The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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SINCE 1895

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

Two locals named to the U18 national softball team



Cohen Christner (left) delivers a pitch from the mound while Justin Roth (right) is in his stance at second base.

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Fastballers from New Hamburg and Tavistock have earned spots on Team Canada as it competes at the 2023 WBSC Pan American Americas Championship from September 3 to 9 in Sincelejo, Colombia. Canada, ranked fourth in the world, will compete against top-ranked Argentina, and fifth-ranked United States, along with Venezuela, Peru, and the host team.

Pitcher Cohen Christner lives in New Hamburg and plays for the Wilmot Thunder, "It's always been a dream of mine, but never really thought it could happen when I was younger. I've always been positive and worked on the parts of my game I needed to work on, and I just love the game." Cohen, in part, credits his father as the driving force behind his interest in pitching. "I heard about him being a pitcher when he was younger and thought I'd try it out.'

Justin Roth is a second baseman for the Tavistock Athletics, among other teams, and said it was an incredible feeling getting the call. "This has been a process for the last two years. There has been talk about it, but I didn't know at all until last Sunday that I was named to the team. It was exciting, and I am honoured to be able to represent my country."

Roth is the seventh Tavistock player to represent Canada over the last eight Continued on page 19

Jutzi Water Technologies (D.H. **Jutzi Limited**) celebrates 70 years in business

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

What started out in a small garage on Hope Street East in Tavistock as a petroleum company seven decades ago has transformed into a water treatment company.

Now known as Jutzi Water Technologies, D.H. Jutzi was started by David Jutzi after making the jump from Perth to Oxford County. Tavistock resident Brian Jutzi is the company's principal and said it all started when his father married his mother. "David Jutzi (Brian's dad) married Frieda Gerber at Poole Mennonite Church in Milverton in 1953. His first order of business was quitting his job as the couple moved to Tavistock which in those times was a big move. He became an Imperial Oil distributor which was the start of the family business." He added the first employee hired three years later was Raymond Ruby who was able to make the 70th anniversary shindig in Stratford. Ruby is the father of Brian's brother and business partner David's wife. Karen, Also in attendance was recently retired Grant Kaufman who was an employee of the Jutzi's for 53 vears.

The business eventually outgrew the double-car garage in Tavistock and moved to Stratford and that is when Brian and his brothers David and Dean joined forces with their father in the 1980's. "I started off as a student after high school and that's when the opportunity to sell water treatment products became available, so I decided to give that a try for a year and I never left. His brother David worked on the petroleum side of the business and eventually took it over while the middle brother Dean started out with his

Continued on page 2



Member of Parliament Kitchener-Conestoga

519-578-3777

TimLouisMP.ca

@ TimLouisKitCon

Jutzi celebrates 70 years in business

own accounting business but ultimately became a part of the family business before retiring in 2017.

Part of the move into the water treatment business was a result of the energy crisis in the early 1980s when the Middle East stopped sending oil to the United States. "There were lineups at gas stations in the US daily at the same time Prime Minister (Pierre) Trudeau was trying to demolish Alberta's oil industry with the National Energy Program so the future of the petroleum industry looked pretty dim. We thought diversifying was a good idea and it was." To prove the point Brian said in 1982 there were eight petroleum distributors in Stratford and when the dust settled there were only two. "Being in the oil business had its challenges, and the water treatment side helped us get through," he

Eventually, the company decided to completely leave the petroleum sector thanks to business conditions that were unrealistic. "It was difficult because of the insurance costs and the liability exposure. We were too small to slide under the radar and not big enough to be profitable." The decision was made in 2017 to sell the petroleum side of the company to MacEwen Petroleum. "In 2017 we changed the name to Jutzi Water Technologies and

WATER TECHNOLOGIES

We would like to thank everyone

who joined us at

OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY



History was on display as Jutzi Water Technologies marked 70 years in business last Friday with an open house featuring food, music, a bouncy castle, memorabilia, and prizes.

the next year we decided to take the risk of building a new location (at 525 Wright Boulevard in Stratford) which has proved to be a good business decision," said Brian.

The water treatment company has clients across Southern Ontario, from Ottawa to Sudbury to Windsor, and offers a variety of services. "We have residential products, service the health care industry, as well as municipal water treatment." Through an employee acquisition, Brian was able to bring on a salesman with an extensive

knowledge of the microbrewery industry. 'We have expanded our business in that direction, and it is definitely a growth opportunity for us." During the 2008 financial crisis, the company focused mainly on the industrial sector but many of them closed their doors. "We changed our attention to healthcare, and we now have a substantial

number of customers in that sector." Jutzi Water Technologies also provides municipal water treatment products and offers a number of residential products including Kinetico water systems.

A good measurement of a company's growth is the increase in the number of employees. Brian explained "When we first moved into our new facility we had two drivers, now we have six. We have also hired more sales and service staff along with warehouse employees." Despite the growth, the business remains a family operation. Along with brother David is Brian's wife Cindy, nephew Jon in sales and service, and niece Laura performing inside sales. Jutzi has 32 employees, many from Tavistock and area.

Brian said there are several reasons why the current business is growing "We have dedicated employees, past and present, great long-term customers, committed suppliers, and competitors who require us to be solid at what we do. The industry as a whole is committed to professionalism and service for customers." He added that their service to customers and attention to detail is what has led to their success.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Consultation Centre #2

New well supply in Tavistock

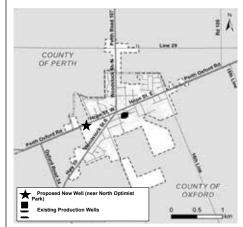
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study

Oxford County is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) study to explore potential opportunities for a new well supply to improve the security and supply of drinking water for the community.

What is the new well supply study?

Tavistock currently receives water from three wells located at the same site in central Tavistock. This study is exploring opportunities for an additional well location to serve community water needs. At the first Public Consultation Centre, a new well on Hope Street West near Optimist Park was identified as the preferred well site. Alternative design concepts have now been evaluated for components of the site.

The Class EA study is being planned in accordance with the planning and design process for Schedule C projects as outlined in the *Municipal Engineers Association Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Document* (2000, as amended 2007, 2011, 2015), which is an approved process under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*.



We want to hear from you

Consultation with stakeholders is a key component of the study process, and input will be sought throughout the study.

A second virtual Public Consultation Centre (PCC2) is being held to provide a project update and present the identification and evaluation of alternative design concepts for the preferred well site. The project team is seeking input on the evaluation and the preliminary preferred concept. Project team members will be available to address any questions.

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (online)

Please check the project website at www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/new-well-supply-tavistock for log-in details to join. Materials will be available on the project website following the meeting.

Comments on the new well supply study are welcome and should be submitted by Friday, October 6, 2023, by emailing the project contacts or at www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup. All comments received during the study are considered and documented in the Environmental Study Report.

To receive project updates, subscribe to the study mailing list through one of the contacts below.

Contacts

A.R. (Tony) Lotimer, M.Sc., P.Geo Project Manager Oxford County 1-800-755-0394 ext. 3087 | alotimer@rogers.com

David Kielstra, MA, EP, MCIP, RPP

Environmental Planner Stantec Consulting Ltd. 905-381-3247 | David.Kielstra@stantec.com

This notice issued August 30, 2023

oxfordcounty.ca





Interactive mural at the fair celebrates 175 years



Tavistock sign maker Eric Skinner initiated the idea of an interactive mural and is seen here putting the finishing touches on the "silent policeman" that once stood at the centre of the village. Eric used a 1923 postcard as his inspiration. (Contributed photo)

By Gary West

If area residents have always wondered where the idea of the five corners in the village of Tavistock came from, you can give credit to Captain Henry Eckstein. It's been 175 years since Captain Eckstein built his home and tavern on what is now the five corners of Tavistock.

The Tavistock and District Historical Society will be celebrating a special anniversary at this year's Tavistock Fall Fair from September 8 to 10. Without question, the highlight of the 54th display is an interactive mural of the famous five-corners from 1923. You may ask, what is an interactive mural? It is an artistic optical illusion. It looks three dimensional when viewed from a specific angle.

The Historical Society would like everyone

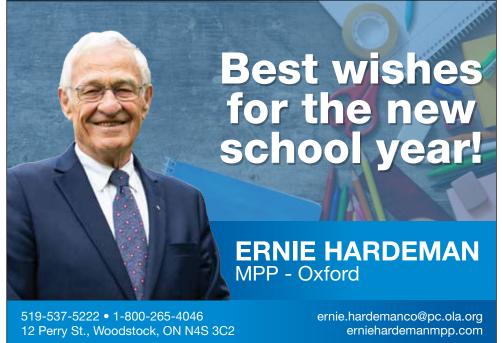
to take a selfie or have your picture taken from the designated vantage point, and you will actually be in the street scene, not just in front of it.

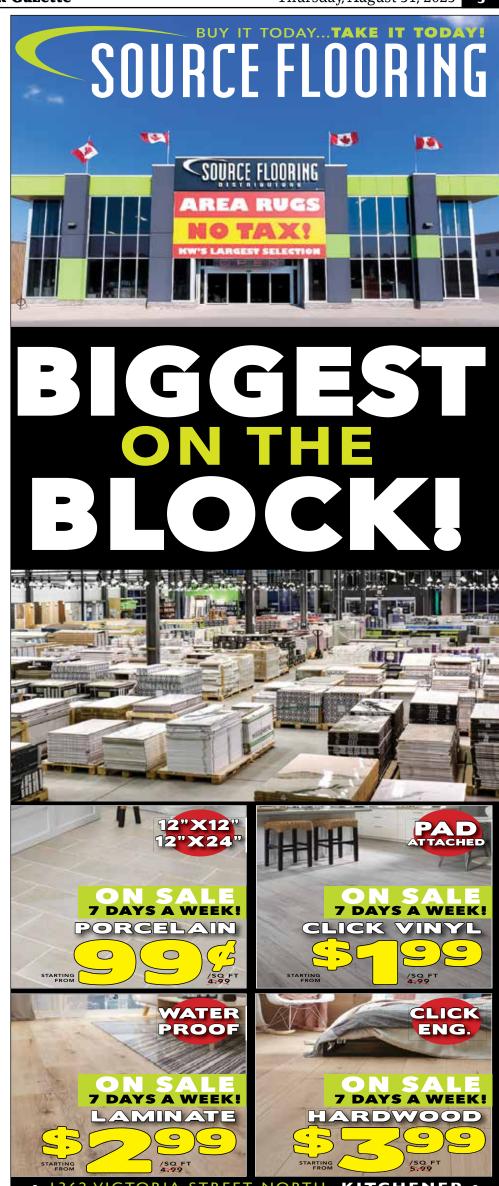
Members of the society would like area residents to dress up with some of the clothing available and really look the part.

There's more. A brand-new issue of the always popular newsletter "Yesterday," includes photos, memorabilia, contests, a jigsaw puzzle of old Tavistock scenes, Tavistock crossword and word search puzzles to take home, and the list goes on.

The good times continue after the fall fair is over. The Historical Society is introducing a new ongoing project, QR Quick Reminiscences, a new look in history walks.

See you at the fair!

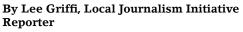




Tavistock mother and daughter start fresh cut flower business together



Malaya Aspden stands behind the flower cart located on Hope Street East ready for business.



Sunset Hill Flower Co. is now open for business in Tavistock. The new company is the brainchild of Tasha Aspden and her four-year-old daughter, Malaya.

Malaya's entrepreneurial spirit comes naturally as Tasha runs Stilettos and Sawdust in Stratford, a store carrying a wide variety of local and Canadian-made artisanal gifts and décor, while her husband is a self-employed contractor.

"We were talking about a possible

recession and what people might keep buying even if they don't need it, and things we buy that we don't need. We usually buy flowers once a week all summer from roadside stands or wherever. We thought maybe we could grow them ourselves and have extra to sell." She added the flower stand has been their dream since the winter when they started planting seeds in their basement.

Tasha said the name came from something the family likes to do together. "We are calling it Sunset Hill Flower Co. because we like to watch the sunsets above the hill



A look at the Aspden garden located in the backyard of their home in Tavistock.

our big garden is on." She said they planted about 30 species of flowers, and about 10 grew successfully. "We have learned a lot. We had to buy from sources meant for cut flowers instead of garden centres. It has also been a rainy year, so we drowned a lot." The stand kicked off last weekend and is located on Hope Street East near Holley Street and business has been good. "I was surprised, I had to drive back this weekend just to get extras for the weekend and people are asking where the flowers are." Bouquets range in price from \$7 to \$25, and people can pay cash on the honour system or by e-transfer. Hours are Thursday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Malaya said she is enjoying her new endeavour and is looking forward to expanding the business. " I am doing this because they are so beautiful, and we just like them. I like cutting them down, and I want to sell lemonade too!"

Tasha said her daughter will be getting a share of this year's profits, with the rest of the proceeds going towards next year's crop. Bouquets can also be picked up at Stilettos and Sawdust in Stratford.

POLICE REPORTS

Theft from vehicle in Perth East

A Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) investigation is underway after a theft from a work truck and personal vehicle on August 3.

At about 6:40 a.m., an officer investigated a theft from two motor vehicles at a Princess Street address.

It was determined that sometime overnight, unknown(s) attended the address, gained entry to both a work truck and a personal vehicle and removed about \$5,000 in tools.

The OPP wants to remind all community residents to lock their vehicle(s) and remove all valuables. If any community member sees suspicious activity, please call the police.

Anyone with information about this or other incidents is asked to call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or online at www. opp.ca/reporting.

Those who wish to remain anonymous can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or leave an anonymous online message at www.P3tips.com.

Charge laid in Perth East sexual assault investigation

The Perth County OPP laid a charge in relation to a sexual assault that occurred in Perth East Township.

On August 14, police began an investigation into allegations of a sexual assault. The investigation revealed that the victim was sexually assaulted. The victim sustained minor in-

As a result of the investigation, a 16-year-old Perth County resident was charged with "sexual assault on a person under 16 years of age."

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Stratford at a later date to answer to the charge. The identity of the accused is protected under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Victims of sexual assault/domestic violence are not alone.

If you, or someone you know, needs support, there are local resources available to help, including Victim Services Bruce Grey Perth at 1-866-376-9852.

Those in an immediate crisis should call 911.

Stunt driver charged in Perth East

A Kitchener driver was charged by the Perth County OPP after they were allegedly found speeding more than 50 kilometres an hour (km/h) over the limit in Perth East on Au-

At about 11:53 p.m., police stopped a vehicle on Line 34 in Perth East after it was found to be travelling more than 135 km/h in an 80 km/h limit zone.

As a result, a 22-year-old Kitchener 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 26 to answer to the charge.

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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Business Profile: Chok



Stephen Beaumont runs Chok. Fine Chocolates in Shakespeare.

By Mercedes Kay Gold

As a certified holistic nutritionist, I advocate eating clean and green to support overall health. The power of plants is astounding, and the body-boosting cacao tree is no exception. The history of chocolate began in Mesoamerica, and since its arrival to the ruling classes in Europe in the sixteenth century, its popularity grew. Chocolate is a worldwide obsession. The annual global chocolate consumption in 2022 was approximately 7.5 million tons.

Chocolate is happiness. For many, a piece of chocolate is a guilt-free indulgence, invoking immediate pleasure. Cocoa, the primary ingredient in chocolate, triggers the brain to release endorphins or the "feel good hormones" plus the peaceful provoking chemicals serotonin, dopamine and oxytocin. Yes, the rumours are true. Chocolate has health benefits, but dark chocolate ranks supreme in overall flavonoids, minerals, vitamins, and antioxidants.

Life is a series of moments, from weddings to baby showers to birthdays and

traditional holidays. Showing gratitude, celebrating small wins and big accomplishments is best said with melt in your mouth CHOCOLATE! Fall in love with Chok, Fine Chocolates, a local hand-crafted artisan chocolate company based in Shakespeare, Ontario.

Stephen Beaumont fell in love with chocolate at an early age, and after decades of managing hotels and resorts around the world, Stephen began training in 2020 with Master Chocolatier, Luis Amado. Even busy teaching a wide variety of classes related to the field of hospitality at Conestoga College, he still found time to fuel his flair for the creative through his love for chocolate. After certifying an in-home kitchen, Chok was a regular on the 'pop up' market circuit. Stephen fell in love with the sweet science behind the art. Creating his line of beautiful Chok bonbons always starts with the finest Felchlin Swiss Noble Chocolate Couverture in white, dark or milk with all natural fillings. The other key aspect relates to controlling the culinary environment, as



this is paramount to successful bonbons. Precision achieves perfection. "There's no shortcut to achieving the snap and shine on edible art," Stephen points out.

In early 2023, the ideal flagship store space was secured, and in April 2023, Chok. officially opened its doors. They offer eighteen beautiful bonbons with palate-pleasing profiles and six unique eye-catching bars. My timing was impeccable. Just last month, due to increasing plant-based popularity and dairy intolerants, I was able to sample his one-of-a-kind delectable vegan mini piece of art. With six flawless flavours, choosing just one was next to impossible, but dreamy decadence and the medicinal benefits in the Sea buckthorn ganache was enticing to this nutritionist. Two of the many exquisite 100% hand-crafted chocolates have a touch of local country charm thanks to fresh blueberries from TNT Berries and the artisan wild flower honey by Daisy Bee Naturals.

Shopping at Chok. is a thrill for the senses. Chok. offers an array of perfectly packaged bonbons and full-sized bars. Choose

between a scrumptious sea salted caramel sauce and a plant-based hazelnut spread. There's even a hand-crafted Chokuterie board by Bob Hutson for displaying eye-catching party chocolate treats.

With over 100 different molds, Chok. Fine Chocolates can say so much without a single word, text, email or card! For the "DIY" chocolate obsessed, Chok. holds monthly workshops to create your own edible art, and sends you home with twelve signature chocolates of the day. The next class takes place in September at the flagship

With the upcoming arrival of Autumn and heaps of happy holidays ahead, Chok Fine Chocolates is in full prep mode. Stephen will feature fun and fabulous molds, fantastic flavors and debuting chocolates infused with exotic organic masala tea by Blink Tea.

I am sweet on Chok.!

Chok. Fine Chocolates is located at 2236 Line 34 in Shakespeare, Ontario. For daily chocolate love follow @chokfinechocolates

Letter to the Editor:

Mayor Salonen's story resonates... her own Council isn't listening

Dear Editor,

Mayor Salonen's recent media blitz highlighting the lack of housing affordability in Wilmot resonated with me both as a father and someone who was once a young professional. It's unfortunate her own council isn't listening.

Councillors Sidhu, Wilkinson, and Dunstall appeared negative towards a recent Baden subdivision application. Sidhu questioned the work of an expert, suggesting he knew better when it came to his own neighbourhood. Wilkinson criticized the density, including the amount of multi-dwelling types, especially townhomes (arguably "more affordable") in his backyard. He questioned the planning rationale, suggesting single-family homes on separated lots were more appropriate. Councillor Dunstall asked if the amount of "higher density" dwellings (townhomes) was a "done deal," contradicting the vision of the Township's Mayor and Planner for addressing the "missing middle" in Wilmot. Mayor Salonen also called for greater Federal government involvement in affordable housing. While justified, Ms. Salonen also fell short, as she appeared to sidestep her previous employer's (Ford Government) Greenbelt development scandal, while failing to acknowledge her own council's contradiction to her messaging

Where Salonen and Council have lost me is what I believe to be their lack of understanding that the issue of housing has accountability across all levels of government. Finger-pointing in one direction, while providing status-quo urban sprawl thinking at Council, is a continuation of falling into line with yesterday's policies, and today's outcomes.

Rory Farnan,

Mannheim

Dear Editor,

The recent auditor general's report shows that a few

prominent developers are benefitting from the province's Greenbelt decisions, not the many who are desperate to find affordable housing.

While Premier Ford claims that no one had preferential treatment, the majority of us, including the auditor general, don't believe that. Despite acknowledging that the process of selecting Greenbelt lands for development was flawed, Ford plans to go ahead with allowing houses to be built on some of the best farmland in the province and on natural areas that are vital for our quality of life.

The result will be unaffordable houses that are car dependent and compromised food security. A recent poll commissioned by the Alliance for a Liveable Ontario found that over 80% of Ontarians support housing solutions in the cities, not the Greenbelt. When will this government start making decisions that truly address the housing crisis?

Dorothy Wilson,

New Hamburg

Local, regional representatives attend AMO conference

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Local representatives, as well as regional representatives, participated in the 2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference in London, Ontario from August 20 to August 23.

The conference provides the chance to raise local issues with provincial ministers, share best practices with municipalities across Ontario and learn from experts on municipal issues.

Attendees included Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen, along with Councillors Steven Martin. Stewart Cressman. Lillianne Dunstall, Harvir Sidhu, Chief Administrative Officer Sharon Chambers, Regional Chair Karen Redman, along with other regional councillors.

At this year's conference, Wilmot partnered with other local townships to advocate for improvements to policies that affect rural communities: specifically, support for more timely rehabilitation of depleted aggregate sites, and the ability for rural communities to use Automated Speed Enforcement on their roads to help address unsafe speeding challenges.

Mayor Salonen and Wilmot representatives met with several ministers to discuss local interests including the Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources & Forestry and The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister



Attendees pictured include Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry Honourable Graydon Smith, North Dumfries Mayor Sue Foxton, Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen, Woolwich Mayor Sandy Shantz, with Councillor Steven Martin and Councillor Stewart Cressman.

of Transportation.

"The annual AMO Conference is a unique opportunity to meet face to face with provincial leaders to advocate for funding, services and policy that will benefit Wilmot township," explained Mayor

'Together with our local neighbours, we held productive meetings with the two ministers, and we are looking forward to continuing our work to find solutions to recover needed agricultural land sooner

and improve road safety in Wilmot."

Representatives from Wilmot also attended sessions on housing, healthcare, Indigenous issues, waste management and climate change. They also attended the Ministers' Forum, Women's Leadership Forum and toured the East Lions Community Centre.

The conversations with regional representatives involved the following priorities:

Two-way, all-day GO train service and expanded GO bus service across the region;

The King Victoria Transit Hub to connect LRT, GRT, GO and VIA rail, pedestrians and cyclists;

The Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. a roadmap for strategies, resources and timelines to end chronic homelessness;

Alternate destination clinics and further support for those experiencing mental health and addiction challenges;

Tools to help local businesses compete globally, including talent attraction, retention and reskilling:

Addressing community safety and wellbeing, including intimate partner violence

Investments and workforce needs for local child care, mental health and housing providers:

Strategies to tackle paramedic offload delays at local emergency departments; and

The proposed new community hospital and future of health care.

"We engaged in critical conversations for our municipality, community partners and the 650,000 residents we serve," said Regional Chair Karen Redman. "We are known provincially as a trusted partner and look forward to continued dialogue with the Ontario Government on creating a world-class community where everyone



Wilmot Township awards guide rail program contract to Royal Fence Limited for \$469,507

By Veronica Reiner

The Township of Wilmot awarded an annual guide rail program to Royal Fence Limited of Dorchester for \$469,507 plus harmonized sales tax (HST).

The decision was made during a hybrid meeting on Monday, August 28.

There is a list of prioritized bridge and culvert structures developed based on road volumes, speeds, roadside environments and available budget. Works to be completed under this contract include a structure at Lisbon Road, a structure at Wilby Road, a structure at Concession Road, and a Bender Road Structure.

These works were identified under a 2021 & 2022 Ontario Structure Inventory Inspections (OSIM), with the installations necessary to ensure bridge and traffic operations safety.

Construction is expected to be completed between August and October, subject to the contractor's schedule. "Any planned roadway closures to facilitate the work will be kept to a minimum and will be communicated to public and service

partners prior to closure," wrote Director of Infrastructure Services Jeff Molenhuis in his report.

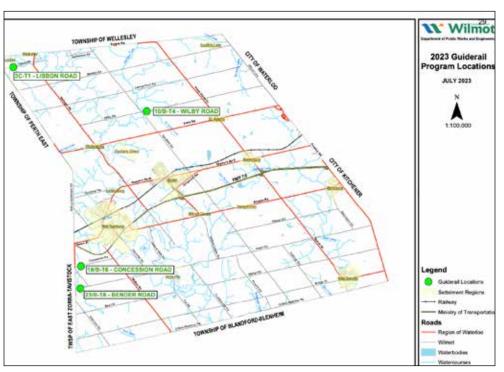
On July 13, the tender document was made available through the township's e-bidding website. There were a total of two bids received at the time of closing on

In addition to the Royal Fence Limited bid, there was one other bid from Peninsula Construction Inc. from Fonthill for

"The low bidder has provided the appropriate bid bond documentation," said Molenhuis, "References have been verified and appear to be satisfactory."

Hand delivered notices for the guiderail installations were forwarded to residents living adjacent to bridge structures and structural culverts, where new guiderail installations were proposed.

The project will be funded through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, planned for in the 2023 capital budget. The project has remained on budget.



Project locations for the guiderail installations.

Wilmot Township awards municipal drain construction project for \$54,936

By Veronica Reiner

Wilmot Township awarded a municipal drain construction project to JC Millwrights Inc. of Listowel for \$54,936.73 plus harmonized sales tax (HST).

The decision was awarded during a hybrid council meeting on Monday, August 28.

The project, called the Delton Reibling Municipal Drain, includes enhancing the drainage infrastructure through multiple tasks. These include encompassing a thorough 93-metre ditch bottom cleanout, installing two new access crossings (600 mm and 1200mm in diameter) and laying 350 metres of 450 mm diameter concrete tile

The current open ditch will be backfilled using provided fill material and two concrete catch basins (900 x 1200 mm and 600 x 600 mm) will be established. This will significantly improve the drainage network's capacity and overall resilience.

Work is expected to be completed in early fall this year. Councillor Stewart Cressman asked more about the contractor completing the works. "I think there was some question about that this is a new company that we haven't done business with before." said Cressman.

"And there's a letter of recommendation

that is accompanying it that indicates that other municipalities have been pleased with the work that has been conducted by

Infrastructure Services Director Jeff Molenhuis confirmed that this was the case. We saw the tender close, and were doing the same sort of review process with the contractor that was the low bid," he said. "And yes you're correct the letter does speak to that - that it is a contractor that has completed work in other municipalities and has a good review."

Other townships that have worked with JC Millwrights include North Perth and Perth

There were a total of 10 plan takers, and five bids received at the time of closing on August 9.

In addition to the JC Millwrights bid, there was another bid from A.G. Hayter Contracting Inc. of Grand Bend for \$70,435; Robinson Farm Drainage of Alisa Craig for \$75.650: Van Bree Drainage and Bulldozing Ltd. of Warwick for \$84,837,40; and Navacon Construction Inc. of Brandt for \$238,112.

Funding sources are coming from an OMAFRA ADIP grant, Wilmot township owners, township of Wilmot roads, and allowances provided to owners.

Community Breakfast Workshop Better Understanding Mental Health Issues For Children and Young Adults and their Impact on Families

Hosted by The East Zorra Mennonite Church, Health Ministry Team In Partnership with Interfaith Counselling Centre (ICC) New Hamburg, ON

> Saturday Morning, September 16, 2023 In Quehl's Banquet Hall

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast Presentation 9:00 a.m.

Community Agency Displays and Networking available following presentation (Event will finish by 11:00 a.m.)

Guest Speaker: Cathi Watson RSW, MDiv

Counsellor with ICC

Come join us for breakfast and learn more about the mental health challenges facing children and young adults and what supports are available in our community.

Cathi Watson, a therapeutic counsellor at Interfaith Counselling Centre, will provide information and facilitate conversation about signs and symptoms of some mental health issues which affect children, adolescents, and young adults; who can diagnose these illnesses; and where to go for help. Additionally, we will talk about the impact of mental health illness on parents. siblings, and the extended family and the importance of families



To Register for this Free Event please call or Email Heidi Wagler, **Faith Community Nurse at** 519-274-4822 or heidi@ezmennonite.ca

If you would like to donate towards this worthy cause to jointly help cover expenses and in support of T.A.P (Tavistock Assistance Program) you can E- transfer treasurer@ezmennonite.ca, Cash or Cheque accepted made payable to East Zorra

Mennonite Church (Subject: Community Breakfast Workshop)

New Hamburg's Expressway Ford celebrates 40 years as a family business



Last week at Expressway's cruise night is Dwight Brenneman, one of three brothers, involved in the Ford dealership, started by their father and mother, Ray and Nelda Brenneman. (Photo credit: Gary West)

By Gary West

Cruise nights at Expressway Ford in New Hamburg have been an evening that area Ford enthusiasts look forward to every year near the end of August. This year, the local dealership celebrated their 16th annual cruise night.

Last week was no exception on a beautiful summer evening, as hundreds of local Ford car enthusiasts and onlookers spent the evening visiting and admiring vintage cars and trucks from the past.

We were able to chat with members of the Brenneman family, who 40 years ago, established Expressway Ford Motors Ltd. as a family-owned business.

Owner Ray Brenneman's dream began as

a child playing with toy cars. Today, the reality is a business that employs approximately 49 full-time and part-time staff at two locations in both New Hamburg and Stratford.

His career began in 1954 with a position as an apprentice mechanic in Baden at Becktold Motors. By 1962, he was a shop foreman at Kaye Ford, and in 1966, he left to become the service manager at New Hamburg's Morrison Motors, where he remained, until the company closed its operation in 1980.

Two years later, in 1982, Ray and his wife Nelda, opened their first business, a repair shop with a one car showroom and a fourbay garage.

By 1983, they were awarded the



Ray Brenneman, standing beside his pride and joy, a 1931 Ford Model "A" Deluxe Roadster, with his Texaco paraphernalia in the background. (Photo credit: Sharon Leis)

Ford-Lincoln-Mercury franchise in New Hamburg. The next seven years saw growth and success, and by 1990, the family was relocating to the site where Expressway Ford is presently located, next to Highway 7&8.

Brenneman and his family, who now include sons Douglas, Dwight and Michael, all say they continue to stand by Expressway's model to "service customers the way they want to be served." That is the reason that repeat and referral business compromises 70 per cent of the companies' present business.

The dealership has strong family connections, with New Hamburg being the homeland of Ray's father and grandfather.

In February 2001, Expressway opened its

second location in Stratford.

The business has received 14 distinguished achievement awards for dealer commitment and customer service in less than two decades.

2001, Expressway received the President's Award, Fords' most prestigious honour for its dealers. This adds to 5 previous Ford "Chairman's Awards," given for outstanding customer satisfaction and dealer quality.

All in all, the Brenneman family business known as Expressway Ford, from its humble beginnings, is one that has made the New Hamburg and Wilmot Township area proud, as it is among the most "honest and successful" companies in every sense of





Council approves cost for seven new Christmas light fixtures in Wellesley

In addition to organizing the Apple Butter and Cheese (ABC) Festival, the ABC committee does other work year-round to make Wellesley a better place to live.

At a hybrid meeting on August 22, two representatives, including Treasurer Theresa Bisch and Franklin approached council members and requested that they support a motion to sponsor seven new Christmas lights for a cost not to exceed \$11,000. Council agreed.

Further, council agreed to support the motion from the ABC Festival Committee to donate \$500 towards the fireworks at the Wellesley Fall Fair.

"These lights are getting very old and tired looking and most were purchased many years ago," explained Theresa, adding that Franklin and George Poole were investing the cost to get them replaced.

"The cost to replace all 26 lights would be approximately \$40,000. So it was suggested that we start by replacing some of the oldest lights this year instead of all of them at once.

The lights are hung around the village around Remembrance Day and returned to storage in the second week of January. They are currently stored in the basement of the Wellesley library.

The new fixtures will be five foot snowflakes. "We chose these because they were a bit smaller in size than the other light fixtures that we currently have," explained



Theresa Bisch and Chris Franklin approach Wellesley council members during a meeting

Franklin. "We're able to move them around into places where the bigger fixtures are at risk of being damaged by trucks."

Franklin explained that there was a band of "Christmas elves" in Wellesley, community volunteers including George Poole, the electrical expert, Daniel Bisch, the cube van transportation expert, Donald Erb, the lift operator expert, Brian Sauder, the fixture hanging expert, as well as other

"Much work goes into decorating the streets of Wellesley - coordinating times and dates with the volunteers and equipment, the night before we hang the fixtures, we go into the basement of the library, and check each bulb on each fixture to make

sure they are lighting properly," explained

"On Saturday morning, we carry all the lights up those old basement stairs of the library to the waiting cube van. We will spend about two hours driving through town, hanging the fixtures and then returning them to the basement about the second week of January."

He added that they have been hung on the hydro poles in Wellesley for many years. In the past, members of the Wellesley and District Board of Trade hung the lights, took them down, and placed them back into storage in the old fire hall on Maple Leaf Street.

Most of the volunteers today who help out

were members of the Wellesley and District Board of Trade, and continue to take care of the lights on behalf of the community after the organization ceased operating in 2017.

In 2014, the Welleslev and District Board of Trade approached the ABC Festival for funding to replace 26 new Christmas pole light fixtures - the old fixtures were donated to a service club in Hawkesville.

"With the 26 light fixtures, we continue to use seven of the old fixtures that were still in decent shape in order to spread the light further around town," said Franklin.

"You might notice that at the ends of Oueens Bush Road and the end of Nafziger. we have fewer to no light fixtures. It is our hope over time to add to our complement and have Queens Bush complete end to end and complete the bottom Nafziger."

The quote that the ABC Festival received for the seven fixtures, including delivery and harmonized sales tax, is \$9,984. The organization asked for the amount of \$11,000 in case there is additional electrical work that may come up.

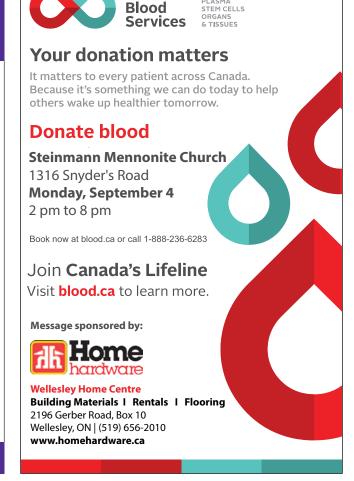
"Our committee enjoys the task of hanging the lights - it brings a spirit to the community seeing them lit up at night," said Franklin. "They complement the Christmas Tyme in Wellesley and Christmas parade.

"Based on the comments we receive from community members on the street while we're hanging the lights, we know they appreciate our efforts at decorating Wellesley at Christmastime."

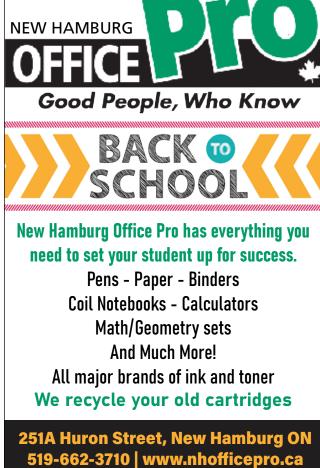
The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) Who is the founder of the World **Economic Forum?**
- 2) In what year did the United States invade Iraq?
- 3) How many eyes do monarch butterflies have?
- 4) Where did surfing originate from?
- 5) Who is the current Prime Minister of Australia?
- 6) What is the national flower of Ukraine?
- 7) Who created the equal ("=") sign?
- 8) What country was Christopher Columbus born in?
- 9) How many notes are there on a standard grand piano?
- 10) Which professional golfer has won the most majors?

Answers found on page 22



Canadian



We Walked the Walker Woods Trail



By Louis Silcox

Let's Tree Wilmot conducted its first Walk in Wilmot's Woods in Walker's Woods, just south of New Hamburg. A few mosquitoes came out for our evening trek. It was a warm and quiet time to stroll along the 1.2 kilometre trail. The construction of boardwalks over wet areas is almost complete and adds to the ease of walking here. The woods abound with a variety of trees, flowers and fungus. Once a maple sugar bush, the trail also passes Scots pine, ironwood,

black cherry, birch and many other trees. At this time of the year, goldenrod and wild aster were blooming and the touchme-nots were about done. If you counted the varieties of fungus on your fingers, you'd need more than one hand

In spring, the ponds will be busy with spring peepers. These small frogs (about 3 cm long) emerge from pond muck where they've overwintered. In the evening the males sing to attract mates. Once eggs are laid in the pond, these wee beasties move



into the trees for the summer. Later in spring trilliums will carpet the forest floor, along with dogtooth violets (also known as trout lilies). The point is, these woods change through the year, so visit often.

Stay on the path, take only photographs.

The next Walk in Wilmot's Woods will be September 9 at Schmidt Woods (at the Recreation Centre. Registration is limited. Sign up through Eventbrite.

Community events:

Explore Schmidt Woods: Saturday, September 9th 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.: Schmidt Woods is changing. An alien creature (Emerald Ash Borer) has been brought to Canada and over several years has been killing off our ash trees. How many? Our walk, with Louis Silcox, along the trail at the Wilmot Rec Center will give you an idea.Learn about the unique features of this forest. Go to EventBrite to register.

Cutting Edge Cowgirls coming to a fall fair near you

By Gary West

There is a new horse and rider drill team from our area, called the Cutting Edge Cowgirls, which is a horse back drill team based out of Mitchell, Ontario.

Even though their base is Mitchell, many of the girls are from Perth and Huron and surrounding county's including the towns of Tavistock, Shakespeare, St. Marys, Kirkton and Mitchell to name only a few.

The Cowgirls were co-founded and co-captained by Natalie Dietz who now lives in Tavistock, and her friend Jack-Lynn O'Rourke. They both rode on a drill team based out of Chatham, Ontario. Since it was a long way away for some of the horseback riders hauling a horse, they decided that Mitchell would be more central to set up their practicing team, after O'Rourke moved to Moncton.

The Mitchell Horse Club sand riding ring has worked out beautifully, in practicing for the drill team of horses and riders.

Following a good response after looking for riders in the Mitchell area, Dietz said they "hosted an initial meeting to meet the potential girls on the team and had a great group of ladies turn up with their welltrained mounts, and started practicing some of their intricate manoeuvres."



The Cutting Edge Cowgirls performing at a recent rodeo. (Photos contributed)

The new drill group began practicing together in the outdoor ring, to maneuver in and out of each other for the first few weeks of intense practice.

Natalie Dietz said they "were so lucky with the group of ladies they have, and all worked hard and showed up weekly to get themselves into performance mode in

arenas, not even three months after their

This year, they have been following the Rawhide Rodeo to some of the rodeos to perform, and are grateful to the association for taking a chance on the Cowgirls new drill team, as well as also having performances, set up for a handful of local fall

Fall fair goers can see this exciting Cowgirl Team this year performing at Wellesley, Mitchell, Fergus and possibly Stratford fall fairs next month.

For those who don't know drill team riding, it can be described as a musical performance, full of daring, synchronized, horseback maneuvers, where horse and rider work as one, in concert with other horseback riders (much like the RCMP musical ride, only western style).

The team presently consists of a group of 12 riders, between the ages of 18 and 50 with their horses ranging in age from three to 20 years of age. For more info and inquiries, contact cuttingedgecowgirls@gmail.com. Social media sites can be found on Instagram and Facebook at **Cutting Edge Cowgirls.**

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES IN The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette CALL SHARON LEIS AT 519-580-5418 OR EMAIL ADS@WILMOTPOST.CA | THEWTGAZETTE@GMAIL.COM

Ontario Provincial Police briefs

OPP looking to solve memorial mystery in Perth East

The Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are looking to speak with the person responsible for setting up a recent memorial on a property at Mennonite Corner in Perth East.

Just before 4 p.m. on August 24 officers from the Perth County OPP were dispatched to a residence in the area of Perth information from the homeowner that a memorial was found on their property consisting of a wooden cross and several small children's items

"At this time there is no evidence to support anything criminal," explained OPP Constable Kimberly Lyon. "We are hoping to find the person responsible in order to return the items. It's not visible from the road and it's on private property and may no longer be there."

Anyone with information about this or any incident is asked to call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or online at www.opp. ca/reporting. Those who wish to remain anonymous can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or leave an anonymous online message at www.P3tips.com.

Head-on collision sends two to hospital

Police are also investigating a crash on Line 34. Just before 8:30 p.m. on Sunday evening police, Perth County Emergency Medical Services, and Perth East Fire

Department responded to a crash on Line 34 in the Township of Perth East.

One driver was transported to hospital with life-threatening injuries while a passenger suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Police, with the assistance of the West Region Traffic Incident Management and Enforcement team, are continuing to investigate the collision. Line 34 was closed between Road 108 and Road 109 for several hours.

Tavistock Agricultural Society Baby Show Returns

After a three year hiatus - The Baby Show Committee of The Tavistock Ag. Society is pleased to announce that The Baby Show - Is Back.

The 2023 event will be the 40th Anniversary of the Baby Show and will be held in The Tavistock Memorial Hall at 1 p.m. on Sunday September 10.

Babies born after March 10, 2022 are eligible to enter. Please pre-register by calling Elaine Weicker at 519-655-1114 or Gloria Wettlaufer at 519-655-2478. All entries

will receive a gift bag.

So come and enjoy the afternoon at The 171st Tavistock Fall Fair - see you there!



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OBITUARY

WETTLAUFER, Doug



Douglas Clarence "Doug" Wettlaufer, 83, of Tavistock passed away peacefully, with family by his side, at his residence on Sunday, August 20, 2023.

Born on a dining room table on the 10th concession of East Zorra-Tavistock, on October 1, 1939, Doug grew up on the 16th concession and purchased

the family farm where he spent 60 years as a dairy and edible bean farmer. After retiring from farming he spent the last decade of his professional life with South Easthope Insurance, serving as President for a year. Known as "Kassel" to his friends, he was a Charter Member of the Optimist Club, and an avid fisherman and golfer. The Toronto Blue Jays trounced the Cincinnati Reds 10-3 the day of his passing, clearly a gesture of thanks to one of their most ardent fans. Sadly, Doug's dream of seeing that no good Willie Nylander get traded away from the Toronto Maple Leafs, was not something that he was able to see during his lifetime. Doug saw his beloved Leafs win more Stanley Cups in his lifetime than his kids and grandchildren ever will.

Spending time with friends and family was his passion. He was very thankful for everyone who came to visit and pay their respects in his final months and days.

He is survived by his wife, Tricia (Sexton) Wettlaufer, whom he married on February 8, 2000; five children, Linda Fulton (Tom), Maryanne Wettlaufer, Leonard Wettlaufer (Suanne), Christine Batemyr (Anders), Jason Chesworth (Ashley); seven grandchildren, Ashton Wettlaufer, Justin Wettlaufer, Alex Fulton (Dayna), Emily Batemyr, Liam Batemyr, Ella Batemyr, Donn Chesworth; two great-grandchildren, Margot Fulton and Teddie Fulton; brothers-in-law, Ross Campbell, Paul Sexton (Ann Cornish); sisters-in-law, Penny Smith, Pam Graham (Dave); his mother-in-law, Dorothy Kennedy; several nieces, nephews and their families.

Besides his parents, Norman John Wettlaufer and the former Hilda Julianna Yungblut, he was predeceased by his sister, Dorothy Campbell; brothers-in-law, Ivan Berg, Warren Smith, Gord Gregory; and his father-in-law, Bill Sexton.

In honour of Doug's wishes, a private visitation and funeral service was held in the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock St. North Tavistock. The Rev. Mary Boland officiated. The interment was in St. Matthew's Lutheran Cemetery, East

His pallbearers were friends, Eugene "Beanie" Bender, Terry "Chop" Currah, Jim Seyler and Wayne Smith. Also joined by grandsons Alex Fulton, Liam Batemyr, Justin Wettlaufer and nephews Brian and Terry Berg.

As expressions of sympathy donations to the Canadian Cancer Society 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

ZEHR, Larry James "Mick"



Passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at St. Mary's General Hospital, Kitchener. Mick was a long-time resident of New Hamburg and was born in North Easthope Township 78 years ago. Beloved husband of Carol

(Cole) Zehr whom he cherished 56 years of marriage with. Devoted father

of Angela and husband Anthony Van Beek and Brad and wife April Zehr. Proud grandfather of Nicholas, Mathew (Britt), AJ and Willie Van Beek, Darla and Elsie Zehr and Sean and Josh Zehr, and great-grandfather of Jackson. Mick will be forever remembered by sister Karen Hamilton and husband Murray, stepsister Lois Hoffman, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Greta Zehr, Jennifer Lichti, Richard Cole and wife JoAnne and John Lichti. He will be missed by his many nieces, nephews and friends.

Predeceased by his father Henry Zehr, mother Arleatha (Kropf) Brown and step father Sidney Brown, son Donny and his wife Kerri Zehr, brothers Glen and Murray Zehr, step brothers Doug, Roy and Howard Brown and brother -in-law Gary

Larry was a long time employee of Massel Marine for just over 50 years. He enjoyed his time there and thought of them as his extended family

Cremation has taken place. At Mick's request, there will be no formal visitation or service.

Memorial donations would be accepted to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario and can be done through the funeral home.

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

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



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OBITUARY

Brodrecht, Robert J.



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Robert (R.J. or Bob) Brodrecht on Saturday August 26, 2023 in his 93rd year. Robert was Born on the family farm on May 17, 1931 to his parents; Henry and Florence Brodrecht.

Beloved husband of Marie Brodrecht, whom he married on July 8, 1966. Sadly

missed by daughter Judy & Ed Young. Cherished Grandpa to Shannon & Andrew Hobson. Great Papa to Zach Hobson, Josh Hobson & Morgan Young. Sister Charlotte Brodrecht and several nieces & nephews. Predeceased by his adored Grandson Darren Young, brother Wilson and wife Carole Brodrecht, Walter and Betty Brodrecht brother-in-law Ollie Luckhart, niece Debbie Gerber and nephew Doug Brodrecht.

In Robert's earlier years, he worked on the family farm and drove the milk truck for his Dad. He owned and operated Brodrecht Transport and later was a salesman for Martin Feed Mills. He also farmed pigs and had a cash crop farm on the 13th.

Robert leaves a legacy of community contributions including volunteer work at the Tavistock arena concession stand for 30+ years, Tavistock Men's club, most known for helping with the sauerkraut dinners, and served on the East Zorra Township Council for 13 years.

Robert & Marie were sponsors of the 6-horse hitch at the Tavistock Annual fair where Robert was also the admission gate keeper. He was a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Robert was a school crossing guard at Maria & Adam street in Tavistock for 20 years! Retiring at 88 years old.

Robert loved to spend time with his Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. He loved to watch their hockey games, horseback riding and playing cards with them. In Robert's down time, he enjoyed "tours" with friends and playing cards and driving the countryside selling his homemade sawhorses.

Robert will be remembered by his loving family and friends for his generosity, hospitality, and his persistence of "Clean the plate" and " stay for one more drink" Robert would tell you that the key to staying healthy is keeping busy.

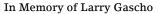
Family and friends were invited to a service for Robert at the W.G. Young Funeral Home, 430 Huron St., Stratford on Wednesday August 30, 2023 at 10:30 am. The service was livestreamed and is available on the funeral home website. Memorial donations may be made to the charity of one's choice. www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com

Have you been affected by someone else's drinking?

Al-Anon Family Groups can help YOU! Monday, Friday & Saturday. Call for time and place. 1-800-706-9833 or App Available

OBITUARY

Gascho, Larry





With great sadness, we announce the passing of Larry Alvin Gascho on August 29, 2023. Larry passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home with his loving wife Carol and daughters by his side, after a two-year cancer battle.

Left to miss him are his wife of sixty-three years, Carol Jean (nee. Pagett) and their daughters, Gwen (Bruce) Jones and Lori Gorel, as well as four grandchildren, five great grandchildren and two fur babies.

Larry was born on July 6, 1941, to Alvin and Reta Gascho and as an only child enjoyed his time with cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Larry also enjoyed a large extended family on Carol's side.

His working career saw him employed by Greb Shoes for thirty years, followed by Grant transport and then Napa Auto Parts, New Hamburg until his retirement. He enjoyed playing horseshoes, fishing, and relaxing in Muskoka, quadding in search of morels and listening to country music.

Larry was a long time Detroit Red Wings fan and an ardent follower of the Kitchener Rangers. Family and friends enjoyed sharing his love of NFL football even if he cheered for the Buffalo Bills.

Thanks to his good friends Wayne Kurt and Yvonne Fried for the many hours they spent with Larry.

A special thank you to Cindy from Paramed whose visits boosted his spirits. We were blessed to have Dr. Kuk from Grand River Cancer Centre and Dr. Lana Tan from Waterloo Region Hospice to help us on this trying journey. And of course, the care and comfort of many neighbours, friends and family members has been so appreciated.

As per Larry's wishes, no fuss over his ashes, just play some country music and raise a glass in his memory.

All are invited to join the Gascho family for a gathering of friendship at Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Friday, September 1, 2023, from 3:30 - 5:30.

As an expression of sympathy, donations would be welcome to Grand River Cancer Centre or Hospice of Waterloo Region.

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

OBITUARY

KING, John Allen



Passed away peacefully at the Maples Home for Seniors on Monday August 28, 2023 in his 96th year. Beloved husband for nearly 69 years of Agnes (nee Turnbull) King

Loving father of Ruth (David) Duncan, Dave (Gwen) King, Donna (Rob) Berg, Nancy (Gord) McNeice, and Rob (Erika) King. Missed by grandchildren Dan (Ashlee) Wettlaufer, Lyndsay (Michael) Woodward, Sarah (Nathan) Brenneman, Kevin King (Candice Brooks), Ian McNeice, Chris McNeice, Graeme McNeice, Devon King, Greydon King and Ashlee King, and 8 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by brother Malcolm King in 2021 and sister-inlaw Lorraine King in 2009. Also predeceased

by his parents, A. Gordon King and Hazel Jane (Jean) (nee Turnbull). Dear brother-in-law to Leone and Douglas Sutor of Guelph, and uncle to nieces Carolyn (Dave) Rumble and Margaret (Ken) Van Dyk and their families.

John was a graduate of the Woodstock Collegiate Institute, and earned his degree in Agriculture at OAC at the University of Guelph in 1950. In his youth, John was active in local sports and Junior Farmers. He farmed at his beloved Kinghurst dairy farm for 30 years, until retiring and passing the torch to son Dave. After retiring from farming, he took the position of Rural Resource Specialist with the United Church of Canada London Conference.

John was a lifelong member of the United Church. He was active locally at his beloved Hebron Church; he considered the Hebron community as his extended family. He held many roles over the years, including choir member, Sunday school teacher, Treasurer, Elder, and Trustee. Also, John held various leadership roles in Oxford Presbytery: Lay Preacher, Camp Committee Chairman, Rural and Small Church Representative, and was President of London Conference in 1985. John was honoured to be a nominee for Moderator of the United Church of Canada in 1988.

Throughout his farming career he sat on various agricultural boards such as Oxford and Ontario Boards of the OFA and the Fruit Co-operative. A true farmer, John loved the outdoors, spending time in the field and garden, watching crops and plants grow. He also loved watching his family grow and was proud of their accomplishments. He enjoyed the many get-togethers, holiday dinners and celebrations with his family, and cherished the visits from his great-grandchildren in his later years.

Special thanks to the staff at the Maples (Tavistock), Oxford Gardens (Woodstock), Care Partners (Woodstock) and M300 Wing (Woodstock Hospital) for the wonderful care provided to John in his last years. Visitation will be on Thursday August 31, 2023, 7:00-9:00pm at Brock & Visser Funeral Home, 845 Devonshire Avenue, Woodstock, ON. Funeral will be held at 11:00am on Friday, September 1, 2023 at Hebron United Church, 676241 16th Line, Bright, ON, with a one-hour visitation preceding the service. Share a memory at www.brockandvisser.com

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Sunday Worship services begin at 9:45am, with coffee and fellowship to follow at 11am. Masks welcomed but not required. All Ages JRSS will follow after the worship service.

Stream services online at www.tavistockmennonitechurch.ca

TAVISTOCK BIBLE CHAPEL

32 Oxford Street, Tavistock, Ontario **Questions or Need Help?** Text or Call: (519) 655-2413 tavistockbc.org Family Bible Hour - 11am Each Sunday www.tavistockbc.org

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Cemetery Decoration Service is on Sept. 17th @ 2pm.

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77 Mogk St., Box 220, Tavistock NOB 2R0 Pastor Hugh Rutledge 655-3611 Email: office@tavistock.church

www.tavistock.church

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 21-28, 2013 Edition (10 years ago)

The Tavistock A's Subway Squirt Girls are the 2013 Provincial Women's Squirt C Champions after a thrilling weekend of competition in Cobourg, Ontario. The girls won five straight games to earn the Ontario title. The girls won five straight games to earn the Ontario title. Team members are Katelyn Yantzi, Sarah Bailey, Leah Bauman, Hannah Wagler, Megan Bailey, Mihret Eliasziw, Kirsten Stolk, Lauryn Reibling, Leeah Schoonderwoerd, Morgan Stock, Karissa Wagler, Karli Ramseyer, Kamryn Lamond, and Payge Schlosser.

The Ramseyer Eathworks Bantam Boys, Team Ontario 2, brought home the gold medal from St. Perpetue, Quebec, host of this year's U-16 Eastern Canadian Softball Championships. The Athletics went a perfect 5-0 over the 4 days of the tournament. The team includes Dylan Brown, Justin Wagler, Tristan Wilhelm, Derek Hyde, Jeremy Kropf, Mike Johnson, Trent Jones, Jackson Hergott, Jensen van

Boekel, Jake Wiffen, Jamieson Hergott, Jake Bauman, and Bryce Yantzi.

August 20-27, 2003 Edition (20 years ago)

People attending a house party in Tavistock on the weekend escaped without serious injury when a fire destroyed the home at 63 Jacob Street West. The owners of the home, Doug and Laurie McKay, were away on a camping trip when the fire broke out.

About 50 million people from Windsor to Ottawa, Ontario, and New York to Cleveland, U.S., were thrown into darkness last week as the result of a massive power blackout whose cause has still not been determined.

Fire destroyed the modern tie-stall barn at Athlone Farms on the Sebastopol Road, just east of Flanagan's Corners in South Easthope on Saturday morning, August 23. Over 90 Holsteins were saved, but another 35 died or had to be put down after the blaze.

August 24-31, 1983 Edition (40 years ago)

The First Annual Open Golf Tournament was held at the Tavistock Golf Course on Saturday with 39 participants taking part. The winners were Daryl Manship (over 25 category), Steve Lichti (15 to 25 category), Chris Close (under 14 category), and Sharon Brennan (women's category).

Rotary Exchange Student Barbara Gracey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Gracey of RR 2 Tavistock, left recently for Leon, Mexico, which is located 190 miles northwest of Mexico City at an altitude of approximately 6,000 feet.

An unusual and unfortunate accident occurred Saturday morning in Tavistock at the J. Sales and Service Sunoco station in the centre of the village. A St. Pauls man received burns to his head, one arm and leg when his propane-powered car burst into flames. Cause of the explosion is thought to be improper venting of the propane tank to the outside of the car. The vehicle had been converted to propane power and was not a factory-built car.

An established Tavistock truck repair centre and parts depot will relocate in Shakespeare within the next few weeks. Gummerson's Garage Ltd. has purchased the former Claasen Equipment building on Highway 7&8 just west of Shakespeare and will be moving the heavy duty truck repair portion of their business The new premises will be operated under the trade name Shakespeare Truck Centre.

Cheque presented to **Minor Ball Association** from employees of Tavistock's Scotiabank



By Gary West

Dave Nahrgang, the President of Tavistock Minor Baseball, was pleased to receive a call from Tavistock's Scotiabank last week.

Margaret Herlick, the bank's customer experience lead, had a cheque made out to

the town's ball organization for \$1051.55, proceeds from their latest BBQ

Margaret said "the branch is always glad to help out area non-profit organizations that will enhance programs for area residents and in this case, youth involved with

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

August 31: Happy Birthday to Sophia Schmidt (10), Charlie Dart (11), John Danen (20), Brooklyn Ross (20), and Rebecca McIntosh (20).

September 1: Happy Birthday to Jesse Weicker.

September 2: Happy Birthday to Ellie Shantz (18), Luke Hyde (21), Katie Whetstone, and Erica Erb, and anniversaries for Chris and Pauline Weitzel (17th), and Cam and Katie Payette (6th).

September 3: Happy birthday to Norah Ferguson (6).

September 5: Happy Birthday to Maverik Gruber (4), Julia Zehr (15) and Leah Killing, and anniversary for Ryan and Jodi Steckly (14th).

September 6: Happy Birthday to Emy Kropf (7), Fiona Streutker (18), Aleisha Brenneman (20), and Jeff Roth.

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.

Shakespeare's Brewery busy with motorcycles and interested enthusiasts on Saturday



In front of Shakespeare Brewery on Saturday, August 26 are the sponsoring Shakedown companies involved left to right, Graham De Graff of London, Josh Dobson of Stratford, Katie and Ayden Gautreau (Shakespeare Brewery) and Jeff O'Neill of Stratford.

By Gary West

Dozens of motorcycles roared into Shakespeare on Saturday as the Shakespeare Brewing Co. hosted Shakespeare Shakedown during the day for fun and motorcycle talk.

Ayden and Katie Gautreau, who opened the Shakespeare Brewery over 6 years ago, have been micro brewing ever since.

A large contingent of visitors both on bikes and in vintage cars dropped by to

take in food and information from three sponsors on site.

They included Perth County MOTO, Almost Old School Motorcycle Co., and Back Corner Studios - Custom Paint and

The Shakespeare Brewing Co., reminds those with vintage cars to take in their last cruise night of the summer, on Thursday night at the brewery, between 6 p.m. and



KWSP Humane Society Dash and Splash fundraiser is back

By Veronica Reiner

The Kitchener-Waterloo Stratford Perth (KWSP) Humane Society is once again hosting its popular "Dash and Splash" fundraiser on September 10th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Kiwanis Park in Kitchener.

The event typically raises \$20,000 to \$25,000 with the proceeds going to support the KWSP Humane Society's community programs and services.

"This is an off-leash event," described Nasreen, spokesperson for the KWSP Humane Society. "It's a great opportunity for your dog to socialize and enjoy a day in the pool! We also have small dog hour from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.'

The Dash and Splash event started in 2019. It was cancelled in 2020 because of COVID-19, and started again in 2021.

The annual fundraiser, sponsored by Ren's Pets, includes full access to the Kiwani

sPark pool, as well as games and activities for the whole family. The small dog hour is sponsored by Chartwell Retirement Residences, and dogs under 25 pounds are

"This is a fantastic event in support of our animals at the humane society," said Nick Burke, director of development of the KWSP Humane Society. "It's so much fun to watch the dogs enjoy a giant pool party, and this year we have fun for the whole family too.'

For food lovers, there are several food trucks at the event including Lancaster Smokehouse, KW Funnel Cloud, Little Tree Café and Schmuck Truck.

Participants can pay a \$15/dog entry fee at the door or pre-register and fundraise to win prizes. Fundraising \$25 or more will grant you access to the event and include a Dash and Splash swag bag filled with

STORE HOURS SALES: Monday-Thursday 9:00-8:00; Friday-Saturday 9:00-6:00

PARTS AND SERVICE: Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00

Top fundraisers will have a chance to win a Kong prize pack (valued at \$150) and a Ren's Pets gift basket (valued at \$250). The event will also have a 50/50 raffle and other fun activities for all to enjoy.

For more information on the initiatives

of the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth or to register for the event, please visit kwsphumane.ca.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Kiwanis Park in Kitchener.



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Close to 900 in attendance at this year's Shakespeare **Optimist barbecue**



A parade of cars lined up for the annual chicken barbecue.

By Gary West

A parade of cars lined up last Thursday for the annual chicken barbecue hosted by members of the Shakespeare Optimist and Opti-Mrs. Clubs in the village.

Chairman of the event, Schlotzhauer, said the deluge of rain held off, and close to 900 meals were served, in drive-thru fashion. It turned out to be

the biggest crowd yet for the annual event. where proceeds are used to fund vouth activities in the village and surrounding townships.

Barbecue goers also purchased tickets for the club's 50/50 draw where Tavistock's Darlene Yantzi's name was drawn to receive \$1.695.

Club President Mike McNeil, in a release,



Wayne Hoffman reads the August 24th edition of the Gazette.

thanked all those area residents who purchased meals to help fund the club's activities, and hoped to see them back at the Optimist Hall for their next rib, pigtail and sauerkraut dinner later this year.

Avid reader of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette, Wayne Hoffman, was spotted reading the latest edition of the paper while waiting in the drive-thru line of the Shakespeare Optimist Club's chicken barbecue.

Hoffman farmed on the second Concession of North Easthope township (Line 37) and grows corn, soybeans and wheat.

He said the half chicken dinner was worth the wait - it includes local sweet corn, baked potato. Quehl's coleslaw and Shakespeare Pies famous fruit pie.

OPEN HOUSE: THUR. AUG. 31 ST - 6:00-7:30 PM



51 GRAFF AVENUE, STRATFORD

LOCATION, LOCATION- Dare to dream to own a home in this lovely area of Stratford, located close to the school, this 3 bedroom brick raised bungalow is the prefect home to raise your family. Located on a private 51.96 X 104.95 partially fenced real yard, this home offers 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, finished family room with a gas fireplace, attached garage and so much more, call to view this great home today. MLS#40464202

OPEN HOUSE: SAT. SEPT. 2ND 10:30-12:00 NOON



328 FORMAN AVENUE, STRATFORD

ATTENTIONS FAMILIES WITH HIGH SCHOOL CHILDREN- If you are a family with children that go to Stratford high school and would like to be within walking distance to the school, then this is one home you do not want to miss viewing. This 4 level back spilt semi-detached home located with in walking distance to the school (actually a few minute walk), is larger then it looks from the street and offers 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, finished family room, fully fenced rear yard. Whether you are looking for your first home, or are a family looking for more bedrooms, this home might be just what you have been looking for. A quick closing date is available. Call today to view this great family home. MLS#40451168

OPEN HOUSE:SAT. SEPT. 2ND 1:30-3:00 PM



117 HOPE STREET FAST, TAVISTOCK

Welcome to 117 Hope Street East in the lovely town of Tavistock- If you like the character of old homes, this is one home you do not want to miss viewing. Located within walking distance to down town, the school, park and arena, this home is ideal for your growing family. With approximately 2943 Square feet of living space, this lovely home offers, 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 4 season sun room to enjoy your morning coffee, games room/ family room, a spacious kitchen with an island with a breakfast bar, living and dining room area with a gas fireplace. Another added bonus for this great home, the triple car driveway is on Elizabeth Street, Call today this great home today, it might be just what you have been looking for. Within commuting distance to Kitchener Waterloo area, Stratford, Woodstock and London, MLS#40446572 \$699,900



345 DOUGLAS STREET, STRATFORD

Welcome to the charming home of 345 Douglas Street Stratford, Located in a desirable neighborhood (Avon Ward), on a lovely treed lot, this renovated Ontario Cottage is certainly one home you do not want to miss viewing. This stunning home shows pride of ownership and offers main floor living. The main levels offers open concept, your primary bedroom with a 3 pc primary bath, main floor laundry, additional 3 pc bath, stunning family room with a gas fireplace, the second floor offers two additional bedrooms. This great home offers a 52.47 X 100 foot yard, and for the pool lovers, enjoy your private rear yard with a 18 X 36 foot inground swimming pool, and plenty of space for entertaining with your friends and family. A quick closing is available, let this be your new home today, call to view, you will not be disappointed, MLS#40474145 \$769,900



60 HOLLEY AVENUE, TAVISTOCK

Welcome to 60 Holley Avenue in the lovely small town of Tavistock- This amazing home shows pride of ownership and offers so much for your growing family. Built in 2020 this lovely home offers 4 or 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and basement rough in, finished family room, open concept main floor, quartz counter tops, kitchen island with breakfast bar, fully fenced rear yard, deck and patio, unspoiled basement, and so so much more. Why build new when you can move right into this stunning home. This home is definitely not a drive by and must be seen from inside to see for yourself just how much it has to offer. Shows 'AAA" Be sure to call to view, this might be just what you have been looking for.

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Wilmot Township working with consultant to develop tree canopy policy



By Veronica Reiner

Wilmot Township is seeking the public's opinion on how the local tree canopy should be managed.

"The Township of Wilmot has been working with a consulting company on measuring the tree canopy of Wilmot and to make recommendations," explained Marlene Knezevich of Let's Tree Wilmot. "Dean Peachey and I have been part of the pro-

The Municipal Act required the township to adopt and maintain policies to protect and enhance the township's tree canopy and natural vegetation.

The new Tree Canopy Policy Framework

Identify the tree canopy present in the township,

Create an attainable tree canopy enhancement target for township owned lands,

Evaluate township programs, policies, budget, and staffing resources related to township owned portions of the tree can-

Recommend programs and policies to achieve the tree canopy enhancement target for township owned lands (woodlots, road allowances, facilities, parks), provide recommendations for budget and staff resources to implement these opportunities.

Examine the implications and provide recommendations on further regulating the removal of trees on private property as part of future updates to the tree canopy policy.

The survey is available at www.wilmot.ca/ TreeSurvey until September 11.



<u>Airbands</u> Are Back !!



Tavistock Fall Fair Saturday September 9 6:30pm start

All acts must pre-register by August 31. Limited space available!

- Junior Class (11 yrs & Under)
- Intermediate Class (12-17)
- Senior Class (18 and Over)

Email- jessicaharvey3@gmail.com to register

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Pet of the Week

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

REIGN

A young man with his best friend in a boat. This is 14-year-old Drew Roth on the 11th Line, west of Tavistock, with Reign, his two-and-a-half-year-old Bouvier mixed with Standard Poodle. The dog became part of the Mark, Stephanie and Clara Roth family at one year of age.

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



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SPORTS -

New Hamburg's Centre Stage Dance Studio going into its 38th season





Some of the dancers who have participated at New Hamburg's Centre Stage Dance studio. (Photos contributed)

By Veronica Reiner

Centre Stage Dance Studio, based in New Hamburg, is now going into its 38th year

The studio offers a variety of classes, from classical ballet to hip hop, tiny tots to adult classes, beginner to advanced students as well as group and private Pilates sessions. It is run by Donna Bender, who has decades of experience and has worked with hundreds of young dancers - many of whom have gone on to pursue professional careers in the arts.

"Dance was always my passion, and I had some very great mentors that supported me through my early training as well as all of my teacher's certifications and training," said Donna.

Donna is an advanced member, master teacher and examiner for the Society of Classical Ballet, a full stage member of the Canadian Dance Teachers Association, a certified Pilates instructor and a private Health & Wellness coach.

In addition to the numerous benefits of exercise and networking that goes on, Donna said there are plenty of other skills learned through the programs.

"A lot of life skills are built at the dance studio, whether they become a dancer or not," said Donna. "Like time management, teamwork, discipline, work ethic. Facing your doubts and fears, then progressing

"As a person, you don't think you're capable of something and then you accomplish it. So there's a lot of growth and life skills that take place at the studio."

Donna developed the Groundforce Technique (GFT) during Covid, influenced by her mentor, Paula Morgan, who is based out of California. The technique is designed to safely condition the entire body as well as the mind, with an important emphasis on injury prevention and longevity for the dancers' body.

GFT is taught as its own individual class, along with tiny tots, ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, musical theatre, lyrical, contemporary, acro and a performance crew team. The studio also offers ballet examinations through The Society of Classical Ballet (Vaganova Method).

For the past several years, Donna has

been guest teaching other teachers and students across the country and is excited to be launching her first GFT teacher certification program this fall. "I am a master teacher, educating other teachers now' Donna explained "But I still spend at least five days a week at the studios, and am very involved with my students' progress."

Students come from all over, including Wilmot Township, Wellesley, St. Mary's, Woodstock, and all surrounding areas. Centre Stage also has a studio in Kitchener, Unlock Unleash Control (UUC). Their training varies - some come and train once a week, while others train up to

"We do have students who train at both locations - I have New Hamburg students that will train in some classes in New Hamburg and in Kitchener and vice versa, because it's really not far - 15 minutes."

One upcoming event that senior students, ages 13 to 17, are looking forward to is a cultural exchange trip to Cuba in December, and they will be doing some mission work while there. They will be staying at a resort in Havana.

"We're going to be immersed in their culture," said Donna. "We have the opportunity to go into the Cuban National Ballet and work with their dancers - dance is a really big part of their culture. It's super exciting. There are 13 dancers taking part.

The experienced employees at Centre Stage Dance Studio have worked there for several decades as well, and include Michelle Harlock and Monica Kauck

Michelle has a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a specialization in dance from the University of Waterloo. She has performed with The Pittsburgh Ballet Company, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and The Black Walnut Ballet Company. Monica studied jazz, tap, ballet, pointe and some hip hop growing up. She received certificates for successfully completing numerous levels of jazz, tap and ballet examinations.

Donna also loves to have her alumni students who have gone on to pursue dance professionally, return to teach workshop classes at our summer intensives.

Centre Stage looks forward to kicking off their 38th season this fall on September

Ice surface complete at St. Clements arena





The Township of Wellesley's recreation crew began the process of building the ice at the St. Clements Arena a couple of weeks ago. They started on Monday, August 14 by applying thin layers of ice before Jeff Erwin's team at Canadian Rink Services of Atwood of came in to apply white paint to the ice surface. The recreation crew then applied more thin layers of ice, and then Jeff's team painted all the lines by hand. More thin layers of ice are applied at the top of the lines and logos, and the masterpiece was complete as of Saturday, August 19. To book the ice surface or to book a facility, contact Recreation Scheduling Administrator Michelle Lamontagne at 519-699-9369 or mlamontagne@wellesley.ca.

SPORTS —

Two locals named to the U18 national softball team

years. He said the experience of those who have gone before him has been a benefit. "I have talked to the guys who have been there and learned from them, and I think that keeps growing. We have a lot of really good players here, and I'm not sure the reason why." He added his dad, Jeff, his coach, should also get some credit. "Oh yeah, for sure. He knows his stuff, and he was a good ball player and he's a good

Despite growing up so close together, the pair haven't really played a lot of ball against each other. "I've played against Tavi my whole life but Justin maybe a year or two (including this year) and went to high school with him. I know him personally, he's a nice guy and a good ballplayer," said Cohen. Roth said he, too, has a lot of respect for his new Wilmot teammate. "We played against each other a little bit

this year and briefly went to high school together. He's a good ballplayer, and we'll have a lot of fun out there." Daniel Scott of Stratford was also named to the team, son of legendary pitcher Don Scott. Roth played for Harwood at the recent Canadian championships in Saskatchewan, where Daniel joined the team as one of the two pickups. "I got to know him pretty good out there. He's an outfielder and a really good

Ass for what to expect in Columbia, Cohen doesn't think there will be any easy games. "I'm expecting a lot of good ballplayers. I know that some people on other teams will be there from big tournaments that have been happening in Canada. There will be a lot of good teams, and it will be really competitive." Roth said he is looking forward to the trip, which begins this week in Toronto with a short camp before heading to Columbia early Wednesday morning with a Miami stopover. "We have a fourhour bus ride to the hotel after we land, so that will be a lot of travel in the next few days, but it'll be fun."

Cohen's dad, Dave, no stranger to softball in the area, said it will be a great experience for his son, but he knows the team will need to be careful. "Lots of life lessons, and he will see how people in another country live. We had a video call the other night with the coaches to talk about the safety issues. Watch your passport and money; don't be going out at night."

Cohen has also grown up playing hockey and will be trying out for the New Hamburg juvenile team in September, but his dad believes softball is where he can really stand out as an athlete, "I've talked to a couple of his older buddies I know who talked to him and said, you know Cohen, you're a good hockey player but you're a better fastball player. This hockey puck will take you all over Ontario, but this ball will take you all over the world."

Christner's older brother Callan was a star on last season's WOAA AA championship-winning Tavistock Royals and also played for Kevin Zehr's U23 Tavistock Merchants last season, winning a national title. Father Dave was also a pitcher and played with the Tayistock Orioles with locals like Brad and Brian Stere, and Dave Bailey was his catcher.

Christner is in an apprenticeship to become an electrician, while Roth is going into his second year of a business program at Brock University.

Tournament information is available https://www.wbscamericas.org/en/ events/2023-ii-campeonato-panamericano-de-softbol-masculino-sub-18/

Tavistock's Athletics U20 are silver medal winners in Napanee

By Gary West

It was a week of emotion and hard work, but the Tavistock Athletics U20 team came away with a silver medal at the recent Canadian championships held in Nappanee from August 15 to the 20th.

The Athletics competed as the defending champions, after capturing the national championship in the same location last year.

On the first day of competition, they finished the day with a perfect 2-0, recording wins against Rostock and the team from Saskatchewan.

Day two was not quite as successful, as the Athletics lost to both Haldimand and to the hosts from

On day three, Tavistock defeated Newfoundland in their first game of the day and lost to Ouebec later that evening. The Athletics then went on to win their final round robin game on Friday, which gave them a 4-3 record, and fifth place entering the playoffs.

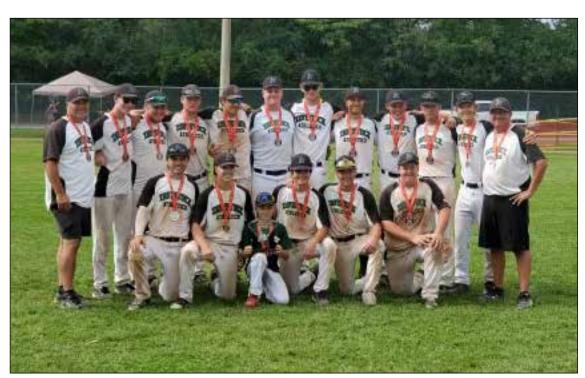
After winning the first game

of the playoffs against Quebec, with a 3-2 win, they then played Newfoundland and in a back-andforth game, the Athletics scored late to win 6-5, which guaranteed the team a medal, and sent them to the semi- finals on Sunday morning.

Going into a rematch against Haldimand, the game went into extra innings, and the Athletics exploded for four runs in the top of the eighth. They held on to win 6-4, sending them back to the gold medal game against Napanee for the second straight year.

In the final game on Sunday, Tavistock had several runners on base throughout the game, but couldn't get the timely hit, losing a tough final by score of 2-0 and coming up just short of their bid to repeat as National Champions.

According to Coach, Jeff Roth, the team played their best ball of the week when they had to, in the playoff round, finishing off a very successful season with the silver medal.



Tavistock Athletics U20-2023 team: back row, left to right, Jeff Roth (coach), Branden Gerber, Kyle Stock, Will Schlotzhauer, Brody Van Boekel, Carson Cadwell, Sean Demerest, Brayden Van de Wynckel, Matthew Bartlett, Zach Thompson, Isaac Currah, Chad Harmer (coach), Front left to rigut, Colby Ricketts, Justin Roth, Camden Bruce (batboy), Nathan Brenneman, Bo Schurink, Aaron Waugh.



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TRAVEL -

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Up, up and away over the Thousand Islands



By Paul Knowles

There are a lot of great ways to see the Thousand Islands and we did several of them.

But let's start with the math. Here's a trivia question: "How many islands are there in the Thousand Islands?" Answer? Nobody actually agrees. In fact, they don't even agree on the definition of "island."

Some will tell you that an island is any piece of land surrounded by water, said land being above the surface of the water yearround and having at least one tree. Others will say no, it needs at least two trees. Others may argue that some islands may be submerged sometimes but they are still islands.

And then there are the numbers. Several of the local experts we met said there are 1,864 islands. But a plaque atop the Thousand Islands Tower insists "There are officially 997 islands in the Thousand Islands. This is often exaggerated by including all the shoals and rocks to make the total 1867." The Canadian Encyclopedia cites "an official count" that totaled "1149 islands and islets.

Suffice to say, there are a lot of islands in the Thousand Islands, probably more than 1,000, and together they create one of the most beautiful areas in the

And, as I said before I went down the rabbit hole of arithmetic, there are a lot of fine ways to enjoy them. We took a Thousand Island cruise, we toured the waterway closest to Gananoque in an heritage, wooden power boat and we ascended the Thousand Islands Tower so we thought we had a pretty comprehensive perspective on the area.

That is, until we climbed into a four-seater helicopter at 1000 Islands Helicopter Tours for a flight piloted by company owner Dave Kouri.

Our flight lasted only about 20 minutes but the magic and the awe stretched that into an amazing adventure. Seeing the Thousand Islands from the deck of a boat gives you a good look at what humans have accomplished in this highly sought-after destination. You see the heritage cottages and the elaborate homes and you can consider the differences between how people have settled in Canadian territory compared to the U.S.

By the way, for both boat and helicopter, it's okay to enter U.S. waters or airspace as long as you don't put a foot on American soil.

So we had experienced the islands from a water-level viewpoint but seeing it from 1400 feet up was something completely different. From there, the clear, clear waters of the St. Lawrence look like an impressionist painting, changing hues depending on the depth. It reminded me of the ever-changing waterscape you see as you drive the Overseas Highway in the Florida Keys.

And the islands are revealed to be, in the main, forests with tiny plots of land claimed by humans along the shores. There is green everywhere. My perspective of the landscape changed completely with this air-borne perspective.

Dave Kouri has owned 1000 Islands Helicopter Tours since 2008. Originally, it was based in Kingston (the St. Lawrence officially begins somewhere between Kingston and Gananoque), but he moved the operation to a site minutes north of the town locals simply call "Gan" a few years ago.

Today, he owns three helicopters and has a staff of expert pilots. He told me he flies less often than he used to because he has accumulated way more than enough qualifying hours to keep him in the air. But he clearly enjoyed the flight with us almost as much as we did.

His company offers five tour options - 10 minutes, 20 minutes, two 30-minute tours (one heading east on the St. Lawrence, the other heading west to include Kingston) and "the works", a one-hour tour that combines everything.



Pilot and fleet owner Dave Kouri. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

Dave told me that people who take the 10-minute tour (\$99) always say they wish that had opted for something longer. I would say the 20 minute flight was amazing (\$169), and while more would probably be more amazing, we landed happy and enthralled.

Our particular tour took us well east through the islands. The highlight is the flight around Boldt Castle. This was constructed by American millionaire hotel owner George C. Boldt, starting in 1900. He intended it as a very ostentatious gift to his wife, Louise. But it was not completed when Louise passed away in 1904 and Boldt completely abandoned the project. The castle, which is located on an American island, sat empty for 73 years; in 1977, the U.S.-based Thousand Islands Bridge Authority decided to finish construction to create what has become a popular tourist attraction.

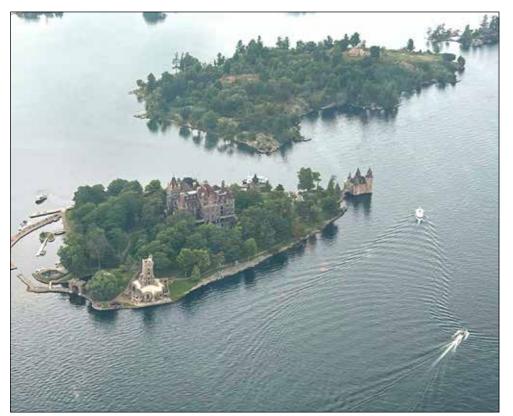
And it is impressive. But as Dave told me, most of his customers on the 20-minute or 30-minute 'Two Castle Tour', "go out to see the castle but talk about everything else when they return."

I guess the lesson here is, humans can do pretty impressive things but we can never top the sheer magnificence found in nature. The castle is interesting but the waterways, rocks and forests of the Thousand Islands are spectacularly beautiful.

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.



The lovely town of Gananoque - population about 5,500, but punching way above its weight as a terrific tourist attraction.



An aerial view of the popular tourist attraction, Boldt Castle.

OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: Life's Fantastic (When You're Plastic)



By Chip Bender RP(q)

Earlier this month, I went to see the Barbie movie, mostly because it was the movie my wife and my younger son wanted to see, not to mention the hype surrounding it had piqued my curiosity. The movie juxtaposed life in Barbieland and life in the real world in terms of the treatment of women and men as well as the overall quality of life in one sphere vs. the other. Surprisingly, it does a great job on both fronts, which offered us lots of material for conversation on topics like feminism and real life vs. fantasy life.

Barbieland was depicted as a place where every day is a perfect day in which the sun is always shining, the characters always have a great sleep and always wake up eagerly looking forward to an exciting day of playing in the surf and sand followed by an evening dance party. The depiction of life in Barbieland reminded me of the song lyrics from Aqua's Barbie Girl song, in which she sings, "Life in plastic, it's fantastic" connoting the real world is not fantastic. It's true. The world we live in is not Barbieland. Fittingly, as I write this, there are thunderstorms rolling through, it feels like I could have used an extra hour of sleep, and all the work I must do today means no day of leisure.

After watching the movie, I concluded one of the main impediments to our happiness is thinking life should be perfect. It is not just Barbieland that fosters this idea. Social media posts of ideal family and friend moments contribute to it. As do marketers' promises of the state of ecstasy their product will deliver. When life does not deliver the happiness we expect, we can feel hard done by. The hard truth is, it will sometimes rain on our picnics, our sleep will be interrupted, plans fall through, illness occurs,

Real life is imperfect and can be downright difficult. And yet, despite the inevitable hardships, real life still has the potential to hold marvel, magic, and mystery. If this was not the case, the main Barbie character would not bother considering living in the real world over her fantastic plastic life. Perhaps, our perspective is impacted by whether we focus on the hardships of life or on its highlights.

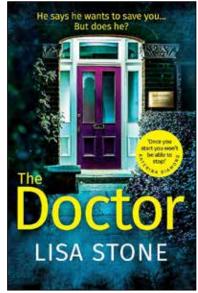
To help us focus on life's highlights, there is practice about which I read recently and have undertaken. Right now, jot down three things from the day for which you are thankful. Then reflect on why each item on your list happened to you: was it due to your own efforts, someone's generosity, or did you happen to be in the right place at the right time? For the next 21 days, repeat this exercise without repeating an item on the list. Maybe we can discover even real life can be fantastic.

Oxford County Library book review

By Amy Coles

The Oxford County Library will submit a book review each month to let our readers know about the library and newer books. This week, that book is The Doctor by Lisa Stone.

How well do you really know neighbours? When Emily and Ben move into their new neighbourhood, they are eager to get to know Dr. Burman, and his wife, Alisha who live next door. Emily is outgoing, and tries to befriend Alisha, but



Alisha seems subdued, hardly leaves the house, and is scared to even answer the phone. A few weeks later, Emily goes missing, but has left her husband a note, claiming she has left him for another man. Did she really or was she too curious, and walk right into danger? Find out in this epic thriller! I loved this book from the very start. It was dark, and twisty, and kept me guessing until the very end. If you like psychological thrillers, this is definitely one to read.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2023

August 31st

Castle Kilbride Summer Concert Series

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 Smile 'n' Wave (80s New Wave) will play.

September 4th

Blood Drive

Taking place at the Steinmann Mennonite Church at 1316 Snyder's Road West in New Hamburg. Booking times are available from around 3:15 p.m. until about 8 p.m. at www.blood.

September 5th

Wellesley Council Meeting

Hybrid council meeting taking place at 4805 William Hastings Line in Crosshill at 6:45 p.m.

Also streamed on the Township of Wellesley YouTube page.

September 6th

Wilmot Council Meeting

Hybrid council meeting taking place at 60 Snyder's Road West in Baden at 6:45 p.m. Also streamed on the Township of Wilmot YouTube page.

September 8th, 9th, 10th

Tavistock Fall Fair

Taking place at Queens Park at 1 Adam Street in Tavistock. Features silent auction, book sales, midway, bubble soccer. beer tent, fair ambassador competition, hunter jumper show, chainsaw carvers, parade, cattle show, goat display, touch a truck, airband competition, and

September 12th and 13th

Wellesley Fall Fair

Come one, come all, to the

170th Welleslev Fall Fair. Exhibits, midways, scarecrow contest and more. For all general inquiries, email Mary Lichty-Neeb at 519-504-6781 or email mlichty@execulink.com.

September 13th

CCC Lunch

Taking place at Wellesley Mennonite Church, 157 David Street, at 12 p.m. 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.

September 14th - 17th

New Hamburg Fall Fair

Features a heavy horse pull, ambassador program, big creek tractor pulls, vendor village, horse shows, dog show, silent auction, toilet seat races, farmers walk, demolition derby, and

church service. Takes place at the New Hamburg fairgrounds at 251 Jacob Street.

September 16th

Community Breakfast Workshop Better Understanding Mental Health Issues for Children and Young Adults

Taking place at 8:30 a.m. at Quehl's Banquet Hall in Tavistock. Hosted by the East Zorra Mennonite Church and Interfaith Counselling Centre (ICC) in New Hamburg. Event will finish by 11 a.m. Guest speaker is Cathi Watson, RSW, MDiv Counsellor with ICC. Come join for breakfast and learn more. To register for this free event, please call or email Heidi Wagler, faith community nurse at 519-274-4822 or heidi@ ezmennonite.ca

September 17th

Brocksden School Museum Anniversary

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.

September 28th

Mission Possible: Launch Your Waste Reduction Journey

Taking place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Learn about specific steps that we can take to reduce waste in our lives and also discuss what corporations and governments need to do to reduce waste. The program will feature a guest speaker plus a panel of community members. A question and answer period will follow the presentations. For more information go to www.nvecoboosters.com or contact nvecoboosters@gmail.com.

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1967 Erb's Road St Agatha 519-634-8212

Pastor Nancy Mann

Worship service 10am followed by coffee hour and sermon discussion. All are welcome

Weekly Quiz Answers

1) Klaus Schwab

7) Robert Recorde

2) 2003

8) Italy

3) 12

9) 88 notes

10) Jack Nicklaus (18

5) Anthony Albanese

majors)

6) Sunflower

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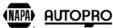
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