

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

FREE

New Hamburg Art Tour "a huge success"

22 local artists showcased at the New Hamburg Community Centre this past weekend



Some of those pictured at the New Hamburg Art Tour include Earla Boyd, Michele Brenneman, Linda Chamberland, Jan Cressman-Weiss, Josephine Czech, Kathleen Freeman, Nick Fuller, Mary Gare, Judy Gascho-Jutzi, Greg Kimmet, Cornelia LeRoux, Dixi LeRoux, Amanda Lundrigan, Tami Martin, Barbara Mcleod, Linda Sanderson, Donna Schyff, Nancy Taves, Teresa Walker, Morag Webster, Joyce Young and Simona Zac. (Photo contributed)

By Veronica Reiner

The New Hamburg Art Tour, an event that showcases the work of local artists, drew in more than 500 attendees this past weekend.

The event took place at the New Hamburg Community Centre at 251 Jacob Street on Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"It was a huge success. We were over-the-moon happy with the outcome," said

organizer Nancy Taves. "We've learned a lot from previous years, and I think having it in the community centre has been a real boost, because people are really happy to have it all in one location."

While the majority of visitors came from New Hamburg, Tavistock, Baden and Stratford, there were people that came from further out, including Sarnia, Hamilton and Toronto.

Nancy said that there was a group of six

ladies that came out from Brantford for a weekend trip. "They stayed at a bed and breakfast in New Hamburg, they went to Mountainoak Cheese, they went to the Mike Schout Wetlands, they went to the waterwheel, they ate at Puddicombe House," said Nancy. "They said it was a perfect weekend, finishing it off with the art tour."

There were 22 local artisans on display, showing off their talents in painting (oil,

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Senior hockey team challenges EZT alcohol policy

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Tavistock Royals are asking for an exemption from the East Zorra-Tavistock alcohol policy. The document, recently approved by members of council, lays the groundwork for booze being consumed on any township-owned property. The main two customers, the Tavistock Royals, and Tavistock Braves, were not asked for input before members of council approved it.

Under the new policy, the team would not be able to serve alcohol, nor have it consumed in the standing room area atop the stands at the Tavistock and District Recreation Centre. Team President Kyle Wynette attended last week's EZT council meeting asking council to bend their new policy.

He explained the Royals weren't contacted at any time in the process until they were invited to a review meeting in August when the new rules were already passed. "We were there with other user groups, and that's where we went through the policy. We required clarification at that point and brought up that it doesn't allow us to license the existing area we have been using behind the tiered seating." He added that it becomes a logistical issue since the blueline capacity (in the upper hall) is only 120 people. "Our crowds have been increasing each year, but especially in the playoffs. People like to stand up there. Being able to serve from that location allowed us to accommodate fans better with those larger crowds versus trying to get them through the hallway into the blueline club." Wynette added it reduced much of the congestion at the top of

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Welcome to the ABC Festival

COMMUNITY —

Senior hockey team challenges EZT alcohol policy

Continued from page 1

the stairs. "It's a lot easier to spread that crowd out."

In a prepared statement, Karen DePrest, EZT's CAO, said developing township policy isn't about user groups. "In all cases, the policy is not created by exception or special interest but rather the greater good of the township as a whole. The policy regarding municipal alcohol is intended to ensure the highest level of risk management and mitigation to protect the township and its ratepayers."

Mayor Phil Schaefer, also in a prepared statement, echoed DePrest's comments. "The adoption of a Municipal Alcohol Policy (is a) forward-looking initiative taken by this council. The alcohol policy aims to enhance public safety, as well as providing risk mitigation."

Another issue the club could potentially face is access to an elevator, which is located between the Blueline club and that standing room in question. Wynette said a regular fan of the Royals needs access to that area, including an accessible bathroom, which could be made more difficult if an exemption isn't given. As the crowds have grown over the last few years, the team has opened up two serving areas in the upper hall and added the bar near the stairs. Wynette said that has worked well to keep the crowd flowing, and he is concerned the policy could have a negative effect on the club's bottom line. "We are getting more fans, and they come because of that experience where they have a beer, watch hockey, and don't have to go to Toronto, Kitchener, or London. It's

a good thing to do in town on a Saturday night." Wynette added the team put nearly 10,000 fans through the arena without a single alcohol or other incident off the ice. He added he was told the township does not consult the public on these types of policies, but he believes they should have. "We spent \$17,000 last year between ice and the boardroom. It affects us substantially, and it caught us off guard." He added most of the arenas they play in are licensed for alcohol anywhere in the seating and blue line club areas.

DePrest said the document was written after looking at policies of comparable municipalities in conjunction with consultation with councillors and staff. The policy was first presented to council at its regular meeting on April 19 and approved on May 17 after some proposed amendments and an implementation date of September 1 was adopted. "Staff conducted two open house information sessions on August 17 to educate any interested parties on the upcoming policy. East Zorra-Tavistock was one of the last municipalities in Ontario to adopt such a policy," added DePrest.

EZT Council is expected to announce a decision on the Royals exemption request at their next meeting on October 4 in Innerkip at 9 a.m. Wynette said he's not sure how the club will handle their liquor license ask for opening night. "When we apply for our license, we can't really indicate the Blueline extension because it doesn't align with the municipal alcohol policy, but the LCBO is quick at getting us approved."

New Hamburg Art Tour "a huge success"

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acrylic, etc.), sculpture, photography, illustration, textiles, and stained glass.

This year's lineup of artists included Earla Boyd, Michele Brenneman, Linda Chamberland, Jan Cressman-Weiss, Josephine Czech, Kathleen Freeman, Nicholas Fuller, Mary Garet, Judy Gascho-Jutzi, Greg Kimmitt, Cornelia Leroux, Dixi Leroux, Amanda Lundrigan, Tami Martin, Barbara McLeod, Linda Sanderson, Donna Schyff, Nancy Taves, Teresa Walker, Morag Webster, Joyce Young and Simona Zac.

There are also students from Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School who put their art up on display. "We were really happy to have them," said Nancy. "They have really good art. I couldn't believe it for students, really good quality stuff."

She thanked the many volunteers

- including students and teachers - who dedicated their time to making sure that the event was a success. The volunteers greeted people at the door, directed traffic, helped to set up and take down tables, and more.

Expenses from the event are covered through various means, including two community grants from the Township of Wilmot and the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund.

While each artist keeps the proceeds from their work sold, they pay a participation fee to showcase their art through the tour. "That helps towards renting the hall, advertising and such," said Nancy.

Many local businesses also helped to support the event through sponsorship and gift cards, such as Chef Adam Brenner, New Hamburg Home Hardware, and Cloverleaf Farms.



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COMMUNITY —

The Erb Group raise \$30,000 to be distributed to three local charities



One of the participants of the charity golf tournament takes a swing.

By Veronica Reiner

The Erb Group raised a new record amount of \$30,000 at their annual golf tournament, which will be distributed to local charities - including the Wilmot Family Resource Centre, Interfaith Counselling Centre and Aldaview Services.

"Many of these charities have also been ingrained in the community for decades, and we believe in their work and see the positive impacts they have made on the lives of families and individuals every day," said The Erb Group spokesperson Briona Lahti, as to why these charities were selected.

There were 152 golfers practicing their swings as they powered up for a passionate day of golfing and giving back to the

community at the Rebel Creek Golf Club in Petersburg on September 16.

"The golf tournament participants are typically made up of our vendors, suppliers and business partners who want to come together to help support the communities we serve as the Erb Group actively works to engage in community betterment as an integral part of our everyday operations," said Lahti. "Team members from two of the charities also participated in the game."

She added that the Aldaview Services/Tri-County Mennonite Homes team went above and beyond by sporting customized matching team shirts.

Since its initial start in 1994, The Erb Group hosted this annual



Harpreet Dhaliwal, Client Care Coordinator at Wilmot Family Resource Centre, speaks during the banquet to thank and acknowledge the spirit of giving.

charity golf tournament, which has contributed over \$550,000 to local not for profit organizations.

Wendell Erb, CEO and President of The Erb Group, says "This is our biggest fundraising event every year and we always raise over \$20,000 for our partnered charities. To hit over half a million raised since the tournament started, is a fantastic feeling."

Harpreet Dhaliwal, Client Care Coordinator at Wilmot Family Resource Centre said, "We are grateful for the ongoing support from The Erb Group and their Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Our vision is to build strong and healthy communities where everyone is accepted and has the opportunity to participate and

grow.

"The money raised helps us provide unique services to local families with individual needs, including basic necessities like food, clothing, housing, safety, mental health support or a sense of belonging. Without your help, we wouldn't be able to offer the level of support that we do."

Founded in 1959, The Erb Group is one of North America's largest privately owned refrigerated transportation providers. The Erb Group specializes in the timely, protected distribution of temperature-controlled perishable goods across Canada and the U.S., the Erb Group is a family-owned business, hosting over 1,500 employees, 1,100 trailers and 750 power units.

WRDSB to acknowledge Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 29

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) plans to acknowledge the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day on Friday, September 29.

While these days are recognized annually

on September 30, the school board plans to do so a day earlier while class is in session.

In June 2021, the federal government created the National Truth and Reconciliation Day. The grassroots and Indigenous led day of recognition honours residential school survivors, those who did not

survive, and their descendants.

"WRDSB accepts its responsibility to work towards Indigenous sovereignty. We must disrupt anti-Indigenous racism and Indigenous erasure so that First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students, families, and community-members have a sense of success and belonging. We recognize that

the challenge of achieving reconciliation is the challenge of our time," wrote the school board in a blog post.

"We will make sure all students have the opportunity to build intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect by learning with and about Indigenous people."

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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COMMUNITY —

New Hamburg Screaming Eagles celebrate 50 years

By Veronica Reiner

The Screaming Eagles, a former New Hamburg hockey team, is celebrating a half century milestone since the inception of their team

The team was in the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) Intermediate "B," and won the All Ontario Championships for the 1972-1973 season. The team was composed of all local players from New Hamburg, Wellesley, Plattsville and Bright.

"The first year we entered into the league - all the other teams thought we didn't have a chance, according to some of the other coaches and managers," said Bob Ruthig, a player on the team. "We ended up having 25 wins and three losses."

The Southern Ontario Intermediate "B" division held 28 total games. Teams in the division consisted of New Hamburg, Ingersoll, Port Dover, Paris, Aylmer, Simcoe, Delhi-Langion and Tillsonburg.

"I think we had a lot of talent and hard work," said Don Culbert, a former Screaming Eagles player, on what contributed to the team's success.

The team also had a strong community following, with between 250 and 900 people attending games.

The playoffs involved a best-of-seven series. During their first round against Tillsonburg, they won 4-0. In the second round against Ingersoll (the prior year's champions), the



The New Hamburg Screaming Eagles captured the J.C. Paxton Cup, emblematic of All Ontario intermediate B hockey supremacy. From left, back row: Keith Bast, vice president; Wayne Weber, Savo Vujovic, Ken Leu, Frank Biro, Myron Stankiewicz, coach; Steve Scherer, president and general manager. Second row, Orval Bast, equipment manager; Len Lorentz, trainer; Or-est Romashyna, Tom Daniells, Tom Pearson, Bob Hunter, Neil Harmer, Ross Bell, Dave Seyler, secretary-treasurer. Third row, Brian James, goal; Dave Weber, Don Culbert, assistant captain; Bob Ruthig, captain; Gary Stockie, assistant captain; Daryl Graham, Paul Steffler, goal. Front row: Dave Hall, Clare Wagler, Ken Bast, Mark Bender. Missing from photo: Rick Falk.

Screaming Eagles won 4-2.

For the final game and title of all Ontario Intermediate "B" champions, New Hamburg won the best-of-seven series four to

nothing. The final game saw New Hamburg take down the Napanee Comets 5-3. Daryl Graham, Bob, Gary Stockie, Ken Bast and Dave Weber shared the New Hamburg goals.

The team celebrated the victory with a

parade on fire trucks through New Hamburg at 5 a.m.

"When we got home at about 4:30 in the morning from Napanee, we phoned Mayor Ernie Ritz for permission to use the fire trucks," noted Ruthig. "There were quite a few people that were upset because we made too much noise. At least four of the councillors were ex hockey players, and they were on our side."

"You can't do that these days," noted David Seyler, former executive of the Screaming Eagles team. The team went from Intermediate "B" up to Senior "B," and played in that league for three years. "We played three years in the Senior 'B' loop, and then ran into financial difficulties," added Bob.

Myron Stankiewicz coached the Screaming Eagles. Myron has played professional hockey in the American Hockey Leagues several years for the Hershey Bears. In 2023 Myron was inducted into the Hershey Hall of Fame.

There are six members of the team that have passed away, including Wayne Weber, Frank Biro, Len Lorentz, Daryl Graham, Clare Wagler and Brian James.

The reunion will take place at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532 on Bouleee Street in New Hamburg from about 1 p.m. until around 7 p.m. About 30 people are expected to attend, including players, executives and spouses.

Wellesley allocates funding to five local organizations

By Veronica Reiner

Wellesley Township council authorized the allocation of \$12,000 for next year's budget for approved agencies' donation requests. These include Community Care Concepts, St. Clements Parade Committee, Wellesley Township Fall Fair, Wilmot Family Resource Centre and Woolwich Community Services.

Council also agreed to suspend the current donation policy and not accept applications under the current policy for the 2024 budget year. This matter was decided during a

hybrid meeting on September 19.

Wellesley Township received six applications for donations in 2022, five of which meet the criteria in the current donation policy. These include:

- Community Care Concepts - \$2,000
- St. Clements Parade Committee - \$200
- Wellesley Township Fall Fair - \$1,500
- Wilmot Family Resource Centre - \$3,000
- Woolwich Community Services - \$3,000

"The Nith Valley Ecoboosters application did not meet the criteria of delivering service to the residents of the Township," wrote Treasurer Fiona Gilbert in her report.

The township's current donation policy requires organizations to submit their applications by November 1st for a donation consideration for the following year.

Upon being asked by Councillor Derek Brick for more clarification about the report, Chief Administrative Officer Rik Louwagie said, "What we're suggesting is

that we don't accept the applications under the current policy, but to still allocate the \$12,000 in the draft budget which is pending then final approval of the budget. That money then, if it's approved in the budget, would be available for the new affiliation policy."

"Then it could be decided at that point which organizations would qualify for those donations, and that's how council will determine how we will divide it up."



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COMMUNITY —

Wellesley Township recreation centre two months from completion



The latest progress on the Wellesley Township Recreation Centre. At left, a view of the structure from the outside, and at right, a lobby view of the ice hockey arena. (Photo credit: Something For Everyone)

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The opening of the new arena at the Township of Wellesley Recreation Complex has been delayed until on or around November 17. The ice surface itself could have been ready for October 16, but the township said it just wouldn't be safe for the public to utilize the new facility.

Recreation Director Danny Roth said the original opening date has been pushed back for several reasons. "The delays were caused because some of the amenities that need to be installed to get occupancy are not in yet. There is some interior and exterior glass that has not arrived on site, and some of the handrails will not be in. The fire alarm and sprinkler system are not completed as of yet. Most of these are still all planned for October, but the middle of October is coming quickly, and it just became apparent not everything could be completed."

When the facility opens in November, it is expected that all eight dressing rooms, as well as the main floor washrooms, will be fully accessible, which would not have been the case in October. "This will allow for a much better user experience when the facility is opened. The remainder of the amenities, including the gym and community centre, seniors and youth centre, fitness centre and walking track are on track to be open by the end of 2023 or early 2024," added Roth.

Township staff are working with user groups that council prioritized for ice allocation, including the Wellesley Skating Club, Twin Centre Hericanes, Twin Centre Stars, and the Wellesley Applejacks, to ensure their programs can continue to operate solely out of the St. Clements for now. "In the event there is additional ice time available at the St. Clements arena between October 16 and November 17, staff will work with our regular ice users to ensure the remaining ice time is divided up in a fair and transparent manner. Our intent is to minimize any negative impacts to them," said Roth, who added

that any updates to the opening date will be provided as they become available. "We appreciate the community's flexibility and understanding and look forward to all users being welcomed to the new recreation complex as soon as possible."

In July, Wellesley Township Council identified The Twin Centre Hericanes, Twin Centre Stars, Wellesley Skating Club, and Wellesley Apple Jacks as prioritized groups. "These are groups that have league schedules, referees, timekeepers, and more. What we have done is get them the ice times they require in St. Clements. It is not perfect, but by utilizing some hours that they haven't in the past, we have been able to put together a schedule that can work for them. The adult groups are the groups that are going to get later starts to the year than a normal year in both St. Clements and Wellesley," added Roth.

The Applejacks' first game in the new digs is now scheduled for Saturday, December 2, against the Tavistock Braves. "We were hoping we could get over there earlier, but right now, that's the date," said head of hockey operations and general manager Brock Gerber. "It'll be a good home game, and I talked to Jordan (Zehr, Braves general manager), and they were receptive to our ceremony to raise the Schmalz Cup banner in the rafters and our ring ceremony."

Gerber said while playing in St. Clements isn't ideal, they are making the best of it. "It's like playing a road game. The players don't have a stall, and there isn't much room for our staff and equipment guys. We're kind of flying by the seat of our pants right now." The dressing rooms in St. Clements are small, meaning both the Applejacks and visiting teams need two rooms to get ready. The team is able to run a Blueline club to serve alcohol in the adjacent community centre, and is looking to do so in the near future. Gerber added the away teams have to share bathrooms with fans in the lobby, but he does say the township has been more than accommodating. "They aren't booking any ice time

an hour before our home games so we can prepare. Then we have all four rooms for us and the visiting team. We want them to take their time, so once it is open, everything is done right the first time, and I feel it will be one of the nicest arenas in the league once it's ready to go. We are really lucky to get a facility like this."

The team will have its own customized dressing room, something Gerber said will be appreciated by the players. "There are stalls being made by Daniel Bisch, a local contractor, so he's working away at that for us. The township has chipped in some of the finishings in the room, so we are pulling it all together."

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COMMUNITY —

Wilmot Township promoting new corporate communications strategy

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Members of Wilmot Township Council heard a lengthy presentation at this week's regular meeting on how to improve internal and external communications at the municipality. The 30-plus page document was prepared by Redbrick Communications, a well-known firm from Mississauga, after lengthy engagement with Wilmot. The draft corporate communications strategy will be brought back to a future council meeting, allowing time for councillors and the public to provide feedback into the strategy before it is adopted.

Chief Administrative Officer Sharon Chambers joined the Wilmot team in October 2021 and decided early in her employment that communications needed to be a priority. "It is an important aspect of leadership within the organization to be able to communicate internally to staff to get everyone working towards common goals and get them excited about what they are doing." She added keeping the public informed is just as important. "Developing a strong communications function is a way of telling stories about the good work the municipality is doing. People don't necessarily know a lot about

what their government is doing. In the absence of that, people make up their own narrative."

The strategy identifies six strategic communications priorities for Wilmot including strengthening positive story telling, increasing the township's visibility in the community, enhancing public engagement efforts, and investing in communications. There are also a number of budget items listed including communications training, software such as Canva and Adobe, along with an online engagement tool such as 'Bang the Table', the industry standard across Canada.

The township did have a part-time communications position that morphed into a full-time role which then became vacant. "I looked at it from the lens of what was successful for me in other places. I had just come from Kincardine that had really no communications function there at all and we built it out to be under the office of CAO." Chambers added the current strategy had started in 2022 when council approved funding for a plan but then the complete turnover in council happened in November of last year. Back to the drawing board. "We had engaged the last council on what they felt the priorities were, but we

thought we should get feedback from the new council to see what their thoughts are. A lot of them had campaigned on stronger communications with residents and better engagement in decision-making."

Vision: A communications function that lays the foundation for success toward a more informed and engaged community.

Council approved an additional role in the 2023 budget which is the manager of communications and engagement that will round out the team under the supervision of Chambers. "It puts us in a good position to start implementing this strategy." Wilmot is hiring for that position along with another role that focuses on website and social media development along with other duties such as news releases.

Chambers said keeping the public educated goes hand in hand with the public telling the township how they feel about relevant issues. "We heard from the community through engagement that they want more feedback into the decision making. They want a voice. I think that's a growing expectation among the public. There are some really great public engagement tools that can help council make informed decisions." She added in previous roles

those tools were in place allowing staff to compile data on how successful an engagement was. The township will eventually be able to track how many residents downloaded a plan online and provided feedback. "Getting that feedback is really important to know you are on track in the decisions you are making. It's a great tool for municipalities these days to make better decisions," she added.

Wilmot's CAO said the communications file has completely fallen on her desk since there are no staff handling internal and external messaging, something she said will change soon. "With smaller municipalities it has always been a corner of the desk activity. It is for me right now since I don't have any staff as these two roles are both vacant until Donna (Kell) starts on Monday. It's tough because my calendar is full from first thing in the morning until often early into the evening. It's hard for me to get information out so having support is going to be great. It has a visible impact." Chambers added Kell is putting a high value on developing relationships with media and the Gazette can expect to hear from her to develop a positive relationship going forward.



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Tournament

COMMUNITY —

Phenomenal Pfenning's Organic Produce



At left, a picture of author Mercedes Kay Gold. At right, some photos taken at Pfenning's Organic Farm.

By Mercedes Kay Gold

The Pfenning family began farming over 400 years ago in Germany. Conventional farming was the original organic until the introduction of agrichemicals at the turn of the century. Community pressure to embrace modern agriculture was daunting, and the family succumbed. It didn't take long for Adam Pfenning and his son, Wilhelm, to realize the health benefits of maintaining chemical-free farming, and by 1965, organic farming was back in full swing. Looking forward, the family moved to Canada in 1981, and began farming the same land farmed today. The family-owned modern-day organic farm is over 700 acres, and business is booming, employing over 150 employees in peak season. Pfenning's Organic Farm is a third-generation labor of love focused on farm-to-table fresh garden goodness.

As a certified holistic nutritionist, spending a sunny afternoon walking alongside flourishing fields discussing the bushels of body-boosting benefits with longtime employee Lauren was beyond the best,

and seemed only fitting during Organic week.

People seek out the Canada Organic Logo for many different reasons, but certified organic farming protects the complexity of Mother Nature holistically. Healthy soil is resistant to pests, absorbs water better and maintains the myriad of minerals essential to supporting one's optimal health. Pfenning's farm supports soil health with compost, cover crops and careful crop rotation, helping ensure biodiversity on the farm in the future.

Pfenning's fields grow over 40 varieties of certified organic vegetables, and this nutritionist left with a supersized slew of in-season superfoods to highlight. Eating a rainbow of garden goodness fuels the body with vital vitamins, mega minerals and each color provides piles of phytonutrients. A plateful of produce in oodles of colors is a daily menu must-have to not just live a long and healthy life, but glow from the inside out.

Beets are vibrant balls of beauty linked to lowering blood pressure and

inflammation, and with raw exerting a stronger effect, grating beets into salads or jumping on the juicing trend is top-notch. Looking to peak athletically? Power up performance with beet juice. Low in iron but plant-based? Reap the rewards with roasted beets, but don't forget to love the leaves. Chop beet greens into salads or throw them into a stir-fry for a higher iron count than spinach.

Both broccoli and kale are off the charts in blood clotting and bone building vitamin K1 plus insanely high in immune supporting vitamin C. Broccoli is low carb, high fiber and grated raw, a super swap in salads. Kale is one gorgeous leafy green and thanks to its nutritional value and versatility, I believe kale is king of the brassicas. Steamed or juiced and sauteed, stems and all, kale is stir-fry fantastic. For healthy snacking, tear kale leaves into pieces, drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with nutritional yeast and sea salt. Spread out on a cookie sheet and bake at 225 degrees Fahrenheit for fifteen minutes. Stir and bake another ten minutes for super food snacking!

Carrots are packed with beta-carotene, an antioxidant converted into vitamin A in the body. Just one cup daily exceeds the daily value, supporting eye health, immunity and sensational skin.

Parsley and dandelion are two of my favorite holistic helpers. Parsley is a heavenly herb, and whether you add to salads, soup and smoothies, it's linked to loads of benefits. Parsley's high myricetin content may help prevent skin cancer. Myricetin also decreases insulin resistance and appears to act as an anti-inflammatory in the body. Dandelion is more than a pesky weed. Thanks to the slightly bitter taste, dandelion greens are an outstanding natural diuretic, a dream for the digestive system and a gentle liver daily detox, and sensational in a salad or sauteed with garlic.

The power of produce is undeniable, and flooding the cells with nutrients fuels the body. Choosing organic enhances not only our health, but the health of all creatures and our life force, Mother Earth.

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Preview: Saturday Sept. 30 from 9AM until 3PM or by appointment by calling Bob at 519-421-6050 **Terms:** Cash, cheque, Interac, e-transfer, 10% buyer premium (Capped at \$1000 per item)

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- Beans in Sauce

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COMMUNITY —

The School Breakfast Club Program in Wilmot Township keeping students eating healthy

By Gary West

It seems that every day in the news, you can't help but hear about how students in schools are not receiving the proper nutrition and healthy food they need in order to learn without feeling hungry.

Some would blame the state of the economy and the increased cost of food.

There is a caring group of volunteers in Wilmot Township who have been working tirelessly to change all that.

They are called the Forest Glen Public School Breakfast Club - which was established in 2017 - and serves approximately 320 hot meals monthly.

The volunteer group learned from the Wilmot Family Resource Centre, that there were families in the area, that absolutely needed food support. They also learned that the stigma of reaching out to ask for food was huge.

The breakfast club came together as an eager and enthusiastic group to start planning, with members from Hillcrest Mennonite Church, Steinmann Mennonite Church, Forest Glen Public School, and the Wilmot Family Resource Centre. They then brainstormed on how they could make a breakfast club happen at Forest Glen Public School.

Many of the breakfast club organizers had children who attended Forest Glen, which is why they decided to start at that school.

The following are the parameters that they were working within:

Food had to be prepared in the kitchen, which is regularly inspected by the Region of Waterloo Public Health. In this case, it was Steinmann Mennonite Church, whose kitchen was licenced and inspected regularly.

All the food is prepared at Steinmann Mennonite Church under the supervision of people who have their current food safety certificates.

Food is served by volunteers at the school who have current, up-to-date police record checks.

Food is prepared and stored at Steinmann Mennonite church, heated and transported to Forest Glen in approved coolers, with temperatures taken to ensure food safety.

All volunteers have to have a deep love for making the world a better place.

The rotating hot food menu served on Wednesdays includes pancakes and bacon, scrambled eggs, sausages,



Some Breakfast Club volunteers at Steinmann Mennonite Church hard at work preparing nutritious food for their hot meal school program. From left to right, Paulette West, Ardys Brenneman, Dianne Satchell, Rick Brenneman, Vern Unraw, Elvira Unraw.

breakfast burritos, waffles, and bacon. They say that EGG dishes are usually accompanied with smiley fries or hashbrowns.

The breakfast club also say they offer fresh fruit, homemade muffins, cheese strings, yogurt tubes, toast with jam, apple butter, honey, along with smoothies, cereal, juice, white or chocolate milk, granola bars and dried fruit snacks.

Organizers serve breakfast from 7:45 a.m. until the bell rings at 8:15 a.m. Students are encouraged to take what they need from the breakfast buffet and also pack a lunch for later.

When breakfast is completed, the volunteers pack up the leftovers and leave them in the staff room fridge to distribute during nutrition breaks.

They are currently serving between 70 to 85 students a hot breakfast each Wednesday, and then leave lunch items for distribution at nutrition breaks.

The financing of the breakfast club comes from funds donated that go toward buying food, and items needed to

package the food. There are no paid staff. As volunteers they donate their time, and feel they are paid in a manner that can't be quantified.

One of the organizers, Paulette West was asked how many kids really need the Breakfast Club. Her answer is, "They all really need it, since the Breakfast Club is a safe place for everyone to gather. You don't have to be smart, you don't have to be an athlete, you don't need to be popular, all you really need is to be enthusiastic about eating".

She said their group "provides a safe place for children, where for 30 minutes every Wednesday morning, they don't need to be worried, they just come to be fed."

In speaking for the many volunteers that have helped in putting the breakfast club in place, they are also "fed" by being able to demonstrate kindness, caring, and generosity.

To donate or willing to help out, contact volunteers Dianne Satchell, Kathy Bender or Paulette West at paulettewest@rogers.com (519-500-4280), or any of their 26 volunteers.

EZT chooses vendor to deliver first strategic plan

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

East Zorra-Tavistock councillors have approved a staff recommendation to hire an Orangeville firm to execute the municipality's first ever plan. A strategic plan is a very common exercise allowing a company or government to map out the next few years of its operations with help from a third party.

Twenty-four companies downloaded the tender with ten bid submissions received and verified for compliance by staff. Evaluation of the proposals was then completed by the senior staff. The evaluation was based on the scoring matrix incorporated into the RFP bid document.

CFO Karen DePrest said in a written statement the bid was very targeted to EZT. "Upon engagement, the chosen firm, in this case Town Hall Consulting, will then embark on a process that will be public-facing as it will be specific to East Zorra-Tavistock. Staff assured council at the meeting of September 20 when asked that the public engagement portion of the proposal from Town Hall exceeded the expectations of the township and was one of the key criteria laid out in the evaluation matrix of the bid document. In addition, staff advised council that the document provided by Town Hall Consulting was very EZT customized, including reference pictures and colouring consistent with our township. Overall, the Township is excited

to embark on this first ever process in EZT."

The successful bid will cost taxpayers \$40,747.50. The budget for the project was \$50,000 and it was budgeted in the 2023 Capital and Operating Budget.

When asked if the successful bid could be made public, DePrest said those details will remain private. "As it pertains to the strategic plan request for proposal, as with all RFPs, the content of the submissions from the bidders is proprietary in nature. Their proposed methodology, strategy and engagement tools are specific to their firm and should not be disseminated or shared with their competitors nor the general public in accordance with

requirements of confidentiality."

Rob Adams is the CEO of Town Hall Consulting and provided the Gazette with a statement on his successful bid. "Our team at Town Hall Consulting is delighted to have the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, council, staff and the community building a new strategic plan with a vision for future of the township."

No word yet on when the process will begin. EZT has said they will not engage in boundary adjustment talks with the City of Woodstock until the strategic planning process is complete sometime in 2024.

COMMUNITY —

Wilmot based organizations to benefit from regional funding

Including Crow Shield Lodge, ICC and Petersburg Community Garden

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Some Wilmot based organizations will be benefitting from Region of Waterloo funding, including Crow Shield Lodge, Interfaith Counselling Centre and the Petersburg Community Garden.

Crow Shield Lodge is a land based education and healing space, and will receive \$180,000. This will support its capacity to offer opportunities to bring about positive change through connecti on the land with community and culture.

Interfaith Counselling Centre promotes wellness and provides counselling services, and is receiving \$5,350. The funding will support AgCulture, an in-person training event for 30 rural based “helping professionals” in Wilmot and Wellesley townships. AgCulture will resource a variety of professionals who serve the agricultural community to apply culturally competent practical skills as they work with the rural agricultural community.

The Waterloo Region Community Garden Network (WRCGN) - Petersburg Community Garden will receive \$50,000. The WRCGN provides opportunities for people to grow their own food - producing food helps families with low income support themselves when food prices are high. Funding will support the sustainability of the Petersburg Community Garden, enabling residents to have equitable access to opportunities and grow and harvest their own food in a sustainable way.

There were a total of 40 community organizations that were the recipients of funding this year. There was a total of \$2.2-million distributed through the region’s 2023 Upstream Fund and Community Capacity Building Fund. This year’s recipients included a diverse range of work focused on

Reconciliation, land based teaching, culturally safe programs and services, building skills for employment and youth leadership and more.

“Each of these groups are working to create a region where everyone – including members of racialized and other marginalized communities – feels safe, cared for, and has the opportunity to thrive,” said Regional Chair Karen Redman in a release. “By continuing to invest in this work, we create a better community for everyone.”

The community-led community change committee reviewed more than 100 applications, and prioritized grassroots organizations and groups that face barriers to accessing funding sources.

The upstream fund is a \$2.1 million annual fund first approved in December 2021 by council as part of the 2022 plan and budget. So far, over two years, \$8.2 million in funding has supported over 70 organizations and grassroots groups.

The full list of recipients this year include Awareness of Low-Income Voices (\$15,000), Bridges to Belonging (\$100,000), Cambridge Food Bank (\$50,000), the Canadian Arab Women’s Association (\$80,000), Canadian Aweil Youth Association (\$50,000), Children’s Needs Distribution Centre (\$20,000), Community Collaborative (\$100,000), Creative Women’s Kitchen (\$14,000), Crow Shield Lodge (\$180,000), Ghanaian Canadian Association of Waterloo Region (\$80,000), Hamere-Noah Kadane Mihret Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church (\$51,551), Hearts Open For Everyone (\$90,000), Hope for Community Development (\$60,000), Indigenous Poets Society (\$97,500), Interfaith Counselling Centre (\$5,350), Islamic Centre of Cambridge - Jami Mosque (\$10,000),

Kaleidoscope Productions (\$57,000), Kind Minds Family Wellness (\$70,560), Levant Canada (\$47,240), Level Up (\$64,657), Living Below the Line (\$32,615), Muslim Women of Cambridge (\$90,055), Myron Steinmann (\$34,283), Nigerians in the Region of Waterloo (\$75,400), O:se Kenhionhata:tie (\$175,000), Period Pin (\$8,000), Porchlight - Counselling and Addiction Services (\$35,024), Rainbow Coalition of Waterloo Region (\$41,385), Red Raccoon Bike Rescue (\$41,385), Red Sea Eitrean Organization (\$5,150), South Sudanese Canadian Association

of Waterloo Region & Wellington Region (\$50,000), Sporas Scattered (\$4,000), The Eritrean Islamic Community of Waterloo Region (\$150,000), The Redeemed Christian Church of God (Potter’s House) Kitchener (\$2,850), The Rohr Chabad Centre for Jewish Life (\$23,400), Theatre of the Beat (\$25,000), United Quardu Gboni Community of Canada (\$50,000), Waterloo Region Community Garden Network (\$50,000), WeCare Centre (\$27,320), and the White Owl Native Ancestry Association (\$103,400).

CARD OF THANKS FROM THE JUNKER FAMILY

How do we begin to thank so many people for so many things when a mailed thank you seems insufficient? We are astounded by the many cards and memorial donations given in memory of George; the abundance of food brought to the house, and the many visits we had with friends and neighbours after his passing. Our hearts were warmed by the outpouring of support on the day of his Celebration of Life, and we thank you for attending that day, or for sending messages of condolence if you couldn’t. It truly was a “George” kind of day – one where family, friends and neighbours gathered to share memories and laughter, as was his wish.

Thanks to his team of experts at the London Health Sciences Centre for their care over the years, and to the staff in the Chemotherapy Unit at WGH. Your friendship and caring ways never went unnoticed. A very special thank you to the staff in the Palliative Care Wing at Woodstock General Hospital. We cannot say enough good things about the loving care and attention that George received in the short time he was in the Unit, and for your care and concern for our family as we shared his final hours. You truly are angels, all of you.

To his brothers and sisters on the Hickson Fire Department, and to those from Tavistock and Innerkip Departments that he served with over the years – thank you doesn’t seem enough. The support for our family and the respect for George shown since his passing will remain in our hearts forever.

Our sincere thank you to Jeff Glendinning, of Glendinning Funeral Home, for guiding us and making sure our wishes for George’s celebration were realized. Your leadership of the service was both heartfelt and beautiful. Your professionalism and friendship is truly appreciated.

And finally, a profound thank you to our family and friends from near and far for your love, support and prayers over the last few years. You provided a shoulder to lean on; you helped us around the property; you lifted us up when we celebrated wins against cancer; and you held us when George lost his long, hard battle. He was well and truly loved, as are we. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Brenda, Steve, Erin & Myla; Dave, Claudie St.Arnaud, Brady & Audrey Junker

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



51 GRAFF AVENUE, STRATFORD

What are you waiting for?? If you are a first time home buyer or a family wanting a home in a desirable neighbourhood, and is with in walking distance to a public school, then this is one home you want to view. This 3 bedroom raised brick bungalow located on a 51 X 104 foot lot, offers so much potential. Features of this family home include 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, sliders off the dining area to a deck and rear yard, hard wood flooring, finished family room with a gas fireplace, attached garage and so much more. Be sure to view at the open house or call for a viewing, try an offer today, and own this great home today. **MLS#40464202 \$649,900**

**OPEN HOUSE: SAT. SEPT. 30TH
1:30-3:00PM**



148 MAIN STREET NORTH, SEAFORTH

Do you want a new home that has never been lived in, but do not want to go through the building process, then be sure to view for yourself and see just all this great home has to offer. With 1,765 square feet just on the main floor plus an unspoiled basement, this home is ideal for a family or if you are looking for the perfect retirement home, this might be just what you have been looking for. Features include, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, walk in closet, open concept main floor, kitchen island with breakfast bar, main floor laundry, over sized double attached garage, and so much more. Immediate possession is available. **MLS#40478625 \$864,500**

**OPEN HOUSE: SAT. SEPT. 30TH
1:30-3:00PM**



144 MAIN STREET NORTH, SEAFORTH

Do you want a new home that has never been lived in, but do not want to go through the building process, then be sure to view for yourself and see just all this great home has to offer. With 1,460 square feet just on the main floor plus an unspoiled basement, this might be just what you have been looking for. Features include, 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, walk in closet, open concept main floor, kitchen island with breakfast bar, main floor laundry, double attached garage, and so much more. Immediate possession is available. **MLS#40477799 \$699,900**

**OPEN HOUSE: SUN. OCT. 1ST
2:00-4:00 PM**



60 HOLLEY AVENUE, TAVISTOCK

Welcome to 60 Holley Avenue in the lovely small town of Tavistock. This amazing home shows pride of ownership and offers so much for your growing family. Built in 2020 this lovely home offers 4 or 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and basement rough in, finished family room, open concept main floor, quartz counter tops, kitchen island with breakfast bar, fully fenced rear yard, deck and patio, unspoiled basement, and so so much more. Why build new when you can move right into this stunning home. This home is definitely not a drive by and must be seen from inside to see for yourself just how much it has to offer. Shows “AAA” Be sure to call to view, this might be just what you have been looking for. **MLS#40469419 \$999,990**

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FAMILY MILESTONES —

OBITUARY

GERBER, Brian



Brian Larry Gerber, 72, of Tavistock passed away in Stratford General Hospital, with family by his side, on Sunday, September 24, 2023.

He was born at Stratford on March 4, 1951, a son of the late Willard and Gladys (Niebergall) Gerber.

Brian had worked for 33 years at Dominion Chain/Dura Automotive in Stratford. He was a lifelong member of Grace United Church in Tavistock.

He is survived by his son, Jason Gerber (Sarah); his daughter, Kristina Gerber (Jennifer Clements); his granddaughter, Chloe Everingham; two sisters, Rosemary McKay (Graham), Sue Kennel (Arne).

Relatives and friends will be received in the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock Street North, Tavistock on Friday, September 29, 2023 from 10-10.45 a.m. where the funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. The Rev. Marg Smith will officiate. Interment in Grace United Cemetery, Tavistock. Reception following.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to Multiple Sclerosis Society or Diabetes Canada 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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Baby Stormont

Carman and Debbie Wetlaufer are so happy to announce the birth of their granddaughter, **Gabrielle Eileen Stormont on August 7, 2023.** Gabrielle's parents, Shelby and Will, living in Cairns, Australia are so excited to welcome this sweet addition to their family tree.



Congratulations to Paul and Karen Stormont, also living in Cairns, Australia on the birth of their first grandchild.

Welcome to the World Gabrielle!

CELEBRATION



Happy belated 98th birthday
Wallace Steinman

Love your family

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4339 Huron Rd. Wilmot Township

Sunday Oct. 1, at 3:00pm - We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival.

Special guest preacher will be The Venerable Dr. Neil Carver.

All Welcome

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

sgacnewhamburg@gmail.com

Current health and safety protocols are followed.

St Agatha Mennonite Church

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Pastor Jim Brown

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POLICE REPORTS

Driver charged after two vehicle Wilmot collision

A driver was charged after a two vehicle collision in Wilmot Township on September 23.

At about 3 p.m., emergency services responded to reports of a collision on Bleams Road at Wilmot Centre Road.

Through investigation, it was determined that a Nissan travelling south on Wilmot Centre Road failed to yield the right of way, and collided with a Honda travelling

east on Bleams Road.

Region of Waterloo Paramedic Services transported the driver and occupant of the Nissan to a local hospital with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries.

Area roadways were closed for an extended period for the investigation. The roads reopened at approximately 8 p.m.

The Nissan driver, a 79-year-old London male, was charged with failing to yield to traffic on a through highway under the Highway Traffic Act.

Fire in Wilmot

A fire occurred on Brenneman Drive in Wilmot Town-

ship on September 21 at about 11:30 p.m.

There were no physical injuries reported. There was no criminal allegation or offence as a result of this incident.

The incident was handled by the Wilmot Fire Department.

Driver charged after single vehicle collision

An 18-year-old man was charged with careless driving after a single vehicle collision in Wilmot Township.

The incident occurred on September 19 at about 11:45 p.m. in the area of Notre Dame Drive and Highway 8.

There were no injuries reported as a result of the collision.

COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. How many stars are on the European Union flag?
2. When was "Dracula" published?
3. Who founded Volkswagen?
4. What is Canada's national bird?
5. How many litres are in a gallon?
6. What planet is Jar Jar Binks from?
7. What is the world's largest coral reef system?
8. Bobby Fischer was the world champion of what sport?
9. How many stages of sleep are there?
10. What is Jupiter's largest moon?

Answers found on page 26

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

September 28: Happy Birthday to Michelle Rempel and anniversary for JJ and Joe Bannon (4th).

September 29: Happy Birthday to Emmett Wiegand (9) and Jack Ferguson (12), and anniversary for Andrew and Heather Raymer (22nd).

September 30: Happy Birthday to Cadence Trotter (18), and Aidan Wilhelm (23), and anniversary for Ashley and Tracie Yantzi (12th).

October 1: Happy birthday to Cohen Smith (14) and Paul Schumm, and anniversaries for Nicholas and Lindsay Fuller (12th) and Jeff and Leah Schwartzentruber (12th).

October 2: Happy birthday to Leanne Darlington and Julie Kimpel, and anniversary for Wayne and Michelle Schumm.

October 3: Happy birthday to Craig Wilker, and anniversaries for Blaine and Tracy Zehr (14th), and David and Taralyn Craven (8th).

October 4: Happy birthday to Cassidy Weicker (9), Tyson Reibling (15), Nicole Wettlaufer (23), and anniversaries for Phillip and Melissa Hulcoop (9th) and Adam and Leah Gascho (9th).

Does someone in your family have a special day coming up? Let us know at thewt-gazette@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 11-18, 2013, Edition (10 years ago)

Jantzi Roth, who owns and operates a professional massage business at Tavi-Fit and Wellness Studio in Tavistock, welcomed 36 participants to this year's Terry Fox run. Together, they raised over \$2200.

On September 15th the public was invited to a special dedication ceremony to pay tribute to former Optimist members and to initiate use of the walking path. Optimist President Danny Roth, youngest son of Paulette and the late Cephas Roth, welcomed everyone to Memory Lane where two colorful new benches have been installed along the memorial path through the center of the park. A memorial stone facing the benches was dedicated to 18 deceased members of the Tavistock Optimist Club.

Tavistock Firefighters partnered with Scotiabank and raised over \$7400 for Muscular Dystrophy Canada at their annual Labour Day weekend, "FILL THE BOOT" boot toll held on Friday evening, August 30th. A big thanks to the community for coming out to support the worthy cause.

The Tavistock & District Skating Club held a bottle drive this past Saturday, Septem-

ber 14, and due to the hard work of many skaters, and generous donations from local residents, the club was able to raise approximately \$900 to help with operating costs this year. Special thanks to Brad Wettlaufer for the use of his shop, Schultz Automotive for the sign, all of those who donated their bottles, and the skaters for their hard work.

September 11-17, 2003, Edition (20 years ago)

On Labour Day weekend, the Tavistock Titan Bantams, wearing Computer Country jerseys loaned by Greg Zavitski, worked hard to reach the finals in the "A" division of a 3-on-3 hockey tournament held at London Western Fair Arena. After 3 wins and 1 loss Tavistock went for the challenge of championship. It was a tough game, but they came up short by two goals against Stratford.

September 14-21, 1983, Edition (40 years ago)

Voted Optimist of the Year this year was none other than Paul Haase, a member of the Tavistock Club, who has chaired the Youth Program for the past year. Paul has been active on the Youth Committee for three years being involved in the youth golf tournaments, spelling bees, oratorical contest, bicycle rodeo, Youth Apprenticeship Week, the Annual Atom Hockey Tournament, the Teen Dance, and the Midget Girls Ball Tournament. Paul received an engraved plaque for his achievements and the club notes that "Paul is a man who you

can always count on."

Mrs. Edith Walter had a big birthday party on Friday afternoon at the Bonnie Brae Nursing Home in Tavistock. The occasion was an extra special one as Edith celebrated her 107th birthday. There was lots of birthday cake and ice cream for everyone.

September 11-18, 1963, Edition (60 years ago)

Notice: Wellesley Cider Mill and Apple Butter Factory NOW OPEN. Phone 335 Wellesley for Your Appointment for Apple Butter. More than 41 years in the Apple Butter business assures you a good job. A.W Yantzi & Sons Ltd.

"If you can learn to appreciate, to participate and to contribute, you have done your part in society," said Dr. Walter Koerber, Ph.D., director of education in Scarboro, in his address Wednesday night at the Memorial Hall. He was speaking directly to the Grade 8 graduates of the Tavistock Public school at the third annual banquet given on their behalf by the Tavistock Home and School Association.

The congregation of the East Zorra Mennonite Church, one of the largest in the area, has found it necessary to further expand by building a church near New Hamburg. It will be built just west of the town on Highway 7 and 8 on what is known as Bender's Hill. The land has been bought from Mahlon Bender.

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COMMUNITY —

Miniature railway system on the Campbell family farm

By Gary West

There are many couples that approach their retirement and may wonder what they might do with their time.

Jim and Pat Campbell have always been able to keep themselves busy, while still living and working on the family's broiler chicken farm in Perth County. They live with their son Scott and his wife Jessie and their children.

The couple, over the years, had a passion for miniature railways, and after numerous trips and studying how they might go forward with their own plan, they set the wheels in motion (so to speak) to build their own miniature railroad in their spacious country back yard.

In 2005, the farm couple joined two garden railway clubs. They started taking advice from club members who offered encouragement on how to make a garden railway.

In 2007, Pat will say, all their plans and ideas really started to move ahead. They put their plan on paper and designed an area that measured 25 feet wide and 45 feet long.

They used many rock and field stones picked from their own farm to outline the area, and then began the arduous task of bringing in topsoil, which had to be graded by hand with a shovel (Armstrong) and



In their backyard are the Master Engineers of their Mini Railway Garden, Pat and Jim Campbell.

then let settle.

Once the site was in place, they started laying the miniature train track, which is two inches wide and supports train cars that are 30 inches long.

In getting started in purchasing the model trains, the Campbells purchased a

Canadian National starter set, and once that worked well, they bought an Aristo Canadian Pacific Steam Engine with seven cars.

They said the limited edition set is a replica of the train used by the Royal family when they came and travelled throughout

Canada in the 1950's.

The Campbell Mini Railroad is not just a track that runs in a circle, but one that has the trains (six in total) running through rocks, mountains, shrubs and tunnels over and under bridges and the landscaping that includes the Rocky Mountains and could well be compared to the best of gardens in the area.

All the buildings their trains travel around and through were designed by Pat. They had many area friends who helped in the construction of a number of them, including houses and rail stations.

Since the interesting couple has travelled to many parts of Canada, they have tried to incorporate various landmarks throughout their miniature railroad and garden and have also included landmarks observed in many parts of Perth County.

When summer rolls around each year, it now takes the Campbell's about four-and-a-half hours to set up the layout. Only the engines are brought indoors overnight, and the rest of the layout is covered in the fall, they carefully store everything inside, except for the rail tracks.

In a recent visit to the Campbell Garden Railway, this reporter understands that their wish is that the only way interested visitors find where they are is by word of mouth from one visitor to another.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE (PIC) PUNKEYDOODLES CORNERS

Intersection Control Feasibility Study

**Thursday, October 5, 2023 – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Tavistock & District Memorial Hall**

To strategically prepare for growth and to enhance the operations and safety of the existing roadway network at Punkeydoodles Corners, Oxford County has retained RC Spencer Associates Inc. to explore short, medium and long-term geometric and traffic control improvements at the intersection.

The purpose of the study is to quantify and qualify existing and horizon traffic conditions with respect to various traffic operations or safety metrics, such as traffic volumes, levels of service, delay, queuing, collisions, speeds, sight lines, and illumination. The identification of land acquisition (to accommodate recommended long-term improvements) will also be addressed.

Overall, the outcome of this study will guide decisions regarding:

- Industry best practices for the design of roadways and intersections;
- Hierarchy of area roadway classifications (i.e., local, collector, and arterial roadways);
- Anticipated growth and increased demand on area roadways and intersections;
- Geometric layout of recommended short-term and long-term improvements;
- Build-out of recommended intersection improvements (or potential closures);
- Coordination and relocation of potentially conflicting utilities;
- Lighting requirements to accommodate the short-term and long-term improvements;
- Land acquisition requirements (to accommodate long-term improvements);
- Cost and budgeting of intersection / roadway improvements.

An important part of this study is consultation with the public, stakeholders, and agency partners. We want to hear from you on the issues and opportunities that you see for Punkeydoodles Corners.

The upcoming in-person Public Information Centre (PIC) is specifically intended to gather public input and to present findings to date and preliminary recommendations of the study. At any time during this study, you can provide comments, questions, and concerns to the project team. A Public Information Centre will be held:

**Thursday, October 5, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Tavistock & District Memorial Hall, 3 Adam Street, Tavistock**

Stay connected and learn more at www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup.

Information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act. Information collected will be used and managed by the respective road authorities in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Contact Us

For further information or to be added to the study mailing list, please contact the study team:

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Oxford County
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rvink@oxfordcounty.ca



COMMUNITY —

Woodworking can become your passion when you visit Windbreak Farm Wood Works



Some of the pieces made at Windbreak Farm Wood Works in Fullarton.

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

If you are looking for something interesting and fun to experience, take a woodworking lesson from Bob Hutson. Bob is a truly skilled cabinet maker & owner of Windbreak Farm Wood Works in Fullarton. The farm is a short drive from New Hamburg, Stratford, Mitchell and St. Marys.

Windbreak Farm Wood Works is a family-owned and operated business located in rural Perth County. Since 2004, Bob and Cathy have been serving customers with "wood" in all of its diverse forms.

When you register for a woodworking session, be prepared to learn, enjoy, and be inspired with the three-hour

interactive adventure that will lead you from touring their rural property featuring over 20 varieties of trees to a hands-on woodworking shop session where you will create your own wooden treasure to take home.

Bob gives the lessons as he takes you through all the various steps to make your very own creations. Bob's wife, Cathy, shares her exquisite home baking at break time, and you will enjoy delicious, savoury tastings of locally sourced seasonal beverages, fruits, and farm fresh cheeses in their welcoming refurbished 1906 Victorian home.

You can take the opportunity to meet Misty, the family's horse, Sally, their loving Golden Retriever, their two cats and a flock of free-range heritage chickens.

The best part of your woodworking experience is that you go home with your own beautifully finished wood creation that you seal with a food-safe finish of beeswax and linseed oil.

Check out the various class schedules online at the website noted below. You can choose to build a birdhouse building class or create a hardwood charcuterie board / cutting board. Mid-week bookings for sessions with groups of four to six are available upon request.

If you are looking for a beautifully crafted wooden hand-made gift item for a special occasion, there are products available at Windbreak Farm Wood Works. Custom orders are welcome. Check out Bob's website for more information at www.windbreakfarm.ca.

Check this link for the available woodworking classes: www.windbreakfarm.ca/embrace-the-giving-tree.

To register for sessions, you can email windbreakfarm-ww@quadro.net or phone 519-670-6582. Windbreak Farm is located at 5666 Line 26, Fullarton in Perth County.

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COMMUNITY —

Interest was high at this year's draft horse show at Tavistock Fall Fair



Tavistock's Fall Fair directors organized another very successful fall fair this year with ideal weather conditions. Heavy horse show organizers also kept busy this year. This year's Grand Champion Clydesdale went to Elizabeth Burrill of Hickson with her winning horse named Dash. Trophy presenters include left to right, Donna Mogk, Ken Mogk, Brenda Bender and Cindy Mogk. Gordon Doughty is on the lead halter.



The Haflinger horse show saw entries from many regions of Southern Ontario at this year's Tavistock Fall Fair. At the trophy presentation are Brenda Bender, Cindy, Carol and Donna Mogk, while daughter and mother Kathryn Purcell from Stouffville accept the Grand Champion Trophy from the Mogk family.

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COMMUNITY —

50th Anniversary celebrations of the Shakespeare Optimist Club



Left, 2022-2023 Shakespeare's Optimist President Mike McNeil along with right, Paul (Buck) Mathieson, who was Governor of the District in 2019-2020, and also a past President. He chaired the evening. They had the honour of cutting the 50th anniversary cake, to celebrate the occasion.

By Gary West

1973.

It was a night of celebration in Shakespeare on Saturday evening, as the Shakespeare Optimist Club celebrated its 50 years since the club was chartered in

There were still seven charter members in attendance who were honoured for starting the club about 50 years ago on February 22, 1973.

Harvesting corn for silage has begun



Father and daughter Dale and Bridget Becker, with tall corn in the background, are happy for the dry weather to begin harvesting corn silage, for their registered dairy herd, in the heart of Perth County.

By Gary West

Harvesting corn silage for winter feed has begun in North Easthope township.

The weather is ideal for dairy farmers like Dale and his daughter, Bridget Becker, and the tonnage per acre should be well above average for a crop that has had ideal growing conditions this year.

Bridget says she hopes in the future to

take over her father, Dale, and mother Darlene's dairy farm, located west of Amulree in Perth East, at RR1 Stratford.

Beckvale Dairy Farms was founded by Dale's parents - Ivan and Loreen Becker in the early 1960's. In all probability, it will become a third generation dairy farm, to ensure that milk and milk products continues to be produced locally.

Members of Van Bergeijk family exhibiting at New Hamburg Fall Fair and the Waterloo County 4-H show



Members of the Van Bergeijk family at the New Hamburg Fall Fair. Left to right, back row: Arjo and Baukje Van Bergeijk, Hannie Van Bergeijk, Danique DeBoer, Ian Van Bergeijk, Jake Van Bergeijk, Kaila Van Bergeijk, Julia Van Bergeijk, Mariska Van Bergeijk, Aden Van Bergeijk, Angela Van Bergeijk. Front row, left to right: Adam Van Bergeijk, Ezra Van Bergeijk, Peter DeBoer, Liesbeth DeBoer Van Bergeijk, John Van Bergeijk.

By Gary West

The 4H members are the grandchildren of Adam and Hannie Van Bergeijk. Adam and Hannie emigrated to Canada from Holland in 1996 with their three children - John, Liesbeth and Arjo.

Most of the grandchildren are represented in this picture - although Mark and Patrick DeBoer, and Ella Van Bergeijk are missing. The Van Bergeijks showed cows and calves in Holland as well, so Adam

and Hannie are very proud that their grandchildren are carrying on this legacy.

All the family members run dairy farms with their family members. Adam and Hannie own and operate Mountainoak Cheese, located south of New Hamburg on Huron Road. The family encourages cheese lovers to stop by for some award winning gouda cheese!

They participated in this year's New Hamburg Fall Fair.

Young horse riders out on the quiet side roads of Perth County



By Gary West

Making the best of the first full day of fall are three young ladies who took advantage of perfect sunny weather for riding their mounts.

All three keep their horses at the John and Heather Duiker farm, east of Shakespeare.

Touring on Road 106 in North Easthope township are, left to right, Jamie Armstrong from Kitchener on Tubby, who is a Quarter horse, Kathleen Duiker on her Dutch Warmblood Luke, and Olivia Becks from Baden, on her thoroughbred Gus.

All three are best friends and ride together every chance they get.

COMMUNITY —

High speed Internet coming to Josephsburg, other rural communities

By Veronica Reiner

The governments of Canada and Ontario plan to provide high speed Internet to 869 homes, including in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships.

The feds and province partnered with Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) Inc., to provide residents in the communities of Josephsburg, Dorking, Erbsville, Maryhill, Macton and

North Woolwich with access to broadband infrastructure that will enable high-speed internet service. This will cost \$ 6.1 million.

SWIFT is a non-profit corporation initiated by local municipalities to address connectivity in Southwestern Ontario.

“By expanding broadband access, we’re positioning rural communities in Waterloo area for further growth and prosperity,”

said Mike Harris, Member of Provincial Parliament for Kitchener-Conestoga.

“I’m confident that this investment will have long-lasting economic benefits in the region, and I look forward to seeing how it improves the quality of life for our rural residents.”

There are two projects completed under SWIFT, including lines WAT 04 and WAT 15.

“Ontario continues to deliver on its commitment to expand access to high-speed internet to communities across the province,” said Lisa Thompson, Minister of

Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

“By building new broadband infrastructure in Waterloo Region, we’re helping to build Ontario and strengthen rural communities. This investment is helping people stay in touch with loved ones, enabling them to access the support they need while providing a much-needed boost to the local economy.”

Both governments plan to bring high speed Internet access to more than 63,000 homes and businesses in Southwestern Ontario through SWIFT by the end of the 2023.

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SPORTS —

Firebirds expect to be competitive in tough Doherty Division

By Lee Griffi

New Hamburg won their first two games of their Provincial Junior Hockey League season but found themselves four points back of undefeated Woodstock in the standings. Despite that, head coach and general manager Shane Gerber expects the team to contend come playoff time.

Close to half of last year's Doherty regular season champs are back, led by a talented core. "Matt Domm (Baden), Owen Fischer, Jake Thompson (Wellesley), Riley Benko (New Hamburg), and we have five of our D back. All big parts of our team last year." Gerber added the team is also looking forward to seeing how some newcomers develop, including a local product.

"Cohen Van Zuillen (who played U18 in Kitchener last season) from New Hamburg is the defenceman we brought in. He'll step in and play a good role on this team. We signed one 16-year-old, Brendan George, who is the brother of former Firebirds Nathan and Ryan in years past. We also acquired overage goalie Graeme Noye from Woodstock."

New Hamburg lost both their netminders from last season and also signed Tony Theodoropoulos, who hails from Vaughn. "That was probably the biggest hold we had to fill. Noyes will likely carry most of the load, but it's too early to tell, and I give everyone an opportunity, so I'm not sure it stays like that. It's all performance based." When asked about the standings through the first two weeks of the season, Gerber said, as usual, will be parody in the Doherty.

"Most years in our division, you have to show up and play your best or you don't come out on top. There's no room to take a night off." After winning their first two, the Firebirds lost the next pair of games, including 6-2 in Paris Saturday and a 6-3 loss to Woodstock at home Friday. One topic that has been thrown around the PJHL



over the years is mixing up the schedule a bit. Currently, each division has between seven and nine teams, the Doherty with seven.

Gerber said he'd like to see some inter-divisional games. "Absolutely. We used to do it years ago with the South Bloomfield Division (with Grimsby, Glanbrook, Dunnville, etc.). I'm not sure why it changed, but I think it would be great for the fans and the teams. It would be a great fit if we could go back to that." He added he understands some teams may not be interested because of the travel involved and additional expenses, but variety would be a step in the right direction.

"We play the same teams seven times. It would be nice to get rid of one or two of them and play somebody else. There is some bitterness obviously and some good rivalries come out of it, but I still think for fans and everyone else to see what else is out there."

Braves drop three straight, Applejacks also struggling
Following a win at their season opener, Tavistock has

struggled and found themselves with a record of one win against three losses. On Friday, the Braves hosted Wellesley as the two teams combined to go 0 for 18 on the powerplay, Tavistock going 0 for 12. Roenick Jackielaszek scored twice in the first 4 minutes and 13 seconds to give the Applejacks a 2-0 lead. Jakob ReidBrant and Zach McCann each scored their first of the season to tie the game at 2. Wellesley took a 3-2 lead before Tavistock tied it up, but Isiah Katsube scored his first of the season on a shorthanded effort at the 16:17 mark of the third to give the Applejacks the win. Saturday, the Braves travelled to Woodstock to take on the Navy Vets and dropped a 4-2 decision. Tavistock took a 2-0 lead early in the second period on Andrew Van Boekel's first of the year on a powerplay after Nicolas Thibodeau scored his second goal late in the first. Woodstock scored the next four goals and outshot the Braves 36-32. Wellesley was hoping for a two-game sweep on the weekend, but the game against Hespeler in St. Clements was postponed after the first period due to ice conditions. The game will be replayed in full at a later date.

PJHL STANDINGS (Sept. 25, 2023) South Doherty Division

	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
Woodstock Navy Vets	4	4	0	0	0	8
Hespeler Shamrocks	3	2	1	0	0	4
New Hamburg Firebirds	4	2	2	0	0	4
Norwich Merchants	3	1	1	1	0	3
Wellesley Applejacks	2	1	1	0	0	2
Tavistock Braves	4	1	3	0	0	2
Paris Mounties	4	1	3	0	0	2

PJHL - South Doherty Division 2023-24 Point Leaders (through Sept. 25, 2023)

Team	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
WNV	Nolan Brett	F	4	4	6	10
WNV	Davin Gray	F	4	0	9	9
NHF	Owen Sculthorp	F	4	3	5	8
NHF	Owen Fischer	F	4	4	3	7
NHF	Jake Thompson	F	4	2	3	5
TAV	Stephen Peppas	F	4	2	3	5
HES	Boden White	F	4	2	2	4
WNV	Michael Boyle-Ricupero	F	4	1	3	4
TAV	Jacob Reid-Brant	F	4	1	3	4
WEL	Roenick Jackielaszek	F	3	2	1	3
WNV	Sam Barry	F	4	2	1	3
WNV	Jake Phelan	D	4	2	1	3
WNV	Rhylan Warford	F	4	2	1	3
TAV	Nicolas Thibodeau	F	4	2	1	3
NHF	Owen Bruder	F	4	1	2	3
HES	Jack Restauri	F	4	1	2	3
HES	Justin George	F	4	0	3	3
TAV	Ian Glendinning	F	4	0	3	3



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11:00 am – 2:00 pm

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COMMUNITY —

Review: The Circus Train by Amita Parikh

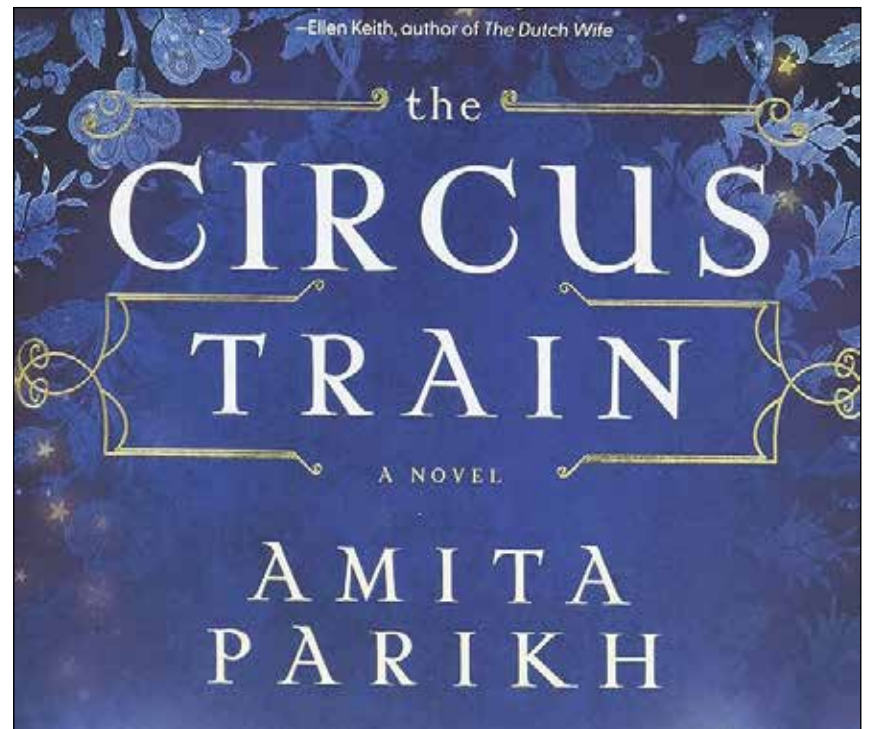
By Oxford County Library Staff

This was a hauntingly beautiful story that showed courage in its truest form. From the start, we are drawn into the life of a young girl in war torn Europe. Lena Papadopoulos has never found her place within the circus, even though she is the daughter of the extraordinary illusionist, Theo. Brilliant and always curious, Lena looks for magic in the way of science and medicine, despite her father's overprotectiveness and the limitations of her wheelchair. Lena's world changes when she rescues Alexandre, an orphan with a mysterious past. The story takes place over several years and we watch Alexandre and Lena's friendship grow, and Alexandre's inclusion as the illusionists apprentice.

As World War II escalates around them, Theo

and Alexandre are sent to work in a small town. Unknown to them, it is a model town set up for Jews by the Nazi's, and Lena becomes separated from her family. Left alone with the circus, she is forced to make her own way, challenge her beliefs, and confront her doubts to ultimately believe in herself.

This book brought out all the emotions. From the start, a page turning adventure wrapped in history and intrigue, captivating the reader as the book goes on. It was so well written, it felt real. As a local to Ontario, Amita's debut novel is sure to capture the hearts of many, while shining light on a dark part of history. Fans of Sarah's Key and The Rose Code will instantly be drawn into a fast paced, uncertain world with Lena and want to follow her journey on board the circus train.



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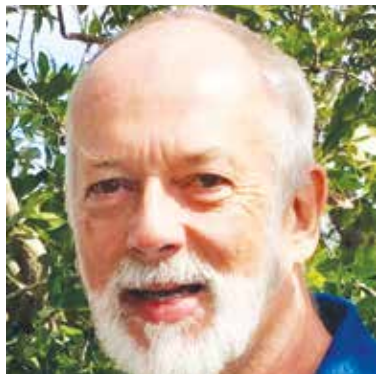
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Plunging out of my comfort zone



By Paul Knowles

You've heard the saying, "a fish out of water"? Well there was plenty of water, but I, clearly the fish in this metaphor, was a bit reluctant to get wet. Eventually, I took the plunge and then again and again and by the time we left the Spa Le Finlandais, I realized I could quite enjoy such an experience.

I should explain: the Spa Le Finlandais is like nothing I, personally, had ever seen before. It's a facility in Rosemere, Quebec (just north of Montreal, in the southernmost part of the Laurentians) and bills itself as the home of "Saunas of the World."

Saunas plural for sure. I actually lost count as a nice young person named Michael gave us a whirlwind tour. All I can say is – a lot. There are a lot of opportunities to get really, really hot.

And then and this is the tricky bit, to get really, really cold.

I was significantly outside my comfort zone. I know nothing about saunas and nothing about a facility such as this. What I do

know is I'm not a fan of any polar bear plunge. But we were the guests of Valerie Fortier and her colleagues at Tourism Laurentians, and Valerie, who is never lacking in enthusiasm, energy, or ideas, thought we should begin our visit to her neck of the woods by getting very, very wet, very, very hot, and then, very, very cold.

The first thing I noticed as our tour began was that even though this was a weekday, the place was busy. There are, in truth, at least ten or 12 saunas, each with access to an icy plunge pool. There are also warm swimming pools, places where you can use salt to exfoliate yourself (look it up!), and many, many silent lounges for zen-like contemplation. Every one of these rooms/pools/baths was in use by many very relaxed patrons.

According to Michael, the Spa Le Finlandais prides itself on bringing together sauna experiences from around the world. From the mystic Mediterranean, there is the Moroccan Lounge, the Aromas of Egypt sauna, and the Turkish bath. From the exotic east, visitors enjoy the Infinity Pool of Indonesia, the Japanese sauna, or the Gazebo of Meditation (I am not making this up).

Of course, Scandinavia is a major contributor. There's a Viking Sauna, a Finnish sauna, a Swedish sauna, and Icelandic thermal baths. There are also transparent chairs called "Helsinki Bubbles" which invite you to float in a lovely warm pool. I mention these specifically because who-

ever designed them most expressly did not have me in mind. While lithe young things gracefully curled into their bubbles, I stuck out in all directions, my neck bent against the back, my legs akimbo. In short, the experience was indeed, short.

There's a Russian sauna (nassty comments come to mind, but I will refrain) and a unique, domed hut called the Temazcal Mayan Sauna. This was one of the saunas we used and it was quite pleasant. An innovation here was that music played and tranquil images were projected onto the ceiling of the dome as we sweatily relaxed.

Then, of course, straight into a plunge pool that would have pleased penguins or polar bears. And the staff insists that this is only fully effective if you immerse yourself completely in the frigid water. So I did. Not happily, but I did.

The overall idea as I understand it is that you relax in the warm pools (which I must admit are very comfortable indeed at about 102 degrees Celcius), then spend some time in a sauna (we started in what Michael said was a "beginner sauna", quite similar to such things one sees at rec centres or in back yards), but moved on to other, more elaborate saunas including one that is rated at 180 degrees Celcius.

Then into the plunge pool, relax a while, move to the warm pools (many of which had falling water massages), back to a sauna, and repeat.



The innovative Temazcal Mayan sauna, where quiet music and projected images are part of the experience. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

There were folks there who, I am guessing, were following this regimen for an entire day, with occasional breaks for cucumber water or other beverages and snacks.

The facility sits on the banks of the Riviere des Milles Iles and there are hammocks, chairs and tables set up on the riverbank just in case you haven't had enough wetness in the saunas, the plunge pools, and the warm baths. It's actually all terrifically relaxing.

The place, founded in 2012, keeps expanding. Michael showed us two brand new, unique barrel saunas that were attracting a lot of attention, and

the nearly completed Turkish bath.

An all-day pass to the Spa Le Finlandais is just over \$100; four hours will cost just over \$50 (more on weekends). Honestly, for the feeling of total relaxation you get, I think it's a pretty good deal.

Even if you only get up to your knees in the freezing cold plunge pools.

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



The Viking Sauna, one of the newest installations at the Spa Le Finlandais.



A waterfall in a warm pool that doubles as a massage feature.

COMMUNITY —

New Tree of Light planted in Wellesley



By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The new Tree of Light was planted at the Albert Erb Conservation Area park in Wellesley on Wednesday, September 20.

The Wellesley Lions Club thanked several organizations and individuals for making this happen, including Meadow Acres Garden Centre. Meadow Acres helped with the supply of the tree and expert planting, digging the trench for electrical while on site.

George Poole helped with the installation

of the electrical plugs, and was there all day helping out. The Township of Wellesley watered the tree and supplied a water bag and helped restore the grass.

Lion Josh came out to help backfill the trench, and Lion Mike helped to organize and manage the project from beginning to end.

“We can now watch it grow, excited to see it decorated this Christmas so we can continue to give back to our community,” said the Wellesley Lions Club in an online post.

Gazette Puzzles

The Game of Curling

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Pet of the Week

COOPER

Our pet of the week is Cooper. He lives with his Jutzi family in New Hamburg. Cooper is a 3 year old Husky/Australian shepherd mix. He is very needy and likes to be petted, loves food, playing with his best friend Orbitz and being a brat.

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



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OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *To serve or strut, that is another question*



By Scott Dunstall

Lil and I recently came off a busy New Hamburg Fall Fair weekend. On Friday night, she was the MC for the opening ceremonies, which featured a special celebration of the Ambassador's program 50-year anniversary. Of course, there was the current year's Ambassador competition, which is always exciting. New for this year was the Sunflower Bursary, which will be an annual

award bestowed on the one participant from the previous year's Ambassador Competition who has shown a bright disposition, a joyful demeanor, and is welcoming and encouraging to everyone. This award is in honour of Sadie Bender, who embodied all these characteristics and who was a member of the Ambassador program since 2017 and tragically passed away earlier this year. And finally, there were the Citizen of the Year Awards given to volunteer rock stars in our community... always a showstopper. On Saturday, we both spent six hours working in the New Hamburg Optimist Food Booth. On that day alone, we moved 520 hotdogs, 350 poutines and 812 French fry orders.

Earlier in the week, I was honoured to join Ross Eichler, President of the New Hamburg Legion, as we presented to the

100 Men in Wilmot Who Give a Damn our Poppy Campaign initiative and all the good works it does in the community. We won, and the cash award has already exceeded \$11,000 as the donations are still coming in.

That's great, Scott. But what does this have to do with fashion? I suppose everything. In each of these venues, I wore a different flash (outfit). For the Legion presentation, I was proud to wear my Legion uniform, complete with gray slacks, a blue blazer with Legion emblem, a white dress shirt and a Legion name badge. I was particularly proud to display my medal and bar for serving as the Branch 532 Public Relations Officer last year. I was NOT dressing for style. I was dressing to serve. Same thing working in the Optimist Food Concession Booth. I found a beat-up pair

of shorts and polo shirt, and I added in a worn (yet comfortable) pair of older NIKE runners.....WITH ANKLE SOCKS. I wouldn't be caught red-handed wearing shorts, socks, and runners to anything other than that occasion. Not to Karaoke. Not to the Mall and NOT to any event that would require public speaking. Again, I was serving, not strutting.

This brings us back to the Friday night opening ceremonies. THAT was a strut. Obviously, I am a homer, so don't ask me, ask anyone you know who attended. They will tell you that Lil looked spectacular. But that was just the visuals. The real story was the fact that she got through the entire ceremony with grace, wit, humour, and warmth. She made everyone on that stage feel special. Because I know how much time she spent preparing for the

ceremony and the time she took to put her outfit together, it was important to match her effort even though I wasn't on stage with her. From the ground up: Nude coloured lace up faux pigskin oxfords, RW & Co. tapered dark blue jeans, white Sondergaard shirt with collar accent, think purple dockers quarter zip sweater and a contrasting black and mauve check sports coat.

The point of all this is, you don't have to be buttoned down on every occasion. In fact, it's inappropriate sometimes. And sometimes it's not functional. To serve or to strut?

"Style Is Just Fashion Filtered Through Your Personality"

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

EXPERT ADVICE: *Learning to Let Go*



By Chip Bender RP(q)

Several months ago, during a conversation with a few peers about achy backs and other ailments, one of my friends reached for his

reading glasses to assist him in reading the small printing on his cellphone and then stated that life from here on in will be about learning to let go. Although I am still relatively healthy thanks to regular visits to my chiropractor to keep my back moving well, my eyesight is not as topnotch as it once was, and I know other aspects of my health will invariably fade with time. Around the table, we knew that over time, there would be more things beyond our health that we would need to let go of. Our children will become independent and move out (hopefully), our parents will die, and, at some point, our peers will

also begin to die. In addition, our regular working days will eventually come to an end, and we will need to let go of our careers.

Now that autumn has officially begun, I am reminded of that conversation because one of the most important lessons autumn can teach human beings is the art of letting go. The fact the leaves are still green suggests to me the things we need to let go of are not only things that are dying and have no more usefulness, but also things that have come to full fruition, like the ripe fruits and vegetables being harvested at this time of year. Per-

haps a season or phase of life has concluded, and we need to give thanks for what has been produced as well as grieve the end of the season, much like we do when we recognize summer is drawing to a close.

Humans seem to have the tendency to want to hold tightly on to the things we have known and appreciated so we do not need to deal with the loss. Unfortunately, the belief that holding tightly on to those things will prevent them from being lost does not bear itself out in reality. Gripping tightly on to those things will not prevent the losses, just

like we cannot prevent summer from slipping away. Autumn and winter will eventually arrive. Holding on to things too tightly will only serve to keep our hands unavailable to accept the next moment as it comes.

Let nature be your guide. Go for a walk and admire the changing colours. Give gratitude for what has been and the beauty it has produced. Look forward with open hands in anticipation of what the next season holds.

Chip Bender is a counsellor at Interfaith Community Counselling based in New Hamburg.

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

Fifty-one years ago this month my husband and I travelled to the Maritimes for our honeymoon. I can't remember what prompted us to visit the Beaverbrook Art Gallery but seeing the Dali painting was certainly one of the highlights of our trip. We bought a book of Dali's work including Santiago El Grande and fre-

quently reminisced about seeing the painting. We travelled again to the Maritimes in 2019 but were quite disappointed that we couldn't see the painting because of the renovations that were taking place at the gallery. Last year we had better luck. The painting was just as impressive as it was the first time we saw it. The whole gallery was wonderful though and I totally

agree with Paul Knowles' recent review of it in the Wilmot Tavistock Gazette. Kudos to Paul for writing the article and for his special mention of the Dali painting.

Dorothy Wilson
New Hamburg



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OPINION —

THE BACKYARD ASTRONOMER: A Partial Solar Eclipse



By Gary Boyle

A few times each year the sun, moon and Earth perform a cosmic lineup in space, producing an eclipse. This year, our planet will witness two solar and two lunar events. On Saturday, October 14, 2023, skywatchers along a path starting in Oregon through Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and ending in Texas will

see an annular eclipse of the sun. The rest of North America (depending on your geographic location) will see a partial eclipse with varying percentages of the sun covered by the moon.

Although this seems like an incredible event to view and photograph, it comes with great risk and danger. Unlike a lunar eclipse, where the moon slides into the earth's shadow, turning a burnt orange or coral colour and is completely safe to view, the sun is a far different story. Protective measures must be applied to prevent eye and camera damage.

Solar eclipses come in basically three flavours, total, annular and partial. The first two are dictated by how far the moon is

away from Earth at eclipse time. In its monthly orbit around our planet, the moon's elliptical orbit causes an approximate 50,000-kilometre or 30,000-mile variance between the closest and farthest approach called perigee and apogee. The so-called "supermoon" is the combination of a full moon and the closest distance to us, which we experienced at the end of August with the "Blue Moon" or the second full moon in the same month.

On October 14, the moon will be farther from Earth and, therefore, not block the entire solar disk. The classic total eclipse is when the entire sun is completely covered for a few seconds up to a maximum of seven and a half minutes, depending again on the moon's distance

in its orbit. Much like a hockey goaltender challenging a shooter as he skates out and retreats in the net.

Since at no point will the sun be safely covered by the moon, DO NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN without protective means. Unless you have a certified solar filter or a number 14 welder's glass, which many of us do not possess, you can still safely see by items such as a vegetable strainer, spaghetti collinder or anything with small holes, even a Ritz cracker. Holding up the stainer or cracker allows you to view little crescent suns on a sheet of paper in safety. For the photographers, Baader solar film or other solar filters are a must or you run the risk of melting your camera's CCD chip or your cell phone sensor.

Eclipses are an awe-inspiring wonder of nature that can be enjoyed safely.

Clear skies,

Known as "The Backyard Astronomer", Gary Boyle is an astronomy educator, guest speaker, monthly columnist for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada as well as a STEM educator. He has been interviewed on more than 55 Canadian radio stations as well as television across Canada and the U.S. In recognition of his public outreach in astronomy, the International Astronomical Union has honoured him with the naming of Asteroid (22406) Garyboyle. Follow him on Twitter: @astroeducator, Facebook and his website: www.wondersofastronomy.com

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2023

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.	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 .	can do to help bee populations thrive.	help with costs. Located at 2463 Bleams Road West in Petersburg. Those who need more information can call the office at 519-634-8687.	yours at mcc.org/we-own-this-now . For additional information contact ecumenicalworking-group@gmail.com
September 30th	Walk Through Schmidt Woods The Township of Wilmot is hosting a walk through Schmidt Woods at 8:30 a.m. for National Truth and Reconciliation Day to learn more about shared history and to reflect. Taking place at 1294 Nafziger Road Baden, parking entrance off Nafziger Road. Learning resources will be provided from the Region of Waterloo Library on Indigenous culture, history and literature available after the walk. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided by Cedar Spoon Indigenous Catering.	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 11th Community Dining Event for Seniors 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.
September 30th	Truth and Reconciliation Day Vigil A 45 minute outdoor Settler's Vigil will take place at 6:30 p.m.	October 2nd Bees & Beekeeping The Wilmot Horticulture Society monthly meeting at the Wilmot Recreation Complex. Speaker is Jodi Roth. Jodi is the sole proprietor and beekeeper at Huckleberry Hives in Gadshill. She will be speaking to the audience about bees and what it takes to be a beekeeper. She will focus on the basics and what people	October 4th East Zorra Tavistock Council Meeting In-person council meeting taking place at 7 p.m. at 695566 17th Line in Innerkip.	October 12th We Own This Now play A play presented by Ted & Company TheatreWorks, is being performed at Steinmann Mennonite Church, 1316 Snyder Rd. W., Baden at 7:00 p.m. It is sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee; the Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships; and local churches, businesses and individuals. It explores the impact of the Doctrine of Discovery, the legal framework that justified European acquisition of the Americas and the oppression of Indigenous peoples. Tickets are \$15 each (\$10 for students). Get	October 16th 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 30th	Wellesley ABC Festival	October 9th Blood Drive Taking place at the Steinmann Mennonite Church at 1316 Snyder's Road West in New Hamburg. Booking times are available on www.blood.ca from around 3 p.m. until around 8 p.m.	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	October 17th New Dundee Women's Institute Open House Taking place at the New Dundee Community Centre from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (drop in). Enjoy a social time with like minded women. For over 125 years, the hosting organization is Women Interested, Informed, Inspired and Involved in building a better tomorrow. If you have any questions, call Nancy at 519-696-2608 or Emily at 519-696-2097.	

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COMMUNITY —

Wellesley ABC Festival to take place September 30

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Wellesley Apple Butter and Cheese Festival is ready to roll on Saturday, September 30.

The annual festival offers events and entertainment of all ages. Kicking things off will be the Pancake Breakfast at 7 a.m. The craft and food market opens at 8 a.m. and the festival runs all day until 4 p.m.

Free parking and admission is offered, and there are free tractor wagons running all day to transport people to the festival.

In addition, there will be an antique car display behind the library on Henry Street at 8 a.m., a horse shoe tournament at 9 a.m., and craft hard cider sampling event inside the arena at 9 a.m.

Buses will run back and forth to take visitors on a farm tour at Hogendoorn Dairy Farm in Baden. This will start at 10 a.m. Loading passengers will take place at the Wellesley

Auto Care parking lot on Nafziger Road. At 12 p.m., an antique car parade will go from Henry Street to Catherine Street, around the arena and community centre parking lot, down Maple Street, and then up Nafziger Road to Henry Street.

Queens Bush Road Main Stage will host the following entertainment:

- 9:30 a.m. – Erick Traplin
- 10:30 a.m. – Kyle Geraghty
- 11:30 a.m. – Allister Bradley
- 12:00 p.m. – The Chord Spinners
- 12:30 p.m. – Jampree
- 1:30 p.m. – Kiki Heard

Be sure to check out the clogging and Tae kwon do demonstrations on Queen's Bush Road between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

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Weekly Quiz Answers

1. 12 Stars
2. 1897
3. German Labour Front
4. Grey jay
5. 4.546 liters
6. Naboo
7. The Great Barrier Reef
8. Chess
9. 4 stages
10. Ganymede



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 Carol Weicker of Cook's Pharmacy in New Hamburg on Huron Street. "Love looking at this building at night!" she said. (Photo credit: Carol Weicker)

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