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FREE

Province demands older long-term care homes rebuild

Caressant Care remains silent on future of the Maples Home for Seniors



Construction on the new peopleCare long-term care home is well underway and expected to open on time next year.

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The provincial government has made it crystal clear to aging long-term care homes that they must rebuild, but one of Tavistock's two homes remains tight-lipped about its future. The Maples Home for Seniors has not made public the future of its 'C' home, while peopleCare has started the redevelopment process.

The Gazette spoke to Ontario's former

Minister of Long-Term Care just days before he took on the new portfolio as head of the embattled Ministry of Housing and Rural Affairs. Paul Calandra said homes don't have a choice. "The reality is that I want all of them replaced, frankly. These older homes have to be replaced. There's no ifs ands or buts about it. They don't meet our current IPAC standards, they can't accommodate the staff that is required under the four hours of care, and they also don't allow us to bring in

additional diagnostic tools because we are starting to move towards a more integrated system where home care will also be connected with long-term care so people on home care might be able to get diagnostic services at a long-term care home as opposed to going to the hospital."

He added that some of the older homes don't have sprinklers and they will all be closed and replaced by newer homes but

Continued on page 2

Opening of new EZT township office opening delayed

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

East Zorra-Tavistock's new township office was expected to be open for business this month, but a number of delays have led to a new opening date. The project is now expected to be completed by November 17.

Township Chief Administrative Officer, Karen DePrest, said in an email that construction continues to progress. "There have been some delays due to supply chain issues, trade availability scheduling, and obviously some weather interruptions. The new projected occupancy date has been pushed back to November 17. Everyone is working together to achieve that timeline."

The new build had an original price tag of \$4.5 million, but council passed a \$5.575 million deal last year that has London's Michael Clark Construction developing what the township called a much-needed new headquarters. Council opted to award the tender to the lowest bidder, and nine of the eleven submissions were within \$1 million of each other.

"We are in continual dialogue with the contractor and meet with them onsite bi-weekly. However, while construction is underway, the facility is in possession of the contractor. As is typical for these situations, we cannot, under the terms of the contract, provide operational details on behalf of the contractor with regard to their supply of goods and/or tradespeople under contract." She added the township will be providing an update to council when the project has finished to address any outstanding issues that could have an impact on residents, taxpayers, or the community.

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TIM LOUIS

Member of Parliament
Kitchener-Conestoga

519-578-3777

Tim.Louis@parl.gc.ca

TimLouisMP.ca

@TimLouisKitCon

COMMUNITY —

Province demands older long-term care homes rebuild

Continued from page 1

at the same time the ministry understands the value of small-town homes. "We want to keep homes in the smaller communities for a number of reasons. We want people to be close to their communities. We saw during the pandemic how important that is." He added the other aspect is that many of these homes are the biggest employers and major property tax contributors. "These homes are also in the areas where we have wait lists and challenges with home care. We want those homes in the smaller communities." There are a few other projects that have been approved in Oxford County. A 194-bed Woodingford Lodge (run by the county) is slated for Ingersoll, peopleCare is building a 160-bed in Tillsonburg, and Caressant Care is upgrading part of its 164-bed home in Woodstock. Nearly all of the 60 thousand beds allocated by the province have been spoken for but there is still more to be done. "The goal is to have them all rebuilt or replaced by 2028," explained Calandra. "We had a program that ended (August 31, 2023), and it doubled the funding to get shovels in the ground because everyone had challenges with rising costs, so we knew we had to do something to keep the building going." Stan Cho has taken over the portfolio after leading the Ministry of Long-Term Care. Cho hasn't said yet if he plans on pushing the rebuilding agenda like his predecessor did. That remains to be seen.

Natalie Dechert is the Vice President of Operations at Caressant Care, the company that owns and operates The Maples along with 14 other long-term care homes in Ontario. She would not mention any specific projects but said they do have some plans in the works. "We appreciate the Government of Ontario's support for improving infrastructure in long-term care homes throughout the province and we are working with the Ministry of Long-Term Care on future redevelopment

projects for eligible homes. Projects are currently in the planning stage with the ministry. As soon as we're able, we will share these plans with our residents and the communities that we serve."

Prior to the pandemic, The Maples had 43 beds, which was reduced to 36 when three and four-bed ward rooms were taken away from older homes. Long-term care homes today are not built or rebuilt unless they are well over 100 beds due to factors such as economy of scale and the lack of available financing as a result. Dechert added despite several older homes in the company, Caressant Care is always striving to create warm, friendly, and caring homes for their residents. "Our organization operates primarily in smaller towns, so we try to emulate these values every day by creating tight-knit communities with safe, high-quality care. In keeping with this spirit, all our homes continue to be maintained to a high standard, with us making the necessary upgrades to ensure residents are comfortable."

Calandra admitted the long-term care sector has seen its challenges, but he's confident newly built homes are changing attitudes. "Obviously, the pandemic, the (Elizabeth) Wettlaufer case, had a lot of people thinking twice about long-term care. We are trying to help people understand the long-term care that you may have been used to and where we are going are completely different things. These new homes are truly different. We are seeing staff want to come back, and people are building up more confidence."

peopleCare's Vice-President of Communications and Engagement, Sheena Campbell, said her company believes the sector is an integral part of the health system, and they will continue to collaborate and integrate with home care and other partners. "Building solutions-oriented health system partnerships is a peopleCare strength and a focus

as we build out our new homes as part of planned senior living communities. This will enable seniors to live and age well, receiving a range of care, services, and housing options, along with community-based health and social supports, all in one place, including diagnostics available to residents through peopleCare and our community partners."

She added they are strong advocates for enhancing diagnostics in the sector, including through their participation on the ministry's provincial technical advisory table and a working group with the Ontario Long-Term Care Association. "We appreciate the ministry's ongoing support, the discussions with long-term care providers

at that advisory table, and funding new diagnostic equipment in all our homes. New funding for Nurse Practitioners (NP) is another example, enabling us to add a new, even higher level of clinician onsite to support our clinical team in rapidly diagnosing issues and supporting residents in making informed decisions about their care. We are currently recruiting for an NP for peopleCare Tavistock."

Campbell adds she is thrilled with the construction progress in Tavistock. "The footings and foundations are poured for the building perimeter and the interior courtyard. The new 128-bed home remains on schedule to open in 2024."

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COMMUNITY —

Opening of new EZT township office opening delayed



A picture of the incomplete East-Zorra Tavistock Township offices taken on September 11, 2023. The new opening date has been pushed back two months to mid-November.

Continued from page 1

DePrest added the project remains on budget. "We can also confirm that, to date, our cost tracking shows we are moving along within the approved scope of project costs." While there was not a firm commitment several months ago, the township said they are heading towards making meetings available for more members of the public. "We remain very much committed to taking advantage of the capabilities of the new facility in making council meetings accessible to the public. This has been a part of the design process. A report is planned for the September 20 meeting to share an update on changes to the current agenda and minutes process resulting from new software being implemented as the initial step toward the recording and future streaming of council meetings."

The November meeting of the Recreation Advisory Committee was scheduled to be held in the township's new digs but has been pushed back. The tentative date is now Wednesday, December 13, at 7 p.m. There may also be an open house for the public to tour the new building prior to the meeting.

The township said supply chain issues are to blame for a lengthy delay in flag poles being installed at the new building. The poles will be put in sometime next year. Staff was going to draft a Community Flagpole Policy but that has also been pushed back until more details on the specifications of the poles are known. Councillors are in favour of having a Canadian and Ontario flag with the third pole available for approved community

groups such as Oxford Pride after undergoing a yet-to-be-seen approval process.

Potential transit service

EZT staff are researching the possibility of acquiring a previously owned para-transit vehicle with the idea of what they are calling a pilot service program. Should the project go ahead and be unsuccessful the township believes the vehicle would be re-sellable. The township said the pilot would provide an opportunity to look at various routes, times, and locations without entering into a long-term commitment with a vendor. If the program is well-received, EZT would look at issuing a request for proposals to continue the service.

Camp Alliwannado

Annie Rowland, the camp's owner, requested a one-week delay in meeting with township staff to discuss the usage of Tavistock's Queen's Park for next year's potential camp. Pricing will also be discussed along with the importance of accessibility to the township's public spaces such as washrooms, spray pads, and pavilions.

Strategic Plan

East Zorra-Tavistock is readying for its first-ever Strategic Plan and decided to extend the closing date for requests for proposals by one week. All interested parties had their submissions into the township by September 6. Staff will now evaluate the proposals and bring recommendations to council at the September 20 meeting.



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COMMUNITY —

Ray's Produce Packs a Punch



By Mercedes Kay Gold

Labor Day was the perfect day to take a leisurely drive through Oxford County. Unbeknownst to me, it was the last official day of summertime hours at Ray's Produce stand. Loving local Ontario produce is key to building a healthy, thriving community. From supporting small business owners to the smiling students working, Ray is powering people with plant love and community pride. This small-town, family-owned and operated business is a local go-to for fresh garden goodness, and if you haven't been, it's worth the trip to Tavistock.

As a nutritionist, the power of plants is unparalleled. Choosing local equals eating a slew of in season vegetables and fruits. They are fresher, tastier and more nutritious. Farm-to-table cuts down on

picking produce too early to accommodate transportation and, therefore ripening on the shelves. Eating local also provides the opportunity to sample some handcrafted outstanding originals and produce you may pass by in the supermarket.

The key to longevity is eating a wide variety of fresh farm favorites in every color of the rainbow. Whether you pull it or pick it, vegetables and fruit should be the staple of all meals. Plants contain vitamins, minerals and an array of antioxidants to support overall health inside and outside the body. They boost the immune system while providing fiber. On top of supplying Mother Nature's fuel and keeping hunger at bay, fiber is essential for a dreamy digestion system. Produce has a positive effect upon blood sugar, supports heart and eye health, lowers blood pressure, helps

prevent a stroke and even offers protection against cancer. The bottom line is the higher the average daily intake of fruits and vegetables, the lower the chance of developing cardiovascular disease.

Think of your plate as a painter's palette. Each color supplies its own magic. Ray sells an array of yellow and orange, from cantaloupe to carrots to peppers. Hello, eye health helpers! Right on red. Watermelon has more lycopene than tomatoes. White is wondrous. The allyl sulfide content in cauliflower helps destroy cancer cells. Blue is body-boosting. Blackberries and blueberries provide anthocyanins, combatting free radicals throughout the body. Fuel the body with heavenly hues!

After filling my basket with sweet ripe berries, crunchy vegetables, and the biggest

cantaloupe in history, I was looking to top up my pantry. I was delighted to see my two favorite sugar swaps on shelves; Nith Valley Apiaries, local honey and maple syrup by Maple Tap Farm. Mother Nature has her own line of candy and seeing Aunt Lena's Preserves hand-crafts sugar-free preserves, I am excited about wild blueberry spread on tomorrow's toast. In honor of today's produce, I am going exclusively plant-based with a supersized salad stocked with brightly colored peppers, a rainbow of carrots, radishes, gorgeous greens, a tomato and topped with garlic scape vinaigrette by Harvest Goodies, a Food Innovation Winner.

Happiness is health and being healthy is happiness! Discover Ray's Produce and get plant-powered.

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

P.O. Box 389, NOB 2RO

info@wilmotpost.ca

thewtgazette@gmail.com

www.wilmotpost.ca | 519-655-2341

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COMMUNITY —

Two Wellesley sites participating in Region of Waterloo's Doors Open

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

There are several locations in Wellesley Township participating in the Region of Waterloo's annual Doors Open event on Saturday, September 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Local participating sites include Schnurr's Store and Town Hall in Linwood, Wellesley Township and the Township of Wellesley Council Chambers in Crosshill. Admission is free.

Whether you're a history buff or an architecture enthusiast, Doors Open offers a rare opportunity to access fascinating local buildings, not often open to the public.

Now in its 21st year, Doors Open Waterloo Region is part of Doors Open Ontario, a province-wide event that serves to celebrate community heritage and architecture.

After pandemic related closures, the region's event went digital in 2020, producing 33 episodes.

For its in-person return, the program showcases 20 participating sites throughout the Region's cities and townships, offering exclusive, behind-the-scenes access to some of the community's most interesting and elusive sites.

This year's program boasts iconic churches, a research lab, locomotives, libraries, an art studio and spaces that have been adapted and transformed. There are rural 1800s community spaces, sleek new urban builds, a TV studio, and a warehouse where a local engineer (and global personality) turns fictional concepts from films, comic books and video games into reality.

In addition to the Wellesley sites, other

participating sites include:

- Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower (Kitchener)
- Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA) (Waterloo)
- Waterloo Central Railway Restoration & Maintenance Facility (Woolwich)
- John MacDonald Architect offices (in the former Kitchener Public Utilities Commission Building) (Kitchener)
- Old Post Office location of Idea Exchange (Cambridge)
- Hespeler Location of Idea Exchange (Cambridge)
- Globe Studios (in the former Bonnie Stuart Shoe factory) (Kitchener)
- St. Andrews Hespeler Presbyterian Church (Cambridge)
- Waterloo County Gaol Garden (Kitchener)
- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Waterloo)
- Detweiler Meetinghouse & Roseville Cemetery (North Dumfries)
- Reep House for Sustainable Living (Kitchener)
- Central Presbyterian Church (Cambridge)
- Rogers TV Channel 20 Studio (Kitchener)
- Hacksmith Industries (Cambridge)
- Waterloo Public Library - Eastside Branch (Waterloo)
- Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI Campus) (Waterloo)
- Seagram Cultural Heritage Landscape Tour (Waterloo)



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COMMUNITY —

Scenes from the 2023 edition of the Tavistock Fall Fair



One of the exciting attractions at this year's fall fair was the R&R Pet Paradise active dog show. Dogs (all rescues) were fun and exciting, as both large and small pooches raced through the obstacle course. (Photo credit: Gary West)

By Gary West

Directors and volunteers from the Tavistock Agricultural Society must be

congratulated for organizing this year's annual event. There was something there for everyone.



The weather was perfect for the 4-H beef open show. Young future beef farmers were able to show their exceptionally trained 4-H projects in front of many spectators that included families from near and far. (Photo credit: Gary West)

Area residents enjoyed the variety of entertainment, from the fair ambassador competition to the excellent display of

exhibits, to the cattle and horse shows, an exciting dog show, car show, and many more.



A participant rounds the track at the annual lawnmower races. (Photo credit: Lee Griffi)



Children enjoy a hay bale maze, one of the many attractions for young people. (Photo credit: Lee Griffi)

Letter to the Editor:

When it was my week to fill the food pantry at Zion United Church on Peel Street, I was pleasantly surprised. A woman and her son who live nearby came with several cans and toiletries to donate to our food pantry. She said she regularly puts items in the pan-

try as she sees there is such a need. I know she isn't the only person who donates items to our pantry. To all our caring citizens of New Hamburg who donate food to our food pantry, many thanks. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, by those of us at Zion United,

and by the many people who use the pantry.
Janet Bradley Worthington,
New Hamburg

COMMUNITY —

Tavistock Fall Fair opens with a large crowd at the Ambassador Competition



It is not often that a Canadian Senator officially opens an area fall fair but the “Right Honourable” Robert Black was on hand Friday evening in Tavistock to open the 171st edition of the Agriculture Society’s annual fall fair. M.C. for the evening was the 2019 Fall Fair Ambassador, Emma Pullen, who welcomed the Senator to the stage in the Memorial Hall.

By Gary West

This year was the 171st edition of the Tavistock Fall Fair and the 36th edition of the annual “Ambassador of the Fair” competition.

As one of the judges, Erica Sayles, said in her remarks before the winner was

announced, “any one of the three ladies vying for the crown could well be a winning Ambassador at any fair in Ontario.”

The contestants included Ashley Aarts, sponsored by the Tavistock Men’s Club, Nicole Danen, sponsored by the Tavistock Opti-Mrs Club, and Janeen Overdevest, sponsored by the Princess Elizabeth



Left to right, Senator Robert Black, competitors Ashley Aarts and Janeen Overdevest, Nicole Danen, crowned this year’s Ambassador of the Fair, along with judges Judy Waymouth, Erica Sayles, and Eddie Matthews.

Women’s Institute.

Following interviews, prepared speeches and impromptu sessions, Nicole Danen was named the 2023 fair ambassador. She accepted the crown and flower bouquet from last year’s ambassador, Stephanie Cahill.

It was interesting to note that the Danen name has appeared quite often at area fairs in the past.

Sarah Danen was fair ambassador in 2018, Heidi Danen in 1996, Jane Danen (Pullen), runner-up in 1992, and Rose Danen was an Ambassador for the Stratford Fall Fair.

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COMMUNITY —

New Hamburg Firebirds hosting annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

By Morgan Miller

The New Hamburg Firebirds are once again asking for your help and continued support for their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Since its inception, The New Hamburg Firebirds Thanksgiving game night, along with the students and their school's participation, have been able to collect over 28,500 lbs of non-perishable food to put on the shelves of the Wilmot Family Resource Centre.

After being very restricted for a couple of years as to what we were able to do, last year we were back in full force, and by the end of the food drive 8,530 lbs of food donations and over \$3,000 in monetary donations were collected. The New Hamburg Firebirds Thanksgiving Food Drive's huge success only becomes a reality because of the phenomenal help of people in a community that just continues to give.

Unfortunately, this year is no different

than past years... the fact is we are in great need of your help and support more than ever. New Hamburg has a well-deserved reputation for its welcoming attitude and kindness. While we don't know what changes and challenges lie in the future, we do know that we are resilient, and we can adapt to whatever comes next and continue to learn from the past. One of the things that make New Hamburg such a great place to live is the way residents come together to assist, and support each other if the need presents itself. I see this evidence in every part of the community, especially this time of year.

Our official launch for the New Hamburg Firebirds Thanksgiving Food Drive is at the Wilmot Family Centre's Poor Boy Luncheon on Thursday, September 28. The Thanksgiving Food Drive Early Bird Meet the Players will be at both Sobeks and Mackay's NoFrills on Saturday, September 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and of course, our main event is the Firebirds Thanksgiving Friday Night Game on October 6.



New Hamburg Firebirds players at last year's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Consultation Centre #2

New well supply in Tavistock

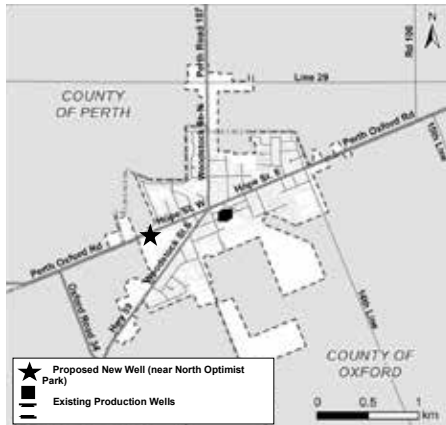
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study

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*.



Information will be collected in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

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.
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COMMUNITY —

Punkeydoodles residents raise more concerns about traffic safety

Public meeting scheduled for October

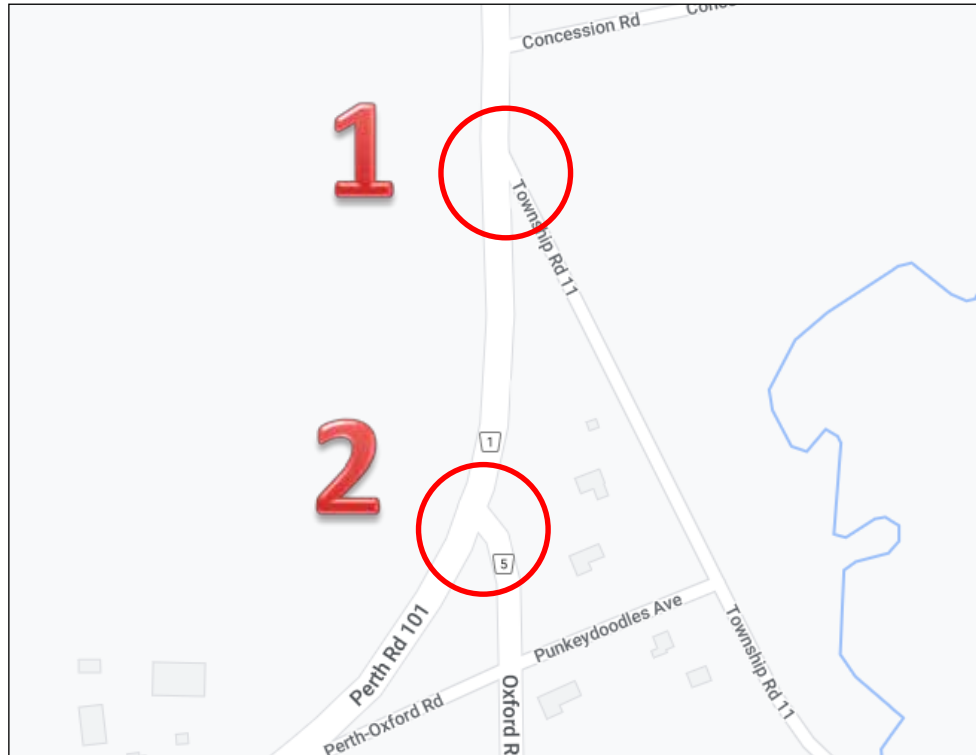
By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford County has made an improvement to one dangerous intersection in Punkeydoodles Corners, but area residents are putting pressure on Oxford County to come up with a permanent solution to make the entire area safer.

Shannon Snyder and her family live right beside the intersection where a young local woman lost her life nearly a year ago. She said there have been three accidents in the area over the last month or so, sparking concerns about road safety again. "The spot by our house where they put the light in seems to be better now. People still run it, but maybe not as much, and there hasn't been a collision there. The other two intersections are still having collisions. We don't want it to be forgotten that it's not fixed."

There has been a great deal of debate over what is causing so many accidents on the oddly designed roads in the area. Snyder explained there are several reasons why it's so dangerous. "I don't think it's all driver error. It is a very confusing spot with all of those ways on and off the road, and there are awkward turns. Two of them are kind of pulling onto a corner or into a situation where most people would yield at that point towards Tavistock. I think the visibility on that corner isn't good and traffic is moving really fast." She added people are looking but they don't have enough time because of the vantage points and the confusion throughout the area. She added that GPSs are also pulling more people into the area, increasing volume. "It has become a way for people to take a faster route to the Woodstock area, so it is being used more than it ever has."

Oxford County, which is in charge of traffic in the area but needs financial support



A map supplied by Tavistock's Chee Peng illustrates two areas of concern on roadways at Punkeydoodles Corners.

from Perth County and Waterloo Region on any construction projects, has scheduled a public meeting for October 5. The time and location have yet to be determined. "What I have heard is Oxford County has set up a traffic study on the area, so there has been a road engineering company out assessing the area and we have had a chat with him. I think they will be presenting what they would propose at this meeting next month," said Snyder, who added another problem in the area is three different police forces respond to accidents in the area, which may be undermining a true understanding of how many accidents are occurring.

"We don't feel accidents are being properly documented. The totals that are being put forth just don't seem at all accurate with the amount we are seeing." The Gazette has reached out to both the Perth and Oxford OPP along with Waterloo Region Police, and it has been difficult to get a true picture of the number of accidents in the area, and it is clear the different police forces do not communicate with each other. "The numbers just aren't accurate because they aren't being compiled in the same place. It can make it seem there aren't as many happening as there are. A lot of us are starting to do our own documenting because the numbers

aren't reflecting what's really happening," Snyder said she read one media story that said there were 11 accidents over eight years in the area, which she said is simply wrong. "We are all looking at it and thinking there is absolutely no way that is right. There would be times we would see two a month. Obviously, the problem doesn't seem as urgent when it isn't properly documented," added Snyder. She said if the numbers were accurate, there may be a bigger push for change. "Let's really fix the problem instead of sinking money into something that isn't long-term. Honestly, I would love to not have to keep having these discussions, but we feel we need to keep this push on. We are coming up on a year anniversary since we had a death there. We don't want to see that happen again, and it's quite possible it will with the speeds people are travelling and the confusion that's there."

Area residents believe a roundabout will be the ultimate solution in the area, and they feel the engineer will ultimately support that, but an interim plan might be introduced, pushing the ultimate plan out for budget reasons. "We are worried they may try to do something in the interim that won't solve the problem and potentially waste time, effort, and money. It's frustrating when you hear it could be years and years before they really implement a good solution."

Residents not even living in the immediate area continue to let their concerns be known on social media and to the county's road department, including Tavistock's Chee Peng. "Action ought to be based on incident data at the location, and I am sure they have plenty of that. All we can hope is that the next accident will involve one of our family members." Peng recently sent a letter and map pleading with the county to act sooner rather than later.

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COMMUNITY —

Local school boards implement “disconnecting from work” protocol

By Veronica Reiner

The Waterloo Region District School Board and the Waterloo Catholic School Board has developed a Disconnecting from Work Protocol, which sets parameters for employees’ availability (e.g. responding to emails) and supports a shift in organizational culture.

“After seeing the positive outcomes observed in various organizations following the implementation of similar disconnecting from work strategies and drawing inspiration from institutions renowned for their award-winning cultures, we are excited to embrace these practices ourselves, championing the cultivation of a healthy work-life balance,” wrote WRDSB spokesperson Estefania Brandenstein in a prepared statement to the Wilmot-Tavistock

Gazette.

“We understand that creating healthy and professional boundaries between work and home life is essential for maintaining positive mental health and, ultimately, enhancing our ability to serve and support our students effectively.”

Connecting with staff during regular work hours on school days, from Monday to Friday, is best. While those contacting teachers can always send emails after hours, staff will be encouraged to respond during their normal work hours to allow them time with their families and other important relationships.

There are certain times in the year that staff will reach out after hours for parent-teacher meetings, or previously agreed to meetings. However, staff are not

expected to respond to emails or messages in the evening or on weekends.

The policy was developed while keeping in mind the legislation for the Working for Workers Act that was passed by the province in December 2021. In this legislation, “disconnecting from work” was defined as “not engaging in work-related communications, including emails, telephone calls, video calls or the sending or reviewing of other messages, so as to be free from the performance of work.”

Only those employers with 25 employees or more must have a written disconnecting from work policy.

The policy must apply to all of an employer’s employees who work in Ontario – regardless of role and whether the employee is full time, part time or temporary.

This includes management and executive employees.

“This is one of several strategies WRDSB is employing to support the health and well-being of our employees,” wrote Director of Education jeewan chanicka in an open letter directed to parents and caregivers.

“A healthy, family-friendly workforce will make a positive difference in your school community and for your child. We are committed to ensuring your student is supported socially, emotionally and academically.”

Director of Education for the WCDSB, Tyrone Dowling, issued a nearly identical statement.

Oxford OPP investigating multiple thefts in Tavistock

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tavistock was buzzing with people attending the fall fair over the weekend, but it was also busy with a number of thefts of construction hardware in and around the town.

The Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police said that an unknown suspect or suspects attended a residential construction site at Wettlaufer and William Streets and the surrounding area sometime between Friday and Monday. A number of pieces of construction equipment were taken. An excavator was removed from Wettlaufer Street, a Bobcat mini excavator and a Bomag plate tamper were removed from William Street, a diesel plate packer and a skid steer bucket were removed from Diamond Street, a John Deere skid steer 323E

was removed from an address on Oxford Road 34. Police added that a 20-foot Triumph galvanized trailer was removed from Woodstock Street. An excavator, the diesel plate packer, and the skid steer bucket have since been recovered.

Anyone with information about these investigations is asked to contact the Oxford OPP or contact Crimestoppers.

An employee from Apple Homes went online asking for the public’s help. “We at Apple Homes had one of our excavators stolen from our new Southbridge site this morning. We found it thanks to our tracking device, but I was wondering if anyone had cameras that could see the vehicle/truck leaving town.” Another Facebook post had a picture of a stolen trailer from Bennic Tool and Die on Woodstock Street South.



POLICE REPORTS

Wilmot man charged with impaired driving

A Wilmot man was arrested in connection to an impaired driving incident in Wilmot Township on September 7.

At about 4:05 p.m., emergency services responded to reports of a single vehicle collision around Erbs Road and Wilmot Easthope Road.

A male driver was travelling north on Erbs Road when the driver left the roadway. He was transported by the Region of Waterloo Paramedic Services to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

As a result of the investigation, a 32-year-old Huron County man was arrested and charged with the following: “operation while impaired,” “dangerous operation,” “driving while under suspension,” “possess license while prohibited,” and “driver fail to properly wear a seatbelt.”

Anyone who witnessed the collision or who has dash cam footage is encouraged to call police at 519-570-

9777, extension 8856.

Anonymous information can be provided to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or www.waterloocrimestoppers.com.

Intimate partner investigation in Perth East leads to impaired charge

The Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged a Stratford resident with impaired driving after an intimate partner investigation on September 5.

At about 3:52 p.m., the Perth OPP attended a residence on Perth Line 55 in Perth East after reports that the accused attended the residence when on conditions not to be there. The accused was located on a neighbouring property driving farm equipment.

Throughout the investigation, officers could smell a “strong odor” of alcohol beverage emanating from the accused and administered a roadside screening device. The driver was then arrested and transported to a local operations centre for more testing.

As a result, a 42-year-old from Stratford was charged with “failure to comply with release order - other than

to attend court,” and “operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).”

Police initiated a 90 day Administrative Driver’s License Suspension and a seven day vehicle impoundment. The accused was held in custody pending a bail hearing.

Anyone with information about this or any incident can contact the Perth County OPP at 1-888-210-1122. Those who wish to remain anonymous can leave an online message at www.p3tips.com.

Wilmot sea can broken into

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) are investigating after a report of a break and enter to a sea can around Notre Dame Drive and Berlett’s Road in Wilmot Township.

An unknown suspect(s) cut the padlock of a sea can and stole property. The exact date of this incident is unknown, but is believed to have occurred before July 12 this year.

Anyone with information is asked to call police or to remain anonymous, Crime Stoppers.

COMMUNITY —

Second annual Tavistock family and friends bike rally at last weekends Tavistock Fair

Tavistock Fair hosted its second annual Tavistock family and friends bike rally on the weekend.

The event included bike/scooter decorating contest, and the chance for entrants to ride their bike or scooter through the Autumn Treasure themed obstacle course that included going over Autumn Ridge, around flamingo cove, and over a pirate bay with treasure. All categories had winners for \$10 and they are as follows:

For the bike decorating portion of the contest, Lauren Yantha won for ages 2 to 6, Nolan Yantha won for ages 7 to 12, and Arielle McGregor for ages 13+.

Winners for the bicycle obstacle course included Westyn Ropp, Isaac Kurevija and Jaydan McGregor. Winners in the scooter contest was Emmett Wiegand, who also had his name drawn from all the previous entries and was awarded the grand prize of \$100.

There were three bonus awards, and they went to Angel De Leon, Jace Keller, and Nolan Yantha.

The organizers of the event - Dana, Jamey and Jaydan McGregor, thanked the YMCA of 3 Rivers Stratford, and Musical Moments Piano and Theory for sponsoring the event.



The winners of the bike rally.

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New well supply in Tavistock

Have your say on the site of a new drinking water supply for Tavistock!

The second public consultation event for the Tavistock New Well Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study takes place:

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

Log-in details at www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup

This is a virtual (online) public meeting. Comments and questions on the design concepts for the new well can be submitted up until Friday, October 6, 2023.

The Village of Tavistock currently receives water services from three wells located near Queen's Park. This study explored new potential well locations so that Tavistock has a secure, long-term supply of drinking water.

Learn more at www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/new-well-supply-tavistock



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COMMUNITY —

Champion Perth County junior drag racer, Alexis Hinds, is racing to the world championships



Champion Dragster Alexis Hinds, with her trophies, along with her mom Melissa and sister Avery. Her family pets, Nelson and Jake, are always close by on their family farm.



Dragster Champion Alexis with her mechanic dad, Shawn, following her win recently at the Grand Bend Motorplex, and next stop is to the world championship in South Carolina in October.

By Gary West

It's not every day that a 17-year-old from North Easthope Township in Perth County can say they are going to the Worlds in Junior Drag Racing.

In this case, it's a young farm girl that appears to be leaving all competitors behind in the dust, so to speak.

Alexis Hinds was given the honour at Grand Bend Motor Speedway recently, and will now be heading to Darlington Dragway in South Carolina, to compete in the World Drag Racing Alliance (WDRA) world championship competition in October.

In a recent interview, the young dragster, who is in grade 12 at St. Mikes Catholic Secondary School in Stratford, was more than excited to be heading south to show her ability against the best in the world.

Alexis explains that she "holds a WDRA Elite Licence that allows her to run as fast as 7.5 seconds in the 1/8th mile."

To earn a licence, one must complete safety training by track officials and do a series of practice runs alone down the track. There are age requirements for certain licences and speeds. Alexis competes at both Grand Bend Motorplex and the St. Thomas Dragway.

She is involved in "bracket" racing, which isn't about the fastest car, but it's a numbers game. Consistency and reaction time win races, and everything is measured down to one-thousandth of a second.

The teenage racer says, "the race starts with typically one or two timed trials. The time trials give the racers an opportunity to test their car down the track to determine their 'dial' times. It also establishes their position on the ladder, based on the best reaction time. Following the time trials is the first round of eliminations."

Each racer will provide a dial time on their car. This dial time is measured down to 1 hundredths of a second. Alexis's car ran consistently 7.86 seconds in the 1/8th mile. A racer lines up with their competitor and races off to see which car is the closest to their dial time.

Alexis explains, "to begin the race, each driver stages their car and waits for a series of lights to signal the race to start. The drivers are then measured by the reaction to the start, down to the thousandth of a second. A driver can have a triple zero start, meaning 0.000 of a second".

The winner of the race is determined by the reaction time, plus the distance to their dial in. So, if Alexis had a 0.000 reaction and ran 7.86 on the estimated dial in 7.86,

it would be a perfect package! But the catch is, you can't go faster than your "dial in," or you break out and lose.

Her mother did explain to this writer - "typically there are four to six rounds of elimination in the event, and at the start of each racing season, racers can join points at their local race track. Each round of elimination a racer wins, throughout the series, earns points. At the end of the season, the racer with the most points earned is deemed the track champion"!

Alexis is the official track champion at the Grand Bend Motorplex for 2023.

The young racer says she has been going to races in

A colorful poster for a fundraising concert. At the top is a logo for 'CAMP TANNER' featuring a tent and a flame. Below it is a large illustration of a yellow tent with a fire burning in front of it. The text 'Camp Tanner' is written in a large, white, stylized font. Below that, 'Fundraising Concert' is written in a large, yellow, stylized font. At the bottom, 'Allison Lupton Band' is written in a smaller, blue font. The date 'SEPT 30TH Saturday' is written in a large, white font. To the right of the date, the location 'COLLEGE AVE UNITED CHURCH' is written, along with the time '7:30 pm' and ticket price 'Tickets: \$20'. A phone number 'CALL: 519-349-2768' and an address '22 Wilson St., Woodstock, ON' are also listed. At the very bottom, two email addresses are provided: 'johnmaryellenperrin@gmail.com' and 'carly.piatt@outlook.com'.

Grand Bend to watch her Dad race since she was five years old, and by age 11, as a Christmas present, was gifted her own dragster. The rest is history.

Alexis and her younger sister, Avery, are daughters of Shawn and Melissa Hinds and reside on their farm north-west of Shakespeare, where they farm with broiler chickens. Their grandparents are Doug and Denise Scheerer, who still live 1 Concession, north of the original home farm, that remains in the family.

Her great grandfather, Ken Scheerer, is probably up there smiling, as Alexis is taking on and beating all the boys her age with her own Jr. Dragster.

An advertisement for 'NEW HAMBURG OFFICE PRO'. The top part features the company name in large, bold letters, with 'Pro' in a green, stylized font. Below the name is the tagline 'Good People, Who Know'. The middle section has a graphic with the words 'BACK TO SCHOOL' in large, bold letters, flanked by orange arrows. Below this, a list of products is provided: 'Pens - Paper - Binders', 'Coil Notebooks - Calculators', 'Math/Geometry sets', and 'And Much More!'. A statement 'All major brands of ink and toner' is followed by 'We recycle your old cartridges'. The bottom section contains the address '251A Huron Street, New Hamburg ON' and the phone number '519-662-3710 | www.nhofficepro.ca'.

COMMUNITY —

New OmniVore Solar Bear compact composter, is a new wave in reducing waste

By Gary West

Many stories have been told about farm animals and food processing that has to do with meat, vegetables and food that is found on grocery and supermarket shelves, bought fresh by the consumer.

But what about all those food products, including meat, fruit and vegetables, that have to be disposed of sometime after their date of expiry?

Bring on a unit called the Omnivore Composter, which is a compact unit that can compost both plant and animal matter.

At the same time, bring on an entrepreneur and a young teenager from North Easthope township in Perth County.

Neil Scholten and his family own CountyLine Equipment, founded in 1998.

They have locations near Listowel and Hickson, along with a BulkTech company north of Shakespeare.

He has always been someone who makes large composters for on-farm dead stock, from his own design, along with other agricultural-related equipment, something that farmers, whether livestock or vegetable growers, can use in their operations.

A young 14-year-old, Daniel Campbell, who is a neighbour to Scholten, and a



Left, 14-year-old Daniel Campbell, who designed the solar module for powering the unit shown above, along with company owner, Neil Scholten, showing the newly developed OmniVore "Solar Bear" composter, which can be shipped in small containers very reasonably, to anywhere in North America and eventually worldwide.

friend of his grandson, has worked along with him to power the rotating semi-insulated drum of the smaller, newly designed composter, to operate efficiently with very few moving parts.

Neil designed the composter out of a large plastic "O" tile, sometimes used as culverts in laneways, bolted to a steel ring at each end, with a small tapered loading chute

(shown), and driven by a roller chain and solar-powered by a small electric motor.

The solar design was that of the young Daniel Campbell, who also fabricated and welded the frame for the solar module to charge the battery below, which will slowly turn the insulated composting drum. They have tested running a solar powered unit for two years and encountered no issues.

The composter is designed to compost 400 pounds per week of plant and animal matter. Wood shavings are added to the drum to speed up the process. The end result is fertilizer that can and will enhance soil to grow various kinds of food for plants and animals in the future.

During a recent interview, Scholten says, "the Omnivore Composter, named Solar Bear, will be used on farms to compost small animals such as poultry." He "hopes grocery stores, high school and college cafeterias, along with fruit and vegetable market gardens, will find a use for the company's new compact composter, under various situations."

He feels that composting products to produce material that can be worked back into the soil, is a much better way than by sending food wastes to landfill sites.

Reduce, reuse and recycle, is still the order of the day while using the "Solar Bear" composter.

The unit will be demonstrated at the innovation centre at the Woodstock Outdoor Farm Show on September 12, 13, and 14.

More info at omnivorecomposter.com or call Bert at 519-492-0611.

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FAMILY MILESTONES —

OBITUARY

HARTMAN, Tillman "Till"



Tillman "Till" Hartman of R.R.#1 Shakespeare passed away peacefully in his 89th year on Sunday, September 3, 2023, at LHSC Victoria Hospital.

Loved husband of Muriel (Levy) Hartman for 67 years. Dearly loved by his children, Debbie Hartman (Marc Shickluna), Patti Hartman and Julie

Hartman (Brian Copping).

Proud Papa of Mitchell Shickluna and "Papa Till" to Stephanie Cahill.

Dear brother of Barbara Corriveau, Richard Hartman, Martha (Jim Ruggaber), Ellen (Maurice Rau); brother-in-law of Dara Hartman, and Grace Black.

Predeceased by his parents Alphonse and Dorothy Hartman; sister, Mary Ann Flanagan; brother, Michael Hartman; brothers-in-law, Bernard Flanagan, Harvey Corriveau, Phillip Black, Bill Carducci, and sister-in-law, Joanne Hartman.

Lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

A special thank-you to the staff at Stratford General Hospital and the Victoria Hospital Thoracic Unit for their kindness and compassionate care.

Relatives and friends were received in the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock Street North, Tavistock on Sunday, from 2-5 pm. where the funeral service was held on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 11 am. Rev. Fr. David Butler will officiate. Reception following.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to Stratford General Hospital Foundation would be appreciated and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home by calling 519-655-2431.

Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

OBITUARY

FAIR, Bruce



Passed away peacefully at Tavistock People Care on September 2, 2023 in his 94th year. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 66 years Alva (Harvey) on May 14, 2020.

Cherished and loving father of Wendy (Larry) Johnson of New Hamburg and Cheryl (Ritchie) Barclay of Calgary. Devoted

grandfather of Sarah of Elmira; Katelyn of Calgary; and Kevin of Wellington, New Zealand. He is survived by sisters Irene Smith, Helen Lee, Elva (Malcolm Hicks) and brother Neil (Eleanor). Predeceased by brothers Lorne, Russell, Murray, Elwood and Lloyd. He will be missed by sisters-in-law Alberta, Pearl and Dorothy.

Beloved uncle of many nieces and nephews, as well as many grand nieces and nephews. He will also be greatly missed by the Harvey family.

After leaving the family farm, Bruce started working for New Holland Farm Machinery in

1952. His job as a service technician included travelling to various dealerships and farms around Eastern and Southern Ontario fixing farm equipment. He often went to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to share his knowledge with other service technicians. After his retirement he worked for Tavistock Farm Equipment, where he enjoyed many years sharing his knowledge with the 'younger' technicians.

Bruce was an active member of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, where he filled many various roles throughout the years. He spent many years travelling to Camp Oneida helping to get the camp ready each year for the incoming summer campers.

Bruce loved his family and was proud of their accomplishments. He enjoyed many reunions, and holiday dinners over the years. He cherished the visits with his grandchildren who gave him the opportunity to visit such wonderful places as Marineland, the Butterfly Conservatory, and Niagara Falls.

Special thanks to the staff at Tavistock People Care for the wonderful care provided to Bruce in his last years. You truly are angels!

Relatives and friends shared their memories on Thursday September 7, 2023 from 2-4 pm at Brock and Visser Funeral Home, 845 Devonshire Ave, Woodstock, Ontario. A Celebration of Bruce's life was held at 11 am on Friday September 8, 2023. The service will be live streamed and available on the funeral home's website.

As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Alzheimer's Society, First Baptist Church, or the Diabetes Association would be appreciated. Personal condolences and donation information will be available at www.brockandvisser.com

OBITUARY

JAMES, Bryan "Jess"



1952 - 2023 Bryan James, 71, of Riverview NB, passed away on Friday September 8, 2023 at his residence. Bryan's love for Jesus and His promise of eternal life, gave Bryan great strength to get thru his most challenging days with cancer.

Humble, Generous, Courageous and Compassionate; Bryan was

blessed with a beautiful tenor voice. His singing gave his listeners great pleasure. Bryan loved scenic drives, coastal walks and his wonderful loyal fun friends. He enjoyed playing ice hockey and baseball throughout the years; but it was the camaraderie with his teammates which he enjoyed the most.

Bryan will be sadly missed by his wife Faye (Weston) his soulmate for 45 years, his sister Deb, nephew Mark, sister-in-law Dawn (Roger), niece Tracy (Matt), Josh and Allison, niece Sharon (Geoff), Rye & Liam. Predeceased by his parents Betty and Albert, nephew Bradley, in-laws Audrey and Ben, sister in law Heather.

At Bryan's request there will be no funeral. Cremation has taken place. Interment will be at Riverside Cemetery in New Hamburg, Ontario If you would like to make a donation in Bryan's honour it would be greatly appreciated to donate to Samaritans Purse - International Disaster Relief Canada, by calling toll free 1 800 663 6500. Ask to be put thru to donations, once there, advise your donation is in honour of Bryan James. You may also send a cheque to : Samaritans Purse - Canada Disaster Relief (mention in honour of Bryan James) 20 Hopewell Way NE Calgary, AB T3J 5H5

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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) In what century was the Japanese river otter declared extinct?
- 2) Earth's second outermost layer is known as what?
- 3) What is Mariah Carey's best-selling album?
- 4) How tall was Robert Wadlow, the world's tallest man?
- 5) What is the only continent with no active volcanoes?
- 6) The smallest bone in the human body is what?
- 7) In what year was Fox News launched?
- 8) The letter C, represents what number in Roman Numerals?
- 9) What animal can sleep up to 3 years without waking up?
- 10) How many people attended the Last Supper?

Answers found on page 26

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

September 14: Happy Birthday to Owen Doehn (11), and Gloria Wetlaufer.

September 15: Happy Birthday to Benjamin Zehr (20).

September 16: Happy Birthday to Simon Wencel (10), Nancy Weicker and Wallace Steinman, and anniversary for Kendell and Jill Rempel (17th).

September 17: Happy birthday to Jacob Gladding (13), Danielle Bartlett (19), and Sandy Schultz, and anniversary for Shawn and Nerea Roth (18th).

September 18: Happy Birthday to Dominick Smelski (20) and Amanda Witmer (21).

September 19: Happy Birthday to Carlee Richmond (9), Rence Dietrich (1) and anniversaries for Maurice and Carol Wettlaufer (36th) and Mike and Kelly Blum (8th).

September 20: Happy Birthday to Chloe and Nadine Seyler (22), Spencer Roth (23), and anniversaries for Doug and Sherry Hohl (15th), Ryan and Kristen Cook (15th), and Peter and Andrea Jutzi (9th).

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

The Old Gazettes

By Jake Grant

Slowly but surely, I'm reading through the past pages of the Tavistock Gazette (est. 1895). Within this weekly column I'd like to share with you some of my findings.

September 4-11, 2013, Edition (10 years ago)

There was no shortage of talent Saturday night in the Memorial Hall as ten young people offered a variety of entertainment to a packed house. From dancing to singing to piano, the first "Tavi's Got Local Talent" was a great success. Some of the stars include 13-year-old Josh Kimpel who played a familiar rendition of Beethoven's Fur Elise, 10-year-old Delaney Zehr who danced to "Fly My Heart" from Tinker Bell, the movie.

September 3-10, 2003, Edition (20 years ago)

Firefighters from four local departments participated in the 2nd Annual Firefighters' Games held at the Tavistock Fall Fair on Friday evening at the Queen's Park ball diamond. The games were oriented toward fun and teamwork, said East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Chief Bruce Holst, as opposed to individual strength and endurance. Teams from Hickson, Tavistock, Innerkip, and

Shakespeare ran a horse race, barrel race, ladder race, and an obstacle course to come up with a combined overall score. Shakespeare firefighters had the best combined time of 5:17 to take first place. They were followed by Hickson at 5:50, then Tavistock at 6:12 and finally Innerkip scoring a 6:22.

The 23rd Annual Baby Show of the Tavistock Fall Fair gave 61 babies the opportunity to bring their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, brothers, and sisters to the fair for a fun afternoon.

Witnesses say a Kindergarten-age youngster from Hidden Valley Park received undisclosed injuries when she was struck by a car in Tavistock on Hope Street East on Sunday evening. Employees of Casaroma Pizza called emergency crews around 8:00 p.m. when the child was hit while trying to cross the road in the company of her parents.

September 4-11, 1963, Edition (60 years ago)

Close to 1,000 people gathered in the park on Friday night to watch and cheer the six competing teams entered in the Tug-of-War competition at the 112th Fall Fair. Held east of the Memorial Hall the Oxford Junior Farmer team, coached by George

Totten, emerged as the victors out of the six -team competition, out-pulling the South East-hope team coached by Allan McKone. The competition got underway at nine o'clock and concluded at about 11 o'clock. It was announced during the evening that next year's competition will be held on the ball diamond.

Brenda Bagg, 12-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Bagg, was the winner of a bicycle in the Elmer Safety Contest conducted over CKCO-TV, Kitchener. She was presented with the bicycle last week.

While no date has been set for a liquor vote requested in a petition to North East-hope Township Council last month, rate-payers may go to polls in November on the question.

Mrs. Ervin Becker of Cassel suffered an ankle injury when assisting in picking vegetables. The accident occurred when the trailer attached to the tractor jackknifed. Mrs. Becker was sitting on the trailer.

This week's grocery specials include 49 cents for 4 - 700 sheet roles of Cashmere toilet tissue, Pillsbury Cherry Angel Food Cake Mix for 53 cents a package, and Jocko Chocolate milk is on sale at 27 cents for 3 tins.

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Pastor Hugh Rutledge 655-3611
Email: office@tavistock.church
www.tavistock.church

COMMUNITY —

Perth County's Cultivating Opportunity Grant Program Application Period Now Open

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The application period is officially open for the Cultivating Opportunity Grant Program's Community Stream. Eligible applicants will be considered for grant funding up to a maximum of \$2,500. The program supports not-for-profit community organizations and registered charities providing valuable services in Perth County.

"There are so many wonderful community organizations in Perth County," said Warden Rhonda Ehgoetz. "County Council is pleased to be able to support organizations who provide great programming, services, and support across the region."

"We saw a substantial interest in the program following last year's re-launch," said Tyler Sager, Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk. "The program supported

four great organizations who provide services and programming in Perth County."

Those interested in applying should visit www.perthcounty.ca/grants to download the program information package and complete the online application form. Priority is given to organizations that provide programming and services for the benefit of the Perth County community and that align with the County's strategic plan. Projects that support goals of the County's Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism Charter and/or the Joint Multi-Year Accessibility Plan are also encouraged.

The deadline to apply is November 30 at 11:59 p.m. Questions about the grant program and application process can be directed to Perth County's Legislative Services Division by email clerk@perth-county.ca or phone 519-271-0531.

Speed camera knocked over in Baden



The knocked down speed camera in Baden. (Photo credit: Sandor Farkas)

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

A speed camera outside of two schools in Baden was cut down as of Friday morning, September 8.

The camera is located on Snyder's Road in front of Sir Adam Beck Public School and Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School.

The Waterloo Regional Police Service attended the scene that morning as students

arrived for school. The investigation into property damage is pending.

The Region of Waterloo implemented a speed camera program for all schools in the area in June.

The speed limit on Snyder's Road is normally 60 kilometres an hour (km/h), dropping down to 40 km/h around school zones between September and June from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FUTURE OXFORD Fall Speaker Series

The Future Oxford Speaker Series presents two free events this fall focusing on how to reduce energy costs and lower carbon emissions at home and in our workplaces. Join us to learn from local experts and enjoy refreshments from local businesses.







Get Smart! Energy audits for greener homes
Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Oxford County Library – Ingersoll Branch



Get Smart! Fundamentals of energy management in the private sector
Thursday, September 21, 2023, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Oxford County Administration Building, Woodstock
This event will be live-streamed

Learn more at www.futureoxford.ca/events

FutureOxford

LIVE AUCTION SALE

Of Tractors, small equipment, Suzuki 4 Wheeler, butcher equipment, guns, tools, furniture, antiques, and miscellaneous items, to be held at 1039 Nafziger Rd. Wilmot Twp. (south off highway 7&8, near Bleams Rd., 2km east of New Hamburg),
for The Dan and Janet Boshart Estates,
on Saturday, September 23rd @ 9:00 a.m.

Kubota M7040 (Serial # 89289), c/w M25 loader, 6 ½ ft. bucket, 4wd, hyd. shuttle, cab, air, ONLY 360 hours, like new condition. MF 35 Deluxe tractor. 2005 Suzuki Eiger Quad Runner, 400cc, winch, 3100 km, good running condition. Hobart commercial type meat grinder on casters, single phase. 2 gal. sausage stuffer. Nella electric meat slicer. 30 X 72" stainless butcher table, etc. Walker M36-42 riding mower, zero turn, 42" cut, 10,500 hours. Honda FR650 rear tine tiller. Cub Cadet Signature Cut Series lawn mower, self-propelled. 6 Kayaks. Nova Craft 15ft. canoe. Lots of tools, antiques and much more. GUNS (To sell at approx. 12:00 noon): Hunter & Homak gun vaults. 23 guns (15 rifles, 8 shot guns, includes Winchester, Remington, Savage, Mossberg, Cooney and more). See www.gerberauctions.net for photos, terms, complete list and sale order. Preview – Friday September 22nd 12 noon to 6pm. or by appointment.

Proprietors – Dan & Janet Boshart Estate (Holly 519-577-1622)
Gerber Auctions Ltd. 519-699-4451
2827 Hutchison Rd. R#1 Millbank (Crosshill)

COMMUNITY —

Decorative homes in Tavistock



This house on Woodstock Street S was gearing up for the Autumn Treasures Fall Fair that took place on the weekend. (Photo credit: Wendy Lamond)

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193 km

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SPORTS —

Christner and Roth bring home bronze from Columbia

Canada qualifies for U18 nationals in November

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Two local teenagers were a part of Team Canada's Under-18 bronze-medal winning team at the Pan-American Championships in Central America.

New Hamburg's Callen Christner, Tavistock's Justin Roth, and teammates downed Argentina 1-0 on Saturday, avenging an earlier 7-5 loss to the Argentines. Christner started on the mound and looked solid from the beginning when Argentina was pressing with a single to centre and then a walk. The Argentina runner stole second and advanced to third on a wild pitch, but Christner delivered two strikeouts to keep the game scoreless. He earned the win, giving up just two hits and eight strikeouts in eight innings. Canada scored the game's only run in the top of the eighth on a sacrifice fly.

In their last preliminary round game, Canada held on to defeat the United States 7-6 in an extra inning after letting a 5-0 lead slip away. They clinched third place and a berth in the bronze medal game with the win. With the third-place finish, Canada qualified for the 2023 WBSC U18 Men's Softball World Cup, being held November 11 to 19 in Mexico. The Americans defeated Venezuela 6-1 to win gold.

While disappointed at not bringing home a title, Christner said he would have another shot. "Obviously, the goal was to win gold, but it still feels great to get bronze. There's always another shot at it in Mexico." The New Hamburg native saw a great deal of time on the mound in the tournament, something he said he didn't expect. "It felt good they trusted me to pitch in important games. I didn't think I was going to get a lot of innings, but I



Tavistock's Justin Roth trades flags with two Venezuelan opponents before a game at the Pan-American tournament in Columbia.

started pitching well in the exhibition games, and (the coaches) started to trust me a little more." Cohen pitched a perfect game against host Columbia in game one, something he admitted didn't hurt his playing time. The quality of ballplayers across the globe is incredibly high, something Christner said he now appreciates. "The hitters liked to slap the ball; there was a lot of bunting and small ball. The pitchers also threw with more spin on the ball, so it was definitely a lot different than what I am used to."

The tournament was his first international experience, and what he learned will only make him a better pitcher. "It's not

about velocity. Any hitter from any other country can hit any speed. It's where you can locate the ball and the spins you can put on it. That's what I learned." In terms of the overall experience with new teammates in a new country, Cohen said it was an incredible week. "It was easy to get along with everybody. We have the same interests, and a lot of guys play hockey. A lot of them play junior, college, or university hockey, so we had a lot of stuff in common outside of ball." Christner said he still plans to try out for the juvenile hockey team in New Hamburg this month.

For Roth, it was also his first opportunity to participate internationally, something

he said was an incredible experience. "It was tough for the team because we were put together so suddenly, but it was great to see us get better together during the tournament." As far as his game during the week, Roth said he was more than content to play the role he did. "We had some hot hitters in the lineup, so my role was really to come in when needed, and pretty much every game, I came in as a pinch runner when I wasn't playing. I did play second base in some of the exhibition games and started one game in the tournament." He echoed Cohen's thoughts on the small ball game and added it was a learning experience for him. "I learned a lot about how I can get better at the plate and on defense. The coaches were really good about that." Roth said he's excited about the world championships in Mexico and hopes he will be a part of that team. "The roster hasn't been announced yet, but I am pretty sure they are looking at the same team. If I am going, it will be a great experience with even better competition."

Aside from the sports experience, Roth said the trip to Columbia is something he will never forget. "Ten years down the road, I will look back, and it will be one of the highlights of what I have done so far. I will look back and be able to say I played ball in Columbia. That's a pretty cool thing to be able to say." He added the physical field wasn't the greatest he's played on, but the atmosphere was second to none. "The biggest change was the number of people who were there for every game. I don't know the exact number, but it had to be 700 to 1000 for most of the games." Roth, also a pretty good hockey goalie, is back at Brock University, where he plans on playing rec hockey but is committed to keeping ball at the forefront of his athletic career.

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5:30-7:00 PM



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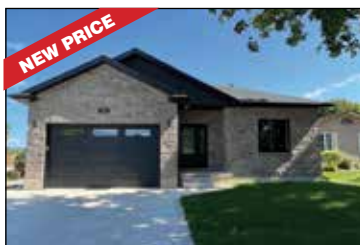
OPEN HOUSE: SAT. SEPT. 16TH
10:30- 12:00 NOON



117 HOPE STREET EAST, TAVISTOCK

Welcome to 117 Hope Street East in the lovely town of Tavistock- 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 or 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. **MLS#40446572 \$699,900**

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144 MAIN STREET NORTH, SEAFORTH

Welcome to 144 MAIN STREET NORTH in the lovely town of Seaforth. This quality built brick and stone bungalow offers 1460 square feet on the main floor with 9 foot ceilings. This great home offers open concept kitchen and dining with sliders to a covered deck and rear yard, main floor laundry, 2 bedrooms, ensuite bath, main 4 pc bath. The unfinished basement offers potential, for a 3rd bedroom with an egress window, and a 3rd bath and large finished family room. Enjoy parking on your double cement driveway there is a 1.5 car attached garage. Built on a 55x107 foot lot. Dream to own this great home today, immediate possession is available. **MLS#40477799 \$699,900**

OPEN HOUSE: SAT. SEPT. 16TH
2:00-4:00 PM



144 MAIN STREET NORTH, SEAFORTH

Welcome to 148 MAIN STREET NORTH in the lovely town of Seaforth. This stunning brand new quality built bungalow with upgraded features is definitely a home you do not want to miss viewing. With 1765 square feet of living space on the main floor with 9 foot ceilings, this amazing home offers open concept kitchen and dining with sliders to a covered patio and rear yard, main floor laundry, 3 bedrooms, one being the primary bedroom with a spacious walk in closet and 3 pc ensuite bath, main 4 pc bath. The unfinished basement offers so much space and potential, if more bedrooms are needed, potential for 2 or 3 additional with the egress windows, and a 3rd bath, and a large finished family room. For the person wanting a great attached garage, this is it, over sized double car has great space for parking and storage. Built on a 55 X 150 foot lot, there is still room for the kids to play or that pool if you wanted one. Dream to own this great home today, immediate possession is available. Shows "AAA" be sure to call to view. **MLS#40478625 \$864,500**

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60 HOLLEY AVENUE, TAVISTOCK

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SPORTS —

Shakespeare's Falcons were flying again



Shakespeare Falcons Bronze medal winners: Front left to right, Derek Martin, Fred Follings, Trevor Glaab, Cambria (bat girl from B.C.), Chris Dietrich, Kevin Gutscher, and Andy Trust. Back row, left to right, Greg Guy, Larry Cox, Jeff Clemons, Chris Wizmer, Andrew Medhurst, Matthew McLaren, Casey Haistead, Rob Faulhafer, and Mark Coleman.

By Gary West

The Shakespeare Falcons competed in British Columbia at the +40 Master Men's Canadian Fastball Championship recently,

and came away with the bronze medal.

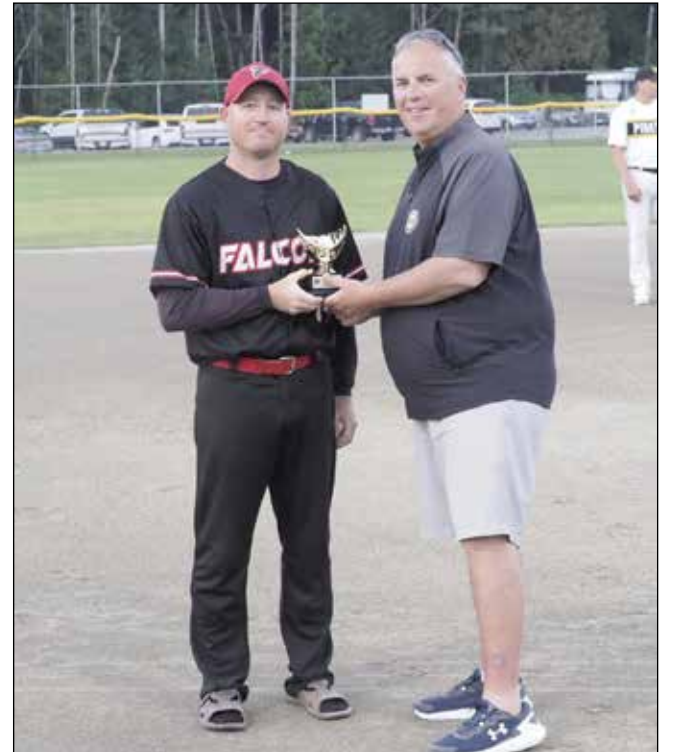
At this year's event, there were a total of eight teams competing. There were four teams from British Columbia, two from

Ontario, one from Alberta, and one from Saskatchewan.

The Falcons teammates said they were very happy to win the bronze medal and

were the only team that beat the eventual gold medal winners, The Coburg Force.

The team from Saskatchewan ended up winning the silver medal.



Longtime Shakespeare Falcons star pitcher Fred Follings received the top pitcher in the tournament award, and was also named to the Canadian Fastball Championship All-Star team.

Canadian Men's Fastball Champions with a Tavistock Influence



It was a truly amazing feat recently, for a coach from Tavistock, along with a fastball team called the Toronto Batmen, that also included players from Tavistock, to win the Men's Fastball National Championship in British Columbia. Following their championship win: front left to right, Mitch McKay, Cory Way, Tyler Randerson, Adam Long, Cody Skelton, Ty Sebastian, Derek Hyde and Mason McKay. Back row left to right: Gary Baker, Scott Wilkin, Johnny Baker, Greg Hammell, Isaiah Whetstone, Dustin Veenhoff, Adam Alexander, Denny Benson, Kevin Zehr (coach), Cheryl Skelton (sponsor). (Photo credit: Gary West)

New Dundee Dodgers



Team players in the picture are: Back row Left to right: Morris Eddy, Eric Brown, Matt Kennedy, Kevin Dopko, Scott MacLaurin, Tom Schmidt, Kyle Thomson, Brad Smith. Front row: Don Poth, Ross Baker, Tom Maxwell, Ben Siebert, Peter Lade, Scott Cressman, Manager Andy Brown and Matt Donau. Members of the team missing in the photo were Brad Wagner, Ozzie Tilt, Ernie Neufeld, Graham Johnson, Ross Baker. (Photo contributed)

The New Dundee Dodgers are part of a 5-team Slo Pitch league along with New Hamburg 20/20, New Hamburg Stingers, Wellesley Pioneers and Wellesley OTC.

The teams finished their 15-game schedule with a year end tournament held in Petersburg on Saturday, September 9. The Dodgers began the tournament by defeating the New Hamburg 20/20 in an exciting extra inning game. In game 2 they defeated the Wellesley OTC who finished first in regular league play. New Dundee's first loss came in game 3 against the Wellesley Pioneers. They secured their spot in the championship game with a win over the New Hamburg Stingers. The undefeated

Wellesley Pioneers won the tournament with a score of 17-11 over the Dodgers.

The team was missing some exceptional players on the day of the tournament, one being Ernie Neufeld, missing due to the birth of his third child. Others who contributed throughout the regular season were Brad Wagner, Ozzie Tilt, Graham Johnson and Ross Baker. After playing five games in one exhausting yet great day, the team enjoyed a wonderful barbecue hosted by team manager Andy Brown.

"It takes a lot of people to make a winning team. Everybody's contribution is important." – Gary David Goldberg

COMMUNITY —

Optimist Club of New Hamburg Jeep winner



Left to right: Vehicle Committee Co-Chair Graham Wallbank, Vehicle Winner Helen Nemeth of Cambridge, Dealership Owner Jerry Pfeil and Vehicle Committee Co-Chair Ross Roth.

By Scott Dunstall

This past week, the Optimist Club of New Hamburg was proud and delighted to hand over the keys to a brand new Jeep Compass Trailhawk 4X4 as they concluded their 2023 Vehicle Fund Raising Campaign. Much of the money raised will go to the Sunshine Foundation of Canada which has provided Dreams for Kids since 1987. The lucky winner this

year was Helen Nemeth of Cambridge, who commented that she “buys car tickets every week because it goes to such a good cause”. When Graham Wallbank called her from the Moparfest stage, she said she couldn’t believe it and thought it was her grand kids pulling a prank on her! The Optimist Club of New Hamburg wants to thank each and every ticket taker this year for your kind and generous support!

4-H champions at the Tavistock Fall Fair



Pictured following the 4-H show at last weekends Tavistock Fall Fair are from, left to right: Judge Brent Sayles from the Paris area, grand champion calf, Spring View Maverick Shyanne for Addison Hyatt, reserve champion honours went to Brooklyn Hyatt, and honourable mention was Emily Spek, with 4-H leader and show organizer Jack Danen.

Oxford County 4-H beef club Achievement Day in Tavistock



Members of the Oxford county Beef Club following their 4-H achievement day in Tavistock on August. (Photo contributed)

By Gary West

The Oxford 4-H beef club held their achievement day on Sunday, August 27th, at the Tavistock Fairgrounds. About 36 members showed off their showmanship and confirmation skills with Judge Brad Height.

Throughout the year members toured a beef feedlot, learned how to make a halter for their calf, and had Eric Doran teach showmanship skills.

Members also volunteered during the year at Jakeman’s Pancake House, Brantford auction centre and the Oxford Cattlemen’s beef barbeque held at Tavistock’s Memorial Hall in August.

The club looks forward to representing

Oxford County at the 4-H beef competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November in Toronto.

Results of the day were as follows:

Champion Showman – Flynn Reinhart,

Reserve Champion Show Person - Emily Hartie; Champion Beef Heifer went to Emily Hartie,

Reserve Champion Heifer went to Albert Reinhart.

The Champion Market Animal went to Courtney Pletsch, and Reserve Market Animal went to Hank Weir.

The beef club leaders included Sandy Walters, Shawn Weir and Amy Reinhart.

Progress on the Wellesley Township Recreation Complex



This is the current state of the Wellesley Township Recreation Complex as of Friday, September 8. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year, and ice will be put in the arena as of mid October. The complex costed about \$27-million and was awarded to Ball Construction. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)

COMMUNITY —

Show Us Your Wilmot



Each week, the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette will publish interesting photos from around the community. The inspiration for this came from the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group. This photo was taken by Michael Straus and shows the sunset on the Nith River. (Photo credit: Michael Straus)

Show Us Your Wilmot



Each week, the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette will publish interesting photos from around the community. The inspiration for this came from the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group. This photo was taken on Waterloo Street in Wilmot Township at the train crossing in the morning of August 16. (Photo credit: Michael Hiemstra)

Gazette Puzzles

Autumn

U Z S X J L K A W L N G A R N E R I N G
S S G C H A R V E S T X G J B L R J S P
Z V H N L P F A L L F E G A G G P Y L I
Y P N O Y X F M G X D I E V E N I U V Q
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G N I P A E R W Z N M U Q P T Q A C A M
Q L Z M U F I U V D W X X N A C R N Q H

- Acorn
Apples
Autumn
Bonfire
Collecting
Crop
- Culling
Equinox
Fall
Fruitage
Garden
Garnering
- Gleaning
Harvest
Home
Intake
Leaf
Leaves
- Picking
Pumpkin
Reaping
Season
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Pet of the Week




This weeks pet of the week is Spring View Maverick Shyanne. The cow was the 4-H grand champion dairy heifer at the Tavistock Fall Fair last weekend for Addison Hyatt, who loves showing her family's Jerseys.

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



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COMMUNITY —

Corn Farmers in Tavistock are hoping for more heat units in September and fewer rainy days

By Gary West

The weather was hot and humid - farmers in attendance at the Pride Seeds test plot education day, north of Tavistock, were happy to see the heat units adding up since the month of August was cooler than normal.

A large group of area farmers were on hand to see the various hybrids of corn in the Dietview Farm's test plot, east of Sebastopol. They were invited by management of Trouw Nutrition-Yantzi Feeds.

The B.A.S.F. agronomists in attendance were happy with the summer moisture while hoping for more sun and heat in September.

They said the measure of heat units was probably 10 to 12 days behind last year, but still felt there was a chance of good or greater yields than in 2022.

After walking many fields in southern Ontario, the agronomists also talked about Tar spot on corn and Northern Leaf Blight, but said in the Tavistock area, there was only minimal traces of those diseases.

With the corn in the Dietrich test plot looking as good as it is, it was felt that more sunny days were needed, and there was sufficient moisture in the ground from heavy rains in July and August.

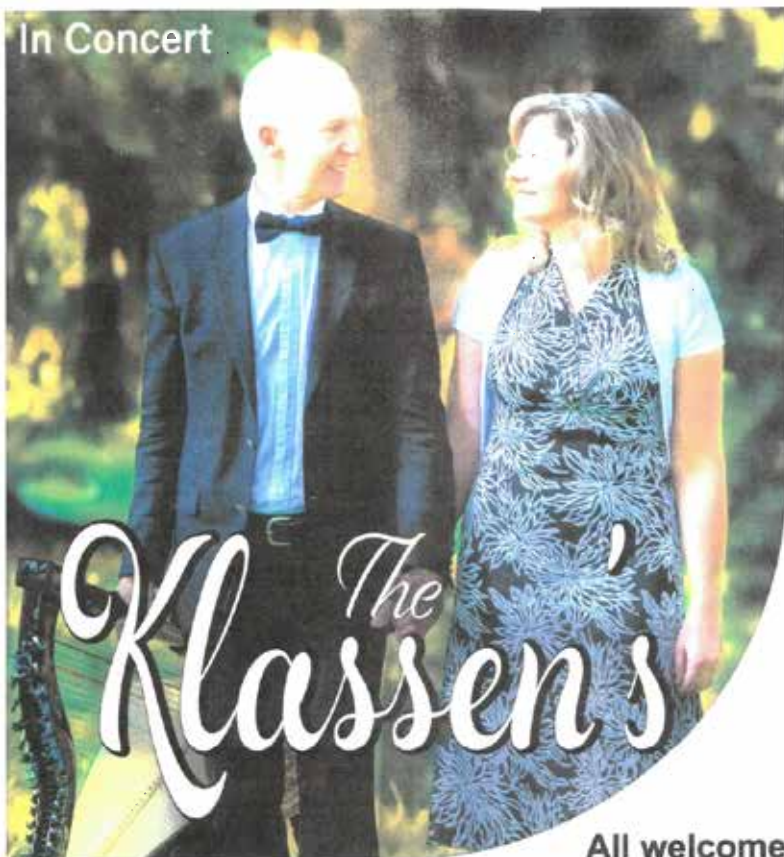
Trouw Nutrition's, Zenon Bender, also said that this past Tuesday, they did a silage chipper day. They ran samples of silage corn through a wood chipper to test the moisture, and found the moisture was averaging 71%. He said with that, silage harvest probably won't start for at least seven to 10 days.



Local farmers from the Tavistock area were invited to view the Dietview Farm's Pride test plot, east of Sebastopol, on a hot-humid morning last week.

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Business profile: Pfenning's Organic & More

By Veronica Reiner

Pfenning's Organic & More, based in St. Agatha, is celebrating 30 years in the business as of late September.

Storeowners Almut and Wolfgang will be celebrating by offering deals to customers. From September 19 to September 30, visitors can come in and buy a brewed, organic coffee for \$1.

"There will be all kinds of in-store specials - we're actually raffling off a big gift basket that was given to us from one of our produce suppliers, Mike & Mike's in Toronto," said Almut in an interview with the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette, adding they have gift certificates available.

"Every time customers come into the shop over four weeks, they can drop their name in a box if they spend \$100 and over. They put their name in, and then at the end, we're raffling all of the goodies off."

Almut said that the business has stayed running and successful because they go above and beyond for the customer. The family likes to add their own personal touch - for example, making a coffee with a little heart on it, if the customer wants that.

"We're not just offering the product - produce and food, unadulterated and chemical-free, but it's also the customer service and knowledge that is important," said Almut. She added that they recently had a note from a customer based in Guelph that thanked the family for their hard work, good food, and good information.

"It's about food and good information. If people have questions about their health or their nutrition or anything, we're happy to give them information for free," said Almut.

Pfenning's Organic & More provides customers with affordable food from local sources as much as possible, including fresh, certified organic, local fruits and vegetables, groceries, and some processed "health foods." They also offer locally sourced organic pasture-raised meat, chicken, turkey, beef, pork, fish and more.

The business also carries bulk items, including grains, flours, beans, nuts, seeds, spices and herbs. They also offer delivery services to areas including Waterloo, Kitchener, Cambridge, Guelph, Brantford, Stratford, Paris and Elmira. Other areas are negotiable.

Almut founded Pfenning's Organic & More in 1993. Back then, it was a small out-of-the-barn store on Pfenning's



Pictured from left to right: Aurélie, Almut and Barnhild.

Organic Vegetable Farm, where Almut grew up.

"I had just finished teacher's college," explained Almut, on the inception of the business. "We had store day at the farm every Saturday, and kind of grew that from Saturday, and we opened Wednesdays.

"I was supply teaching, and I did both for a year, and said whichever one takes off, that's what we're going with," she said. "And basically, the store took off, and here we are 30 years later."

The store was originally based in Baden for about three years in the early years, before moving to St. Agatha in 1998, where it's been ever since.

Almut and Wolfgang have five children, two of whom - Barnhild and Aurélie - are actively working at Pfenning's Organic & More, carrying on the family tradition.



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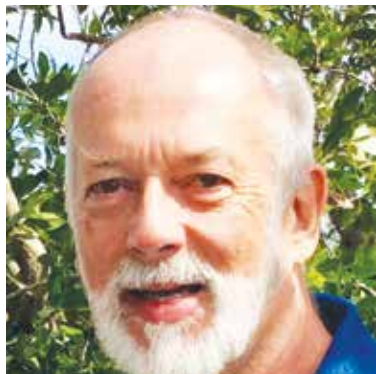
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The ongoing impact of Lord Beaverbrook



By Paul Knowles

Max Aitken was raised in a Presbyterian parsonage in New Brunswick. Later in life, he referred to himself as “the barefoot boy from Miramichi.” And while he lived most of his adult life in the United Kingdom, he never forgot his home province.

In fact, when Aitken was raised to the ranks of British aristocracy, he opted for a lordly title that echoed the landscape of his youth. Max Aitken became Lord Beaverbrook, publisher of three important British newspapers, financial giant, author and for a while, Minister of Information in the British Parliament.

But a big part of his heart lay always in the province where he grew up. He was actually born in Maple, Ontario but New Brunswick today, especially the capital city of Fredericton, is full of the evidence of his philanthropic activities.

The beautiful Fredericton campus of the University of New Brunswick is dotted with buildings endowed by Lord Beaverbrook. He was chancellor of UNB from 1947 until his death in 1964;

the university's website calls him “the institution's greatest benefactor of the 20th century.”

There is a towering statue of his lordship in the park across the road from the provincial Parliament buildings. Portrayed in bronze, he literally towers over a city where his influence continues to be felt everywhere.

He was the donor behind the creation of the city's Playhouse. And the world-class Beaverbrook Art Gallery, also in the heart of the city, is among the finest galleries I have ever visited.

When in Fredericton, we even stayed at the Lord Beaverbrook hotel, now the Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook, conveniently next door to the art gallery.

My favourite among all these Beaverbrook locales – and there are many more all over the province – is the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. It's a gob-smacking surprise, a truly world-class gallery in a city of just over 60,000 residents.

It was founded in 1959 and not only did Beaverbrook provide the key funding for the enterprise, he also donated over 300 works from his own collection, most by highly sought-after artists.

At the Beaverbrook, you will find paintings by British masters like J.M.W Turner, John Constable, Thomas Gainsborough and Joshua Reynolds. There are also pieces by modern artists including Augustus John and Lucien Freud.

Those works, or their equivalents, you could find in almost any significant art gallery. It's the unique stuff that came from Bea-

verbrook, or has been collected since, that make this such a special place.

I am a huge fan of Canadian art and was delighted to find art by members of the Group of Seven and their important contemporaries like Tom Thomson and Emily Carr. The exhibition includes a large, wonderful Lauren Harris from his earlier days, the subject is houses in Toronto. There is also an eye-catching abstract by one of the best in that genre, the late Montreal artist Jean-Paul Riopelle.

The Beaverbrook does not remain fixated on the past. There are exhibits featuring the work of contemporary Canadian and New Brunswick artists and plenty of attention is given to Indigenous work. A huge expansion of the gallery, only completed a year ago, has created a lot of space for these exhibitions, some temporary and some permanent.

For instance, as we entered the gallery, the first thing we encountered was a display of unique ceramic sculptures entitled “seed vessels” by New Brunswick artist Judy Blake.

Further in, we discovered the “Grandfather Akwiten”, one of the oldest birchbark canoes in existence, built an estimated 200 years ago. The craft was actually taken from New Brunswick to Great Britain by a British soldier in the 1820's; it was only returned to the local Wolastoqiyik/Maliseet people in 2009, sent back home by the government of Ireland. The canoe, rife with significance for all Indigenous people and all Canadians for that matter, is on loan to the Beaver-



Portrait of Fredericton-born Willie O'Ree by Tim Okamura, honouring the first black player to play in the NHL.

brook gallery.

Perhaps my favourite treasure in this institution jam-packed with potential favourites is a 2019 portrait of someone also of great significance to Fredericton, the province of New Brunswick, the country of Canada, and beyond – Fredericton native Willie O'Ree, the first black player in the NHL. The painting, by Canadian artist Tim Okamura, is in itself worth the visit to the Beaverbrook Gallery. It captures the dignity, courage and perseverance of this great ambassador for people of colour for his country, and for his beloved game. Some of my favourite moments come when art touches my heart and my tear ducts like this painting did.

The star of the show at the Beaverbrook is probably the gigantic work, Santiago El Grande by Sal-

vador Dali. It is indeed a world-class treasure and the story of it coming to the Beaverbrook is worth a feature on its own. The enormous work was intended for a church but Lady Dunn acquired it instead, and eventually donated it to her friend, Lord Beaverbrook for his new gallery. Later, Lady Dunn and Beaverbrook were married. The end result? One of Dali's most important paintings hangs proudly in an art gallery in a small Canadian city.

A gallery that anyone interested in art and especially Canadian art simply must visit.

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



“Grandfather Akwiten”, a birch bark canoe made about 200 years ago, surrounded in this photo by contemporary Canadian art.



The Beaverbrook Art Gallery. All photos by Paul Knowles.

COMMUNITY —

Long week road safety campaign results

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

There were a total of 372 traffic charges laid in Perth County over the Labour Day Long Week Road Safety campaign. The campaign took place from September 1 to September 4.

This year's campaign focused on the "Big Four" bad behaviours: impaired driving, distracted driving, aggressive driving and failure to wear a seatbelt. These factors are the leading contributors to death, injury and property damage on Ontario roads and highways.

Campaign charges included:

- 269 speeding charges,
- Six seatbelt charges,
- Seven impaired driving charges.

Throughout the campaign, the Perth County OPP investigated six motor vehicle collisions. Three of the collisions had reported minor injuries.

Across the province, the OPP

responded to a number of fatal incidents on roads, waterways and trails, resulting in the deaths of six people.

Three people were killed in separate road collisions, including two motorcyclists. One of the incidents involved a motor boat that capsized, with the second fatality involving a person falling off a stand up paddleboard. A sixth person was killed in an off-road collision.

There were a total of 10,000 traffic/marine-related charges laid throughout the campaign. Officers laid a total of 5,847 speeding charges and 138 stunt driving/racing charges.

Other charges include:

- No seatbelt, 458,
- Impaired driving, 192;
- Distracted driving, 101.

The OPP thanks everyone who travelled safely on roads, waterways and trails.

New welcome signs erected in East-Zorra Tavistock



By Gary West

Something new is now appearing as you travel into East-Zorra-Tavistock.

There are eight new Welcome To East Zorra-Tavistock signs already erected, with four more to come at a later date. According to

Mayor Phil Schaefer, the township has also installed "Historically Known As" signs in Cassel, Strathallan, and Braemar.

Travellers through those areas will now remember how those areas have been named from their historical past.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2023

September 14th, 15th, 16th, 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.	free event, please call or email Heidi Wagler, faith community nurse at 519-274-4822 or heidid@ezmennonite.ca .	tember 16th in the church basement. Old photographs, memorabilia and church records will be on display. A Connections event will be held on the 17th at 10:30 a.m. The service will be a celebration of past, present and future.	of Wellesley YouTube page.	burg Community Centre at 251 Jacob Street. Times are 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 a person or \$35 for a family of four. Tickets available at the door and at 175 Waterloo Street in New Hamburg. For more info contact 519-662-2731 or info@wilmot-familyresourcecentre.ca .
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	September 16th Doors Open Waterloo Region From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Whether you're a history buff or an architecture enthusiast, Doors Open offers an exciting opportunity to visit fascinating local buildings that are typically not open to the public. Two Wellesley sites are participating - the Township of Wellesley council chambers in Crosshill and Schnurr's Grocery Store in Linwood.	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 20th East Zorra Tavistock Council Meeting In-person council meeting taking place at 7 p.m. at 695566 17th Line in Innerkip.	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 .
	September 16th, 17th 180th Anniversary of Zion Philipsburg Evangelical Church The Zion Philipsburg Evangelical Church marks its 180th anniversary this year and is hosting special events this weekend. There will be a history day held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sep-	September 19th 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	September 24th Paraguayan Harpist, The Kasen's Taking place at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tavistock at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome.	
			September 25th 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 28th Poor Boys Luncheon Taking place at the New Ham-	

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| 2) The mantle | 6) the stapes |
| 3) Music Box | 7) 1996 |
| 4) 8' 11" (2.72m) | 8) 100 |
| | 9) Snails |
| | 10) 13 |

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- Magnets
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- Custom Paper Bags
- Yard Signs
- Custom Decals
- Promotional Products
- Invitations
- Office Supplies

CONTACT US AT:

thewtgazette@gmail.com
519-655-2341

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DROP OFF LOCATION IN TAVISTOCK



D&D's Homestyle Cuisine is the home of our drop off location.

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

Look for our sign.

We can still be reached at 519-655-2341.
You can also email us or e-transfer to us at
thewtgazette@gmail.com.

CONTACT US AT:

thewtgazette@gmail.com
519-655-2341



TAVISTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
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Home furniture

STRATFORD

Main store: 519-273-9330, 2954 Hwy 7&8 E | Outlet: 519-273-7453, 617 Douro Street

OUTLET

OPEN THU-SUN



SECTIONAL
\$2,559
TAXES IN



SOFA BED
\$1,249
TAXES IN



SOFA
\$749
TAXES IN



RECLINER
\$699
TAXES IN



LOVE SEAT
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TAXES IN



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Home furniture

Main Store Hours:

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Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Outlet Hours:

Thursday to Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Follow us on:



Jim Fierling
Dealer/Owner



Visit us at stratfordhomefurniture.ca and homefurniture.ca