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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023



New Hamburg counselling centre receives federal funding



ICC Executive Director Matthew Isert-Bender was joined Friday by Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Tim Louis to announce \$23,000 in new funding for the organization.

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Interfaith Counselling Centre in New Hamburg receiving \$23,000 through the Community Services Recovery Fund. Thanks to this funding, Interfaith Counselling Centre (ICC) will be able to adapt, modernize and be better equipped to improve the efficacy, accessibility, and sustainability of the community services

that they provide.

Matthew Isert-Bender is the ICC's Executive Director and said the money will be well used. "This funding is invaluable as it positions us to have the capacity to shift and adapt our structures in light of the pressures which were already emerging for us as a non-profit, community-based agency.

More specifically, the funding will go

towards one staff person to have more capacity to function, followed by some key add-ons. "The additional pieces will be a donor management system, both for the time that was needed to research it and decide on it, which we have completed. Now we are in the implementation stage, getting all old Excel spreadsheets on multiple computers into one automated system." He added the long-term

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Free mobile legal clinic coming to New Hamburg

Residents can access free legal advice at the Wilmot Family Resource Centre on October 30th

By Veronica Reiner

A mobile legal clinic is coming to New Hamburg, and will provide free and confidential legal help to low income residents.

The Waterloo Region Community Legal Services (WRCLS), a non-profit organization funded by Legal Aid Ontario, has partnered with the Wilmot Family Resource Centre to offer free, recurring mobile legal clinics at their location on Waterloo Street in New Hamburg.

The first clinic will take place on October 30 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"The goal really is to make it more accessible to people who are living in more rural areas who can't get out into the city. The transit system isn't always the easiest to get around," said Evangelynn Chee, a Community Development Worker at the WRCLS.

Services provided include legal information (open to anyone), legal support/advice, and legal representation on a range of legal issues, including issues related to tenancy, employment, social benefits and human rights.

There are some issues that are brought up by visitors to the legal clinic more often, according to Evangelynn.

"Tenancy issues is probably the one that we see the most - so whether that's confusing about an N form that they received, or they're

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COMMUNITY —

Free mobile legal clinic coming to New Hamburg

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just wondering whether their landlord is responsible for a certain repair, or they're behind on rent - we see a lot of those issues," said Evangelynn.

She added that another topic frequently covered is social assistance. "So people who have applied for ODSP [Ontario Disability Support Program] or OW [Ontario Works] and have been denied; we can assist them in the appeal process. We see a pretty high success rate in the appeal process.

"What we'll do is we'll gather the evidence for them and reapply for ODSP. If they get denied again, we can take it all the way to a hearing and support them in that."

While the clinics are directed toward low income residents, anyone is welcome to attend for legal information. There is no set number that qualifies as "low income" in this case.

"There is no set number, because even if they're above that, maybe their circumstances warrant it, so we really do it on a case-by-case basis," explained

Evangelynn.

Visitors may get a referral to a different organization, such as Legal Aid Ontario, if the situation warrants it, as the organization does not specialize in certain types of law, including family law or criminal law.

The mobile clinic was previously held at Woolwich Community Services in Elmira over the summer. Evangelynn noted that at these clinics, they would often see the same people visiting each month for follow up appointments.

In addition to October 30th, there are more legal clinics scheduled at the Wilmot Family Resource Centre for November 20th and December 4th. While anyone interested can drop by anytime with no notice, they are not necessarily guaranteed a spot, so it is encouraged to call the Wilmot Family Resource Centre at 519-662-2731 to secure a 30-minute meeting.

"If it takes off, we will continue to offer these monthly mobile legal clinics," said Evangelynn, adding that if successful, clinics would be booked in the new year.



Ashley Schuitema, a lawyer who will be present at the legal clinic at the Wilmot Family Resource Centre. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)

New Hamburg counselling receives federal funding

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goal is to improve the organization's communication.

Like many other non-profit organizations, ICC is facing a number of challenges, including a long waitlist for services, staff retention, and attracting volunteers. "Our board right now is at five, ideally, we would be at eight. The other piece where this grant is a part of that, we struggle to have the capacity to do some of that infrastructure work and building research and development and starting new initiatives. We always feel challenged to have the means to do that," added Isert-Bender. ICC is funded a third from direct pay from

clients, a third from government funding streams, and the rest comes from fundraising and donations from the Wilmot community. He also explained just how important their services are to the people living in the area. "Mental health is health. It's important that we as a community care for each other so a healthy community is already doing a lot to support good mental health. There is also no shame in someone reaching out for some specific help."

Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Tim Louis was on hand to make the announcement and said groups like ICC play a crucial role. "They are the lifeline in our communities and that's who people turn to. They want to

see someone they know and that's the importance of being here in these small communities. Everyone knows them." Louis added that it is just too difficult for the federal government to decide on who gets this type of funding, so they went through the Community Foundation of Waterloo Region. "They know who is on the ground doing the work. It is essential that organizations like Interfaith Counselling Centre get the support they need from all levels of government. Interfaith is well-placed to serve everyone and not every organization can say that." Louis made the announcement on behalf of the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Jenna Suds.

The Community Services Recovery Fund was announced in the 2021 federal budget as a one-time, \$400 million investment to help community service organizations adapt, modernize, and build internal organizational capacity. This investment will strengthen the charitable and non-profit sector as it supports post-pandemic recovery in communities across Canada. The Canadian Red Cross, Community Foundations of Canada and United Way Centraide Canada were selected as the National Funders to deliver the Community Services Recovery Fund following a solicited call and open process for expressions of interest.



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COMMUNITY —

Tavistock's W-S feed and supply company, manufacturing over 500 unique feed formulas



From left, Walter Kropf and right, Ross Schumm of the Tavistock Men's Club, discuss the workings of W-S feed and supply last week with mill CEO Wendell Schumm (centre).

By Gary West

The Tavistock area is home to many companies who help to make up the fabric of this farming community and employ many in the area who provide a needed service for farmers each and every day.

W-S Feed and Supplies Limited was visited by members of the Tavistock Men's Club last week, and members came away very much impressed with the feed company and how automation and robotics have changed the way this feed company operates.

Wendell Schumm, who grew up in the area, is the Chief Executive Officer of this flourishing company. He explained that W-S has two locations in Tavistock and Mount Forest, which covers all of south western Ontario, with both retail and wholesale partners. They have now processed feed here for 15 years and have updated and invested in the mill to keep their business current and vibrant in the ever changing world of agriculture and feed manufacturing.

The long established company has 50 employees and runs 24 hours a day, five days a week.

The Tavistock location, which is the company's head office, has operated as a mill continuously on this site since the 1880s, first as a flour mill till the 1960s, when it changed to livestock feed.

Schumm says they use corn, grains and oil seed crops that represent about 30,000 acres of crop production in the area. He added that they use over 250 different feed ingredients, many of which are by-products of human food production.

They manufacture over 500 unique feed formulas and have recently made significant investments in automation and robotics for greater efficiency, reliability, and traceability and offer up to date training programs for their employees.

Men's club members came away from the tour with a new appreciation for what W-S feeds has meant to area farmers and the Tavistock community in general.



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COMMUNITY —

The Erb Group awarded with Top Fleet Employer award

Former employee, Dave Dietrich, earns 2023's Trucking HR Leader of the Year award



Photographs from Trucking HR Canada's 10th Anniversary Top Fleet Employer Awards at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Ont. on October 12, 2023. (Photo credit: Peter Power)

By Veronica Reiner

The Erb Group, based in Baden, was awarded a Top Fleet Employer award by Trucking HR Canada during the 10th annual Top Employer's Gala in Toronto.

There were 93 workplaces in Canada's trucking and logistics industry that have earned honours through the 10th annual Top Fleet Employers Program. The Erb Group has received the award for 10 years in a row, since The Top Fleet Employer program was first launched in 2014.

"We are one of eight fleets in the whole program and of all fleet sizes who received special recognition this year as one of the 'elite fleets' with Distinction of 10+ Years, since its inception," noted The Erb Group spokesperson, Briona Lahti.

Other companies in this category include Bison Transport of Manitoba, C.A.T. Inc. in Quebec, Home Hardware Stores in Ontario, Kindersley Transport Ltd. in Saskatchewan, Kriska Holdings Ltd. of Ontario, Logikor of Ontario and Transpro Freight Systems Ltd.

All applicants to the program were rated on topics including recruitment and retention practices, workplace culture, compensation, training and skills development and innovative HR practices.

"Being a Top Fleet Employer means prioritizing our people above all else," said Alyssa Couvillon, Senior Director of Human Resources at The Erb Group.

"Our strong family roots and culture have significantly influenced our business operations, instilling a deep sense of care for our employees and the community we serve. Despite having a vast terminal network, we have managed to maintain a close-knit and supportive work environment that is safe, inclusive, and fulfilling."

In addition, Trucking HR Canada awarded The Erb Group's former Vice President of People and Culture, Dave Dietrich, as 2023's Trucking HR Leader of the Year.

The HR Leader of the Year recognizes a human resource professional who exemplifies commitment to sound and innovative HR practices. The award is presented annually to an individual who serves as a role model for other HR professionals in the trucking industry.

Dave was employed with The Erb Group for 30 years and retired in June 2023 - his legacy continues to leave a lasting impact on the daily operations of the organization's human resources department, while always maintaining a people-first focus.

Not knowing that he would get the HR Leader of the Year recognition, Dave stepped up to the podium and shared

his deep gratitude for his team's support, acknowledging that their efforts helped him to make a significant impact over the course of his career.

"A leader is nowhere without his team," said Dave, during his acceptance speech. He also thanked The Erb Group's CEO, Wendell Erb, and his family for giving him the opportunity to evolve their Human Resource department in its developmental stages.

Founded in 1959, The Erb Group is one of North America's largest privately owned refrigerated transportation providers, hosting over 1,500 employees, 1,100 trailers and 750 power units. Its head office is based in New Hamburg, with more terminals in Baden, Toronto, Thunder Bay, North Bay, Ottawa, Montreal, Trenton, Winnipeg and a U.S. terminal in Elverson, PA.

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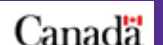
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COMMUNITY —

Home and School Association fundraising for TPS

Looking to raise \$100,000

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The exact plan isn't known yet, but a local parent's organization has set a lofty fundraising goal to replace playground equipment at Tavistock Public School. The move comes as there is no government funding available to pay for all or even a portion of equipment.

The Tavistock Home and School Association has just started its efforts to raise the money to replace the aging primary play equipment. Online ordering of hoodies and toques are available at <https://tavistockhsa.glmerch.com/>. The association said the playground is 40 years old and needs replacement.

Group member Ashlie Weicker said their number one priority is to raise enough for a new playground. "We would love it to be accessible and safe for the growing school population. We have just started this new association as of this school year, so we are just beginning our fundraising efforts. This sweater fundraiser will be our first big event, but we did a skate by donation the last PD Day and it was a success!"

If you haven't heard about the group, it's because they have just recently been created. "A Home and School Association is an independent parent group that fosters ideals of cooperation and partnership within schools as well as within communities. We work with school administrators and teachers. Our role is to engage parents, foster communication between the school and the parent community, and organize events and activities to enrich the whole school community," said member Ashle Fuhr. She added the group is a member of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, which is a registered charity independent of school boards and an officially recognized provincial parent organization.



A look at the playground at Tavistock Public School. The Tavistock Home and School Association has set a fundraising goal of \$100,000.

Weicker said they have a different focus than the school council at TPS. "The council remains the same but currently fundraising efforts are being done by this new association and the school council will have more of a school issues and updates focus. We have 13 members total counting executives, volunteers, and school council representatives. All members have kids currently at the school."

There were some money-raising activities prior to the pandemic which greatly slowed it down, but Fuhr said they are ready to go. "We are very committed and excited to work towards our goal in new ways! This fundraiser excites us because as members of the community, we

are 'Small Town Proud' and know that so many others who live here are too. Raising funds for a playground within our community really benefits everybody so we're hoping that the town as a whole jumps on board and buys a sweater to contribute. Sort of a 'we are in this together' idea."

Weicker said the group is also going to be on the hunt for corporate sponsors in the area down the road. "We are going to be heading out and talking to some local businesses, and many are already on board. We are waiting for official quotes and numbers from Thames Valley District School Board before we can approach them but will hopefully, we will have that soon. We should add that the school

council has had a few monetary donations to the playground fund, and then fundraisers in the last five or six years so that will be added to the final fundraising total as well.

The Gazette reached out to the Thames Valley District School Board and asked about the process involved in playground replacement. "We have a third party inspect our playgrounds every year. If it is deemed unsafe and beyond the ability to repair, then the playground would be taken down. As long as it is safe, we will keep using the playground. As you know, we do not fund playground replacements," said spokesperson Cheryl Weedmark. She added that as part of the fundraising procedure, those involved are required to get quotes. "As part of the fundraising procedure, they are required to get quotes. Typically, schools get the quotes themselves and then run them by our facilities department to ensure everything is good from their perspective. The relevant policy and procedures are outlined below and can be found on our website." While there is no Board policy on the funding of playground equipment, it has long been a TVDSB practice to direct the limited funds we receive from the Ministry of Education to provide safe and accessible classroom learning spaces at our schools. "In the case of new schools, funding provided by the ministry is not sufficient to allow for the inclusion of playground equipment as part of a new build," added Weedmark.

The group said the school, including principal Jill Shushkewich, is committed to working with them and is helping to move the process forward. Anyone is able to donate at any time and have a look at the association's website at www.tavistockhomeandschool.com. Another skate-by-donation is coming up on the November 17 PD Day from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Tavistock Arena.



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COMMUNITY —

Pastor Harold Schlegel returns to his rural roots at Tavistock Mennonite Church

By Gary West

The province of Southern Manitoba's loss can be a gain for southern Ontario when it comes to ministering at a local Tavistock church.

Pastor Harold Schlegel, whose name and family are very familiar to area residents, began serving as interim pastor at Tavistock Mennonite Church in late August, and to say he and his wife, Elaine, have deep roots in the Tavistock area, would be an understatement.

He has an interesting history, but says he is similar to many others who grew up in the rural areas of Perth and Oxford County.

In an interview last week with the pastor, Schlegel said his ancestors settled at Lot 11 Concession 4 of South Easthope Township, on the Perth-Oxford boundary, east of Tavistock in the 1830s.

The Schlegel family farm is now with the seventh generation of Schlegel's.

Pastor Harold Schlegel is the youngest of six children of Earl and Florence (Bender) Schlegel. His five siblings still all live in southwestern Ontario.

His parents built Village Manor Tavistock in 1989, when they recognized the need for additional senior housing in the village.

They created a unique 33-unit apartment building for active retirement living, and the building was fully rented before it opened and has had a waiting list ever since. Harold currently owns, operates and lives in the building, along with his wife Elaine (Zehr) Erb.

Pastor Harold says he graduated from Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare and later was part of the



Pastor Harold Schlegel at the front of Tavistock Mennonite Church, after becoming the church's interim pastor in late August. (Photo credit: Gary West)

25th graduating class of Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School in 1980.

He has said, "everyone at that time knew him as 'Harry,' then says with a smile, "that name no longer seems appropriate," pointing to the top of his head.

He always thought he would continue in poultry farming, like most of his family members, but after he completed his BSc in Agriculture at the University of Guelph, along the way, he became intrigued with

theology and biblical studies.

After completing his degree at CMBC (now Canadian Mennonite University) in Winnipeg, he went on to obtain his Master of Divinity at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Indiana. He stated that the "Church called, and he ended up serving a different flock!"

"Pastor Harold," as he has come to be known, has spent the last two decades at churches in Manitoba, and before that,

served as a conference youth minister in 1985, and associate pastor at Hillcrest Mennonite Church in New Hamburg.

He was also the interim chaplain at Conrad Grebel University College, along with being co-pastor at St. Jacobs Mennonite church.

This spring, he accepted the call to return home and is now serving as interim pastor at Tavistock Mennonite church.

He said that "coming home is a real joy, and in some ways, [he] never left." The beautiful geography of Oxford and Perth Counties continues to flow in his veins, but he also says, "don't get me wrong, the prairies have their own appeal, but you can't beat the stunning colours of Perth and Oxford County in October."

Pastor Schlegel describes the Tavistock Mennonite Church congregation as "vibrant, with a deep sense of community and commitment to practical Christian discipleship."

He says the help that the congregation gives to sponsor several families in need, made his decision a little easier.

He also states the church family has also sponsored several refugee families, which also helped in bringing him back to Tavistock, where the parishioners also share a love of music and dynamic worship.

This year's advent theme, "how does a weary world rejoice?" He says, "will address the realities of our current lives and celebrate the source of our joy in Jesus Christ".

He says the invitation is always there, and would welcome anyone from all walks of life, to come and join the congregation at Tavistock Mennonite Church, at any time.

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COMMUNITY —

Oxford County participated in Waste Reduction Week

Big changes coming to Blue Box program

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford County and Future Oxford's Zero Waste Oxford committee promoted last week's Waste Reduction Week as part of Circular Economy Month, a national awareness campaign every October that celebrates Canadians' environmental efforts and achievements while encouraging new innovative ideas and solutions in reducing waste.

During Waste Reduction Week, the two organizations helped to promote waste reduction practices through a series of daily blogs at www.wasteline.ca that follow the themes of the national campaign. Frank Goss is the county's transportation and waste management manager and said it's all about raising awareness about waste reduction. "What we can each do to reduce the waste that we produce and reduce the waste that goes to the landfill." He added a big part of the week is explaining to the public what a circular economy is and how easy it is to become a part of it. "It's about reusing the products that we make, using them longer, and refurbishing or recycling them to extend a product's overall life rather than just throwing them away. It starts with the manufacturing process, so



making products that last longer, products that could be easily dismantled, or where parts can easily be replaced."

Gross believes the circular economy is beginning to catch on, and the provincial government is promoting it through producer responsibility regulations. "Some recycling programs like E-Waste, batteries, and household hazardous waste, and now the blue box program, are all

transitioning to producer responsibility. The manufacturers are responsible for end-of-life management of those materials rather than putting that onus onto municipalities to manage that waste." Gross added used tires are another example of where the manufacturers will have to use a certain percentage of what they produce.

The province is preparing for a complete overhaul of the current blue box system,

also transitioning to the producer-responsible program starting January 1, 2020, in Oxford. "Producers will be responsible for managing packaging materials. It is intended to provide an incentive for manufacturers to look at innovative ways to change their packaging by using materials more easily recyclable and then establishing end markets for it," said Gross. Currently, they make product packaging and municipalities then need to find somewhere to take the materials.

As an organization committed to Zero Waste, Oxford County's new Strategic Plan aims to reduce waste generation and disposal, maximize resource recovery, for instance, through recycling; and promote the Circular Economy through the Zero Waste Plan.

Oxford County said it used Waste Reduction Week to raise awareness of its various depots and diversion programs for film plastics, clothing, bulk Styrofoam, scrap metal, household hazardous waste, electronic waste, tires, leaf and yard waste, agricultural plastics, and construction and demolition waste. You can learn more about the county's waste diversion programs on the Special Recycling page at www.wasteline.ca.

XXX

HOLIDAY MARKET

XXX

Saturday, November 18
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Village of
WINSTON PARK

695 Block Line Road, Kitchener
519-576-2430

COMMUNITY —

Wilmot Township connects with students during Local Government Week



Mayor Natasha Salonen, Wilmot firefighter Tonya Harvey and Wilmot Fire Prevention Officer Nicole Schnurr were among the Wilmot staff welcoming local elementary students this week at the Wilmot Recreation Complex during Local Government Week.

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Wilmot Township recognized Local Government Week last week, from October 15 to October 21, with participation from local elementary schools.

The week aims to increase public awareness about the role of municipalities in communities. It's a chance to reflect on the services provided by municipalities such as Wilmot.

"Local government is at the heart of

public service in Ontario. Municipal services touch almost everything we do, from the construction and maintenance of the roads and sidewalks we travel, to the things that keep us safe, like operating traffic signals and placing crossing guards in school zones," said Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen.

"When we turn on the tap for water, play in parks or skate in public arenas, local government is there. I am happy to connect

with Wilmot students, sharing what the mayor and council in the township do and the services the township provides."

Local students toured the Wilmot Recreation Complex and met with the community services team, along with the Wilmot Fire Department.

Municipalities provide many critical services, such as fire and emergency services, water, wastewater and roads. They also manage parks and provide recreation

facilities and programs.

Examples of Wilmot's services include Animal Control and By-law Enforcement, Arts and Culture, Building Permits, Economic Development, Fire and Emergency Services, Maintenance of Local Road Network, Parks and Recreation, Planning New Community Developments and Enhancing Existing Neighbourhoods, Sidewalks, Snow Removal, Tax Collection and Water and Sewage.

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LEGION
Remembrance... pass it on!
The Poppy Campaign

October 27th, 2023 until November 11, 2023
Poppies will be distributed throughout the Tavistock area. Please wear one and REMEMBER those who fought and died for our freedom.

Sunday November 5th:
10:30 am: Remembrance Day Service at Grace United Church
1:00 pm: Remembrance Day ceremony will take place at the Legion, 223 Hope St. West. (Outside, weather permitting)
Hosted by Tavistock Legion Branch 518.
Public is welcome. Observe safe physical distancing.

Royal Canadian Legion
Tavistock Memorial Branch #518

"We will Remember Them" lawn signs available.
For signs call Susan Pellow at 519-655-2600

COMMUNITY —

The Canadian Holiday Train Schedule for Nov. 21 - 25

By Alice Rice

The 2023 CPKC Holiday Train tours Canada and the United States Nov. 20 through Dec. 19 and will be stopping in the Greater Waterloo Region in November with two free ½ hour live performances and twinkling lights to put you in the festive spirit.

The 25th annual holiday program will roll out the two festive trains on their twin voyages across both Canada and the U.S., raising awareness of food insecurity, collecting food and funds, and raises awareness of the efforts of food banks across Canada and the United States.

Since the holiday train program began in 1999, the illuminated trains have visited hundreds of communities and raised over five million pounds of food and more than \$22.5 million for community food banks.

The two Trains will visit more than 160 communities in just over three weeks. With thousands of miles to cover, they do their best to stop in as many locations along the CP network as possible.

The Canadian train is 1,000 feet long and consists of 14 rail cars and decked out in holiday designs, LED lights and

a modified boxcar that has been turned into a traveling stage for performers.

The festive train will have stops and live Outdoor performances Nov. 23 in Cambridge (Galt), Ayr and several other communities throughout Ontario before returning in Toronto on Nov. 28.

If you're planning on joining in on all the holiday fun, make sure to bundle up before heading out, as the events are totally outdoors.

Musicians like Kiesza, Seaforth, Anyway Gang and Tyler Shaw will be putting on the free performances.

Please note that guests are encouraged to bring nonperishable food and/or cash donations for the local food banks at each stop.

Check out the times online of the scheduled stops the CP holiday train is making in the greater municipality of Waterloo by referring to the Web link posted below.

CPKC Holiday Train Schedule:

<https://www.cpkcr.com/content/dam/cpkc/documents/english/pdfs/holiday-train/2023-CDN-Holiday-Train-Schedule-10-16-23.pdf>



Aging Well in Wilmot Information & Active Living Fair



Thursday November 23, 2023
9 am - 2 pm

Wilmot Recreation Complex
(1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden)

Guest Speakers
Displays
Lunch Included
Door Prizes

FREE EVENT!

You must register for this event

Please contact
1-855-664-1900 or 519-664-1900 to RSVP

This event is hosted in partnership with the Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario (OACAO) and sponsored by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

“Your Safety, Your Health, Your Community” Agenda

- 9:00 - 9:15 am Opening Remarks
- 9:15 - 10:30 am Guest Speakers
- 10:30 - 11:00 am Stretch Break/Coffee/Vendors
- 11:00 - 11:20 am SMART Exercises
- 11:20 - 12:30 pm Panel: Older Adult Services in Wilmot
- 12:30 - 1:15 pm Complementary Lunch
- 1:15 - 1:30 pm Door Prizes and Closing Remarks
- 1:30 - 2:00 pm Vendors



COMMUNITY —

Celebrating "Big Crunch Day" at Sprucedale Public School



Grade 1 and 2 students, (along with a few grade 4's) apple crunchers from Sprucedale School in Shakespeare, enjoying the healthy snack as they participated in the "Great Big Crunch Day" to promote healthy eating in schools.

By Gary West

The fall of the year is well known in our local area for quality apples and school students in Oxford, Perth, and Waterloo counties took part in the Great Big Crunch last week. This has become an annual Canada-wide movement and involves school students biting into a crisp locally grown apple.

Principals and teachers say it is an annual moment of anti-silence in which students, parents, and others passionate about food, crunch into apples to make noise for healthy school eating. We were able to witness the event at Sprucedale Elementary School in Shakespeare, where, under the guidance of teacher Tarra Trachsel Green, 183 students took a big bite all at once. Mrs. Green's parents, local farmers Bob and Winnie Trachsel, donated the apples so that every student could enjoy a free apple as a delicious, healthy snack. They were grown at Bickle's family orchards (their cousins) south of Tavistock. The

loud noise of apples from student leaders in the school office broadcast the crunching over the school's loud-speaker system. This was to give the sound effects so all students could witness the noise of the crunch all at once in unison, as they all bit into the healthy snack.

As schools in the area and across Canada were enjoying the Great Big Crunch there were hundreds of apples that had to be sourced from Bickle's Apple Orchard. It has long been a go-to farm for some of the highest quality apples that families in southern Ontario have come to know. When schools in the area had to find an orchard that would supply the ever-popular fall fruit, for the Big Crunch they knew the Bickle apple orchard was the place to go. It was back in 1955 when Frank and Kaye Bickle purchased the picturesque farm and orchards on Highway 59 between Tavistock and Hickson. When son Tom married Kathy in 1981, the couple were determined to continue with the apple orchards. Today, 42 years later, they are still supplying high-quality apples to the hundreds of buyers who visit their farm every year. Their own children are now also very much involved in the day-to-day operations. If anyone would like to drop in at their farm store, you'll see Macs, Empires, Red and Golden Delicious, Courtland, Gala, Ambrosia, Honey Crisp, Spy, Idared, Mutsu, Russet



Last week on the Great Big Crunch Day are front Kathy Bickle with daughter Laura Harold, and back left are neighbourhood helpers Pam Zehr and Joanne Sauder. Out front the farm greeter and mascot Morty, who is now 8-years-old and enjoys and greets all visitors, when they come from many parts of the province, to enjoy the fall harvest at this unique family farm.

and Tolman Sweet. If the Bickles don't have them, they probably haven't been grown anywhere yet. If that wasn't enough, they also offer local produce like jams and jellies, honey, pickles, apple cider and apple butter, maple syrup, and their newest addition of Kintore coffee, Deep Purple Lavender, and Braemar Garlic. We often talk in the paper about family farms in nearby counties that have survived and flourished through the years. The Bickle orchards and family farm would have to be one that makes the top of the list.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE



for Larry & Brenda Ehnes

Saturday, November 4th

1:30 - 4:00 - Stratford Legion Hall - 804 Ontario Street

BEST WISHES ONLY, PLEASE

IN MEMORIAM

Kropf

In loving memory of a wonderful husband, father, papa and great grandpa (Grampy), who passed away one year ago October 26, 2022.

Sherman never looked for praises

He was never one to boast

He just went on quietly working

For the ones he loved the most.

Loving you is easy, we do it every day

Missing you is a heartache that never goes away.

Love Nancy, Brad, Tricia & David and families.

CELEBRATION



Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary

Bob and Winnie Trachsel

October 26, 2023

Here's to many more!

Love from all of your family and friends!

COMMUNITY —

New networking group kicks off EZT chapter

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

East Zorra-Tavistock Business Connections kicked off what it hopes will be a strong social and business presence in the area last week with a networking meeting at Terra Nova Spa. Close to 20 people gathered to make new friends and perhaps eventually foster more business relationships.

The group is the offspring of Eastbridge Business Connections created by Waterloo resident Jason Kipfer who is the Co-Founder and Chair. He said seven years ago he put a post on his neighbourhood Facebook page asking if anyone wanted to get together for a drink at a local pub, and it snowballed from there. "We had 18 people come out in January of 2017 and it was just about making some connections. It was informal, there was no agenda, it was just getting to know people and supporting a local business." There was continued interest from the neighbourhood, so he wrapped a brand around it and came up with the name. "It is designed to be a relaxed and casual environment. No suits, no ties, no one pushing business cards. We want to make the areas we are in more inclusive, safe, and welcoming places to live, work, play, and shop."



Nearly 20 people attended the East Zorra-Tavistock Business Connections first networking event at Terra Nova Spa last Wednesday evening.

Kipfer added no matter what people do for a living or what age group they fall into, everyone buys stuff. "We are all consumers and for those of us who are looking from a business standpoint and not just a social standpoint to build community, people genuinely buy from who they know and who they trust." He explained he encourages people at his meetups to take time to establish a relationship and once that is done the business just happens organically. "By bringing people together it fosters community development, it makes for safer communities,

and we want to create that sense of inclusiveness. We really want to promote the shop local aspect as well."

The Eastbridge chapter has over 1300 members and some of them drive 45 minutes to an hour to attend an event. "We have branded ourselves as Waterloo Region's largest and fastest growing community-based networking group. In 2019 we started another chapter in the Lakeshore neighbourhood in north Waterloo in the Northfield and Weber area, so we started Lakeshore Business

Connections." He added a few other chapters have been started in the KW area which led Tavistock resident Peter Pickett to explore the idea of one in EZT Township. "He said let's get this going and we met with Jodi Pendry at the spa. She was excited, we were excited. We set the date, promoted it and I set up a Facebook page for Peter." Kipfer said there were many businesses that attended to show their support including the Butcher Barn, Quehls, Mad Mash Brewery, and D and D Homestyle Cuisine. "They all said hey, this is great what you are doing to bring people together. We have a nice selection of finger foods, and a tour of the spa."

The goal currently for the East Zorra-Tavistock group is to meet every other month but they are looking for another get-together next month. "Peter and I were talking today about setting one up in November to wrap up this calendar year and then take the time to book six more for 2024." Kipfer is also looking for area businesses to donate door prizes at each event. He added the endeavour doesn't and was never intended to be a money-making one for him. "I have always believed the Canadian economy is built on the backs of small business. Everybody and their uncle have their hand out looking for money from them. I feel this is a great way to support them."

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FAMILY MILESTONES —

OBITUARY

SCHLEGEL, Velma



Passed away peacefully with family at her side on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at her residence in Nithview Community. Velma was born 91 years ago in East Zorra Township, a daughter of the late Ezra Schlegel and former Violet Zehr.

Lovingly remembered by her sister; Ada Gerber,

brother: Mervin and wife Karen Schlegel, brothers-in-law: Sam Wagler and Raymond Ruby (Shirley Roth). Special Aunt to Jim & Keelee Wagler, Merle & Bill Seegmiller, Faye Butters (Kevin 2019), Roger & Shay Wagler, Myron & Joanne Gerber, Shirley & John Brenneman, Paul & Monique Gerber, Joan & Chris Schooley, Grace & Paul Ruby, Karen & David Jutzi, Mary Lou Murray, Dale & Marianne Ruby, Kristy & Dan Brenneman, and Lindsay & Brett Zehr. Also remembered by many great nieces and nephews.

Velma is predeceased by sisters Elda Wagler (2022), Norma Ruby (2018) and brother-in-law Howard Gerber (2023).

Velma was a faithful, longtime member of Cassel Mennonite Church. As a nurse at the Maples, she devoted her life to the well-being of others. She enjoyed quilting, needlework, knitting and spent time volunteering at the New Hamburg thrift store and church. Velma enjoyed teaching nursery school and bible school at church and travelling the world with some of her dearest friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 4 – 8 p.m. Interment will take place on Friday, October 27, 2023, at 1:15 p.m. at the 16th Line East Zorra Cemetery, all are welcome. A Celebration of life will be held following at Cassel Mennonite Church, 696556 17 Line, Tavistock, at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Wanda Amstutz to officiate.

As expressions of sympathy, donations would be accepted to Cassel Mennonite Church or the Kidney Foundation and can be done through the funeral home.

Thank you to the staff at Nithview Community for their kind, compassionate care shown to Velma over the last 3 years.

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

Support the local ADVERTISE WITH LOCAL Canada
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your community and its
newspapers thriving.

OBITUARY

HOFSTETTER, Kathleen Vera Emilie

Kathleen passed away peacefully at St Mary's Hospital on Saturday October 21st, 2023, in her 100th year. Kathleen was born on December 25th, 1923 to her parents Henry and Emma (Hoerle) Doering. She was the last surviving member of her family. Kathleen spent the last number of years at Nithview Community.

She is survived by her children Margery (Bruce) Hay of Parksville BC, Neil (Dolores) and Denise Gingerich both of New Hamburg. Her grandchildren Scott, Mark (Kim), Dwayne (Lori), Shannon (Jeff), Pam (Steve), Jason, Sarah, and Adam. As well as her great grandchildren Brandon, Wyatt, Holden, Ashton, Riley and Leilu.

Kathleen was predeceased by her husband Brooks (1994), her daughter Colleen (1996) and husband Bob Bricker (2023), and her son-in-law Robert Gingerich (2022).

Kathleen was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and the New Hamburg Legion. She was an accomplished and prolific knitter and crafter. She was particularly proud of her flower beds and garden on Hannah Street, and a long time exhibitor of the New Hamburg Fair – where she won many prizes.

Kathleen enjoyed a game of cards or darts, a good joke and a glass of beer.

She will be dearly missed by her family.

Cremation has taken place, and all were welcomed to visit with Kathleen's family on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg from 2 – 4 & 6 – 8 p.m. A private family interment was held at Riverside Cemetery.

Family request that donations in Kathleen's memory be made to New Hamburg Legion or the New Hamburg Food Bank.

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

THANK YOU

The Pletsch Family

Thank you to family, friends and neighbours for food brought to our homes, floral tributes, phone calls, visits, cards and donations in memory of Larry Pletsch.

Thank you to everyone at Francis Funeral Home for their professional and dedicated guidance during a difficult time. To Rev. Marg Smith, a big thank you for your comforting words and tribute to honour the life of Larry! Also, thank you to Katherine Brenneman for making the bulletin with last minute notice. Thank you to Grace United Church ladies for the delicious luncheon and serving at the men's club.

Sincerely,

The Pletsch Family

OBITUARY

WINHOLD, Shelley



With deep sadness we announce that Shelley Rose Winhold, dear wife, mom and grandma, passed away peacefully at home in Tavistock, on Sunday, October 22, 2023, with her family by her side.

Shelley is survived by her husband and best friend Kevin, her daughter Tiffany (Tony) Tabbert,

son Taylor (Taylor Westman), and grandchildren Sullivan, Willa and Ryker. Shelley is the beloved, eldest daughter of LaRoyd and Roslyn Bender and daughter-in-law of Doris Winhold. Forever remembered by her siblings Shawn (Sherri) Bender, Sharla Moore, Shayanne (Roger Wagler) Bender, and siblings-in-law Terry (Pat), Dale (Lexa Harinen), Sam, Darryl (Bonnie), Brad (Donna) and Rhonda (Ron) Saunders. Loved by many nieces and nephews.

Shelley was predeceased by her father-in-law Harold Winhold and brother-in-law Mark Moore, as well as maternal grandparents Wallie and Rose Ross, and paternal grandparents Ervin and Rachel Bender.

Born on her grandmother Rachel's 50th birthday, on April 11, 1965. Shelley came into the world with a strong family connection which she carried with her, always. She was happiest tending to her grandchildren or her flowerbeds. She spent hours reading, singing and playing with the kids and was equally as committed to planting, watering and pruning her plants. Her caring and thoughtful nature extended far beyond her family and home, and was felt by all who knew her. Shelley was a longtime employee at Kindred Credit Union, starting in an entry-level position and later retiring as the Manager, Fraud and Privacy. Her dedication to her work was second to none. She gave endlessly to her community, volunteering for Figure Skating Executive, Minor Hockey Parents, and various positions at Tavistock Mennonite Church. Shelley maintained special relationships with countless friends from childhood through retirement. Whether a quick coffee, a country music concert or a cottage weekend, she loved nothing more than time spent with her people.

A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered. Please join us for visitation on Thursday, October 26, 2023 from 2-4pm and 6-8pm at Francis Funeral Home in Tavistock. Service and celebration will take place on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 from 11am-2pm at Puddicombe House in New Hamburg.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or Tavistock Mennonite Church would be appreciated by the family and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home by calling 519-655-2431.

Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) What two countries did Halloween originate from?
- 2) What do you say when you arrive at the door for candy?
- 3) When did the Salem Witch Trials take place?
- 4) Who is the iconic villain in the Halloween movie franchise?
- 5) What zodiac sign is associated with Halloween?
- 6) What are Dracula's primary weaknesses?
- 7) What is another name for a carved pumpkin?
- 8) In what year did Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' premier on MTV?
- 9) What do you call a group of witches?
- 10) Who you gonna call?

Answers found on page 26

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

October 26: Happy birthday to Dorothy Weicker (3), and anniversaries for Bob and Winnie Trachsel (60th), Dave and Marianne Ruby (21st), and Greg and Tara Ramseyer (11th).

October 27: Happy birthday to Colby Rhodes (14).

October 28: Happy anniversary for Linda and Wayne Faulhafer (45th).

October 29: Happy birthday to Liam Schumm (7) and Nicole Ropp (22), and anniversary for Kyle and Julie Wynette (12th).

October 30: Happy birthday to Corey Armstrong (5).

October 31: Happy birthday to Karly Kalbfleisch (10), Jordan Bartlett (20), Judd Walker (23), Ashley Ivey, and Susan Rozendal.

November 1: Happy birthday to Miriam Stock-Bateman (10) and Natalie Rhodes (20).

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

The Old Gazettes

By Stewart Grant

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

October 23-30, 2013 Edition (10 years ago)

The East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Department, Tavistock Station is once again involved in the Movember Campaign, collecting donations for growing facial hair for the entire month. This year, however, there is a new twist as the local firefighters are also selling Rheo Thompson chocolate moustaches to raise money to benefit Prostate Cancer research.

A beautifully refinished Bell upright piano stands proudly in the front room of Betty Murray's home in Hickson. As sunlight streams through the front window, it illuminates the keys and reminds her of the years of enjoyment it has brought her and others. And it's the joy she spreads throughout the community that has earned her the 2013 John Tipping Memorial Award from the Hickson Lions Club. Lions Club President Brad Smith said Betty has supplied musical entertainment at nursing homes and events

in the Hickson and Tavistock area for many, many years.

October 22-29, 2003 Edition (20 years ago)

It's not too often that Tavistock can boast the arrival of a new industry to the village. Last Friday, October 24, however, Amkad Metal Components Inc. of New Hamburg officially turned the sod for their new, 21,000 square foot facility to be built on the outskirts of Tavistock. Located beside the Agraturf John Deere equipment dealership, Amkad is a family business owned by Ken and Dianne Kropf which was established in 1996.

The 2003-04 executive of the Optimist Club of Tavistock was installed at their President's Night held on Friday evening, October 10 in the Men's Club Hall. The club executive consists of president Henk Tolsma, secretary Roger Kropf, treasurer Brad Stock, vice presidents Brad Wettlaufer and Phil Roth, past president Ray Oesch, 1st year directors Kent Killing, Bart Danen, and Dave Johnston; 2nd year directors Butch Mogk, Greg Ramseyer, and Kris Zehr.

October 26, 1983 Edition (40 years ago)

On Thursday, October 27, Mayor D. H. McK-ay and W. Darcy McKeough, President,

Union Gas, will officiate at a "Natural Gas Turn-On Ceremony" in front of the Community Centre in Tavistock. This ceremony represents the introduction of natural gas service to Tavistock and Shakespeare.

Rev. F. R. Mosher presented Sunday Church School pins to young students at the October 16th early morning service at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sebastopol. Sixteen children received the honour.

October 23-30, 1963 Edition (60 years ago)

Mrs. Lorne Weber of Stratford was the winner of the 1963 Plymouth 4-door sedan offered as a major award at the annual frolic held at the Memorial Hall Friday night.

Tavistock Teen Town will again be sponsored by the Tavistock Mens Club and Board of Trade.

Congratulations are extended to the Tavistock Rotary Club which marked its 15th anniversary of founding on Monday night.

Progress on the erection of a new feedmill for Yantzi Feed and Seed at the location of the former Zimmerman Bros. box factory, Woodstock Street North, is proceeding rapidly, according to the owner, Laverne Yantzi.

Are you planning a family celebration?

We accept all announcements - weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, new baby, etc.

Or are you looking to hire local people, or wanting to sell something or buy something? We will publish your classified ad.

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

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graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com

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10:30 am in person worship service

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEBASTOPOL-TAVISTOCK

Pastor Steve Hoffard

Church Office 519-655-2372

trinitylcoffice@gmail.com

Masks welcomed but not required

www.trinitytavistock.com

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Interim Pastor Harold Schlegel.

131 Wettlaufer St., Tavistock 655-2581

Sunday Worship services begin at 9:45am, with coffee and fellowship to follow at 11am.

Masks welcomed but not required.

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Stream services online at
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Wellington Street, Tavistock

stpaulstavistock@gmail.com

Pastor Rev. Michael Mayer

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

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Pastors Ray Martin & Mike Williamson

www.ezmennonite.ca

Service audio recordings available at:

<https://ezmennonite.ca/worship/>

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77 Mogk St., Box 220, Tavistock NOB 2R0

Pastor Hugh Rutledge 655-3611

Email: office@tavistock.church

www.tavistock.church

COMMUNITY —

Stop Bullying in its Tracks

By Canada Safety Council

A school can be many things: a place to learn, a place to grow, a place to socialize with friends. For many, it is a positive and safe environment. Yet, far too commonly, this is not the lived reality of schoolchildren across Canada.

National School Safety Week was October 17-23, and the Canada Safety Council would like to remind Canadians that we have a responsibility to protect our youth in schools.

According to Public Safety Canada, nearly half of Canadian parents (47 per cent) report that at least one of their children has been a victim of bullying, which is defined as "acts of intentional harm repeated over time in a relationship where an imbalance of power exists."

While we know that bullying can extend past the schoolyard and into the workplace, the home, and anywhere people gather to live, learn or play, school is frequently the first environment in which a child is subjected to this aggression. The prevalence of the behaviour makes it even more crucial that schools play a leadership role in addressing it early.

Bullying Signs

Is your child being bullied? Here are a few tips to spot warning signs and to advocate on your child's behalf.

Signs can include:

- Heightened anxiety, fear
- Lowered self-esteem and interest in previously enjoyable activities

- Unhappiness, irritability, trouble sleeping
- Injuries, including bruising and damage to physical property (if the bullying is physical in nature)

Supporting a Bullied Child

Tips to parents and guardians:

Show your child that you're there for them. Trust is of paramount importance in addressing bullying, and a child will not report any issues to someone they do not trust to support them. Maintaining an open and healthy relationship with your child will help them feel comfortable confiding in you.

Encourage them to share if they are being bullied. Yes, it can be embarrassing. Or hurtful. But children need to know their feelings are valid and they are not expected to carry this burden by themselves. The quicker they inform the responsible adults in their lives, the quicker help can be provided.

Do not advise your child to fight back. In such situations, aggression is often met with more aggression and only makes the situation worse. Remember: at its core, bullying is a relationship imbalance. Violence is a less effective mitigation tactic than adult intervention.

Document everything. Take notes of times, dates and details of incidents as your child reports them. If the bullying is occurring via electronic means, this includes emails, instant messages, text messages and any other evidence of cyberbullying.

Talk to your child's school. Bring all documentation and be prepared to sit down and discuss the bullying behaviour. Keep in mind throughout that you are your

child's advocate, their defender, and their voice.

Bullying prevention is a team effort, a collaboration to create a more level playing field and to support children as they navigate the formative years of their lives. Let us all do our part in showing that respect, kindness and dignity are core values... and that bullies never win.

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COMMUNITY —

Harvest Soup Sensation



By Mercedes Kay Gold

Fall harvest welcomes in a bounty of root vegetables. As we say good-bye to the last of the bright and sunny orange autumn leaves, let's say hello to this holistic nutritionist's current craze. I am obsessed with carrots, boatloads of butternut squash and a plethora of other produce picks roasted and blended into a spectacular soup.

Butternut squash and carrots have a bevy of body-boosting benefits, and the color combination paints a happy, holistic picture. Carotenoids are their superpower, and found in red, orange and yellow produce. Carrots are chocked full of zeaxanthin and lutein, linked to eye health. Both carrots and butternut squash are a bonanza of beta-carotene, converted inside the body to immune system super supporter vitamin A.

Butternut squash equals comfort food fare whether you roast, mash or tote a thermos of this scrumptious soup. One cup of squash is packed with potassium and a super source of vitamin C. The trio of vitamins associated with the most overall health benefits are A-C-E, and squash has two out of three in vast amounts. From the first jar of baby food, carrots are ever-present in the diet. The outrageously orange coloured juice floods cells with an array of phytonutrients. Carrots are the original on-the-go favorite sidekick to dip and a main course staple. Oh, and don't get me started on raw carrot cake.

Celery may be 95% water but there are more than twelve antioxidants making this low-calorie crunchy dieter's dream a chart-topping valuable veggie!

Onions contain 25 flavonoids, key antioxidants combating free radicals and helping prevent chronic diseases.

Herbs are more than flavor boosters. As a holistic nutritionist, my top tasty treasures are herbal health helpers. I selected four fresh herbs to complement the winter-warming soup. Rosemary is renowned for its awesome aroma and is a staple in backyard gardens. Its needle-like leaves are linked to improved memory, reducing inflammation, and a stress relief for starters. Thyme's distinct aroma is often associated with roasting poultry, but thyme is an ancient remedy for fungal infections and relieving stubborn coughs. Sage, another key culinary herb around the

world may ease menopausal symptoms, support cognitive health and lower LDL or the "lousy" cholesterol levels in the body. Garlic is literally love for the heart muscle and a wonderful winter cold and flu support.

My secret soup ingredient is by Chef Adam Brenner, owner of The Garden Stand. Chef Brenner's handcrafted garlic scape salt is a seasoning I swapped for my usual fleur de sel. It's made from the green shoots that grow from the garlic bulb, salt and a dash of magic.

Soup is my make-ahead must-have as a speedy supertime stand-by and post-fun time winter wonderland warmup.

Rootin' for Soup!

I used carrots and butternut squash by Pfenning's Organic and garlic by The Garlic King.

Ingredients:

- 3 carrots
- 1 large butternut squash
- 1 large onion
- 3 cloves garlic by The Garlic King or 6 average sized cloves
- 3 stalks celery
- 2-3 tablespoons of olive or avocado oil
- 3 sage leaves
- 3 sprigs rosemary
- 6 sprigs thyme
- 1 tsp garlic scape salt* available at The Garden Stand
- Ground pepper to taste
- 900 ml of low-sodium vegetable stock

Directions:

Cut the squash in half and the ends off.

Using a vegetable peeler, remove all the skin and then scoop out all the flesh.

Cut the squash into one-inch cubes.

Chop the celery, carrots and onion.

Peel the garlic cloves, keeping whole.

Place all the vegetables on a baking sheet.

Add the garlic scape salt, pepper, garlic cloves, and top with the sprigs of fresh herbs.

Drizzle with olive oil and combine well.

Spread the ingredients out and roast in a 350-degree Fahrenheit oven for an hour or until very soft.

Transfer to blender, food processor or a bowl and use an inversion blender.

Add 3 cups of vegetable stock and blend until smooth.

Pour the soup into a pot, add the remaining vegetable stock and simmer on the stove.

Top with fresh rosemary and thyme.

Serve and love your soup!

Store the fridge up to a week or freeze.

*You can use Himalayan sea salt.



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COMMUNITY —

Local EQAO results

By Veronica Reiner

The results for the 2022-2023 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) are in.

"Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and the possibility of learning loss, these results indicate that as a school board, we have been successful in minimizing the impact," said Estefania Bradenstein, a spokesperson for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB). "This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our exceptional staff, whom we sincerely thank for their unwavering commitment to students' success.

"As a school board, we remain focused on supporting the academic achievement and well-being of all the students we serve. These results serve as a reminder of the progress we have made as well as the journey that lies ahead."

The WRDSB surpassed the provincial results in Grade 6 writing and mathematics, and Grade 9 mathematics. The school board was in line with provincial results in Grade 3 reading and writing, Grade

6 reading, and the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test for students writing the test for the first time. The WRDSB performed below provincial results in Grade 3 mathematics.

Here are the results from all local schools:

Wilmot Township Schools

Baden Public School Grade 3 students scored 52% in mathematics, 78% in reading, and 57% in writing. The school's Grade 6 students got 76% in mathematics, 96% in reading, and 88% in writing.

Forest Glen Public School Grade 3 students scored 73% in mathematics, 69% in reading and 69% in writing. The school's Grade 6 students scored 43% in mathematics, 98% in reading and 100% in writing.

Grandview Public School Grade 3 students scored 100% in mathematics, 84% in reading and 84% in writing. The school's Grade 6 students scored 55% in mathematics, 90% in reading and 87% in writing.

Holy Family Separate School Grade 3 students scored 62% in mathematics, 76% in reading and 68% in writing. The school's Grade 6 students scored 42% in

mathematics, 82% in reading and 91% in writing.

New Dundee Public School Grade 3 students achieved impressive results - 92% in mathematics, 100% in reading and 100% in writing. The school's Grade 6 students scored 67% in mathematics, 95% in reading, and 100% in writing.

Sir Adam Beck Public School Grade 3 students scored 56% in mathematics, 78% in reading and 73% in writing. The school's Grade 6 students scored 56% in mathematics, 83% in reading and 89% in writing.

There were 82% of eligible Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School students who were successful on their Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). There are 39% of fully participating students at or above the provincial standards (Levels 3 and 4) for the 2022-2023 school year.

East Zorra-Tavistock Schools

Hickson Central Public School Grade 3 students scored 56% in mathematics, 76% in reading and 70% in writing. The school's Grade 6 students scored 42% in mathematics, 78% in reading and 71% in writing.

Sprucedale Public School Grade 3 students scored 57% in mathematics, 48% in reading and 38% in writing. The school's Grade 6 students scored 53% in mathematics, 95% in reading and 95% in writing.

Tavistock Public School Grade 3 students scored 78% in mathematics, 75% in reading and 72% in writing. The school's Grade 6 students scored 48% in mathematics, 81% in reading and 65% in writing.

Wellesley Township Schools

Linwood Public School Grade 3 students scored 29% in mathematics, 51% in reading and 46% in writing. The school's Grade 6 students scored 25% in mathematics, 82% in reading and 96% in writing.

St. Clement Catholic Elementary School Grade 3 students scored 71% in mathematics, 71% in reading and 58%. The school's Grade 6 students scored 69% in mathematics, 73% in reading and 88% in writing.

Wellesley Public School Grade 3 students scored 57% in mathematics, 57% in reading and 43% in writing. The school's Grade 6 students scored 47% in mathematics, 83% in reading and 83% in writing.



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COMMUNITY —

Region of Waterloo asking for input in 2024 budget

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The 2024 Region of Waterloo plan and budget process is underway, and residents are invited to give input as to how the Region of Waterloo should invest taxpayer dollars. The budget is an outline of how the region will spend in programs and services that residents depend on every day.

“Given continued high inflation, cost escalation, and increasing service demands, the 2024 plan and budget presents challenges even greater than previous years,” said Regional Councillor Michael Harris, Chair of the Region’s Strategic Planning and Budget Committee.

“We are committed to balancing affordability with delivering the essential services residents rely on. Hearing from the public is critical to getting the right balance – whether online or in-person through our public input sessions.”

The region said that like residents, municipalities across Ontario continue to face rising costs. “As the area grows, so does the need for more services, and that the region needs funding from other government levels (provincial, federal), to keep up with the growth,” wrote the region in a release.

The plan and budget will be guided by the priority areas identified in the “strategic plan,” which includes homes for all, climate aligned growth, equitable services and opportunities, and a resilient and future ready organization. The region’s population is expected to grow to one million people by 2050.

There are several ways for community members to give input into the budget, including public input sessions and an online survey. For more information, visit: www.engagewr.ca/2024-plan-and-budget.

The budget will be finalized on December 13.

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St James Chapel of Ease

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

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All Welcome

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

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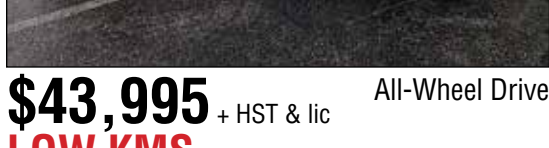
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SPORTS —

New Hamburg Firebirds Thanksgiving Food Drive acknowledgments

By Morgan Miller

The New Hamburg Firebirds always strive to do their best in giving back to the community and this is why we truly need you to be part of our team to help us help the Wilmot Family Resource Centre ... This is what was needed, YOU! And boy, did you come through. A community that has a well-deserved reputation for its welcoming attitude and kindness. One of the things that makes Wilmot Township such a great place to live is the way residents come together to assist and support each other if the need presents itself. I see this evidence in every part of the community, especially this time of year.

The New Hamburg Firebirds Hockey Club and their players would like to give special thanks and list all assists that got them to their GOAL!

Thanks to Bill and Jill Fleming from Sobeys, Dave Mackay from Mackay's NoFrills, along with both their amazing staff for having the Thanksgiving "Early Bird Meet the Players" day at their locations, which brought in 2,056 lbs.

Dave Bender and his staff at B-W Feed and Supply for letting us use their scale to weigh after each pickup at the schools, as well as the final weighing on game night.

Mike Roth, who volunteered his vehicle,



Anna-Maria, Hannah and Emily collected and packed all the donations, as well as handed out tickets and stickers on game night. (Photo contributed)

trailer and day collecting the donations from all the participating schools and Anna-Maria, Hannah and Emily, who collected and packed all the donations as well as handing out tickets and stickers on

game night. Great job you three!

To the participating schools in The "Shopping Cart Challenge," a huge thank you to staff and especially their students at Baden Public, Sir Adam Beck Public,

Forest Glen Public, Grandview Public, Holy Family Catholic, and New Dundee Public schools for their donations and having pickups so well organized. Another year of being overwhelmed by the response from the students and their help! 5,247 pounds (lbs) as collected! "Shopping Cart Challenge's" best ever yet! Kids helping community! What a reward! Absolutely incredible!

To all the volunteers from Wilmot Centre Church, and Wilmot and Wellesley Fire Fighters for giving their time on a Friday night of a long weekend to unload 7,011 lbs of donations from the schools and what was collected at the game.

The New Hamburg Firebirds Thanksgiving Food Drive's huge success only becomes a reality because of the phenomenal help of people in a community that just continues to give. 324 lbs was collected at the Poor Boys Luncheon, 2,056 at the "Early Bird Meet the Players," The "Shopping Cart Challenge" brought in 5,247 lbs from the participating schools and 1,764 lbs. at the night of the game. The grand total for this year 9,391 lbs! as well as over \$3,565.00 in monetary donations.

One last thing. The game was attended by 1,125 fans and 946 of them had the special food drive ticket... and we won! What a night! Great job everyone!

Huron Perth League Basketball Returns to Tavistock

By Daniel J (Danny) Millar

Following up on last year's successful Jr. NBA season and a tournament in Goderich, boys basketball is set to return to Tavistock.

The Huron Perth Basketball League returns after an absence of 11 years. Last season, Canada basketball approved Tavistock as a site for its developmental

junior NBA program. Eight to ten boys showed out each night, and the season concluded with two games - both wins - in Goderich.

The team will be coached by Danny Millar, a long-time OBA, high school, and HP league coach. Millar coached the Tavistock entries several years ago. He ran the program and team last year, assisted by Max

Schwartzentruber, who returns this season as well.

The first practice is Tuesday, November 7, at Tavistock Public School, and will alternate Tuesdays and Thursday evenings, beginning at 6:30. Players in grades 6-8 are eligible. Pre-registration is required. League play begins late January, early February and concludes at the end of

March. Scheduling was designed to minimize schedule conflicts with hockey, softball, and soccer. In the past, teams from Stratford, St. Marys, Mitchell, Goderich, Listowel, and Kincardine have competed.

For more information, contact Millar at 519 502 6676 (call/text) or e-mail daniel_millar1@hotmail.com.

Royals drop to .500 after weekend loss

By Lee Griffi

The Tavistock Royals find themselves in a five-way tie for fourth in the Ontario Elite Hockey League standings following a 5-1 loss in Creemore on Saturday night in Collingwood.

The Coyotes led 1-0 after 2 periods of play when Sean Leslie netted his third goal of the season on a setup from Adam Barr to tie it up. Creemore would then score four consecutive times, 2 of them coming on the power play after Tavistock ran into some penalty trouble. The Coyotes improved to a record of 2 and 0 while the Royals slipped to 2 and 2.

Royals' goalie Jensen Van Boekel took the loss and has struggled to start the season. He was a big part of last year's championship team but so far has 2 losses with a 6.00 goals against average and a .625 save percentage. Five players are tied for the team lead in scoring with 3 points each and they are Cam Leslie, Trevor Sauder, Drew Gerth, Shawn Lantz, and Sean Leslie.

PJHL Roundup: Firebirds hand Navy Vets first loss

By Lee Griffi

New Hamburg and Woodstock split a home-and-home series on the weekend, but the Firebirds were able to come out with a 4-3 road victory on Friday night. Cohen Van Zuilen was the hero scoring the game-winning goal, a shorthanded and unassisted effort, as he broke a 3-3 tie at the 13:04 mark of the third period.

The Navy Vets bounced back with a road victory of their own on Saturday by a 2-1 count. Christ Coulter scored both goals for the winners, his sixth and seventh of the season, the second one being the overtime winner. Andrew Gear replied for New Hamburg on the powerplay, his first.

It was a weekend to forget for Wellesley as they lost 5-3 to Tavistock on Friday and 4-2 to Norwich on Saturday. The Applejacks took a 1-0 lead against

the Braves on Isiah Katsube's second of the season, but Tavistock would get goals from Ian Glendinning, Rylan Suljack, and Jabob Reid-Brant to take a 3-1 lead after the first period. Nolan Karger and Owen Stoddard scored in the second to tie things up, but Mike Schlotzhauer's unassisted goal stood up as the game-winner. Suljack added an empty-net goal for the Braves, his fifth of the season. Against Norwich, Logan Crans and Stoddard scored in a losing effort.

The Braves capped off a perfect weekend with a 7-3 drubbing in Paris against the lowly Titans who have just one win and three points. After a 1-1 tie after 20 minutes Tavistock led 5-2 after 2 periods. Tyler Brezynskie and Stephen Peppas led the attack with a pair of goals each while Glendinning, Carter Arsenault, and Jacob Roach chipped in with 2 assists. Liam O-Leary earned both wins between the pipes for the Braves, stopping 56 of 62 shots he faced.

COMMUNITY —

4-H reports



Left to right: Front row, Jane Danen, Bella Matthews, Claire Rempel, Lucie Ward, Norah Wagler, Madison Weszner. Middle row: Marilyn Lichti, Emma Weitzel, Amy Danen, Deanna Halls, Mackenzie Westwood, Jade Dill, Kyra Kropf, Levi Dill, Kate-lynn Cressman, Shonna Ward, Grace McKinlay. Back row: Lexi Dill, Madi Cressman, Grace Piper.



Bella making pumpkin dog biscuits

By Bella Matthews

Our third meeting of 4-H began at 6:45, on October 10. There were a couple of new members, so everyone went in a circle, and said our names.

Shonna then told us what there was to make. I think there were four different options of pumpkin cookies, plus dog biscuits. I chose to make the dog biscuits, along with two other girls. I liked the biscuits because it was simple, and only required three ingredients. One cup pumpkin, two cups whole wheat flour, and one egg yolk. The first step after washing our hands, was to dump in the pumpkin, and whole wheat flour, then mix well. When that step was completed, we added the egg yolk in the same bowl, and mix that.

The third step was to place it on a flat, clean surface. You roll it out til smooth and flat. After, we cut it out in the shapes of dog bones. When they are all cut out, we place them in the oven at 350 Fahrenheit for half an hour. Other kids were waiting/putting their food in the oven, which means the dishes were ready to be washed, so some kids were washing dishes while others were working on a pumpkin patch-themed word search. After the dishes were all clean, we talked about our Thanksgiving weekend. The cookies were now being taken out of the oven, but still were pretty hot, so Shonna thought that that was the perfect time to take a group photo of us. Then, after that, the cookies were ready to be eaten. When everyone got one of each, we sat down and enjoyed them. I liked them all, 10/10. After we ate, we put away tables and chairs, then left. I can say that my dog liked the biscuits very much. I am looking forward to next Tuesday, October 17.

Our fourth meeting of 4-H started on

October 17, 6:45. We got there, and Shonna told us what we were making, which was mini pumpkin pie. She also showed us how to make it. The first step is to split into groups of 3; I was in a group with Claire and Norah. One person from each group had to leave and make pie filling with different people. I left my group to make pie filling with Lexi. The ingredients to make the pie filling are: 2 eggs, 1 1/2 cups cooked pumpkin puree, 2/3 cups brown sugar, 1/2 tsp ginger, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1/2 tsp salt, 1 1/2 cups milk and 1/4 cup maple syrup. The first instruction is to beat the eggs thoroughly, then add the rest of the ingredients. Mix well, then leave until the pastry is ready. The ingredients to make the pastry is 1 1/2 cups of sifted cake and pastry flour, 3/4 tsp salt, 1/2 cup shortening, and 3 tbsp cold water. The instructions for that are add flour and salt into a swifter, and sift into a bowl, cut cold shortening by using a pastry blender until pieces are about the size of peas. Add the cold water over the surface of the flat flour mixture. Run a fork along the bottom of the bowl and mix quickly until the dough just holds together. Mold dough into the shape of a ball. Divide into three pieces. Add flour on a tray for rolling out pastry, roll the ball gently into a circle that is thick enough to hold the pie filling. The last step is to place the pastry in a pie plate and then add the pie filling. You put it in the oven, but I forget how long.

To pass the time, I worked on a wordsearch with friends. After a while, Shonna got our attention, she told us that she got us shirts with the 4-H logo on them, and she wanted to take a picture with us in them. We did not get to eat our pumpkin pies as snacks as they were too hot, so instead we got pumpkin cookies. After, we cleaned up. We wiped the tables, and put them, and the chairs away. That night was pretty fun.

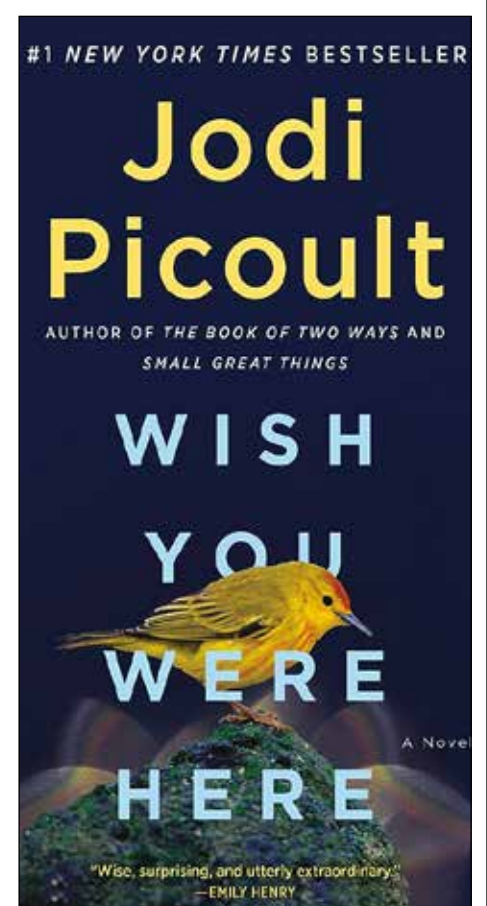
Oxford County Library monthly book review

Wish you Were Here by Jodi Picoult

By Oxford County Library Staff

Wish you Were Here is a unique and thought-provoking novel about a woman who travels to a paradise island in hopes of a dream vacation with her partner, only for her plans to take an unexpected turn as the COVID-19 pandemic is declared by World Health Officials. Determined to still have the island getaway experience, the woman stays on the deserted island and slowly starts to make personal connections and relationships with some of the locals. These connections lead her to reflect on her life back home and what really matters to her.

This book is unique in that it switches back and forth between the perspective of someone battling isolation and loneliness while stranded on an island and the perspective of a healthcare worker on the frontlines during the pandemic, facing constant challenges and making sacrifices to save the lives of many people. This book has something in it for every reader - romance, suspense, mystery, and a very unexpected plot twist. This book provides readers with a wonderful story about friendship, adventure, and self-discovery while also educating readers on what healthcare workers endured during the pandemic.



COMMUNITY —

THE BACKYARD ASTRONOMER: *The Next 100 Years*

By Gary Boyle

The night of October 5-6, 1923, forever changed the way astronomers saw and studied the cosmos. It was believed the Milky Way we see on clear moonless nights was the 'universe.' Little did they know a simple 45-minute photograph would throw them a curve. It was long suspected a small patch of light located in the constellation of Andromeda was a cloud and referred to as the Andromeda Nebula.

The American astronomer Edwin Hubble set his sights on imaging this object with the massive 100-inch Hooker telescope at the Mount Wilson Observatory in California, the largest telescope in the world at that time. Placing a 4 by 5-inch photographic glass plate at the back of the grand telescope, he exposed the

camera on the 'cloud.' Because of the immense light-gathering power of the large telescope, the image revealed individual stars including a variable star called a Cepheid. These types of stars help astronomers determine distance. With this valuable measuring tool, the object was determined not to be part of our so-called 'universe' but a completely different one. It is officially called the Andromeda Galaxy residing some 2.5 million light-years away and containing an estimated one trillion stars. Since then, many more galaxies have been imaged and their distance measured.

By 1929, Hubble showed that the universe was expanding faster than the speed of light, which is hard to imagine. But all galaxies seem to be moving away from each other except for the merging galaxies whose gravity attracts each other, such as our local group. This is how galaxies grow. So if galaxies are racing away from each other, they must have all started from a single point long, long ago. In 1931, the Belgian priest father George Lemaitre, considered the Father of The Big Bang, stated "The day of the Big Bang, was a day without a yesterday".

By the 1940s, radio waves were first detected both from the sun and a supernova, the remains of a massive star that exploded in our galaxy that is named the Crab Nebula. The 200-

inch Palomar Telescope in California was the largest in the world in 1949. The larger the telescope mirror, the farther astronomers can peer into space and the farther we see back in time.

The '60s and '70s saw Apollo astronauts landing on the moon six times, two Viking crafts parked on the planet Mars, as well as launching identical Voyager 1 and 2 crafts measuring about the size of a subcompact car. They were designed to take close-up images as well as collect data from the outer planets and their moons. These were Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Launched 46 years ago, they are now 24 billion and 20 billion kilometres, respectively, from Earth.

Other than using ground-based telescopes with giant mirrors piercing the cosmos in optical light, technology has now allowed astronomers to study the cosmos via radio, microwave, infrared, ultraviolet, X-rays and gamma-rays. However, we are not restricted to earth-bound instruments. Spacecraft such as the Hubble Space Telescope, Chandra X-ray, Spitzer, Compton Gamma-ray and the newly launched James Webb Space Telescope, as well as many more, are hard at work viewing the cosmos in amazing detail.

The sole purpose of the orbiting Ke-

pler Space Telescope was to search for exoplanets, planets orbiting other stars in our galaxy. To date, there are more than 5,500 confirmed planets and thousands of candidates yet to be confirmed. But the majority of these worlds would be as large as Jupiter but closer to their star as Mercury is to the sun. The first ground-based discovery of an exoplanet was back in 1995. It is believed there are possibly more planets than stars in the Milky Way. There are a very small number of planets thought to be located in the 'Goldilocks Zone', such as Earth where oceans stay liquid. Too close to the star water would boil away, and farther out would freeze. We have recently received samples from the asteroid Bennu, delivering pristine material from the origins of the solar system after the birth of our sun, dating back about five billion years.

I am looking forward to seeing boots on the moon in 2025, as well as the first humans on the planet Mars in about 10 to 15 years. Decades ago, a rendez-vous with the sun was an unthinkable goal for obvious reasons. The Parker Solar Probe is presently studying our daytime star close-up and personal. At times it dives very close in the solar atmosphere before retreating in elliptical orbits. On September 17 of this year, it approached a mere 7.26 million kilometres above

its surface at a speed of 635,266 kilometres per hour or a staggering 176 kilometres per second. For reference, the sun lies 150 million kilometres away. The heat shield is designed to keep the internal electronics a nice 30 degrees Celsius while the outer part is exposed to 1,400 degrees Celsius.

I believe we will eventually discover a new type of physics that could explain the workings of dark matter and dark energy that is thought to have played a role in the creation of the universe. We have the technology as well as the ambition to pursue and unlock the mysteries of our fascinating cosmos. The path to discovery is ever-evolving and I cannot wait for the next big discovery.

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 various television stations 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 Facebook and his website: www.wondersofastronomy.com

EXPERT ADVICE: *State of the Real Estate market and what's to come*

By Alison Willsey

The hot topic of conversation still seems to be the Real Estate Market and the economy and what's to come in the future. Check out the following posted by CREA According to CREA (Canadian Real Estate Association) this past September 2023. National home sales were down on a month-over-month basis. Highlights from their post are as follows:

National home sales declined 1.9% month-over-month in September.

Actual (not seasonally adjusted) monthly activity came in 1.9% above September 2022. (monthly sales activity across Canada)

The number of newly listed properties jumped 6.3% month-over-month.

The MLS® Home Price Index (HPI) edged down 0.3% month-over-month but was up 1.1% year-over-year.

The actual (not seasonally adjusted) national average sale price posted a 2.5% year-over-year increase in September.

The following stats are provided by the WRAR (Waterloo Association of Realtors for September 2023). In September, the average sale price for all residential properties in Waterloo Region was \$757,753. This represents a 0.7 per cent increase compared to September 2022 and a 0.3 per cent decrease compared to August 2023. "The number of homes sold last month was very close to last year's decade-low for the month of September," says Megan Bell, president of WRAR. "At the same time, we had a record number of new listings for the month of September." WRAR and President Megan Bell also reported and had the following to say: "There was a significant surge of new listings in September, resulting in the largest number of homes being on the market since March 2016," said Bell. "For buyers with the financing to be house hunting in September, they would have found more favourable conditions in terms of supply than we have seen in a while."

At the same time, WRAR's president points to the recent poll the association conducted, which shows over one-quarter of Waterloo Region residents are considering moving to a more affordable location.

"WRAR recently released a report highlighting that Waterloo region's residents are struggling under the affordability crisis, with four in ten reporting that they live in housing that is unaffordable," said Bell.

Right now, there seems to be so many buyers' sitting on the sidelines waiting to see what happens with interest rates. Many are pre-approved and

could move forward with purchases, however; they are hesitant because they want to know if we are at the peak of the interest rate hikes. I can't blame them for being cautious, however, if buyers are waiting on future price drops in 2024, we may not see that happen in our part of Ontario. Purchasing now may be opportunistic if you can find the home/property you are looking for, can afford the home and are approved for the purchase.

Although some sellers feel they should wait to sell if they can because of the interest rates and the fact that it is more of a buyer's market, there are many who have been impacted by inflation and by the interest rates who will be in the next years as many mortgages come up for renewal. There will be an increase in the number of Sellers who may be forced to downsize as they won't be able to afford the future interest rates. So many people may be forced into "reset" and or a transitional "wake up" as they are over leveraged in terms of their debt-to-income (DTI) ratios. Many, as mentioned, will be forced to downsize and this may include significant lifestyle changes, too. Buyers will be forced to adapt better money management skills as a result. Some are being forced back into the workplace and will see an increase in expenses because of this. These interest rate increases have a ripple effect for sure. Sellers need to reach out and call their banks and lenders to discuss options to avoid forced sales and foreclosures. It is better to try and come up with a plan in advance of upcoming renewal dates as banks and lenders may have options to help

and assist you so that you can make a move without it negatively affecting your situation long-term or offer different financing options to renew and be able to stay in your home.

There are those, however, who have made very sound financial decisions throughout the last 3-5 years and who will thrive as they will benefit from his. So, over time, there will be a lot of money injected back into the real estate market by those who have been sitting and waiting on this type of a market. Those who are in this position still need to seek professional advice on when and where to invest. Buyers should be careful of future real estate investing with the intention of flipping homes. This may not be the right market to carry out this activity as it is not currently a Seller's market. A buy, fix and hold until the market gains strength again may be a better idea. There is one more interest rate announcement in December of 2023. From there, I am hopeful that by the second quarter of 2024 we will start to see some positive change... it may be 2025 before it is anything significant, according to some economic forecasters.

The housing shortage still prevails, though, and is ultimately causing this housing crisis. This has not changed. Although there are government programs and incentives in the works, the reality is that the cost to build is still rising for Builders/Developers. Taxes and the cost to build i.e. labour and materials costs are still increasing. The interest rates some developers are paying on land in the interim could cause serious problems for some also when the sales numbers are

low to nil. There are still significant taxes on new construction; examples are federal/provincial and municipal fees. Governments have been making more from new construction than developers do in many cases. This is where the focus of our government needs to be over the next 5-10 years. The Canadian population continues to rise, and affordable housing is needed to accommodate first time buyers and/or buyers new to Canada. Our aging population needs to be accommodated also. They need to be able to move into safe, affordable housing to live out their retirement years. By-laws need to be addressed in municipalities and cities across Canada to allow for more multi-generational living and for Homeowners to take their existing homes and turn some of their space into affordable, legal, safe rental space. This can be a mortgage helper and can keep Canadians in their homes longer and help them deal with rising costs.

Try and remain calm and positive during these times and always be proactive, set goals, put plans in place and seek professional advice before making major financial decisions and/or real estate decisions. When selling homes/properties, pricing strategies are very important, as well as flexibility. When purchasing, it will be important to understand the motivation of the sale of the property to be able to negotiate an accepted agreement and complete amicable and successful sales financially. Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions so that you can make informed decisions that are right for you and your family.

COMMUNITY —

Show Us Your Wilmot



Each week, the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette will publish interesting photos from around the community. The inspiration for this came from the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group. This photo, taken by Darryl Gingerich, shows the new waterwheel on a beautiful fall day in New Hamburg. (Photo credit: Darryl Gingerich)

Show Us Your Wilmot



Each week, the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette will publish interesting photos from around the community. The inspiration for this came from the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group. This photo, taken by Angela Woodley, shows an October sunrise. (Photo credit: Angela Woodley)

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Gazette Puzzles

Halloween

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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Leisure, luxury, education and entertainment in Wendake, Québec



By Paul Knowles

It's hard to anticipate what may await you when you arrive at The Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations in Wendake, just north of Québec City. First of all, it's pretty unusual to visit a destination that is both a hotel and a museum. It's also a unique experience to have the choice of sleeping in one of the suites of a four-star boutique hotel, or perhaps instead, in an authentic First Nations longhouse tucked in under wolf pelts.

You will have the opportunity to learn Indigenous crafts in special seminars or to dine in a gourmet restaurant which features locally-sourced dishes ranging from duck breast with blueberry and honey broth sauce to seal tatak to soup with bannock.

The first thing that strikes you on arrival is the contrast between the longhouse that stands alongside the parking lot, and the unique, impressive hotel/museum itself. The pairing is a perfect symbol of the Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations' commitment to honouring and revealing the past, while celebrating the lives and accomplishments of First

Nations people today.

The facility, which is entirely First Nations-owned, the first (now of several) such in Canada, was opened in 2008, with 55 rooms. Only this year, a spacious and elegant addition brought the total number to 79.

From the beginning, the commitment has been to welcome and educate guests about the Huron-Wendat First Nation.

I met Diane Andicha Picard, an artist, elder and teacher, who is a descendant of Huron-Wendat Chiefs Okouandoron and Taourenche. For the past 10 years, she has been leading classes on First Nations craftwork in the lobby of the hotel beside the entrance to the museum.

Andrew Germain, Marketing Advisor with Indigenous Tourism Québec, led us on a tour of the museum which specifically focuses on the history of the Huron-Wendat people.

I have made it my goal of late to take advantage of any opportunity that comes up to learn more about the history of First Nations. And here was yet another wonderful opportunity to learn about a history that was often much less than wonderful, a story that is told very well at this museum.

It's also told exceptionally well by Andrew, himself a member of the Huron-Wendat Nation, a community about which I knew virtually nothing.

I learned that the Huron-Wendat people originally lived primarily in what is now the Greater Toronto Area but their communities were located as far north as

Sault Ste. Marie, and along the Bruce Peninsula. Says Andrew, "We were the commerce tribe... like the grocery store." They were farmers, producing "the three sisters" – corn, squash and beans. They traded with other Indigenous groups as well as with European newcomers, including Jacques Cartier.

When the Europeans arrived, there were over 100,000 Huron-Wendat people in the GTA and environs. In subsequent years, wars involving the European newcomers (largely English vs. French) and pandemics sparked by illnesses imported with the Europeans reduced the population to a tiny fraction of its former size. Some Huron-Wendat moved to Oklahoma where they became known as the Wyandot. Three hundred or so came to what is now Wendake in Québec, a tiny remnant of what was once a great nation.

I know this is a travel feature, not a history lesson, but one of the best things travel does is to enlighten us to the culture and heritage of people whose lives are different from our own, and one of the best places for this I have found in recent years is at Wendake.

In the museum, we saw artifacts from ancient history, all the way up to current works of art. And next door, we were able to visit an authentic reproduction of a longhouse where visitors who register for the opportunity can spend the night, accompanied by a fire keeper. The longhouse at Wendake could sleep 40; some were large enough to house 150!

The historic displays at Hô-



Diane Andicha Picard is a Huron-Wendat artist and elder who teaches Indigenous crafts at the hotel.

tel-Musée Premières Nations are very much worth your attention. And the hotel itself is a wonderful place to stay with large, comfortable rooms, eye-catching Indigenous art and artifacts throughout and an amazing restaurant helmed by French Chef Marc de Passorio. In France, his restaurant earned two Michelin stars – a remarkable feat. But he was captured by the opportunity to create original dishes based in the local terroir and Indigenous culinary traditions. That has led to a menu like no other – unique, creative, and delicious. But more important to de Passorio is the opportunity to mentor Indigenous youth, many of whom are finding a path to personal success through their work under de Passorio.

While we stayed at Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations, we travelled a few minutes to a unique attraction called Onhwa' Lumina, an amazing sound and light show

presented as you stroll after dark through a forest. The show, produced by the ground-breaking company, Moment Factory, presents First Nations culture in a multi-media, multi-acre work of art that captures the imagination and the hearts of visitors.

Suffice it to say, we loved it. The experience is open during all four seasons with a few blackout dates during snow thaw.

So, my fellow Canadian travelers, if you are looking for a destination that combines leisure and luxury with education and entertainment, look no further. I could not recommend Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations and Onhwa' Lumina more highly.

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 Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations, in Wendake, Québec. (All photos by Paul Knowles)



The Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations is not just a four-star hotel; it also features a terrific museum, and a replica longhouse.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - OCTOBER 2023

October 27th	presents the Grand Ole Opry Philipsburg style, featuring Dianne Ditner and Gary Moser. From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., admission is \$10. With special guests: Minnie Pearl and the Hee Haw Gang. Grab your cowboy hats, don some western gear and join for the toe-tappin' afternoon full of country music.	November 1st	Taking place from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Steinmann Mennonite Church, Baden for a conversation about Traditional Indigenous Tobacco led by Ashley Hynd. All are welcome but space is limited so please respond to ecumenicalworkinggroup@gmail.com if you would like to register.	November 15th	Mental Health Breakfast Taking place at Puddicombe House Restaurant at 45 Peel Street from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., with breakfast served at 8 a.m. Come join for a delicious breakfast and intentional conversation about mental health, relationships, human resiliency and the strength of community. \$35 per ticket. Hosted by Wilmot Family Resource Centre and Interfaith Counselling Centre.
Youth Dance	Wellesley & District Lions Club presents a Youth Dance, the first dance of the 2023-2024 school year. From 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Wellesley Community Centre, doors open at 6:45 p.m. For students in grade 5 to grade 8. Music by DJ Brent, family friendly costumes welcome, snacks and drinks available to purchase. \$5 admission.	November 3rd, 4th, 10th & 11th	November 13th	November 17th	Men's Rib & Tail Stag Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Shakespeare at the Shakespeare Community Centre. Catered by Kennedy's. Takeout 6 p.m., dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 including door prizes. Refreshments and games of chance. For tickets call Murray at 519-276-1039 or Gary at 519-272-9140.
October 28th	Tree Planting - Corner of Gengerich RD & Foundry St., Baden From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Join Let's Tree Wilmot to plant trees at a well travelled intersection in Baden. Help grow a forest and increase Wilmot's Tree Canopy. No experience necessary, but advance registration is greatly appreciated. Instructions and refreshments will be provided. Go to letstreewilmot.ca for details and registration or eventbrite.ca/o/lets-tree-wilmot-34384003923 .	November 4th and 5th	Volunteer Led Ecological Restoration Taking place at the Wilmot Recreation Complex from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Let's Tree Wilmot celebrates its accomplishments and volunteers. Volunteer Led Ecological Restoration by speaker Mike Schwarz, a Trees for Woolwich volunteer, founder of Earthscape and conservation award winner. Woolwich Township has The Habitats or Elmira Nature Reserve (67 acres) with 5 ecosystems. An amazing project. Free meeting, refreshments, and celebration. letstreewilmot.ca .	November 18th	Gospel Music Concert The Jantzi's from St. Catharines will be singing at Shantz Mennonite Church, Erb's Road in Baden, at 7 p.m. \$10 donation at the door.
October 30th	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.	November 5th	November 14th		
October 30th	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.	November 5th	Ladies Night Shopping Event Taking place in downtown New Hamburg from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.		
October 31st	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.	November 5th	Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships		

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Upcoming Event

Monkton Autumn Celebrations Saturday, October 28 10AM to 3PM Artisans - Vendors - Food, Elma Logan Recreation Complex 200 Nelson Street, Monkton. *Generous donations for the Monkton Food Bank at Redeemer Lutheran Church would be greatly appreciated!

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Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) Ireland and Britain | 6) Sunlight, crucifixes, garlic |
| 2) Trick or Treat! | 7) Jack-o'-lantern |
| 3) 1692-1693 | 8) 1983 |
| 4) Michael Myers | 9) A coven |
| 5) Scorpio | 10) Ghostbusters! |



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