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FREE

World Crokinole Tourney in Tavistock an Enormous Success



A full house of crokinole players in attendance at the World Crokinole Championship June 3. (Photo credit: Wendy Lamond)

By Lee Griffi

After a three-year hiatus, the World Crokinole Championship made a comeback of epic proportions on Saturday, June 3, at the Tavistock and District Recreation Centre.

Over 400 participants from across the globe took part in the one-day tournament that saw a record 133 tables set up by committee members and volunteers. Linda Bender is in charge of registration and sponsorships and said participants came from everywhere to take part including several American states. "They were from Alaska, California, Florida, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, and Texas."

 $Tom\,Everet\,made\,his\,first\,appearance\,and$

travelled all the way from Jacksonville Beach, Florida. "About five years ago I went to a local board game convention, and found this crokinole game, and really got into it. I bought a board, got my neighbour into it and have been planning this trip ever since. It was infectious."He added the hospitality from everyone involved has been incredible. 'We brought our wives along, the area is beautiful, and the people have been nothing but nice. "We have been impressed with the level of competition here, it is very strong. We have realized we are not nearly as good as these people," he laughed. When asked if he would return, Everet had a quick reply. "Oh of course. We are going to try and bring more people."

Michael Drog is Everet's neighbour and said he couldn't wait to finally make the trip north. "This is our first time here. We've been talking about getting up here for about four years now and we're having a great time. All the boards, all the people, and everybody we have met have been great." The American involvement played a huge role as Connor Reinman of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, won the single's title after a thrilling final match against Kitchener's Andrew Hutchinson. Reinman defeated five-time and defending champ Justin Slater in the semifinals.

The international participation included Magnus Rundström from Engelholm, Sweden (previously featured in the

Continued on page 2

Fatal Crash Takes Life of Tavistock Teen

By Lee Griffi

Perth County Ontario Provincial Police is investigating an accident that has taken the life of a 16-year-old Tavistock girl. The single-vehicle crash occurred on Line 29 near Perth Road 107, just east of Tavistock, in Perth East Township on Sunday, June 4.

Lillie Riehl was the lone occupant of the car and was pronounced deceased at an area hospital. Police are continuing their investigation with the assistance of the OPP West Region Traffic Incident Management and Enforcement. An Ornge helicopter was dispatched to the scene, as was the EZT fire department.

Police are releasing very few details at this time but are hoping that someone witnessed the accident. Sources tell the Gazette police will be looking at some security camera footage from residents on Line 29 in the hopes of learning more about the cause. Anyone with information is asked to call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or leave an anonymous online message at www.P3tips.com.

Riehl was a grade 11 student at Stratford District Secondary School, where a letter from principal Kimberley Crawford was sent to students, parents, guardians, and staff members. "We have arranged for additional support people to be in the school for students and staff to help during this time. The school board has a Tragic Events Response Support Team who will be at the school to provide support and counselling this week and will continue to do so as needed."The letter added that students may wish to discuss the loss with parents and guardians. "Please provide this opportunity. It is very important that students have the chance to express their feelings and feel a circle of support." A condolence book has been placed in Student Services for anyone wanting to share their memories and condolence messages with

Continued on page 7



Love You Dad Father's Day Sunday, June 18th

9-6 seven days a week, weather permitting Regular Hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm; Saturday & Sunday 8am to 8pm

Martin Running a Third Time for Federal Oxford Seat

Wendy Martin is hoping her third run at Member of Parliament in Oxford will be a charm. After running in 2019 and 2021, she has secured the People's Party of Canada nomination for the June 19 by election.

"I am throwing my hat in the ring again as I feel Oxford needs a real voice to be heard in Ottawa. I am not a status quo politician. I am finding solutions to the problems the government is creating for farmers, families, small businesses, and entrepreneurs." She added inflation is out of control, housing, and government spending is creating more stress on the average person and family to put food on the table and a roof over their heads.

One of Martin's biggest concerns is the 30 to 35 per cent tariffs on nitrogen. "I was talking with one farmer who paid his bill and then got a bill later for over \$1,100 in tariffs. Trudeau put this tariff on the nitrogen coming in from Russia, who supplies 85 to 90 per cent of the imports of fertilizers like nitrogen in Canada. This is why Canada should not be supporting the UN 2030 and 2050 agenda." Martin added she has a solution for recapturing nitrogen for cash farmers. "This is expensive, and with the Liberals attacking the basic use to sushave an uphill battle. The PPC will be the only party to pull out of these UN agenda that the Conservatives started by signing

Martin added she is also concerned about Woodstock's plan to adjust their boundary into East Zorra-Tavistock farmland. "I am not in support of taking our farmland away to build housing developments. In 2009 I watched how removing farmland started in what was a tiny town of Milton. It started with a few farms being sold for development, and today it has grown so fast there is barely any farmland left." She added that if we continue to take the farmland for development, we start to lose food produc-

The PPC has seen improved numbers as of late, even reaching nearly 10 per cent support in some polls.

Martin says it is encouraging. "Last election, we received nationally just over five per cent of the vote and locally, I received just over 10% in Oxford, tripling my numbers from the previous election. This means people are starting to hear about the PPC. We never stop spreading the word, even between elections. You will always see me flying my PPC flags and talking to people."



Wendy Martin is running for the Member of Parliament position in Oxford as the People's Party of Canada.

Martin's party has gone on record and said they would like changes in abortion laws in Canada, something she said has been a topic of discussion on the campaign trail. am from Norwich, so there is a lot of talk about many issues affecting our community and questions about abortion. The PPC wants new legislation on abortion

up to birth." She is also concerned about the issue of gender ideology. "It is being pushed on children, and bill C-4 took away parents' rights, and they could go to prison if they do not agree with a child's decision on gender. We need to stop this mutilation and castration of our children. Those who are detransitioning are also not getting the help they need."

Martin said some of the other issues she has been hearing from Oxford residents while door knocking are health care and the lack of accountability. "We all know that this is a provincial issue as the federal government does do health transfers, but there is no accountability as the money just goes into a general fund. A PPC government will make sure those funds go directly to healthcare and the citizens of Ontario will be able to hold the provincial government accountable." She added inflation needs to be held in check but the excess spending from the current Liberal/NDP coalition government is not helping. "It will be difficult as it seems both of those parties do not care about inflation. People should know that every five years, the bank of Canada negotiates inflation with the government to set the inflation rate and the PPC will have it set at between zero and two per cent."

World Crokinole Tourney an Enormous Success



A group of friends from Toronto participated in the fun all wearing matching bachelor party shirts. Front left to right Vincent Sandir, Anthony Anemi, Brandon Desousa. Top left to right, Shane Marston, Liam Walmsley, Kiefer Buhot, Riley Brown and Drake Lees. (Photo credit: Wendy Lamond)

Continued from page 1

Gazette) as well as competitors from England, Spain, and Hungary. A film crew from Los Angeles also took part as director Brian Spillane of Above Board TV, an upcoming lifestyle show about tabletop gaming, participated in the tournament and filmed throughout the day. Spillane expects the footage from the tournament to be released in a few months and it will be available on the Above Board TV YouTube channel.

As always there was a family flavour to the event. "I think of crokinole as a family

game. It's really neat when young people can play, and really old people can play. There were four families that had five members of their family playing," said Bender. She added the committee is always looking to make the tournament better for those participating and they will look to improve their registration system next year, but she added overall, everything went well. She added more committee members and volunteers are needed going forward. "We are always looking for help because our committee numbers are low. It would be nice to have more members to take on a role like sponsorships





in the recreational doubles category. Her partner was Lara Van Dyk (above left) from Shakespeare. (Photo credit: Wendy Lamond)

for example. I also want to say a big thank vou to the committee members and all the other volunteers and a big thank you to Tavistock.

Anne Curtin and her husband Tyler Boyes from London made their first appearance in the tournament's Rec Division, and Curtin said after years of playing for fun they thought they would try a tad of competition. "We've played crokinole for years during the winter or at the family cottage and we just found out about the tournament, so we decided to see what it was like." She added that they entered a competition in London to get ready for the

event. "We were really surprised to find there is this whole underground crokinole world we didn't know existed. There were clubs coming from all over Ontario and the states, and we have a club in London we didn't know about. We are really exited to see something we care about really has grown and exists beyond what we knew." When asked who would win if the husband-and-wife team ended up playing head-to-head, Curtin said she'd be in trouble. "He's really good. I don't know if we'll be at the same table, but you never know, I might get lucky today. I've been doing my little finger push-ups."

Suspicious fire at Wellesley **Community Centre**



There was caution tape blocking the washrooms at the back of the Wellesley Community Centre as of Monday, June 5.

By Veronica Reiner

There was a fire deemed to be arson that occurred at the Wellesley Community Centre on Maple Leaf Street on Sunday night, June 4. No one was injured and damages at this time were estimated to be

At about 10:30 p.m., emergency services responded to a report of a fire in the public washroom. The Wellesley Township Fire Department extinguished the fire. Waterloo Regional Police Service, in a press release, said damage to the washroom was extensive and that the fire is believed to be arson.

"It's going to be a big impact on the community to lose that space for the weekend," said Recreation Director Danny Roth, adding that both children's programming and senior's programming this week had

responders were in the washrooms doing cleaning.

"The outdoor washrooms - both of them have to be totally gutted and rebuilt," said Roth. "Those will be out of place for at least a month I would say, if not longer."

The Ontario Fire Marshal has been notified. There is video footage of the Wellesley Community Centre that night.

Roth added there was more than one instance of a fire in the area that weekend. "The day before, there was actually a smaller fire - a garbage pail was lit on fire, but that was caught right away. So there was no damage that day - just a plastic garbage pail that was burned, but no damage to the walls, no damage to the wash-

police at 519-570-9777. To provide anonymous information, please call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit on-



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4

COMMUNITY —

Forest Glen PS crossing guard retiring after 27 years

By Veronica Reiner

Alexis Bernadine "Bernie" Broadbent is retiring from her role as a Forest Glen Public School and Holy Family school crossing guard after 27 years.

"I'm now crossing the children of children that I first crossed. Now I know how grandparents feel," said Bernie with a laugh.

Bernie got into the job in 1996. There was a gentleman at the time who was working as the crossing guard, and he became sick. She found out that they were hiring for the position, and went in for a job interview at Castle Kilbride in Baden.

"I went and filled out an application, and next thing you know, I had the job," said Bernie. She loves every part of the job, with one exception: standing in the rain. Her hours are 7:45 a.m. until 8:35 a.m., and then 2:40 p.m. until 4:10 p.m. Bernie estimated that she crosses more than 250 kids a day.

She enjoys interacting with children, keeping them safe, interacting with teachers, and being outdoors. "I have met so many interesting people, I've never had so many polite kids. It's been very rewarding," said Bernie.



Alexis Bernadine "Bernie" Broadbent will be retiring from her role as a school crossing guard at the end of this school year on June 27.

There are parts of the job that have changed over the years. For example, there used to be a lunch shift, but kids no longer leave school for lunch anymore. She has also worked with three different bosses over the decades. She has noticed changes to the community in general, including an increasing population. When Bernie first moved to Hincks Street in New Hamburg over 30 years ago, and behind the area, there was nothing but wood. "And now it's all of these big, fancy houses!" noted Bernie.

Her nickname of "Bernie" comes from a short form of her last name, which is "Bernadine." "Everybody calls me Bernie. I've even said to people, 'If you happen to call me Alexis, and I don't answer, don't be mad at me!'" she said with a laugh. "I'm not used to going by that."

On the last day of school (June 27), there will be a little send off for Bernie. A giant card for the kids and parents will be available to sign, and surprises will be given to "her kids." Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen will also be in attendance. An assembly will take place at Forest Glen PS, and staff have asked Bernie to attend for a more formal send off.

She said that she will miss the job, and currently has no immediate plans for retirement. Bernie has been training her replacement, Neil Vannatto, who will be taking over the role of crossing guard in September 2023.

Princess Elizabeth Women's Institute Hold a Silent Auction

By Sandra Stock

Princess Elizabeth Women's Institute (PEWI) held their May Meeting on Thurs., May 18, at the home of Joyce Hill at 7 p.m. Eight members and two guests were present.

Everyone brought items for the silent auction, and the bidding began. There were many wonderful items to bid on – baking, plants, handmade cards, seeds, books etc.

The meeting opened with the land acknowledgement. The Mary Stewart Collect was sung, and The Ode was repeated.

Business: The Secretary/Treasurer's Report was given by Lorna Gardner.

The District Director, Joyce Hill, reported that the Oxford W I AGM was to be held on May 24 at Beachville Museum 6:30 p.m., vendors event held on May 6 did not

see a huge crowd, but the weather was perfect – the profit was donated to the Wilmont Resource Centre for their food bank. Southern Area W I Pot Luck Picnic to be held June 3 at Ingersoll Cheese and Agriculture Museum hosted by Oxford WI 12:30 – Bring a cheese recipe

Education committee: Shonna Ward reported that the next meeting would be June 15 at 11:30 - Picnic at Queen's Park. Bring your own lunch. July 6 – 2 p.m. Blyth Hall to see the play "Liars at a Funeral."

August 17 – Lunch at Shakers and then Plattsville museum visit.

January and February meetings to be via Zoom.

4-H report: Shonna Ward Community 4H is participating in the Relay for Life in Stratford. Raised \$10,893 this year with a 17-year total of over \$173,335. Also cleaned up Hwy 59 from Braemar to Cassel Sideroad.

Hickson 4H has started a new program on dogs.

Linda Humphrey is starting a Quilting magic blocks program for one week in Tavistock.

Correspondence – A thank you from Vendor's Market committee for participating.

Children's Health Foundation thanking us for donation.

Tavistock Fall Fair – Theme - "Autumn Treasures." Cheques have been sent for prize classes and organization entry. Paperwork was sent for our Fair Ambassador – Janeen Overdevest.

A Ruth Rosenberg Memorial Citizen

Award has been established. A gift certificate will be given to a Grade One student at Tavistock Public School, for showing good citizenship through kindness, helpfulness, cheerfulness, being polite and being a good friend.

PEWI will twin with Brown's W I this year.

Grace was sung, and refreshments served by hostess Joyce Hill.

Mary Lou Ross had the silent auction items and members costs tabulated. It was exciting to see what you had purchased and the amount you needed to pay.

This social time was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be held on June 15 at Queen's Park in Tavistock at 11:30 a.m. Bring your own lunch and lawn chairs.

Everybody is welcome.

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

P.O. Box 389, NOB 2RO info@wilmotpost.ca thewtgazette@gmail.com www.wilmotpost.ca | 519-655-2341

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

Editor: Stewart Grant

Graphic Designer: Tyler Carruthers
Office Administrator/Billing: Wendy
Lamond

Sales Representative: Sharon Leis

Contributing writers: Veronica Reiner, Lee Griffi, Jessica Harvey, Nancy Silcox, Gary West, Chris Ehrat, Al Junker, Paul Knowles Annual subscription: Canada: \$49.00 (\$46.67 + HST) Cash, cheque, e-transfer, or

Credit Card over the phone

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Oxford County, Waterloo Region celebrate pride month

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Oxford County and the Region of Waterloo are celebrating pride month with pride decals, the flying of rainbow flags and 2SLGBTQIA+ (two-spirit, lesbian, gay, transgender, queer and/or questioning, intersex, asexual) friendly events.

Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan raised a rainbow flag for Pride Month on Thursday, June 1 at 8:30 a.m. at the Oxford County Administration Building at 21 Reeve Street in Woodstock. The meeting was open to the public.

Oxford County council officially declared June as Pride Month at their May 24 council meeting.

The organization listed several ways that they are committed to building inclusive, diverse and safe spaces for all:

Pride Family will take place on June 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Museum Square in Woodstock.

The pride flag will fly outside of the Oxford County administration building throughout June.

The Oxford County libraries will host drag queen storytimes on Saturday, June 10



Oxford County council declared June at pride month. From left to right, Warden Marcus Ryan, Deputy Warden Jerry Acchione, Woodstock councillor Bernia Wheaton, East Zorra-Tavistock mayor Philip Schaefer, Ingersoll mayor Brian Petrie, Blandford-Blenheim mayor Mark Peterson, Southwest Oxford mayor David Mayberry. (Contributed photo)

- one at the Ingersoll Public Library at 11 a.m. and another at the Tillsonburg Public Library at 2 p.m. Another will take place at the Woodstock Public Library on Saturday, June 17 at 11:30 a.m.

Every Thursday in June, the Oxford County archives weekly throwback Thursday posts will be dedicated to the history of pride and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in

certified organization, which means the organization is nationally accredited 2SLGBTQIA+ friendly. Tourism Oxford also helps local businesses get this certification.

Oxford county celebrated National Paramedic Services Week from May 21 to May 27 and this years' theme was "Diversity in Paramedicine - The Patient. The Provider. The Profession."

Oxford county's internal diversity, equity and inclusion task force offered "safe space" stickers to county employees.

In addition, the Region of Waterloo Grand River Transit (GRT) Pride bus is now travelling on conventional bus routes throughout June, and all GRT buses have pride decals near the front doors.

Pride T-shirts are also for sale at GRT Customer Service Centres, as of June 1. All proceeds from the T-shirt sales will be going to Spectrum, which supports the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in the Region of Waterloo.

GRT will also be giving away special Pride transit tattoos and sunglasses during the month of June and at tri-Pride on June 10.

Wilmot awards culvert replacement for \$181,736

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Wilmot council awarded a culvert replacement project in Lisbon to Ron Van Manen Trucking Inc. of Norwich for \$181,736.64.

The decision was made unanimously during a hybrid council meeting on Monday, May 29. Council also agreed to reallocate \$185,000 from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund from the Casselholme Crescent Reconstruction project savings toward this project.

"The culvert was recently identified in an advanced state of deterioration and in need of replacement," said Infrastructure Services Director Jeff Molenhuis during the meeting. "The culvert is of considerable size and depth, which is the driver of the costs to replace.

The Lisbon Road culvert is a 900 millimetre (mm) diameter Corrugated Steel Pipe. The condition of the culvert is "very poor," according to Molenhuis's report, with an outlet collapse and eroded embankment.

"Based on the condition, obviously this culvert needs the emergency replacement, so it was advanced quickly through our own staff resources to complete in house design, and so that we would avoid

a similar situation like we experienced on Christner Road the last couple of years with the culvert collapse," said Molenhuis.

On April 6, the tender document was made available online through the township's e-bidding website. There were a total of 24 plan takers, with a total of 10 bid received at the time of closing on April 27.

Aside from the winning bid, there were also submissions received from Roubos Farm Service Ltd of Moorefield for \$182,471; Robert M Simon Construction Ltd of Waterford for \$187,616.20; VanDriel Excavating Inc. of Clinton for \$196,152.64; Kieswetter Excavating Inc. of St. Clements for \$207,400; Musselman Excavating Limited of Petersburg for \$219,854; J-AAR Excavating Limited of London for \$224,761.91; Lancoa Contracting Inc. of Caledon for \$227,004; Cox Construction Limited of Guelph for \$262,991.91; and Buildscapes Construction Limited of Toronto for \$295,664.41.

"The low bidder has provided the appropriate bid bond documentation," noted Molenhuis in his report, of the Ron Van Manen Trucking bid. "References have been checked by township staff and appear to be satisfactory."

Wellesley Fall Fair accepting nominations for Citizen of the Year awards

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Wellesley Township Fall Fair is accepting nominations for this year's Citizens of the Year awards.

Those who know someone who contributes to the Wellesley community is encouraged to fill out a nomination form

Nominators and nominees are not necessarily required to live in Wellesley Township, but nominees must positively affect Wellesley Township through volunteerism, business, being an exemplary neighbour, etc.

Award types include Junior Citizen of the

Year (21 years of age and younger in 2023), Citizen of the Year (over 21 years of age) and the Lifetime Citizen Achievement

Nomination forms can be picked up and submitted to Wellesley, St. Clements and Linwood post offices this month, from

Tune 1 to Tune 30. An online submission form is available or a hard copy can be found at your local post office.

The awards are typically handed out in person during fair day in September at the Wellesley Community Centre.



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Wilmot council approves controversial Petersburg sand pit 4-1

By Veronica Reiner

Wilmot council voted 4-1 to approve a controversial sand pit in Petersburg during a meeting on Monday, May 29.

In a recorded vote, Mayor Natasha Salonen, Ward One Councillor Stewart Cressman, Ward Three Councillor Harvir Sidhu, and Ward Four Councillor Steven Martin voted in favour of the zone change.

Ward Four Councillor Lillianne Dunstall declared a conflict of interest and refrained from voting, while Ward Two Councillor Kris Wilkinson opposed the zone change.

"While there's a lot of things that are in the application, ultimately, the one thing that is missing more than anything is the support of the people, and support of the individuals that live there and have to deal with this every single day. And that weighs on me. It's very clear that the residents do not want this in my conversations throughout the election campaign," said Wilkinson, before opposing the zone change. "I stand with the people on this

He called on both regional and provincial governments to give municipal governments better tools to address the needs of their constituents.

After the zone change was approved, several people shouted at council members, "You're all a bunch of cowards," and "We'll



Mike Hodgkinson at the Wilmot council meeting on Monday, May 29.

In June 2022, Mike Hodgkinson of the Petersburg Sand Company requested a zone change for 68 acres of land at 1856 Snyder's Road East. It is currently zoned agricultural, and the request is for extractive industrial to allow for a gravel pit operation. The pit would be an above

water table extraction operation, removing more than 20,000 tonnes per year. Sand, stone and gravel would be the primary materials to be extracted, and would include asphalt and recycling uses.

Hodgkinson was present at the meeting.

He said that throughout the process, he had submitted more than a dozen technical studies and assessments examining dust, air quality, water quality, noise, traffic, agriculture impacts, archaeology, cultural heritage and more. "All of those studies were peer reviewed by staff and third party consultants," said Hodgkinson. "They all concluded that this pit would have negligible impacts on the community."

He added that he lives on the property, and that the pit is in his backyard. "I don't want to live beside something that is going to negatively impact the air that I breathe or contaminate the water that I drink. I don't want to be kept up all night by excessive noise or have trucks speeding past my house every hour. That's why I've taken time to ensure that this will not

Dozens of residents have come forward to make their concerns known about the gravel pit, including air quality, noise, loss of farmland, water quality, plummeting property values, and road safety, including a conflict with school bus stops, and increased traffic.

"This new gravel pit is a literal money pit, but not for Petersburg, for Mr. Hodgkinson and Petersburg Sand Company. The town of Petersburg is not going to see any revenue from this endeavour but will have to deal with the increased traffic, road damage, accidents because of the trucks and noise because of the trucks," wrote Endi Grujic in a letter in opposition to the pit.





FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY JUNE 18TH

BUFFET ONLY ~ NO MENU SERVICE ~ RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

BRUNCH BUFFET

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Includes scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, baked beans, mashed potatoes, roast beef, sausage, country fried chicken, BBQ back ribs, two hot vegetables, gravy, condiments. Salad bar and dessert bar

EVENING BUFFET

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Includes BBQ back ribs, slow roast beef, pigtails, country fried chicken, breaded shrimp, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, two hot vegetables, gravy, condiments. Salad bar and dessert bar

Beverage included: lemon iced tea, coffee or tea

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Fatal Crash Takes Life of **Tavistock Teen**



A memorial has been created at the scene of the accident on Line 29 where 16-year-old Lillie Riehl lost her life on Sunday.

Continued from page 1

the family. The school's flag is also being flown at half-mast. "Our condolences are extended to Lillie's family and friends," added Crawford.

A GoFundMe page has been started by one of Riehl's friends, and it says the money will be used to cover funeral costs. At press time, over \$14,000 dollars had been

LYNC event takes place at Mill Block Community in **New Hamburg**



By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

A community event took place on June 4 from 1:30 p.m. until around 3 p.m. at 183 Mill Street in New Hamburg. The public got the chance to hear from local leaders including Wilmot Township Mayor Natasha Salonen, Waterloo Regional Police Service Chief Mark Crowell, Scott Piatkowski Community Transformations, and Kitchener-Conestoga Member

Parliament Tim Louis.

The public got the chance to check out the Mill Block Community, which will be a mixed income, intergenerational community that is planned to contain 30 one and three bedroom apartments. The idea for this project came from a group of local residents who formed the not-for-profit organization, Love Your Neighbours Communities (LYNC).

GRCA offering cover crop funding to local farmers

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

This year, farmers in every municipality across the Grand River watershed are eligible to apply for cover crop incentives through federal-provincial funding - the Nature Smart Climate Solutions fund in partnership with Conservation Ontario.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) has offered cover crop funding in the counties of Waterloo, Wellington, Brant, Dufferin and Haldimand for many years through municipally funded Rural

Water Quality Programs (RWQP). Through this program, over 400 producers have received an incentive to introduce cover crops to more than 30,000 acres of land.

There are various benefits to using cover crops: they can reduce erosion, hold nutrients, and improve soil health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration.

Many local farmers who have participated in GRCA incentive programs champion the benefits of cover crops, including

Devon Elg, a Perth County cash crop producer.

"The Grand River Conservation Authority's cover crop program has been nothing but positive. It helped with the cost of incorporating cover crops into my crop rotation and I'm happy that programs like this are available to producers who are making a conscious effort to protect resources," said

"The paperwork was easy to follow and fill out in order to apply for the funding and the GRCA staff have been great to work alongside as well."

Thousands of farmers in the Grand River watershed are working to improve and protect water quality on their land.

Applications for cover crop funding can be submitted now for payment in spring 2024. To receive a complete list of other grants and incentives available through the RWQP, please visit www.grandriver. ca/ruralwater or contact the GRCA at 519-





Wilmot Fire Brigades event





The Wilmot Fire Brigades put their trucks on display on Thursday, May 25. Mathew Wolf (front) and Chris wolf are on the New Dundee truck, which is from 1939. The yellow truck is from 1974, while the red truck is from 1940. (Photos contributed)





'Serving You Breakfast Since 1983'

Optimist Club of Petersburg Breakfast In the Park Sunday, June 18th

with Car Show (weather pending) 8:30 am to Noon Petersburg Park

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

Adults \$15 - Under 10 \$10

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Breakfasts:

June 18th, July 16th and August 13th

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

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



The Contract Framing group is looking to fill positions of full-time employees to start immediately. We are a fun, fast paced company, specializing in wood framing of small to large commercial, industrial, and residential structures. We are looking to fill positions of all experience levels, from Labourers to Foreman.

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EZT Implements Open-Air Fire Ban

Air Quality Health Index Moves to High

By Lee Griffi

East Zorra-Tavistock has joined a growing number of municipalities in the area implementing an open-air burn ban. In a statement released on social media, the township said that "due to the extraordinary situation we are presently experiencing, it has been decided that for safety reasons, a ban is being placed on the issuance of open-air burn permits. All controlled burns are suspended until further notice. The township fire department will not approve any controlled burns until the ban

EZT Fire Chief Scott Alexander said the county takes a team approach when it comes to these decisions. "Each municipality decides when they feel it is necessary to imposes a fire ban and the details included in the ban. Since the township fire chief is the authority having jurisdiction in a municipality, it is that person that usually makes that decision." He added that in Oxford County the chiefs consult with each other and try to implement a county-wide ban at the same time if at all possible. "In EZT, we implement our bans in phases, starting with a ban on controlled burns, and moving to banning campfires if conditions don't soon change."

Alexander says the township is included in the high-risk area for fires, demonstrated by the map located at the Canadian Wildland Fire Information System website. "I have seen it this dry in some previous years, but never at this time in June," he added. If anyone decides to break the rules and have an open fire, there are fines in place. "Penalties can be as high as \$450 per truck per hour if the department attends any fire that has not been approved. We continue to monitor conditions daily



here, and we could increase fire ban conditions at any time. I would ask that anyone using an open flame for cooking never leave it unsupervised and to always have something close at hand to extinguish a fire, whether it be BBQ or a campfire." Alexander said residents should check with the township regularly to see if conditions and restrictions have changed.

Small campfires are permitted at this time but are for households only and not for large gatherings. Zorra Township has also implemented a similar ban on fires.

Other municipalities that have issued a fire ban include Wilmot, Wellesley, Woolwich and North Dumfries townships

Air Quality Worsens

Southwestern Public Health on Wednesday advised that the Air Quality Health Index for its area (Oxford, Elgin, and St. Thomas) has been moved to High. "I can't speak to how long we will be dealing with this, it really depends on the wildfire situation," said Kayla Elms, Public Health

Inspector. "We did start at a moderate risk earlier in the week, but we just heard from Environment Canada this morning (Wednesday) that we have moved up to a high risk. We are currently sitting at a seven on the index.'

The index is a tool to calculate health risk and measures air pollutants like carbon dioxide. Elms says healthy people with no pre-existing health conditions could experience headaches, a mild cough, sore or watery eyes, some throat irritation. "That kind of stuff does not require any medical care unless it is worsening or persisting. Special attention should be given to seniors, women who are pregnant, young children, those who work outdoors, people involved with strenuous activity, or folks with health conditions like cancer, diabetes, lung, and heart conditions." She added those at a higher risk can develop more serious symptoms like dizziness, chest pain, severe cough, shortness of breath, heart palpations, and people with heart conditions are at a greater risk for a stroke or heart attack. "If you are experiencing any of those more serious symptoms, seek the advice of your health care provider and if you are in a medical emergency, of course, call 911."

Elms said that if you have to be outside, take frequent breaks and go indoors as much as you can. She also offered some advice on what to do when you are inside. "Keep your windows and doors closed and if possible, change your HVAC to a recirculate setting and make sure you have a good high-quality air filter. If folks need any extra advice, Southwestern Public Health does have a webpage dedicated to outdoor air quality." She added Environment Canada is also a great resource to learn more about the effects of the wildfires.



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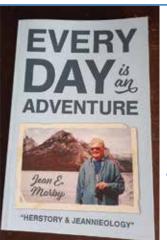
Vandalism at Perth East trail



By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

There was vandalism done to a multi-use trail (from Line 61 through to Brunner / Perth Road 119) in Perth East sometime in May.

Damage was done to gates and signs. "Our public works department worked very hard at breaking this trail, and it breaks staff's hearts to see it being treated like this." wrote Perth East Township in an online post on May 26.



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Public works staff has been working on getting the gates and signs repaired over the past several weeks

Anyone who sees suspicious activity is encouraged to contact the township public works department. Public works manager Wes Kuepfer can be reached at 519-595-2800 extension 234 or the after hours on call page number is 519-595-8700. Police can be reached at 1-888-310-1122.

The trail is three kilometres long, two metres wide, with a stone dust surface.



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with over 20 vendors on Saturday, June their items. There was also live music

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FAMILY MILESTONES -

OBITUARY

SIPPEL, Elva



Elva Carrie Sippel, 86, of Tavistock passed away peacefully at PeopleCare Tavistock on Thursday, June 1, 2023. She was born in South Easthope Township, Perth County on July 6, 1936, a daughter of the late Gordon and Verna (Schaefer) Wettlaufer.

She married Russell Henry Sippel at Sebastopol on

December 6, 1958. He predeceased her on January 8.2018.

Elva was a lifelong member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sebastopol-Tavistock. She was passionately interested in and involved in the lives of her family.

Elva is survived by two daughters, Sharon Sippel and husband Rick Walton, Tanya and husband Rick McIntosh; four granddaughters, Angela Zehr and husband Cole Aicken, Jackie Zehr (Andrew St Jean), Rebecca McIntosh, Abigail McIntosh; great grandson, Miles Henry Aicken; two sisters, Ethel Sippel, Lenore and husband Harold Wolfgram; brother, Leonard Wettlaufer.

She was predeceased by her brother-in-law, Carl Sippel.

There will be no funeral home visitation. The funeral service was held at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sebastopol-Tavistock on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 3.00 pm. The Rev. William Kramer officiated. Interment in the church cemetery. Reception followed.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Society or Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sebastopol-Tavistock would be appreciated and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home, Tavistock by calling 519-655-2431.

Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

THANK YOU

Helen MacKenzie

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who showed their love and support during our mother's brief stay in the hospital until her passing. We thank all those who travelled to be with us. For the many phone calls and emails of support or condolences and for all the food brought to our homes. A huge thank you to the staff at The Maples Home for Seniors in helping our mother adjust at your location. We especially want to thank the nurses and doctors at Stratford General Hospital who were

compassionate and professional while making our mother comfortable. A big thank you to the New Hamburg Legion ladies for the amazing food and refreshments served. Special thank you to Pastor Kathryn Cressman for officiating the service and burial. We are so comforted by your words. Thank you, Peter Francis, Jeff Glendinning and their staff who made everything comfortable for us to say 'so long, until we meet again'

The children of the late Helen MacKenzie (Zehr-Ramseyer); Brenda, Tim, Kris and their families.

OBITUARY

HALLAM, Barbara



Frances Barbara Hallam (Giles), age 97 of Tavistock passed away peacefully at Stratford General Hospital on Saturday June 3, 2023. Born on November 2. 1925 in England, Barbara was the daughter of the late Frank and Margaret (Wardhaugh) Giles and was one of 9 children, 7 of whom have prede-

ceased her. She is survived by her brother David Giles. Barbara was the beloved wife of the late Henry (2013) Hallam whom she married at the York Street Gospel Hall in Leicester, England on May 4, 1946. They enjoyed 67 wonderful years of marriage. Barbara was the loving mother of Michael Hallam and the late Margaret Rose (2023) of London, Graham and Elaine Hallam of Everett, and Margaret and Stewart Snyder of New Hamburg. Predeceased by her eldest grandson Roger Hallam (2013) and fondly remembered by his wife Sherry Lynn. Lovingly remembered and greatly missed by grandchildren Pamela and Jason Timmermans, Robin and Steven Enneper, Suzanne and Trevor Dawes, Andrea Hallam, Trevor Hallam and Britt Gregg-Wallace, Stephanie and Justin Szusz and Martin and Jacqueline Snyder. She will be sadly missed by great-grandchildren Regan Hallam, Mikayla, Sheldon (Regan Courrier) and Griffin Timmermans, Carter, Jackson and Hayden Enneper, Logan and Avery Dawes, Harry and Malcolm McNaughton, Magnus, Eleanor and Lewis Gregg-Hallam, Ethan, Jeremy and Rebecca Szusz and great-great granddaughter Rylee

Barbara loved nothing more than hosting her family or friends and welcoming business associates (even on short notice!) into her home. Roger explained it well when he said "Grandma, you're a good cooker!". Barbara worked at the Tavistock CIBC for several years and thoroughly enjoyed all the people she served. Her faith was her unshakeable foundation and one she lived by daily. She and Henry were fortunate enough to travel extensively to many parts of the world and when they no longer travelled, they enjoyed playing an active role in their grandchildren's lives. Living such a long and wonderful life allowed Barbara the additional joy of great and great-great grandchildren

Friends and relatives called at the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock Street N, Tavistock, on Wednesday, June 7 for visitation from 10:00 -10:45am followed by the funeral service at 11:00

As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Tavistock Bible Chapel or to Gideon's International by calling the Francis Funeral Home at 519-655-2431. Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

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OBITUARY

RIEDEL, Audrey



Audrey Hannah Riedel (nee Hoffman), 82, of Tavistock, passed away peacefully at her home in Tavistock in the arms of her husband, on Sunday June 4, 2023.

She was born in North Easthope Township, Perth County on January 22, 1941, daughter of the late

Alfred and Nelda (Wettlaufer) Hoffman.

She married Curtis Wilfred Riedel at Sebastopol on June 16, 1967 and had celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary.

Audrey was a lifelong and active member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Care and Support Group. She was a member of the Tavistock Agricultural Society. Audrey was a passionate quilter and knitter, donating several quilts to The Ouilt: A Breast Cancer Support Project and knitting hundreds of baby hats for the Stratford General Hospital. She enjoyed many years teaching 4-H, Beaver Scouts and Sunday School. She loved going to the St Jacobs Market, flea markets, antique shows and driving through the countryside with her husband Curtis on Sundays. She was a stay at home mom for most of her life, lovingly taking care of her family and constantly making sure the cookie jar was always full. She was also very proud of the years she went back to work and loved to shared stories of her time and people she worked with at Cornerstone Bookstore and the Maples Home for Seniors.

Audrey is survived by her loving husband, Curtis; her daughter, Christine Riedel and partner Paul Wigglesworth; her son, Derek and his wife Heather Riedel, and her grand dog Rocky Wigglesworth

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brothers, Donald Hoffman and Laverne Hoffman; sister and brother-in-law, Shirley and Gerald Ryan.

Funeral visitation took place at Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock St. N. Tavistock, Wednesday June 7th, from 6-9:00 pm. The funeral service was held at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sebastopol-Tavistock on Thursday, June 8th, 2023 at 11:00 am. Interment in the church cemetery. Reception followed.

We would like to say a huge "thank you" to the entire Home Instead team for caring and keeping mom at home. We are especially grateful to Lucy, Alison, Heather and Dawn. Thank you to Sam who was here with mom at the end, and able to bring comfort to Dad.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church or the Stratford General Hospital would be appreciated and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home, Tavistock by calling 519-655-2431. Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

The Wilmot-Tavistock **Gazette Weekly Quiz**

1) What was the first country to give women the right to vote?

2) Who was the first human to journey into space?

3) Mount Kilimanjaro is located in which country?

4) How many keys are there on a standard piano?

5)How many members are there in the United Nations?

6) Who was the first Black president of South Africa?

7) What is the world's largest democracy?

8) What year did America declare its independence from England?

9) What are baby kangaroos called?

10) What was the name of the ship that transported the Pilgrims to New England in 1620?

Answers found on page 22

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

June 9: Happy birthday to Bronson Nicklas (4), Hannah Ferguson (9) and Marilyn Gaudun (77) and anniversary for Bruce and Donna Swartzentruber (50th).

June 10: Happy birthday to Garner Zehr (7) and anniversary for Phil and Joyce Roth (45th).

June 11: Happy birthday to Mateo Roman Reyes (4), Jack Bisch (11), Benjamin Bisch (11), and Fran Eekhof, and anniversaries for Keith and Eileen Erb (58th), and Brad and Laura Witzel (12th).

June 12: Happy birthday to Kierra Mason (5), Kaelynn Schlegel (14), Carson Gilmore (14), Sophia Bailey and Nicholas Danen, and anniversary for Tim and Jayne Whetstone.

June 13: Happy birthday to Liam Weldrick (2), Ava Brooks (10), Shelby Zehr (16) and Jaris Marriott.

June 14: Happy birthday to Rianna Forthuber (18), Payge Schlosser (21), and Julia Harmer (21).

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 29-June 5, 2013 Edition (10 years ago)

After 41 years on the highway and countless miles behind him, Clare Wettlaufer has officially retired as a driver for the Erb Group. Clare is the last remaining driver to have worked out of the original Wellesley "terminal", where founder Vernon Erb utilized two flatbed trucks as loading docks. Clare started working part-time on the dock in January 1971. Erb Transport was founded in 1959.

Like all great Crokinole players, John Conrad brings his best game to the final round. He successfully defended his 2012 World Crokinole Championship title on Saturday, June 1, 2023 in Tavistock in the 15th annual tournament.

The Saputo Mite Tavistock Boys prevailed in the Mitchell Fastball Tournament last weekend, winning the gold medal for the third consecutive year. Members of the team include Ben Reibling, Izac Blum, Austin Witter, Owen Hill, Branden Gerber, Kyle Burchatzki, Kyle Stock, Carter McKay, Keeton Jones, Aaron Schlosser, Will Schlotzhauer, Owen Donaldson, and Ryan Gole.

May 28-June 4, 2003 Edition (20 years ago)

Once again, Tavistock can be proud to have its own cheese shop. Steph's Cheese Plus at 51 Woodstock Street South in Tavistock opened on May 21, 2003. The village had been without a retail cheese store since the 4th of January with the closure of the Tavistock Cheese Shop at the Saputo factory. Owners Steve and Ruth Cahill carried out further renovations to the former Krug Furniture Store to accommodate a full-size cooler and seating for over 20 patrons in their coffee shop. The store had previously been converted into the Fitz and Fritz Coffee and Teahouse by Blair and Jennifer Meaking and opened in April of 2001.

The World Crokinole Championship has taken a step toward standardizing the game of crokingle around the world. Friday night. the committee will unveil their "International Standard Competition Crokinole Board" as endorsed by the committee.

June 1-8, 1983 Edition (40 years ago)

On Tuesday, May 24, the Optimist Club of Tavistock held a Bicycle Rodeo for the students of Tayistock Public School, The rodeo consisted of two tests, written and driving. All students took part in the written test while 130 participated in the driving test.

Canada Post President Michael Warren and his fellow executives should be ashamed of themselves. The reason: Canada Post has made the brash decision to openly participate in competition with the nation's smaller newspapers, acting as a catalyst for local merchants to put together throwaway advertising flyers to be delivered by the posties along with other junk mail.

From now on, William Matthies will be looking at Post Office letter boxes from the outside. Bill is retiring after serving as Tavistock's Postmaster for the past 21 years.

The average increase in taxes in the township of East Zorra-Tavistock will be about 10.6% for 1983. This will affect taxes on an average of \$85.52 over last year's payments.

May 29-June 5, 1963 Edition (60 years ago)

The Children's Aid Society of Oxford County elected its new president last Tuesday night. He is James H. Francis of Tavistock, who was named at a meeting of the direc-

The junior girl and the junior boy singer at the 16th annual East Zorra Township School Music Festival, held last Wednesday at the Memorial Hall, were Eleanor MacKay, seven, and Stephen Tait, also seven. More than 775 pupils of the 13 schools in the Township took part in the festival, held for the seventh time here in Tavistock

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Stream services online at www.tavistockmennonitechurch.ca

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Hot cars can kill, KWSP Humane Society warns

The Kitchener Waterloo Stratford Perth (KWSP) Humane Society is issuing a warning, after responding to calls to aid animals in distress in hot cars.

KWSP Humane Society spokesperson Nasreen said that the organization has responded to 20 incidents this year as of Thursday, June 1. The total amount for 2022 is 54 calls.

"Police and animal welfare services also get calls, so it's hard for us to know the total number of incidents across our area," noted Nasreen.

Even on fairly mild days, with the car parked in the shade and with the windows down, parked cars can quickly reach deadly temperatures. Animals, especially dogs and cats, have a limited ability to sweat,

so even a short time in a hot environment can be life threatening.

A dog's normal body temperature is about 39°C, and a temperature of 41°C can be withstood only for a very short time before irreparable brain damage or even death can occur. Minutes can mean the difference between life and death.

"Leaving your pet unattended in a vehicle is not only one of the most irresponsible things that a pet owner can do, it's also illegal." said Kathrin Delutis. Executive Director, "Pet owners are subject to fines and charges under The Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act and under local bylaws.'

Nasreen provided the following tips to prevent heat exhaustion for their pets: offer drinking water, give them time to rest, and take them into shade / a breeze or indoors and air conditioning.

"Things like their size, breed and coat can play a factor in how the heat impacts them," said Nasreen. "Keep in mind that when you find it hot outside, so does your

If a dog is showing signs of heat stroke (excessive panting/drooling, is listless or unconscious), getting prompt veterinary medical treatment is vital. You can assist by wetting the fur immediately with lukewarm-cool water (do not use cold water). placing the pet in the shade and offering drinking water.

Heatstroke is a medical emergency. You will see symptoms such as excessive panting, dark red gums, collapsing, or an unresponsive pet. "If your pet is suffering from heat stroke, you should immediately remove your pet from the hot environment and call your veterinarian, or prepare to leave for your emergency vet," said Nasreen.

If people are concerned about the welfare of an animal in a hot car, they should call local police right away. They can also call Provincial Animal Welfare Services at 1-833-9ANIMAL. "In our service areas, our animal services officers can attend but we cannot remove a pet from a vehicle, that's why we need police or PAWS present." said Nasreen.

The Kitchener Waterloo Humane Society can be reached at 519-745-5615 and services Kitchener, Waterloo, Township of Wilmot, Woolwich and North Dumfries. The Stratford Perth Humane Society can be reached at 519-273-6600 and services all of Stratford, Perth, Township of Zorra and the Town of St. Marys.

Zion United Church celebrating three years of operating food pantry

By Veronica Reiner

Zion United Church in New Hamburg is celebrating three years on June 15 that the church has operated a food pantry for the community on a volunteer basis.

The food pantry is located at the front of the church, and provides non-perishable

food items and toiletries to the community for those requiring assistance.

"Over the three years, we've had many fundraisers. We just had a big family event where we collected 269 pounds of non perishable and toiletry items," said Pat McGlynn, caring team chair of Zion United Church.

"The response has been overwhelming. We've never gone a week where I didn't have a volunteer to help out cover the food pantry.

Members of the congregation fill up the pantry every single day, added McGlynn.

"There is a need in the New Hamburg community for assistance," she said.

Zion United Church started the food pantry after the COVID-19 pandemic hit. After it began, members were looking for ways to give back to the community.

NEWS BRIEFS

Two vehicle collision in Wellesley township

Members of Waterloo Region Police Service Traffic Services Unit are investigating a collision that occurred in Wellesley Township on June 2.

At about 12:10 p.m., emergency services responded to the area of Moser Young Line and Boomer Line for reports of a two vehicle collision.

Police said their initial investigation determined that a farm tractor travelling north on Moser Young Road was struck by a dump truck also travelling north, causing both vehicles to leave the roadway.

The driver of the tractor, a 41-year-old Wallenstein man, sustained minor physical injuries. The driver of the dump truck, a 73-year-old from British Columbia, was transported to a local hospital by paramedics with non-life-threatening injuries.

Moser Young Line was closed between Boomer Line and Lobsinger Line for several hours for the investigation and road cleanup.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dash camera footage is encouraged to call the Traffic Services Unit at 519-570-9777, extension 8856.

Wellesley collision results in serious injuries

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) are investigating a collision resulting in serious injuries in Wellesley Township on June 2.

At about 2:35 p.m., emergency services responded to the intersection of Line 86 and Side Road 19 for reports of a collision.

A black SUV travelling south on Line 86 and a white truck travelling north on Line 86 were involved in a collision at the intersection.

As a result, the passenger in the SUV, an 83-year-old woman from Drayton, sustained life-threatening injuries and was transported to an out-of-region hospital by air ambulance. The driver of the SUV, an 84-year-old man from Drayton, sustained serious injuries and was transported to a local hospital by Region of Waterloo Paramedic Services.

The driver of the truck, a 29-year-old man from Dundalk, and two passengers, a 30-year-old woman and an eightyear-old man, did not sustain any physical injuries in the collision.

Roads in the area were closed for several hours during the police investigation.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dash camera footage is encouraged to call the Traffic Services Unit at 519-570-9777, extension 8856.

To provide anonymous information, please call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit online at www.water looc rime stoppers.com

Vehicle fire in Perth East

The Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged a Stratford man after a vehicle fire over the Victoria Day

On May 21, just before 9 p.m., the Perth County OPP and Perth East Fire Department responded to a report of a vehicle on fire on Road 111 in Perth East Township and spoke with the vehicle driver.

A 30-year-old Stratford man was charged with "operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

He was released from custody and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Stratford at a later date to answer to the charges. Police initiated a 90-day Administrative Driver's Licence Suspension and a seven-day vehicle impoundment.

Wilmot man facing 14 charges

A Wilmot man is facing 14 charges in connection to a road

At about 5 p.m., Waterloo Regional Police Service officers responded to the area of Mill Street and Beck Street for a report of a man pointing a firearm at another driver after a road rage incident.

There were no physical injuries reported.

As a result of the investigation, a 49-year-old Wilmot Township man has been charged with several offences, including: "possession of a firearm for a dangerous purpose," "unauthorized possession of a firearm (four counts)," unauthorized possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle,""using a firearm in the commission of an offence," "pointing a firearm," "careless use of a firearm (storage) (four counts)," "assault with a weapon," and "driving while under suspension."

The accused was held in police custody for a bail hearing.

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Part of Queen's Bush Road | Missing New Dundee man found closed for three weeks



Part of Queen's Bush Road, from 1379 Queen's Bush Road to Hutchison Road in Wellesley village, is closed as of Monday, June 5 for about three weeks. The parking lot for Erbhaven Trails is also be closed. Pedestrian access will remain open beside the fire station but no parking is allowed in the fire station lot. (Photo credit: Stephen Reiner)

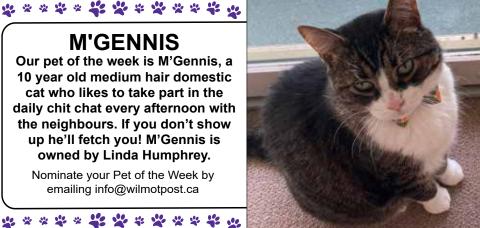


Pet of the Week

M'GENNIS

Our pet of the week is M'Gennis, a 10 year old medium hair domestic cat who likes to take part in the daily chit chat every afternoon with the neighbours. If you don't show up he'll fetch you! M'Gennis is owned by Linda Humphrey.

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



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The family of Michael (Mike) Scott asked for the community's assistance in finding him, and he has since returned home. The man's daughter, Renee Rau, reported on Facebook that he was last seen around 11 a.m. Monday morning, June 5, at New Dundee Recycling. "This is a very long time for Mike to be away from home and his family is concerned for his well-being," she wrote. At around 7:22 p.m. that same day, she reported that he had been found and thanked the public for their support. "Thank you to everyone for all of the help and the outpouring of love and support," said Renee.

Gazette Puzzles

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Tavistock Chamber of Commerce spruces up downtown





The Tavistock Chamber of Commerce was busy on Wednesday, May 30 planting all the flowers for their downtown planters. "Special thank you to Ruby 360 for providing the trailer, Sam's Your Independent Grocer for donating the soil and Apple Home Builders for helping us move the planters," said the Chamber in an online post. (Photo credit: Tavistock Chamber of Com-

Wellesley coop preschool holds touch-a-truck fundraiser





The Wellesley Coop Preschool held a touch-a-truck fundraiser on Saturday morning, June 3 until noon in the church parking lot at 157 David Street. Free will donations were accepted upon entry. Refreshments and donuts were available to purchase.





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SPORTS -

W-O girls slo-pitch headed to finals after dominant semi-final victory over Elmira



W-O girls softball team lines up defensively during their semi-final matchup against Elmira. (Photo credit: Russel Evans)

By Russel Evans

Having gone a perfect 7-0-0 during the regular season, in which they outscored their opponents by 121 runs to 24, Waterloo-Oxford's girls slo-pitch team secured their place in the WCSSAA finals with a decisive win over fourth place Elmira in the semi-final.

After putting Elmira's batters away three up, three down to start off the first inning, W-O's bats got to work right away - putting five runs on the board quickly into the bottom of the first, triggering the single inning mercy rule before three outs had been recorded.

It was smooth sailing from there as W-O's

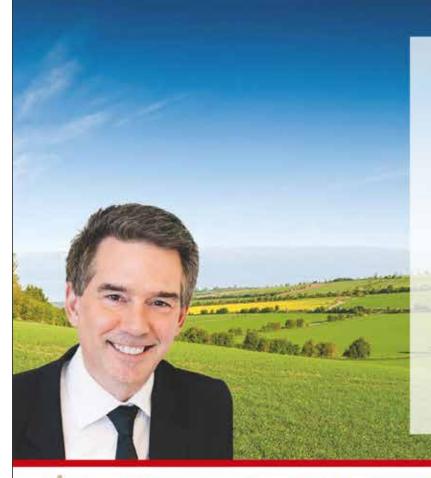


The bats of the Waterloo-Oxford's girls slo-pitch team have been hot this season, and they carried that on during their 20-2 semi-final win over Elmira. (Photo credit: Russel Evans)

strong defensive play kept Elmira off the board for most of the game, save for two runs given up in the penultimate inning, and the offence kept bringing in run support as the Lady Crusaders rolled along to a blowout 20-2 victory to bring Elmira's season to an end.

W-O will now face off against Bluevale

Collegiate Institute in the Waterloo County final, set to take place at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 8, at Diamond 5 in Waterloo's RIM Park. Bluevale finished the regular season in third place with a record of 5-2-0, and were second only to W-O in terms of run production - scoring 109 runs over the course of their seven regular season games.



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



Member of Parliament, Kitchener-Conestoga









SPORTS –

Tavistock Braves Hold Awards Banquet



The Tavistock Braves recently held their end of season awards banquet to hand out seven trophies and also say goodbye to their four overage players. Award winners, left to right: Luke Fanjoy - Top Scorer, Regular Season Most Valuable Player, and Top Defenceman. Marc Dionne - Most Sportsmanlike. Will Schlotzhauer - Heart and Soul. Zach Gladding - Playoff Most Valuable Player. Ian Glendinning - Outstanding Leadership. Kaden Brame - Rookie of the Year. Absent: Christian Bergmann - Most Improved.



Overage Players, left to right: Zach Gladding, Connor Otto, Nathan Yeck, and Luke Fanjoy.







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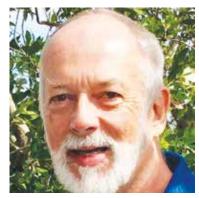
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A love letter to a great British garden



By Paul Knowles

I'm clearly stating the blatantly obvious when I say England is a country replete with great gardens. Nowhere else in the world, I believe, will you find as many wonderful gardens, each well worth visiting, whether you are a gardener or simply a lover of creativity, beauty, or heritage.

We saw a few stand-out gardens on our trip through the south of England last month from enormous landscape gardens to crammed, bountiful borders. It was a privilege to lead this group of 22 companions on a two-week trek arranged through the good folks at Stonetown Travel.

I will write about other gardens, great houses, quirky inns and other interesting sites in the coming months, but having just returned from the U.K., the place closest to my heart is Sissinghurst Castle Garden.

Three reasons, I suppose.

First, it's a garden that set some trends that are with us to this day. Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, the extraordinary, bohemian couple who founded it, began their labours in 1930. They created or perfected some unique gardening concepts, chief among them the idea of garden "rooms". We have this with us today... different sections of gardens planted in quite different styles. Outstanding at Sissinghurst is the "white garden" where everything is white or pale silver or lightest green. The exception was one red flower a member of our group spotted - clearly an in-

Second, it's a place with a deep history, existing long before Vita and Harold decided to resurrect a ruin as their home and history-making gardening project. The place was once a pig farm; it was "home", actually a travesty of the word, to 3,000 ill-treated French prisoners of war between 1756 and 1763. So for someone not passionate about gardens, there is a tower, and a stable block and the remnants of

But for me personally, it's the place where I, an adamant non-gardener, was converted into someone who loves gardening to this day. It's a story I often tell when I speak to gardening groups. In short form, it's where my wife Mary took me in the 1990s, a few years before she

passed away. - under pretense of visiting a castle, and where, after I got over the annovance of being conned, I fell in love with the

As I do all over again, every time I get to walk through the archway into the first of several magnificent gardens.

And once again, they did not disappoint. We climbed the tower and watched the other members of our group as they marveled their way through the rose garden, the kitchen garden, the meadow, the herb garden, the white garden and more.

They, and we, also visited the garden traditionally known as "Delos" which I have always known as a spring, woodland garden. But today, it's been transformed into a rather sparse, dry Mediterranean style garden. I came home with no pictures of it because I didn't like it much.

Later in the day, chatting with a guide in Vita and Harold's preserved living area (in what were once the stables), I mentioned the changes in Delos.

"Do you think Vita would have liked it?" I asked the guide. She smiled, shook her head and said. "I think Vita would have hated

But there's no doubt Vita would have loved everything else. The rich profusion of plants in the rose garden - which does have



The author, in Vita Sackville-West's "white garden". (All photos by Paul Knowles)

roses, but so much more. The rainbow of colour in the first garden you enter, with borders planted to match the sweep of colour in a rainbow, from violet to deep red. The walk under a canopy of nut trees which reminded me of a solo visit I made to Sissinghurst years ago. There was a shower and I took shelter, only to have a guide join me and comment, "Is there anything more pleasant that standing under a nut tree in the rain?" At that moment, I had to agree.

It's pretty clear that while this is a travel article, the first written since our return from England,

it's also a love letter, a love letter to an eccentric couple of gardeners, a love letter to the woman who tricked me into my first Sissinghurst visit and a love letter to a place that inspires, delights, comforts and soothes every time.

Thanks, Harold and Vita. And to you, my reader - if you have not visited Sissinghurst Castle Garden, next week would not be too soon.

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



Foxgloves and alium in the rose garden - which also contains roses.



The brightest of colours are always on display in the kitchen garden.

Letter to the Editor:

The following is my response to the discussion at a recent council meeting over the raising and flying of

For patriotic reasons I proudly support the flying of the following flags at municipal or public Buildings in the County of Oxford, and beyond. First, our great Country of Canada flag. Second, our Province of Ontario flag, as well as our Oxford County official recognition, and finally our Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, Crest or Coat of Arms flag.

It is my opinion that the raising of flags at municipal or public buildings ought to be reserved to some degree. May I share a few examples of high value to make my point. Raising a flag to identify a particular country, or to give official recognition to our First Nations and Indigenous People. Also, for the identity of cities and municipalities, historic land marks and monuments would fit the category, or how about large

industrial companies that provide jobs and help to shape Canada into what we are.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, flying a National Flag for our Agricultural Farmers all across Canada, that would top my priority list.

LaRoyd Bender,

Tavistock

Wellesley staff plans dates for 2024 budget

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Township of Wellesley acknowledged a list of days to put together the 2024 budget, scheduled for late November and mid

The report was prepared by Treasurer Fiona Gilbert and accepted for information at council during a meeting on Tuesday, May 30.

"These meetings are open to the public to attend, however, it is not a public meeting," said Gilbert in her report. "Any member of the public can register with the clerk as a delegation at the budget meetings.

Budget meetings will also be live streamed on YouTube, and the recording will be uploaded. Anyone not able to attend a meeting in person can submit written comments to the clerk for a presentation

November 27 marks the targeted delivery day of the draft budget and proposed capital items to council. There are three more budget meetings following that, including December 5, December 7, with the final deliberation date being on December 19 if reauired.

The original deliberation date was scheduled for December 14, but Councillor Derek Brick suggested otherwise. "The thought of spreading it out slightly - so it's not just a rolling wheel - it's good you want to keep the momentum. Because I think any gap in that, it drains you to come back to it," said Brick. "If we give people an opportunity to watch what the discussions are, and participate, you have a week to reach out."

Chief Administrative Officer Rik Louwagie noted that this schedule did include a full week between the 7th and the 14th. "We actually did spread that out a little bit more in this year's schedule. In the past, we've often done a Monday, Wednesday, Friday all in the same week.

Wellesley Mayor Joe Nowak also suggested holding a town hall meeting in each ward for budget discussions to get a sense of the wants and needs of the community. "I thought that's a good idea - it's another way of reaching out," said Nowak.

Louwagie suggested holding those town

hall meetings in September. "Staff starts working on the budget in August already, and we have our whole draft prepared by September. So if we could have input to the public prior to that date, it would certainly help us in formulating where that budget goes and what it looks like. If it is going to happen, September would be ide-

A final decision for the dates of the town halls was not decided at this time. Brick asked when the proposed budget goes public. Gilbert said it would be in

Historically, all public budget meetings with council start at 9 a.m. and end at around 4 p.m.

WRDSB accepting applications for vacant trustee positions

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) is accepting applications to fill two trustee positions representing Waterloo/Wilmot and Woolwich/Wellesley.

Woolwich/Wellesley trustee Meissner died in early May, and Waterloo/

Wilmot trustee Marie Snyder resigned from her position in early May due to health concerns.

As outlined in the education act, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- a Canadian citizen.
- 18 years of age or older,

- a resident of Waterloo region,
- be a public school elector.
- not legally prohibited from voting; and,
- not disqualified by any legislation from holding school board office (e.g. an employee of any school board).

All completed applications and proof of qualification must be received by 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 15.

Full details on the application process are on the WRDSB website. It involves submitting an application form and giving a presentation at a board meeting.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - JUNE 2023

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.

June 10th

Shakespeare and Community Athletic Association Field

Taking place at Shakespeare park. Kids games and midway during the day along with a parade at noon. Annual fish fry later in the afternoon. For info or tickets, call Deb Bell at 519-276-8109 or Kristene Ankenmann at 519-274-2744.

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.

June 10th

Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve Grand Opening

Grand opening of the 55acre property on 28 Smith's Creek Drive in New Hamburg at 10 a.m. Will include guest speakers and greetings from Mike and Christine Schout, a scavenger hunt on the boardwalk, and commemorative

June 11th

Closing with Grace ceremony

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. 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.

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.

June 14th

Adult Book Club

Taking place at the Wellesley branch library from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 1137 Henry Street in Wellesley village. Monthly book discussion with a friendly group.

June 14th **Book Talk**

From 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the New Hamburg branch library (145 Huron Street, New Hamburg) in the reading room. Join other local bookworms to chat about your recent reads and swap suggestions for titles to add to your TBR pile.

June 18th

Breakfast in the Park / Father's Day Car Show

From 8:30 a.m. to noon at Pe-

tersburg Park. The Optimist Club of Petersburg is once again hosting Breakfast in the Park. Enjoy scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, homefries, toast, juice and coffee. Adults are \$15; 10 and under

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.

Tune 21st

East Zorra-Tavistock Council Meeting

In-person council meeting taking place at 695566 17th Line in Innerkip starting at 7 p.m.

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CORRECTION: In last week's edition of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette, a photo cutline on

page 7 incorrectly identified the person photographed as Warren Bechthold, a member of the Petersburg Optimist Club. That person photographed was in fact Petersburg Optimist President Jim Pipe. The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette regrets the error.

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8)1776

(Ŕussian cosmonaut) 6)Nelson Mandela

3)Tanzania

7)India

9)Joey 4)88

10) The Mayflower

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D&D is located 8 Woodstock St N., Tavistock Hours are Tuesday to Friday 7am-4pm and Saturday 8am-1pm. Closed Sunday and Monday. There is also an after hours drop off on the side of their building, on Hope St. Look for our sign.

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