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## Three local friends open up Peel Street Beverage Company



The owners of the Peel Street Beverage Company, which recently opened up on Huron Street in New Hamburg. Left to right, Diego Vitello, Darryn Nafziger and Matt Rolleman. (Photo contributed)

By Veronica Reiner

There's a new brewery in town.

The Peel Street Beverage Company officially opened its bricks-and-mortar location, housed at 68 Huron Street (formerly the Bitte Schon Brauhaus) in New Hamburg, on Friday, June 30.

The business was established by three long-time friends - Matt Rolleman, Darryn Nafziger and Diego Vitello - who

all grew up in New Hamburg and attended Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School together.

"It was well responded to, there were lots of people out," said Rolleman, of the grand opening. "It was nice to see local support from people we know, friends and family, but also lots of new faces as well."

Beers available include a classic Pilsner,

as well as a hazy, unfiltered Pilsner, and a light local lager. There is also a cream ale available, done in collaboration with Farm League Brewing in Cambridge.

"We are also working on brewing in house a wheat beer, as well as a Marzen, which is a German style lager," said Rolleman. "They're in the tanks right now."

House red and white wines are on offer,

*Continued on page 2*

## Tavistock Merchants win Ontario gold

By Lee Griffi

Canada Day weekend proved to be golden for the Tavistock Merchants as they brought home the title at the Ontario championship tournament in Grafton. The tournament decided which teams will be going to the Canadian Under-23 championships in Saskatoon in August.

The Merchants already have their ticket punched to the nationals as defending champions, but still wanted to perform well. In the first game, it was a pitchers' duel as Harwood's pitcher struck out 16 Merchants and Tavistock's Reese Yantzi struck out 12. The Merchants tied the game in the fifth inning, leading to Yantzi striking out the bottom side of the seventh, sending the game to extra innings. Tavistock would go on to score three in the eighth to seal a 6-3 win.

Game two saw the Merchants earn an 8-1 victory over Alvinston in five innings. Tye Boyd struck out six and gave up just two hits to set up a semi-final battle against Harwood. "We knew their bats would be hot as they just finished playing. Nate Running got the start for us, but they went up 2-0 in the top of the first, with us answering back with four in the bottom of the frame," said head coach Kevin Zehr. Harwood led 6-5 in the fourth inning, but Tavistock scored three in the fifth while Reese Yantzi came in and shut down Harwood's offence sealing a 9-6 win. "This put us in the gold medal game against the Owen Sound Selects, who had outscored their opponents 32 to one on their march to the finals," said Zehr.

The Selects took an early 1-0 lead, but it was all Merchants after that. In the bottom of the third, Thomas Baker walked and moved to second on a Jake Voisin had a sacrifice fly. Baker scored on a Mason McKay double,

*Continued on page 11*



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## NEWS —

# Erb Transport honoured with Trailblazer Purpose Award

By Veronica Reiner

The Erb Group of Companies, a refrigerated transport service based in New Hamburg, won a prestigious Trailblazer Purpose Award from the Transportation Marketing and Sales Association (TMSA) for the second year in a row.

The award honours influential companies that surpass the expectations of their regular duties, and are recognized for going above and beyond for their customers and their communities at large. Award winners were announced during a June 2023 conference in Savannah, Georgia.

"As a local company, we firmly believe in going the extra mile for our community and the commitment to giving back, which has been instilled in the business since its earliest days," said Briona Lahti, spokesperson for Erb Transport.

The panel of judges, composed of industry professionals, awarded companies and individuals based on their achievements over the past 18 months. In addition to sales and marketing, submissions included recruitment, diversity, equity and inclusion in this year's winning submissions.

There were 27 brands that were given this award, with different categories including Excellence in Sales or Marketing Campaign, Purpose Award, Marketing Mountain Move of the Year, Top Brand



The sales team at Erb Transport with the Trailblazer Purpose Award. Pictured is Charles Kim, Nnenna Muo, Joe Di Sarro, Barbara Lis, Lucky Bajwa, and CEO Wendell Erb.

Innovators, Sales Mountain Mover of the Year, Top Rainmakers, Rising Stars, TMSA Member of the Year, and TMSA Partner of the Year.

"Beyond refrigerated food transportation, our company's mission is to 'bring food to family's tables' in any way we can," said Briona. "This includes active participation through volunteering, making donations,

and providing in-kind support, which, during times of economic turbulence and uncertainty, is important for helping our communities and those in need feel supported."

Erb Transport specializes in the transportation of refrigerated goods, which uniquely positions the business to support those facing food insecurity. Some of the work Erb Transport did in 2022

includes their ongoing partnership with Feed Ontario, where they doubled their impact in 2022 by 58.3 per cent, helping to move 7.6 million pounds of nutritious foods - the equivalent to 1,557,965 meals for families facing hunger.

Erb Transport hosted their annual company food drive, where six members of head office helped to organize some incoming products for distribution. Over the holidays, Erb Transport President and CEO Wendell Erb took a trip north with Kenora Chiefs Advisory community to help support Confederation Freezers deliver goodwill goodies and alleviate food insecurity in rural northern areas.

The Erb Group also established a partnership with the Breakfast Club of Canada, pledging a \$10,000 annual donation to help them reach children across Canada with their nutrition programs each morning, and fueling them to learn at school.

Erb employees participated in the Coldest Night of the Year walk in February, raising over \$1000 for Ray of Hope Charity, and raised \$23,800 at their annual golf tournament.

"The 'cool moves' in the community this past year have helped us pump more purpose into our everyday duties and have fueled our passion for giving back even more," said Briona.

## Three local friends open up Peel Street Beverage Company

Continued from page 1

as well as coolers made by local businesses. These include a vodka apple cooler, a gin mule, and a blueberry gin. "We tried to do everything as local or Ontario as possible," noted Rolleman.

Light snacks are available, and the Peel Street Beverage Company owners are working with local businesses to expand their menu. There's seating for about 25 people inside the space, and they are working with Wilmot Township to put a patio out front.

Rolleman said they hope to complement the existing businesses in the community, rather than compete with them.

"Our goal is to be a brewery/beverage company first, and provide some food for customers. We want to be supportive of what's going on in our community," said Rolleman.

"We're not opening a restaurant; we're not trying to take the restaurant business away from the Imperial, the Puddicombe House or Scran & Dram. We're just trying to add one more option for people who want to enjoy beer locally, or want to sit down and enjoy a nice beer in town."

Rolleman added that they have sold beer in cans and kegs to several businesses already, including Scran & Dram, EJs,

Mercer Hall in Stratford, Thirteen in Cambridge, Trail's Edge in Plattsville, and Old Galt Bottle Shop in Cambridge.

The three owners planned to start the company about two years ago, initially doing contract/virtual brewing. Their goal was to sell to restaurants, the LCBO, and the beer store, and they initially did not consider opening a brewery. Then, the opportunity arose to have a bricks-and-mortar store, so they renegotiated a lease to make it happen.

Rolleman said that they felt that Wilmot Township was underserved in this way because there were no breweries.

"We looked at the community and said, 'We live in this community. Right now, there's nowhere in Wilmot Township to go and have a beer that's coming out of a brewery in town,'" said Rolleman. "You go to Cambridge, there's 10 breweries. You go to Kitchener/Waterloo, there's four or five breweries. Everywhere has breweries, but Wilmot Township has none."

"So there is an opportunity here - we believe we can be the brewery for the community."

For the summer, the Peel Street Beverage Company plans to be open seven days a week. "That's what we're shooting for, for the summertime," said Rolleman. "We may

adjust - it's a brand new venture. We'll figure that out as we go along, if we have to make changes."

For Monday and Tuesday, they will be open starting at 4 p.m., and then for the rest of the week (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday), the business will open at 12 p.m.

"We'd love to see everybody come out," said Rolleman. "We believe in the community - we've all been in the community for a long time, all of our lives basically. We would love to see support, and we'd love to support the community as well, and be local where we can be."



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**FEATURE —**

# Baden man launches business and community directory for Wilmot township residents

By Veronica Reiner

A Baden man has started up a community business and events directory for Wilmot Township called the Nithy.

Dubbed "Wilmot's monster community directory," the Nithy allows users to access the contact information for various businesses, including arts and entertainment, automotive, education, event services, financial services, food and dining, health and beauty, home services, hotels and travel, legal services, medical services, nightlife, pet services, professional services, real estate services, shopping, and things to do.

"I just hope that this helps people, really, at the end of the day," said Mark Wilhelm, who spearheaded the initiative. "I hope it clears things up, I hope that people will be able to use it to do what it's supposed to do, and that's connect."

There is also a special section for local talents, which may include miscellaneous types of businesses, such as dog walkers, snow shovelling, babysitting, caricature creation, and more.

"I wanted to give people a spot where they could shine there too, because they're part of the community," said Wilhelm.

Community members can also post reviews for various businesses, as well as list and contribute any upcoming events happening in Wilmot township.

Two membership levels are available to those who access the Nithy - community members and business members. Community members have the ability to share events in the community. It is the intention that only people in the Wilmot area will be members, and no personal information is resold.

The other membership option is business members, to allow business owners to share their businesses with the community. Business owners get certain tools they need, while allowing them the same abilities as a Nithy community member.

Wilhelm said he started the concept for the Nithy about two years ago. "There's a lot of behind-the-scenes work involved - especially since it's all just me," said Wilhelm. He spoke to community members, including Scott Dunstall and Lou Divita, to bounce ideas off of and gauge the community interest.

Wilhelm paid about \$1,500 out of pocket to make the directory happen. Some of these costs went to a lawyer to review the terms and conditions associated with the directory, and the use of Google



The Nith River Monster logo as it appears on the Nithy website, as designed by Mark Wilhelm.

Maps on the website.

The inspiration to create a directory to find and access local services. "I think everyone in the area wants to support somebody who's local," said Wilhelm. "When you typically ask on Facebook, it gets buried in the feed if you try to go back. Unless you're really savvy with Facebook - you'll lose it."

Wilhelm attended Sheridan College in the 1990s, with dreams of becoming an animator. As the Internet became more and more prolific, he ended up making a career flip, and went into graphic design, and then ultimately into web design. Wilhelm has been doing that since 1998, currently working for a marketing firm.

"First and foremost, I'm a storyteller, and I use the graphics or the written word to tell a story," said Wilhelm. "All marketing - all any of it is - is conveying a story, whether that story is about a product, or a person, or an event, or a cause. We all use stories to connect to each other. It's universal."

The website's namesake refers to the Nith River Monster. There were strange footprints found along the Nith River in 1953. Rumours began to fly about what could be making those footprints, whether it was a person trying to scare people, or a monster. It shocked and delighted New Hamburg residents at the time.

"I knew that to get the site to work - it needed to have a good story. And so I found it only fitting that the biggest story the area ever had was all about this monster. So I adopted that," said Wilhelm.

The Wilmot directory can be accessed at [www.thenithy.ca](http://www.thenithy.ca).

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## COMMUNITY —

# Childhood cancer research fundraiser taking place in Petersburg on July 13



Some photos from the Childhood Cancer fundraiser barbecue at Bechthold Home Improvements from 2022, where a record total of \$51,943 was raised for childhood cancer research. The event will take place again on Thursday, July 13.

By Veronica Reiner

Bechthold Home Improvements in Petersburg will host their 19th annual Childhood Cancer Fundraising barbecue at 1239 Notre Dame Drive on Thursday, July 13.

Every dollar raised from the event will go towards three leading child cancer care programs. Donations will be split between Scotland's Yard (Grand River Hospital), Children's Health Foundation (London's Children's Hospital) and Walk to Conquer Cancer (Princess Margaret Hospital).

"We've got to keep giving with a positive attitude that it's going to help families and

help research until we can find a cure," said organizer Warren Bechthold.

Each year, all expenses are paid for by Bechthold Home Improvements and BW Geotextiles. Hamburgers, sausage on a bun, hot dogs, and drinks will be served.

A local family affected by childhood cancer, the Austin family, had an interest in speaking at the barbecue. In addition, Warren spoke with two other families who have a child that fought and beat leukemia, will also be in attendance.

Last year's barbecue was the most money raised from the event so far, with a total of \$51,943 raised for childhood cancer

research.

"We receive donations from some of our customers and suppliers from across Canada and in the US," said Warren. "Any companies not local donate to childhood cancer charities in their area."

There were about 50 employees that came out to support that day last year from Demtool, a metal fabricator shop in Petersburg, said Warren. Some of Demtool's employees (metal fabricator in Petersburg) challenged and sponsored one employee to see how many hamburgers he could eat. The employee ate seven six ounce sirloin burgers, and the

company matched the employee's donations. The employee sponsorship was roughly \$1,000, and the company matched with another \$1,000.

"They were there cheering him on," said Warren. "I don't know how he ate the seven hamburgers - just the meat alone is 42 ounces, plus the bun. And the bun would be the hard thing to get down."

In 2021, because of COVID-19 restrictions, there was no barbecue fundraiser. Instead, a donation day was held, which raised \$23,065. Come out to Petersburg to support childhood cancer Thursday, July 13 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Wellesley township agrees to boundary road agreement with Perth East

By Veronica Reiner

Wellesley council agreed to a boundary road agreement with Perth East during a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, June 27.

The agreement clearly outlines each township's agreed upon responsibilities for maintenance. The boundary road that Wellesley shares with Perth East is Road 116 from Perth Line 56 to Line 86.

We historically continue maintaining this road by sharing the responsibilities. No money changes hands as the maintenance costs are relatively equal for both parties," explained Director of Public Works Chris Cook. "The township has had an agreement in place for many years in Perth East, and this is just an update to the old agreement, which has expired."

These shared maintenance services

include routine road patrols, winter maintenance patrols, snow plowing/sanding/salting, asphalt repair, gravel maintenance, ditching, driveway entrance permitting and approvals, road crossing culverts (that are less than three metres in span), roadside grass mowing, tree removal/trimming, shouldering and line painting.

The agreement is based on a

similar agreement that Wellesley has with Woolwich township, which was vetted through Wellesley's solicitor to ensure the interests of the township were thoroughly examined, and that no undue liability would arise if both parties satisfied their obligations.

The agreement will remain in effect until December 31, 2033.

## The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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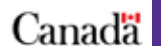
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COMMUNITY —

# Late trustee's son among two new appointees to the Waterloo public school board

By Veronica Reiner

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) has appointed two new trustees - Joe Meissner and Samantha Estoesta.

They will fill the vacant Woolwich-Wellesley position, along with the Waterloo-Wilmot role. The Woolwich-Wellesley was most recently held by Meissner's father, the beloved Fred Meissner, who passed away in May.

"I applied because I want to honour my father who was elected in October 2022 and recently passed away," said Joe, as to why he applied for the role.

"My dad and I often connected over our shared vision of education. We both believe that a student-centred education requires safe and inclusive classrooms, collaboration with families, and recognizing that teachers and education workers as the experts in the classroom. I felt compelled to ensure the values and goals that the community voted for were represented at the board table."

Meissner is a post secondary instructor at Wilfrid Laurier University. He has a Master of Science in Biochemistry and a



Left, the new Waterloo-Wilmot trustee Samantha Estoesta and right, the new Woolwich/Wellesley trustee Joe Meissner.

Master in Education degrees. He is passionate about education and has spent his entire career in post-secondary

educational roles. He lives in Elmira, has three children in the WRDSB, and is an avid cyclist.

Estoesta is a project manager, along with a long time equity, diversity and inclusion advocate, and a mother. She has over a decade of experience in equity, diversity and inclusion advocacy, along with community engagement and digital communications.

"I've been a permanent resident here of Waterloo Region since 2015," said Estoesta. "My daughter just completed junior kindergarten. So looking at the decisions that are being made at the trustee level - it's something that's going to impact my family directly for the next 13+ years."

Some issues that are particularly important to Estoesta include an improving accessibility for students, an empathetic learning environment and empowering the student voice.

Both trustees were selected through a careful selection process, which involved completing an application form before the deadline and giving a verbal presentation during a special board meeting.

There were 19 applicants selected to present to the trustees, and the swearing in ceremony for both Estoesta and Meissner occurred immediately after the vote.

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# COMMUNITY —

## Winners announced for Canada Day Decorating Contest



The winning Canada Day Decorating Contest submission by Cathy Glumm. She received 112 reactions and won \$300 as a result.



The third place submission for the Canada Day Decorating Contest by Susan Honderich Mills. She got 87 reactions and \$100.

By Veronica Reiner

The winners have been announced for the Wilmot Township Canada Day Decorating Contest.

Cathy Glumm won first place with 112 reactions (votes), Susan Hammer got second with 109 reactions (votes), and Susan Honderich Mills won third with 87 reactions. There were 21 participants total,

and a total of at least 11,641 views.

Lou Divita is a Wilmot resident who organized the contest with Scott Dunstall, along with the New Hamburg Board of Trade. Both Lou and Scott are administrators of the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page.

"It was a real success and a testament to how important and wonderful Canada is

to all of us," said Lou.

Winners received cash prizes - first place got \$300, second place got \$200, and third place received \$100.

Participants were encouraged to take a picture of their Canada Day-themed creation and post it to the "Show Us Your Wilmot" Facebook page, with the words Canada Day included in the caption or

comments section. Residents were encouraged to vote for their favourite entries by reacting (like, love, care, or wow) to pictures they liked.

The due date was June 30th at 12 p.m. and winners were announced at the New Hamburg Legion at 3 p.m. on July 1.



The second place winning submission for the Canada Day Decorating Contest by Susan Hammer. She received 109 reactions and got \$200.



President of the New Hamburg Board of Trade, Lyle Cressman, congratulates Cathy Glumm on the win. With Cathy are her grandsons - Flint on the left, and Ryker on the right.



**COMMUNITY —****Paving the new Optimist walking path in Shakespeare**

By Gary West

The final touches were being put on the Shakespeare Optimist Club's walking path last week, with asphalt paving completed by workers with Fraser Paving in Stratford.

Fraser Paving workers included Jordan Innes, Lorne McNeil, Scott McCann, Braydon McCann, Hayden Blancher and Cameron Miles.

Company co-owners Alex and Denise Gibson were congratulated by Shakespeare Optimist member and foreman Glen Weitzel, for doing a superb job on a path around the soccer field that will be used by residents for many years to come.

To donate to the path and receive a tax receipt, contact Optimist Richard Smelski at 519-625-8811 or Optimist Dan Festoso at 519-625-8548.

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Several well broke young teams of Belgian mares and geldings, 2-year-old mare, 1 year old gelding

**Farm Equipment**

Robert Bell 28"x45" thrash-machine with straw cutter and grain thrower, Grain thrower with hopper, C4.4 Cat diesel power unit on gears (like new, less than 500 hrs), 1HC 7' grain binder with new knife and guards, 2-binder trucks, 1HC corn binder (excellent condition), corn loader and trolley, 1HC #9 silage cutter, 2-1HC 15 run grain drills with grass seeders, J.D. 290 2 row corn planter, Pioneer 8' cultimulcher, Pioneer 2 furrow plow with 14" KV bottoms, Pioneer fore cart with steering, Pioneer blade with wings and attachments, Pioneer potato plow (For same attach), 8' and 6' cultivators, 8' and 7' tandem discs, 6 section diamond harrows, 8' sprocket packer, 1HC 1 row corn scuffler, Lancaster 85 bu. 4 wheel manure spreader (like new), 1HC #9 hay mower with 6' bar, Massey 4 bar side rake, Kicker hay tedder, 55' tubular bale elevator with under carriage, bale stoker, Flat rack hay wagons, sleigh (like new), Gehl 15" hammer mill, Potato plow

**Farm Misc. Tools Etc.**

Approximately 2 wagon loads of miscellaneous items, Large bale hay feeder, 12' cattle fence line bunk feeder, HD shoeing stocks, Team harness, collars, oat roller, belt lacer, endless belts, T posts, fuel tanks, rope and pulley hitch set, hay fork and car, neck-yokes, whippetrees, 3 complete milker units (good condition), New pulsator, SS milk pails, SS double sink, claw washer, tri-wheeled deluxe horse lawn mower, push mowers, pony cart, Stihl chain saw, buggy running gear, 12' aluminum boat, purple martin bird houses (new), some harness shop tools and supplies, torch set with tanks, power washer, air compressor.

**Household Items**

5 burner tabletop oil stove, 2 burner oil stove, stove top baker, beds, dressers, tables, chairs, desk, SS cookware, treadle sewing cabinets, folding tables, sausage stuffer, meat grinder on stand, SS water heaters, lamps and lanterns, 10'x12' steel insulated icehouse (good shape), School textbooks, teacher answer keys, library books, lunch box shelves, assorted school charts, arts and smaller miscellaneous.

**Consignments**

1411 New Holland disc bind 11' cut (mint condition), MF 24 plate disc, 1HC #7 hay mower, 1HC 8' double packer, 1HC 13 run grain drill, 1HC #407 walking plow, Flat rack wagon on rubber, bee keeping supplies including hives, SS extractors etc., Quick hitch steel wheel road cart.

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COMMUNITY —

# 10 years of Camp Alliwannado in Tavistock

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

East Zorra-Tavistock has been the site of Camp Alliwannado for a decade, and despite the concern about its future site, its owner says it's been a labour of love since day one.

Annie Rowland has owned and operated the camp at Tavistock's Queen's Park and has come back each and every summer since her teaching career took her to Sweden five years ago. Rowland said the camp is just something she's loved since attending and working at Camp Bimini. "Camp was always my passion. It was always something that gave me a lot of joy. I looked at other camps when I was in university, but I wanted to stay close to home, and I decided I wanted to create this experience for kids in this area. Every year it just kept me coming back." She added seeing the smiling kids and happy parents telling her how much their kids loved it; it confirms everything. "I'm doing this because the kids are happy, and I am happy. It has been a great experience that I could never have imagined 10 years ago."

When asked to look back on 10 years of kids having fun, Rowland said getting through COVID without interruption is the moment she is most proud of. "I was teaching in Sweden and getting calls from parents hoping the camp would be open. That turned out to be tougher than we thought it would be, but we were very fortunate to work with great staff, local public health, and Ken Wettlaufer, who was totally on board to get us up and running."

Rowland's passion for what she does is obvious, and one of the most important aspects to her is the inclusiveness the camp provides. "Its where everyone comes together. Growing up, I always felt most at home at camp. I wanted to create the same environment where we can offer that same experience to kids and to give them a place they feel they belong and to be themselves."

In addition to offering the camp for area kids, Rowland employs over thirty young people each summer, many being



Camp Alliwannado owner Annie Roland is joined by camper Attwell Martin. Each week of camp has a different theme with week one being 'Old McDonald.' (Photo credit: Camp Alliwannado)

former campers. "They are from Tavistock, New Hamburg, Baden, Woodstock, and Innerkip. For me, this is what I loved to do in the summer as a teenager, so to be able to create jobs where I can share my passion and hope they find it too, means a lot to me."

Camp Alliwannado is working closely with community groups to give some kids the opportunity to attend camp where otherwise they could not. Rowland said the Tavistock Assistance Program (TAP) and the Opti-Mrs. have both stepped up to help. "I think we have about 10 spaces donated to kids in the community who otherwise wouldn't have the means to afford to come. I'm really excited about that, and I hope it continues to grow. We all have the same goal which is to create experiences for kids where they feel like they fit in, and they belong."

As a sole entrepreneur, Rowland admits there have been growing pains along the way, but she said she has adapted. I felt an

immense sense of accomplishment getting through some of the hiccups. But we say the same thing at the end of every summer, we did it, we are here." Rowland added there have been many small moments over the years that make everything

worthwhile. "Even this morning (Monday), there was a camper who hasn't been here for three years, and when we saw each other, our faces lit up, we hugged each other, and that connection that I made with this child four or five years ago, those are the moments that are so special to me."

**What happens next year?**

When asked about next year's Camp Alliwannado, Rowland said the addition of the new spray pad may bring some new challenges, but she said she is up for it. "We are working with East Zorra-Tavistock to see what is possible for next year. We are scheduled to meet with the EZT team in September once the spray pad details are better understood and to learn if the pavilion and site will remain available to the camp in 2024. We will keep our parents and campers informed once we know more."

One thing is certain, and that is if Camp Alliwannado isn't in Tavistock next year, it will create a big hole in parents' plans for their kids, particularly those whose children attend all eight weeks. "Every year, we are met with increasing demand from local families. Almost all weeks are at capacity of over 100 campers within 24 hours of launching registration in January. Our goal is to continue offering our services here in Tavistock," she added.



COMMUNITY —

# Year End Messages from the Director of Education

By Tyrone Dowling, WCDSB Director of Education

As we close out the 2022-23 school year and look forward to a hopefully fun and restful summer ahead, I'd like to share a few thoughts about the journey we've all shared these last 10 months.

Last year, after months of upheaval and uncertainty, we began our transition into the post COVID-19 era.

The transition wasn't easy yet, aided by our new 3-year Pastoral Plan and Multi-year Strategic Plan, the "normal" we once took for granted has begun to return.

We have been so thrilled to see the return of sacraments being celebrated in our school-parish communities and to see full menus of Catholic Education Week activities in our schools.

Our athletic competitions, field trips, and artistic undertakings have returned – as have our cherished in-person graduation activities.

And our Extended Day and French Immersion programs are thriving.

It has been a long and, at times, difficult journey – and I thank all students, staff, parents and the community for your patience, understanding and cooperation as we continue to travel this winding road together.

The education of children and youth is strongest when families, schools and the community work together in a true partnership.

And we have a solid road map to help guide us.

Our new Pastoral Plan is comprised of three annual themes: Awaken, Strengthen, Ignite.

Our new Multi-year Strategic Plan animates those themes in three strategic directions: Awaken to Belong, Ignite to Believe and Strengthen to Become.

Parents, families and community are each fully represented within each theme

Of course, our road map is underpinned by the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and our Catholic Social Teachings.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of this past school year, and we look forward to an even better 2023-24.

As a school system we are honoured to be home to a vast mosaic of races, ethnic backgrounds, cultures, and languages.

The students we serve come from more than 110 different countries and speak more than 100 different languages.

Our vision of being "Heart of the Community" offering "Success for Each" and creating a "Place for All" is alive and thriving in our schools.

Thank you for all that you do for the students and families who have chosen Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools. May you have a safe, happy, healthy and restful summer.



Tyrone Dowling, the director of education at the Waterloo Catholic District School Board.

## 2023 Junior Fall Fair Ambassador

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For the first time in the history of the Tavistock Fall Fair, a Junior Fall Fair Ambassador competition will take place. The contest will be set for Friday, September 8, at the Tavistock Memorial Hall at 7:30 p.m., and boys or girls ages 7 to 10 are eligible.

Tori Wagler (Smythe) won the Ambassador competition in 2008 and has been a part of the organizing committee ever since. She said the new event will be a light-hearted one focused on enjoying the moment. "There are a few different junior competitions around at fall fairs and one of our committee members asked about us having one. There won't be an entertainment portion to it like in the senior competition. It's going to be easy and fun for the kids to go up, say their name, and say what they like about the fair. And because it's not a competition, just to keep it fun, we will be drawing the winner's name from a hat."

The senior ambassador competition has seen lower numbers of competitors in recent years, including just two in 2022. Wagler hopes that will eventually improve down the road as a result of the new contest. "Yes, we would love that. Right now, the structure is that clubs and organizations must nominate a contestant. There were six or seven competitors the year I won." Wagler added local service clubs may not always find out who is interested in participating. "Maybe they just don't know about it. If we see good numbers for the junior ambassador, we may switch things around and let those interested enter on



Stephanie Cahill, winner of the 2022 Senior Fair Ambassador competition at the Tavistock Fall Fair.

their own." Wagler said she is always hoping to see more male competitors.

The winner will be announced as the 2023 Junior Ambassador, ride in the Tavistock Fall Fair Parade with last year's senior Ambassador, win a midway prize pass, and represent Tavistock and the fair all weekend.

At press time, five children had signed up for the junior competition and one for the senior. The deadline to enter is August 11, and anyone with questions can contact Wagler at tori.smythe@gmail.com.

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## COMMUNITY —

# Area women attend Associated Country Women of the World

## Triennial Conference in Malaysia



Nancy Birss and Magdie de Kock. (Photo contributed)

By Nancy Birss and Anne Innes

Two area Women's Institute members, Anne Innes from Oxford County and Nancy Birss from Wilmot Township, were among forty Canadian women (twenty of whom were from Ontario) who attended the international conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in May. This was Nancy's first ACWW conference and Anne's fifth conference. In all, there were about 450 attendees from around the world, belonging to Women's Institutes and other women's agricultural and educational societies.

The long journey (with over 20 hours of flying time each way) began with fifteen of the Canadian WI women spending the first three days of a two week tour, in Singapore, followed by a wonderful educational and cultural tour of Malaysia prior to the conference. The tour group experienced visits to a couple of Indigenous villages, a tea plantation in the Malaysian highlands, batik crafters, and several Malaysian, Indian and Chinese temples representing the three cultures in Malaysia.

The international conference of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is held every three years and has previously been held in places such as Australia, England, India, USA and Canada. The Malaysian Women's Institute of Pahang area near Kuala Lumpur offered six years ago to be the host country for 2023. Since that time, their star member became Queen Azizah of Malaysia as her husband had become king. In Malaysia, the kingship is rotated every five years between nine royal families, which are Sultan-led states. The Sultan

gives up his 'sultanship' for a five-year period to become king and then usually returns to being Sultan. Thus at this particular conference, the King and Queen of Malaysia officially opened the conference, and Queen Azizah entertained conference attendees, among other guests, to dinner and entertainment at the palace. What an amazing evening that was!

The ACWW has been in existence over 90 years and represents nine million women from 84 countries around the world. ACWW's mission is to empower women and amplify women's voices around the world and seeks to encourage and support projects that provide sustainable economic programs for women, especially in third world countries. "Rural Women are the backbone of families, communities, and nations, but they suffer the worst impacts of climate change and conflict, go unheard in legislation, and remain unprotected and unsupported. Associated Country Women of the World exists to change that." <https://acww.org.uk/>

ACWW's theme for the next triennium is Sustainable Growth for the Future. The new focus is to fund and promote longer sustainable projects, in many cases helping women to start their own initiatives for sustainable economic independence to support their families and communities with climate-sensitive agriculture, thus ensuring greater community impact for the women most at risk of being left behind.

Many of the new projects will provide sustainable reproducing seeds, thus allowing for seed security for many women. 'Rural



Anne Innes. (Photo contributed)

Women in Action' is not just a slogan.

The World President, Magdie de Kock, from South Africa, was re-elected for a second three-year term. Anne Innes was elected to the worldwide 13 member Board of Trustees as Chairman of the Food and Agriculture Committee. Congratulations Anne! Anne had been a member of ACWW's United Nations Committee for the past four years and in March of this year attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York. The previous chair of the ACWW UN Committee, Marie Kenny, of PEI, was elected Canada Area Chair to ACWW. "ACWW will continue to use its Consultative Status with the United Nations and its Agencies to amplify the voices of Rural Women, and highlight the issues they raise at the international level."

ACWW, as an international organization, brings together many women's organizations. Women's Institute (WI) was essentially the basis for this organization. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, along with Erland and Janet Lee, started WI in 1897 in Stoney Creek, Ontario. What began as an organization to educate rural women about domestic household issues has grown into an international organization. Branches exist in many rural communities and areas across Canada and in many countries around the world, providing education and social meetings for members, and often advocating for public policy change. WI advocated for painted lines on highways years ago, flashing lights on school buses, and recycling programs, to

name a few.

WI, like many organizations, has seen its membership shrink over the past few years, especially during covid. However, WI is reviving and changing its image and programs to reflect the needs and interests of today's women. We encourage you to visit a WI near you (New Dundee WI, Princess Elizabeth WI, Paris WI Women Empowering Women) or by contacting [fwio@fwio.on.ca](mailto:fwio@fwio.on.ca)

A great opportunity awaits for women who want to learn new things and contribute to their local communities. The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) provides members with a stronger voice by working together as a united group. We focus on personal growth opportunities, advocacy and health and community wellness projects. We seek to provide education and advocate social justice issues on behalf of women, children, families and our communities. As a WI Member, you can voice your concerns to bring about positive change. <https://fwio.on.ca/>

We are Women Involved/Women Interested/Women Inspired.

Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) is Canada's national organization bringing together provincial WIs and promoting the objectives of education and fellowship of women. "We believe that when women come together, they can change their communities and the world we live in." <https://www.fwic.ca/>

We look forward to meeting you!



## COMMUNITY —

# Community Futures celebrates a milestone

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Community Futures Oxford is celebrating 30 years of supporting small businesses and community economic development in the county.

The organization recently held its annual general meeting and since inception, it has distributed more than \$24 million in loans and equity to 417 businesses that were starting or growing in the community. This directly impacted 3,294 jobs. Since 1993, 368 grants have been awarded to the tune of \$1.3 million.

General Manager Alan Simm said things have changed over 30 years. "We went from one loan fund to now having three. We went from renting an office of 1600 square feet to owning a 2700 square foot building. We now have a total of four staff, and the loan limit went from \$75,000 in year one to \$300,000."

Community Futures Oxford specializes in providing term loans to small businesses. Entrepreneurs can access an Investment Fund, Sand Plains Community Development Fund, or the Future Oxford Legacy Fund. "All three funds are available to small business clients. They are separate and have different eligibility criteria. Financing in amounts up to \$300,000 is available from two of them, and up to \$100,000 is available from the Future Oxford Legacy Fund," added Simm.

Two funds were added in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) and the Oxford Economic Stimulus Fund (OESF). "The RRRF, which is now closed, provided loans of up to \$60,000 to businesses and



Community Futures Oxford presented their annual awards of excellence to three recipients. From left to right, the Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Jessica Eterno of Sew Stylish Wedding Works in Ingersoll; The Entrepreneur of the Year, Jodi Pendry from Terra Nova Nordic Spa; winner of the Community Economic Development Project of the Year, Oxford Invitational Youth Robotics Challenge, represented by Lisa Wells. (Photo credit: Community Futures Oxford)

not-for-profit organizations affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19. The RRRF was funded by the Government of Canada via FedDev Ontario." The OESF was fully disbursed this past year and is now closed. Simm said it was a partnership with Oxford County, Oxford Connection, and Community Futures Oxford.

In addition to funding streams, Simm said the organization can help entrepreneurs with business start-up and business planning questions in one-on-one advisory sessions. "Personalized business planning advice is provided by a qualified business

consultant, and we have businesses seminars. Topics on improving business management skills are presented by guest speakers who are experts in their respective fields." He added a lot of information is available to clients interested in starting a business and on their website at [www.cfoxford.ca](http://www.cfoxford.ca).

As for what is on deck for the future, Simm said the Community Futures board wants to explore an entrepreneurial Hub model, something trending across the province. "The primary objective will be to explore the feasibility of an entrepreneurship

Hub or Hubs. Innovation Guelph was engaged as a consultant to perform this study, and they have provided an in-depth report with recommendations." He added the organization must understand and stay connected to the emerging needs of the community. "Our ongoing communication will provide us with the opportunity to reach entrepreneurial individuals and families who have exciting ideas to further strengthen the county through their business ventures."

## 2023 Award Winners

Community Futures Oxford also presented their annual awards of excellence to three recipients. The Entrepreneur of the Year went to Jodi Pendry from Terra Nova Nordic Spa just south of Hickson. "I am honoured to receive the award. The recognition is humbling. It takes a lot of perseverance, hard work, and support. I can't forget the great staff I have who have created a space like ours. I love the challenge and so far, the outcomes. I suppose this is what entrepreneurship is all about," said Pendry.

The Young Entrepreneur of the Year was won by Jessica Eterno of Sew Stylish Wedding Works in Ingersoll. Eterno said it is great to be a part of Oxford County and the amazing community of Ingersoll. "I really appreciate all the support we have received throughout the years. I am grateful to Community Futures Oxford for allowing me to be able to continue the legacy of Sew Stylish."

The winner of the Community Economic Development Project of the Year is the Oxford Invitational Youth Robotics Challenge.

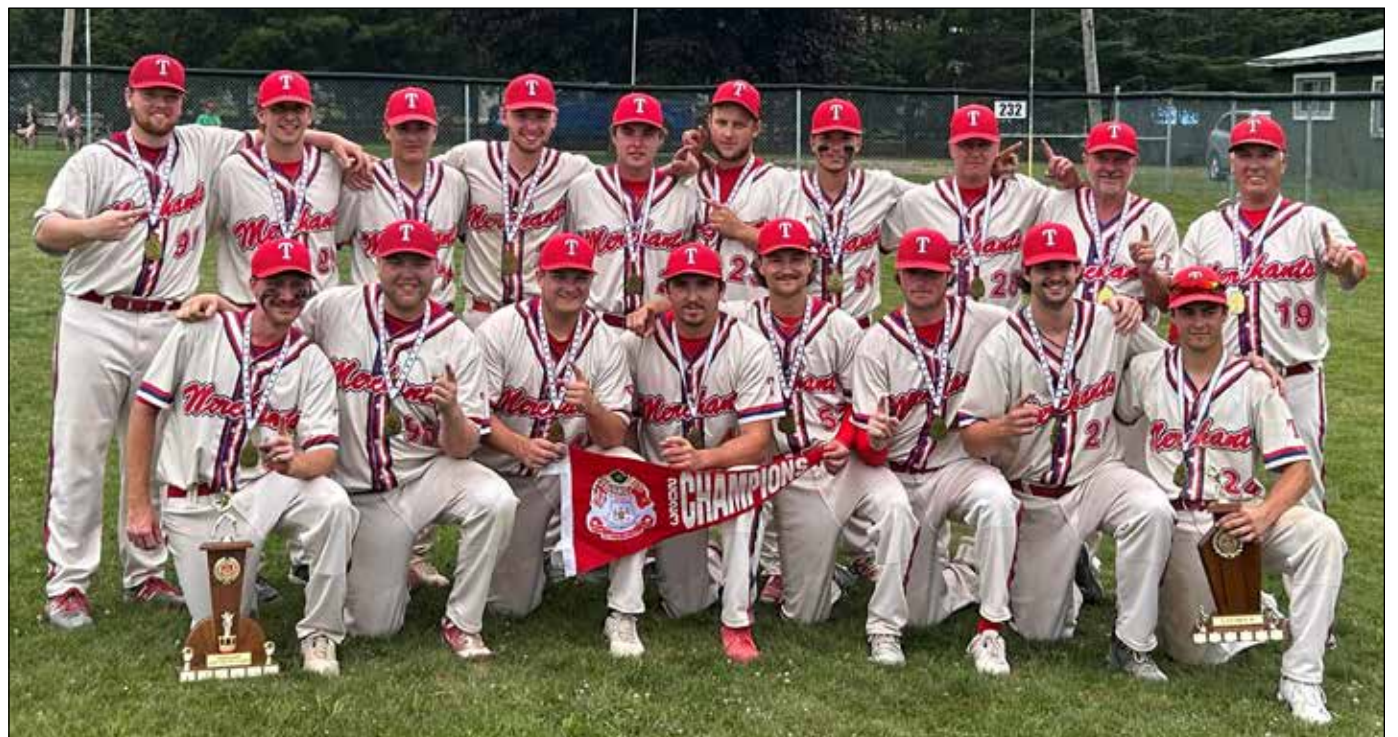
# Tavistock Merchants win Ontario gold

Continued from page 1

and then Tavistock took the lead on Reece Yantzi's triple in the fourth inning. Chase Zehr pinch ran for Yantzi and scored on a Brett Munro single. That would be all the offense they would need as they went on to an 8-1 mercy win in six innings.

Zehr said the win came as a result of great team play. "This was a full team assault over the weekend, with everyone contributing. Starting with the first game that saw 14 of our 16 players involved in the win, and that carried right through to the final pitch on Sunday." Zehr added his team is as tight as a team can be. "The majority of them have been together since 2021. The first-year ball got going after COVID, we started practicing together in July when we were allowed back on the diamond. That first year we went to the Rawlings Grand Slam in Saskatoon that had the top Junior teams from across Canada competing and finished third." Zehr added that with 14 returning players and the new ones added this year in Scott Wilkins and Kyle Roth, he looks forward to going to Saskatoon to defend Tavistock's National title.

The Merchants lost just two players from last year's team due to age and were automatically going to the Nationals as defending champions. Reese Yantzi won the top pitcher award for tournament, and Mason McKay was named most valuable player.



Team members are front row – left to right – Ben Wiffen, Brett Munro, Thomas Baker, Tye Boyd, Jaxon Gilbert, Derek Erb, Nate Running, Mason McKay. Back row – left to right – Reese Yantzi, Jake Voisin, Mitch McKay, Calvin Munro, Jack Becker, Kyle Roth, Chayse Zehr, Scott Wilkins, Gary Baker, Kevin Zehr (absent – Tyson Zehr). (Photo credit: Tavistock Merchants)



# COMMUNITY —

## Progress on the Wellesley Township Recreation Complex



A look at the interior of the Wellesley Township Recreation Complex as of Tuesday night, July 4. The project is a work-in-progress, with construction being done by Ball Construction in Kitchener for about \$27 million. It is expected to be completed in the fall. The space will include a multi purpose gym and community hall, along with an NHL-sized rink. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)




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# COMMUNITY —

## The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) Who was the "Captain" of the Ark?
- 2) Who was the host of "The Muppet Show"?
- 3) What is a "goatee"?
- 4) What is the name of the rat in the cartoon version of Charlotte's Web?
- 5) What hospital did Dr Kildare work at?
- 6) Before going solo, what was the name of the group that Michael Jackson preformed with?
- 7) What was the name of the rock opera written by The Who?
- 8) What is the national language in Ecuador?
- 9) Which superhero said the word Shazam to get his powers?
- 10) The Chunnel runs between Britain and which country?

Answers found on page 26

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**July 6:** Happy birthday to Aubrey Shewchuk (15), Ava Mohr (17), and anniversaries for Keith and Ruth Wagler (55th), Jeff and Chris Schultz (32nd), Paul and Marilyn Vandenberg (27th), and Justin and Jennifer Yantzi (10th).

**July 7:** Happy birthday to Fiona Barton (7), Charles Barton (7), Ardythe Campbell (75), and anniversaries for Ron and Donna Rudy (65th) and Ken and Diane Odette (22nd).

**July 8:** Happy birthday to Samantha Hovius (10), Carmen Yausie (16), and Madux Snyder (18), and anniversaries for Robert and Marie Brodrecht (57th), Mark and Carolyn Rutherford (28th), Trevor and Katie Bender (17th), and Brent and Heather Ropp (6th).

**July 9:** Happy anniversaries for Gary and Elaine Yantzi (46th), Tyler and Jessica Yantzi (18th), and Chris and Alex McKay (12th).

**July 10:** Happy birthday to Bella Paese (13) and anniversary for Brent and Shauna Lange (13th).

**July 11:** Happy birthday to Bo Schurink (17), Aleigha Bontaine (18), Zachary Dredge (21), Ashlie Weicker, and John Schultz, and anniversary for Reid and Emily Bell (14th).

**July 12:** Happy birthday to Vince Stickney (3), Bo Hyde (23), Dylan Smith (23), and Hailey Mohr (23), and anniversaries for Bill and Linda Ferguson (48th), Robert and Pam Seyler (37th), Jack and Jane Danen (26th), and Bryn and Terry Gladding (21st).

*Does someone in your family have a special day coming up? Let us know at thewtgazette@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.*

**July 3-10, 2013 Edition (10 years ago)**

Kyle Waymouth of Stratford and Kyle Charron of Barrie were winners in the 30th Annual Southwestern Ontario Open Fiddle and Stepdance Championships held in Tavistock this past weekend on June 28-29.

Tavistock Minor Ball has their first ever representative at the Canadian Championships. This past weekend the Midget boys finished third at the Ontario Amateur Softball Association's Elimination Tournament in Napanee. Tavistock is becoming well-known in the fastball world as a powerhouse of young talent.

**July 2-9, 2003 Edition (20 years ago)**

For the third consecutive year now, Tavistock will be the site of the Southwestern Ontario Fiddle and Stepdance Championships and a local stepdance group will be there to try and repeat their winning performance. Last year's junior group winners, Denim and Lace, this years consists of local teens - Rebecca Walker, 14, of Tavistock; John Coulthard, 14, of St. Pauls;

and Dawn Marie Harris, 12, of Mitchell.

A beautiful, warm summer's day greeted the foursome of Judy Neeb, Linda Schumm, Cathie McGonigle, and Sue Murray for the 2003 Longest Day of Golf on June 16 at the Tavistock Golf Course. The event is held annually to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society, Oxford County Unit. This year the group raised about \$5,450 playing 98 holes over the day.

The Tavistock Merchants Fastball team recently qualified for the ISC II World Fast Pitch Tournament by going undefeated in 4 games to capture the ISC II qualifier held in Owen Sound. In the finals, pitcher Fred Folings allowed just four hits while striking out nine batters. Offensively, Jamie Boyd had 2 singles and Shawn McKay had a triple and 2 RBI's to lead Tavistock to a 5-2 victory. This year's world tournament will be held in Appleton, Wisconsin.

**June 29-July 6, 1983 Edition (40 years ago)**

For a century, residents of Hickson have enjoyed continuous postal service since that post office was officially opened on July 1, 1883. During the past 100 years, 10 postmasters have provided mail service to Hickson with one postmaster, Andrew Clarence Parker, serving the community

for 47 years.

By Dr. Bruce Halliday, MP for Oxford County: Without question, last week's highlight was the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales, Charles and Diana. Treated to hot and sunny weather throughout their three-day stay in Ottawa, the royal couple handled a packed itinerary with much grace and enthusiasm to everyone's delight.

**June 26-July 3, 1963 Edition (60 years ago)**

Should plans materialize as anticipated, there will be a new Arena in Tavistock to serve the community this coming winter season. The "Green Light" was given the Central Committee Thursday night at the close of a public meeting at the Memorial Hall to proceed with the securing of plans, the calling of tenders and the naming of standing committees for the project to cost from \$70,000 to \$80,000.

The East Zorra Township School Area Board is now calling for tenders for the construction of a new four-room school with auditorium at Innerkip.

All Ontario barbers will in future require a provincial certificate showing they are trained and competent, Labor Minister said Thursday.

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COMMUNITY —

# Two new police service dogs join the Waterloo Regional Police Service

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) welcomed two new police service dogs to its canine unit.

After collecting more than 600 name suggestions from the Waterloo Region community, the Canine Unit officially named one of the dogs River in honour of the Grand River and the 50th anniversary of the police service.

The second dog, officially named Milo, was named by the woodworking students at Monsignor Doyle Catholic Secondary School after the police service partnered with the class to build new training obstacles for the canine unit.

River is a one-year-old German Shepherd and Belgian Malinois cross and Milo is a one-year-old German Shepherd. Both were born in Czechia.

“On behalf of the police service, we are proud to officially welcome our newest members, River and Milo,” said Mark Crowell, Chief of Police, in a release. “River and Milo join fellow canine team members, Ranger and Nicho, and will be valuable assets to the service, assisting in many types of investigations.”

Before reporting for duty, River and Milo will complete a 16-week training program. During the program, they will be taught obedience and agility while learning how to conduct proper tracking, property/evidence searches, building searches, handler protection, and criminal apprehension.

The WRPS has used police canines since 1986. The canines are trained to support officers in tracking and apprehending suspects, locating missing persons, recovering stolen or missing property or evidence, and detecting hidden contraband, such as drugs, firearms, ammunition, and currency.

River and Milo will officially join the unit at the end of July.



River, one of the two new WRPS police dogs.



Milo, another new WRPS police dog.

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COMMUNITY —

# The N.E.A.T. club stops by Sebastopol Lutheran Church for breakfast



With South Eastope farmland in the background, Sebastopol Lutheran Church breakfast makers included left to right, Arlene Wettlaufer, Sherry Negrazis, Janet Heinbuch, Pastor Hans Borch, Carol Grasby, Kathy Wilker, and Donna Swartzentruber. Absent is Karen Wagler.

By Gary West

The North Easthope Tractor Club (N.E.A.T.) members were on the move with their 22+ tractors last week. They travelled to Sebastopol for their weekly breakfast to help the Lutheran Church women raise funds for their church activities.

It was a sunny, picture-perfect day, and the tractor enthusiasts, along with their

spouses, came from miles around to attend a nutritious homemade Perth County breakfast.

Following their first meal of the day, the tractor owners, toured, in drive-by fashion, to People Care and the Maples Home for Seniors, where residents enjoyed seeing the farm machines of yesteryear, and many were reminded of the memories they had on the farm of years gone by.

# Sprucedale Public School, class of 2023 graduates



Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare held their grade 8 graduation last week at the Shakespeare Optimist Hall, with a large number of family and friends in attendance. The graduating class of 2023 includes, left to right, Kendall Savile, Jaymee Witzel, Summer Kollman, Annalise Glaab, Macy Kollman, Chase Dietrich, Taylor Pletsch, Taya McLaren, Kalia McLaren, Leah Ruby, Hailey Peters, Brianna Harris-Ayotte, Luke Missio and Jacob Meadows. (Photo credit: Gary West)



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COMMUNITY —

# Introducing our new website

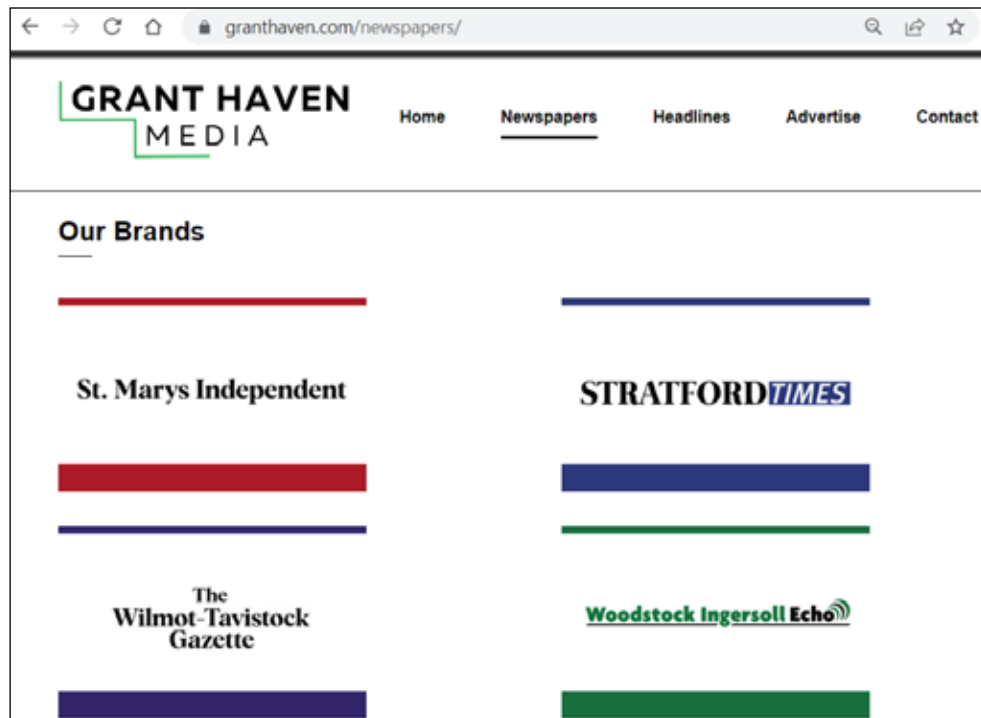
By Stewart Grant

Websites can be tricky. And they are also very unique; there are so many different ways to build and maintain them. I know enough about them to be dangerous, as I ran a web design company from 2011 to 2017.

Prior the merger of the Wilmot Post and Tavistock Gazette, the two websites for the Post and Gazette were polar opposites in their construction. Bill Gladding built the Gazette website the old-fashioned way, from HTML code (which I tried my best to continue, for awhile...) while a New Hamburg based designer used his expertise to build a modern (and OCNA award-winning) website for the Post which we continued with post-merger.

With none of the above designer options available to build a new website for our Woodstock Ingersoll Echo newspaper, I got in touch with good friend Natalie Moore – proprietor of Moore Creative Consulting in Stratford.

Together, we brainstormed – and found that what we needed wasn't another completely different website for the Woodstock Ingersoll paper, but a one-stop-shop where people could access either the news for their specific community, or for the broader region if desired.



"Moore Creative Consulting's goal was to create a clean and crisp website for Grant Haven (at www.granhaven.com) so that we could ensure local news is at the forefront," said Natalie. "Each decision we made considered not only ease of use for

Grant Haven team members, but above all, ease of use for readers. Bringing all Grant Haven papers together in one hub did just that. Now, you have access to all local news from reporters in one place instead of jumping sites on the web. Readers can

also see important headlines that impact not just one area but Stratford, St. Marys, Tavistock, Woodstock and Ingersoll all in one place right from the home page."

One of the things that I appreciated the most about Natalie's involvement with the project was, because she took the time to understand our business so well, she didn't have to wait for me to write up a detailed plan for the site. Based on our planning conversation over a cup of coffee, she was able to move forward straight-away because she knew what I wanted the website to do... even if I didn't have the time to actually type out the words.

"Our team had a fantastic time working on this new website and we're excited to have helped make finding and reading local news even easier!" Natalie added.

I started this article by sharing my background in websites because I know that sometimes, things are difficult and sites don't always work as intended. Some of our users have experienced issues with www.wilmotpost.ca correctly forwarding to the new website. If you are in this small group, hopefully GoDaddy (where our site is hosted) will have it fixed by the time you read this. But if not, simply visit www.granhaven.com and you'll be able to click on the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette link.

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# COMMUNITY —

## Canada Day in Wilmot



Canada Day in Wilmot took place at Norm S. Hill Park on July 1 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The event featured an Indigenous sunrise ceremony, famous character meet and greet, two Erick Traplin shows (one is pictured), a Tautirut show (fiddle), performances by Ella Ruth and Johanna Daze, along with three Orangeman shows. Capping off the night was a fireworks display. (Photo credit: Canada Day in Wilmot)

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**SPORTS —**

# Tavistock Men's Club recently donated to Tavistock soccer



Mark Kozdras from the Men's Club, presenting Marlow Gingerich of Tavistock Soccer, with a cheque to ensure that soccer continues to flourish on the soccer fields of Tavistock.

By Gary West

The Tavistock Men's Club were out in the community again and this time supporting soccer in Tavistock.

Marlow Gingerich of Tavistock Soccer says he was grateful with the donation from the area Men's club, and knows the members of the club recognize that soccer builds community.

Tavistock Tornadoes Optimist soccer club has 322 registrations for the 2023 season and this is the highest registration number for the club in its history. The soccer club activity covers players who are turning four to turning 21 this year.

The men's club donation will be used for field rental costs at the Tavistock Public

School, and offset referee training costs. It will also help with field lining costs at four different locations in Tavistock.

The soccer club extends its sincere thanks to the 23 officials that work the games and the 43 coaches that volunteer their time and passion for the game of soccer in the village.

In order for the men's club to sponsor the many activities they do in the Tavistock area, they raise funds through various events like the pork chop dinner, the fish fry, and of course, their annual sales of sauerkraut. They hold a sauerkraut supper, which includes numerous volunteers working at the arena booth throughout the winter.

# Community supports New Hamburg dancer off to represent Team Canada in Dance World Cup



Pictured is Angie Scheid, Marcus Scheid, Grace Bender, Tim Petrovic from Timbos Transport, Sienna Lichti, Barb Collins from Baden Coffee Company, Kelly Durst from Health First Dental, Launi Eichler, Courtney Ebbett and Evelyn Diamond.

By Veronica Reiner

A New Hamburg dancer has received community support to compete with Team Canada in the Dance World Cup competition in Portugal.

Cloverleaf Farms in New Hamburg presented Sienna Lichti with a \$1,657 cheque from their fundraising efforts. "Big huge thanks to the whole community for their support with this fundraiser," said Angie Scheid, owner of Cloverleaf Farms. "Modern Purair, a local company, along with loyal customers of ours, donated \$500 in gift certificates as well on top of cash donations."

This total also included a \$1,122 donation from sandwiches sold (Sienna Sandwich, with chicken bacon and chipotle), cash donations from Timbos Transport (Tim),

Healthy First Dental in New Hamburg (Kelly), Wilmot Smiles (Lisa), Baden Coffees fundraiser (Barb) of the Sunset Sienna Drink, which is also still available due to its popularity."

Lichti has been dancing competitively for about five years. One of her performances in a competition last year got her an automatic placement on the Canadian dance team, and she will be representing Canada at the World Cup in Portugal this year.

Dance World Cup has more than 120,000 children around the world, aged from four to 25, trying to qualify in their country for the competition. It is held annually in a different location. Previous locations for the Dance World Cup include Portugal, Spain, England, Germany, Romania, Italy, Austria, France and Jersey.

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# COMMUNITY —

## Show Us Your Wilmot



Each week, the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette will publish interesting photos from around the community. The inspiration for this came from the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group. This photo was taken at the Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve by William Bunn. "This young Tree Swallow was given an insect with a long tail. It would appear he was unable to swallow the bug," said Bunn. "The father even flew in and closed his mouth hoping it would help." (Photo credit: William Bunn)

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## Gazette Puzzles

### June Highlights

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| <b>Canadian wildfires</b> | <b>Wagner Group</b>     | <b>Oxford byelection</b> |
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## Pet of the Week



### GLOW

This weeks pet of the week is a purebred four year old Holstein dairy cow who was part of the Perth County "iFarm" educational display in Stratford recently. Her name is Glow and she is owned by Simon and Andrea Knossen from Brunner in Perth East Township.

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



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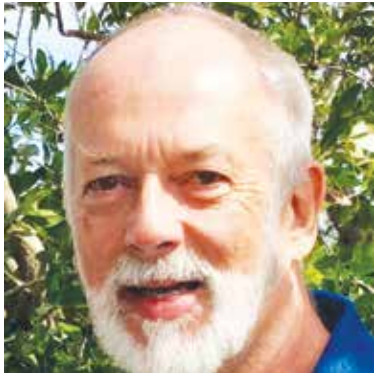


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## TRAVEL —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A lot of history on "a rock in the middle of nowhere"



**By Paul Knowles**

Travelling by car through the Florida Keys on Highway 1, the "Overseas Highway", is probably my favourite drive anywhere in the world. You pass through interesting towns with tropical ambience – Key Largo, Islamorada, Marathon, and many more island communities and you encounter innumerable bridges, including the famed "Seven Mile Bridge" that stretches over seven miles of ocean.

It is stunningly beautiful.

Being caught up in that beauty is probably why I never really noticed a tiny coral "key" adjacent to the Seven Mile Bridge. Pigeon Key is not worth noticing if you are looking for sheer, dramatic beauty. But it turns out, this small island is a rich repository of history that lies at the heart of what the Florida Keys are today.

Paying visitors arrive via the cute little Pigeon Key train which takes you to the island. There, you will be welcomed for a lengthy but enthralling tour of the island where you learn the story of Henry Flagler and his railway to Key West.

Because during construction of that ill-fated railway, Pigeon Key was a key (pun intended) staging point for the railroad construction project. And this island, which you can cross from side to side in a four-minute walk, was home to 400 workers. Our guide – "Just call me C.T., everybody does" – admitted that, "We're a rock in the middle of nowhere but there is a surprising amount of history on this island."

So – about this railway. The name "Henry Flagler" pops up everywhere in the history of Florida. Flagler, born to a poor family in 1830, became a rich American industrialist. He was a partner with John D. Rockefeller in Standard Oil. C.T. told us that Flagler had a contradictory reputation: "Vicious in business – he'd squash you like a bug – but the very opposite in his personal life where he was kind and generous and empathetic."

This vicious, kind man first came to Florida in the 1880s and he saw the potential in a state that was then, mostly mosquito-infested swampland. His story is deserving of a book but the quick version is that Flagler built a railway to St. Augustine and then continued south to Daytona and eventually Miami. He built hotels (great facilities still in use today as schools, as well as historic hotels).

When the Panama Canal opened in 1914, Flagler saw the potential for a deep-water port to serve the United States and the closest one was in Key West. The problem was that Key West is an island at the end of a series of islands with no land trans-

portation connecting it to the continental United States. That constitutes about 194 kilometers without land transportation. And except for Key West, then a boomtown of about 20,000, the population of the Keys was about 1,000 in total.

The solution? C.T. described it this way: "Henry Flagler reached into his pocket and pulled out a railroad."

It was an astonishing feat – building a railroad over the ocean, anchoring the line on the islands of the keys but stretching over many lengths of sea including the seven-mile stretch that includes Pigeon Key.

The project employed thousands and 400 of them were based on Pigeon Key. The buildings still standing (many have been demolished) date back to that era when hundreds of men ate, slept and worked from this home base.

When Flagler first envisioned the project, the experts he consulted told him he was crazy. His answer? "We're going to Key West."

And he did. While Pigeon Key was perhaps the biggest camp, there were actually 82 work camps all along the Keys, all building their section of the project.

Flagler stated his vision in 1905; on January 22, 1912, the first train to reach Key West pulled into the station with an aging Henry Flagler on board. C.T. stated it dramatically: "For the first time ever, Key West heard the scream of steam." Flagler was greeted by ten thousand



The Pigeon Key train – a smaller version than the ones that travelled Henry Flagler's railway to Key West. (Photo by Paul Knowles)

cheering residents including bands and choirs, school kids and dignitaries galore. Henry was a hero.

He was also ill. Henry Flagler passed away on May 20, 1913 just over a year after his final entrepreneurial triumph. His impact on Key West is honoured today by a life-sized statue of Flagler seated on a bench in front of the former railway station. His Key West hotel, Casa Marina, continues to be a popular and pricey home away from home for visitors today.

The railroad did not stand the test of time or tempest. About 65 kilometers of track around Islamorada were destroyed in a tragic 1935 hurricane that also caused the death of over 400 people, many riding on a north-

bound train racing to escape the storm.

The railway was in dire straits. The death blow that sent it into receivership came when the company could not pay a large bill, ironically to Standard Oil, where Flagler was once a part-owner.

But the precedent had been set. No railway was ever to run again through the Keys, but a highway was built using many of the same bridges. That highway today is perhaps my favourite drive anywhere.

Thank you, Henry Flagler.

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



One of the buildings that remain from the railroad work camp that housed 400 men on this tiny island.



A section of the railroad that remains – with Highway 1, which sometimes used the railway bridges, shown to the left.



OPINION —

THE PUBLISHERS DESK: *Play stupid games, win stupid prizes*



By Stewart Grant

As a board member of the Ontario Community Newspapers Association, it's been well over a year ago since I first heard of the lobbying taking place to

force Facebook and Google to pay Canadian publishers for the news stories that are shared on their platforms.

While "sure, it would be nice" to have some of the extra dollars that these mega companies have lying around, I couldn't get over the fact that the idea of them paying us was... stupid.

Sitting in on this conference call, I remember being the lone person saying to the group, "This doesn't make any sense to me."

"Each week, we share our online newspaper on Facebook, and we also share our top stories. This is our choice. Facebook didn't make us share our news stories

here, in fact it's nice for us that Facebook provides this platform for us to connect with a wider audience. Why should they have to pay me for that?"

As you may have heard, this whole issue came up in a big way last week, with the Government of Canada's Bill C-18 being passed into law. The bill, dubbed the Online News Act, required Facebook and Google to pay Canadian publishers for showing links to news. And not surprisingly, Facebook and Google don't want to do this. And why should they?

Instead, they both came out with strong statements against the Canadian legislation, say-

ing that if they are forced to pay for the links to Canadian news sites... well then, they won't provide those links at all.

Therefore, in roughly six months' time, unless something changes, we will no longer be able to post articles or links to the PDF version of our newspaper on Facebook, nor will our articles be shared through Google News. As a company who is mainly focused on our print product, this really isn't that big of a deal for the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette, but for many other news companies, it is a devastating development.

Again, I don't blame Facebook or Google for this. Instead, I

blame lobbyists with unrealistic goals, and I mostly blame the federal government for pushing through bad legislation that they didn't realize the ramifications of.

The best thing that could happen from here is that the Liberals back down, admit that they overstepped, and reverse the law. However, I don't think many politicians have a habit of admitting when they're wrong.

So, what'll happen is that, in a country where news organizations are already struggling, a short-sighted government bill managed to make things much worse.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - JULY 2023

<b>July 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th</b>	of summer by stopping in for a tour and enjoying some light refreshments. Located at Fryfogel's Tavern, 2.8 kilometres east of Shakespeare on Highway 7/8. Takes place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Takes place on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Youth Centre at the Wilmot Recreation Complex, for ages 9 to 12.	unique music on the front lawn of Castle Kilbride from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Weather permitting. This day, Rescue Junction (Gospel/Bluegrass) will play.	<b>Wilmot Council Meeting</b> 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.
<b>Summer Drop-In</b>	<b>July 10th</b> <b>Blood Drive</b> Taking place at the Shantz Mennonite Church at 2473 Erbs Road in Baden. Booking times are available from around 3 p.m. until about 8 p.m. at <a href="http://www.blood.ca">www.blood.ca</a> .	<b>July 13th</b> <b>Childhood Cancer Fundraising BBQ</b> The 19th annual childhood cancer fundraising barbecue will take place at 1239 Notre Dame Drive in Petersburg from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. All proceeds will go towards Scotland's Yard (Grand River Hospital), Children's Health Foundation (London) and Walk to Conquer Cancer (Princess Margaret). To donate online visit <a href="http://www.bechtholdhome.com/bbq.html">www.bechtholdhome.com/bbq.html</a> .	<b>July 16th</b> <b>Breakfast in the Park</b> From 8:30 a.m. to noon at Petersburg Park. The Optimist Club of Petersburg is once again hosting Breakfast in the Park. Enjoy scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, homefries, toast, juice and coffee. Adults are \$15; 10 and under is \$10.	<b>August 2nd</b> <b>East Zorra-Tavistock Council Meeting</b> In-person council meeting taking place at 695566 17th Line in Innerkip starting at 7 p.m.
<b>July 7th</b>	<b>July 11th</b> <b>Wellesley Council Meeting</b> 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.	<b>July 13th</b> <b>Castle Kilbride Summer Concert Series</b> Thursday evenings, bring your lawn chair and enjoy	<b>July 17th</b> <b>Crokinole</b> Taking place from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wilmot Recreation Complex Active Living Centre in Baden. Aimed at those 55+. Free program, registration is not required.	<b>August 11th</b> <b>Good Eats &amp; Musical Beats</b> Taking place at Fellowship Bible Church at 150 Hamilton Road in New Hamburg from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., including the fifth annual Pet Talent Contest. Including local food trucks such as the Funnel Cloud, Fo'Cheezy, El Milagro and the Serial Griller.
<b>David Martin live at Shakespeare Brewing</b>	<b>July 12th</b> <b>Youth Summer Drop-In</b>	<b>July 13th</b> <b>Castle Kilbride Summer Concert Series</b> Thursday evenings, bring your lawn chair and enjoy	<b>July 24th</b>	
<b>Meet up by the climber at Scott Park at 75 Hunter Street in New Hamburg. Weather permitting. Play based for children ages zero to six accompanied by a caring adult. Older siblings welcome. For more info, contact 519-662-2731.</b>				
<b>Live covers will be played at Shakespeare Brewing by David Martin from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The next day, he will also place at the Bunker Performance Lounge and Cafe in Stratford at 8 p.m., with a \$10 cover.</b>				
<b>Fryfogel's Historic Tavern Doors Open Event</b>				
<b>Join in celebrating the start</b>				

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### Weekly Quiz Answers

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Noah            | 6) The Jackson Five |
| 2) Kermit the Frog | 7) Tommy            |
| 3) A beard         | 8) Spanish          |
| 4) Templeton       | 9) Captain Marvel   |
| 5) Blaire General  | 10) France          |

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