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Hundreds attend New Hamburg Remembrance Day ceremony



Hundreds of people attended the New Hamburg Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11 to honour veterans. The event mainly took place at the New Hamburg Community Centre. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)

By Veronica Reiner

Hundreds of people packed into the New Hamburg Community Centre to attend the New Hamburg Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11 - the event honoured armed forces members who fought and died in the line of duty.

The ceremony included a moment of silence, a colour party parade, wreath laying ceremony, musical performances by the New Hamburg Concert Band and Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School students, the singing of O Canada.

The colour party parade began their march at around 10:05 a.m. from around the area on Huron Street and Waterloo Street, then travelled along Huron Street to the cenotaph to lay wreaths, then attended the arena at around 10:55 a.m. The Waterloo Warbirds could be spotted flying over New Hamburg within that time frame.

"As we look globally at all of the conflict and grief around us, we're very grateful for those who provided our freedoms here and all of our veterans," said Wilmot

Mayor Natasha Salonen, in a speech to the crowd.

"I will conclude with a quote that actually my dad has hanging in his room, and it's from Winston Churchill. It's 'never has so much been owed to so few by so many.'"

Other dignitaries in attendance included Kitchener-Conestoga Member of Parliament Tim Louis, Kitchener-Conestoga Member of Provincial Parliament Mike Harris, Councillor

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Tavistock Spray Pad construction begins

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Queen's Park in Tavistock is a bit torn up this week as work on the highly anticipated spray pad begins.

The company doing the work, Openspace, has an excavator on site preparing it for the next steps.

The plumbing supplies and equipment are now on site and the next step will be to run piping and add gravel then establish the forms to prepare for the concrete pour. Stubbes Precast will also be delivering a building that will contain the spray pad's control box and will act as a mini pumphouse.

OpenSpace suggests it will take a couple of weeks to prep and pour the concrete and then they will return in the spring to bolt on the fixtures, perform the initial start-up, and provide staff with training for upkeep and maintenance, start-up, and shutdown going forward.

The new spray pad for the Town of Tavistock was first requested by a citizen delegation to council in October 2019. The \$250,000 project is supported through a 2022 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant of \$150,000 and community fundraising efforts of over \$100,000. The spray pad aligns with the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which shows a need to increase access to outdoor aquatic facilities to meet its target service level for its population. Council awarded the contract to construct the new spray pad to Openspace Solutions Inc. at the July 5

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TIM LOUIS Member of Parliament Kitchener-Conestoga

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COMMUNITY —

Tavistock Spray Pad construction begins

Continued from page 1

council meeting.

New EZT municipal building

The Hickson building will be released to the township in the first part of next week, with a migration plan for staff to move across the road in sections during the next two weeks. Township CAO Karen DePrest said they're excited. "We are looking toward our first council meeting being held in the new chambers on December 6 and a grand opening event including an open house and the final 2023 Recreation Advisory Committee meeting on December 13. Stay tuned for more details on both of those public events as we get settled in."

She added that the first meeting in the new digs will not be available online, but they are headed in that direction. "The December 6 meeting will not yet be virtual. Our plan is to have the necessary infrastructure installed and in place for the first of the new year in 2024. We are currently working on a software implementation that will allow a seamless transition into the hardware installation necessary to support the recording and live streaming of our council meetings going forward."



Construction on Tavistock's Spray Pad started this week. Excavating is the first step before plumbing can be roughed in to ready for a concrete pour. It is expected to be operational in the summer of 2024.

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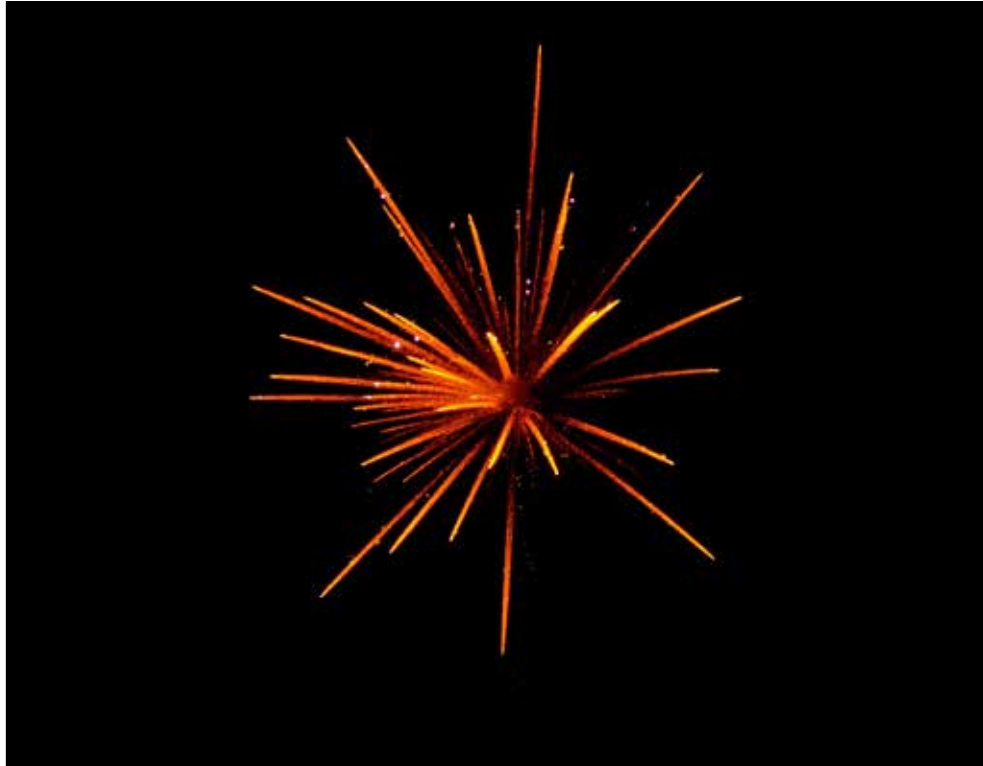
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COMMUNITY —

“Several” complaints made to police about November 12 fireworks



(Photo credit: Neenu Vimalkumar)

By Veronica Reiner

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) said their communications department was “extremely busy with people making complaints” of fireworks across the region on Sunday, November 12.

The WRPS posted on X (formerly known as Twitter) at about 10 p.m. that day, stating that fireworks are permitted until 11 p.m. in celebration of Diwali. Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights, celebrating the triumph of good over evil.

When asked for more information, WRPS Constable Bradley Hickey said that they received “several” complaints, and did

not specify from which townships. He said that 911 should only be contacted in emergency incidents, such as attack/assault, gunshots, fire, medical emergencies, crimes in progress, suspicious activity or serious traffic collisions.

“Reporting fireworks is not an emergency situation and they need to contact the non-emergency number at 519-570-9777 if making a report,” said Hickey.

“It would be best to reach out to bylaw, however, as they generally respond to these calls and would be able to provide information surrounding any warnings/charges that may have been laid last night and over the weekend.”

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COMMUNITY —

Oxford County budget deliberations begin

Draft document shows tax increase over 15 per cent

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford County has tabled its draft budget and as it stands now, it has a tax levy hike of over 15 percent. Members of council haven't yet had a chance to offer their thoughts on what or if they would like some items reduced or deleted altogether, but they will soon get their opportunity.

Budget meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, November 15 at 9:30 a.m. along with other sessions on November 29 and then a regular council meeting on December 13 to likely approve it.

East Zorra-Tavistock Mayor Phil Schaefer, the area representative on county council, wouldn't go into detail on what his thoughts are on the document but did say he's prepared to do his homework. "Yes, it is still early so I will be digging into the draft budget document and asking questions of the various department heads to get a clear picture of the funding requests, as well as working collaboratively with my fellow councillors to ensure we can deliver the services that the residents of Oxford require."

Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione told the Gazette that he was surprised when he first saw the document's price tag. "To be honest with you, I was shocked. I knew there would be a big ask and for some reason, I thought they were going to come in with 10 percent. I was not expecting 15.3. In today's financial hardships for so many people, there are a lot of things that need to be looked at. Are they really a priority at this time and can people afford to do this?"

Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan admitted there are big things in this budget, partly due to a new strategic plan. "We just had an election a year ago and those councillors heard from many people about the things they want. There are some big things in it." The budget's increase over 2023, according to Ryan, can partially be blamed on inflation. "It is a reflection of what everyone is experiencing. Every time we get groceries, pay rent, renew a mortgage, or fill up a vehicle with gas, those prices have all gone up. Municipalities buy those same things to varying degrees." He added the cost of maintaining roads, bridges, water treatment plants, and ambulances have all risen. On a positive note, the warden



does say a soon-to-be-released report on assessment growth should ease some of the budget pain. "We are going to take out some assessment growth from that 15 per cent. Every new home and new business that adds value to property is a new taxpayer and that reduces the burden on the existing ratepayers. We will get that report later in November. Whatever per cent that is comes right off the 15."

According to figures sent to the Gazette by Lynn Buchner, the County's Director of Corporate Services, the 2024 draft budget levies would result in EZT being billed \$6.9 million in 2024, compared to \$5.9 million in 2023, which is a 15.8% increase year over year. "However, this figure will be reduced based on assessment growth that was realized in 2023. Based on preliminary assessment figures, we expect that the 15.8% year-over-year increase in the county's levy will be reduced to a 15.2% increase over last year's levy apportionment. Please note these are preliminary and subject to change before the budget is approved," added Buchner.

The draft budget includes the equivalent of 41 new full-time positions ranging from 9.4 in Paramedic Services to 7.9 at Woodingford Lodge and 3.5 in the Oxford County Library system. In addition to more library staff, they are asking for \$5.2 million dollars, an increase of nearly 22 per cent from this year. Southwestern Public Health is also asking for a 19.4 per cent increase totalling \$3.3 million.

Acchione said while he believes county staff used what council has requested in budget discussions to create the document, he said it's just too much of everything. "I think it's too many things, way too many people. Again, in this tough financial environment, we really need to be careful and I'm not sure this budget that

is being proposed is recognizing the hardships some people are facing."

He added his job going forward is to figure out what areas can be put in the parking lot for now and what money needs to be spent next year. "I have no doubt every single thing involved in the budget is a priority of council, but I don't know if it has to be done in 2024. I've marked up my pages quite a bit already and I am looking forward to this week's first sit-down to talk about it publicly with staff. There are definitely more than a few areas where I am ready to say listen, this isn't the highest priority for next year."

Ryan said the proposed increase of 41 full-time equivalent staff members is a direct result of what residents of Oxford have been asking for. "That is a driver for a lot of these initiatives. The big spends of a million in housing, a million in long-term

care, and \$2.3 million in ambulance, a lot of that money is people to deliver those services. When an ambulance comes to your house because you have a heart attack, first off buying an ambulance costs a lot of money and to put two people in it who are professional and experienced and working a lot of hours, that costs a lot of money as well." He added that of the 41 proposed new jobs, 11 are partially or fully paid for by grants. Ryan also felt it was important to note that Oxford County ratepayers have had tax increases less than the cost of inflation over the last five years so there is some catching up to do now which is a part of the proposed tax increase.

One thing the mayor of Woodstock and the warden of Oxford County agree on is that taxpayers should be involved in the budget process, something that doesn't happen generally speaking. "This is their budget. They are the ones who have been making requests of what they want to see, and it's been clear housing is a big priority. The availability of and affordability of safe appropriate housing is a significant concern for Woodstock residents," said Acchione. Ryan added he always wants to hear from more people. "I'd encourage people to go to the (Oxford County website). The budget is very long and very detailed, but it starts off at a very high level talking about the priorities that council told staff to build the budget around."



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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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COMMUNITY —

Stratford Concert Choir hosts sing-along Messiah

By Veronica Reiner

The Stratford Concert Choir (SCC) - which draws in members from all over, including several members from Wilmot - will ring in the festive season with a new twist on an old favourite — a sing-along Messiah.

The SCC has been performing Messiah for more than 30 years, but this is the first time there will be audience participation. The event will provide a chance for anyone who has ever wanted to sing Handel's masterpiece to join in.

"When I talk with fellow conductors about their experience doing a sing-along Messiah, their faces light up and you can hear the excitement in their voices. This is one of those events in which people enjoy participating," said Artistic Director Stéphane Potvin. "I am very excited about this concert and I promise you that this is going to be a lot of fun for the community and for the choir.



The Stratford Concert Choir will host a sing-along Messiah at Avondale United Church in Stratford on Sunday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m.

He added that the SCC is currently in its polishing stage to perfect their performance - there are several more rehearsals planned. Singing experience is not a requirement for those who want to attend. Audience members will be seated in sections (soprano, alto, tenor, bass), although family and friends are welcome to sit together. The choir will be joining from the stage.

"From experience, there are people who just want to listen, they're not there to sing, they just want to enjoy a nice evening of music," said Stéphane. The sing-along Messiah is designed to appeal to all audiences.

He added that the environment will be very informal, which will make the experience comfortable for all. "There's no pressure about when you clap, and should you be quiet, or what's happening, or being in a choir where you have to perform at a certain level," explained Stéphane. "This is just let's get together and let's have a great time."

Although it will be casual, there will be professional musicians featured in the performance playing organ, trumpet and timpani. The audience and choir will sing the choruses.

When he first suggested the idea to the SCC's repertoire planning committee, their response was enthusiastic. "My initial reaction was, 'Oh! Fun!'" said chorister Sheila Holloway, in a release. Holloway was keen because of her experience at sing-along Messiahs at Massey Hall in Toronto.

"We want to attract people from all walks of life and all levels of experience," added Holloway. "It will be an encouraging environment to make a joyful noise."

"I think my response was, 'Oh, that's a good idea!" said chorister Jill Wright, who is on the SCC board. "Some of the conversations we've been having are about reaching out into the community more than we have, and this is one way of starting some

sort of community involvement," she said. "This is just a different thing for us to be doing. We're coming out of COVID, and so preoccupied with atrocities past and present, and this is a joyful, well-written piece of music telling a great story. It's part of many people's Christmas tradition," she said.

Another unique feature is that all the soloists for the evening are music students from the University of Western who are in various stages of their training. "I reached out to the music department and professors were really on board with the idea," said Stéphane. "They helped us by advertising and arranging studio space for auditions. They saw this as a great opportunity for their students."

Stéphane said that there were plenty of University of Western students who auditioned, and that the four were selected based on their sound, their approach to the music and their ability to do a good job.

Holloway summed up the event: "Whether you're a singer or you're a supporter, I don't think there can be anything better than experiencing the joy of Handel's Messiah in a wonderful, sing-along, surround-sound setting."

The SCC is made up of a variety of people, including men and women from ages 17 all the way up to 80s. "We have people in their 20s, quite a number of new people in their 30s this year, and of course 40s, 50s, 60s this year," said Stéphane. "There's quite a wide range of people from all sorts of backgrounds, so it's a very nice mix of membership."

The sing-along Messiah will take place on Sunday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Avondale United Church in Stratford. Tickets are available at www.stratford-concertchoir.org or Blowes Stationery in Stratford. Scores are available online or in person at Long & McQuade, Stratford: www.long-mcquade.com/27323/Print/Voice/Halleo/Messiah.htm.



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COMMUNITY —

Thrive alive with Vibrant Farms



Katie and Dennis Baer. (Photo credit: Sylvia Pond)



Dan Baer. (Photo credit: Sylvia Pond)

By Mercedes Kay Gold

Vibrant Farms was established in 1988, and pride themselves on being one of the longest certified organic farms in the area. The Baer family has been living the country life for 200 years in Baden, but 35 years ago, they had the foresight to shift to organic farming. This holistic nutritionist excitedly went for a ‘meat and greet.’ In today’s hustle and bustle, delivery is handy, but please take time to pick-up your order, ask questions and get to know your farmer. The food on your fork has the power to change your overall health inside and out. Healthy living is not being on a diet, but rather a daily decision to eat a clean wholesome diet. Read that again!

Vibrant Farms offers high-quality, organic, grass-fed beef, pastured poultry, turkey, lamb, and pork. Meat is nutrient-dense and part of an overall healthy lifestyle. It all comes down to quality over quantity. Vibrant Farms focuses on four pillars. Healthy soil, happy animals, healthy nourishment, and building community.

We are what we eat, and we are what our meat eats. It begins with the soil. Grass-fed cattle eat grass, fertilize the land, and by rotating the herds to graze, Vibrant Farms continuously builds and maintains a thriving ecosystem. For thirty years and counting, their animals dine on lush green grass, free of chemicals and GMO’s.

Vibrant Farms raise animals from beginning to end, eliminating the need for vaccinations, medications and antibiotics. The overall well-being of all the animals is of utmost importance. A grain-free grass-fed diet supports

digestive health and enjoying a life outdoors and indoors during the colder months leads to a stress-free life.

Vibrant Farms provides us with healthy nourishment. Anti-meat advocates, whether environmentalists or vegans frequently frighten the public, but the truth is, there are heaps of health-minded reasons to eat meat. Whether you love a rare ribeye, go bonkers for brisket or are passionate about pulled pork, meat provides protein. Protein is an essential macronutrient and unlike most plants, meat contains all the amino acids. Its body-boosting benefits are crucial for cellular processes and immune function. Protein helps build and repair muscle, support bone health, fuel energy, and lower blood pressure. All animal-based protein is lower in calories than fat per gram and slower than carbohydrates to digest, promoting a feeling of fullness. Protein is linked to stable blood sugar in the body, helping hinder ‘hangry.’ Protein manages mood swings associated with the roller coaster of sugar dysregulation. Grass-fed beef contains more vital

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Vibrant Farms is a family-run business on a mission to build community. Taking care of the land and animals holistically, the Baer family helps connect people with Mother Nature. Vibrant Farms is also home to thousands of busy bees who work hard producing the liquid gold bottled by The Backyard Honey Company.

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COMMUNITY —

To heat pump, or not to heat pump in Oxford

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The recent federal government announcement to take the carbon tax off heating oil and offer free heat pumps may be a relief for some people, but there is a great deal of confusion on the details. The Gazette reached out to an HVAC company from Woodstock that does a fair bit of work in Tavistock and also spoke with an East Zorra-Tavistock couple living in a rural area where there is no option to hook up to natural gas. The results of both conversations were interesting.

Paul Acchione with Select Heating and Cooling said anyone with an installed forced air system can install a heat pump, and in his professional opinion heat pumps are a solid replacement for homes using oil. "The technology in the new heat pumps is well worth the investment I would say. I have one in my own house and one in my cottage and it cuts my propane bill by a quarter without really impacting my hydro bill."

Acchione said the average cost for a heat pump is \$8500 which would replace an existing air conditioning unit. "The current Greener Homes rebate gives up to \$7100 back and an audit will need to be done to go into that program and another audit after the pump's installation." The way the program works is someone who is on home heating oil gets a rebate of \$5600 but someone on natural gas with Enbridge gets the maximum of \$7100. One of the problems recently has been the availability of heat pumps from the factories that make them, something Acchione said is starting to

improve. He feels the recent federal government announcement jumped the gun. "I'll be honest with you, the manufacturers are trying to get caught up. I find they made the announcement too early, and we couldn't get the product. Now they are finally trickling in." He added a good chunk of his business is providing heat pumps to new homes where builders are having them installed where natural gas service isn't available. "I think where new construction is going is by 2030 there will be no carbon footprint. It's coming faster than what we think. We've been installing these heat pumps for over a year and a half now. This isn't new to us and it's now getting a lot of attention."

Acchione said people seem to be afraid of the cost but when it's all said and done it might result in a homeowner being out of pocket \$1500. "Think of it as replacing your AC. We are replacing that outdoor condenser with a heat pump that heats your home until it's -20 outside." He said if someone is contemplating the move the first step is to call their HVAC contractor and go from there. "Make sure they do a proper heat loss, and heat gain calculation and size it accordingly. You may or may not have to replace your furnace. There are some standalone units meaning all you would need to do is replace the outdoor condenser and the indoor coil." The old furnace would then be used as a backup heat source should temperatures dip below -20.

One big question people always ask is how quickly they will get their money back from any rebate program. Acchione said in his experience is that it takes several months.

"We're finding it takes about five months. "It all depends on how quickly people do their audit. That has to be done when the work is completed. It also suggests other improvements homeowners can make to save money like sealing holes, and replacing windows, it's not just for HVAC."

Greg and Leanne Darlington live on the 14th Line in East Zorra-Tavistock, near Maplewood Sideroad. They use home heating oil and have a wood stove. Leanne said she's done a fair bit of research, and she doesn't think a heat pump would work for them. "I'm not an HVAC person and I guess it depends on who you talk to. I'm just not sure the technology is there yet."

Darlington said she believes if they were to switch the price tag would be much higher than \$8500. "Even if we were to get \$5600 back, we would need to be able to solely be on a heat pump that would be rated to work to -20 and would cost anywhere from \$12,000 to \$20,000. If we didn't go with the most expensive one, we would still need a secondary heat source. Frankly, we don't know what the price of electricity will be down the road." Darlington said they are caught between saving money versus looking after the environment. "I struggle with that. I want to care for the environment. Where we live, we don't have a choice. We are either oil or propane, or we put in a heat pump." There is a natural gas bulk line in close proximity to Darlington's home but if they wanted access they would have to pay for the hookup.

"It would have cost us \$10,000 twenty years ago."

Leanne said they just had their oil tank partially filled and the price of the oil was \$1.50 a litre for 571 litres and included a total of nearly \$200 of the carbon tax and HST on top of the actual bill. The carbon tax currently sits at 17 percent which HST is also charged. She added the bottom line is they will take their time to make a decision. "I will look into it more, maybe talk to more HVAC companies to get some good, honest opinions. If we had a really cold winter, could the heat pump hold up and what would the cost be?"

The Gazette reached out to Oxford Conservative MP Arpan Khanna and Kitchener-Conestoga Liberal MP Tim Louis for comment. Louis was not able to reply by press time, but Khanna said there is still some confusion regarding what the Liberals are pitching. "The initial program is quite intensive to apply for, and very few Canadians have used it. According to an order paper question since the program's inception in November 2022, only 43 heat pumps have been installed nationwide." He added an opposition team is still trying to sort out details of the revamped program, which has yet to be announced. "Our office has had a few inquiries, but only a few. In general, most of the feedback I have received is based on fairness. People are asking why other forms of home heating are not included (in a carbon tax exemption)."

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COMMUNITY —

Hundreds attend New Hamburg Remembrance Day ceremony



The colour party flew various flags during the Remembrance Day ceremony, including this Poppy flag.

Continued from page 1

Lillianne Dunstall, Councillor Harvir Sidhu, Councillor Kris Wilkinson and Councillor Steve Martin.

Some of the speeches delivered touched on the Memorial Banner program, which saw 209 banners hung up around New Hamburg this year as a way to honour

and remember veterans. Each banner has the name of the veteran, photo, the era of service, branch of the military, the years served, and sponsor of the banner.

"It's because of the dedication of so many that the banner project has brought unity, love and heart back into our community," said Marie Voisin, member of the Royal Canadian Legion. "The banners were



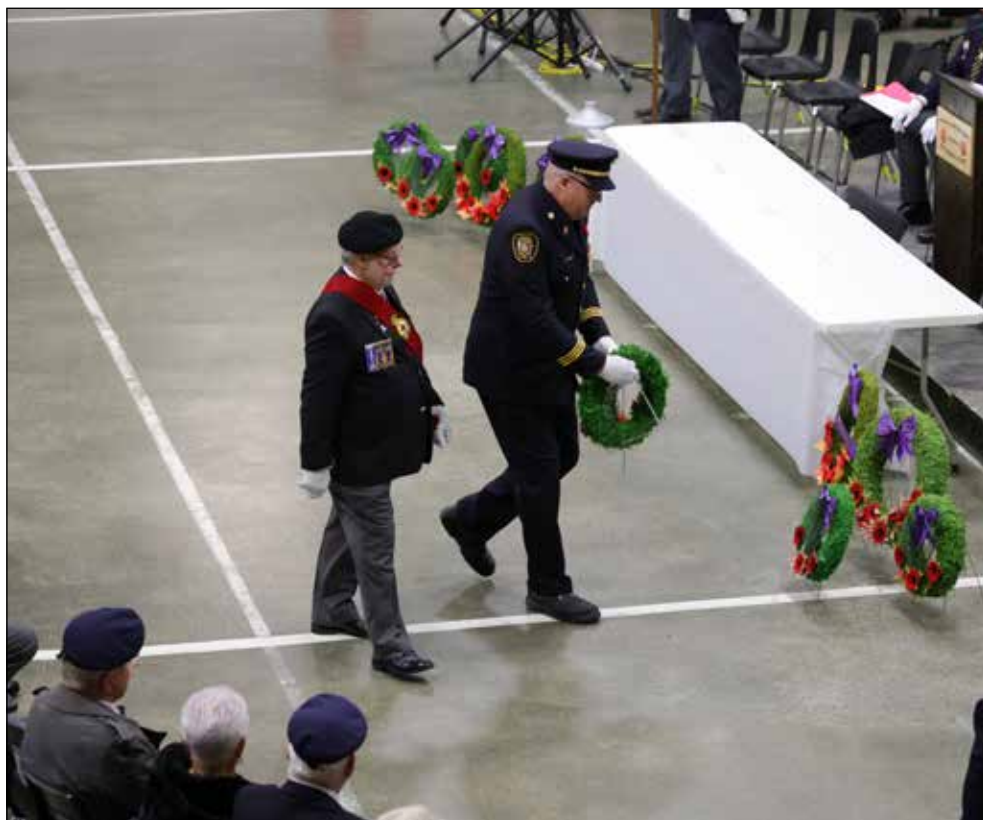
The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts club laid a wreath during the Remembrance Day ceremony.

strategically placed in front of the houses that the veterans owned or the businesses where they worked.

"Many people are back here today who live far away because they wanted to see their parents on the banners. These people have come from across Canada, they've returned to New Hamburg. People have told us they became very emotional when

they saw their parents' banners hanging and they would visit their banners several times a week."

In previous years, the ceremony has entirely taken place at the New Hamburg cenotaph. Currently, the area surrounding the cenotaph is under construction for the Nith River Promenade project.



The Waterloo Regional Police Service laid a wreath during the Remembrance Day ceremony.



The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts walk up to lay their wreath.

COMMUNITY —

TPS has portable classroom installed

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tavistock Public School now has a portable classroom on its grounds. There is no word when it will be operational, but it arrived at the school last week.

Thames Valley District School Board spokesperson Cheryl Weedmark said temporary accommodations such as portables are required to manage fluctuations in enrolment at schools throughout the board. "Sometimes it is necessary to make classroom changes during the start of the new year to maintain compliance with classroom caps as a result of changing enrolment. I don't know what classroom is being moved into the portable at this time. The principal would likely know."

The Gazette asked the board for the number of students over the last several years, but Weedmark said she could not produce them by press time. She did say the school will notify

parents and the students who will be placed into the portable.

Principal Jill Shushkewich sent an email to parents recently. "The end of the week brings some excitement to our school! Depending on the delivery time, there could be disruptions to traffic flow and vehicular access to the school. We will do our best to minimize these disruptions. We may need to make adjustments to recess procedures during the day. We will always prioritize student safety but may be able to get creative in having our students outside throughout the day. We also ask that you remind your children to steer clear of the portables after hours, especially during the set-up phase. Thank you for your help here." She added that the installation of all components of a portable, plus the inspections and approvals for occupancy can take some time. "We will keep you updated about when it will be ready for student use," she added.



Shown is the portable at Tavistock Public School which is expected to house students in the near future. The temporary building is located on the grass out the school's back doors.

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COMMUNITY —

New Hamburg MCC helping to feed the world's hungry

By Gary West

"Meat for Life" is a phrase used by the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), and also the name of a campaign underway to describe a much needed program to fill and ship cans of meat to those in need in various parts of the world.

On October 4, seven men from the area and from all walks of life, got together to discuss setting up a stationary meat cannery at M.C.C. Ontario's New Hamburg location.

The cannery will be located at 65 Heritage Drive, in the MCC Material Resources Centre, next door to the MCC Thrift Store.

With rising costs of food around the world, food assistance is in high demand.

Through this project, MCC Ontario will have the ability to can meat all year round, and during times of uncertainty, such as pandemics, or Canada/U.S. border closures.

This cannery will put the Mennonite Central Committee in a better position to respond to partner requests for meat, a viable protein source, and will also improve their capacity to help alleviate emergency food needs.



Last week at the "Meat for Life" campaign kick off includes from left to right, Merv Erb, Lynn Yantzi, Bruce Bechtel, Clare Schlegel, Bob Jantzi, and Gerald Jantzi. Absent is Bruce Schumm. Darlene Bartha (Major Gifts and Donor Relations for MCC) is at the podium thanking all seven volunteers for getting the fundraising drive started.

Program co-ordinator Jon Lebold, was happy to see the "Meat for Life" campaign initiated by Clare Schlegel, Bruce Bechtel, Lynn Yantzi, Mervyn Erb, Gerald Jantzi, Bob Jantzi and Bruce Schumm.

The goal is to raise \$250,000 to get MCC to the finish line. Funds have been flowing in ever since the kickoff on November 10th.

Here are the stationary cannery facts donors should know:

- Cannery layout is around 10,000 ft.² at 65

Heritage Dr. in New Hamburg.

- It will be a fully licensed, federally inspected meat processing facility.

- They are hoping to produce 90,000 pounds of canned meat in its first year of operation, and that is double what they could produce with the mobile cannery that was used to visit prior to 2019.

- They will be focussing on canning poultry to start, for the following reasons:

A) poultry is a recognized protein, in all of the countries MCC does ship to.

B) they already have the cooking processes in place for poultry.

C) they can also typically source poultry, cheaper than pork or beef at the present time.

- Volunteers will come from across Canada to help can the meat.

A) Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp will be one of the lodging locations.

B) groups can fund raise for the MCC cannery, and MCC will source the meat for the group to then come into the cannery to can.

- The meat cans produced will be shipped internationally as part of the material resources relief shipments, and will also be available for domestic distribution when and where needed.

Donors can pledge amounts into next year for operational expenses (and receive tax receipts).

The public will be invited to a grand opening at the plant this spring.

More info and to donate go to mcc.org/meat-for-life

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COMMUNITY —

Large turnout for this year's Men's Club Sauerkraut Supper in Tavistock



The lineup of traffic on Maria Street, before the start of the annual Tavistock Men's Club Sauerkraut Supper. (Photo credit: Valerie Kropf)



It takes 32 women and men who together volunteer in the Tavistock Memorial Hall to serve 840 sauerkraut suppers to drive through supper eaters. (Photo credit: Valerie Kropf)

By Gary West

The Tavistock Men's Club Sauerkraut Supper has to be one of the highlights of November for local residents, who can't wait for a taste of this year's freshly made sauerkraut, along with Perth County pork chops, which also includes a side of hot beans, potato, bun and homemade apple pie with cheese.

The rainy, cool weather didn't seem to affect the traffic

volunteers from guiding the onslaught of cars and trucks, to the awaiting dinners being served in a drive through fashion around the memorial hall.

Traffic began to line up before the 4 p.m. start, and were methodically guided through as quickly as they were, in less than ideal weather conditions.

Men's Club President Ken Kropf, was pleased that 32 members and all their helpers, were able to serve 840 as

quickly as they did.

He said with the tradition going on now for many decades, he knows it's one event that area residents look forward to. Ken thanked all those who purchased tickets and the many volunteers for making the sauerkraut supper another very successful event, and hopes everyone will be back again next November to continue the annual tradition.

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FAMILY MILESTONES —

OBITUARY

CARTER, Roy Charles



September 30, 1930 – November 10, 2023
CARTER, Roy Charles – 93, of Park Place, Woodstock passed away in Woodstock General Hospital on Friday, November 10, 2023. He was born in Embro, Oxford County on September 30, 1930, a son of the late Merrill and Mabel (Hart) Carter.

Roy's wife, Mary (Gray) Carter, whom he married on September 22, 1951, predeceased him on August 21, 2015. His son, Jim, predeceased him in 2018.

Roy is survived by his daughters, Sharon Smith (Don) of Embro and Diane Clark (Lawrence) of Woodstock; his daughter-in-law, Cheryl Carter of Delhi; eight grandchildren, Carrie Weber (Cory) of Toronto, Christine Halicki (Brett) of Vancouver, Julie Clark of Courtice, Adam Clark (Kara) of Kitchener, Jessie Carter (Christine) of Norwich, Jamie Carter (Niki) of Delhi, Joey Carter (Ashley) of Delhi, Morgan Nguyen (Jason) of Cambridge; eight great-grandchildren; his sister, Pat Minler; sisters-in-law, Carol Carter and Sharon Carter; "Gray" brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Joyce Gray, Joyce Martland (Bill) of Woodstock, Mabel Needham of London, Bernard Gray (Anne) of Sweaburg.

Predeceased by his brothers, Robert Carter and Ken Carter; his brother-in-law, Robert Minler; "Gray" brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Bill and Mary Gray, John and Teresa Gray, Violet White, George and Velma Gray, Jim Gray and Gary Needham.

Roy had operated Carter's Farm Supply for many years on his 50-acre property on the 13th line of East Zorra Township just south of Hickson. The family also sold poultry and eggs in the old Woodstock Farmer's Market in downtown Woodstock. After selling the farm, he and Mary built a new home on Highway 59 across from Willow Lake. They lived there for 23 years. Last year he moved to Park Place, Woodstock. Roy and Mary enjoyed travelling all over the world, especially the trips that he won as top salesman for Buchanan Farm Equipment of Woodstock.

In honour of Roy's request, there will be no funeral home visitation or funeral service. A private interment in Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Huntingford will follow cremation.

If desired, expressions of sympathy, donations to Christ Church Anglican Church Women, VON Sakura House, Woodstock or the Palliative Care Unit of the Woodstock General Hospital would be greatly appreciated and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home, P.O. Box 208, Tavistock N0B 2R0 by calling 1-519-655-2431. Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) Who is the voice of Lorax in "The Lorax"?
- 2) What is the atomic number for uranium?
- 3) Which type of wood is commonly used for making pencils?
- 4) How many strings on a Cello?
- 5) What three colors make up The Netherlands flag?
- 6) How many wonders of the world are there?
- 7) What is the capital of Thailand?
- 8) In Shakespeare's Hamlet, what is Hamlet's mother's name?
- 9) What is the scientific name for the windpipe?
- 10) Who sings the song "Head Over Boots"?

Answers found on page 26

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

November 16: Happy birthday to Sofia Salese (16), Megan Furlong (22), Jessica Ross (25), Sharon-Lee Landriault (81), and anniversary for Frank and Rachel Stewart (27th).

November 17: Happy birthday to Bryson Witzel (8), Steffan Bontaine (14), Landen Zehr (18), Jesse Yantzi, and Annie Rowland.

November 18: Happy birthday to Chloe Hazeleger (7) and anniversary for Ron and Joan Ferguson (45th).

November 19: Happy birthday to Nicholas Alexander (21).

November 20: Happy birthday to Kynslee Richardson (10) and Isaac Currah (18), and anniversaries for Bart & Gerry Danen (54th), Glen & Rhoda Baechler (59th).

November 21: Happy birthday to Ben Dufton (13).

November 22: Happy birthday to Isabella Matthews (13), Alyssa Matthews (13), and Aude Stock-Bateman (17).

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

The Old Gazettes

By Jake Grant

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

November 13-20, 2013, Edition (10 years ago)

Sargent Santa stopped in Tavistock last week to make the community aware of his efforts. The "Veterans Walk & Roll Drive" is a walk and roll from London to Petawawa to gather toys for Veterans, soldiers and especially their families as a thank you to them for their commitment to Canada.

October 7th was the opening of the Village Manor café for the fall season. About 20 residents and staff enjoyed fellowship, fruit, and goodies.

The Tavistock Men's Club held another successful Roast Pork and Sauerkraut Supper on Wednesday evening, November 13th, 2013. The number of patrons attending the club's 55th annual event was the highest its ever been since 2006. A total of 1,586 meals were purchased during the evening. Co-convenors Bill Wettlaufer, Ron Wiffen and Steve Cahill were thrilled by the outcome.

November 12-19, 2003, Edition (20 years ago)

East Zorra-Tavistock elects Don E. McKay as new Mayor. Mr. McKay replaces Dave Oliphant who has served as the township's Mayor for the past three years. Mr. McKay said he hopes to bring about a more responsive council that listens to the people. This is East Zorra-Tavistock's 5th mayor since amalgamation in 1975.

Cheese factory officials are praising the work of the Tavistock fire department for

keeping damage to a minimum in a fire at the plant on Friday. Construction workers scrambled to safety after what was thought to be a welding spark ignited materials at the site where tradesmen were putting the finishing touches on a multistorey addition.

On November 13th at 6:20 p.m., the Oxford Community Police investigated a motor vehicle collision on County Rd. #24 just east of the 18th Line. A Chevrolet Cargo Van lost control and crossed the center line colliding with an eastbound Dodge pickup. Both vehicles were driving about 70km/h and struck each other head on. Both drivers were wearing their seatbelts and that is the reason they are alive today. The collision caused \$18,000 in damages and no charges were laid due to the snowstorm conditions.

November 9-16, 1983, Edition (40 years ago)

A new speaker system is being installed in the Tavistock Arena. After many discussions on the subject in previous years, the Tavistock Recreation Committee authorized the system to be set up at a cost of \$1,500.

A boo to the Provincial Police cruiser that raced through town at such an outrageous rate of speed on Hallowe'en night. This happening on the one night of the year when all motorists are urged to drive with extreme care. I do not think the police have the right to jeopardize the safety of the citizens or motorists in our town and possibly cause an accident or injury to anyone regardless of what the reason was for driving like that cruiser did.

On November 8th, the Bantam Juveniles played in Plattsville and after leading 4-1 at the end of two periods were tied at 4-4 on a goal by Plattsville with 21 seconds left to play. Bob Burgess, Kevin Zehr, David Gole

and Rick McIntosh scored with assists from Greg Hanlon, Kevin Yantzi, Gole, Zehr and Shawn Bender.

November 13-20, 1963, Edition (60 years ago)

During the annual meeting of the Tavistock and District Bible Society, held at Trinity Parish Hall Friday night, it was reported that \$1,011.37 had been forwarded to the London office of the Society from contributions received during the year that just ended. President Lee stressed the great need for more Bibles, and he thanks the community for all their support.

William C. Matthies, who had been assistant postmaster at the local office since May 1, 1962, received word Thursday he had been the successful candidate in an examination, and will be appointed postmaster about the middle of next January. Mr. Matthies will succeed Theodore Wilker, who has been postmaster since March 3, 1941.

Presented by the Lend-A-Hand Literary Society of East Zorra Mennonite Church, the three-act play, "One Foot in Heaven" was seen by more than 1,100 persons at the Memorial Hall Thursday and Friday nights. Proceeds from the two-night showing will go for mission work of the church.

It is more than obvious that the annual sauer kraut supper sponsored by the Tavistock Men's Club and Board of Trade has been a "must" to attend throughout this area. Last Wednesday night 1,117 persons partook of the repast prepared and served at the Memorial Hall. Much of the credit for the success of the venture goes to the wives of the members of the sponsoring organization, for without their help and assistance, the task of serving those who attended would have been impossible for the men alone to cope with.

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COMMUNITY —

Kitchener-Conestoga MPP aims to introduce Harvest Season Road Safety Week

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff
Kitchener-Conestoga Member of Provincial Parliament Mike Harris introduced a private members' bill that, if passed, would designate the week, starting with the third Monday of September each year, as Harvest Season Road Safety Week.

The aim is to heighten road safety awareness throughout the province and reduce accidents. It would also reinforce the importance of responsible road sharing for all users.

"Our rural communities naturally require more road time for personal, commercial and agricultural vehicles and equipment.

We want to encourage Ontario's drivers to always stay vigilant, especially around Harvest Season when we have seen a rise in collision statistics," said MPP Harris.

"By raising awareness, we can share the roads and ensure our farmers get their work done safely so everyone goes home to their families at the end of the day."

Rural Ontario witnesses the onset of harvest activities as fall starts, resulting in increased traffic and farm equipment on the roads. Traffic safety is paramount for pedestrians, drivers, and farmers alike.

Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Robert Flack initially introduced the bill, but he could not see it through the legislative

process due to an appointment to cabinet. "Throughout my career in agribusiness, as a farmer, and now as a Member of Provincial Parliament, I have seen firsthand the need to raise more awareness for rural road safety," said MPP Flack. "To help prevent accidents and save lives, it is imperative to raise awareness of the fall harvest season for those travelling on Ontario's rural roads."

According to federal government data,

slow-moving vehicles are 3.8 to 4.8 times more likely to be involved in a fatal collision per kilometre on the road than other motor vehicles.

OPP statistics show that farm slow-moving vehicle injuries and fatalities are mostly related to rollovers, and these generally occur while entering, exiting, or crossing roadways, veering off the shoulder and accidents involving a motor.

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NOTICE

Region of Waterloo

Notice of Intention to Pass Fees and Charges By-Law

The Region of Waterloo intends to pass a By-law to Establish Fees and Charges, which includes new fees and charges, as well as amendments and/or removal of existing fees and charges. Some of the changes included in the by-law are for transit services, waste management services, airport services, cultural services, seniors' services and paramedic services.

The by-law will be considered at the Regular Council Meeting, where the Final 2024 Budget approval will also occur, scheduled for:

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Held in the Council Chamber and electronically

2nd Floor, Administration Building

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener

A copy of the proposed by-law will be available for review in the Council and Administrative Services Office, Region of Waterloo, 2nd Floor, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener. If you have questions concerning the amendments, please email budgets@regionofwaterloo.ca.

If you wish to speak at the Council meeting regarding the proposed by-law, please register as a delegation with the Region's Council and Administrative Services Division, using the Delegation form at <https://forms.regionofwaterloo.ca/Counciland-Administrative-Services/CAS/Delegation-Registration> or by calling 519-575-4400 by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023.

Dated this 21st day of November, 2023.

William Short

Director, Council and Administrative Services/Regional Clerk

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regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca

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COMMUNITY —

Farm scenes at corn harvest time in South Easthope



Dan Bell combining a 220 bushel crop of corn on November 11th, on the Fred Schuler & Sons farm west of Shakespeare, in South Easthope township, on a perfect fall harvest day. Kevin Schuler is operating the grain buggy. (Photo credit: Gary West)



On the same farm, following the completion of combining, owner Fred Schuler is disc-ripping left over corn stalks, preparing the land for winter, before snow and freezing occurs, in preparation for next spring. (Photo credit: Gary West)



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COMMUNITY —

North Easthope awarded a lifetime membership



Wellesley's Calvin Schmidt, receiving a lifetime membership certificate from Antique tractor Club President John Mohr, at their annual banquet last week in Shakespeare.

By Gary West

Close to 200 North Easthope Antique Tractor (N.E.A.T) club members and their guests awarded a North Easthope farmer, in a special presentation, at their annual banquet last week in Shakespeare.

Calvin Schmidt always had a love and a soft spot for tractors from years gone by, and especially the orange "Allis Chalmers." He says he was very humbled for the recognition and award.

The framed certificate is a lifetime club membership. This is in recognition of the use of his farm's shop facilities, to complete

the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) tractor restoration projects for the N.E.A.T. Club over the last number of years, in raising money for MCC Projects.

As a former silo builder, Calvin's history includes being past president of the Ontario Silo Association and had the honour to serve as the first Canadian to chair the board of the International Silo Association.

He has also served on the North Easthope township council in the past, and was the founding director of the Allis-Chalmers Club of Ontario.

Remembrance Day at Shakespeare's Sprucedale Public School



Last weeks Remembrance Day ceremony at Sprucedale Public School from, left to right, 98 year old veteran, Clarence McCallum, Richard Mickle, a war veteran, LeRoy Workman and Dale Bast, long time members of the Stratford Legion Branch 8, and teacher Mrs. Green. They all took part with the school's students in the ceremonial wreath laying at the school's auditorium.

By Gary West

Every year when the calendar reads November 11th, Canadians and those all around the world, wear a poppy and at 11 a.m. pause and remember those who gave the ultimate price for our freedom.

The students, staff and guests at Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare took part in a moving ceremony in the school's auditorium last week. At the same time, they were honoured to have four Stratford Legion members in attendance to witness the school's wreath laying

ceremony.

Principal Mrs. Cairn-Cross and teacher Mrs. Green, organized a fitting tribute with student participation in a well organized ceremony, in which students and flag bearers took part, in a ceremony not soon to be forgotten.

The Legion members were the first to salute in the playing of O Canada in a tribute to fallen soldiers of past conflicts and world wars that occurred in many parts of the world.

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COMMUNITY —

Shakespeare's Optimists tour Nuhn Industries

By Gary West

The village of Sebringville, in the past, has probably not had the distinction of being a manufacturing hub. However, a large number of Shakespeare Optimist Club members, after a tour of Nuhn Industries last week, would tend to think differently.

Nuhn industry President Dennis Nuhn, welcomed the Shakespeare visitors for a tour of their ever expanding manufacturing facility, where liquid agricultural manure handling is, and has been, their business for decades.

While employing over 150 plant and office staff, Nuhn gave a brief history of the company, stating the company started in humble beginnings generations ago, with grandfather Simon Nuhn, at a small welding shop in Wartburg, a few miles north of their present location.

It was in 1965 when Dennis Nuhn, always the innovator, recalled making his first liquid manure spreader, fabricated from an old gas tank.

Since then, the business has sold thousands of their bright red manure tanks, pumps and spreaders.

Dennis's son, Ian, is the fourth generation to come into the family's business and thinking outside the box, engineered an innovative floating self propelled liquid manure crawler for stirring large earthen lagoons of animal waste. They have now built and delivered hundreds all over the world.

The company has recently come up with a self-propelled manure vacuum machine used in large dairy and beef farms worldwide, and especially on large farms with U.S. neighbours to the south, to vacuum manure in large livestock operations, as opposed to pushing manure as in the past.

The Optimist members could easily understand why Dennis Nuhn was the latest inductee onto the Stratford-Perth Museum Agricultural Wall of Fame this past year, for living up to the title of an "Innovative Agricultural Pioneer."



Optimist Members from Shakespeare are pictured with Nuhn Industries President, Dennis Nuhn (centre in red), who toured the members through the expansive welding and manufacturing shop, on the eastern edge of Sebringville in Perth County.

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COMMUNITY —

Making multiple medications manageable

By Canada Safety Council

It is no secret that Canada's population is progressively skewing older as previous generations reach retirement age. According to Statistics Canada, we can expect between 21.3 and 22.9 per cent of the population to be over the age of 65 by 2030. By comparison, as of 2022 that same statistic sits at 19 per cent.

As we age, the likelihood of managing multiple medications increases. While these medications can improve our quality of life, they also present unique challenges and safety concerns, particularly for seniors.

November 6 – 12 is National Senior Safety Week, and the Canada Safety Council is

offering medication management tips to avoid unintended consequences or side effects.

Medication Management Tips

Maintain an updated medication list. A comprehensive, up-to-date medication list is crucial to safe medication management. Keep a detailed record of your medications and prescription drugs, including the name, dosage, frequency, and its purpose. Share the list with doctors and family members.

Understand your medications. Ask your doctor about the purpose and potential side effects of each medication, along with details about how it should be taken. Being an active participant in your health

decisions will enable you to be more informed.

Use a pill organizer. These containers are usually labeled with the days of the week, sometimes including times of day, making it easy to see if you've taken your medications as prescribed. A pill organizer reduces the risk of accidentally ingesting more than one dose or of missing the dose altogether.

Set medication reminders. Setting medication reminders helps ensure consistency in your medication routine, a habit which is essential for their effectiveness. Consider alarms, notes, or some form of hard-to-miss mnemonic device to remind yourself that it is time to take your

medication.

Be aware of drug interactions. Certain medications can interact with each other, leading to negative side effects or reduced efficacy. This is one example of why it can be helpful to be actively involved in understanding what medications you're ingesting — knowledge and foresight, along with communication with your doctor, can ensure that any potential interactions are caught before any kind of incident occurs.

Managing multiple medications can be complex, but with careful attention, communication with doctors, and these safety tips, you can take control of your medication regimen and enhance your overall well-being while minimizing risks.

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COMMUNITY —

WRDSB sharing Math Action Plan

By Wilmot-Tavistock Staff

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) is sharing their Math Action Plan to support student learning.

The plan was developed in response to the Ministry of Education 2023 Math Strategy. It calls upon school boards to develop their own plans, focusing on three key areas:

- Curriculum implementation.
- Educator math content training.
- Knowing the mathematics learner.

We will ensure that identity and social location no longer predict student outcomes. This means providing all students access to mathematics instructional practices that are:

- High-level.
- Equitable.

- Inclusive.

Leadership and learning at all levels are needed to create the conditions for students to thrive in mathematics.

The goals in the WRDSB Math Action Plan span all grade levels, from kindergarten to graduation. The plan is for all WRDSB educators.

In each of these key areas, the board has created strategies and selected indicators to help educators keep track of their progress. Math facilitators will be supporting priority schools to:

- Help student achievement and well-being
- Build educator capacity

To support the implementation of the WRDSB Math Action Plan, the board will be reporting our progress to the Ministry of Education and providing updates to the

public. One of the key tools for measuring success will be the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessment results. In the 2022-23 Board Improvement and Equity Plan, the WRDSB outlined several performance indicators to measure their progress, including in the mathematics area.

The WRDSB focused on:

- % of students who met or exceeded the provincial standard in the Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO assessment of mathematics.
- % of students who met or exceeded the provincial standard on the 2022-2023 Grade 9 EQAO.
- % of students achieving a final grade of 70% or higher in Grade 9 de-streamed math.

Throughout the next year, WRDSB staff will be working together in collaboration with parents, caregivers and families to

support students. Educators and education workers will:

- Engage in professional development opportunities to build capacity.
- Learn alongside itinerant coaches to improve student academic outcomes in mathematics.

School-based support will be available to help facilitate student engagement and learning. They include:

- Support for priority schools.
- Additional math tools and resources.

The ongoing reporting and assessment of our practices will ensure the board is making data-driven decisions. These include:

- Ministry reports.
- Report card data.
- Surveys.

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SPORTS —

PJHL roundup: Applejacks woes continue with two weekend losses

By Lee Griffi

The defending Schmaltz Cup Champions continue to struggle during the 2023-24 Provincial Junior Hockey League season after losses to Paris and Hespeler on the weekend. Wellesley finds themselves sixth out of seven teams in the Doherty Division, ahead of only the Titans. They also have the second-highest penalty minutes in the sixty-one-team league with 408 and have been outscored 63-38 on the season.

Owen Stoddard and Connor Doerbecker scored for the Applejacks in a 5-2 road loss to the Titans in a game that saw Wellesley go one for seven with the man advantage. Sunday saw them drop a 6-4 decision to the Shamrocks in Hespeler. Roenick Jakielaszek led the offense with a goal and assist while Stuart Sinclair, Jake L'Heureux, and Carson Wicke scored single markers.

Braves and Firebirds both split

New Hamburg marched into Tavistock

Friday night and came away with a 4-0 win in front of nearly 200 fans. Anthony Pede scored his first and second goals of the season to lead the Firebirds. Owen Bruder, with his eleventh, and Keegan Metcalfe also scored for New Hamburg. Graham Noye stopped all 26 shots he faced to earn a shutout. The Braves answered back quickly the following night with a 7-4 victory in Norwich. Tavistock led 3-2 after the first and stretched that to 5-2 after four minutes into the third period. Will Schlotzhauer had a career game with a goal and three assists, yet remarkably wasn't named one of the game's three stars. The defenceman doubled his point total on the season with the offensive outburst. Nicholas Thibodeau scored twice for Tavistock and leads the team in scoring with five goals and 14 points. Trent Davis also scored twice while Andrew Van Boekel and Ryan Suljack chipped in with two points each.

The Firebirds went to division-leading

Woodstock Saturday night and found themselves on the losing end of a 5-2 score. New Hamburg, who outshot the Navy Vets 33-26, were led by Tyler Reid's two points.

Notes...Hanover is the league's only undefeated team. The Barons sit atop the North Pollock Division with a record of 12 wins and two ties...Davin Gray from the Woodstock Navy Vets has been named the Doherty Division's Player of the Month for September and October. Gray is the second-leading scorer in the PJHL with six goals and 30 assists in just 17 games. The 19-year-old Ingersoll native is in his second season with Woodstock...Mount Forest Patriots forward Brody Leblanc leads the league with 22 goals and 44 points in just 16 games. The local product spent three years in the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League and averaged better than a point a game with the Elmira Sugar Kings and Caledonia Corvairs.

PJHL STANDINGS						
South Doherty Division						
	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
Woodstock Navy Vets	17	15	1	1	0	31
New Hamburg Firebirds	17	12	4	1	0	25
Tavistock Braves	15	8	6	0	1	17
Hespeler Shamrocks	15	7	8	0	0	14
Norwich Merchants	16	5	9	1	1	12
Wellesley Applejacks	15	5	10	0	0	10
Paris Titans	17	3	13	1	0	7

PJHL - South Doherty Division						
2023-24 Point Leaders						
Team	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
WNV	Davin Gray	F	17	6	30	36
WNV	Nolan Brett	F	17	15	14	29
NHF	Owen Bruder	F	17	11	8	19
WNV	Chris Coulter	D	16	9	10	19
WNV	Ethan Szabo	F	13	5	13	18
HES	Boden White	F	11	5	12	17
NHF	Owen Fischer	F	15	8	8	16
NOR	Brandon Balazs	F	15	8	8	16
NHF	Tyler Reid	D	17	6	10	16
HES	Jack Restauri	F	15	5	11	16
WNV	Tyler Smeda	D	17	6	9	15
NHF	Owen Sculthorp	F	10	4	11	15
TAV	Stephen Peppas	F	15	7	7	14
NOR	Joel Storoschuk	F	16	7	7	14
TAV	Nicolas Thibodeau	F	15	5	9	14
NHF	Aidan Reid	F	17	3	11	14
HES	Andrew Harris	F	15	8	5	13
NHF	Carter Niall	F	17	8	5	13
TAV	Ian Glendinning	F	15	4	9	13
WNV	Brodie Kearns	F	11	3	10	13
HES	Justin George	D	15	2	11	13
NHF	Jake Thompson	F	16	7	5	12
TAV	Jacob Reid-Brant	F	15	5	7	12

Special teams key in Durham win over Tavistock

By Lee Griffi

Powerplay and shorthanded goals can decide a game and it did on Saturday night in Tavistock as the Royals dropped a 5-3 decision to visiting Durham in Ontario Elite Hockey League action.

The Royals led 1-0, 2-1, and 3-2 but gave up the game's final three goals. Mike Noyes, with the man advantage, opened the scoring on a setup from Sean Kienapple who scored the next two Tavistock goals, his fifth and sixth of the season. The Royals gave up two powerplay goals along with a shorthanded marker.

Tavistock sits in a tie for seventh place in the 11-team Ontario Elite Hockey League with a record of three wins and four losses.

Head Coach and General Manager Brad Stere said it has been a trying season so far. "We are still very confident in our ability and have faith that we will get this season turned around. We were aware that after you win the championship teams will bring their best to knock off the top team. And that is what we have seen so far. This league is very competitive as any team can win at any time. In saying that we are a very proud team and yes, our guys are aware that they can play better." He added he hasn't noticed

much of a difference playing in the new OEHL but said the fan experience is much better having access to live scoring on the league's website at <https://oehlhockey.ca>.

Notes...Tavistock has a pair of games next weekend, the first at home on Saturday versus the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks. On Sunday, the Royals play their annual home game in Embro as they host the Ripley Wolves for a 3:30 afternoon start... The Creemore Coyotes sit on top of the OEHL standings after winning their first six games...The Milverton Four Wheel Drives continue to be winless, dropping all seven of their games.

W.O.A.A. Senior "AA" Hockey						
Regular Season Standings						
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	
Creemore Coyotes	6	6	0	0	12	
Saugeen Shores Winterhawks	8	6	2	0	12	
Ripley Wolves	8	4	4	3	11	
Durham Thundercats	6	4	2	1	9	
Seaforth Centenaires	6	4	2	0	8	
Minto 81's	6	3	3	1	7	
Tavistock Royals	7	3	4	0	6	
Georgian Bay Applekings	6	3	3	0	6	
Erin Outlaws	7	3	4	0	6	
Lucknow Lancers	5	0	5	1	1	
Milverton Four Wheel Drivers	7	0	7	0	0	

Tavistock Royals					
2023-24 Point Leaders					
PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Drew Gerth	F	6	1	4	5
Erik Robichaud	F	3	2	3	5
Sean Leslie	F	6	3	1	4
Sean Kienapple	F	4	4	0	4
Cam Leslie	D	6	0	3	3
Deven Kropf	F	5	1	2	3
Trevor Sauder	F	6	2	1	3
Mike Noyes	D	3	0	2	2
Lucas Bast	D	6	1	1	2
Jeremy Munro	F	6	1	1	2
Matt Zilke	F	4	1	1	2
Callan Christner	F	6	2	0	2
Greg Noyes	D	4	0	1	1
Collin Hartwick	F	2	0	1	1
Phil Edgar	F	3	0	1	1
Adam Barr	F	5	0	1	1
Samson Walsom	D	1	0	0	0
Tristan Hohl	D	6	0	0	0
Geoff Killing	D	0	0	0	0
Mitch Facey	F	3	0	0	0
Zach Mark	F	0	0	0	0
Reid Ramseyer	D	4	0	0	0
Graham Kitching	F	3	0	0	0
Ted Anstett	F	3	0	0	0

WO Junior Gators make it to WCSSAA finals

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School Gators junior football team took down the Jacob Hespeler Hawks with a final score of 20-0. The junior semifinal game took place at Jacob Hespeler Secondary School in Cambridge on Tuesday, November

7.

Scorers include Jayse Londry (6), Rowan Barlett (6), Carter Tonin (6) and Evan Fidler (2). The win means that the Gators advance to the Waterloo County Secondary School Athletics Association (WCSSAA) junior football championship for the first time in

the school's history.

The Gators went on to take on the Elmira District Secondary School Lancers in the finals at the UW Warrior Field on Saturday, November 11. While it was a hard fought game, the Gators fell 13-28.

Attention Parents, Coaches, Trainers Of Minor Sports Teams

Share Your Sports with The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. We'd love to print the accomplishments of our youth and share it with our readers. Deadline: Monday's at 10 am. Submit your reports and/or photos to Veronica Reiner at v_reiner@hotmail.com

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COMMUNITY —

Show Us Your Wilmot



This feature is inspired by the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page. This week's photo was taken by Christa Gesinghaus Yost, showing the beautiful fall leaves formed into the shape of a heart along a path at Schmidt Woods Trail in New Hamburg. (Photo credit: Christa Gesinghaus Yost,)

Show Us Your Wilmot



This feature is inspired by the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page. This photo was posted by Philip W. Hungerbuehler on November 5. "Nice evening to rip up some sod," he said. (Photo credit: Philip W. Hungerbuehler)

Gazette Puzzles

Remembrance Day

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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Grenada, home to authentic, local... and delicious... cuisine



By Paul Knowles

"Authentic" is a word that is probably much over-used, when it comes to describing travel destinations. But in the case of the island of Grenada, in the eastern Caribbean, it is nonetheless the truth.

I first visited Grenada 17 years ago; this month gave me my first opportunity to return. I remembered Grenada as an unspoiled, welcoming, laid-back, "authentic" place to visit. I am pleased to report – it still is.

And one of the strongest symbols of that authenticity is the food on offer in Grenadian eateries, from higher end to beach-front diners. Whatever you order in Grenada, you will not be disappointed.

But you will have to be a bit adventurous! At least, if you want to enjoy the very best in Grenadian cuisine, you may have to take a chance on ordering food you have never eaten before.

Take oil down, for example. Perhaps not the most appetizing name, but oil down – which contains, among other ingredients breadfruit, salted meat, chicken, dumplings, callaloo, and other vegetables stewed in coconut milk, herbs, and spices – is both delicious, and the official, national dish of Grenada. It's allegedly named "oil down" because some of the oil from the coconut milk settles in the bottom of the single pot.

On my first night in Grenada, our group dined at Dodgy Dock, which hosts a gigantic buffet of local food every Wednesday. The place was packed, and the food was amazing. I had curried crab and dumplings – and I'm pretty sure I worked off the calories from the crab in an effort to crack them and get to the meat. When I asked for something to assist in cracking the crab, the manager kindly told me they didn't have any such thing, "because the locals eat them this way." They were worth the effort.

Some other options that evening included boneless backed stuff snapper, spiny lobster, seared tuna, chicken, goat curry, conch (which they called lambie), roti, and more... a lot more. And we dined to the sounds of a great local, live band.

The adventure continued with every meal during my six-day stay. At the Belmont Estate, lunch started with green banana soup, while our tour included samples (many samples!) of some of the finest chocolate ever, made right at the historic estate.

At Sails Restaurant and Bar, in St. George's (the capital city of Grenada), my "light lunch" was a seafood platter that included lobster, octopus (done perfectly), shrimp and scal-

lops. Everything but the shrimp was caught locally. The meal also included grilled sweet corn and potatoes. It was entirely tasty.

Grenada is known as the spice island – that was even its official tourism tag line until a few years ago – and every meal is perfectly seasoned, using the incredible array of local spices. Nutmeg was a key crop until the trees were flattened by Hurricane Ivan, in 2004; today, it is still grown in smaller quantities. I tasted a nutmeg and tamarind dipping sauce and immediately purchased a bottle to bring home. It was so good, I opted for that ahead of a bottle of Grenadian rum.

But speaking of rum... we toured the Rivers rum factory, where they make rum following a centuries-old method. It even includes using an ancient, over-shot water wheel to drive the machinery that processes the sugar cane – the key raw material used in making the rum.

Rivers is a very popular brand in Grenada, even though they only make two kinds of white rum – one 69% alcohol (the stuff you buy in the LCBO is more likely 40%), and one at 75% (which you cannot export from Grenada, because it is a fire hazard!)

Of course, we tasted both, sampling it neat, and then mixing it with the local lemon-lime soda called Ting. Not surprisingly, it became more pleasant with each tasting! Of which there were several.

Following the principle of "when in Grenada," I largely abandoned my typical beverage – wine – and enjoyed, instead, a variety of rum concoctions – rum punch, mojitos, and a visually stunning, multi-coloured drink dubbed "Rastaman Vibration".

Our group took a 20-minute flight to the island of Carriacou – politically part of Grenada – where we had lunch at a wonderful beach-front restaurant called "Paradise Beach Club," owned by Allison Caton, who was born on the island, spent many years working in New York City, but who could not wait to come back home, where she opened her wonderful restaurant in 2019. That's where I had the Rastaman drink – pineapple juice, orange juice, grenadine and... oh yeah... rum, lots of rum. It's also where I opted for a pizza for lunch – but pizza, Grenada style. It was a lobster pizza, and utterly delicious.

Every meal in Grenada was unique and terrific. The breakfast spread at the Bay House, where I stayed, always included local juice, like guava; local fruits (star fruit, mango, passion fruit, watermelon); and wonderful pastries, most laden with chocolate. Lunch and dinner menus featured a great variety of seafood – during my stay, in addition to meals mentioned earlier, I enjoyed seared tuna, coconut shrimp, mahi mahi, scallops, and a lot more.

My last taste, in Grenada, was dessert at the waterfront Sand Bar restaurant – chocolate cake with nutmeg ice cream, all from local ingredients. A perfect ending to a perfect visit.

There is a lot more to enjoy on this authentic island, but if you only experienced the cuisine, it would still be a trip of a lifetime.

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.



A small part of the incredible array of local food at the Dodgy Dock Wednesday night food market event.

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COMMUNITY —

Wilmot pumpkin drop a “huge success”

More than an estimate 1,000 pumpkins collected

By Veronica Reiner

Wilmot resident Cassidy Wagler has once again hosted a local community pumpkin drop to collect pumpkins and other items to feed to their family’s cattle and sheep. She said the initiative was a huge success this year.

“This year has been our best year yet, so we’ve doubled the amount of pumpkins that we saw last year,” said Cassidy. “Last year, we had about 13 boxes, and this year, we’ve had 28, which we estimate is more than 1,000 pumpkins.”

The collection bin was placed outside of the family’s laneway on Erbs Road, just outside of Philipsburg, near the Zion Philipsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church. In addition to all types of pumpkins (carved, whole, painted, white, etc.) ornamentals were also accepted, along with bales, cornstalks, apples and pears.

The bin was placed there on October 31, and was available to the public at any time until Saturday, November 11. However, the family continues to collect pumpkins and other items beyond that date - people are welcome to drop them off at the end of the family’s laneway if interested.

“What we’ve done in the past is we keep it out for the week after Halloween,” explained Cassidy. “But this year, because the demand was high, and people kept asking me if we’re leaving it out or not, we just left it out for a little over a week.”

The idea for this initiative started several years ago, when the family was driving up to visit a friend in Norfolk County, and saw something similar. “We had fed our own



Cassidy Wagler is all smiles at her pumpkin drop box.

pumpkins in the past, but we didn’t really think beyond that,” said Cassidy. “So we decided to try it one year, and it just keeps growing every year.”

This initiative feeds the family’s 60 beef cattle and between 150 to 200 sheep. Cassidy said she and her sister promote the pumpkin drop through social media. “Between the two of us, we rely on that. Every year, I say share it if you wish, and people tend to share it, and it just grows that way,” she said. “There’s a lot of community support which is really cool.”

Pumpkins are a great source of vitamins A, C, E and B, as well as minerals and fibre. In traditional Western veterinary medicine, pumpkins are mainly used to promote digestive health.

Cassidy said that the family plans to continue the initiative once again next year.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2023

November 15th	East Zorra Tavistock Council Meeting In-person council meeting taking place at 7 p.m. at 695566 17th Line in Innerkip.	ents 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.	affle. Everyone is invited.	This award winning film shows life in Nunavik in 1840 and tells the story of a grandmother and her grandson on an important mission for the survival of their Inuit community.
November 15th	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.	November 22nd Fun with the Firebirds Come and meet your favourite Firebird. Taking place at the Baden Library at 6:30 p.m. Drop-in, no registration required.	November 25th	November 28th 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 15th	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.	November 25th Bazaar and Craft Sale at Morningside Adult Community Village Centre Funds raised will go towards providing Christmas hampers. 10 a.m. to noon at the village centre, second right down from main entrance (Bleams Road and Bergy Court). Coffee and muffins 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Take home soup sale at 11 a.m. Bake sale, crafts, white elephant tables,	November 27th	December 3rd New Hamburg Santa Claus Parade Taking place in downtown New Hamburg from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
November 15th	November 19th Grand Ole Opry Philipsburg Style The Zion Lutheran Philipsburg pres-	November 28th Free film screening The Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships is pleased to announce they are hosting another film series. The first film in the series, Before Tomorrow, will be shown at Zion United Church, 215 Peel St., New Hamburg on Tuesday, November 28th at 7 p.m.	November 28th	December 4th 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 4 p.m. until around 8 p.m.
November 15th	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.	November 25th Christmas Bazaar Taking place at 66 Mill Street in Baden at St. James Lutheran Church from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tea balls, bake table, vendors, nearly new sale, Santa’s secret surprise table, face painting and more. Everyone welcome.	November 27th	December 4th 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 4 p.m. until around 8 p.m.
November 15th	November 15th Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention Information Session Presented by the Senior Support Team of Waterloo Region. From 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 65 Bouleee Street in New Hamburg, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532. For adults 55+ in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships. To register email coffeehousetalks2020@gmail.com or phone WFRC at 519-662-2731.	November 28th Free film screening The Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships is pleased to announce they are hosting another film series. The first film in the series, Before Tomorrow, will be shown at Zion United Church, 215 Peel St., New Hamburg on Tuesday, November 28th at 7 p.m.	November 28th	December 4th 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 4 p.m. until around 8 p.m.

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COMMUNITY —

Oxford County's Holiday Sharing Guide updated and online now

By Wilmot-Tavistock Staff

Oxford County's Holiday Sharing Guide is online and updated this year at www.informationoxford.ca.

The Holiday Sharing Guide offers a comprehensive list of gift and clothing drives, emergency help, shelters, hot meal and food programs, along with seasonal community events. The guide is organized around options to "give help," either by donating time, funds or items, or "get

help," by accessing programs offered by community organizations, charities and local churches.

"We are entering this holiday season with basic living expenses, like groceries, utilities, and rents or mortgages, at the highest point in years. For many families, there simply won't be anything left over to make the holidays special," said Kelly Gilson, Executive Director of United Way of Oxford.

"The Holiday Sharing Guide is a resource that lets people know the ways they can give and get help in their community."

The guide also includes information about local Santa Clause parades collecting non-perishable food donations. With deadlines and registration periods coming up soon to receive help or donate to one of the guide's programs, interested residents are encouraged to check the online guide or call 211.

The Holiday Sharing Guide is a collaboration between Oxford County, InformationOxford.ca, 211 Ontario and United Way Oxford.



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|---------------------|----------------|
| 1) Danny DeVito | 6) 7 |
| 2) 92 | 7) Bangkok |
| 3) Cedar wood | 8) Gertrude |
| 4) 4 | 9) The Trachea |
| 5) Red, White, Blue | 10) Jon Pardi |

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