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U23 Merchants repeat win in Saskatchewan



Front row, left to right: Calvin Munro, Tye Boyd, Reese Yantzi, Derek Erb, Brett Munro, Chayse Zehr, Thomas Baker, Nate Running, Ben Wiffen. Back row, left to right: Gary Baker, Jaxon Gilbert, Jake Voisin, Scott Wilkins, Mason McKay, Jack Becker, Kyle Roth, Connor Brooks, Mitch McKay, Tyson Zehr, Kevin Zehr.

By Lee Griffi

Any athlete will tell you it's difficult to win, but nearly impossible to repeat. The Tavistock Merchants U23 softball team might not be saying that now after winning their second Canadian Softball title in a row. The team clinched gold with a three-and-a-half-inning mercy victory.

The team posted seven wins against just one loss en route to the gold medal, outscoring their opponents 68 to 25. Despite

the lopsided run differential manager Kevin Zehr, always gracious in victory, said the competition was extremely tough. "Right from the first game where we only won 3-2 (against last year's finalists from Owen Sound). Every game they had to work really hard, no matter what the score was, it wasn't easy to get those runs and it wasn't easy to keep the other teams from scoring."

The Merchants' road to the final led them to a battle against Saskatchewan

and a raucous home crowd, a game that easily could have been a loss. Zehr said that matchup was the point where his confidence reached a new level. "When we were down four runs in the bottom of the seventh and came back to win 10-9, that's when there was no looking back. We knew Sunday going in we were on a roll." The Merchants found themselves down 9-5 in the bottom of the seventh inning but were able to scratch out three

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New Hamburg Firebirds obtain lottery licence to host fundraising events

By Veronica Reiner

The New Hamburg Firebirds officially received their lottery licence for this year as of Friday, August 4, which will allow them to continue their main fundraising activities.

The team had been initially told by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) around June that they did not qualify for a lottery licence. This would have resulted in a shortfall of about \$23,687.04, based on a six year average.

"We're totally ecstatic at how Wilmot council and Mike Harris have helped us with this," said Gord Mills. "They've been great assistants in getting us back into our fundraising abilities again. We can't speak to how happy we are with what they've done for us for sure."

The team also achieved a lottery licence for the Moparfest car show festival in New Hamburg, where they made more than \$11,000 last year. The festival will take place on August 19 and 20.

"That's a big fundraiser for us that we've done for a number of years, and it was a big part of our budget, so I wanted to try to find a way, because if not, we would have to re-invent our wheel as far as fundraising goes," said Gord.

A raffle lottery is a game where tickets are sold for a chance to win a prize at a draw, and includes 50/50 draws, elimination draws and calendar draws. Any event that involves gaming, including 50/50 draws, raffles, casino nights or bingos, needs a licence from the province.

After submitting a letter on June 26 to

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COMMUNITY —

New Hamburg Firebirds obtain lottery licence to host fundraising events

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council requesting financial support, Gord appeared as a delegation on behalf of the Firebirds during a meeting on July 24.

Council, at the end of an approximately 25 minute discussion, agreed to advocate to the province to change the lottery licensing program, and then looking at the 2024 budget, including ice time and overall fees, as to how to address that to support the team going forward.

According to a report written by Community Services Director Chris Catania, Wilmot Township provides in-kind contributions to the Firebirds with a value of about \$7,862 per year. This includes sponsoring two games per season, game giveaways at all home games, and on ice logos.

A suggestion to help relieve the financial burden for the Firebirds included a minor sport discount of up to 35 per cent off regular prime time ice rental rates. The Firebirds paid about \$40,646.23 for ice rental for the 2022/2023 season, and this discount would save them about \$14,226.18.

Other organizations, including the New



Gord Mills delegates to council members on July 24.

Hamburg Hockey Association and the New Hamburg Skating Club receive this discount.

This was mentioned by Gord during his presentation. "When you look at the other user groups that are taking part in our arenas, we are the only ones that

are paying full price," said Gord. "We pay very well for our ice, to the point where we've looked at other avenues outside of Wilmot to try to fulfill our needs, because it costs a lot of money."

"We're paying dearly to play in Wilmot, and represent Wilmot. We've asked in the

past for breaks in that way, and have not been successful in that aspect. The difference is right now, our needs are great."

Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen said, "I do think looking at the 2024 budget on how we can help you guys going forward, and it's great to know that ice time is a spot that we can certainly look to as to how we can move forward on that."

Another suggestion brought up by Catania in his report included the municipal grants program. The municipality grants organizations funding each year in the fall, with a total of \$70,000 committed in 2023. The Firebirds received \$2,157 from the program this year.

During the meeting, Councillor Kris Wilkinson asked for a rough estimate of the average attendance per game. Gord said that there were roughly 400 fans per regular season game, and this jumped up to about 650 in the playoff games.

The Firebirds, this year, celebrated 70 years of playing hockey in Wilmot. They are very active in the community and are well known and respected for both their on ice and off ice activities and community involvement.

U23 Merchants repeat in Saskatchewan

Continued from page 1

runs setting the stage for Thomas Baker's heroics. He hit a two-strike, two-out, two-run walk-off home run over the centre field fence to send Tavistock into the title game. Baker was named the tournament's Playoff Most Valuable Player. "That was character. For them to be down four runs. It was a crazy game."

Tavistock faced host Saskatchewan again in the gold medal game in what could be described as somewhat of a loud and hostile atmosphere, but his guys weren't phased. "It was pretty loud. The bleachers are all aluminum, and they would just bang on them. Their team fed off it but in the first inning, we went up 2-0. They had a leadoff single in the second and scored to make it 2-1 and I could feel the momentum changing from the energy." As it turned out two runs is all the Merchants would need as they pounded out seven runs in the bottom of the second and cruised to an 11-1 win. "The guys just took over with their bats and we went through the order. We scored two in the third to complete the mercy."

The Merchants' only blemish was a 5-3 loss to league rival Harwood, a game Zehr said they could have won but did use as motivation. "We outhit them but just couldn't cash in the runs. We looked at how many hits we had in that game, and we said let's double them for our next game. That was our mindset, and that was the way we carried forward to the end."



On display are the gold medals won by the Tavistock Merchants at the Canadian championships in the last two years.

On a personal level, Zehr said it was special to be able to share the moment with his wife and son who both played key roles. "It was great. To see Tyson not as a player where I have seen him his entire life, but to step in and be able to coach and bridge the gap between me and Gary (Baker) and lead these young guys. Sometimes it comes across a little differently from somebody who is only six or

seven years older as opposed to someone 30 or 40 years older." The entire tournament was played in 30-plus-degree heat making Zehr's wife Pam's role in taking care of the team's water and nutrition crucial.

The manager said he has no plans to retire, especially after having so much fun as the bench boss for this group of guys.

"When you coach kids who have the will to win, they're easy to coach so it's fun."

Both Tavistock and Harwood play in the Tri-County Men's Fastball League, something Zehr said is a testament to the fastball talent in this part of the country. "For the two youngest teams in the league to medal at the Canadians says a lot about the quality of players. There are two teams in Tavistock, one in Innerkip, and four playing out of Hickson including Don Scott's midget team that just won OASAs. There is a lot of young talent in the league. I think it helps them, playing against older guys."

Tavistock's McKay brothers, both Canadian national team members, continued their solid play and were named to the all-star team. Mitch as an infielder with seven assists, 21 putouts, and a .350 batting average with seven RBIs. Mason earned an outfielder award batting .400 with seven RBIs.

Notes...Harwood had a chance to make it to the final against Tavistock but fell 12-4 to Saskatchewan. They did earn a bronze medal...Top Batter in the tournament went to Newfoundland's Ryan Maher who hit an incredible .667 with a .737 on-base percentage...The tournament was last held in 2019, thanks to the pandemic, and was won by the New Hamburg Mustangs...Tavistock hosted the Canadian championships back in 2016.

COMMUNITY —

PC Connect increasing frequency along rural route



The new bus schedule for the rural route.

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

As of Tuesday, September 5, PC Connect will be offering increased frequency on the Rural Route (previously called Route A), by adding four new trip options Monday through Friday. Perth County is extremely excited to improve their public transit service by offering more ride options on one of the most travelled PC Connect routes.

The new rural route schedule will provide riders with more opportunities to travel to and from Stratford, Gadshill (4013 Andy Street), Millbank (Anna Mae's Bakery & Restaurant at 4060 Perth County Line 72), Mitchell, Listowel, Milverton (Perth East municipal office at 25 Mill Street East), and many communities in between. Increasing frequency on the rural route will make it easier for riders to get to work, appointments, social activities, and more. An updated rural route Saturday schedule will also be in effect on September 5.

"In the world of public transit, frequency is freedom," said Maggie Kerr, Transit Project Coordinator. "Offering increased frequency means that riders will spend less time

waiting for the bus, and will have the liberty to better align their travel with their own schedule and commitments. We are pleased to be able to offer more frequency where there is public transit demand, ultimately creating a faster, more reliable, and more efficient service."

In order to further the efficiencies of the service, PC Connect Route B will no longer be in operation. Following the last day of Route B service on Friday, September 1, riders will continue to be served through the PC Connect Rural, 1, 2 and 3 Routes. For more information on the new schedules, please visit perthcounty.ca/pconnect.

Launched in November 2020, PC Connect is funded by the province's Community Transportation Grant Program. Since launch, the service has welcomed over 23,000 riders aboard its fleet of five buses. PC Connect operates five routes Monday to Saturday, serving Perth County, Stratford, St. Marys, Kitchener/Waterloo and London. For route maps, schedules and more information about PC Connect, please visit: perthcounty.ca/pconnect.



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COMMUNITY —

Back to their roots – raising chickens on Windrose Farm



Manita and Bradon La Rose stand in front of a new flock of chickens before they go out to pasture.



Manita La Rose moves the Cackellack machine to provide the birds with fresh grass.

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

There is a new player in Oxford County's chicken market, and it is a couple who decided to go back to their rural roots after a few years of living in the city.

Manita and Brandon La Rose bought a farm in East Zorra-Tavistock last year, just west of Hickson, and wanted to find a way to get back to the land. Manita said they weren't exactly sure what they wanted to produce when they bought the property but landed on chickens. "We wanted to buy close to my parents but also wanted to make sure we had an opportunity to do something. The original intent was to be commercial chicken farmers but that is extremely expensive to get into. The only way that might happen is if we bought a farm with a chicken barn already on it. To buy a farm, the quota, and build a barn was just too much."

After spending last year in the Family Food Program, the couple decided to enter Ontario's Artisanal Chicken Program this year. "We could raise up to 300 broiler chickens, so meat birds. When you do that, you don't have to report to anyone, you can butcher them yourself, but you can only consume them yourself and sell to friends and family through word-of-mouth marketing only. No Facebook or ads in the paper and customers have to come to the farm to pick up the meat." She added that with the artisanal program,

they can raise between 600 and 3000 meat birds, all without quota. "It gives us the opportunity to be farmers without having to pay big dollars. But just like a commercial operation, we do get audited by the Chicken Farmers of Ontario who checks out our bio-security measures along with records of feed, and our flocks." All of the couple's chickens must be processed in a licensed facility just like commercial chickens meaning their products are just as safe as anything that could be purchased in a grocery store.

For the first three weeks of their lives, the chicks are fed inside and have access to a starter feed. "It has about 18 percent protein content that helps give them a boost. After about three weeks when they are fully feathered, we take them outside if the weather cooperates but if it is too cold or wet, we won't. They get fresh pasture every day. They graze, run, scratch, and do anything a chicken wants to do but they also get supplemented with a grower feed which is well-balanced to help them mature." Manita said they are also required to give their birds grit, something commercial operators are not required to do. "They can't digest grass without something to grind it down. They don't have the same kind of digestive tract that we do, and they don't have teeth so they can't chew and that is where the grit comes in."

The couple uses what is called a Cackellack mobile poultry shelter, otherwise known

as a chicken tractor, to house their birds outside. "It could be a homemade mobile coop, but this is what we use. Each of these can hold up to 100 birds and comes with two feeders and automatic waterers so the birds have water any time of day." She explained that on hot days the feed is wet down so they can take in some water when they are eating. "This breed has been bred for years and years for growing. That is their primary focus, and they are always hungry."

Oxford County has seen a shift in terms of grocery store meat versus small providers. Manita believes the quality of their chickens is above and beyond what is available in grocery stores. "We eat our chicken ourselves and we find the meat is more tender because the birds move more and have more opportunity to frolic. The added activity doesn't make them tough, it makes them more tender. The grass makes them more nutrient dense which I believe adds to the flavour." Brandon said the difference between their birds and the commercial sector is obvious. "It's hard to explain but in-store meat is kind of mush, it's just there. Take the breast meat for example, it's almost like there's a grain to it. You can slice through our chicken with a spoon if you cut it right and it's juicier."

The farm offers whole or cut chicken pieces along with the other products. "We have honey garlic chicken sausages and chicken burgers and there are

no fillers or gluten in them for anyone who has any sensitivities. We also have ground chicken which is just chicken," said Manita.

As for what's next in their business plan the couple is working towards the farm being their full-time gig. "The end goal is to have the farm be self-sustaining so we can quit our jobs or at least slow down. We both like what we do, and we don't really want to just stop, but it would be nice if we could have more time for the farm. We lived in Woodstock for three years and something was missing. I grew up on a farm, and Brandon grew up in the country. We realized that wasn't the life for us so here we are."

They named the farm after experiencing the unique weather conditions at the top of the valley on the 11th Line. "We came here two or three times before we moved in and every single time it was so windy, I could hardly talk to the person next to me. We would be walking against the wind sideways and go in the shed to get away from it and we'd all of a sudden fall forward. I guess it is because we are at the top of the hill, so that's where the wind part comes from. And for the rose, we just wanted to incorporate something from our name." She added 'wind rows' is an agricultural term for when hay is cut and then raked into rows.

WindRose Farm is active on social media and orders can be made on their website at <https://www.windrosefarm.ca/>.

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COMMUNITY —

Becoming a better ally to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community year round

By Veronica Reiner

Although Pride Month of June is over, there are many ways to be an ally to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community year-round.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2022, the country is home to at least one million people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or of another sexual orientation than heterosexual - representing four per cent of the population aged 15 years and older. Among this population, about 52 per cent are women, 44 per cent are men, and three per cent identify as non-binary.

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette spoke with representatives from two organizations aimed at creating safe spaces for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Waterloo Region, including OK2BME and SPECTRUM. Both stressed the importance of meaningful action.

"It's not necessarily something that we can just call ourselves and decide that we're an ally," said Erin Huston, Program Lead at OK2BEME. "Allyship is very much something that is done and realized through ongoing action and willingness to show up in different ways."

"Someone does not just give themselves the title of ally - it's bestowed on them by people from the community that they're wanting to ally with. And that's true of any other equity seeking or marginalized community too," said Scott Williams, executive director of SPECTRUM.

"You might want to refer to yourself as an ally, but until you've actually taken action, and a queer person has recognized it and thanked you for it, that's when the allyship has actually taken place. And it needs to be ongoing."

Scott said that education is the first thing that he recommends to people wishing to become allies to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. "To spend some time educating yourself, learning about the issues that are 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and what kind of supports they might need."

On the organization's website at www.ourspectrum.com, there are different documents, toolkits, videos, and fact sheets to help better understand the current situation.

Some other actionable suggestions include writing to local representatives to support legislation for trans safety, attending fundraising events, or making donations to 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations.

Other actions could include paying attention to decisions being made in local spaces, such as the Waterloo Region District School Board. If there is something that can be done, such as writing a letter of support for inclusive



The rainbow flag, a symbol of LGBT pride and LGBT social movements. (Photo credit: Sara Rampazzo)

practices, it's important to do so.

"We often see, during Pride month, sort of a rainbow washing of corporate logos," explained Scott. "I would say that's great for visibility, which is a first step - but we'd like to know, what's backing that up? What are you doing internally in your organization for your 2SLGBTQIA+ employees, to make sure that they're represented properly in policies and procedures in your space?"

Scott suggested amplifying queer voices, and standing up for members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community when they are not in the room.

Erin suggested using gender neutral language, which is language that avoids reference toward a particular sex or gender. For example, the words "policeman" and "waitress" are gender specific job titles; the corresponding gender neutral terms are "police officer" and "server."

She added that sharing your pronouns is a great practice

to get into.

"My pronouns are she/her, no one has ever used the wrong pronouns for me, people assume she/her and they are correct," said Erin. "When I share my pronouns, it's not for my own purposes, it's so that the other person who will be introducing themselves - it's not weird for them to say that their pronouns are they/them."

Other important actions to take could include correcting people when they use incorrect pronouns, or when they use defamatory or offensive terms.

"Just being willing to have those sometimes uncomfortable, sometimes awkward conversations in our personal relationships is a really huge thing," said Erin. "It's one thing for an organization like us to come in and do training somewhere, but it's a whole different thing for someone in their immediate circle to be inviting them to maybe think in a different way."

Both organizations started years ago, and have grown over this time.

SPECTRUM is about 10 years old, and was started because of the need for physical space for 2SLGBTQIA+ in the Waterloo Region. All of their programs and services developed over time after that - there are more than 30 different groups and programs happening every month.

"We also do a lot of education through our Rainbow Diversity Training program for different businesses and organizations," said Scott. "So that's 2SLGBTQIA+ cultural competency training. We have workshops that go from the 101 level that has the basic terminology and key concepts, to 301 that gets into history, patriarchy, colonization and some more in depth topics."

OK2BME is a set of supportive services for 2SLGBTQIA+ children, teens, adults and their families in Waterloo Region. The program consists of three areas, including confidential counselling services, OK2BME youth groups for individuals ages 12 to 18, as well as public education, consulting and training around 2SLGBTQIA+ issues.

"Counselling is a huge piece of what we do," said Erin. "That is available virtually, in person. On Thursday evenings, we have our walk-in. So you don't have to necessarily need to make an appointment, you can come into the space and just request a counsellor, and one will be made available for you."

OK2BME program was officially started in 2005. "It's very much grown and continues to evolve in whatever ways people need us," said Erin.

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COMMUNITY —

The Optimist Club of New Hamburg: A story of compassion ahead of Moparfest weekend

By Scott Dunstall

It comes every year. Just like every annual event on our calendar. But unlike a special holiday, this day on the calendar has a profound and deep sense of sorrow and loss. It has been euphemistically coined 911. Those numbers mean something different for all of us because the first thing we think of is...Where was I? For me, out making customer calls and hearing it on the car radio. My wife was in the lobby of an office building in downtown Toronto, and when she learned that what she had just observed on the TV screen was not a replay but a second plane hitting the second tower, she became very nervous about the spot where she was standing.

The Optimist Club of New Hamburg has been a major supporter of The Sunshine Foundation of Canada for well over 30 years, donating over \$330,000 during that time. They have been a direct recipient of the proceeds from the Optimists annual Vehicle draw, which peaks on the last day of Moparfest Weekend. This year it will be the afternoon of August 20th at the New Hamburg Fairgrounds.

What is the common denominator between these two events? On the morning of September 11, 2001, five New Hamburg Optimists: Gary Bender, Doug Miller, Paul Holst, Jim Wettlaufer and Paul Diebel were in the air along with 95 children and their 100 caregivers and support team headed to Disney World in Orlando for a one-day Sunshine Foundation DreamLift. Going the other way were planes colliding with the World Trade Center, Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

They had no idea what was going on. They found out later that the pilot had been requested to land at Atlanta but refused, saying there were many kids on board with special needs and only Orlando was prepared to receive them with the local Sheriff's Department standing by. They also found out later that because they were a Canadian Charter they could not be identified by the US military. There were five other planes in the air at that moment that couldn't be identified either. Had they not been able to authenticate the flight within the next 15 minutes, they would have been shot out of the air, passengers or not.

As the New Hamburg Optimists will be drawing for the vehicle this weekend, I sat down recently with Doug, Gary and Paul, who are the only surviving Optimists from that trip, I also spoke with Ross Roth, who is a long-time member and past President. He drove them to the airport in Hamilton and, with the help of a few other members, got the kids safely and comfortably onto the plane... To a man that was flying that day, they all said that plane hit hard, and when it sped down the runway, all they could see were military aircraft and security vehicles with lights flashing driving beside the plane. They didn't get a sense of what was happening until they were loaded onto a bus and an Air Force person came on board and told them there was a world event and they were being marshaled to a hotel in Orlando. Don't forget, this was supposed to be a day trip. It lasted three before they could get on a plane to go home. And there was no place for the kids to go once they got to the hotel... Disney World was one of the first places to be shut down for fear of it being a prime target.

The hotel opened its door and threw away the cash register. They also opened the doors to the conference center.

Each Optimist was assigned a room with one or two kids. Gary Bender told me that he roomed with two early teen boys who suffered from muscular dystrophy. One night they were chatting into the evening when the boys were talking matter-of-factly about one of the children down the hall that most likely would not be around for Christmas. When Gary retells that story, tears well up in his eyes even 22 years later.

The parents were beside themselves, as you can well imagine but the kids... naw. They had a great time. This



was probably the best three days they had in their lives. It was the first time they were away from home... and now it was time to have fun. Some mini-golf course greens were set up, Disney World broke tradition and sent characters and games off their campus for the first and only time in history. Local police and firefighters came by and showed off their equipment and vehicles. Local sports celebrities stopped by to play catch with a football and talk to the kids. CVS started pouring in medical supplies while TJ Maxx made sure everyone had a change of clothes, the hotel covered the room, and a lot of the food costs. Corporations like McDonalds chipped in on the food as well and delivered burgers, fries and drinks for nearly 200 people more than once. A couple of the Optimists came into one of the rooms one afternoon, and there was a young man on the phone talking to a local restaurant

known for its young female servers. He was trying to order food and have it delivered by a couple of servers because, apparently...." they needed some girls there." On the second day, they were informed that they would be one of the first handful of planes to fly in America since the planes hit, and that was based on a compassionate need. Parents gathered at the Hamilton airport on day three, and those kids were hugged and squeezed so hard like never before in their lives.

Gary, Paul and Doug all presented me with their memory books and artifacts lovingly preserved from the trip. Gary still has his room key and plane ticket. I read a letter from the Sheriff's department that shared their memories of this life-altering event... and their thanks for the ball caps Doug brought to them when he visited Florida a year later. I also read a letter from one of the parents who said that those three days were a breakthrough for their child. He had never been apart from Mom and Dad before, and they said that he came home with a new sense of independence that never left him. Paul Holst summarised it well. He said he will never forget how the American authorities came together and treated a group of confused and distressed Canadians with kindness and compassion. Total strangers helping total strangers.

We all have memories of that day. The dedicated members of the New Hamburg Optimists have very mixed emotions about it... and the two that followed. In Newfoundland, they came from far and away. In Orlando, they came from all around that day. Kids do that to people.

Vehicles tickets may be purchased up to the day of the draw and can be done either online through the Optimist website: newhamburgoptimist.ca, from an Optimist you know, at Cruise Night August 18 (the Friday night before Moparfest in downtown New Hamburg) where the Optimists will have a kiosk OR anytime during the show at the Optimist trailer.

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COMMUNITY —

Perth County's Kayla Veldman trains service dogs

By Gary West

Service dogs are being trained constantly and are recognized by the general public by the red coats they are outfitted with, to show they are in training.

A young Perth County poultry farmer has taken on the important task of not only raising hens for laying eggs, but also has become a "puppy raiser," but not just any run of the mill raiser of young puppies!

She volunteers her time with Autism Dog Services (A.D.S.) and fosters service dogs in training from 8 weeks old, until they are ready for advanced training, which is usually when the dog is about 18 months old.

Kayla Veldman farms with her family south of Stratford and west of Tavistock, on the Perth-Oxford boundary, and took the time to speak with us about her newly found hobby.

She says she "started volunteering with A.D.S. during COVID, as a way to get out of the house and has really enjoyed working with the dogs and learning how to train them."

She says she has "fostered four service dogs in training for the organization so far, and is currently training Barley, who is just over a year old.

One of her previous foster dogs is working as a certified "Autism" service dog. Two of her previous dogs, before that, have been career changed, and now work as scent detection dogs with police services.

Most service dogs she trains are Golden Labs and Golden Retrievers, with some being Standard Poodle Cross

Breeds.

Kayla, who is a graduate of the University of Guelph, says she started off raising puppies but transitioned to raising adult dogs and now spends a lot of her time finishing the training of those adult dogs, when they are over a year old.

She says they finish their training before they move into advanced training with the "on staff" professional dog trainers.

Miss Veldman says, "it has been incredibly rewarding to volunteer as a puppy raiser."

She said, "It's always hard to let the dogs go at the end of their training with her, but states it is so rewarding watching them go on and do great things."

Autism service dogs make a world of difference for the children and families of children that they serve. According to Veldman, A.D.S., animals help children with autism by offering companionship, aiding in confidence building, help to keep children safe, and support those children through their sometimes difficult, daily lives.

As a young, energetic lover of dogs, Veldman says autism dog services is currently recruiting puppy raisers. They are looking for people who are able to commit 12 to 18 months to socialize and provide basic training to puppies, and attend biweekly puppy classes.

She said being a "volunteer puppy raiser" with A.D.S. is most rewarding, and knowing you are helping someone in need with autism who could be young or not so young.



Kayla Veldman with her Golden Lab, Barley, her service dog in training, who goes with her almost everywhere she goes. They were together at a gathering in Shakespeare last week.

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COMMUNITY —

EZT has a new alcohol policy

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

East Zorra-Tavistock Township has implemented a new alcohol policy for use in spaces owned by the municipality.

The township said it is committed to providing a safe environment to residents and wants people to enjoy the various facilities and parks available. The new document will also protect the township from insurance and liability risks, which ultimately come at a financial cost to the community.

"A formalized alcohol policy was considered by council a few terms ago (prior to the 2018-2022 term), but for whatever reason, it was not proceeded with. The

important thing to do is to look forward and implement a policy that will keep residents and visitors safe and limit insurance and liability risks for the township," said Mayor Phil Schaefer.

The policy comes into effect on September 1 at township-owned facilities. To help facility user groups become familiar with the new policy, two public information sessions are being hosted on August 17, one at the Innerkip Community centre from 10 a.m. to noon and the other at Tavistock Arena's upper hall from 7 to 9 p.m. Township staff will be on hand to answer any questions the public may have.

The document is 22 pages long, and while people may not want to read it from start

to finish, Schaefer said it is a good idea. "The policy document is very comprehensive, and if I was renting a township facility and serving alcohol, I would want to be aware of my responsibilities. Staff are also able and willing to assist in answering questions from prospective user groups on how the policy may specifically affect them."

The township believes the policy fills an outstanding administrative gap that was highlighted in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. "While we have to this point enjoyed an excellent track record of safety at local events, having a municipal alcohol policy in place is a best practice for municipalities," said Schaefer, who added that before the township took over Parks and

Recreation, the private contractor (Ken Wettlaufer) had his own rental agreement forms which included some conditions for events that included alcohol. Special Occasion Permits and insurance coverages were verified. "This policy provides a prudent approach that will assist users of our facilities, our staff, and our ratepayers to ensure that a positive, safe experience is enjoyed by all."

The policy underwent review and discussion by council in the spring. "Council sees this as an essential policy to have in place for our growing communities. We will regularly review policies and strategy documents to ensure we are meeting our current and future needs," said Schaefer.

East Zorra-Tavistock meeting highlights

The following are highlights from the East Zorra-Tavistock Township council meeting on Wednesday, August 2.

During the meeting:

Council reviewed correspondence from Oxford County, including the review of A Place to Grow and the provincial policy statement; municipal blue box program transition update; draft transportation

master plan; and draft water and wastewater master plan.

Council requested that township staff reach out to Oxford County public works staff to request a presentation outlining how anticipated water and wastewater capital projects will be funded.

Staff reports were received. Highlights included updates on the strategic plan

Request for Proposal, and the construction of the new administration building at 89 Loveys Street.

Planning:

Sitting as the committee of adjustment, council approved a minor variance application for 65 Young Street in Innerkip.

The next scheduled East Zorra-Tavistock council meeting is set for Wednesday, September 6 at 9 a.m.

For more details, see the meeting minutes of the East Zorra-Tavistock municipal website or contact Municipal Clerk Will Jaques at 519-462-2697 extension 7828.

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COMMUNITY —

Lange Bros (Tavistock) Ltd. continues to expand and grow

By Gary West

For many decades now, the Lange Bros. (Tavistock) Limited tree service and stump removal company of RR2 Tavistock, has been synonymous with removing dead or broken down trees and branches from area properties when the need arises.

The third generation company from South Easthope township has an interesting history, with family roots that date back to the early 1950s.

At that time, Ellard Lange (who also owned a school bus line), east of Harmony, went into the painting business with help from Carl Walters and Ellard's brothers - Adolph, Clarence, Frank, and Harold.

In 1967, Harold and Frank bought into the business and changed the name to Ellard Lange and Bros. Limited. In 1970, Harold and Frank started in the tree removal business, and by 1975, they decided to split the company.

Frank and his wife Ellen bought out the shares of brothers Ellard and Harold and changed the name to Lange Bros. (Tavistock) Limited. Frank's son, Rae, started working in the business after high school, and after many years, in 2004, he, along with his wife Cindy, took over ownership of the company.

Their main line of work these days is tree



The Lange Bros. pause before continuing their tree cutting. From left, Rob Malcho (in the bucket), Nick Lange (foreman), Alex Seaton, Glenn Miller, and Dean Simons.

removal, trimming and stump removal, and they also provide other services such as Aerial Bucket Service, Natural Wood Chip Sales, and Crane Truck Service. At

one time, they were also involved in line painting, driveway sealing, roofing and industrial painting.

The third generation, son Nick Lange, is now part of the business and looks after all the company's trucks, safeties and services and is the lead hand on a crew in the trimming and removal of trees.

Twenty years ago, they also started into the landscaping field, and are currently cutting over 300 acres of lawn weekly. Daughter Jodi Lange was a grass cutter for 12 years, but now she has pursued a career in nursing. Nick's wife, Jessica, is now looking after the grass cutting while juggling the kids around.

Rae Lange helps out cutting sports fields with the company's 16-foot wide mower. Lange Bros. currently employs a crew of five (two of which have been working on the tree crew for over 20 years) and also includes an arborist on staff.

Since the Lange Bros. Business has become so diversified and busy, Cindy Lange is the manager of bookkeeping and payroll, while juggling taking care of the grandkids.

They, in all likelihood, will become the next generation looking after trees and lawns in the Tavistock, Stratford and Perth County areas as the company known as Lange Bros. (Tavistock) Limited, continues to grow from their humble beginnings at RR2 Tavistock, in the area of South Easthope Township in Perth County.




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Please note: Peel & Huron Streets will close from 5 pm to 9:30 pm

COMMUNITY —

Waterloo Regional Police Service issue phishing scam working

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff
The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) have issued a scam warning after receiving several reports of victims falling for phishing scams.
In most instances, the fraudster sent a text

message to the victim claiming to be their child.
The fraudster then tells the victim they need funds to buy a new phone or pay a bill.
The scammer then provides the victim

with their new phone number for future communication. Fraudsters commonly then request funds through e-transfers.
The investigation into these incidents is ongoing.
Anyone with information is asked to call

the WRPS at 519-570-9777.
To provide anonymous information, please call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit online at www.waterloocrimestoppers.com.

Woodingford Lodge seeking volunteers

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff
Those who are looking to make a difference in the community, while fostering personal connections with people, can become a volunteer at Woodingford Lodge.
Woodingford is seeking volunteers who are interested in helping with activities, supporting services at home, or using their special skills and talents to develop new programs.

Volunteer opportunities include everything from visits, café help, front lobby support and help at meal times, to supporting recreation events, spiritual programs, palliative care, gardening, pet therapy, music programs, "travel and treasures," or a program or activity you propose.
As a volunteer, personal involvement helps keep residents connected to their community. This is also a great opportunity for secondary students looking to

complete their community hours.
The online application form is available: <https://forms.oxfordcounty.ca/>

General/Woodingford-Lodge-Volunteer-Application-Form



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COMMUNITY —

OBITUARY

PLETSCH, Larry

Larry Laverne Arthur Pletsch, 78, of Stratford (Perth East), passed away in St. Marys General Hospital, Kitchener on Monday July 31, 2023.

He was born at Stratford on March 22, 1945 a son of the late Laverne Arthur Pletsch and the former Reta Mae Binkle.

Larry was a dairy farmer prior to being cash crop farmer. He was a member of Grace United Church, Tavistock.

He is survived by his wife, Yvonne Kathryn (Eidt) Pletsch whom he married on March 8, 1974; five children, Sherri-Lynn Way (Mike), Gary Pletsch (Tessa Trachsel), Jason Pletsch (Loretta Subject), Cherise Pletsch (Jeremy Berger), Parry Pletsch; proud papa of Natalie, Rachel, Lauren, Megan and Bree Way; Jack and Jared Pletsch; Riley, Cara, Taylor, Emily Pletsch and Carley Berger; two sisters, Denise Smith and Donnalene Hodes (Dr. Peter); three aunts, Marg Pletsch, Shirley Binkle and Marg Binkle; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Paul and Betty Ann Eidt, Ken and Pat Eidt, Bruce Eidt; several nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

Besides his parents he was predeceased by his step-mother, Rose Pletsch; his brother and sister-in-law, Barry and Margaret Pletsch; brothers-in-law, John Smith and Gary Tuer; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Earl and Kathryn Eidt and several uncles, aunts and cousins.

Relatives and friends were received in the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock Street North, Tavistock on Wednesday August 9th from 4-8 pm and Thursday August 10, 2023 from 10 - 10.45 am where the funeral service was held at 11 am. The Rev. Marg Smith officiated. Reception followed. Interment in South Easthope United Cemetery followed the reception.

In lieu of flowers, as expressions of sympathy, donations to, South Easthope United Cemetery, Diabetes Canada, The Arthritis Society, A.L.S. (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) or The Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home by calling 519-655-2431.

Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

OBITUARY

SNAREY, Donald George



Passed away peacefully with his family by his side at Woodstock Hospital on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at the age of 75. Reunited with his beloved wife of 51 years, Judith (Judie) Eileen Snarey (nee McCutchen), who predeceased him on October 19, 2022. Loved father of Mark Snarey, Kristy O'Neal (Bob Schmidt) and Stephanie Fraraccio (Ben). Cherished grandfather of Marcus and Addison; Emily, Nicole and James; Kaleb, Logan and Rhys. Dear brother of Margaret Schenk (Larry), and brother-in-law of Gary Oxley. He will also be fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews, and extended family. Predeceased by his parents, Morris and Cora Snarey (nee Chambers), sister Muriel Oxley and brother Robert Snarey.

Don believed in being kind to all living things and loved to make others smile. For those who wish, please donate to a charity of your choice or perform a random act of kindness in memory of Don.

A celebration of the lives of Don and Judie will be held on Friday, August 11, 2023 between 2-5 pm and 6-8 pm at Waterside Pavilion, Southside Park, Woodstock. Cremation has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to the Brock and Visser Funeral Home (519)539-0004.

IN MEMORIAM

Larry Dietrich

In loving memory of a very special husband, Dad and grandpa, Larry Dietrich who left us two years ago August 7th. We love and miss him every single day, life will never be the same without out you Larry.



Linda, Elliot, Andrew, Scott & Jordanna
Grandchildren: Spencer, Grayson, Parker, Ruby and Rence.

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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) What is the formula for the chemical compound known as "carbon dioxide"?
- 2) In which country would you find the ancient city of Machu Picchu, often referred to as the "Lost City of the Incas"?
- 3) During which years did WWI occur?
- 4) Which animal is capable of rotating its head up to 270 degrees in both directions?
- 5) Who was the first woman to become the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom?
- 6) What are the names of the Titanic's two sister ships?
- 7) Who sculpted the famous statue of "David"?
- 8) In the 2000 horror/thriller film "American Psycho", which actor plays the leading role of Patrick Bateman?
- 9) In the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," what is the object that the star is compared to?
- 10) Fissures, vents, and plugs are all associated with which geological feature?

Answers found on page 22

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

August 10: Happy Birthday to Andrew Weitzel (18), Marilyn Brenneman and Tatyana Barker, and anniversaries for Dave and Kelly Roth (38th), and Jason and Stacey Zehr (27th).

August 11: Happy Birthday to Amylea DeVouge (19) and anniversaries for Bruce and Cindy Kropf (45th), Scott and Julie McGregor (22nd), Kevin and Stacey Kalbfleisch (16th), Paul and Lisa Chemerys (16th), and Dan and Bethany Klein (11th).

August 12: Happy Birthday to Sadie Lange (8), Piper Trachsel (12), Ella McGregor (18), and Wendy Lamond, and anniversaries for Jason and Heather Murray (17th), Eric and Melanie Wiegand, and Matthew and Rosalyn McLaren.

August 13: Happy birthday to Ari Roth (6) and Lydia Cressman (14), and anniversary for Monty and Sandra Eby (40th). Mackenzie and Mackenzie Kalbfleisch (1st)

August 14: Happy Birthday to Clark Pletsch (10), Katelyn Waters (22) and Drew Ross (27), and anniversary for Perry and Michelle Riehl.

August 15: Happy Birthday to Calista Gaudun Gies (8), Haley Wirth (18) and Matthew Brenneman (20), Angela Meconi, and Jeff Skubowius, and anniversary for Dustin and Erin Yantzi (14th).

August 16: Happy Birthday to Marc Brenneman (17), Zachary Hobson (19), and Shyanne Herlick (20), and anniversaries for Dan Brenneman and Kristy Schlegel (20th), Dan and Amy MacLeod (8th).

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.

August 1-8, 2018 Edition (5 years ago)

As of the Friday, July 27 deadline for nominations for the October 22, 2018 Municipal Election, it seemed as though no one in Tavistock wanted to serve on East Zorra-Tavistock Council. However, at the close of extended nominations, three residents of the village have put their names forward. Margaret Lupton, Tom Murray and Phil Schaefer will vie for the two Ward 1 seats on Council.

Tavistock resident Mike Sullivan returned home from the Canadian Transplant Games (CTG) in Vancouver, B.C. with 1 gold medal in singles' 10-pin bowling and 3 bronze (in doubles and triples lawn bowling and long jump). Mike, who is now 65, was on the brink of death over 7 years ago, in desperate need of a heart transplant. On February 10, 2010 he received his gift of life.

The Tavistock Athletics captured the 2018 U16 Boys' Canadian Fast Pitch Championship in dramatic fashion on Sunday, defeating the host team from Innerkip

2-1 in 13 innings in the gold medal game. Jackson Pegelo singled home Carter Roth to end the longest final game in the U16 tournament's history, which took three hours to complete.

August 6-13, 2008 Edition (15 years ago)

What would you do to raise \$1,000 for cancer research? Maples employee Nancy Lichti agreed to have her head shaved.

Ten years ago, Chee-Peng Tan and Peih-Leng Ooi, emigrated from Malaysia to the United States to study at the University of Nebraska. This past May, they took over the Tavistock Gas and Variety convenience store in an effort to get out of the big city of Detroit, where their careers had led them, and raise their children in a rural community.

Five contestants have been entered into the 23rd Annual Fall Fair Ambassador competition for the Tavistock Agricultural Society Fall Fair: Tori Smythe, Iain McMillan, Katie Pletch, Cory Ward, and Brittany Wilson.

August 5-12, 1998 Edition (25 years ago)

Well over 1,000 people attended the opening ceremonies for Tavistock's 150th Anniversary celebrations on Friday evening, July 31st in the Tavistock & District Recreation Centre.

The unveiling of the memorial cairn in the centre of the village on Sunday morning is probably the most lasting remembrance that we will have of Tavistock's 150th Anniversary celebrations.

This summer holiday will be one to remember for 5-year-old Shelby McLaren and her family of Tavistock. On Saturday, August 8th in Toronto, Shelby sang on stage at the Molson Amphitheatre with Canadian country music star Shania Twain in front of 20,000 people.

August 15, 1973 Edition (50 years ago)

A recent traffic count showed 20,000 vehicles used Hope St. East from Tuesday of one week until 3:30 p.m. of the next Monday. At the same period, Hope St. West indicated a count of 16,000, the difference being accountable by the extra traffic coming in along Highway 59 and exiting by the Townline.

At the Public Utilities Commission meeting held on August 9, the continued high consumption of water was noted. The possibility of a water shortage, since our wells are only 33 feet deep at the reservoir and 65 in the park, led the commission to a decision to investigate the digging of a third and deeper source of water.

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COMMUNITY —

Wellesley Township fall fair completes afghans



By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

This spring, the Wellesley Township Fall Fair issued a challenge for 12" crocheted squares in autumn colours.

"We are pleased to say that Wellesley Township and beyond pulled together and we gathered 45 squares," said Wellesley Township Fall Fair member Wendy

Richardson.

The squares have been joined and made into five afghans that will be shown at the fair on September 12 and September 13, then go toward charitable purposes.

Richardson thanked everyone who participated, and noted that the group plans to make it an annual challenge.

Shakespeare has its newest food truck



On holiday Monday is Sayed Mohamed, taking a break from his Kalaras food truck at the corner of the Esso station property, on Highway 7&8 in the village of Shakespeare.

By Gary West

Good food has finally arrived back in Shakespeare in the form of a food truck. It can prepare burgers, hot dogs, fries and onion rings, among other good foods and drinks while you wait.

Sayed and his wife Ulia along with their three children, keep the food truck cooking seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Kalaras food truck has made the front corner of the villages Esso station on 7&8 Highway, an easy location for hungry

visitors to find. Now in business for over a month, the owners say they are getting busier by the week.

The family has an interesting history over the last 20 years, starting from their home in Afghanistan, through Kazakhstan among other countries including Russia and are now glad to be living and working in Canada. They reside in Waterloo.

They take working in Ontario and Canada very seriously, and Sayed says his family is glad to contribute to this country's economy and want to be givers and not takers.

WRDSB registration unavailable from August 14 to 21

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Waterloo Region District School Board online registration will be unavailable from August 14 to August 21 for scheduled maintenance.

Those who are planning to register their child with the WRDSB for the 2023-2024

school year can start the registration process through the online form. To allow schools time to process registrations, the WRDSB asks that those interested submit their registration as early as possible. Schools will be open to the public for registration appointments after August 28. Pre-submitting your registration online

will simplify the registration process.

If your child is currently a student with the WRDSB and is switching schools within the district, contact the school your student will attend after August 28 for more instructions.

For those new to Canada, the International

Admissions Office is open Monday through Thursday during the summer. Email the department at international@wrdsb.ca once your child is living in Waterloo Region to start the registration process.

Please visit wrdsb.ca/register for instructions on how to register online.

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COMMUNITY —

WRPS investigating suspicious person in Wellesley Township

By Veronica Reiner

The Waterloo Regional Police Service is investigating a report of a suspicious person in Wellesley Township. The suspect has a matching description to another attempted abduction incident in Perth East.

On July 19, two women were followed by an unknown man in a vehicle. One of the women was riding her bike, while the other was driving a horse and buggy. Both reported being in the area of Lichty Road and Ament Line.

About one day later, a young man was riding a bike on Line 86 between Listowel and Dorking and was flagged down by a male motorist. The driver reportedly began asking questions before he attempted to grab the youth and pull the youth into his vehicle. The young man got away, and the unknown man fled in the vehicle.

The vehicle involved in the incident was described as a small four door car, unknown colour and reportedly very dirty.

Another attempted abduction occurred on Perth Road 131, just south of Line 86 in Perth East Township on July 26. At

about 11:10 a.m., a youth was riding their bike on a rural portion of Perth Road 131 when they were stopped by a man standing outside of his vehicle.

Throughout the course of the investigation, the suspect gestured for the youth to stop, asked multiple questions, and then grabbed the youth. The youth was able to get free after a short struggle. The suspect immediately left the area in his vehicle, and was last seen travelling northbound on Perth Road 131.

The suspect has been described in the incidents as: white, 30s to 40s, about 5'6, heavier build, with short to medium length dark hair and a slight accent. In the July 26 incident, the suspect was also described as having stubble, wearing a white button up short sleeve shirt with a black vest. The vehicle was described as an older turquoise car, possibly a hatchback.

When asked whether the two incidents were connected, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Constable Kimberly Lyon said, "It's still under investigation, and we can't say at this time whether they are connected or not."

WRPS seeks community feedback

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) is looking for community feedback through an online survey. It was designed to capture the community's opinion on the future of policing in Waterloo Region, including priorities, safety concerns and emerging trends. Responses will be used to identify policing priorities for the next three years.

The survey is voluntary and should take about 20 minutes. All answers are kept strictly confidential and anonymous. Participants are not asked to provide identifying information, such as their names. Any questions that participants

do not want to answer can be skipped.

For example, the first part of the survey asks about participants' trust and confidence in the police. The survey asks participants to rate police effectiveness in resolving crimes where violence is involved, responding quickly to calls for assistance, and providing crime prevention information.

The deadline to complete the survey is August 20. The survey is available at www.wrps.ca. Those who have any further feedback can contact Amanda Franceschini in the strategic services branch at amanda.franceschini@wrps.on.ca or 519-570-9777 extension 8430.

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COMMUNITY —

Daneway Farms - Perth County's newest young dairy farmers

By Gary West

Farm reports over the last number of years have stressed the fact that we are losing farmers in Canada at an alarming rate. Those reports also state that the average age of the farming population is getting older and is now in the upper 50s, age wise.

We visited last week with the owners of Daneway Farms, the Danen family, on Line 33 (Pork Street) in South Easthope township. The sister and brother duo of Adriana and Mitchel Danen, both in their early 20s, were able to spend a few minutes explaining their recent dairy farm purchase.

They took advantage of an opportunity to buy the larger-than-average dairy (Holstein) operation, milk quota and land from a nearby neighbour, who was exiting the business. The purchase included a modern drive-through free stall barn and a double 12 Gea milking parlour, along with a sufficient amount of feed and workable land.

As this was an ongoing purchase, and very close to their parents farm, they decided they couldn't pass up the opportunity to operate the dairy on their own, and still be able to work their land base with their parents Chris and Janice Danen.

They both are from families with strong ties to the production of grade A milk.

According to Mitch and Adriana, both sets



Adriana and Mitch Danen, who recently purchased their own 130 cow dairy operation. The operation is close to their parents farm in South Easthope Township of Perth County, while inquisitive cows look on.

of grandparents, Tony and Jane Danen, and Henk and Emma Boersen, who all began their dairy farming in Perth County, immigrated to Canada from the Netherlands in the 1950s.

Adriana has learned they "came to Canada with very little money and only a suitcase in hand and a dream to be productive dairy farmers milking cows."

To this day, descendants of the Danen

and Boersen families have become some of the most prolific, successful and hard working farmers in both Perth and Oxford counties.

As with their parents and grandparents, the sister and brother team felt that farming in a supply managed commodity, like milk, was the security they felt most comfortable with, to work and invest in their future with a guarantee of income, if they worked hard and managed well.

They both are graduates from the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus, with a diploma in Agriculture. Mitch spends one week every month on a dairy herdsman apprenticeship program. This coming fall, Adriana will be attending Olds College in southern Alberta in order to obtain a degree in agri-business, which she feels will be key to running a successful dairy operation in the future.

In the past, the two have worked not only at their own family's dairy, but also for other farms and farm supply businesses, including green house work. This was in order to gain outside expertise in paving the way for themselves to manage their own operation in future years.

Adriana is quoted as saying that she and Mitch are "thrilled to be working together on Daneway farms, with the support and guidance from their parents, and are extremely proud to carry on their family's legacy, and their Opa's dream to be productive dairy farmers."

WRDSB trustee responds to code of conduct investigation

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) is undergoing an active code of conduct investigation of Trustee Mike Ramsay.

The WRDSB did not name the trustee, however, Trustee Mike Ramsay commented about the investigation in a statement posted on Twitter:

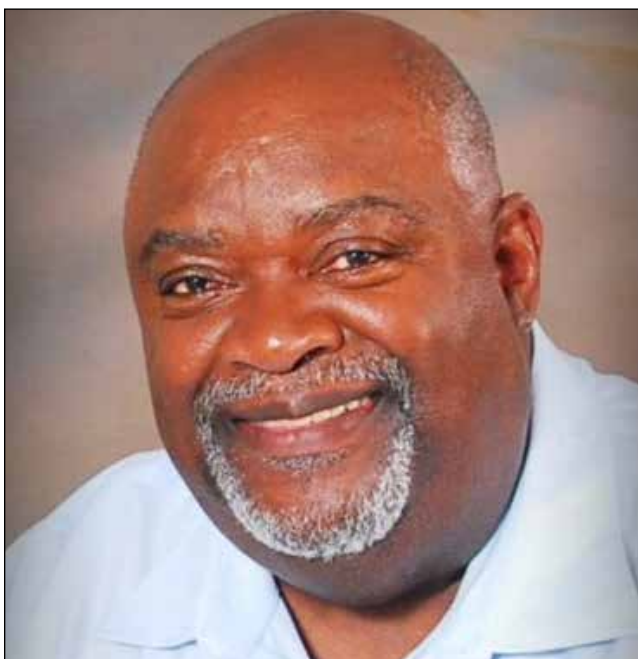
"The school trustee game of thrones continues. The complaint is about something I supposedly said in meetings and on a radio show years ago," he said.

"Don't we have something better to do? Like govern a school board? If you think another \$10k investigation is a great use of your money, please send a congratulatory message to the Chair of the Board @weston_dj. Please be polite and civil."

According to the WRDSB, the investigation involves one or more school board employees, so it will be treated as an in camera item.


The organization added that parts of Bill 98 that touch on the code of conduct have not yet been put in effect by the Ministry. Until the Ministry proclaims this part of the act and establishes new rules for school board codes of conduct, the policies that school boards have remain in effect and must be followed.

"Respect and adherence to the Code of Conduct is an integral part of governing the WRDSB, and a responsibility we take very seriously," wrote the WRDSB. "We are, as



WRDSB trustee Mike Ramsay.

ever, focused on student achievement and well-being in our work as the Board of Trustees serving the students and families of the WRDSB, while respecting the processes laid out in the code of conduct."




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Business profile: New Hamburg Home Hardware



New Hamburg Home Hardware owner Sheila Walker. (Photo contributed)

By Veronica Reiner

New Hamburg Home Hardware currently has several items on sale, including birdseed and barbecues.

Sheila Walker has run the business, along with her brother, Kevin, since December 2014. The business is located at 59 Peel Street in New Hamburg.

"We have the BeautiTone designer series, which has got a paint and primer, so it's top of the line," said Sheila. "We sell a ton of it. There's a great selection of colours. We have a machine that colour matches. You can bring in your ball cap, T-shirt, curtains, and we will colour match it for you - it's very beneficial."

The BeautiTone designer series is described as an exceptional 100 per cent acrylic product, formulated with the latest in paint technology for an unsurpassed quality coating. Interior sheens are available in flat, velvet and eggshell.

Sheila said that the customer service at the New Hamburg Home Hardware is above and beyond. Many employees have been there for more than a decade, and have plenty of product knowledge.

"We try to transfer that product knowledge to any new employees coming in," noted Sheila.

There is one new employee that has been there for about three weeks now. She recently moved back from British Columbia.

Sheila noted that the new employee is a general one, rather than specializing in one specific department. "Mostly all of our employees are general. We do have someone in the paint department 95 per cent of the time - other than that, we kind of float," noted Sheila.

She added that there is a lot to learn about being an employee.

"If you come in green to this business, it would probably take a year to know from one end to the other," said Sheila. "You have 13 departments, and then within 13 departments, you have categories, and then what does the product do? What are warranties? How do you use it? You might not even know in a year!"

She said that there are always new situations coming up, along with new products. "Home is forever changing and developing," said Sheila.

A new small appliance line will be implemented in the fall, changing bit by bit. Mosaic and Betty Crocker brands will be the new houseware lines, along with the Swan brand from Germany, which will be the high end products. "We're always transitioning," said Sheila.



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SPORTS —

Tavistock A's U17 take home Gold

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Tavistock Athletics U17 Tier 2 ladies' team had a successful weekend capturing Gold in the 'B' Division at Provincials in Stratford.

The team opened the tourney with a 12-2 win over the Mississauga Hurricanes. However, followed that up with a 6 - 5 loss to the Stratford Flames, in which the team was down 5 - 0 in the first inning. They managed to claw back but lost 6 - 5.

The Saturday morning game was a must-win in order for them to move on to the play-off. The A's came out on top 18 - 7 winning against the Haldimand Heat. This would leave the Tavistock A's for a re-match against Stratford on Saturday night at Packham Rd.

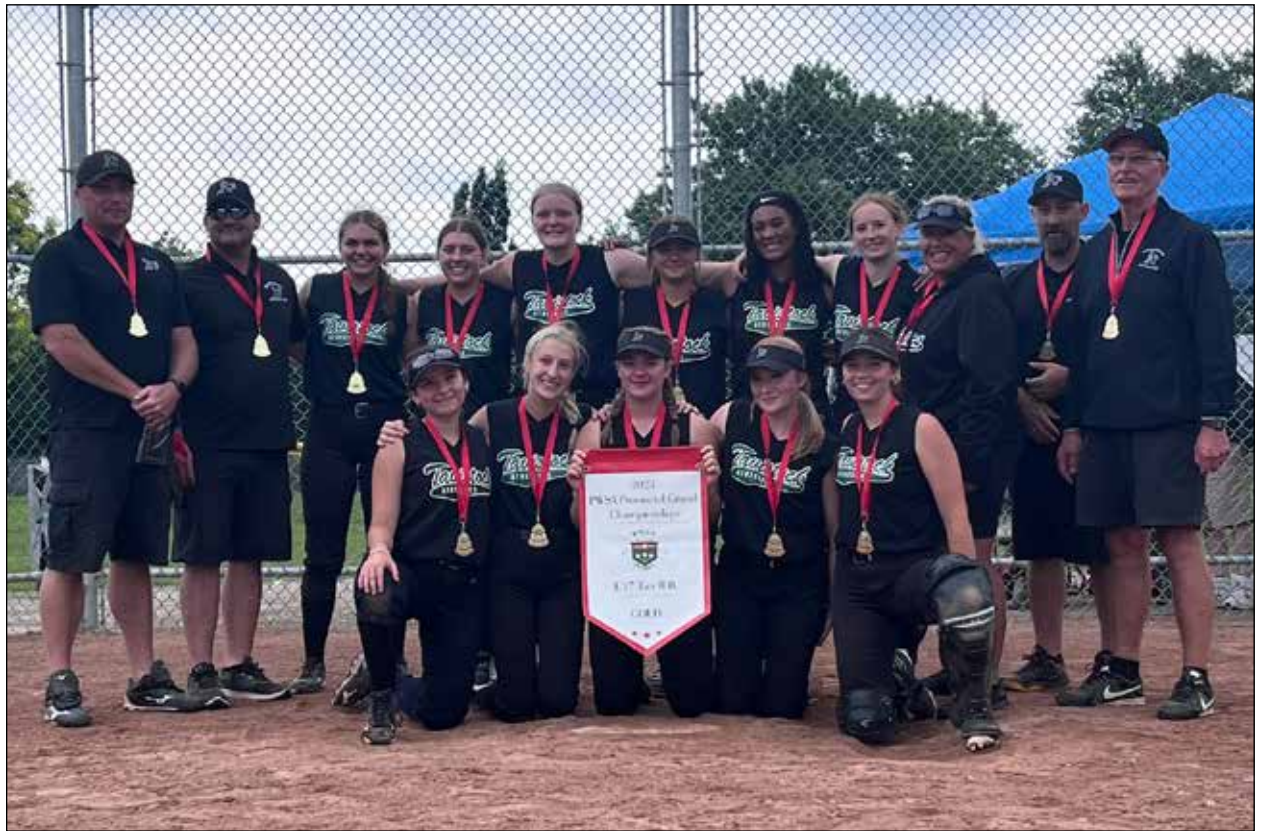
The A's coach, Chris Faulhafer, noted that the game against Stratford was tough, and the A's ended up tied, 8 - 8 in the bottom of the 6th. The girls

were resilient and were able to string a few hits together to score five runs in the top of the 7th. The team came around and won 13-8.

The next game was against the Kitchener Classics first thing Sunday morning, and the ladies came in strong with a 12 - 0 win after five innings. This game then moved the team to the finals back at Anne Hathaway in Stratford later that afternoon.

The Tavistock A's faced the Stittsville 56'ers, who were undefeated in the gold medal game in front of a good crowd. It was a tight contest, as expected, with the score 2 - 1 for Tavistock going into the top of the 5th. The A's came out on top with a 9-6 victory.

The Tavistock A's have had a successful year taking home bronze at the Waterloo Ghosts tourney in May, gold at the Barrie Bash in June and are currently sitting in 2nd place in the Grand Valley league heading to our year-end tournament in Palmerston.




Pictured are back row: Chris Faulhafer, Rob Faulhafer, Ella Riddick, Morgan Yantzi, Nicole Alexander, Isabelle Schmidt, Alexa Baker-Phillips, Ava Glaab, Barb Wilhelm, Trevor Glaab, Bill Riddick. Front row: Avery Faulhafer, Grace Demelo, Alex Murphy, Nyla Giesbrecht, Olivia Faulhafer. Absent: Maddie Sword, Erin Baechler

Wilmot U15 girls face off against St. Marys



The Wilmot Thunder U15 girls baseball team took on the St. Marys team on August 2. The Wilmot Thunder team consists of Aubrey T, Aurora M, Emily S, Kayla H, Kenzie W, Kylee J, Lauren H, Madelyn B, Rebeka E, Sabrina H, and Violet W. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)



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SPORTS —

Wilmot Thunder awards and recognition voting open

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Wilmot Thunder baseball team would like to give a special shout out to its coaches and volunteers.

Behind every successful team, there are dedicated coaches and volunteers who invest their time, knowledge and guidance to shape players to be the best they can be.

As the season wraps up, participants are invited to recognize and celebrate exceptional performances with awards in various categories.

Awards are being handed out in the following categories:

Coach of the Year (Tom Mussleman Memorial Award)

Fan of the Year (Norm Ryckman Memorial Award)

Sportsmanship and Ability (Penny Roth Memorial Award)

Volunteer of the Year (Rose Palla Memorial Award)

Most Improved Player (Murray Wagler

Memorial Award)

Pitcher of the Year (Doug Fischer Memorial Award)

Umpire of the Year (Donated by the Clifford Family)

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Don Green Memorial Slo-Pitch tournament taking place this weekend, seeking volunteers

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Don Green Memorial Slo-Pitch tournament is taking place this weekend in Wellesley.

As of Tuesday, August 8 at around 1 p.m., there were several volunteer spots available. They could be filled by high school students needing to fill their 40 community

service volunteer hours.

These shifts included:

Friday, August 11; 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. (food, cooking and serving). There is one person needed.

Saturday, August 12; 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (ticket/cash table). There is one more

person needed.

Saturday, August 12; 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. (food, cooking and serving). There is one more person needed.

Those who are interested or have questions about what is required can reach out to Krista at krista.sharma99@gmail.com.

The Don Green Memorial Slo-Pitch Tournament takes place every year and raises money for community sports and projects. The event includes friendly, competitive baseball, beer gardens, a 50/50 raffle, and a barbecue.

The event is put on by the Wellesley & District Lions Club.

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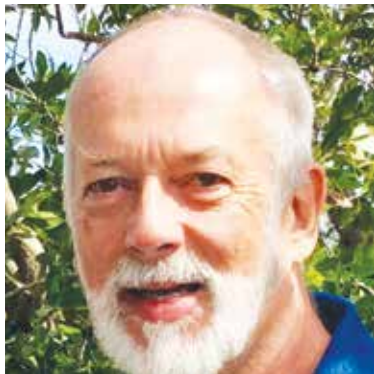
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Neither wind or rain shall keep these golfers...



By Paul Knowles

If you watched coverage of The Open golf tournament (often erroneously referred to as The British Open), you saw a whole bunch of very wet, wind-blown golfers taking on the elements. The elements mostly won.

I identified with their plight. Not with their level of talent – the game I played called golf is so far removed from their game that it should have a different name of its own – “duff” or “flub” or, as suggested by golf partners from time to time, something far less suitable for print.

No, what I identified with was playing golf in unspeakable conditions.

Because I was in northern Ontario as part of a group of half a dozen travel writers who were hosted on a golf tour in June.

Typically, a golf get-away means finding several golf courses at the same golf resort or nearby communities, adding some unhealthy meals and a fair amount of beer, and Bob's your uncle.

We didn't do that. Well, okay, we did have unhealthy food and a certain quantity of beer, but our hosts were determined that we experience a large swath of northern Ontario so we were playing courses in North Bay, Sudbury and Manitoulin Island on consecutive days. And we visited some breweries. Did I mention beer?

Day One: Osprey Links Golf Course just outside North Bay about two hours from our hotel in Sudbury. We were driven to the course through pretty intense rain. Well, it might brighten.

It didn't. It was coming down in sheets. We sat in the clubhouse hearing stories about the link (or perhaps the lack thereof) between former Ontario Premier Mike Harris and the course. Fascinating stuff for a political junkie like me.

The rain and wind continued. Three of our group members opted out. But three of us, on the premise that we would probably not get to play Osprey Links again any time soon, donned rain gear and climbed into golf carts.

The rain gear was pretty ineffective – mine, anyway. I was soon soaked to the skin, my clubs were slipping in my hands, my golf gloves were sodden, and the wind was blowing my golf balls sideways. At least that's my story, and I am sticking to it.

And I was having a ball!

That's because of several things. I was playing with two equally deranged golfers, Dave Finn and Max St. John, and we were all in

hysterics about the unexpected results of playing in a gale. The course is in fact beautiful, even in the rain, and we had learned that it is a sanctuary for all sorts of wildlife. Thankfully, the rain kept the bears away, if not the mosquitos. We were unduly proud of ourselves for simply sticking it out. We will not discuss scores.

We had brought a certain amount of dry clothing with us so were able to partially change after the most moist nine holes I have ever played. We headed for the New Ontario Brewing Company in North Bay for a tasting flight of their excellent craft beers, an interesting tour of the brewery and dinner.

The three non-golfers stayed dry, but I am willing to bet that the three idiots who braved the storm had more fun. And the good news is the Holiday Inn in Sudbury had one industrial clothes drier so by next morning, nothing was damp.

Which was good because we loaded everything into the SUVs early the next day and headed for Manitoulin Island where we were to play 18 drier holes at the First Nations-owned Rainbow Ridge Golf Course. Another two-hour trek later and we had crossed the only land bridge that links the island with the mainland and were about to experience life, Manitoulin style. Which is apparently a thing unto itself.

Everything our hosts had planned, except the golf itself, got rearranged because folks on Manitoulin operate on “island time”. Our dining arrangements



Even in the rain, Osprey Links is a beautiful, Northern Ontario course. (Photo by Paul Knowles)

were changed twice in one day for reasons I never figured out but other establishments put out the welcome mat and we were royally entertained with terrific island cuisine and yes, a flight of beers, this time at the convivial Manitoulin Brewing Company.

Next morning, back to Sudbury to play 18 at the terrific Timberwolf Golf Course designed by “world-renowned course architect” Thomas McBroom.

Timberwolf, which opened in 2000, is the shining star among five courses owned by a local family. It now features a unique, “Pro Putt Putting Course” that is vastly more challenging than any conventional mini-golf course. It is well worth a visit in its own right.

And the actual course has been accurately described as “a won-

derful tour through the wilderness of Northern Ontario”.

In fact, it is that northern reality that made our trip most worthwhile. The rules of golf are the same everywhere but the game can be transformed into something entirely different by unique environments. In the case of Northern Ontario courses, that includes the local wildlife (I saw sandhill cranes on Manitoulin); the unique topography (no lack of rocky outcroppings!); and did I mention the weather?

Oh yeah, the local craft beer is well worth sampling too.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



The unique Pro Putt course at Timberwolf in Sudbury, with manager Mark Vainio. (Photo by Paul Knowles)



Could a golfer be wetter? The author, nearing the end of the rain-drenched and hilarious nine holes at Osprey Links in North Bay. (Photo by Max St. John)

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 by Darryl Gingerich, depicting the full moon rising over the Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve. (Photo credit: Darryl Gingerich)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - AUGUST 2023

August 10th	<p>Castle Kilbride Summer Concert Series</p> <p>Thursday evenings, bring your lawn chair and enjoy unique music on the front lawn of Castle Kilbride from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Weather permitting. This day, the Kitchener Musical Society (Classical) will play.</p>	<p>becue</p> <p>From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Scotiabank in Tavistock will hold a fundraising barbecue to support Tavistock Minor baseball in town. All proceeds raised from the barbecue will be donated to support area teams.</p>	<p>11 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Slo-pitch action, community barbecue, prizes and Molson Coors beer gardens.</p>	<p>Board of Trade Cruise Night</p> <p>Taking place from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the New Hamburg Mill Block. This year will feature a vendor market. The Board of Trade is looking for local crafters, artisans and makers to showcase their products. Those interested can contact member-coordinator@nhbot.ca for more information.</p>	<p>place at 4805 William Hastings Line in Crosshill at 6:45 p.m. Also streamed on the Township of Wellesley YouTube page.</p>
August 10th	<p>Beef Barbecue at Tavistock Memorial Hall</p> <p>The Cattlemen's Association returns with their beef barbecue. Dinner is beef, potato salad, corn-on-the-cob and pie. Drive through is 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. \$25 per ticket, advance tickets only. Tickets available from directors, 519-421-2327 or Zehr Insurance 519-655-2422.</p>	August 11th	<p>Shakespeare Optimist Family Fun Day</p> <p>The Shakespeare Optimist Family Fun Day and Open House will take place from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in celebration of their 50th anniversary. Elvis tribute artist, magic acts, jumpy castle, crafts, food truck, Scoopers ice cream and more. Everyone invited.</p>	August 19th & August 20th	<p>Expressway Ford Cruise Night</p> <p>The Expressway Ford 16th Annual Cruise Night at Expressway Ford on the business lot on 1554 Haysville Road, Highway 7&8 in New Hamburg. Fords, Mercurys and Lincolns only. Music, 50/50 draw, awards. Lions Club charity barbecue, ice cream proceeds to Simple Dreams (children's charity).</p>
August 10th	<p>Good Eats & Musical Beats</p> <p>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.</p>	August 11th & August 12th	<p>Blood Drive</p> <p>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 www.blood.ca.</p>	August 22nd	<p>Wilmot Council Meeting</p> <p>Hybrid council meeting taking place at 60 Snyder's Road West in Baden at 6:45 p.m. Also streamed on the Township of Wilmot YouTube page.</p>
August 10th	<p>Scotiabank Fundraising Bar-</p>	<p>Don Green Memorial Tournament</p> <p>Taking place at the Wellesley park pavilion. On Friday, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Saturday from</p>	August 18th	<p>Moparfest</p> <p>Canada's largest Mopar Car Show, which includes a swap meet, prizes, food, vendors - pre register or pay at the gate. Brings together Mopar enthusiasts from all over the place. More info at www.moparfest.com.</p>	<p>Wellesley Council Meeting</p> <p>Hybrid council meeting taking</p>

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Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) CO2 | 6) The Olympic and the Britannic |
| 2) Peru | 7) Michelangelo |
| 3) 1914-1918 | 8) Christian Bale |
| 4) The Owl | 9) A diamond |
| 5) Margaret Thatcher | 10) Volcanos |

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