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FREE

Dollarama opens at 174 Union Street plaza

Other businesses within plaza expected to open within about three months



The new Dollarama store has officially opened at 174 Union Street in New Hamburg. The plaza will also include a Barburrito, Tumeric restaurant and City Pizza, which are expected to open within about three months.

By Veronica Reiner

Dollarama has officially opened at the 174 Union Street commercial plaza in New Hamburg.

Last summer, Voisin Development started the construction of a multi-tenant commercial plaza, with Dollarama taking up the largest amount of about 11,000

square feet. Nith Valley Construction Ltd. handled the construction process, which includes a double row paved parking lot.

"The parking lot has been pretty full, so I assume they're doing fine," said developer Greg Voisin of Voisin Developments. "I think people like the wide selection of products - a few people have said to me, 'Wow, it's out of a big store.' So I think

they're amazed at how long the aisles are, and how much stuff is in there."

Other businesses that will lease out the spaces, with about 1,000 square footage, include City Pizza, Barburrito and Tumeric restaurant. Greg noted that it will take about three months before all of these businesses are officially open.

East Zorra-Tavistock committee members positive regarding camp's future

Final decision will be made by staff, not members of council

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Report

There has been a fair amount of chatter and speculation around Tavistock as to the future of Camp Alliwannado, held now for 10 consecutive years at Queen's Park.

Owner Annie Rowland presented to members of the EZT's Recreation Advisory Committee last week to explain what the operation is all about and how it services a community with no licensed daycare facilities. Discussion around the table indicated that, at least at the committee level, there is a desire to keep the camp at Queen's Park, something she said left her feeling good afterwards. "To me, it felt like a very positive meeting, and I was happy with how the presentation went and having the opportunity to tell a little bit about who we are and what we do. There was a good response from the chair (Scott Rudy), and we are very happy with how it went." During the meeting, Rudy said, "The camp is a great asset to a number of community members, but some changes need to be made to accommodate other park users along with future spray pad users. I have no interest in pushing it out." In many cases, Camp Alliwannado provides a childcare option that is less expensive than many daycares. The cost to parents is \$5 per day per child, with a ratio of one staff member to every six children. It also provides summer employment and mentoring to many area young people.

Despite an overall positive tone in committee member feedback, the members do not have any decision-making power, nor was any sort of motion made in support of the camp. Rowland said the next step in the process comes next month at a meeting with township staff. "That is where we will discuss what

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COMMUNITY —

East Zorra-Tavistock committee members positive regarding camp's future

Continued from page 1

2024 looks like. We don't have any other direction other than to come to that meeting," Rowland said she isn't sure how to prepare for that sit-down, but she is optimistic. "I think now that we have some positive feedback from (the committee), that will help us to come to an agreement."

The Recreation Advisory Committee is made up of three elected members of council and several community members. Their role is to bring forward new ideas for parks and recreation in the township and deliver those to staff, who will assess whether or not an idea is feasible based on a number of factors.

Rowland explained that her supporters have been interested to see how the meeting went and what lies ahead. "People have been curious and optimistic, especially a lot of local parents. They are looking for an indication from me if I think camp will

be at this site next summer. If they have any thoughts, I encourage them to speak up, ask questions, and be engaged." During her presentation, Rowland brought up the idea of looking at camps in Hickson and Innerkip, although she added Innerkip makes more sense from a geographic perspective. "We are very open to discussing that and seeing if there is something there. We are happy to offer a trial camp in Innerkip if that is something the township thinks is needed. I don't think there is any other option there right now." The town's pavilion would provide an ideal location for a second Camp Alliwannado in EZT.

Rowland said she hasn't yet talked to Mayor Phil Schaefer but has extended an invitation to him and other members of council to join the camp in celebrating 10 years at a party Thursday (today) at Queen's Park from 5 to 7:30 p.m. "He has indicated he will be attending, so hopefully, I can chat with him a bit there." The

get-together will include food trucks, face painting, and more.

The Gazette reached out to the mayor, who said he has heard arguments on both sides of the fence. "Parents of children that attend the camp understandably have contacted me and advised they are hopeful the camp can continue. On the other hand, I have heard from residents who are not happy that their enjoyment of the park is disrupted each summer." Schaefer agreed that Alliwannado does provide a valuable service to the residents, but what happens next is out of his hands. "Having said that, what our staff will have to work out in their negotiations is how it can exist in harmony with our other residents who are seeking to use the park, especially with the spray pad coming onto the scene."

Some of the complaints surrounding the camp came during the pandemic when Southwest Public Health mandated that no one other than camp staff and attendees

were allowed to use the public washrooms, something that was never communicated to the public. Councillor Steven Van Wyk mentioned that some members of the public feel the entire park is off-limits for the hours Alliwannado is operating, which is not the case. Again, something the township has not placed on its social media channels or website. Rowland said it has always been the case that campers are not permitted to use the park playgrounds. "The kids eat their lunch or have snacks and play games at their stations with their counsellors."

Township staff will be meeting with Rowland on September 19 to discuss what space can be used and at what cost. "It is basically a facility booking/rental discussion. As a rule, council does not get involved in the rental agreement process, unless there is a policy change required," added Schaefer.

EZT introduces R-Zone policy on conduct on township property

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Report

First, a township alcohol policy, now a township behaviour policy. East Zorra-Tavistock is implementing what is called an R-Zone or zero-tolerance strategy.

"It stands for Respect and Responsibility and was founded by the city of Oakville several years ago," said Parks and Recreation Supervisor Matt Lamers. The policy will be enforced at the Township Administration Building, Community Centres, Parks, Trails, Recreation Centres, and any Township programs.

"We will be putting up signage at all municipal properties and facilities, and brochures will be available outlining the expectations for the conduct of anyone on

township land." Lamers said behaviour like swearing, vandalism, and threats to sports officials, members of the public, and staff. "People can report any unacceptable behaviour to rzone@ezt.ca, call 519-462-2697, or let a staff member know if one is present." Incidents should ideally be told within 24 hours of an occurrence. Other examples of reportable behaviour include physical assault and harm, use of alcohol or drugs, harassment, and theft.

Lamers talked to his counterpart at Middlesex County, where 10 to 15 people have been banned on a yearly basis because of behaviour deemed unacceptable. "We obviously don't want to get to that point here, but it just goes to show there could be some trespass notices handed out if people don't show respect and

responsibility." Other municipalities using the disciplinary process include North Perth, St. Catharines, Tillsonburg, and Sarnia.

Lamers is part of SWORFA, the Southwestern Ontario Recreation Facility Association, which is made up of a number of his colleagues. "I was in an e-mail chain a few months ago and forwarded one on R-Zone to human resources (at the township) a few months ago. Jennifer Albrecht did a great job researching with her counterparts at other municipalities who already had it in place. She put together the policy, took it to senior staff, and then it was approved by council." Lamers added the program fits in perfectly with section 2.8 of the township's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Before joining the EZT team Lamers was with the Town of St. Marys where R-Zone had already been implemented, and it did see some results. "We had a lot of incidents and a few bans, along with some warnings. This lets the public know that if you want to come to our facilities, parks, and trails, you are responsible for your actions, the equipment, and how you interact with other people. We hope we don't have to go down the disciplinary route." The final decision on any penalty would be made by Clerk Will Jaques and Chief Administrative Officer Karen DePrest.

More information is available at <https://www.ezt.ca/en/recreation-and-leisure/r-zone.aspx#What-type-of-incidents-can-or-should-be-reported>.



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COMMUNITY —

Tavistock's Scotiabank employees host fundraising barbecue



Barbecuing from Tavistock's Scotiabank, along with Tavistock minor ball supporters: left to right, Michele Frook (Scotiabank Manager), Dave Nahrgang (Minor Ball President), Derek Hyde, Mark Raymer, Heidi Danen, Wayne and Logan Herlick.

By Gary West

A number of employees from Scotiabank in Tavistock, were kept busy last Thursday, cooking up hamburgers, hotdogs, and handing out drinks and potato chips to those who came out for the busy fundraising barbecue. The event was in support of Tavistock Athletics, who are part of the Tavistock's Minor Ball Association.

Dave Nahrgang, Board President of Minor Ball, while flipping burgers, said he was

happy to see such a large turnout who were able to enjoy the lunchtime barbecue, and at the same time, contribute financially to the Tavistock Athletic ball teams.

He said the Scotiabank team has to be congratulated for sponsoring such an event. They, in the end, reported that \$1,050 was raised at the noon hour barbecue which will be forwarded to Nahrgang and Tavistock's Minor Ball teams, for financial support in the future.

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COMMUNITY —

Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society to unveil plaque to commemorate Emancipation Day

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society (WTHHS) will be unveiling a historic plaque to commemorate the 1863 Emancipation Day picnic in Hawkesville.

The event, taking place on August 26 at 2 p.m. in Hawkesville, will commemorate and celebrate Black residents in Queen's Bush Settlement. The plaque is located at the corner of Broadway Street and Temperance Road.

Parking is available along Temperance Road. The WTHHS asks that visitors be mindful of private property on the east side of the road.

The great great grandson of Josh Brown, along with some of his other descendants, will attend the event from California. Josh Brown (born about 1816) was a runaway slave from Virginia. He met his wife Lucinda Green (born free around 1818) as he travelled through Pennsylvania on his way to Canada. The couple lived near Windsor and St. Catharines before settling down in Wellesley Township and starting a family. Five children were born then, and six more were born in Wellesley Township.

On August 1, 1863, more than 2,500 people gathered to celebrate the end of slavery



The corner of Broadway Street and Temperance Road in Hawkesville, where the event will take place on August 26 at 2 p.m.

in the British Empire in 1834. Black residents of the Queen's Bush Settlement in northern Wellesley Township and southern Peel Township (now called Mapleton Township) were joined by residents and dignitaries from across what was then

known as Waterloo County. A sermon was preached in the Township Hall, followed by a procession led by the Berlin Band to Temperance Island, where hundreds of meals were served.

The Queen's Bush was an unsettled area in Ontario, between Waterloo County and Lake Huron, where enslaved and free Black American established farms and communities with Glen Allan, Hawkesville and Wallenstein as important centres.

Blacks seeking refuge in northern states and Canada led to the development of the Underground Railroad. The primary routes in the United States were through Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, across the Detroit River or Lake Erie to Upper Canada. There were five stops along the Underground Railroad in the province, mostly in the southwestern part of Ontario. Hawkesville, located too far north of the established southern transportation routes, was not immediately attractive to settlers.

The Queen's Bush Settlement was one of about 20 such settlements, including the Wilberforce Colony near Lucan, the Colbornesburg Settlement near Winterbourne, and the Elgin Settlement (also known as Buxton) in Chatham-Kent.

In 2021, the House of Commons designated August 1 as Emancipation Day in Canada. It marks the actual day in 1834 that the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire.

Oxford OPP implements CAMSafe program

By Veronica Reiner

The Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has implemented the CAMSafe program. CAMSafe is a program aimed at creating a database of residential and commercial security cameras within a community that can act as a resource for police when investigating crimes.

"The OPP encourages anyone that has

cameras to register them on the database," said Constable Patti Cole. "It is simple, free and will act as a resource that could potentially assist police with investigations."

When asked additional questions about the program, Cst. Cole said, "The media release was just sent out on Friday announcing the launch, so I won't have any information this early as to people who have registered, or if it has been helpful for any investigations so far."

When a police officer uses the CAMSafe database, they will see a map of the local area. Officers can click on registered addresses to view more details, such as property owner contact information. Officers cannot access your security cameras or cloud based accounts.

If police want to examine camera footage, they can make a request to the property owner using contact information from the database.

Interested community members are only required to provide basic contact information and the camera location, but can include more details if they want, including direction the camera faces, footage retention details or screenshots of the camera view. Registrants can only view their own information and can delete their account or change their information at any time.

To learn more or to register, visit www.camsafe.ca.

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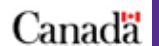
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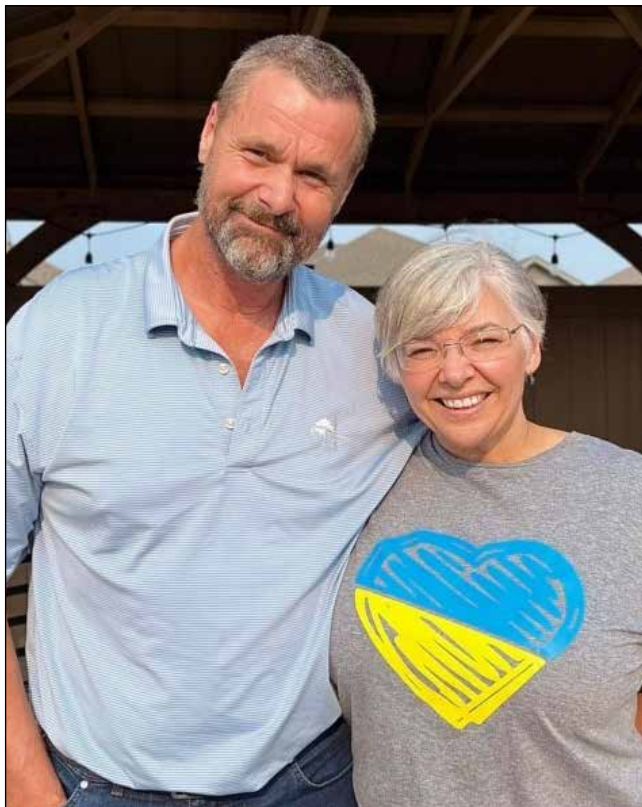
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COMMUNITY —

Winners of Wellesley's Citizen of the Year



Rich Hamming and Lisa Weiler Haskins won Citizen of the Year.



Bob Reid got the Lifetime Citizen Award.



Alexis Boyd-Koudys received the Junior Citizen of the Year.

By Veronica Reiner

There are three winners in different categories for Wellesley Fall Fair's Citizen of the Year - Alexis Boyd-Koudys won Wellesley Junior Citizen of the Year Award, Bob Reid achieved the Lifetime Citizen Award, while Lisa Weiler Haskins and Richard Hamming got the Citizen of the Year Award.

The nomination period lasted from June 1 to June 30. Nominations could be submitted online or through a hard copy at the Wellesley, St. Clements or Linwood post offices. Wendy Richardson, who is on the Wellesley Fall Fair committee, said there were plenty of nominations this year.

"The majority of nominations come in online - I think we only had one or two that came in hard copy," said Wendy.

All winners received lots of attention when they were announced in online groups, including Wellesley, Ontario Community Connections Facebook page. "From Facebook, I have never had so many positive comments and likes as with this past group," said Wendy.

Wendy added that nominations are kept on file from the previous years. "If we ever get a year where we're lacking nominations, we can draw from the information we had before," she said.

Alexis, from St. Clements, attended Elmira District Secondary School (EDSS), and exemplifies the spirit and character of the Junior Citizen of the Year through community and school leadership.

"She's very charismatic, she's very intelligent, and she's really involved with her

school work as well," said Wendy, of Alexis.

In high school, Alexis volunteered with homework help in her classes, and she also helped with marking and lesson prep at her former elementary school. She earned her specialist high skills major in health and wellness at EDSS, as well as received the Woolwich Physiotherapy Award upon graduating from EDSS.

"I wasn't expecting to be nominated this year, but I was, and then I found out after the fact, after I'd been chosen," said Alexis, in an interview with the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette.

Alexis helped with Tree of Light fundraising for St. Clements Paradise & District Lions Club, as well as volunteered for Sanguen Health Centre in Waterloo by making safe injection kits and harm reduction kits.

Alexis participated in the Wellesley Township Ambassador Leadership Program this year, and has enjoyed her first year studying Kinesiology at the University of Waterloo. She is volunteering at the university's School of Anatomy this summer, dissecting full body human cadavers in preparation for them to be studied.

In addition, she was selected for a student trainer position by the University Athletic Therapy Department, where she will be volunteering for the Waterloo Warriors Field Hockey Team at their games and 6 a.m. practices in the fall. Alexis has also been a volunteer guide for prospective first year students and family coming to open house events, and leading high school walkthrough anatomy lab sessions.

"It feels really nice to be recognized," said Alexis, on how it feels to achieve the award. "It makes me reflect on all of the experiences that I've had, and realize that those things make an impact on the community."

Alexis added that she enjoyed every volunteer opportunity she was given, and that she would do it all over again. "It has meant a lot to me to have even had the opportunity to be involved in everything that I have."

Bob Reid, and his late wife, Susan, were a role model to many, in regard to community involvement.

"Bob is involved in everything Wellesley," said Wendy. "He is so deserving."

Bob is part of the organizing team of the Apple Butter & Cheese (ABC) Festival. He acted as a chair for the ABC Festival for 20 years. It was his vision and leadership that helped to grow the festival and raise the funds to be reinvested back into the community. These proceeds have helped to build an accessible playground, upgrades to sports fields and more.

He has been a member of the Wellesley & District Lions Club for 45 years, and held many titles, including President. Not only is he the founding member of the Wellesley Applejacks Junior C hockey team since 1987, he is the current President and timekeeper for the team.

Bob has been active on the Wellesley Christmas Tyme Parade committee for many years, and is the past President of First St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wellesley. In addition, he is a supporting member and board member of the

Wellesley Food Cupboard.

The nomination submission noted that he is very supportive of his family, driving and cheering on his grandkids at their sports games. Bob is about 78 years young, while being very active and showing no signs of slowing down.

Lisa Weiler Haskins and Richard Hamming opened their Wellesley home to three Ukrainian families, including the Gurtovayas. The Gurtovayas are a family of four that fled from the war and destruction of their homeland to Wellesley. Lisa and Rich provided a warm and caring home for about four months until the family could make their own home in Wellesley.

"Lisa and Richard, me and my family thank you for everything you have done for us, you are incredible, you are people with a good heart," said Tetiana Gurtovayas. "Lisa and Richard, we are very grateful to you for your support, for a new life, for your care, for your help, for your love for our family! It is thanks to you that we have been feeling safe and sleeping peacefully for a year now! Thanks to you we have housing, thanks to you our girls go to school, thanks to you we have food!"

After the Gurtovayas family moved, Rich and Lisa opened their home to a couple who stayed briefly with them until they were able to work and find their own place. They also housed a young, professional couple, who came to Canada in mid June and were expecting their first child.

All will officially receive their awards at the Wellesley Fall Fair opening night on Tuesday, September 12.

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COMMUNITY —

The Shakespeare Optimist Club celebrates 50 years of serving youth in the Shakespeare community



The official ribbon cutting to open the newly paved walking path that encircles the Shakespeare Optimist Club property and soccer field. From left to right, celebration chair Paul Mathieson, Governor Elect, Rick Gillespie, Rhonda Ehgoetz, Perth County Warden, Mike McNeil, Shakespeare Optimist Club President, Marlene Phillips, Optimist International Vice-President, Perth Wellington, MP John Nater, and MPP Matthew Rae.

By Gary West

It was a day of celebration on Saturday for the Optimist Club of Shakespeare, as club members and area residents, along with area youth, celebrated 50 years since the club was initially formed.

Marlene Phillips, the current Vice President of Optimist International, who spoke on behalf of Optimist International President Bob McFadden, summed up by saying the Shakespeare club members have donated well over one million

volunteer hours over their 50 years, to provide and enhance programs for youth in the Shakespeare area.

During an afternoon program, 50th anniversary Chairman Paul Mathieson, also a past Governor, outlined the club's contribution to the community. This included building the Optimist Community Hall in 1980, establishing a new soccer field, working with the Shakespeare Opti-Mrs club in building a new children's playground with new equipment, and just



Gil McNeil, left, who was the first elected President of the Shakespeare Optimist Club 50 years ago in 1973, along with son Mike McNeil, the current President of the Optimist Club of Shakespeare.

recently, building a new paved walking path and exercise area for the village and area residents to enjoy.

Mathieson also outlined how the club participates in volunteering to deliver meals on wheels, along with working the Salvation Army's Christmas Kettles, to name only a few.

The club also budgets \$2,500 each year for the area public schools of Sprucedale and North Easthope, to use on programs that are not provided by the board of

education.

In order to raise funds, the club thanked the community for supporting their fundraising barbecues and rib and pigtail dinners, along with 50/50 draws.

Current club President Mike McNeil, thanked his father, Gil McNeil, for leading and forming the club 50 years ago in order to ensure that area youth have programs that are important for their growth in the community in and around Shakespeare.

Vote for Wilmot's 2023 Citizen of the Year

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

It's time for residents to vote for Wilmot's 2023 Citizens of the Year.

One winner has already been declared - Lisa Doherty, as the sole nominee for the Culture category. Lisa is on the board of the Love Your Neighbour Communities. Without her hard work and dedication, it would have been impossible to get the grassroots charity off the ground. She does this all while being there with her husband suffering from MS. She is loving, giving, smart, passionate and deserves the recognition.

There are 23 nominees across four other categories, consisting of local athletes and volunteers, who have been put forward because of their exceptional contributions to the community.

In the Athletics category, the nominees are: Wilmot Thunder U15 - U15 Tier 1 Team, Wilmot Thunder U17 Team, Wilmot Thunder U15 Boys Tier 2 Team, Thunder

Thunder Men's U20 Team, and Holly Bast.

In the Community Service category, nominees include: Angie Scheid, Lindsay Neubauer, Rob Downs, Marlene Knezevich, Samantha Lernout, Doug MacLean, Mike Gilmore, Bobbi Martinez, Scott Dunstall, Penny Collins, Warren Bechthold and Susan Hammer.

The Seniors category nominees include Reginald Simpson, Ross Eichler, along with Dorothy and Andy Wilson.

The Youth category nominees include Theo Diver and Lyndsay Dajka.

The voting period will close as of tonight (Thursday, August 17) at 11:59 p.m. Wilmot Township residents will be able to vote by visiting www.wilmot.ca/citizenoftheyear or by using paper copies of the voting form available at the front desk of the Wilmot Recreation Complex and at the front desk of the Township Office.



Lisa Doherty, who won the Culture category for Wilmot Citizen of the Year.

COMMUNITY —

The Milverton Suns women's ball team reunites after 50 years

By Gary West

We read countless pages in newspapers and magazines about men's baseball teams, but this is a story about a championship women's team in years gone by from Perth County.

The ladies were called the "Milverton Suns" softball team, and got together for a reunion recently in Stratford to talk about old times and reminisce about how much fun they had playing a game they loved.

The Suns began their playing days together in 1972 and travelled all over the county and to other towns and villages honing their craft - playing ball.

One of their coaches, George Wicke, from Ellice township, says to this day, they are still the best team that he ever had the privilege to coach. He says they had the ability and talent to beat and be very competitive against every team they faced over the years.

He remembers, in 1976, how the Milverton team, with girls from all over Perth County, competed in a four-day ball tournament at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. After a gruelling four days, the team came home with the championship



In Stratford, recently following a 50th year reunion lunch at Demetre's restaurant, are the women (and friends) of the championship, Milverton Suns, who played together beginning in 1972. Front left to right, Cathy Innes, Iris Marshall, George Wicke (coach), Sandy Skinner, Al Kish, Gail Vallance. Back row is Becky Westman, Dorie Coultres, Judy Nahrgang, George Nahrgang, Carol Kish, Marg Skillings, Kathy Newman, and Sandy Burns.

trophy. The players remember receiving a chime clock for their efforts, donated by Bulova, and many say they still have this masterpiece to this day.

The Suns travelled all across Canada, competing in the women's softball championship in Vancouver B.C., in 1979, and before that, made a stop to play in Regina,

Saskatchewan.

The team also became Ontario Champions in their hometown of Milverton in 1979.

Most of the players say they got started playing ball after joining the junior farmers' clubs in Perth County. They then began to realize that playing ball could be something they would be good at together as a team.

The team was made up of 11 players, and many give credit to their manager at the time, Bob Harrow, who, along with coach Wicke, knew how to get the most out of their players and taught them a formula of how to win.

Harrow, who has now passed away, went on to become head of the Australian Ball association, a position his son now holds.

The Milverton Suns (named and sponsored by their hometown newspaper), stayed together playing for 20 years. Some went on to play for other centres, but they will always remember the fun they had playing competitive ball right across the country, never forgetting their roots in the small town of Milverton, tucked away in the heart of Perth County.

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COMMUNITY —

Four men charged after disturbance in Wilmot Township

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Four Kitchener men have been charged after two people were injured during a community event in Wilmot Township.

On August 12, at around 4 p.m., the Waterloo Regional Police Service responded to reports of a disturbance at a large community event in the area of Snyder's Road East and Trussler Road.

Two men sustained injuries, including a 34-year-old Kitchener man who received treatment at a local hospital.

Throughout the investigation, police determined that several suspects arrived at the event and committed assault, before fleeing the area in a vehicle.

During the disturbance, an unknown man, wearing jeans, a white t-shirt, and a beige vest, also allegedly brandished a handgun. Investigators are looking to speak with the man pictured in connection to this incident.

Four males, a 45-year-old, a 43-year-old, a 39-year-old, and a 37-year-old, all from Kitchener, have been charged with assault with a weapon, assault, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and utter threats (two counts).

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 519-570-9777. Anonymous information can be provided to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit online at www.waterloocrimestoppers.com



LOCAL MATTERS.



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Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

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COMMUNITY —

Let's Tree Wilmot offers a stroll through Walker Woods



By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Let's Tree Wilmot's (LTW) newest offering is a stroll through Walker Woods in New Hamburg with Louis Silcox, a LTW volunteer storyteller and tree enthusiast.

This is a pleasant way to spend some of a summer evening, with a stroll along the Walker Woods Trail. It's an easy path - no hills to climb or creeks to ford. It will take about an hour for a stroll, a bit longer if we dawdle.

Several hundred metres of muddy areas are bridged along with a boardwalk. Along the way, the group will see how trees heal from injuries, and if you're lucky, what happens when you touch a touch-me-not. KAPLOOIE!

Bug spray is a good idea, along with proper footwear. Please register at / www.eventbrite.ca/d/canada--wilmot/lets-tree-wilmot/.

Public meeting for New Dundee site specific amendment rescheduled

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Region of Waterloo is rescheduling a public meeting to receive comments from the community on a proposed site-specific amendment to the Regional Official Plan at 63 Benjamin Street in New Dundee.

While it was initially scheduled to take

place on Tuesday, August 15, and was rescheduled to September 12.

A new notice will be issued, advising of the new date and time. Anyone with any comments or questions can reach out to Matthew Colley, Senior Planner at 519-577-6241 or MColley@regionofwaterloo.ca

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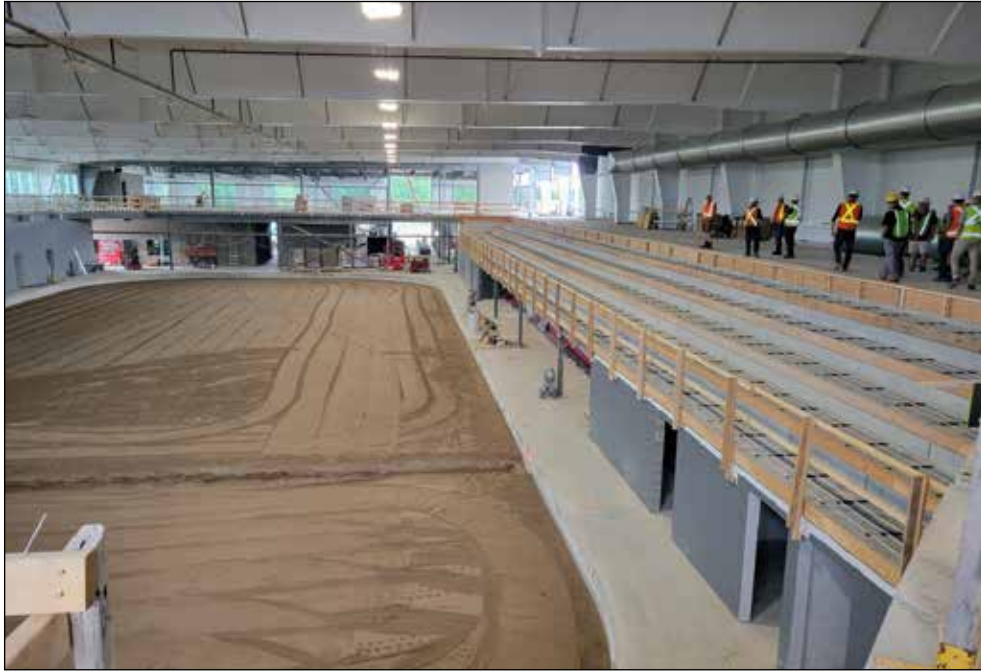
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Submit your reports and/or photos to [Veronica Reiner at v_reiner@hotmail.com](mailto:Veronica.Reiner@hotmail.com)

COMMUNITY —

Progress on the Wellesley Township Recreation Centre



This is the current progress on the Wellesley Township Recreation Centre. Ice is planned to be installed on October 15. (Photo credit: Something For Everyone)

262 charges laid across Perth County for Civic Long Weekend traffic initiative

Results across the province sobering: more than 7,700 charges and eight deaths

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), including the local division, has shared their results from the Civic Holiday Long Weekend traffic initiative that took place from August 4 to August 7.

There were a total of 262 charges laid across Perth County, and more than 7,700 laid across the province.

The traffic safety initiative focused on the "big four" causal factors in serious collisions on OPP patrolled roadway - impaired driving, distracted driving, aggressive

driving and failing to wear a seatbelt. The campaign also focused on the move over law, which requires drivers to slow down and move over one lane when passing an emergency vehicle or tow truck with its lights flashing.

The Perth County OPP charges included:

Speeding: 195

Seatbelt Charges: 3

Stunt Driving: 4

Impaired Driving: 2

During the campaign, the Perth County

OPP investigated six motor vehicle collisions, with only one having minor injuries.

Across the province, there were tragic results on roads, waterways and trails - the OPP responded to and investigated eight fatalities.

The fatalities mark the highest number of traffic/marine related deaths to occur over a long weekend so far this year. Six of those who died were involved in road collisions. One person died in an off road vehicle collision and another individual died in a boating incident.

Charges included speeding (4,341), impaired driving (182), distracted driving (43) and drivers (and passengers) who were not buckled up (369). The OPP also laid 131 charges against drivers who failed to comply with the province's move over law.

The OPP reminds the motoring public about the central role they play in reducing the number of lives lost on roads, waterways and trails by being safe, responsible drivers and passengers.

NEWS BRIEFS

Break and enter in New Hamburg

The Waterloo Regional Police Service are investigating after a break and enter in New Hamburg.

On August 9, an unknown woman suspect attended a business on Waterloo Street in Wilmot Township and stole merchandise.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 519-570-9777 or Crime Stoppers. To provide anonymous information, please call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit online at www.waterloocrimestoppers.com

One person charged after three motor vehicle collision in Perth East

A St. Jacobs resident has been charged after a three vehicle collision in Perth East.

On August 6, at about 3:56 p.m., the Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to the collision on Wellington Road 86 in Perth East Township.

Throughout the course of the investigation, it was deter-

mined that a vehicle was slowing down to make a turn, when another vehicle collided with the rear of the second vehicle, pushing it into the rear of a vehicle slowing down. No injuries were reported.

A 28-year-old from St. Jacobs has been charged with "careless driving." The accused was issued a provincial notice for the offence.

Anyone with information regarding this or any incident should contact Perth County OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Those who wish to remain anonymous can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or leave an anonymous online message at p3tips.com.

Stunt drivers charged over the long weekend

The Perth County OPP charged several drivers over the long weekend after they were found to be speeding more than 50 kilometre per hour (km/h) over the limit in Perth East Township.

On August 4, at about 7:24 p.m., police stopped a vehicle on Perth Line 55 in Perth East after it was found to be travelling 136 km/h in an 80 km/h limit zone. As a result, a 54-year-old from Otterville was charged with "drive motor vehicle - perform stunt - excessive speed."

That same day, at about 7:37 p.m., police stopped a ve-

hicle on Perth Line 44 in Perth East after it was found to be travelling 135 km/h in an 80 km/h limit zone. A 47-year-old Beaverton resident was charged with "drive motor vehicle - perform stunt - excessive speed."

In both incidents, a 30-day driving suspension and a 14-day vehicle impoundment was initiated as per statute. The accused drivers are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Stratford at a later date to answer to the charges.

Shakespeare resident charged with stunt driving

A 16-year-old Shakespeare resident was charged with stunt driving.

On August 11, at about 2:48 p.m., police stopped a vehicle on Perth Road 119 in Perth East Township, after it was found to be travelling more than 140 kilometres an hour (km/h) in an 80 km/h limit zone.

As a result, a 16-year-old Shakespeare resident was charged with "drive motor vehicle - perform stunt - excessive speed."

Police initiated a 30-day driving suspension and 14 day vehicle impoundment. The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Stratford on September 12 to answer to the charges.

COMMUNITY —

Nature's summer beauty on display at the Shakespeare Pond



By Gary West

There has never been an easier way to relax than to stand beside a lake while fishing and chatting, like this pair at the Shakespeare Pond on a sunny Saturday afternoon last week.

The pond is a beautiful natural area, operated under the umbrella of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

Members of the Optimist Club of Shakespeare help to manage the facility by collecting garbage, and supply a

portable washroom for use by visiting area nature enthusiasts over the summer.

The Optimist members worked to establish a walking path through the bush around the pond years ago, and continue to maintain that nature path throughout the year.

The area continues to be a beautiful part of North Easthope Township in Perth County, where many families have taken advantage of the beauty of the area, and taken family photos throughout the bush over the past number of years.

Young New Hamburg resident awarded a Dominos gift certificate



By Veronica Reiner

A young New Hamburg resident was awarded with a gift certificate for one three topping pizza at Dominos. Andrew Gale was given a gift certificate because he was holding the door at Dollarama for visitors on Wednesday, August 9.

"He does it because he just loves to help people out," said his mother, Felicia Gale. "I didn't get a name, but it was a mother

and daughter who gave Andrew the gift certificate.

He will always keep being such a polite and kind boy to everyone and always open doors for everyone!"

Felicia added that Andrew was excited to enjoy the three topping pizza for his fourth birthday, which is coming up this week on Friday, August 18.

Ag Society plans a return of the Soup Cookoff at Fall Fair

By Janet Heinbuch, Soup Committee

'Autumn Treasures' is the theme of the Tavistock Fair this year and thoughts of warm soup to ward off the Autumn chill come to mind. You can get some delicious warm soup at the Fair this year, as the

competition for 'People's Choice Award' returns after a three-year hiatus.

The 'Lovin Spoonfuls' event takes place on Saturday, September 9th, beginning at 11:00 a.m., in the Memorial Hall.

We are still looking for volunteer businesses, groups, families or individuals to make their favourite recipe of homemade soup and serve it to fair-goers, who purchase tickets for the samples. This is a fun fund raiser for the Fair. Each soup will

be enjoyed by all and a 'People's Choice Award' will be presented to the soup maker who gets the most favourite votes.

Call Julie at (519)590-1617 if you or your group are interested in participating.

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COMMUNITY —

OBITUARY

WITTER, Mark



It is with great sadness that we, the family, announce the sudden passing of Mark Harvard Witter, 59, of Stratford, on August 8, 2023.

He was born at Kitchener on January 10, 1964, a son of Deanna Lorraine (Shafer) Witter and the late Gary Andrew Witter.

Besides his mother, Deanna Witter, he is survived by his daughters, Chantelle Rocha (Joe) and Larissa Witter; his grandson, Austin Witter; his brothers, Mike Witter (Kathy), David Witter (Cathy) and many nieces and nephews.

Mark was a highly skilled technician, renowned for his ability to fix anything that came his way. He was always eager to share and guide his co-workers with his knowledge. Mark loved his dog, motorcycles and race cars.

A father, grandpa, son, brother, uncle and co-worker, he will be missed by all and forever in our hearts.

A private family service will be held in the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock Street North, Tavistock. Cremation will follow.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to The Heart and 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

IN MEMORIAM

Henderson



Henderson - Michael Anthony

Son of Diane Henderson and Tony Wilhelm. Born February 4th, 2000, and died August 16, 2018, in Fredericton New Brunswick as the result of a construction accident.

The light and love you brought for 18 years will shine forever.

Your light is still aglow.

The memories we shared will live on in our hearts,

Grief never ends, but changes, it is called love.

Michael, you are always with us.

Though tears still come, there's laughter and sunshine too,

Our lives are not the same, but our love has never changed.

Aunt Beat is now with you, taker her hand and show her all the beautiful gardens.

Today as everyday, we remember you.

Gramma Bessie and family

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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) What two chromosomes do males have that determine their sex?
- 2) Hera is the Greek goddess of what?
- 3) On what day did the United States drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan?
- 4) According to Billboard Year-End Hot 100, what was the #1 song of 1963?
- 5) What is the capital city of Chile?
- 6) A group of iguanas is known as what?
- 7) Who assassinated Abraham Lincoln?
- 8) What is the length of a day on the planet Mercury?
- 9) When was the first Barbie doll introduced?
- 10) What is the name of Super Mario's brother?

Answers found on page 22

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

August 17: Happy Birthday to Nash Zacher (11), Robby Gaudun-Jones (44) and Jeff Moosedog Gies (47)

August 18: Happy Birthday to Rick Van Griensven (18), Jayden Schumm (21), Kaleb Wagler (23), M.C. Lamond and Mary Ann Clemmer, and anniversary for Scott and Dawn Richmond (11th)

August 19: to Sam Baechler (16), Destiny Brenneman (20), Michael Himes (21), Drake Reibling (21), and Maribeth Youngblut.

August 20: Happy birthday to Karissa Wagler (21), and anniversary for Dayle and Dana Reibling (29th).

August 21: Happy Birthday to August Ehnes (10), Troy Wagler (14), Kaitlyn Satchell (23), and anniversaries for Jordan and Yana Trachsel (13th), and Ashley and Deidre Mosburger (13th).

August 22: Happy Birthday to Evan McIntosh (22), and anniversaries for Adam and Paige Dart (14th), and Fraser and Kelitta Martin (14th).

August 23: Happy Birthday to Sadie Schultz (3), Kaeden Wagler (16), Kendra Sommers (19), Sophie van den Borre (21), Cole Westenbrink (22), and Chantelle Sparling (24), and anniversaries for Chris Green and Chantal Mundell (9th), Jarris and Amanda Yantzi (9th), Dennis and Heather Peters (15th), Kevin and Sharon Kropf (15th), Dean and Pat Shantz, and Brian and Sue Matthies.

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

The Old Gazettes

By Jake 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 7-14, 2013 Edition (10 years ago)

Oxford County Public Health & Emergency Services has received laboratory confirmation of a case of measles, commonly known as red measles, in an unimmunized adult with recent travel from the Netherlands. This marks the first confirmed case of measles in Oxford County in more than a decade.

The Tavistock Athletics Midget Boys fastball team spent last week at the U18 Men's Fastpitch Championships in St. Leonard-d'Aston, Quebec and came home with fourth place.

Oxford County Library now offers a new online book service, "Freeding," that offers free eBook downloads to library patrons through the ocl.net website. Users are afforded ten freeing tokens each week, allowing them to check out three to ten books, free of charge, from their smartphone or e-reader.

The Novice North Oxford Crush fastball team placed second at the Provincial Grand Championship tournament the weekend of August 2-4, 2013 in Pickering, Ontario. The team has qualified for Eastern Canadians in Stellarton, Nova Scotia where they will represent Ontario. Go Crush Go!

August 6-13, 2003 Edition (20 years ago)

Two Stratford men have been charged as the result of an early morning police patrol last week in Tavistock that turned up items believed to be used in the production of methamphetamine. Further investigation produced containers of anhydrous ammonia, a number of cans of ether, liquid acid, other chemical agents, batteries and rubber gloves.

The items were believed to be of volatile nature, so the Hamilton-based HAZMAT environmental services team was called in along with the Tavistock Fire Department to neutralize the materials.

A collision at 11:15 am on Thursday resulted in \$25,000 in minor damages when two cars downtown Tavistock collided. Both parties received minor medical treatment and one was charged with failing to yield to traffic on a through highway.

On July 19, 2003, the Tavistock Intermediate Select Soccer team played at St. Columban in the Intermediate soccer tournament. After winning four straight games in the "A" division the team claimed the intermediate championship title. The team includes Craig Bechtel, Mark Bickle, Suzi Preikschas, Dylan Carter, Reis Bender, Karlee Roth, Jake Straus, Rob Lansink, Adam Kropf, Freddie Straus, Jordan Ruby, Simon Newcombe, Bethany Stewart, Jessica Bickle, Andrea Halliday, and Josh Cunningham.

August 10-17, 1983 Edition (40 years ago)

The Tavistock Junior Girls ball team finished off the season in fine form Monday night, defeating Folden's Corners by a score of 19 to 10 in Tavistock. The win gave them the Ontario Rural Softball championship title. Members of the team include Julie Facey, Tracey Binkle, Joan Morris, Lori Zehr, Peggy Schurink, Marlene Kaufman, Mary Reiger, Lisa Kalbfleisch, Dawn Campbell, Shelly Binkle, Michelle Lange, Maryanne Wettlaufer, Susan Wettlaufer, Denise Campbell, Linda Kalbfleisch, Donna Seyler and Carol Bender.

The Tavistock Men's Club and Board of Trade held their Annual Golf Tournament last Wednesday at the Tavistock Golf Course and concluded with a steak dinner and the handing out of prizes at the Board of Trade Building. Bob Routly received the Robert

Rudy Trophy for Low Gross of 69 and the senior golfer, Clayton Bender had a Low Gross of 73 and received the Tavistock Golf Course Trophy. Ellard Lange won the prize for the golfer closest to the pin.

A boar from Richard Stein, Thames Bend Farms, RR6, Woodstock received top honours this month among the August group of Yorkshire boars from across Ontario. With a station index of 153, this Yorkshire had an average backfat thickness of 10.6mm and an average daily gain of 0.92kg.

August 21-28, 1963 Edition (60 years ago)

Plans for the proposed new Arena for Tavistock have "bogged down" in recent weeks, owing to a wide variety of reasons. It had been hoped that preliminary work would have started by mid-August on the \$80,000 community project, but conflicting reasons have tended to stall plans.

The 100th anniversary of the erection of St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church will be observed Sunday, August 25, with high mass in the small church in South Easthope. Said to be the oldest church in Perth County, St. Anthony's was built in 1863, and since its restoration in 1939 has been opened once a year for a Sunday mass.

A majority of 1,200 Ontario teachers favour wiping out the grade levels in the first four years of school, the Ontario Teachers Federation annual meeting was told Friday at Toronto. The grading system and annual promotion should be replaced by smaller units or levels and more frequent promotions, the teachers suggested. Such a system would allow for the wide differences in learning speed of the children in Kindergarten and the first three grades. The majority are also in favour of introducing French conversion to students in Grade 4.

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COMMUNITY —

The Brocksden School museum celebrating 170 years with author Bonnie Sitter



The Brocksden museum board of directors are inviting all to come on September 17th, marking the 170th anniversary of the school. (Photo credit: Gary West)

By Gary West

Members of the Easthope Historical Group are planning a special event at the Brocksden School Museum on Sunday, September 17, celebrating the 170th anniversary of the school.

Local author, Bonnie Sitter, has agreed to come to speak about the Ontario Farmerettes, who were the subjects of her

latest book. The farmerettes are women who worked at home on the farm, while their men were at war.

This special event, organized by the museum's board, will run from 1:30 p.m. till 4 p.m., followed by refreshments and a short annual meeting.

All are welcome to attend this North Easthope event.

The Oxford County Cattlemen are back hosting their annual beef barbecue in Tavistock



The many volunteers from area organizations filling take-out boxes with homegrown beef, corn on the cob, salads and apple pie, for delivery to waiting vehicles.

By Gary West

It's been three years, but everyone in the Tavistock area will agree that it was well worth the wait.

Approximately 650 beef eaters lined up last week for the Oxford County Cattlemen's Association annual beef barbecue, served up in drive-by fashion at the Memorial Hall.

Members from the County Cattlemen's

Association, along with 25 Oxford County 4-H members and the Hebron Church women, were kept busy by a continuous lineup of vehicles encircling the hall.

John Kaufman, who has been barbecue chair since 1985, was glad to see a large number of dinner eaters come by to support the county organization of beef producers, who hope to be back again next August, and for many more years to come.

New Hamburg Firefighters Association to host barbecue

By Veronica Reiner

The New Hamburg Firefighters Association is holding a barbecue at 121 Huron Street at the fire hall on August 18.

The event was held last year, and they sold out of food twice. Hot dogs and sausages will be available this year, along with chips and pop.

"Come meet our firefighters and see all of the cool cars for Cruise Night," said Heather Wilson of the New Hamburg Firefighter Association.

Meats are from Cressman Meats, a butcher shop in New Hamburg, while everything else is from the local Sobeys. "We made sure we stayed local for everything

we're supplying as well," noted Heather.

About 50 per cent of the proceeds raised are going towards the Wilmot Family Resource Centre.

The New Hamburg Firefighters Association is made up of firefighters in New Hamburg, separate from the Township of Wilmot. "We have a separate

committee - we meet after hours. It's not on paid township hours. It's done on our own time," explained Heather.

"We also do lots of community events, like going to Fall Fair, going to schools, and barbecuing at Moparfest."

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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, taken by Marj Haid, depicts a sunset after a storm in July. "Mother nature never fails with surprises," said Marj. (Photo credit: Marj Haid)

Dog library in New Hamburg



A "dog library" was spotted on Hannah Street in New Hamburg. Visitors have the opportunity to take a stick/toy and leave a stick/toy. (Photo credit: Marta Doucet)

Gazette Puzzles

Drinks

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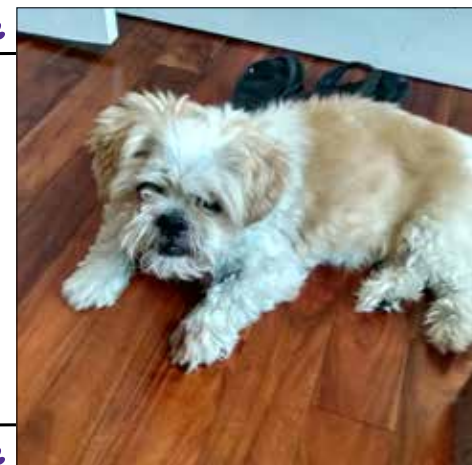
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SPORTS —

Wilmot Aces come up big at Canadian Junior Nationals



The full team - Mia, Emma Jane, Isabel, Robert, Luka and Silas.



Mia Tomic.

Six swimmers from the Wilmot Aquatic Aces traveled to Toronto to the Pan Am pool, where they spent six days competing. The 18 and under team finished in 39th place out of 157 clubs in attendance.

Overall, team of all ages finished 57th. The women finished 31st place overall.

Mia Tomic, 14 years competing in her second Nationals, came up big in the 100 bk and 200 bk. Winning silver medals in both

events in best times. She also finished 7th in the 50 bk and, 10th in the 200 IM, 19th in 200 fr. Mia's times in the 100 bk and 200 bk qualify for the Olympic Trials next May.

Isabel Willson, 13 years, competing in her first Nationals swam two best times in the 100 br finishing 10th and the 200 br finishing 11th. She was also 15th in the 50 br.

Robert Pop, 15 years, also competing in his first Nationals, swam the distance events

400 fr, 800 fr and 1500 fr. He had a best time by 3 sec in the 400 fr finishing 23rd, he also finished 17th in the 1500 fr and 25th in the 800 fr.

Luka Tomic, 18 years, swam to three new best times in his four races. He was 9th in the 50 fly and 18th in the 200 fr. The 50 fly time was an Olympic Trials qualifying time for next May. Luka is off to swim at Simon Fraser University next year.

Emma Jane Fowler will be attending McMaster in the fall and continuing her swimming. She had two best times in her three races and is getting very close to that Olympic Trials qualifying time.

Rounding out the team was Silas Campbell, who helped the 13-15 year old swimmers to a new club record and 13th place in the mixed 4*100 relay. Mia led off the relay bk followed by Isabel breaststroke, Silas fly and Robert Fr.

Wilmot Thunder rep tryout registration now open

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Wilmot Thunder rep tryout registration is now open for the 2024 season. Registration closes on August 30, with most tryouts starting early September.

There is a link available on the Wilmot Thunder website for registration that asks about the prospective players' name, birth year, preferred position, parents name, and more. The following divisions are available on the website:

U9 (2016/2015), U11 Minor (2014), U11 Major (2013), U13 Minor (2012), U13 Major (2011), U15 (2009/2010), U17 (2007/2008) and U20 (2006/2005/2004).

Tryout schedules and coach selections will be posted on

the website as they become available. Each team maxes out at 12 players (13 by special provision).

Players will be chosen based on parental/player commitment, player attitude, behaviour, playing ability and potential for improvement. Coaches will conduct various skill set drills for the players to perform in order to assess and evaluate the players, for example - base running, hitting, throwing, and catching.

There is a \$10 fee for tryouts that will be collected at the first tryout date. Additional questions can be directed to registrar@wilmotthunder.com.

The registration link is available at: www.wilmotthunder.com/form/5594.

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SPORTS —

Two Tavistock Athletics U17 ball players help to bring home silver medal

By Gary West

The Canadian Fastpitch championships were recently held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, and two local Tavistock Athletics U17 ball players, were invited to be part of the team that travelled to the East Coast.

Keaton Bartlett and Dylan West helped the P.D.P. Team, made up of players from Plattsville, Drumbo and Princeton, make it to the gold medal game with a record for the week of 8-0 and came up against the Tara Twins in the gold medal final.

The team battled hard but, in the end, had to settle for the silver medal.

The team coaches, who included

Howard Brown, Marc Demarest, and Matthew Isert Bender, said they were extremely proud of the way the local team played and the sportsmanship displayed throughout the week. There was stiff competition from other U17 players, who travelled from provinces across the country.

In order to compete in the final game of the championship tournament, P.D.P. defeated teams from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and the Wilmot Thunder team twice to get to the finals against Tara.

The Napanee Express ended up with the bronze medal.



Pictured are: Howie Brown, Carter Martin, Brett Vandendool, Brandon Johnson, Matt Van De Wynckel, Dylan West, Colton Henderson, Keaton Bartlett, Sean Demarest, Felix Isert-Bender, Jared Vosper, Conner Harper, Matthew Meyer, Trent Agnello, Marc Demarest, Matthew Isert-Bender.

Tavistock's U-13 Majors are Champions in 2023



Following their championship win in Tara on the weekend: standing left to right, Jordan Zehr, Cam Bartlett, Evan Nahrgang, Jackson MacMillan, Peyton Christie, Marshall McKay, Logan Nahrgang, Dylan McCann, Spencer Otto. Kneeling left to right, Augy Morschauer, Calvin Verkuyl. Laying is Jaxx Witzel. Absent was Mackiah Wagler. Coaches include Dave and Michelle Nahrgang, Corey McCann, Holly McKay, and Matt Thurlow.

By Gary West

The Tavistock U-13 Major Athletics won the OASA Provincial A Championship this past weekend in Tara.

After posting victories over Haldimand, Havelock, and the Wilmot Majors, they reached the finals only to meet up with a Wilmot Majors for the second time.

After falling behind 4-3, the boys rallied,

and came out with a 10-4 victory.

The majority of this year's team won the bronze medal at last year's provincials, and were a team on a mission this season, according to their coaches. They lost only two games and won the four tournaments they entered this year.

Congratulations have to go to the players and their coaches for a great season in 2023.

Tavistock's U-15 Athletics named champions on the weekend in New Dundee



The Champion U15 Tavistock Athletics. They include front, left to right, Carson Goodyear, Bailey Brenneman, Grayden McRoberts, Carson Gilmore, Gavin Jansen, Matthew McLeod. Back row, Mike Schmidt (coach), Aiden Schmidt, Jay Alexander, Jack Pletsch-Trachsel, Cohen Cox, Spencer Reis, Blake Zehr, Dawson Davidson, Jeff Jansen (head coach), Mike Gilmore (coach).

By Gary West

There was lots of excitement around fastball teams from Tavistock this year, as not only the U13 boys were named champions, but also the Tavistock U15 boys were also named champions over the weekend in New Dundee.

They went undefeated in the 2023 fastball regular season among the seven teams in their league.

Teams included Brussels, Fullarton, Seaforth, Sebringville, Wilmot 1 and Wilmot 2.

The year-end tournament saw the Tavistock Athletics team face Sebringville

first, where they came away with a 14-6 victory.

They faced Seaforth next, where the final score was 10-1. For the final game in the round robin, they went up against Brussels and were victorious with a 14-3 score.

The top two teams in the round robin ended up being Tavistock and Brussels, so they faced off again in the championship game. Tavistock came away with the championship with a 12-3 final score.

Jay Alexander and Jack Pletsch-Trachsel were both strong on the mound all year for the U15's.

SPORTS —

U11 Shakespeare Falcons take home silver medals to wrap up their season

By Gary West

Fastball teams in the area are wrapping up their seasons, and when medals are handed out, players are always appreciative.

The Shakespeare U11 Falcon's season got stronger as the summer progressed.

The team finished fourth in Perth Fastball league standings at the end of league play.

In the round-robin playoffs with the top four teams including Wilmot, Seaforth, Tavistock and Shakespeare,

the Falcons finished in third place after out scoring Seaforth.

They then played Tavistock's Athletics who were in second place and came out on top with a 10-3 win in that semifinal playoff game.

After a hard-fought final, Wilmot came out on top by a score of 16-4, to win gold while Shakespeare took home silver.

The coaches and players are already looking forward to next season in 2024!



The U11 Shakespeare Falcons silver medal winners following play on the weekend. Back row coaches, left to right, Dave Mabee, Matt Hodgson, Sheila Bell, Fred Follings. Players left to right, Keagan Hodgson, Bryce Sebben, Landon Wilhelm, Garrett Bell, Blake Clemmer, Max Mabee, Elliott Peters, Blaine Follings, Miller Follings, Josh Mosterd. In front is Blake Wilhelm. Absent is Isaac Martin.

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OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: Celebrating National Thrift Shop Day



By Mercedes Kay Gold

National Thrift Shop Day, celebrated on August 17, is all about supporting local thrift shops and raising awareness for the charitable organizations they assist. We are blessed to have MCC New Hamburg Thrift Center, a thriving non-profit thrift shop serving the community. All proceeds support Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), in providing local relief and globally. MCC is a registered charity helping in a wide variety of areas, from health and agriculture to job creation and peacekeeping.

In a world of recycle, renew and reuse, plus with rising costs across the board, thrifting has

quickly become a fun and money saving past-time. As a certified holistic nutritionist and certified personal trainer, you will find me thrifting every week in search of the latest and greatest. There is a huge array of items from clothes, holiday decorating favorites, collectibles, crafting items, and odd and sods for those with a love for kitsch. It doesn't matter what your profession, career, hobby, or well-kept collecting obsession may be, on any given day, you are guaranteed to be surprised by your one-of-a-kind find.

Yes, I am addicted to perusing the aisles! Why? Because, as a personal trainer, helping others get fit is my passion. Exercise is imperative to overall wellness. MCC New Hamburg Thrift Center regularly stocks a bounty of body-boosting essentials such as medicine and stability balls, ankle weights, dumbbells, and resistance bands. Thanks to community donations, this on-the-go trainer has a trunk of top-notch equipment. Staying active all year long without breaking the bank is a breeze. Golf clubs, tennis rackets, rollerblades, skis, skates, swim goggles, and even

scuba diving snorkels have been spotted by this sporty super sleuth. Before you visit a big box store, take a drive to 41 Heritage Drive in New Hamburg. Outfitting your own in-home gym after a thrifting trip is beyond cost-effective.

As a self-confessed gym rat, the fitness finds are fabulous, fueling sweat sessions in a slew of styles. Top brands, gently used and sometimes lady luck is on my side. The color of the week means tracking down matching tags for a whopping 80% off. Customer savings and helping support others is the name of the game.

As a certified holistic nutritionist, client menu planning is on my mind more often than not. With heaps of healthy meal-inspired cookbooks, diets based on the latest trends and mounds of mason jars ready to fill with homemade granola, gift giving is grandiose. Recipe testing is part and parcel as a published health expert. There are ginormous deals on gizmos and gadgets, plus piles of pans and pots are penny pinching perfection.



Meal prep is key for success. Tons of top-notch Tupperware and neat lunch bags are fabulous finds for busy bees. Consistency is key to maintaining health but mindful eating is a must. Say so long to take out containers and plastic cutlery. Cute cups, mugs with memes and elegant China dinnerware patterns to suit any décor are one way to make meal-time fancy and fashionable again without breaking the bank.

Happiness is a wealth of health. All hail kale! Keep an eye out for fresh produce. Last summer, my

salad staple was gorgeous green garden goodness harvested from nearby Morningside. From gardening supplies and perennial plants to Seeds of Gratitude and selling stupendous soup by the Raw Carrot, you can help change the world.

Whether you declutter and donate your pre-loved items, shop or volunteer time, your donation has a huge impact on lives and the environment, plus tons of second-hand treasures to take home.



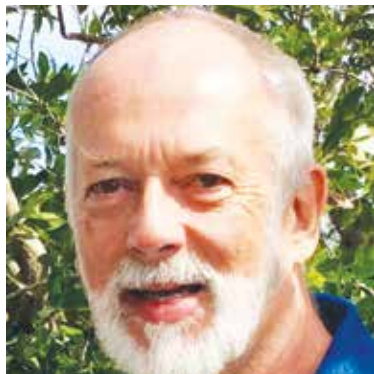
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Off the beachin' path



By Paul Knowles

When we Canadians think “Myrtle Beach”, odds are good we conjure up two images: the beach, and golf.

We’re not wrong. Myrtle Beach boasts almost 100 kilometers of beautiful beach on the Atlantic Ocean. And there are 90 or more golf courses in the area.

So, yes... sun, sand and fairways. But Myrtle Beach offers so much more, as we got a chance to discover during our stay in March.

For instance – there are two great state parks here. Myrtle Beach State Park does, in fact, include beautiful beachfront, but visitors can also enjoy nature trails and the unique Myrtle Beach pier. We found some ardent fisherfolk on the pier, catching puffers – otherwise known as “dinner.”

Further south is Huntington Beach State Park, where we – with some trepidation – signed on for a two-hour Naturalist’s Tour, by kayak. We got lucky – the park offers these tours every day, but only occasionally does a qualified naturalist from the Park accompany the group, supplying all the information you could ever want to know about the flo-

ra and fauna of the salt marshes. It was a terrific experience – one I would take ahead of lying on a beach, every time!

In truth, the very best “off the beachin’ path” experience in Myrtle Beach is Brookgreen Gardens, a spectacular sculpture garden that was instantly one of my favourite gardens, anywhere in the world. But I have already written a feature in this space about Brookgreen so... moving on.

Far less sophisticated than classical sculptures and botanical treasures, but still a ton of fun, is miniature golf, and Myrtle Beach is a haven for miniature golf. If you’re driving around the city, you simply can’t miss the lavishly – some might say, garishly – decorated mini-putt courses. They’re worth an entertaining hour of your time.

Myrtle Beach is home to two unique shopping/dining/entertainment districts – Barefoot Landing, and Broadway at the Beach.

The latter is rather cleverly branded as an “outdoor lifestyle hub”. The reference to “the Beach” in its name comes from “Myrtle Beach”, because this place is not on the waterfront – at least, not on the Atlantic. But there is a lagoon, and popular waterfront attractions ranging from Ripley’s Believe it or Not to a restaurant and concert venue called “The Hangout” are highlights among the 350 acres of shops, nightlife destinations and hotels – all described as “the most popular tourist destination in South Carolina.”

Although, to be candid, we preferred Barefoot Landing, with

shops, pubs and restaurants also surrounding waterways, accessed via a boardwalk. We enjoyed a typical but well-prepared roadhouse dinner at the Crooked Hammock Brewery, a craft brewery and pub that also offers outdoor dining with fire pits, hammocks (I would need a seminar on how to eat in a hammock), a kids’ playground and bocce ball courts.

There is far more to do in Myrtle Beach than you could ever take in, in a week or 10-day holiday – from the SkyWheel, a 61-meter high “observation wheel” which is newly renovated, to a variety of art galleries and museums. In fact, if you want to keep really connected to the art scene, you can access a free digital pass – the Visit Myrtle Beach Arts & Gallery Trail – which lists over 100 stops along the “Grand Strand”. That should satisfy anyone’s appetite for art.

Canadians who visit – or spend a few months – in Myrtle Beach should know about Myrtle Beach CAN-Am days, a week in mid-March when Canadians are treated to all sorts of special events and offers.

And as if all the attractions of Myrtle Beach are not enough to keep you busy and entertained, I have to suggest that you also make a side-trip to Murrells Inlet, billed as “The Seafood Capital of South Carolina.” This little community includes a waterfront boardwalk – called the Murrells Inlet Marshwalk – with a full menu of casual waterfront eateries along this wooden path. The names of these places alone will catch your eye – Drunken Jack’s, Wicked Tuna, Creek Ratz, Dead Dog Saloon, and Bubba’s Love



The challenging Grand Dunes Resort Course. (Photo by Paul Knowles)

Shak. Great names, great seafood, and – not entirely surprisingly – good beer menus, too.

Myrtle Beach proper also has some really fine places to eat – and that’s a topic for another, future, feature.

And to be fair, yes, we also enjoyed the top two things about Myrtle Beach – we did walk the beach, and yes, we did play golf, enjoying a round at the Grand Dunes Resort Course, a highly-rated course where the fairways were like carpets, the greens had all been redone recently, the bunkers were silky, the driving range was free to players – and my golf was as inconsistent as ever. It was a lovely day out, though – highly recommended.

As, in fact, is Myrtle Beach in general. One tip... a lot of our

Canadian friends have discovered Myrtle Beach, and are spending several months there, January through March. It can be chilly (sweater weather), but those are considered off-season in South Carolina, and the prices are amazing, compared to warmer destinations farther south in the US.

You won’t be swimming in the ocean – but you can do everything mentioned in this article. And, as they say, more.

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 boardwalk at Barefoot Landing.



Bubba's Love Shak in Murrells Inlet.

OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *It's well worth the trip to Jimmy's*



By Scott Dunstall

So here it is. I have a very good friend in Lou Divita. We only met in the last year and a half, but in many ways, we have become brothers from different mothers. He and his family are the people that I would go to first if I wanted to understand what the heart of this community is all about. Together, we have created two rapidly growing local Facebook pages. One is a photo sharing page called Show Us Your Wilmot, and the other is an events page called What's Up Wilmot. Combined followers are now over 3,000. That's why when he and his wife Janet, extended an

invitation to Lillianne and me to attend the ceremony and reception of his son Ben's wedding to Cassandra, Lou's daughter Mary is a songbird, and she and Janet sang a beautiful song together from the balcony that was one of the services highlights.

Beautiful story, Scott, but what has this got to do with style and fashion? Everything. Style for me has never been about a tone of self importance. It's always been about showing respect to oneself and the people and place around you. This wedding demanded something extra in a Flash (Outfit), and I knew just the man to see.

Jim Logan lives in the same community as I, and he is also the manager at the Stars Men's Shop in the Conestoga Mall. Before coming to Stars, he honed his pedigree by managing a Harry Rosen's store in Toronto for 20 years. Of course, I left my wedding Flash (outfit) to the last minute, which is something I tell my readers to avoid like the plague." Physician heal thyself" is the term that should be used

here. Anyhow, I called him up in a panic the week before and said, "Jimmy, when can I come to see you?"

Wait. Whoa. Hold the phones. Stop the presses. Hold on there Scotty Boy. Haven't you been telling us that you are some kinda style guru? Why do you have to go see "Jimmy"? Because I am not an expert in suits and mix and matches. I am just a regular guy that just kept chipping away, trying to good for less and doing it on my own... and because I hardly ever wear suits, I did not develop an expertise in acquiring them. Enter men's stores like Stars.

When I got there, Jimmy took over and started asking some relevant questions, I called them screening questions, and they were excellent. First, he asked, how often will you wear this? I said I will have very few opportunities to do so, but if I had something a little more suitable for a wider array of occasions outside of a wedding, I might wear it more.

So, he said to steer clear of the

suit and go with the sport jacket and slacks. It's a notch lower in formality, and you can add components to stretch the number of Flashes (outfits) you get out of it. We tried a few jackets, and he brought me a stunner by Calvin Klein that was a cross-weave pattern of various shades of black and burgundy, And I took it in a regular instead of a tall because I think the shorter jacket actually thins me out a bit. He next asked me what I usually take in the waist in a pair of jeans (Ahhh, nice try, you'd thought I would tell you!). I told him, and he came back with a gorgeous pair of a rich blue, also Calvin Klein, slacks that had tapered legs and the ankle. The jacket needed no alterations, and the pants just needed a hem. He added a stunner of a mauve shirt with a paisley tie, and the coup de gras was burgundy pair of Oxfords with Broguing made by Base of London. All through this, he was doing little things that I wasn't even noticing, like when I was trying on the slacks, he was outside changing the laces so they could be easily tied

up when I tried them on. When I was putting my street clothes back on, he disappeared into the back and came back out shortly afterwards with the shirt on a hanger — he just had it pressed. The pants would be ready in a few days, so when I was leaving the store, he said that he didn't want me making another trip to the store to pick up the pants and that we would hand deliver them to my house, which he did. This is service.

This is also fashion expertise that I have not mastered. But I needed it because I was going to a pretty special event in a week and a half, and I needed to show my friend how honoured I was to be there.

Why do I call him Jimmy? I figure if he lets his two-year-old grandson get away with calling him, I guess he would let me too.

"Style Is Just Fashion Filtered Through Your Personality"

Scott Dunstall is a local writer who has been on a stylistic journey for more than 10 years. His belief is that every guy has a style of their own.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - AUGUST 2023

August 17th	artisans and makers to showcase their products. Those interest can contact membercoordinator@nhbot.ca for more information.	liam Hastings Line in Crosshill at 6:45 p.m. Also streamed on the Township of Wellesley YouTube page.	Wilmot Council Meeting	Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Cost is \$14. Must register by noon on September 8 by calling 519-664-1900 or toll free: 1-855-664-1900.
Castle Kilbride Summer Concert Series	August 19th & August 20th	August 22nd	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.	September 17th
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 York Street Thought Process (Indie-Folk) will play.	Moparfest	Expressway Ford Cruise Night	August 28th	Brocksden School Museum Anniversary
August 18th	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 .	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).	Blood Drive	Members of the Easthope Historical Group are planning a special event at the Brocksden School Museum on Sunday, September 17th, celebrating the 170th anniversary of the school. It will run from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m., followed by refreshments and a short annual meeting.
Board of Trade Cruise Night	August 22nd	Lions Club charity barbecue, ice cream proceeds to Simple Dreams (children's charity).	Taking place at the Wellesley Community Centre at 1,000 Maple Leaf Street. Booking times are available from around 2:30 p.m. until about 8 p.m. at www.blood.ca .	
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,	Wellesley Council Meeting	August 28th	September 13th	
	Hybrid council meeting taking place at 4805 Wil-		CCC Lunch	
			Taking place at Wellesley Mennonite Church, 157 David Street, at 12 p.m.	

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- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) 1 X, 1Y | 5) Santiago |
| 2) Marriage and childbirth | 6) A mess |
| 3) August 6th, 1945 | 7) John Wilkes Booth |
| 4) Surfin' U.S.A by The Beach Boys | 8) 1,408 hours |
| | 9) March 9th, 1959 |
| | 10) Luigi |

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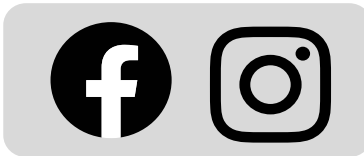
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