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Local heads of government agree much more needs to be done for housing

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A national housing crisis is something no one argues against in Canada or even locally. There is also unanimous consent that more needs to be done to build not only additional houses but also more affordable options for those who can't buy a home close to \$1 million.

The Gazette spoke to Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan and Wilmot Township Mayor Natasha Salonen to get their thoughts on why homes aren't being built and what can be done to get shovels in the ground.

Marcus Ryan

The warden and mayor of Zorra Township knows governments have fallen short for several years but did say the federal government removing the GST on the construction of new rental apartment buildings is a step in the right direction. He also admitted much more needs to be done. "When you actually analyze why homes aren't being built, the reality is there are more than enough homes already approved in the county to meet our share of the 1.5 million provincial target. There are properties approved for development but there are no building permits taken out on them." Ryan added when developers are asked why, the answers are consistent. "Three things. High interest rates. High inflation. Workforce shortage. These developers are business people and they are trying to build homes that we all need but they aren't going to do it at a loss." Ryan said he is not in favour of government grants for private enterprises, but something needs to change. "Government needs to look at what levers we need to pull that will actually move us from the rhetoric like 'the planning process is not fast enough, we need strong mayors,' but when you talk to developers in Oxford,



MARCUS RYAN

they won't tell you those things." He said the GST removal is an appropriate lever for the feds to pull if it means profitability for builders in order for rental properties to get built.

The vast majority of houses being built in Oxford County are simply not attainable for those who need a home the most. The average person can't afford an \$800,000 to \$1 million dollar residence but those are primarily what are being built. Ryan said politicians, including himself, are a little bit behind where communities and residents are actually at. "It takes a while to understand it and then to be courageous enough to implement it because change is hard for everybody. There is a demographic change happening with younger generations coming up and not necessarily wanting the same home type that their parents or grandparents had. There are also people coming to Oxford from other



NATASHA SALONEN

parts of Canada and other countries who are saying the stereotypical dream home has never been and probably won't be their dream home." Despite the fact some people still want the big home with a big lot, Ryan said housing types that have historically not formed a large part of the landscape here need to be considered. "Apartment units with not just one, but two and three bedrooms for young families. Townhomes, condominiums, all these housing types need to be there.'

Municipal politicians can make the decision to make zoning changes to encourage and even require density that will deliver those different housing types. If or when that happens remains to be seen but for young people and families who need an affordable home, that may be their only option. Ryan said he is looking forward to seeing a report next week

Continued on page 2

Wilmot restaurants participating in Taste the Countryside, a 10 day dining event

Event runs from September 21 to September 30

By Veronica Reiner

There are 25 restaurants, including many local establishments, participating in Taste the Countryside - a 10 day dining event showcasing delicious menus incorporating local produce.

It will run from September 21 to September 30 this year. In order for businesses to participate, they are required to incorporate three local ingredients from local producers and suppliers from the Waterloo Region.

Restaurants participating in Wilmot Township include Scran & Dram in New Hamburg, Meme's Cafe in New Hamburg, Baden Coffee Company in Baden, Melina's Grill in Baden, Imperial Market & Eatery in New Hamburg. Separate Taste the Countryside menus are provided in addition to regular menus at participating businesses.

For the first time, Herrle's Country Farm Market, based in St. Agatha, will participate in Taste the Countryside.

"We're always about supporting local - our business is very much about that, and this initiative is aiming to raise awareness for the excellent eating we have in Waterloo Region," said Michelle Herrle, one of the owners of Herrle's Country Farm Market.

On offer from Herrle's will be their corn and black bean salsa, with Taco Farm tortilla chips, for \$13.50 plus tax. The sweet corn comes from the fields of Herrle's farm, the

Continued on page 2



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Wilmot restaurants participating in Taste the Countryside, a 10 day dining event

Event runs from September 21 to September 30

garlic from St. Agatha, the onions from Elmira Produce Auction, and the corn chips from Taco Farm based in

"It's a product that we've made for years that is popular, and it just felt like the right thing to feature because of the local ingredients," said Michelle Herrle.

Taste the Countryside has grown over the years since its inception in 2020, according to Jasmine Nanda, Economic Development Officer for the Wellington-Waterloo Community Futures.

"More and more people are learning about it, and wanting to be a part of it. It's free marketing for businesses," said Jasmine. "It's not like we're taking anything from them to be a part of this. They're just selling their menus for those 10 days, as long as they fulfill those requirements - which are three local ingredients, and some sort of a fall harvest theme."

The event was a way for businesses to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic - it started off as a Woolwich Township project, before other townships, including Wellesley, joined in.

There were 12 businesses from Woolwich and Wellesley Townships that participated in 2020. This number went up to 15 from all four townships (Wilmot, Wellesley, Woolwich and North Dumfries) in 2021, with the total revenue generated from the event at \$15,000.

There were 17 total participants in 2022, as well as an influencer tour, with more than \$13,000 generated for participating businesses. "We invited influencers to go on a sugar bush tour," explained Jasmine. "So they promoted it while they were there, taking some social media content back and creating posts about Taste the Countryside and the 10 day dining event."

The event has evolved depending on the feedback of participating businesses. For example, businesses were initially required to offer their Taste the Countryside meals at a fixed price point, but that changed to allow businesses to choose whatever price point they wanted.

"I think it was limiting, as prices increase every year on food," explained Jasmine. "They felt that they needed more movement with the price that they wanted to be

The event is promoted early on in the summer - for example, with a business call out on social media. Posters were also put up around local areas to promote the event.

"There's quite a lot of marketing that gets put into an event like this," said Derek Hughes, Economic Development and Tourism Officer at the Township of Woolwich, "This year, we have Taste the Countryside decals, so each restaurant will have a decal that they can put on their window so that people can recognize that

Map LEGEND .The Grill On The Green #TASTETHECOUNTRYSIDEWR 2.0 & V Tasting Room SEPTEMBER 21 - 30, 2023 4. Sip N' Bite 5. Arthur Street Kitchen + Bar 6.Local Renaissance 7.Never Enough Thyme 8. Chef Duff at Riversons 9.Eco Café 10. Those Pizza Guys 11. The Shed: A Cafe by Lenjo Bakes 12. Stone Crock Bakery 14. The Butcher and Market 15. Fruits And Veg 16.The Village Biergarten 17.The Tasting House 18.St. Jacobs Farmers' Market 19. Herrle's Country Farm Market 20. Imperial Market & Eatery 21.MeMe's Café 22. Scran & Dram Scottish Public House 24. Baden Coffee Company 25. Crowsfoot Smokehaus 26. Hungarian Canadian Club: Goulash Place Hungarian Kitchen 20 21 A map featuring the participating businesses in Taste the Countryside.

they're participating this year."

The kick off of Taste the Countryside is the Harvest Dinner, which took place on Wednesday, September 13, hosted by Chef Duff at Riversong in St. Jacob's. There were about 87 attendees, including local business owners, community members, farmers and suppliers

Also new this year is the opportunity to win prizes - a QR code can be found on the map of participating businesses. Those interested can scan the QR code and fill out a quick survey asking how their experience went, where they are from, what restaurant they went to, and if they would participate again.

'It's a quick survey, they just do that, and then once we have all the responses at the end of the 10 day dining event, we just put the names into a box or generator, and then we pick one, and they win a prize," said Jasmine.

As for the prize? "It's going to be upwards of about \$200 worth of snacks from the local region here," said Derek. 'So you've got some Martin's chips, you've got apple cider, you've got some local coffee from Baden Coffee, you've got local fudge through Kitchen Kuttings, local popcorn from the area. We've thrown in some township

cutting boards. It'll be presented nicely."

The winner will also receive gift cards to Local Renaissance Cafe based in Elmira.



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Local heads agree more needs to be done for housing

Continued from from

prepared by county staff on what can be done to encourage more density. "It could mean taller buildings in some downtown cores, reducing parking minimums. Where is it appropriate to encourage density to get the variety of housing that we need? The solution in almost every case is the same and that is higher density in our service villages where we pay to put in water and wastewater treatment. We should fit in as many home units as possible "Ryan said the strategy would help reduce the amount of urban sprawl in Oxford County greenspaces and he added municipalities really need to take a close look at what they have available. "It won't be easy for the politicians but what we have to do is look at villages like Tavistock and Hickson, Thamesford and Embro, and say if we don't want sprawl the only other option is intensification and density. That means that in villages like Tavistock, we need to look at rezoning to demolish a two-story building and build a four-story building that could make sense for a developer to do that." Ryan added there are children growing up in our communities who will not be able to afford rural Oxford. "That is mind-boggling to me and totally unacceptable. In the short and medium term, they can't afford to buy the million-dollar home in a subdivision in Tavistock. They might be able to afford a two-bedroom apartment but that's not going to get built unless we incentivize that by having an official plan that says we will permit up to x stories in order to get the types of housing we are missing."

Oxford County has placed a lofty goal of providing a home for every resident needing one as part of its recently approved strategic plan. "Committing to 100 percent housed is a cornerstone of Oxford's new plan, the focus of our Master Housing Strategy, and the work of the 10-Year Shelter Plan, which is the provincially mandated housing and homelessness strategy we'll be seeking community input on beginning next week."

Natasha Salonen

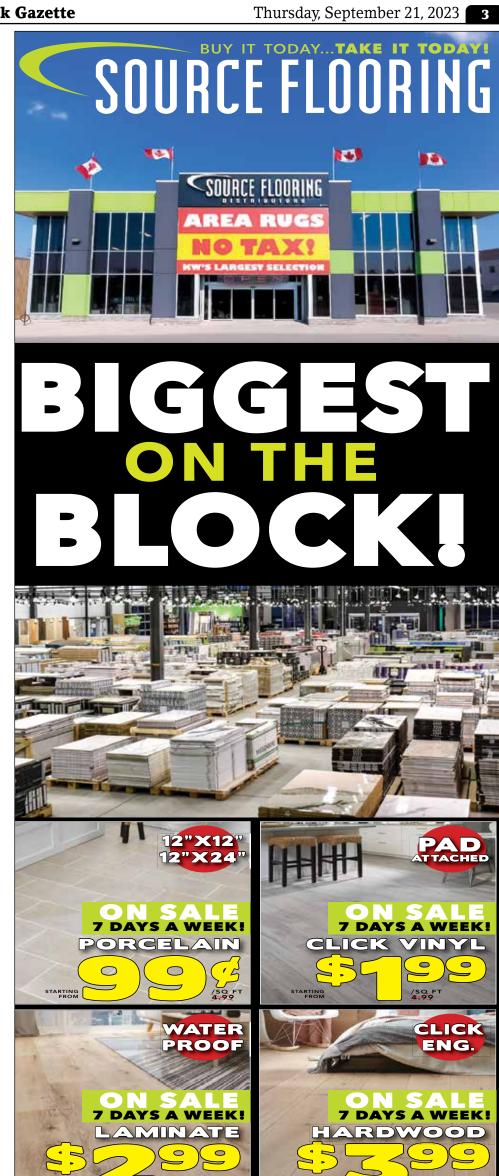
Wilmot Township has seen a housing boom in recent years and is known as an affluent community but like anywhere else an affordable option is needed. Salonen said the key is supporting developers who want to bring affordable and obtainable housing units into Wilmot, something not easily attainable. She added some developers are using the environment as a money-making tool like at a current subdivision under construction. "Right now, Activa, as a marketing technique, is saying their houses are net zero ready which then require a series of upgrades to actually get net zero. The federal government is making that the basic building standard by 2030 so how is it working with those developers on obviously what's doing what's right for the environment but let's not use it as a tool to sell your houses for

Wilmot Township is too small to have provincial housing targets which also means

no money is available under the Building Homes Faster Act as the Ontario government continues to put the needs of larger cities ahead of the rest of the province. 'We will qualify for 10 percent of the overall funding purse for rural townships to make us whole. What that means I have no idea so Wilmot itself doesn't have housing targets in that sense. We are of course interested in having more housing for our residents with a mix of options." She explained there are a lot of seniors living in the community who want to downsize but there isn't much available for them. "We need to look at mixes in that sense and people in my demographic who want to stay in their communities to buy or even rent. We are working on that end, but it isn't mandated by the province."

Salonen agreed that many recent housing announcements by various levels of government are actually not affordable for those who are priced out of current markets, such as the London, Ontario announcement last week. She added that the number of new home starts is actually declining. "There have been a lot of announcements across the county but when you look at houses built it has been quite minimal. In fact, since the Housing Accelerator Fund was announced (by the Trudeau government) I think two years ago, we have had a decrease in houses being built. We need to recognize that it has to make sense for developers cashflow-wise as they are businesses. But to your point of how we get houses built because people need them and need the right kind of houses built that's something that requires all levels of government as well as the public and private sectors." Salonen said at the local level they can approve subdivisions and brownfield developments but once they get those approvals I have no tool to force them to build houses or rental units. They can sit on approvals for a long time. We could let it expire and they would have to go through the process again or it might cause delays in developers wanting to apply." Salonen said Wilmot needs other levels of government to incentivize developers to actually put shovels in the ground."

On a positive note, the mayor said the Region of Waterloo will soon be voting on a proposed development at the site of the former New Dundee creamery. "It has been torn down for over 30 years and a local developer has purchased it and it's in the middle of town. Frankly, a really empty, ugly lot. They want to come in and remediate the ground which for the environment is a huge win and then turn it into about five housing lots. We are fortunate it's a local developer that wants to keep in mind that his kids want to live here, and he wants somewhere to downsize when he ages in place." She added the purchase and remediation of brownfield lands is one of the best ways small towns can grow and get different types of housing. "It's a smart way to grow because we already have the infrastructure right there because these sites are already in serviced areas.



Katelyn Bartlett wins Wellesley Fall Fair ambassador competition



The contestants of the Wellesley Fall Fair ambassador program stand together after the decision is announced. Left to right, Katie Musselman, Katelyn Bartlett and Anas Alsakani. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)



Wellesley Fall Fair Ambassador Katelyn Bartlett delivers a speech. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)

By Veronica Reiner

Katelyn Bartlett won the title of Wellesley Fall Fair ambassador at the fair on Tuesday, September 12. She takes over the position from Ali Khan, who acted as master of ceremonies (MC) for the event.

Katelyn is a 17-year-old student at Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School. Her fellow competitors include Katie Musselman and Anas Alsakani.

"I would like to say a really big thank you. Thank you to my biggest role model and the person who has believed in me from day one - thank you, mom," said Katelyn, after the decision was announced. "Thank you to the rest of my family, who also did a great job in supporting me. Thank you to all of my friends who believed in me.'

"One big thank you to my fellow ambassadors - you guys did amazing. I'm honoured to be the 2023-2024 ambassador and cannot wait for the year ahead of myself.

The competition consists of several aspects that contestants are judged on. Each prepared a "Me Board," a presentation board that visually outlines information about themselves. Each delivered a speech to the crowd about why they should be selected as the fall fair ambassador.

Katelyn's speech touched on the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping a smile and a positive attitude during hard times, how tight knit the community is, and her friends who have passed away.

"Through thick and thin, good times and bad, this community is strong. Wellesley has never once made me feel out of place, and the community of Wellesley is like my extended family," said Katelyn.

Each also answered an impromptu question. Katelyn was asked by Ali, "You are fortunate to have this experience of living in this town of Wellesley, but also the surrounding rural area. How do you think this experience will help you if you're selected as ambassador?

Katelyn said. "Ambassador is all about the face of agriculture. Being moved to the farm recently, I've already learned a ton about agriculture, and being the face of the ambassador will help me learn more about it. I'm excited

After some deliberation, the judges selected Katelyn as the winner. Local musician, Allister Bradley, provided entertainment in the meantime.

Ali gave Katelyn an angel pin, which is a tradition among Wellesley fair ambassadors. It signifies that the previous ambassador stays with her during the journey. He also gave a closing speech covering his time as ambassador.

"Over the course of the past year, I've learned how to become a better speaker, communicate with new people, and present myself professionally," said Ali. "I've learned

these valuable skills through numerous leadership events and workshops hosted and supervised by dedicated members of the Wellesley Fall Fair ambassador committee. These are skills that I will for sure carry with me for the rest of my life."

The ambassador represents that fall fair at local, provincial and national events. Some local events include local Christmas parades, such as Christmas Tyme in Wellesley, and the St. Clements Christmas Parade. They get to meet many local community members and develop public speaking and leadership skills.

Throughout the evening, there was a pie auction, along with Wellesley's Citizen of the Year awards handed out. Alexis Boyd-Koudys won junior citizen, Lisa Weiler Haskin and Richard Hamming won citizen of the year, and Bob Reid got the lifetime achievement award. Longtime fair volunteers also received awards acknowledging their service.

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Punkeydoodles Corners public meeting to be held in Tavistock

Reporter

Tavistock's Memorial Hall will be the scene for a much-anticipated get-together discussing the future of the roadways in and around the small hamlet. It will be held on Thursday, October 5. A large crowd is expected as safety fears in the Punkeydoodles Corners area have concerned both those who live there, and those who drive through it to get to work and back home.

"We are holding a public meeting to present the findings and preliminary recommendations from the intersection control feasibility study that was undertaken this year," said Frank Gross, Oxford County's Manager of Transportation. He added the meeting is a part of the planning process. "Generally, there is a public consultation for most projects. In this case, there is a lot of interest from the community, so we felt it was important to have a public meeting."

Safety issues in the area came a head about a year ago when a 22-year-old Wilmot Township woman lost her life in an accident at the intersection of Oxford Road 5 and Punkevdoodles Avenue. As a result, the county put up new stop signs with flashing beacons which has made a difference but there have been several accidents at other areas of the wonky roadways. Gross admitted the public has been consistent in their requests for improvements. "We did get a couple of inquiries after as you said a couple of recent accidents in the area but they were not related to the intersections." He added the study is examining the entire area, not just one

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative intersection. "There are a total of five intersections, and we also took a look at a sixth intersection to the north, that concession road, just to make sure we have a full understanding of traffic patterns."

> The open house is scheduled to run from 6 to 8 p.m. and those attending will hear about the progress that has been made to date. Gross said there will also be an opportunity for the public to have their say. We are planning to do a presentation and the study consultant will present the final recommendations and then we will have some time for questions. We will have comment sheets there too so the public can submit any questions they have." There is also the opportunity to send in comments through the county's Speak Up Oxford webpage at https://speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/punkeydoodles. "Residents are also encouraged to delegate to their respective councils when the report findings are presented," he added.

> The draft report being presented will have details on the preliminary findings but will not be sent to area councils until input from the public is heard, gathered, and included. The area brings three municipalities together – Oxford County, Perth County, and Wilmot Township along with the Region of Waterloo. The cost of any future construction in the area would be shared between them.

> Gross said he expects some construction to be completed next year. "The intent would be to proceed with the immediate recommendations, to construct that in 2024 subject to approval from the respective councils.

New Hamburg Fall Fair Ambassador Competition



Left to right, Ambassador contestants include Olivia Batte, Megan Pilkey, Maddy Henhoeffer (2023 Ambassador) Emma Johnson, and Kianna Mordue.

By Gary West

What a night it was at this years New Hamburg Fall Fair 50th anniversary Ambassador Competition.

The five young ladies from the area that competed, according to the three judges, were some of the best they had ever had the pleasure of judging!

Following individual interviews, prepared speeches and impromptu's, Maddy Henhoeffer was named the Agricultural Society's 2023-2024 fall fair Ambassador.

A large audience was on hand as close to 40 past Fair Queens (of early competitions) and Ambassadors as it is now known, lined up after being introduced to a large ovation from the capacity crowd.





Ontario Farmerettes author, Bonnie Sitter, visits **Brocksden School Museum**

By Gary West

North Easthope's Brocksden school museum on Line 37, northwest of Shakespeare, was full on Sunday afternoon, and some in attendance were students and teachers from years gone by, but most were anxious to hear author, Bonnie Sitter.

If her name rings a bell, she is the locally famous co-author of the book Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz, which describes in detail the memories of Ontario Farmerettes.

The book is dedicated to the thousands of Farmerettes who volunteered on farms during the years 1941 to 1952.

Teenage girls from cities, towns and villages and rural areas throughout Ontario, signed up to lend a hand and devote their summers to agricultural labour on market garden farms and orchards in southern Ontario during and after World War II.

Farmerettes that were interviewed in the book recalled the experience with fondness, and in great detail - even though, in some cases, nearly 80 years have now passed. Their pay at the time was \$14 per

week, and usually, room and board was included. Most were members of the Ontario Farm Service Force.

In the very interesting talk by Bonnie Sitter, many of the Farmerettes, that were interviewed said it was hard work, but they loved working on the land harvesting everything from onions, asparagus, strawberries, and apples and more.

She wrote in the book that the program for which the Farmerettes volunteered is well documented in government reports and statistics that lie mostly forgotten in various archives.

Even though most of those girls are in their senior years now, they still remember and describe their farm experiences as the best of summers.

One highlight to the Brocksden audience was the former Mayor of Stratford, Colleen Misener, who was a Farmerette in her teenage years.

For more info, go to bonnie.sitter@gmail. com or call 519-235-1909.



Author Bonnie Sitter describes to a large audience at Brocksden School Museum how the







The elevator platform at the Tavistock Arena will be out of service until September 29 for what East Zorra-Tavistock says is a 'modernization.' The hope was the work could be done in the summer before the beginning of hockey season, but the township had to wait until a TSSA inspection was completed. "It's getting an upgrade to meet current standards as some of the current equipment is obsolete it if breaks down," said Matt Lamers, EZT's Parks and Recreation Supervisor. (Photo credit: Lee Griffi)



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 comment 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

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This notice issued August 30, 2023

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Shakespeare Optimist Walking Path is nearing completion



By Gary West

For their 50th anniversary this year, members of the Shakespeare Optimist Club felt that the village's park could use a paved walking path and exercise area.

Putting the final touches on topsoil and grass seeding to complement the path. Pictured are Jeff Skubowius and Jordan Bowles, who are not only well respected chartered accountants for the club, but

also know the ins and outs of professional landscaping.

Under President Mike McNeil and fundraising co- chairs Richard Smelski and Dan Festoso, the club was able to raise over \$50,000 in the community for the building of the paved track and exercise

They thank the community for helping to get behind the project.



33 Junior Gardeners recognized at Wilmot **Horticultural Society Youth Awards Night**



Mayor Natasha Salonen is shown with Tyler Thompson, holding his trophy and congratulatory certificate and pin from the Township of Wilmot. (Photo credit: Janice Wagler)



Twenty one Junior Gardeners participated at the New Hamburg Fall Fair in the Wilmot Horticultural Society section this past weekend. This is a photo of some of their beautiful prize winning entries. (Photo credit: Janice Wagler)

By Janice Wagler

Wilmot Horticultural Society Youth Awards Night was held on Wednesday, September 13th, at the Wilmot Rec Complex, where thirty-three Junior Gardeners were recognized for growing cactus zinnias, larkspur and carrots or beets in their gardens.

There were seven first time Junior Gardeners this year. Each Junior Gardener received their prize money and goody bags for growing their wonderful gardens!

The four five year trophy recipients (who have planted a garden for five years) were Laura Kuepfer (absent), Samuel Kuepfer (absent), Pepe Laepple (absent) and Tyler Thompson.

Mayor Natasha presented Katelynn Cressman with a certificate and pin from

the Township of Wilmot for winning the Ruby Lobban High Points Award in the Youth Competition at the Ontario Horticultural Association convention in

District 19 Director, Christine Webb, assisted with the awards presentation.

Ten youth received their prize money from placing entries in the OHA convention.

Jeff Grant was the guest speaker who shared his passion and informative presentation on butterflies and moths.

Everyone celebrated and enjoyed generous donations from Domino's Pizza, chocolate milk from Waterloo Dairy Producers, and apple juice from Wellesley Apple Products at the end of the evening.



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Metroland Media to cease publishing print editions, including New Hamburg Independent

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Metroland Media will cease publishing the print editions of 71 community newspapers, including the New Hamburg Independent, the Waterloo Chronicle, the Cambridge Times, and the Guelph Mercury-Tribune.

The company said that they will be restructuring their operations by moving to a digital only model, as well as seeking protection under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act. The announcement was

made on Friday, September 15.

"We are confident this restructuring will make Metroland a sustainable business moving forward," said Lee Ann Waterman, editorial vice president at Metroland Media

"It is a sad day for me personally, as I know it is for Metroland journalists and those who worked beside us to bring the news to your doorstep."

As a result, there will be 605 journalists laid off, about 60 per cent of the company's

workforce. Staff at Metroland's six daily newspapers - the Waterloo Region Record, Hamilton Spectator, Welland Tribune, St. Catharines Standards, and Niagara Falls Review will be unaffected. The Toronto Star, owned by Metroland parent company, Nordstar Capital Inc., will also be unaffected.

The company is also getting out of the flyer business.

"The pandemic and continued losses in revenue pushed us out of our newsrooms

and left us working virtually. Our ranks have dwindled dramatically," said Lee Ann.

"Becoming a digital-only business is the next step in our evolution - precipitated by the loss of revenue from print advertising and our flyer distribution business, as well as the stranglehold Big Tech has on digital advertising."

She assured that the organization will remain committed to community journalism.

"Our newspapers are gone but we are still here," said Lee Ann.

GRT sets new ridership record

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By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Grand River Transit (GRT) set a new ridership record during the first week of September, recording 150,000 boardings per day. That's like filling the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium 19 times over. The service's Route 77 has stops in New Hamburg, Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School, Baden and Petersburg.

GRT's previous high was 110,000 boardings per day, which was set earlier this spring.

A boarding is counted when someone steps on a GRT bus or ION train for a trip. Of those 150,000 boardings, 130,000 were on buses and another 20,000 were on ION light rail trains.

"More people than ever are choosing to take transit as an affordable and sustainable method of transportation," said Councillor Colleen James, Chair of the Planning and Works Committee. "Not only has our ridership recovered post pandemic, but it's continuing to grow, showing how much our community values and depends on the service."

Ridership typically peaks during the first two weeks of September when students are back in school.

"We expect ridership to continue to be significantly higher than last fall," said Doug Spooner, Director of Transit Services. "Our operators and staff are doing an incredible job of handling crowded buses, customer inquiries and fare product purchases."

"We know that there has been crowding on some buses, as a result of more people riding transit. We continue to monitor routes and trips for overcrowding and are ensuring we continually have all of our available buses on the road."

Earlier this month, GRT added 18,000 new hours of service in Cambridge, restored some late evening trips, and added new weekend service in new growth areas.

our own animal feed, to our own farm operations, and finally to Nith Valley Butcher & Deli, where we bring, our spectacular meats

to you. All of our beef, pork, chicken, as well as smoked specialties are freshly displayed, not packaged, so our customer

can pick up, choose and have their selection.



Wellesley Fall Fair



The midway allowed the local youth to get out with their friends and family to enjoy the food and rides that comes to Wellesley mid September every year.



The parade in Wellesley last week.



Wellesley area students play tug of water against the Wellesley Fire Department and local police at last week's Wellesley fair.



The parade participants that involved young and old alike.

New Hamburg Fall Fair



There was plenty on offer at the New Hamburg Fall Fair this year, including a ferris wheel, magic show, pet show, baby show, face painting and more.



Dakota Co offers handmade sterling silver jewelry - each piece is one vendor at the New Hamburg Fall Fair.



Two people ride the ferris wheel at the New Hamburg Fall Fair on Sunday, September 17.



Vehicles just before the demolition derby on Sunday, September 17.

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October 12th OctoberFest

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November 25th

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FAMILY MILESTONES -

OBITUARY

GINGERICH, Wayne Benjamin "Benj"



Passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at his residence in New Hamburg, Ontario. Benj was born 75 years ago in Kitchener, Ontario, a son of the late Melvin and Dorothy (Shantz) Gingerich.

Cherished and loving husband of Wendy (Murray) Gingerich whom he married 48 years ago. Devoted father and best friend of Corey and wife Katie Gingerich and Natalie Gingerich. Proud grandfather of Hailey (Dayton), Paige and Norah. Benj will be missed by his sisters; Sharon Leis, Kathy Dow, Sandra and Mark Scheerer, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Denise Gingerich, Sherry and Ron Wallace, Debbie Ruller, Susan Kew, Steven Murray, Linda Bossence, by mother-in-law Gladys Murray and by his nieces, nephews, and many close friends. Benj is predeceased by his parents, brothers Bruce Gingerich and Robert Gingerich, brother-in-laws Willard Leis and Toby Mills, his father-in-law Ron Murray and nephew Jeff Wallace.

Benj was an avid outdoors man. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, farming, travelling the free roads on his Harley Davidson Motorcycle with his son and friends. Benj enjoyed playing and watching baseball and hockey and played with the Old Crocs in New Hamburg. He was the co-founder of the Bikefest held in Wilmot Township in July and enjoyed hosting pig roasts to raise money for others in need. At the end of the day or while enjoying his time with family and friends. Beni enjoyed a good sip or two of his good ole Grand Marnier. Benj loved his family the most and will be missed by all those whose hearts he touched.

Cremation has taken place. Relatives and friends are invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Friday, September 22, 2023, from 1 - 4 p.m. and 6 - 8 p.m. and again on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 9 - 10:45 with a service to follow in the funeral home chapel at 11:00 a.m. Following the service all are welcome to join the family at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532, New Hamburg, for a time of fellowship. For those unable to join the service in person, a livestream will be available for you to join.

The family would like to see all in attendance with the clothing you would normally be wearing with

As expressions of sympathy, and in lieu of flowers, donations would be accepted to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532, New Hamburg, or the Salvation Army of London, Ontario.

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

OBITUARY

McNeil, Gil



Pius Gilbert "Gil" McNeil, 82, of Shakespeare passed away suddenly at his residence on Monday, September 11, 2023.

He was born at Glace Bay, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia on August 31, 1941 a son of the late Pius and Mary Oblenia (Watson) McNeil.

Gil was the Charter

President of the Optimist Club of Shakespeare in 1973; a former member of North Easthope Township Council; a former member of the Shakespeare Volunteer Fire Department; a former partner and general manager of Aikins-Brewer Lumber Company in Shakespeare.

He married Ruth (Taylor) McNeil at Kincardine on July 17, 1965. She predeceased him on December 19, 2020.

Gil is survived by two sons, Chris (Neera), Michael (Cheryl); four grandchildren, Aliya, Shaun, Karina and Amber; four sisters, Erma, Florence, Angie, Jane; one brother, Raymond.

He was predeceased by his sister, Oblenia "Obie" and his brother Robert.

Burial has taken place at St. Andrew's Cemetery, North Easthope.

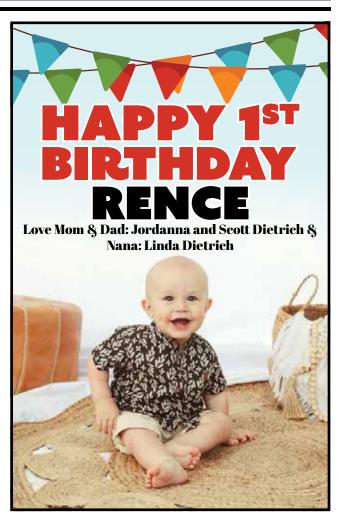
As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Optimist Club of Shakespeare would be appreciated and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home, Tavistock by calling 519-655-2431.

Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

CELEBRATION



Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary Gary & Brenda West - September 22, 1973 Love from your Family





Welcome!

Daryl and Michelle Herlick are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter Gracie Donna Herlick. Born Friday September 15 th at 2:26 pm weighing 8 lbs 11 oz and measuring at 22 inches. A little sister for Bo, Jolene and Jed. Grandchild of Clarence Herlick and Bruce and Jane McKay. Special thank you to the Stratford midwives and the staff at Stratford general hospital.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GRANTHAVEN.COM/WILMOT-TAVISTOCK-GAZETTE

The Wilmot-Tavistock **Gazette Weekly Quiz**

- 1. What is the capital city of Hungary?
- 2. What was the first creature sent into space?
- 3. What is a common name for sodium chloride?
- 4. Who was the first female artist to win Album of the Year at the Grammy Awards?
- 5. What country gifted the Statue of Liberty to the USA?
- 6. What state are the Green Bay Packers based in?
- 7. What art movement was founded by Andre Breton in Paris in the 1920s?
- 8. Who invented the printing press in the 15th
- 9. What is the only animal with no vocal cords?
- 10. What bone are babies born without?

Answers found on page 22

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

September 21: Happy Birthday to Ian Herold (6), Riley Witzel (10), Annabelle Hendry (17), and anniversary for Bill and Gloria Wettlaufer (55th).

September 22: Happy Birthday to Cullen White (17), Tyrell Roes (21), and anniversaries for Gary and Brenda West (50th), Mark and Laurie Bartlett (22nd) and Matt and Missy Habsch (5th).

September 23: Happy Birthday to Evan Ehnes (13).

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

September 24: Happy birthday to Jack Dufton (10), Alexander Meadows (13), Liam Wagler (16) and Catherine McGrath (21), and anniversary for Sean and Kari Gow (12th).

September 25: Happy Birthday to Clara Gladding (16) and Adrian Bartlett

September 26: Happy Birthday to Erin Kalbfleisch (9) and Kyle Kalbfleisch (11), and anniversaries for Lloyd and Sherri Arbuckle (31st) and TJ and Victoria Murray (8th).

September 27: Happy Birthday to Makaya Moore (16) and anniversary for Darryl and Heather Gear (15th) and Wendy and Paul Lamond (15th)

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

The Old Gazettes

By Stewart Grant

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

September 19-26, 2018 Edition (5 years

The milestone of 50 years of caring is being celebrated at peopleCare. Its history began in 1968 when Roy and Ruth Schlegel started providing long term care to those in need at a renovated school house they purchased in Tavistock. Today, peopleCare has 7 long term care homes (5 owned, 2 managed) in Southwestern Ontario.

Council approved a subdivision application from Gateman Homes, in principle, for lands east of Elizabeth Street and north of Hope Street. The draft plan consists of 13 lots for single-detached dwellings, five lots for semi-detached dwellings, and one block for temporary emergency access.

All residents of East Zorra-Tavistock will be voting by internet or telephone this election. No longer will you be going to a "polling station" and marking an X on your

September 17-24, 2008 Edition (15 years

Bruce Schmidt has retired from auto body repair and painting after 55 years in the business. Since 1960. Schmidt Auto Body has been in business just east of the Sebastopol corner (Line 29) where Bruce purchased the shell of a building vacated by the South Easthope Township road crew.

A Tavistock farmer who will lose 80 acres of farmland through expropriation for expansion of the Tavistock Sewage Lagoon is taking his plight to the people. Bert Loggan spoke to members of the Tavistock Men's Club last Thursday evening, September 18, in an effort to educate the club members and through them, local citizens about the future of Tavistock if the new sand filter and lagoon cell are built.

September 16-23, 1998 Edition (25 years

Youngsters and adults alike were thrilled to meet and talk with children's book author Robert Munsch at the Tavistock Fall Fair on Saturday afternoon. Firstly, Mr. Munsch was part of the first prize winning parade float entered by The Book Shelf. It advertised a book signing scheduled in the Curling Rink for a book inspired by Tavistock resident Amy Albrecht entitled "Get Out of Bed".

Miss Becky Riehl was crowned 1998 Tavistock Fair Queen on Friday evening during the official opening ceremonies in Tavistock Public School. Marcia Brown was runner-up in the contest which featured six young ladies sponsored by local clubs and organizations in the 13th annual competi-

The 147th Tavistock Fall Fair held a very successful baby show. The Memorial Hall was full of delightful, energy filled children. 66 babies were registered.

September 19-26, 1973 Edition (50 years

Acting on information received from a local farmer, Woodstock OPP officers attended at a farm in West Zorra Township and cut approximately 300 lbs. of marijuana which was growing wild. Pruning shears were used for the harvest. The marijuana was disposed of by burning.

With everything going up in price, the Men's Club and Board of Trade decided at their meeting last Thursday night to raise the price of the Sauerkraut dinner to \$3.00 from \$2.50 a plate.

Victoria and Grey Trust Company is currently offering a rate of return of 9% on its Guaranteed Investment Certificates.

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SEBASTOPOL-TAVISTOCK Interim Rev. Hans Borch / 519-655-2372 Masks welcomed but not required www.trinitytavistock.com

TAVISTOCK MENNONITE

Pastor Iim Brown

131 Wettlaufer St., Tavistock 655-2581

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

Stream services online at www.tavistockmennonitechurch.ca

TAVISTOCK BIBLE CHAPEL

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN LCC

Church Phone 519-276-0701 Wellington Street, Tavistock stpaulstavistock@gmail.com Pastor Rev. Michael Mayer

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

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677044 16th Line Road, East Zorra Pastors Ray Martin & Mike Williamson www.ezmennonite.ca Service audio recordings available at: https://ezmennonite.ca/worship/

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Are you planning a family celebration?

We accept all announcements - weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, new baby, etc. Or are you looking to hire local people, or wanting to sell something or buy something? We will publish your classified ad.

For pricing call 519-580-5418 or email ads@wilmotpost.ca.



Tavistock's Men's club prepares for their upcoming sauerkraut supper





By Gary West

If you've ever listened to commentary on the city of Toronto, you would have heard that they named the city Cabbage Town, because of the "Irish immigrants" coming to that city in the late 1840s.

If residents of the Tavistock area ever saw the Tavistock Men's Club members at work recently, they would have you believe that their town could be named Cabbage Town 2.0.

Since 1966, the club has been cutting cabbage to be made into sauerkraut for their ever popular sauerkraut

November. This year, the date is November 8. The annual ritual was started by Ruby Quehl, then tak-

en over by the Lutheran Church Ladies of Sebastopol. It was then continued as Percy Wettlaufer, Mallon Leis, and Bob Rudy made sure the men's club carried on with the yearly event.

supper, held every year on the second Wednesday in

Last years bagged and frozen delicacy was sold out over a month ago. This years batch will include 14 large barrels with a total of 1,080 full sized cabbages, the likes of which, members say, is the best quality cabbage ever.

Club members stress that the nine skids of the local grown cabbage comes from the Embro area market garden farm of Beanhaven Family Farm, at no cost to the club, which they very much appreciate.

Under the guidance of committee Chairman Ross Schumm, the working members involved include Club President Ken Kropf, Roger Bender, Brian Boland, Keith Wiffen, Jim McGregor, Ron Kalbfleisch, Mark Kozdras, Ed Learn, Steve Skinner, Keith Brenneman, Dwayne Kropf, Bob Rudy, Jim Pitcher, Steve Cahill and Ron

Tickets will be available soon, so keep your eye on the men's club sign at the hall front and also info in the Gazette.



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The Queens Park Walk for Parkinson's raises a record \$92,000



The top team, Ron's Racers, who raised \$10,000 at the recent Parkinson's walk at Stratford's Queens Park. (Photo contributed)



Getting warmed up to walk for the Parkinson's walk is, left to right, Ron Harrison, Mayor Martin Ritsma, walk organizer Barb Myers, and Ron Louttit all part of Ron's Racers - the top fundraising team. (Photo credit: Gary West)

By Gary West

History was made recently at the Parkinson's walk in Stratford where a record \$92,000 was raised in total for the organization.

Walk organizer, Barb Myers, whose partner Ron Harrison was diagnosed with Parkinson's, said the sunny day saw 77 registered walkers, 13 teams and well over 100 people in attendance.

A Shakespeare resident, Bill Schafer, whose wife Kathy suffers from the disease,

was the top donation getter at \$28,194.

Ron's Racers were the top team that raised just under \$10,000.







STORE HOURS SALES: Monday-Thursday 9:00-8:00; Friday-Saturday 9:00-6:00 PARTS AND SÉRVICE: Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00

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COMMUNITY-

The Hills of Home history book release remembered from 25 years ago at a Shakespeare get-together

By Gary West

Even though the history book of North Easthope Township in Perth County was written 25 years ago, the organizing committee got together recently to celebrate the anniversary. The anniversary was to recognize the time and work it took to develop such a masterpiece, known as The Hills of Home. The families that made up the history included those from German, Irish and Scottish descent.

Long time North Easthope resident and history book "Chair Lassie" Pat Campbell, and committee member Darryl Ehnes, invited the committee or family members that helped put the history book together to the Shakespeare Optimist Hall for a social get together on the weekend.

Even though five committee members have passed on, there were still a large number who came to see the extensive display set up to show the various steps taken, to put together details for farm families and the history of the township, now part Perth East.

The limited edition of 1,500 books sold quickly for \$65 each, and the hard work and dedication of the 13 original committee members saw the book launch on September 13 of 1998.



Committee members back left to right, "Chair-Lassie" Pat Cambpell, Daryl Ehnes, Gail Hyde, Mary-Jean Bauman. Front left to right, Dean Robinson (editor), Mary Koch (daughter of committee member Allan Wilhelm), and Maureen Carroll.

Local youth to compete at Canada's Premier 4-H **Dairy Show**



This is Waterloo County 4-H Classic Team that competed at the 2022 Royal Agriculture Winter Fair.

By Gary West

John Drummond, the Waterloo County 4-H coordinator have named the Waterloo county team competing at this years Royal 4H Dairy Classic. This happened after discussion with the county's classic committee following the 4-H show at New Hamburg on the weekend.

Those competing include Shea Cleave,

Rilee Eby, Devin Martin, Donavan Martin, Emma Stere, Kelly Stere, and Aden VanBergeijk. Alternate is Mariska VanBergeijk.

Drummond invites all those from the county and beyond to this years Royal, on November 6 and 7 to support the team as they represent Waterloo County at Canada's Premier 4-H Dairy Show.





Sun. Sep. 24, 2023 2:30 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church

2210 Perth Line 29 Tavistock, ON

Wilmot Citizens of the Year winners announced

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Wilmot Citizens of the Year have been announced.

The 2023 recipients are:

Holly Bast - Athletics category

Lyndsay Dajka - Youth category

Lisa Doherty - Culture category

Ross Eichler - Senior category

Angie Scheid - Community Services category

"We were thrilled to reveal the remarkable individuals who have been honoured as our Citizen of the Year awardees for their exceptional contributions to our community!" said Wilmot Township in an online post.

"We're immensely proud of these incredible citizens who embody the spirit of giving back. Join us in congratulating them on this well-deserved recognition!"

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 by Betty Slowinski at 7:32 p.m. on her evening walk around her community pond at Foxboro Green in Baden. "We get the most beautiful sunsets over the pond and on this particular evening it looked like a beautiful painting with the sun-stained clouds reflected in the water," said Betty. (Photo credit: Betty Slowinski)

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\$37.995 + HST & lic 52.208 km

2020 Chevrolet Blazer True North



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Front-Wheel Driv \$36,995 + HST & lic 44.393 km

2020 Ford Explorer XLT



2021 Ford Edge SEL



2021 Kia Soul EV Limited

\$43,995 + HST & lic 12,466 km

\$41,995 + HST & lic

47,898 km

2020 Lincoln Corsair Standard



\$39,995 + HST & lic

35,820 km

2022 Ford Edge ST Line



\$47,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive 22,127 km

2021 Nissan Rogue S

57.423 km



2022 Mazda Mazda3 GX



53.4313 km

2022 Toyota Camry SE



\$37,995 + HST & lic

Front-Wheel Drive

2019 Audi Q5 Komfort



2021 Kia Soul EV Premium



2022 Honda Pilot Sport



2023 Kia Stinger GT Limited

\$57,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive 16.356 km

*While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, we are not responsible for any errors and omissions. Please see your dealer for current pricing. Plus tax and licensing. Some terms and conditions may apply.





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SPORTS -

Tavistock GM expects to contend in PJHL's Doherty division this year

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Provincial Junior Hockey League's 2023-24 season kicked off this weekend and Jordan Zehr fully expects it to be an improved one for Tavistock. The Braves finished a disappointing fourth last season with 21 wins in 41 regular season games and downed Woodstock in the first round of the playoffs before bowing out to New Hamburg.

Zehr said one reason is a solid cast of senior players back in the gold, black, and white. "We were able to return a strong core with guys like Nicholas Thibodeau, Ian Glendinning, Ryan Suljak, and Andrew Van Boekel as our over-agers. They all have three, four, and five years of junior experience. We think some of the other returning guys are going to be able to take that next step." He added the team is also excited about this year's rookie class. "We have added some guys that we think are going to be able to contribute right away and be big factors in our success." Among the newcomers are Kitchener brothers Stephen and Yianni Peppas along with Tavistock's Bo Schurink who is on the roster after being an AP last season.

Another newcomer to the team is Jacob Roach, a 6 foot 2, 200-pound forward with two years of experience in the OJHL. "Any time you can bring a guy like that in with that kind of experience it's huge but also, he fills a void we had with some size. He uses his size well, but he also skates well and has a lot of offensive upsides."

Another key returnee is Stratford netminder James Hopper who performed well last season and almost didn't make it back to Tavistock. "At the end of the season, he proved he was capable to lean on in a playoff situation. He took over late in the Woodstock series when we had to make a comeback and played well against New Hamburg. He was at the Stratford Warriors camp for most of the preseason and performed well for them." Zehr said they have added Liam O'Leary from the U18 AA Waterloo Wolves to share the goaltending duties. "Teams we like to scout the most are from the K-W area and the other way in Huron-Perth as well as in town. We have been fortunate to have a pretty good pipeline from that Waterloo team that last year went to the OHF Championship game. We had a couple of APs from that team and scouted them pretty heavily." Zehr explained some of the new talent



has added more energy to the room, something they may have lacked last season. "When you mix them in with our returning guys, we think we have a pretty good group here that will contend."

The Braves have a total of four hometown players, one from Shakespeare, Plattsville, and Bright, a pair from Stratford, and nine from Kitchener-Waterloo, while the remainder of the roster comes from other towns and cities across southern Ontario. The team has also decided to have five associate captains this season, forgoing the traditional captain wearing the C.

Braves split first two regular season games

Tavistock's season opener was at home Friday night in front of 150 fans and they didn't disappoint with a 6-0 victory over the Paris Titans. The Braves led 3-0 after the first period and 5-0 after 40 minutes of play. Jacob Reid-Brant, another Waterloo AA grad, led the attack with three assists while Tyler Brezynskie added a goal and two assists. Stephen Peppas and Roach each scored twice while Thibodeau had a goal and a helper. Hopper turned aside all 29 shots he faced for the win and shutout.

On Sunday the Braves travelled to Hespler but came away with a different result as the Shamrocks earned a 2-1 win in a chippy affair. The two teams combined for a total of 45 minutes in penalties, 20 by Tavistock. Hespler's Liam Nelson took a 2 and then a 5-minute major for

cross-checking on the same play late in the second period while teammate James Ramani earned a match penalty for slew-footing with 6 seconds left in the third period. Three-year veteran Christian Bergmann scored the Braves' only goal unassisted halfway through the first period to give them a 1-0 lead. Rookie goalie Liam O'Leary stopped 35 of 37 shots in a losing effort.

The Braves host the Applejacks this Friday and travel to Woodstock on Saturday.

Around the league

The defending Schmaltz Cup Champion Wellesley Applejacks dropped their only game of the opening weekend, 5-0 to New Hamburg in the old St. Clements arena. The future home of the Applejacks, the Wellesley Township Recreation Centre, is still under construction and was expected to be completed in the fall. The township is now saying the facility will be done by the end of the year. The Firebirds second game was also on the road, and they handed Norwich a 6-1 loss in front of nearly

New Hamburg hosts Woodstock on Friday and then heads to Paris on Saturday.

Paris under new ownership

The Titans are the former Paris Mounties who decided to rebrand this season after being sold. After an extensive review process, Titan Hockey Canada, LLC was selected to take over ownership of the franchise following PJHL board approval on May 26. Titan Hockey Canada is led by owners Mike Christian and Jon Clark both originally from the Hamilton/Ancaster area. Christian will serve as the team President and oversee all operations and Clark will serve as a Senior Executive and Board Chairman. Christian brings a wealth of junior hockey experience to Paris both as a player and coach. After competing in the OHL, ECHL, and NHL levels, Mike began coaching junior hockey over 20 years ago, spending seasons as the bench boss with Caledonia, Dundas, and most recently Glanbrook. After several years of playing junior hockey in southern Ontario, Clark moved south to complete business school in the USA and has led the build of numerous successful American-based start-ups.

Tavistock Minor Hockey Parents start a new season with a breakfast fundraiser

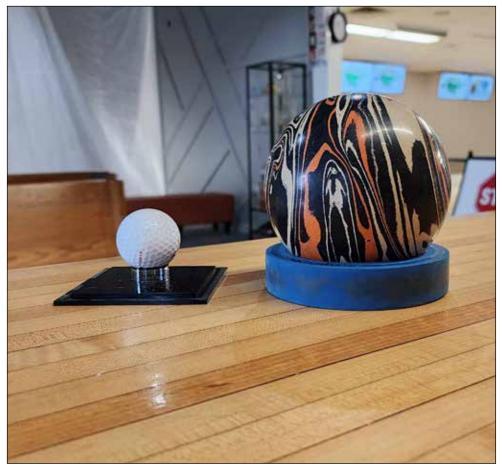




The fundraising branch of the hockey organization was cooking up breakfast sandwiches for families on the first day of minor hockey Saturday. sponsors - Saputo, Sam's Valu-Mart, The Butcher Barn, Egg Farmers of Ontario, and Dairy Farmers of Ontario. Thanks to their continued fundraising efforts, every player U8 and above received a new pair of Titans socks.

SPORTS —

New Hamburg Lanes to install three golf simulators by November



By Veronica Reiner

New Hamburg Lanes will open New Hamburg On Par Golf, and is currently installing three Golfzon TwoVision+ stateof-the-art indoor simulators. They are planned to be opened around November.

The simulators will be located to the left of the main entrance when first walking into the Union Street building.

"The response has been overwhelming," said James Aoki, owner of New Hamburg Lanes. "I'm getting phone calls, emails, people are coming in just to see what's go-

These simulators have a moving swing plate with different hitting mats, allowing for realistic play with auto ball return and teeing. Users have a choice of over 200 courses, which include courses in the United States, Mexico, Europe, Asia and

There will be different leagues offered, including a men's league, women's league, and mixed league. James has offered local retirement communities their own league, including Morningside, Foxboro and Stonecroft. Golf balls will be provided - those interested in using the golf simulator should bring golf clubs, golf shoes, or a comfortable pair of shoes.

James said that he chose the specific brand of golf simulators based on their updated technology. "This system that I purchased has what they call a 'floating floor,' so if the ball goes on a hill, the platform actually moves to the line," he explained. "So it's

not like you're hitting a straight mat out this floor actually tilts left or right.

"It also has an auto tee pop up system - it will automatically tee up the ball for you, so you don't need to go fetch your ball af-

Along with the new golf simulators, New Hamburg Lanes plans to extend their hours, starting at 7 a.m. instead of around 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. "So from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.," said James. "So myself, being an early riser for golf, I like that better. I figure if I do open up early, I can have people coming in before they go to work."

In addition, New Hamburg Lanes is working on a website at www.newhamburgonpargolf.ca, which will complement the existing website, www.newhamburglanes.ca. James said that he planned to add in a golf simulator before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the pandemic put everything on hold.

'We're having discussions with a couple of golf pros to come in and do lessons as well," he added. There will be online booking opportunities.

New Hamburg Lanes is a five pin bowling centre with six lanes and computerized scoring. The organization is wheelchair accessible and has ramps to get on the lanes and ramps to help bowl. They also have an engraving business for any medal or trophy needs.

James has run New Hamburg Lanes - previously known as Riverside Lanes - for about seven years.

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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The multiple historic layers of Bath



By Paul Knowles

"Oh! Who can ever be tired of Bath?" That question was asked by one of the fictional characters in Jane Austin's novel "Northhanger Abbey". It turns out, Jane Austin herself could get bored with the city - but she did admit that while living there was not her cup of tea, visiting for a few days or even weeks was pretty

Well, I have no plans for living in Bath, but when it comes to visiting this small, amazing city at the southern tip of England's Cotswolds, I am in, every time.

Bath is knee-deep in history. And while this can be said for many parts of the United Kingdom, it's rare to find a place where so many layers of history are so immediately accessible to visitors.

Best known of the attractions are the Roman Baths, which date back to 60 or 70 AD. But as you stand in the square, facing the entrance to the popular historic site, you are surrounded by thousands of years of architecture. To your left is Bath Abbey, a magnificent church whose construction started in 1500, on a site of Christian churches dating back to the Anglo-Saxon period.

To your right is the famous Pump Room, a Georgian tea room added to the Roman Baths complex in 1789. Bath is replete with magnificent examples of Georgian architecture, chief among them, the Royal Crescent, an amazing semi-circle of magnificent row houses, today highly sought after residences, with one restored as a Georgian museum, open to the public.

But let's get back to the Romans and their baths. Which are much, much more than what we think of as a "bathroom". This sprawling site was the hub of the community - the place where Roman Britons met to socialize, to do business, to buy and sell, to seek healing, and to worship. Oh,yes they also bathed, but with complex rituals including hot, tepid and cold plunge pools, steam rooms, massage rooms, and the large swimming pool in the centre of the complex.

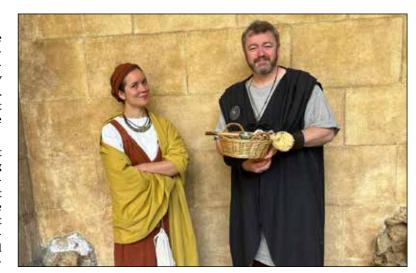
All of this in a religious context. The baths are dedicated to a goddess – actually, a hybrid goddess. The Roman goddess Minerva (goddess of the wisdom, justice, victory, the arts and trade, among other things) was blended with a local goddess, who had been associated with the holy spring that is the original reason for these baths. No one knows how long the local goddess Sulis was worshipped here, but the Roman name for the site was Aquae Sulis - "Waters of Sulis."

And as often happened, with the Romans, the two deities morphed into one, and the baths became the purview of the newly minted goddess Sulis Minerva. One of the spectacular finds at the baths is a gold bust of the

You could spend a whole day at the baths. And it is worth taking the time - the complex is breathtaking, and it's easy to be swept away by the sheer scope of the place, but there is great delight in the smaller details - the under-floor heating system created by the Romans; the clever architectural innovations; the gravestones and statues that tell us so much about the people of Bath in those early centuries.

Some of my favourite items are the curses, engraved on small lead or pewter tablets, that were thrown into the holy spring to draw the attention of the goddess to misdeeds done to the worshipper. They are often unwittingly funny, calling for terrible judgments to fall upon the person who did them harm.

The creators of the curses did not stint in their anger. One person, whose ring had been stolen, called down death and destruction on the thief and any accomplices: "...so long as someone, whether slave or free, keeps silent or knows anything about it, he may be accursed in his blood, and eyes and every limb and even have all his intestines quite eaten away if he has stolen the



You might even encounter a Roman citizen or two during your visit. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

Well! There is no record as to whether the curses worked, but they were clearly a popular device - archaeologists have recovered 130 of these ancient bits of rolled metal. As well, the exhibits at the bath include many other amazing finds from the Roman period - coins, jewelry, clothing - enough so that when your visit ends, you can almost feel as though you have spend a few hours hanging out with ancient Romans.

And then, because Bath is so rich in the lavers of history you can walk a few steps and visit Bath Abbev - where it is worth taking the time to read some of the hundreds of memorial plaques on the wall of the church. Not only will you learn much about those folks commemorated there, but the memorials span an era where the English language

was being codified - there are early plaques with unique spellings, and even letters unknown to us, including the "thorn", an archaic member of the alphabet that looks a little like a "y", but was pronounced "th" - thus, our mistaken idea about "ye olde English pub", which was never "ye" and always "the" - just spelled with a thorn.

Thus endeth the grammar lesson. Just one of hundreds of such historical tidbits waiting for you to discover in the fascinating city of Bath.

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.



A busker performs in the square that fronts both the baths, and the Abbey.



The central bath at the Roman Baths, with Bath Abbey towering in the background.

OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: Eggceptional Eggs



By Mercedes Kay Gold

Eggs are one of the most nutrient-dense foods on the planet, and luckily, we are a hop, skip and jump from farm fresh eggs.

Eggs are protein perfection, helping increase muscle mass, build bones and boost metabolism. The average oblong white wonder contains six grams of protein and about 65 calories. They are an easy and cost-effective food for weight loss and management. Eggs promote satiety and prevent snacking. By stabilizing

blood sugar, the rollercoaster of cravings and mood swings are easily eliminated, but energy levels remain constant. Protein is comprised of amino acids, the building blocks of muscle. Protein helps maximize post-workout muscle repair and recovery plus reduces muscle loss. Protein boosts metabolism, and burning more calories keeps weight in check. Regulating hormones, supporting optimal digestion and helping oxygenate the body are three more mammoth reasons to get cracking.

Eggs contain more than 100mg of choline, a very important nutrient many people have never heard of, but it is key to building cell membranes and signaling molecules in the brain. Lutein and zeaxanthin are two antioxidants that are associated with eve health, and the yellow yolk is the link. In one study, eating just one egg daily for five weeks increased blood levels of lutein

by 26% and zeaxanthin by 38% in older adults. Eggs are a good source of vitamin A, and amazing immune booster and another aid for exceptional eyes. There's a bevy of B vitamins and Vitamin B7 or biotin equals B for beauty boosting. Eggs help prevent thinning hair and brittle nails. Stocked with selenium, an important trace mineral lost in modern farming, selenium supports immunity, thyroid health and fights free radicals in the body.

Eggs are a stupendous side-kick snack, breakfast delight and baking BFF. Shakshuka shines a spotlight on eggs in an exotic taste sensation and the speediest supper, sure to be a hit. Scrambled, poached, fried or boiled. eggs are loved worldwide. Fried rice? Quiche? Egg and spinach frittata muffins? Omelet? Pickled? Break away from mealtime humdrum and get eggcited over all the possibilities.

"Love and eggs are best when they are fresh" -Russian proverb

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Eggceptional Egg Salad plus heaps of garden goodness!

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This recipe is an all-season simple stand alone or sensational side dish. Fresh farm-to-table potatoes, pulse power, herbal heaven and my not-so secret ingredient by Chef Adam Brenner. Ingredients:

4 large red potatoes, peeled,

medium carrots, peeled, steamed or boiled

3 eggs hardboiled

steamed or boiled*

½ cup fresh or frozen peas de-

2 large dill pickles diced and 1-2 Tbsp dill pickle juice by Chef Adam Brenner

1 tsp paprika

½ cup of mayonnaise

1 tbsp of Dijon mustard

Fresh dill chopped

Freshly ground pepper and Himalayan Sea salt to taste

Preparation:

Whisk together mayonnaise, Dijon mustard, paprika, pickle juice, salt, and pepper.

Cool and cube potatoes, carrots and eggs. Place in large serving bowl with diced dill pickles and

Add the dressing and gently toss to evenly coat. Season with salt, pepper, a dash of paprika and top with fresh chopped dill.

*Leaving skin on the potatoes provides trace minerals.

**Adding ½ tsp salt when boiling $eggs \ simplifies \ shell \ removal.$

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2023

September 24th

Paraguayan Harpist, The Kas-

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 You-Tube page.

September 28th

Poor Boys Luncheon

Taking place at the New Hamburg 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@wilmotfamilyresourcecentre.ca.

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 30th

Wellesley ABC Festival

From 7 a.m. until about 4 p.m. in Wellesley village. Free parking, admission and tractor wagons. Include pancake and sausage breakfast, kiddie fun track, antique car display, craft market, food vendors, horse shoe tournament, modern dairy farm tour, antique car parade, live music, and more.

September 30th

Truth and Reconciliation Day

A 45 minute outdoor Settler's Vigil will take place at 6:30 p.m. on the lawn facing Peel Street at Trinity Lutheran Church, 23 Church Street, New Hamburg. The vigil will be held indoors if inclement weather. It is a response to the Truth and Reconciliation Task Force's 94 Calls to action and is being hosted by members of Trinity Lutheran Church with members from the New Hamburg community. For more information, contact ebgs@rogers.com.

September 30th

Team Unity Bottle Drive

Taking place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Tavistock & District skating club's synchronized skating teams are holding a bottle drive

fundraiser Those who live in Tavistock can leave empties at the end of the driveway for pickup or drop empties off at the Tavistock arena.

October 3rd

Wellesley Council Meeting

Hybrid council meeting taking place at 4805 William Hastings Line in Crosshill at 6:45 p.m. Also streamed on the Township of Wellesley YouTube page.

October 4th

East Zorra Tavistock Council Meeting

In-person council meeting taking place at 7 p.m. at 695566 17th Line in Innerkip.

October 11th

Wilmot Centre Seniors Event

At 1 p.m., Wilmot Centre Seniors are offering a great program plus dessert. This month, Carrie Guse will be featured, a singer from Kitchener. The program lasts until

about 2:30 p.m. No fee, just a free will offering to help with costs. Located at 2463 Bleams Road West in Petersburg. Those who need more information can call the office at 519-634-8687.

October 11th

Community Dining Event for

Taking place at 12 p.m. in the Wellesley Community Centre at 1,000 Maple Leaf Street, Wellesley. Community Care Concepts invites you to join the organization for lunch and fellowship. Cost is \$14. Must register by October 6 by calling 519-664-1900 or toll free 1-855-664-1900.

October 15th

Screaming Eagles Reunion

Reunion of the Screaming Eagles hockey team, along with their friends and family members, at the New Hamburg Legion from around 1 p.m. until about 7 p.m.

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- 1. Budapest
- 6. Wisconsin
- 2. Fruit Flies
- 7. Surrealism
- 3. Table salt
- 8. Johannes
- 4. Judy Garland
- Gutenberg 9. Giraffe
- 5. France
- 10. Kneecaps

THANK YOU

McLaren

Thank you does not feel like enough as we acknowledge, with deepest gratitude, the many kindnesses shown to us by our family, friends, work and faith communities, following the sudden passing of our beloved son and brother, Corie McLaren, on August 22, 2023. We have been strengthened by your compassion and shared sorrow.

Bonnie, Rob and Jordan McLaren

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Rev. Margaret Walker: Office: 519-662-3450

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