. Admission by donation. Refreshments to follow.</p> <p>June 11th Closing with grace ceremony at Hampstead United Church (166 years old). Three former ministers will be joining the final service at 10 a.m. All are welcome.</p> <p>June 12th 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>June 13th 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 18th Breakfast in the Park / Father's Day Car Show From 8:30 a.m. to noon at Petersburg Park. The Optimist Club of Petersburg is once again hosting Breakfast in the Park. Enjoy scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, home-fries, toast, juice and coffee. Adults are \$15; 10 and under is \$10.</p> <p>June 19th Blood Drive Taking place at Steinmann Mennonite Church at 1316 Snyder's Road West in New Hamburg. Booking times are available from around 4 p.m. until about 8 p.m. at www.blood.ca.</p>
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Announcement

After 166 years, the United Church in Hampstead will be disbanding on June 11. Three former ministers will be joining the final service at 10:00 am in the beautiful, historic building. All are welcome to join our closing with grace ceremony.

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Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1) A cat | Brooks |
| 2) Japan | 7) Twelve |
| 3) To the right | 8) Beans |
| 4) Jackie | 9) Nagasaki |
| 5) Brazil | 10) Harness racing |
| 6) Garth | |

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