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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023

FREE

Official grand opening of the Bridge Street bridge



Left to right, front row, Scott McNab, office of Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Mike Harris; Tim Louis, MP for Kitchener-Conestoga; Wilmot Councillor Steve Martin; Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen; Wilmot Councillor Lillianne Dunstall; Wilmot CAO Sharon Chambers; the Township of Wilmot Bridge Street Bridge staff team and neighbours of the bridge. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)

By Veronica Reiner

The official opening of the Bridge Street Bridge (between Tye Road and Puddicombe Road), near Haysville in Wilmot Township, took place on Thursday morning, November 16.

Local dignitaries in attendance included Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen, Kitchener-Conestoga Member of Parliament Tim Louis, Constituency Assistant Scott McNab, representing Kitchener-Conestoga Member

of Provincial Parliament, Councillor Stewart Cressman, Councillor Lillianne Dunstall, and Councillor Steve Martin.

"Although it has been open for the last few weeks, it's really great that we get to be here with our federal and provincial partners and announce that it is officially open," said Mayor Salonen, and thanked those in attendance.

"Without your partnership, small rural municipalities would not be able to upgrade our infrastructure that is so

important for our economic vibrance, for our farmers, as well as those who travel along the bridge."

Wilmot Township received an investment of \$3.1-million contributed through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). ICIP is a \$33-billion funding stream delivered through bilateral agreements with provinces and territories.

The project total is \$5.1-million.

Continued on page 7

Khanna vs. Louis – federal fall economic statement

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland delivered the federal government's fall economic statement this week and, as expected, the reaction was mixed from members of the Liberals and Conservatives.

The Gazette was able to speak to Oxford Member of Parliament Arpan Khanna, a Conservative, and his Liberal counterpart from Kitchener-Conestoga, Tim Louis, shortly after the statement was delivered in the House of Commons. It outlined \$20.8 billion in additional spending over the next six years over and above what was announced in the 2023 federal budget.

Khanna said the Conservatives were hoping for something they could cheer for such as more carbon tax breaks, but that didn't happen. "Reduce the inflationary spending, bring the deficit down, we were hoping for an actual plan to build more homes, but we didn't see any of that. One of my colleagues called it the 'false hope update' and that's exactly what this is." He added the government has a record of doing photo ops but hasn't delivered anything for Canadians.

Khanna was also critical of the more than \$20 billion of what he called new inflationary spending. "When you are in a big hold the first thing you do is stop digging and this prime minister has not done that. That's what is causing inflation to be out of control, and it punishes hard-working Canadians not just in Oxford, but across Canada."

The fall economic statement projects the federal deficit at \$40 billion in 2023-24, but unlike the last fall economic update, the

Continued on page 2



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COMMUNITY —

Khanna vs. Louis – federal fall economic statement

Continued from page 1

government is not forecasting a balanced budget at any point in the next six years. Public debt charges, or interest on the Canadian debt, are forecast to rise from \$46.5 billion 2023-24 to \$60.7 billion in 2028-29. Canada's debt currently sits in the area of \$1.2 trillion. Khanna said it's a massive problem for the county. "The interest we are paying to service that debt could be used somewhere else. One of the biggest issues I hear from Oxford residents is our health care system needs more funding. Next year Justin Trudeau will spend more money servicing his debt than he will on health care transfers to the provinces." He added that's why balancing the budget is a priority for Conservatives in order to save that money and invest it in key services.

Louis explained there are certain responsibilities the government has and some investments must be made. "I just feel at this point they have to be very targeted and are going to get a return. That's why some of the programs if it's strengthening the worker benefits, or universal dental, childcare, any of those things. We are starting to see more people in the workforce, particularly women, because they can afford to go back to work." He added investments to transition the county into green energy are also needed to compete with an aggressive United States. "We are



Arpan Khanna

going to be left behind if we don't."

When asked if there was anything in the update he could be positive about, Khanna instead painted a grim picture of the country. "There are intense amounts of spending happening. Two million of our friends and neighbours are going to food banks and tent cities are popping up not only in Woodstock but across the county. Half of Canadians are \$200 away from being broke. The number one issue is affordability, and we didn't see anything to help



Tim Louis

that."

Going forward Khanna said his job is to hold the government to account and keep proposing common sense solutions to get the country back on track. "I'm a big grass roots guy and I have an open-door policy. I want to hear the concerns of our community because they are my concerns too. I'm from a working-class family, not some sort of political elite like Justin Trudeau."

Louis said Freeland's speech provided Canadians an update on where the

country is sitting financially and it's not all bad. "It acknowledged that we are doing well compared to other countries and that we are coming out of a pandemic with global inflation and high interest rates. At the same time, we are doing alright but we still know Canadians are feeling a squeeze." He added the Liberals are making improvements including building more affordable houses and supporting Canadians. "Especially the ones who need the most help when we know prices are still too high."

Conservatives have been turning up the heat on the relationship between the Liberals and New Democrats saying it is a costly one that continues to drive up inflation and interest rates. Louis defended the deal saying Canadians expect political parties of all stripes to work together. "During COVID all the parties worked together to support the programs we were doing, and we got a lot done. We have two progressive parties working together. Sure, you are going to push the envelope on some of the social programs that both parties want to get done, maybe at a different pace. I don't see an issue with that because at the end of the day these are programs that get created to help Canadians." He added many social programs such as employment insurance and universal health care, came out of minority governments where all parties hammered a deal out together.

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COMMUNITY —

LYNC hoping to cash in on Giving Tuesday



By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Love Your Neighbour Communities, or LYNC, has a vision to create equitable housing in Wilmot. Revitalizing the former feed mill into a vibrant community is their focus and they are hoping November 28 and Giving Tuesday will bring them closer to their goal.

After Black Friday and Cyber Monday comes Giving Tuesday. It is a time when Canadians, charities, and businesses come together to celebrate giving and participate in activities that support charities and non-profits.

LYNC purchased the former B-W Feed and Supply property in downtown New Hamburg last year and are now looking to pay off the remainder of their mortgage of \$540,000. "That's the main goal and part of what we are using Giving Tuesday for. We want to finish paying off the mortgage and then begin the capital fundraising to begin the project," said Executive Director Boris Emanuel. He added the next steps will consist of fundraising along with working closely with the Canada Mort-

gage and Housing Corporation, the Region of Waterloo, and other funding agencies.

When completed, the project will bring online 31 housing units which Emanuel calls attainable housing as opposed to affordable housing, but he added there will be a mix of units. "Affordable means providing rent at 80 percent of the market rate, but we use 60 percent. Some of our units will be at market rate and some will be geared to income for those who are on disability and on a fixed income like the elderly," added Emanuel. LYNC is aiming to start construction on the development in March of 2024 with a projected opening date of fall, 2025.

The organization is hoping to raise \$20,000 on Giving Tuesday in large part because of the generosity of a for now silent donor who will match donations up to \$10,000. Emanuel said the support from the community has been incredible. "We purchased the property for approximately \$2 million and the community has been able to raise all but \$540,000 of that.

Anyone interested in donating can do so at <https://lyncommunities.com/donate>.

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COMMUNITY —

WRPS to get their own office in the Wellesley Township Recreation Centre

By Veronica Reiner

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) will get their own 125-square-foot space inside the Wellesley Township Recreation Centre, on the corner of Queen's Bush and Hutchison roads.

During a hybrid council meeting on Tuesday, November 14, council agreed to execute a lease agreement with the WRPS. The agreement officially begins on January 1, 2024.

The WRPS will have exclusive use of the office, along with 24/7 access to the building. They will have access to the fitness facilities, washrooms, and the kitchen (concession) area. In addition, the WRPS will get their own dedicated parking spot, close to the complex entrance, clearly marked with signage to show that it is for WRPS use.

Lease payments for the community office begin tentatively at \$600 a month, with an increase by an annual inflation rate of 2.5 per cent for the 10-year term. For example, the monthly payment is expected to be \$615 per month in 2025 (for a total cost of 7,380 annually), and 749.32 by 2033 (8,991.81 annually).

Chief Administrative Officer Rik Louwagie explained that the WRPS has had a satellite office in the Wellesley arena on 1,000 Maple Leaf Street since 2018.

"It's a very small space, and it does get utilized by the officers, but it's not a very warm and fuzzy room for them to use, so it doesn't get the use it should," explained Chief Administrative Officer Rik Louwagie.

"With that facility closing, the WRPS has asked if they could have an office in the new Wellesley recreation complex. There is space that was designed for that, and we've been working with the Waterloo Regional Police to come up with a lease agreement for that space."

Louwagie's report noted that staff meets with WRPS representatives, including the sergeant, superintendent and/or inspector for the area on a regular basis to discuss areas of concern or any potential service improvement.

In March this year, the WRPS expressed interest in extending the lease agreement for an additional year for the 1,000 Maple Leaf Street arena, which was approved by council. They also expressed an interest in relocating the satellite office to the new recreation complex when it is ready to be occupied.

"The main bonus to the township of having this is having police presence within the village," explained Louwagie. "It's keeping the officers in the area potentially over their lunch breaks, things like

that so that they're not having to go back to the city's north division."

Councillor Derek Brick noted that the WRPS currently use the fire halls within the township. "I know the Wellesley one, they use it quite often," he said. "Will we see the police moving more towards being in the rec centre versus the fire halls then, and having a presence there?"

Louwagie said that was a great question. "I would say for the Wellesley fire station, yes, because they'll have access to the arena right there," he said. "They will still use the other two stations, and perhaps the Wellesley station as well for the bathroom and things like that. When they're out on the road, they want to just keep going."

Councillor Brick noted that the previous office was not well used, and that this lease agreement would hopefully increase police activity in the community.

"I think they'd be a lot more visual," said Wellesley Mayor Joe Nowak. "To have that police car there, through the night probably, on many occasions. I think it's a win-win for everybody."

Other notable aspects of the lease

agreement include:

The WRPS will be provided a frosted glass door by the township

Wellesley township will provide a phone line and LAN line is installed at the office, along with sufficient wifi.

The township is responsible for operating costs, including heat, hydro, water, cleaning, landscaping, waste management, snow removal and janitorial services.

The WRPS will supply their own furniture.

Wellesley will provide access to community and meeting rooms when available for the WRPS, and waive any applicable rental fees when access to the facility is needed for community information meetings and community workshops associated with and supporting the WRPS.

The WRPS will have the option to rent space if they require it for other purposes not related to interacting with the community.

Either party may cancel the agreement, provided they give one year of written notice to the other party.

Overnight parking ban in Wilmot and Wellesley townships in place on December 1

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The townships of Wilmot and Wellesley will soon implement their overnight parking ban starting on Friday, December 1.

In Wilmot Township, overnight parking will be prohibited between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6 a.m. In Wellesley, parking is prohibited on local streets between the hours of 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. without written request to the township.

This rule allows townships to provide safe snow removal and emergency services

to local residents. Parked cars can make plowing difficult and sometimes impossible. Winter maintenance crews can plow faster and more efficiently with drivers following this rule.

Those who do not abide by this rule may receive a parking ticket. The rule will remain in effect until March 31.

The rule has been in effect throughout East Zorra-Tavistock since November 1, and will remain in effect within the township until April 15.



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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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Owner/Publisher: Grant Haven
 Management Inc. /Stewart Grant

Editor: Veronica Reiner

Graphic Designer: Tyler Carruthers

Office Administrator/Billing: Wendy
 Lamond, Cindy Boakes

Sales Representative: Sharon Leis

Contributing writers: Lee Griffi, Nancy
 Silcox, Gary West, Paul Knowles,
 Mercedes Kay Gold

Annual subscription:
Canada: \$49.00 (\$46.67 + HST)
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COMMUNITY —

Pig tails, ribs and sauerkraut part of Shakespeare Optimist club dinner, raising funds for local youth programs

By Gary West

Many hungry eaters from the Shakespeare Tavistock, New Hamburg and Stratford areas, were part of the ribs, tail, and sauerkraut dinner put on recently by members of the Optimist Club of Shakespeare.

There were over 625 meals served and with help from the Opti-Mrs Club of Shakespeare. Organizers were pleased with the turnout.

The hundreds taking out meals and those staying to eat in the hall were happy,

enjoying the meal cooked up by Kennedy's Restaurant & Catering from St. Agatha.

A group of nine Tavistock neighbours shared in the \$1,946 from the 50/50 draw, and MacKenzie and Scott McKay said they were pleased that their group's winning

ticket was drawn.

Optimist President Mike McNeil thanked all those in the area for their support and said proceeds from the evening go to fund youth activities in the village and area school programs.



Part of the serving crew of the Shakespeare Optimist and Opti-Mrs clubs, raising money for youth programs, in the community. (Photo credit: Gary West)



The crowd last Friday, in the Shakespeare Optimist Hall, enjoying rolled ribs, pig tails and sauerkraut cooked up by Kennedy's of St. Agatha, fundraising for the local Optimist Club. (Photo credit: Gary West)

Lighting up Christmas in Tavistock



By Gary West

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Tavistock.

The towns Men's Club were busy getting the tree lights in the centre of town up and working and good to see the work on the Christmas wreaths that are lighting up the Main Street coming in or heading out of town.

There are even residents who thought getting in the Christmas spirit was the right thing to do - by lighting up their houses while the weather cooperated, before freezing temperatures and snow were about to arrive. The Santa Claus parade in Tavistock will take place this Saturday at 1 p.m.

The annual Christmas Tree in downtown Tavistock is always a hit, thanks to the Men's Club. (Photo credit: Gary West)



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COMMUNITY —

Mental Health Breakfast hosted at the Puddicombe House

By Veronica Reiner

The Mental Health Breakfast, organized by the Wilmot Family Resource Centre (WFRC) and Interfaith Counselling Centre (ICC), was a success.

The event took place at the Puddicombe House restaurant on Peel Street on Wednesday, November 15 from 7 a.m. until around 10 a.m. Tickets cost \$35. WFRC Executive Director Trisha Robinson said she did not notice any empty seats, and estimated that there were more than 100 people in attendance.

"I'm just really grateful for our community being so open and willing to support healthy mental health in general," said Trisha. "Because everyone has mental health, and everyone needs help sometimes."

"It just brings awareness, and the more we bring awareness, it removes the stigma, and it helps people reach out and get support. People do have to be strong and brave to reach out for support."

A breakfast was catered by the Puddicombe House, which included sausage, eggs,

potatoes, fruit, coffee and tea. Further, an interactive play was put on by Theatre of the Beat, a theatre company based in Toronto.

The series of plays, entitled "I Love You and It Hurts," reflected experiences of elder abuse, healthy masculinity and intimate partner violence in youth relationships, with a focus on how to recognize the subtle early signs of abuse.

The plays were called "Be a Friend," by Jessica Moss, "Mother," by Lindsey Middleton, and "The Walkover," by Cedric

Martin, each exploring different themes.

"So they do the play, they run it through once," explained Trisha. "Then they started again, and the audience yells, 'Stop!' if they think they have a solution, or to interrupt the course of what's going to happen, and have it go a different way."

"If someone yells stop, they can come up and do the acting themselves, or instruct the actors: 'Why don't you try this?' or 'This is how I would do it.' And then it changes the scenario. It's very powerful."



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Master Plan

Oxford County Transportation Master Plan

Oxford County has completed the 2024 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study. The TMP has identified the policies, programs and infrastructure improvements needed to manage both existing and future transportation demands to the year 2046.

Environmental Assessment process

The Class EA Study was undertaken in accordance with the master planning and design process of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA, 2023), approved under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. The 2024 TMP followed Approach 1 of the MCEA process, which fulfills the requirements for Exempt (Schedule A and A+) projects and provides a basis for future investigations for Schedule B and C projects (where additional project specific investigations may be required to satisfy additional MCEA requirements before implementation). A TMP report document has been prepared that details the planning and decision-making process followed during the Class EA Study.

Public comment period

By this notice, the TMP report is being placed online on the public record for a **30-day review period starting November 1 and ending November 30, 2023**. The TMP is available at www.oxfordcounty.ca/2024tmp.

Written comments will be accepted until **November 30, 2023**. All comments and concerns should be addressed to Oxford County staff listed on this notice.

Ryan Vink, P.Eng.
Project Engineer
Oxford County
rvink@oxfordcounty.ca | 1-800-755-0394, ext. 3023

Frank Gross, C.Tech.
Manager, Transportation and Waste Management
Oxford County
fgross@oxfordcounty.ca | 519-539-9800, ext. 3120

The Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks can only issue an order with respect to Schedule B or C projects identified in the Master Plan requiring a higher level of study, or that conditions be imposed, only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Requests on other grounds will not be considered. The Minister cannot make an order with respect to Exempt projects identified in the Master Plan.

Requests must include your contact information and be received by November 30, 2023. Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested (request for conditions or a request for an individual/comprehensive environmental assessment); how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights; and any information in support of the statements in the request. This will ensure that the Ministry is able to efficiently begin reviewing the request.

The request should be sent in writing or by email to:

Minister, Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Minister.mecp@ontario.ca

AND

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

Requests should also be copied to Oxford County through the project contacts.

For more information on requests for orders under Section 16 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-section-16-order>

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

Issued November 1, 2023
Re-issued November 15, 2023



Wilmot man facing multiple charges after car-jacking

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

A Wilmot man was charged with several offenses, including robbery, theft of a motor vehicle and impaired driving in connection to a car jacking in Wilmot Township.

On November 18 at about 11 p.m., the Waterloo Regional Police Service received a report of a car jacking in the area of Snyder's Road East and Notre Dame Drive.

The victim, a youth, was approached by an unknown man at a gas station in the area. The man physically assaulted the victim and removed him from his vehicle. The accused then left the area in the vehicle.

Police later located the suspect in the victim's vehicle and placed them under arrest. As a result, a 32-year-old Wilmot man was charged with:

- Robbery
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Mischief Under \$5000
- Dangerous Operation
- Operation While Impaired - Alcohol and Drugs
- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration
- Driving While Under Suspension
- Fail to Signal Lane Change

No serious injuries were reported. The suspect was held for a bail hearing.

COMMUNITY —

Official grand opening of the Bridge Street bridge

Continued from page 1

Construction was awarded to Sierra Bridge Inc. of Woodstock for about \$4,782,267.90 plus harmonized sales tax (HST) in June 2022. The updated bridge was opened in September this year.

"This bridge is a vital link that not only connects our community physically, but it symbolizes that we get more done when we work together," said MPP Louis. "As we stand here, we're reminded of the heritage, the rich heritage, that courses through our veins in this community."

"The Bridge Street bridge has much historic significance, and it serves as a testament to our past, which is connected generations, preserving the stories of generations."

The original camel-back truss bridge, built in the early 1900s, was permanently closed in 2022 and put in storage. The original bridge is planned to be memorialized through a future structure formed out of the bridge pieces.

"We are hoping at some point to have some of

that brought back as some type of recognition and acknowledgement of the past," said Salonen. "So we're looking forward to that project in the future."

"On behalf of MPP Harris, I just want to say congratulations on the grand opening of the new Bridge Street bridge," said McNab. "A huge thank you to the Ontario government in partnership with the government of Canada and township of Wilmot for prioritizing local, rural infrastructure projects."

The new bridge features a two-lane concrete bridge (previously one lane), with height and weight restrictions now removed. There will now be a reduced risk of bridge flooding and increased traffic circulation because of the increase to two lanes.

The construction project incorporated a new foundation, abutments and superstructure, a reinforced concrete deck and barrier walls, reconstructed roadway approaches, and erosion and sediment control measures.



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COMMUNITY —

Business Profile: Lynn River Farm



Lynn Higgins is all smiles. (Photo credit: Dylan Higgins)

By Mercedes Kay Gold

Lynn River Farm is built on a legacy of love and tradition. As a young girl, Lindsay or Lynn for short, vividly remembers her grandparents' small farm and gorgeous garden. With the desire to live simply, Lindsay and her husband purchased the cherished land in 2009, and set out to restore the original farmhouse circa 1836. Raising the next generation in the fresh air and sunshine wasn't part of their life plan, but the path was clear. The family of five was determined to live a simpler life, and on a mission to connect the community by offering natural fresh and frozen foods. Summer 2024 should include the sunshine fun time goal to join the Higgins family on the farm for a six-course country cookout. With the arrival of Autumn, Harry Ten Shilling, Shakespeare's afternoon tea destination, was a wonderful venue to hold the first indoor farm-to-table six course dinner. On Friday, November 17th, twenty-four people supported local brands over a leisurely meal served by Lynn herself and Dylan, her

dashing mini man. It was a peaceful way to welcome in this past weekend.

The six-course set menu was magical. It began with an egg-ceptional hardboiled egg in a panko crust displayed on organic greens. The intense yellow yolk, a stupendous sunshine reminder of the crazy choline content. It goes without saying, this nutritionist is in holistic heaven, dining on chemical-free, clean greens from Organic Oasis Farm. Next up was an all-star soup made from local apples with creamy brie cheese in a beer broth, highlighting the Shakespeare Brewing Company. The seasonal Brussel sprouts replaced hum-drum lettuce in the traditional Caesar salad, and hats off to local peppercorn bacon. Organically grown butternut squash directly from Lynn's farm was a lovely surprise inside the homemade ravioli. The fabulous free-range chicken on a bed of whipped garlic parsnip, sensational sage, and a wee bit of Wellesley's wondrous apple cider was a huge hit. Dessert left Marisa, my dinner date, saying, "What diet?" as she



Homemade ravioli was part of the dinner, and included organically grown butternut squash.

raved about the cheesecake. The sweet and salty taste sensation was topped with apples and bacon brittle from The Best Little Pork Shoppe and an ooey gooey crazy caramel courtesy of Chok Fine Chocolate. Fixed menus are challenging for chefs in the world of food sensitivities, and I was grateful to be served award-winning artisan goat ice cream by Udderly Ridiculous.

The six-course dinner was an amazing way to destress with the upcoming hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Don't forget to arrive early at the holiday shop. The tea house just celebrated the grand opening of Sweet Lights Candle Shop and Artisan Collective. Kayla and Nathan, a talented twosome, sell a wide variety of their own handmade wooden décor and hand-poured soy candles, as well as other unique local small businesses right inside Harry Ten Shilling. There are handcrafted self-care products by Sugar Plum Scrubs and gorgeous eye candy to trim the Christmas tree by Yellow Door Flower Farm, plus other one-of-a-kind creations. The Lynn River Farm dinner was an absolutely lovely way to meet new people and savor phenomenal food fare. Upcoming confirmed dates are on Saturday, December 2nd or 16th at 6 p.m. Secure your spot at lynnriverfarm.com. For busy bees, Lynn River Farms is a caterer for small, intimate get-togethers, big fam jams, and weddings. Follow on social @graze_lynn_river_farm

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COMMUNITY —

Handcrafted guitars made in Tavistock by a 24 year old craftsman

By Gary West

There are many talented people in the Tavistock area from many walks of life who build and construct, but would anyone be surprised if a craftsman called a luthier was a part of Tavistock's fabric.

The next question might be, what is a luthier?

A luthier is a craftsman who makes and repairs stringed instruments such as violins or guitars.

Lennon Nemirovsky is such a person, and is honing his skills and making guitars in his grandfather's (John Schultz) wood-working shop on Woodstock Street North in Tavistock.

The 24-year-old has studied at a variety of educational institutions after secondary school, including London's Fanshawe College, Toronto's Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson), and also studied linguistics at the Summit School of guitar building and design in Bowser, British Columbia.

After moving back to Toronto, he was even building hand-made guitars in his own bedroom!

Lennon says since September, his grandfather has enjoyed watching him work in his wood shop above the garage behind his house.



Last week in his woodworking shop in Tavistock, is Lennon Nemirovsky, with his near completed custom made acoustic guitar, made for a band member in Goderich. (Photo credit: Gary)

In the spring and summer months, he also enjoys his job as a seasonal tree planter in B.C. and Alberta, working out in bush camps where he enjoys the life of living outdoors.

He has now worked for four years for Folklore, a seedling tree planting company, reforesting spruce, pine and fir trees, in the west. This past summer, he was close

to Prince George when wildfires consumed thousands of acres of forests and trees, and smoke was everywhere.

Lennon, who is also a guitarist himself, is now back in Tavistock, working on finishing a guitar for a friend of his, who plays and sings in a band.

All the wood products making up his guitars, come out of "A&M" specialty wood products in Cambridge, that include Indian Rosewood, Mahogany (neck), Ebony Frett Board, Red Cedar (top plate) and Cherry (for the back and sides).

His specialty tools include Japanese saws and planers, while working with many hand tools, used exclusively for making stringed instruments.

Commissions charged can range anywhere from \$2,000 and up, for a custom made, one-of-a-kind guitar, with a sound, unlike any other mass-made guitars.

He has a template for different sizes of guitars, and the sound can be so different depending on the wood used and the style in the crafting of the instrument.

The young entrepreneur invites inquiries and those interested in having a custom-made guitar to contact him at lennon.nemirovsky@gmail.com or call 226-448-5122.

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COMMUNITY —

The Erb Group receives prestigious award

By Veronica Reiner

The Erb Group, a refrigerated transport service based in New Hamburg, was recognized as a 2023 "Top Company for Women to Work for in Transportation," by Redefining the Road.

Redefining the Road is the official magazine of the Women in Trucking Association (WIT). The organization's mission is to encourage the employment of women in the trucking industry, promote their accomplishments and minimize the obstacles they face.

"Creating a space for women to feel comfortable in the trucking industry is important for us to foster an inclusive work environment for everyone," said Wendell Erb, President and CEO of The Erb Group, in an email to The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette.

"It also allows us to step back, listen, and look for better ways to innovate our operations from the inside out so that the voices in the industry are heard, valued and brought to the surface. Working collectively, can help us to not only overcome workplace barriers but also industry challenges, around the country and world."

When asked why they think they won the award, The Erb Group spokesperson Briona Lahti said, "The Erb Group has always had a people first focus, we want to be able to serve our employees with the



Kathrina Arellano, Junior Programmer in IT (Information Technology) at The Erb Group. (Photo contributed)

best possible workplace experience, as well as our clients with the best possible service.

"We remain motivated by the satisfaction and well being of the people who maintain our cool moves, creating a more diverse workforce has been a goal in continuing to grow and supporting our people."

Brian Everett, Group Publisher and Editorial Director of the Redefining the Road magazine, said that there are a number of characteristics that distinguish

companies recognized on the list. These characteristics include corporate cultures that foster gender diversity, accommodation of family and work-life balance; offering competitive compensation, benefits, and professional growth; and providing career advancement opportunities. More than 100 organizations received the award.

Identifying the companies on the list is a two-step process, said Everett. First, nominations of the companies are received and carefully reviewed to ensure they

qualify by meeting a minimum threshold of qualifications. Then the final ballot of companies is voted on by individuals' industry wide.

This is the sixth year of this recognition program and it garnered more than 27,000 votes to identify the final companies named to the list. The momentum of this program has continued to accelerate since it was first launched.

"As competent, talented women continue to rise through the ranks in the transportation industry, we are excited to feature the companies that make the strategic effort to attract and retain a more gender-diverse workforce," said Everett. "This distinction of their impressive efforts legitimizes the recognition they deserve."

This year, the list is made up of a diverse range of business sectors in the commercial freight transportation marketplace, including motor carriers, third-party logistics companies, and original equipment manufacturers. These companies were recognized at the WIT Accelerate! Conference & Expo November 5th to November 8th in Dallas, Texas. The Erb Group was not able to attend.

Founded in 1959, the Erb Group is a family-owned business, hosting over 1,500 employees, 1,100 trailers and 750 power units.

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COMMUNITY —

Perth County emergency services recruitment event to take place tomorrow

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) will hold a drop in recruitment event tomorrow (Friday, November 24).

Participating organizations may include the Perth County OPP (uniform, civilian and auxiliary), Perth County EMS, Listowel Wingham Hospital Alliance, the Perth East, West Perth and North Perth fire departments, and the Huron Perth Crisis/Mobile Crisis Response Team.

The emergency services recruitment information event will provide participants with the opportunity to gain knowledge, insight and helpful advice about the various careers within emergency services, along with the application and hiring process. Participants can walk around and learn from members of different organizations, who will have stations set up around the room.

From the OPP, participants will learn the minimum requirements to apply to the organization, as well as the expectations of interested applicants. This opportunity will benefit those who want to learn more about the OPP recruitment process to make sure that they are at their competitive best before they apply, or who may just be considering a future career in policing.

"First responders play a vital role in supporting the safety, health, and well being of our community," said Inspector Wendy Burrow, Perth County Detachment Commander. "We want to provide an opportunity for people living within our communities to learn more about the opportunities and variety of careers available to them within emergency services within their own communities."

This information session will take place on Friday

November 24, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex Community Room, located at 965 Binning Street West in Listowel. The event will take place during a Listowel Cyclones Jr. B hockey game for added

fun.

For more information about OPP Careers and a list of upcoming events, visit www.opp.ca.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Master Plan

Oxford County Water and Wastewater Master Plan

Oxford County has completed the 2024 Water and Wastewater Master Plan (W/WW MP) Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study. The W/WW MP has identified the preferred water and wastewater servicing solutions to meet Oxford's growth needs to 2046 as well as provide effective ongoing continuity to existing serviced settlements.

Environmental Assessment process

The Class EA Study was undertaken in accordance with the master planning and design process of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA, 2023), approved under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. The 2024 W/WW MP followed Approach 1 of the MCEA process, which fulfills the requirements for Exempt (Schedule A and A+) projects and provides a basis for future investigations for Schedule B and C projects (where additional project specific investigations may be required to satisfy additional MCEA requirements before implementation). A W/WW MP report document has been prepared that details the planning and decision-making process followed during the Class EA Study.

Public comment period

By this notice, the W/WW MP report is being placed online on the public record for a **30-day review period starting November 1 and ending November 30, 2023**. The W/WW MP is available for review at www.oxfordcounty.ca/wwwmp.

Written comments will be accepted until **November 30, 2023**. All comments and concerns should be sent directly to either one of the following contacts:

Don Ford, CMM III, C. Tech.
Manager, Water and Wastewater
Oxford County
dford@oxfordcounty.ca | 1-800-755-0394, ext. 3191

John Tyrrell, MSc (Eng.), P.Eng
Senior Project Manager
R.V. Anderson Associates Limited
jtyrrell@rvanderson.com | 519-681-9916, ext. 5308

The Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks can only issue an order with respect to Schedule B or C projects identified in the Master Plan requiring a higher level of study, or that conditions be imposed, only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Requests on other grounds will not be considered. The Minister cannot make an order with respect to Exempt projects identified in the Master Plan.

Requests must include your contact information and be received by November 30, 2023. Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested (request for conditions or a request for an individual/comprehensive environmental assessment); how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights; and any information in support of the statements in the request. This will ensure that the Ministry is able to efficiently begin reviewing the request.

The request should be sent in writing or by email to:

Minister, Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Minister.mecp@ontario.ca

AND

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

Requests should also be copied to Oxford County through the project contacts.

For more information on requests for orders under Section 16 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-section-16-order>

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

Issued November 1, 2023
Re-issued November 15, 2023

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FAMILY MILESTONES —

OBITUARY

KENNEDY: Dorothy



Dorothy Irene Kennedy, 95, of Tavistock and formerly of Toronto and Kingston passed away peacefully at peopleCare Tavistock on Monday, November 13, 2023.

Dorothy was born in Toronto on July 17, 1928, the youngest child of Albert and Amy (Spankie) Kennedy and was prede-

ceased by her siblings, Aileen, Albert (Muriel), Pauline (John), Keith, and Will.

She lived a full and happy life and was enthusiastic right to her last game of Bingo at PeopleCare last Saturday. She was an avid sports enthusiast in her younger years when she was a synchronized swimmer and Life Guard at Sunnyside Pool on Lakeshore Blvd. in Toronto, canoed, played tennis, badminton, skied down-hill and cross country. Still active in her 50's, she bicycled to work during her years as a respected secretary in the Ministry of Health in Toronto and Kingston. Well-traveled, she also "biked the dikes" of Holland when she retired at 61.

Dorothy loved her friends and family dearly. She also loved to socialize and was a great sport about dressing up for every special occasion. Our last photo of her was in full witches' costume just weeks ago for Hallowe'en. She was an avid reader, knitter, and sewer and made many keepsakes for her grandchildren.

Dorothy is survived by her four children, Patricia "Tricia" of Tavistock, Penny Smith of Markham, Pam Gregory (David Graham) of Newcastle, Paul Sexton (Ann Cornish) of Stratford; eight grandchildren, Jason Chesworth (Ashley Ireland) of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Travis Smith (Kendall Mimeault) of New York City, Andrea Smith (Field Burgoyne) of Toronto, Kelly Gregory (Andrew Lawton) of Toronto, Erin Trescases (Olivier) of Toronto, Ryan Sexton (Nicki) of Ajax, Aislynn Griffin (Grahame), Karlie Hartman (Matthew) of Janetville; seven great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Sadly, Dorothy was also predeceased by her sons-in-law, Doug Wettlaufer, Warren Smith and Gord Gregory.

Relatives and friends will be received at Grace United Church, 116 Woodstock St. S., Tavistock on Saturday, November 25, 2023 from 2 – 2.45 p.m. where the funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. The Rev. Mary Boland will officiate. Reception following. Interment will be in Park Lawn Cemetery, Toronto.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to Grace United Church, Tavistock via cheque or an e-transfer on the church website <https://www.graceunitedtavistock.com/> or to a charity of one's choice would be appreciated and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home, Tavistock by calling 519-655-2431.

Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Bill Wettlaufer

October 27th, 1941 – November 25th, 2017

*The moment that you left me, my heart was split in two
One side was filled with memories, the other side died with you*

*I often lay awake at night when the world is fast asleep
And take a walk down memory lane with tears upon my cheek*

*Remembering you is easy, I do it every day
But missing you is heartache that never goes away*

*I hold you tightly within my heart and there you will remain
You see life has gone on without you but will never be the same*

Forever loved and deeply missed by your loving wife and family

Ruth Ann, Bruce, Joan and Brad and families

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sgacnewhamburg@gmail.com

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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) Who is the author of the Hunger Games trilogy?
- 2) How many syllables are there in the word Mississippi?
- 3) What color band identifies a referee in hockey?
- 4) 'Sarcophagus' is another word for what?
- 5) Julius Caesar ruled what empire?
- 6) What U.S. president coined the phrase "war on terror"?
- 7) What is the capital of Uganda?
- 8) A female goat is known as what?
- 9) What is the diameter of the Basketball hoop in inches?
- 10) Who is known as the 'Unabomber'?

Answers found on page 26

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**November 23:** Happy birthday to Olive Shewfelt (6).**November 24:** Happy birthday to Ayden Eidt (12), Brett Bell (21), and Aaron Reimer (23).**November 26:** Happy birthday to Thomas Zehr (8), Alexis Murray (9), Masen Ankenmann (20), and Stephanie Cahill (21), and anniversary for Ted and Debbie Gladding (18th).**November 27:** Happy birthday to Matthew Danen (21).**November 28:** Happy birthday to Blake McAuley (9), and anniversaries for Jessie and Kaleena Schultz (14th), and Menno and Rachel Peters (15th).**November 29:** Happy birthday to Hailey Snider (14) and Ryan Ziegler (21).*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.***November 14-21, 2018 Edition (5 years ago)**

Ten years after building their own Field of Dreams, the Van Boekel family is dreaming of giving back to their community. Through the Pioneer Hi-Bred Canada "Here's to Hometowns" giveaway, the Van Boekel's hope to secure a spot in the final four Hometown videos contest. If they win, \$50,000 in prize money will be evenly distributed with four local charities and also used for improvements to their ball field. The field was constructed in 2008 after an acre of cornfield was repurposed for the Van Boekel's two sons to play on.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 518 members held a Service of Remembrance on Sunday, November 11th, on the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI.

The rotating Canada Post strike continues to cause delays with the delivery of the Gazette.

November 12-19, 2008 Edition (15 years ago)

Residents at The Maples Home for Seniors and students from St. Joseph's Public School in Thamesford teamed up recently for the

new youth project "Careers - A Journey Through Technology." The Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford Local Training Board partnered with these two groups in a project designed to connect Grade 8 students in rural communities with retired adults/seniors to discover how technology has changed careers over the years.

Regardless of whether we get a new lagoon cell and sand filter or a mechanical treatment plant, there are a lot of questions left unanswered for local residents. Another capacity crowd of taxpayers attended the second lagoon meeting sponsored by the Tavistock Improvement Association.

November 18-25, 1998 Edition (25 years ago)

The 39th Annual Tavistock Men's Club Sauerkraut Supper was the biggest success ever this year, serving some 1,750 patrons. The ranks of the 35-member club were increased to 165 volunteers consisting of spouses, friends, neighbours and former Tavistock residents to serve the meal in the Tavistock Memorial Hall.

St. Marys Lincolns made a good choice when they selected Matt Bender as team captain this season. The personable 19-year-old Tavistock native isn't the most talented player on the team, but he's a gritty competitor, comes to play every game, and is liked and respected by his teammates.

Tavistock has burst onto the curling scene

in Ontario with an impressive showing in just their second zone appearance. This year a determined team of skip Chris Green, vice Scott Shewfelt, and front end shared by Jamie Markle, Kris Matthews and Jerry Murray have advanced to the semi-finals against St. Thomas.

November 21-28, 1973 Edition (50 years ago)

The Tavistock Men's Club & Board of Trade held their 16th Annual Sauerkraut Supper last Wednesday in the Memorial Hall. More than 1,100 people were served between 4:30 and 8:30 p.m. Chairman Clarence Neeb said he expected the event proceeds to be over \$3,500, which are used by the club to finance community projects.

On Sunday afternoon, the Tavistock Jets chalked up their 4th straight victory of the season with a 5-1 win over New Hamburg. Caroline Weicker sparked the hometown girls with a 3 goal performance. Lynn Hyde and Barbie Matthies also scored for the Jets.

Tavistock and District Rod and Gun Club held their 4th Annual Pheasant Supper at the Legion Hall last Thursday night. President Ray Brunk welcomed the group and Floyd Sippel introduced the head table. The guest speaker introduced by Floyd Ward was Reeve William Ducklow who spoke on the implementing and restructuring of the County of Oxford.

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COMMUNITY —

Laura Hansuld trophy awarded to the top points getter in Tavistock Fall Fair competition

By Gary West

There are many area exhibitors that work hard to enter exhibits in September's Tavistock Fall Fair to make it one of the most interesting areas for most fair goers to visit.

There was a tremendous amount of work that went into the display at this year's fair, especially in the junior division for boys and girls in the 10-18 year category

To promote the youth in the community to get involved, the fair directors, award the Laura Hansuld trophy to the top points junior exhibitor.

This year, the award was recently presented to the winner - Wellesley's Ella Jones, who amassed 109 total points.

For a little history, Laura Hansuld was a farm girl born in Waterloo county. She went to school there, and after graduation taught in the district.

She then decided to go in training as a nurse and went to Chicago and became head nurse in one of the main hospitals there, and joined the American Red Cross service in the U.S. Army during the first

World War.

She returned to Canada in 1923 and 1926 she married Edmond Hansuld, a farmer from East Zorra, and her interest turned to farming, home making and her family. Hansuld was in great demand as a speaker on a variety of topics, and was a renowned flower judge province wide.

In 1946, because Laura saw a need for farm women to be educated, the Anna P. Lewis Women's Institute branch was formed. It is now a part of a worldwide organization.

When she passed away in March 1961, the following September, the agricultural society received a donation from the local Burn's Church, and that gave them the idea of starting a memorial fund in her honour.

With the memorial fund, this year, they awarded the large trophy (for the 51st time), along with a small gift to Ella Jones. This year's gift to keep is an Eternity Crystal Wishing Thread - Tree of Life.

The directors of the Tavistock's Agriculture Society, hope this will encourage more junior exhibitors to get involved in future fall fairs.



In Wellesley last week from left, Monica Shantz (co-convenor of the fall fair junior division), Ella Jones, top points winner, and Chris Wiffen, President of the Anna P. Lewis Women's Institute. (Photo credit: Gary West)

Community Care Concepts' Annual Christmas Benefit Breakfast



Saturday, December 9
8:00 am to 11:00 am

New Hamburg Legion
65 Boulelee Street, New Hamburg

Full Breakfast Served
Please arrive early!

Cost

Adults\$12.00
Children 10 and under\$6.00
Family maximum of 4\$25.00

Tickets

Available at the door, or in advance:
Ross Eichler.....519-662-3113
New Hamburg Legion.....519-662-3770
Community Care Concepts....519-662-9526

All proceeds support Community Care Concepts



Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 Notice of Decision Township of Wilmot

TAKE NOTICE that on **May 31, 2023** the Township of Wilmot approved the **increase of the cemetery at Steinmann Cemetery at 1317 Snyder's Road West** to permit expansion of the cemetery area by 5874m² (1.45 acres).

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the applicant, Registrar or any person with an interest therein may, within 15 days after publications of this notice refer the decisions to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal for a hearing.

Further information may be obtained from **Lori Balcerek, Landscape Architecture Manager, GSP Group: lbalcerek@gspgroup.ca**

Dated at **Kitchener** this 30th day of **October, 2023**

Specifics of what approved:

A cemetery expansion was approved by the township of Wilmot containing 267 burial lots and 34 green burial lots. Furthermore, the township of Wilmot approved future 1 scattering garden and 1 future columbarium containing 60 niches.

TAVISTOCK BRAVES JR. HOCKEY

Friday, Nov. 24th - 7:30 pm
TAVISTOCK & DISTRICT RECREATION CENTRE

**TAVISTOCK BRAVES
VS HESPELER SHAMROCKS**
**COME OUT AND ENJOY
JUNIOR HOCKEY ACTION!**

COMMUNITY —

Wellesley council briefs

By Veronica Reiner

The following decisions were approved at a hybrid council meeting on Tuesday, November 14:

Names approved for Wellesley Township Recreation Complex

As part of the fundraising strategy for the Wellesley Township Recreation Complex, those that donated to the project were given naming opportunities that would be seen on corresponding rooms.

Names were selected by the donors. These names will be located near the entrance of each room in the facility and will be in the form of wall mount signs or window stickers.

For example, the Community Recreation Building will be named the Bill Gies Recreation Centre from a \$1,000,000 donation. Others include Jones Family Health and Wellness Centre for the Community Wellness Place from a \$500,000 donation, and Wellesley Home Hardware for the arena from a \$250,000 donation.

Each of the following came from a \$100,000 donation: the Jones Feed Mills Ltd. Community Centre named for the gymnasium, the Gary & Brenda Leis & Family Walking Track for the walking track, the Nith River Milling Lobby for the lobby viewing area, and the centre score clock for the Flynn family.

There were about 30 names on the approved list, with a minimum donation of \$10,000.

There was one name requested that Wellesley staff did not recommend displaying. "Son of a Bisch" was the name requested for one of the referee's rooms by Ron and Theresa Bisch. Mrs. Bosch requested that council consider the name, but selected Ronald and Theresa Bisch and family as the alternative. That was the name approved.

Councillor Derek Brick asked Recreation Danny Roth if these names would stay for the life of the building. Roth confirmed that was correct.

In addition to the naming opportunities, 292 seats were sold at \$100 a piece. There were naming opportunities for some of the outdoor amenities not approved in the report. Staff will bring in a report in the new year to finalize those opportunities.

New playground project in Hawkesville awarded

A new playground project in Hawkesville was awarded to Open Space Playgrounds for \$85,155 plus harmonized sales tax (HST).

The cost will be funded from approximately \$50,155 from the Hawkesville Recreation Fundraising Account and \$35,000 allocated in the 2023 capital budget. The remaining balance in the account is now \$10,658.62.

Three contractors indicated that they would be submitting quotes, and the township received quotes from two of the contractors. The other quote came from ABC Recreation for \$100,835 plus HST. Each bid was reviewed by staff and the Hawkesville Recreation Service Board.

"During when we got the pricing in for the playgrounds and met the contractors, the rec service board, at that point, requested to expand the project," explained Recreation Director Danny Roth,

"The big reason for the price increase was the surfacing that had to be done to go to a wood fibre surface which is AODA compliant. Playgrounds in Ontario must be AODA compliant by 2025."

The \$35,000 project was going to be an extension of the current playground; now the group is looking to replace the entire playground, he explained.

Lottery license approved for Paradise & District Lions Club

Wellesley council approved municipal consent for the Paradise & District Lions Club to apply to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) for their Super Jackpot Bingo.

Lions Bingo Chair Mark Koenig submitted a written request for permission to run the event in the St. Clements Community Centre from January 9, 2024, to December 17, 2024.

"This is a license that they held for many years and is run in conjunction with their bingo. The bingo license has been issued by the township," explained Municipal Clerk Grace Kosch. "This is a process that is required by the AGCO."

Some councillors brought up their own personal experience with the event.

"My son volunteers his high school hours. Him and I go at the end to help clean up," commented Councillor Claude Herrgott, adding that the group is always looking for volunteers.

2024 Wellesley council schedule approved

Council approved their 2024 schedule, generally planned with one council meeting and one committee of the whole meeting per month - the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

The months of July, August and December would host one council meeting only.

"This schedule would eliminate two meetings annually and would allow three instances where meetings are not biweekly," explained Deputy Clerk Amy Harron in her report. "The purpose of changing the frequency of meetings is to slightly reduce the number of meetings annually and to create a consistent monthly schedule for council and staff."


Council meetings are scheduled for the following dates in 2024: January 9, February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 26, and December 10. Budget discussions are planned for November 28, December 5 and December 17.

Committee meetings are scheduled for January 23, February 27, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 25, September 10, October 8, and November 12.

LYNC (former BW Feed) building lit up for Christmas season



The LYNC (formerly BW Feed & Supply building) on Mill Street in New Hamburg, was lit up with Christmas colours - green and red - as of Tuesday, November 14. (Photo credit: Love Your Neighbours Communities - LYNC)



The Hickson Lions Club would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU
to the many individuals and businesses that have contributed to our functions this year!

For Our Brunch: TNT Swine, The Butcher Barn, Egg Farmers of Ontario-Zone 3
Volunteers: Scott Hohl, Crystal Barta, Caroline Jackson, Sandy & Sheri Schultz, Gary Counsell, Cheryl Murray, Rob McLaren, Dan Lovie, Ken McIntyre, Erin Shrigley, Candice Smith, Nicole Oliveira, Bryan Kennerly.
We could not run these events without them.

Auction Donations For Lions Daze Weekend

John Lichti	Heather Lovie	Ross Electric
Jim Harmer & Family	Oxford Agropur Ltd	Premier Equipment
Progress Freight	Ernie Hardeman	Braemont Farms
Marcia Coull	Hickson Vet	D & D Electric
Your Farm Market	Mackay Fuels	Quehl's Restaurant
Terra Nova Spa & Cafe	TNT Swine & Butcher Barn	Heather McKim
Craigowan Golf Club	Country Line Agriculture	Arpan Khanna
The Weldrick Family	Francis Furniture	The Alexander Family
Tavistock Dental	Select Heating & Air	Township of East Zorra/Tavistock
Hickson Motors	Conditioning	The McBurney Family
Killcroft Holsteins	Independent Grocers	The Montgomery Family
Heartland Farm Mutual	Harkness Equipment	Allen Lumber
Lawrence & Diane Clark	Yantzi Home Hardware	Brad & Val Smith
Parion	Van Boekel Family	Klingenburg Automotive
IA Private Wealth	IDA Tavistock	Jacob Auctions Ltd.

The Hickson Lions Club would like to thank all those who participated in our auction.
We sincerely apologize to any donors we have inadvertently missed.

COMMUNITY —

Recent Award Presentations at the Perth County Federation of Agriculture Annual Gala



Listowel's Lexi Johnston, in her fourth year studying Ag. Science at the University of Guelph, receiving her \$1,000 scholarship award from PCFA director Inge Koskamp. After spending her summer employed by Farm Credit Canada, she said she has a passion for dairying and hopes to pursue her future in that field.

By Gary West

Award presentation's were an integral part of the Perth County Federation of Agriculture (PCFA) annual gala held last week at the Arden Park Hotel in Stratford.

Hundreds of area farmers along with their area suppliers and financial institutions were there to honour students receiving scholarships on behalf of federation members.

The scholarships are presented yearly to second, third or fourth year students pursuing a future in agriculture, through university, college or trade programs that will benefit agriculture in the future.

The PCFA also took this time to introduce their young and experienced directors, who go above and beyond in guiding the organization into the future. They also announced the county's "Outstanding

Contributions to Agriculture Award."

Among the many organizations they have helped direct in the past include 4H, Junior Farmers, Perth County Plowmen's Association, BMO Family Farm Award winners, Perth County Pork Producers, the Perth County Federation of Agriculture and organizers of the harvest gala, church and youth events. They also work alongside Ontario Pork and the Ontario Pork Industry Council.

Julie Danen, who farms with her family west of Punkeydoodles Corners, is the elected President of the Perth County Federation of Agriculture. She said "the organization holds its annual 'harvest gala' to celebrate the hard work that all farmers in Perth County do," and thanked all sponsors and attendees for making the event a success year after year.



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COMMUNITY —

Food of the Nith

By Castle Kilbride Staff

Put together using items from the Archival Collection at Castle Kilbride. Information provided by Elmer Nash Laschinger memoirs from 1906 -1915

Running through the heart of Wilmot Township, the Nith River has been a spot where locals have created fond memories for generations. From swimming to boating, the river offers endless hours of fun, but for many, the Mighty Nith also offers sources of delicious delicacies all year long. Through the pages of New Hamburg's Elmer Nash Laschinger's memoirs "Growing Up in New Hamburg, Early Twentieth Century," he recounts stories of how the river had supplied him and other locals with fresh fruits and meats between 1906 to 1915.

Berry picking is an activity for all ages and a location upstream referred to as the "Big Island," offered large quantities of fresh berries such as raspberries. These berries could then be used for jams or simply just to eat. Laschinger remembers his mother using his berry hauls to make raspberry vinegar, a cooling drink that outclassed any other soda water!

Alongside the berries that could be harvested, there are also aquatic species. As a child, Laschinger and his friends would try their luck at catching frogs and sometimes even turtles! Once caught, the frogs and turtles were sold to Lee Fun and to Mrs. Dan Becker, who sold frog legs at the ready market.

Another favourite Laschinger remembers was the fresh local fish sold to residents by the fishmonger. Every Friday, he would ride through town blowing a horn from his little one-horse-drawn cart, letting customers know he had fish for sale. Individuals would



Cutting ice near Haysville. (Photo credit: Township of Wilmot Collection)

then flock to him to purchase the latest catch. To maintain the freshness of the fish, the fishmonger would keep his product cold or frozen on ice cut from the Nith in the winter months.

The cutting of the ice was left to the Eichler family at the time. Every winter, when the ice was the ideal thickness, the Eichlers would go out onto the dam pond with a sled team, saw the ice into blocks, load them and then haul them to their icehouse. Using sawdust as insulation between ice blocks, the ice could be stored to be used in the summer months to keep food fresh.

The Nith River has provided an abundance of leisure and food for Elmer Nash Laschinger and many others living along its banks for centuries.



TAVISTOCK ROYALS SR. "AA" HOCKEY

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Tavistock Royals vs Milverton Four Wheel Drives

Saturday Night, November 25th, 2023

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Tavistock & District Recreation Centre



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COMMUNITY —

Perth County launches weather guide

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Perth County launched a new winter severe weather guide last week on Thursday, November 16. The new booklet is available in both print and digital versions and includes information on staying safe and informed during winter severe weather.

The county has seen several severe and significant winter weather events in the last couple of years, which increased the demand for safety information. This 12-page guide is packed with helpful information including types to prepare for severe winter weather, definitions and weather terminology, links on where to find accurate road and weather information, and more.

Chapter titles include 6 tips on preparing for severe winter weather, what is a significant weather event, road and weather

communications, severe weather notices, and winter alerts.

"Winter weather is fast approaching, and although we are not strangers to this type of weather, the storms are increasing in frequency and intensity," said Rick Fraser, the Community Emergency Management Coordinator for Perth County.

"The county wants to ensure residents are equipped with the important information and knowledge to stay safe and informed. Last year we saw far too many motorists taking unnecessary risks in dangerous road conditions, placing themselves and our emergency services at risk. We want to make sure residents use caution, abide by travel warning and advisories, and stay safe this winter season."

Copies of the new winter severe weather guide are available to pick up for free at local municipal offices and other locations

across the county:

- Perth County Courthouse: 1 Huron Street, Stratford (entrance now via St. Andrew Street)
- Municipality of North Perth: 330 Wallace Avenue North, Listowel
- Township of Perth South: 3191 Road 122, St. Pauls
- Township of Perth East: 25 Mill Street East, Milverton
- Municipality of West Perth: 160 Wellington Street, Mitchell
- Stratford-Perth Archives: 4273 Line 34, Stratford

To check out a digital copy or to learn more about emergency preparedness in Perth County, visit www.perthcounty.ca/emergency.



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SPORTS —

Royals split weekend games

By Lee Griffi

Tavistock has been taking a step forward and a step back throughout the inaugural Ontario Elite Hockey League season, and that trend continued as they split a pair of games last weekend.

The Royals downed Saugeen Shores 6-2 with Jensen Van Boekel earning his first shutout of the season in a 38-save performance. Jeremy Munro and Drew Gerth gave Tavistock a 2-0 lead, but the Winterhawks would tie it up with two goals of their own to start the second period. Phil Edgar added his first of the season followed by Munro's second of the game and third of the

campaign to make it 4-2 after 40 minutes. Edgar scored the only two goals of the third to complete the hat trick and seal the victory.

On Sunday, the Royals hosted Ripley in Embro but came away empty-handed against the Wolves after a 3-2 loss. Gerth opened the scoring with assists going to Sean Kienapple and Mitch Facey to give the visitors a 1-0 lead, but Ripley scored the next three before Mike Noyes found the back of the net on a setup from Trevor Sauder and Geoff Killing with 55 seconds left. Tavistock outshot Ripley 54 to 29 but Wolves goalie Jason Hamilton managed to pick up the win. The five foot seven net-minder from Listowel is in his sixth season

with Ripley and thirteenth campaign in the WOAA and now OEHL.

The Royals remain a game under .500 and in seventh place in the OEHL standings. They host Milverton on Saturday night.

Notes...The Four Wheel Drives picked up their first victory of the season with an 8-3 win in Lucknow on Saturday. Dennis Dewar, a 37-year-old Listowel native, had three goals for Milverton. He spent five seasons with the Junior B Cyclones in the early 2000's and played 28 games for the Ontario Hockey League's Bellville Bulls...Kienapple leads Tavistock in scoring with 11 points in seven games.

PJHL Roundup

By Lee Griffi

Braves down Navy Vets again and make a player acquisition

Tavistock only had one Provincial Junior Hockey League game over the weekend, but they made it count. The Braves handed the Woodstock Navy Vets a 5-3 loss, continuing their domination over the Doherty Division leaders. The Navy Vets have only lost three games all season, all three coming at the gloves of the Braves.

Braves General Manager Jordan Zehr said they have built up a pretty good rivalry with the Vets. "I think we have a lot of similarities on how we like to build our teams and the style of play we want to play. We have had some past success with them, but we know every year is a new year, and we need to bring our best game when we play them if we want to keep it up." Woodstock took a 2-0 lead in the first period on Friday, but Zehr said the kids turned it around. "I think going down 2-0 Friday night was a result of a poor first period. The feeling in the room was that we needed to be better at all ends of the ice if we wanted to get back into the game. We were able to kill off a few penalties to start the second, which I think helped us get a little momentum back in our favour."

Ian Glendinning and Ethan Sharpe scored in the second period to tie the game at two, then Carson Bernhardt gave the Braves their first lead less than two minutes into the third. Woodstock would tie it up, setting the stage for Stephen Peppas' game-winner with just 30 seconds left on a feed from Glendinning and Andrew Van Boekel. Ryan Suljack added an empty net goal 20 seconds later. The Braves went two for five on the powerplay while the Navy Vets were held scoreless in five chances. The next action for Tavistock is at home on Friday when they host Hespeler.

Tavistock has acquired Nick Hambly from the Brantford of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League in a cash deal. The 18-year-old Kitchener native joins the Braves after spending parts of the last three seasons with the Bandits. "We are very excited to bring Nick into the organization. He had skated with us at our camp as a 16-year-old and then, of course, signed in Brantford, so he is a name we have been keeping tabs on for sure. There is some familiarity there with the team as he knows quite a few of our guys growing up in the K-W area and also playing in the Huron-Perth AAA organization. Nick is a hard-working winger who can contribute offensively. Combined with his

year and a half experience of playing in the GOJHL, it makes him a very big addition to the team."

New Hamburg inches closer to Woodstock, Wellesley stops the bleeding

The Firebirds find themselves just two points back of first in the Doherty Division after a perfect weekend with two wins. They started off with a 5-4 overtime victory in Norwich on Friday thanks to a game-winner from Riley Benko. Owen Bruder had two assists, including one on the OT goal, while captain Owen Fischer added a goal and an assist. On Sunday, New Hamburg headed to Hespeler and handed the Shamrocks an embarrassing 10-1 loss. Fischer picked up a hat trick and now has 12 goals on the season. Jake Thomson had three assists, while Josh Soulliere scored twice. The Firebirds outshot the Shamrocks 49-24 and went two for seven with the man advantage.

The Applejacks were able to pick up a 4-0 win at home Saturday against the last-place Paris Titans. Isiah Katsube scored once and added two assists to lead the way, with Logan Crans and Jake L'Hereux added two points each. The Applejacks outshot the Titans 44 to 26 and Tyson Gustaw earned the shutout.

PJHL STANDINGS						
South Doherty Division						
(as of November 20, 2023)						
	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
Woodstock Navy Vets	19	16	2	1	0	33
New Hamburg Firebirds	19	14	4	1	0	29
Tavistock Braves	16	9	6	0	1	19
Hespeler Shamrocks	16	7	9	0	0	14
Norwich Merchants	17	5	9	2	1	13
Wellesley Applejacks	16	6	10	0	0	12
Paris Titans	19	3	15	1	0	7

PJHL - South Doherty Division						
2023-24 Point Leaders						
Team	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
WNV	Davin Gray	F	19	6	32	38
WNV	Nolan Brett	F	19	18	15	33
NHF	Owen Fischer	F	17	13	9	22
WNV	Ethan Szabo	F	15	6	16	22
NHF	Owen Bruder	F	19	11	10	21
WNV	Chris Coulter	D	18	9	12	21
NHF	Tyler Reid	D	19	7	13	20
NOR	Brandon Balazs	F	16	9	9	18
TAV	Stephen Peppas	F	16	8	9	17
NHF	Jake Thompson	F	18	7	10	17
HES	Boden White	F	12	5	12	17
HES	Jack Restauri	F	16	5	11	16
NOR	Joel Storoschuk	F	17	7	8	15
WNV	Tyler Smeda	D	19	6	9	15
TAV	Ian Glendinning	F	16	5	10	15
NHF	Owen Sculthorp	F	10	4	11	15
WNV	Brodie Kearns	F	13	4	11	15
NHF	Carter Niall	F	19	9	5	14
WNV	Nolan Burnside	F	18	6	8	14
TAV	Nicolas Thibodeau	F	16	5	9	14
NHF	Aidan Reid	F	17	3	11	14
NHF	Antonio Pasqualino	F	18	3	11	14
WNV	Ty Crombie	F	15	6	7	13
HES	Andrew Harris	F	15	8	5	13
HES	Justin George	D	16	2	11	13

W.O.A.A. Senior "AA" Hockey					
(standings through November 20, 2023)					
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Ripley Wolves	10	6	4	3	15
Creemore Coyotes	7	6	1	1	13
Saugeen Shores Winterhawks	9	6	3	0	12
Durham Thundercats	8	5	3	1	11
Seaforth Centenaires	7	5	2	0	10
Minto 81's	8	4	4	1	9
Tavistock Royals	9	4	5	0	8
Georgian Bay Applekings	7	3	4	0	6
Erin Outlaws	8	3	5	0	6
Lucknow Lancers	7	1	6	1	3
Milverton Four Wheel Drives	8	1	7	0	2

Tavistock Royals					
2023-24 Point Leaders					
PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Sean Kienapple	F	7	6	5	11
Drew Gerth	F	9	3	4	7
Sean Leslie	F	9	3	3	6
Erik Robichaud	F	3	2	3	5
Phil Edgar	F	6	3	1	4
Jeremy Munro	F	9	3	1	4
Mike Noyes	D	6	2	2	4
Trevor Sauder	F	9	2	2	4
Lucas Bast	D	8	1	3	4
Cam Leslie	D	9	0	4	4
Deven Kropf	F	7	1	2	3
Callan Christner	F	8	2	0	2
Matt Zilke	F	6	1	1	2
Mitch Facey	F	6	0	2	2
Geoff Killing	D	1	0	1	1
Collin Hartwick	F	2	0	1	1
Greg Noyes	D	7	0	1	1
Tristan Hohl	D	7	0	1	1
Reid Ramseyer	D	7	0	1	1
Adam Barr	F	8	0	1	1
Zach Mark	F	0	0	0	0
Graham Kitching	F	3	0	0	0
Samson Walsom	D	4	0	0	0
Ted Anstett	F	4	0	0	0
Chad McIntosh	F	2	0	0	0

Turtles come out flying at first game in the new Wellesley arena



Back row left to right, Ben Balfour, Riley Williams, Bill Eaton, Adam Swartzentruber, Terry Gerber, Eric Furlong, Gerry Furlong, Steven Furlong, Dino Guerra, Randy Balfour, Kyle Erb, Conner Arms. Front row left to right, Paul Gowing, Wendell Erb, Blair Gowing.

Hockey history was made on Friday, November 17th, when the puck dropped between an inter-squad game of Wellesley Turtles. It only took two minutes for the first goal to be scored by Kyle Erb against his father, Wendell Erb. From there, the game settled down, and at the mid-way point, the score was 2-0 for the white team.

As the game moved into the second half, the conditioning of the players became evident, and the final score was 9-1. Riley Williams was the only player to get one past Blair Gowing for the green team. Kyle Erb finished with a game high 5 goals. Tough guy Randy Balfour was his usual self, keeping everyone on both teams honest.

Most Friday nights at 8 p.m. in Wellesley, the Turtles are on the ice. Come out for a walk around the new track and watch some less-than-stellar hockey on the ice.

SPORTS —

Wilmot Wolverines U15C win Aces tourney

This past weekend, the Wilmot Wolverines U15C Hockey Club participated in the Stratford Aces Festival Cup Hockey Challenge. On the first day of the tournament the Wolverines faced the Lambeth Lancers and the Wallaceburg Lakers; coming away with 3-0 and 5-0 victories. The first game on Saturday saw the Wolverines face their league rivals from Woodstock, coming away with a 1-0 victory over the Wildcats in a very tight hockey game. Game 4 of the tournament had the Wolverines facing the Central Perth Predators who currently sit undefeated in first place of the WOGHL U15C North Division. This was another very competitive game which ended in a 1-1 tie and sent both teams to semi-final games on Sunday morning in Stratford. The Wolverines's semi-final game had them again facing the Woodstock Wildcats. After giving up the first goal of the game, the Wolverines stormed back for a 4-1 victory. This meant a birth in the finals and a rematch with the daunting Predators team.

The Wolverines took a 1-0 lead early in the first period before the Predators tied the game early in the second. The rest of the play in regulation time had the energetic Wolverines constantly defending the strong offensive play of the talented Predators team. But after 35 minutes of regulation play, the score was still tied at 1 and the Championship Game was heading into over time.

Over time was set up for 5 minutes of 3 on 3 play. The Wolverines, however, would only need 14 seconds for one of their speedy wingers, MacKenzie Hallman, to carry the puck up the ice and over the blue line into the Predators zone. At the hash marks along the boards she fired a perfect pass across the ice to the slot where her Wolverine teammate Norah Boertien made no mistake in hammering the puck into the top corner over the goalies glove for the game winning goal!



Back row, from left, Rod Lichti (head coach), Kayla Schenk (asst coach), Bridget Etue, Norah Boertien, Mackenzie Hallman, Morgan Boertien, Chloe West, Anna Cross, Summer Kollman, Celia Funston, Maya Rempel, Christa Fidler (trainer), Krista Boertien (trainer), Laura Cross (asst coach). Front row, from left, Violet Bender, Lauren Fidler, Madeline Lichti, Cheyenne Forler, Adeline Steckley

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OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *Business Profile: Live Vibes Kombucha*



By Mercedes Kay Gold

Pitch the pop and jump onto the kombucha craze. This fizzy fermented powerhouse will have you swap out soda forever. Live Vibes Kombucha, New Hamburg's hometown kombucha is founded on a mother's love. It all started when owner, Lindsay Leis fell in love with a new drink her sister-in-law shared. Delighted to discover a natural remedy for her children with food sensitivities and allergies. After endless hours of online research, tons

of trials and slews of sampling sessions, Lindsay locked down the perfect small batch brew time and fantastic flavor decks. In 2018, Lindsay, official master brewer and owner launched Live Vibes Kombucha online, in local stores and at local markets.

Let's begin with a few fast facts. Kombucha begins by combining yeast and bacteria. Once it begins to grow, the newly created culture or SCOBY (Serendipitous Culture of Bacteria and Yeasts) is added to tea, a touch of sugar and left to ferment. The SCOBY converts the sugar into ethanol and acetic acid, giving kombucha its one-of-a-kind flavor. The taste is surprisingly tart and yet a touch sweet, but look for exciting extras. Kombucha fans fall fast for floral, fruity or herbal helpers such as turmeric for a tasty twist.

Digestive distress is no picnic. For many having a happy gut equals a happy life. Research shows a

link between a healthy gut microbiome and overall well-being. We are heading into cold and flu season; your gut is responsible for 70% to 80% of your immune system. Stress, minimal sleep, antibiotics, and a processed diet high in sugar and oils negatively impacts the approximately eight thousand different bacteria strains found in the digestive tract. Fermented foods are a fabulous flora friendly find. They help alleviate gas, heartburn and indigestion, banish bloating and address constipation and diarrhea. Our microbiome is linked to energy level, mood and even metabolism, supporting healthy weight-management. Dysbiosis can disrupt the gut, leading to inflammation throughout the body, and in turn affect arthritis.

Improve gut health without breaking the bank. Kombucha is boatloads

of belly-boosting health help and probiotic benefits in a tasty drink. This holistic nutritionist is in love with all 32 happy holistic blends Live Vibes Kombucha bottles in the retro stubby amber glass bottle. Have a health concern? Turmeric is anti-inflammatory, chamomile calms, elderflower eases the common cold and green tea contains catechins to prevent cell damage. Not sure which to choose? Fruit is always fun. Raspberry pomegranate and lemon ginger raspberry are Lindsay's top sellers. There are a few specialty blends and some seasonal, so keep an eye out. Sugar plum spice and Christmas mint are coming to a cooler near you mid-November. Yes, kombucha is a fermented beverage but also required to contain less than

0.5% alcohol, making it a non-alcoholic holiday festive favorite for all ages.

Go green! Send Lindsay an email and simply drop off used bottles for a quarter credit on your next order.

Live Vibes Kombucha is a live culture food uniting flavor and health in a nourishing drink supporting your well-being from the inside out. Shop online or locally at The Garden Stand in New Hamburg. Follow @livevibekom-bucha for great posts.

Mercedes Kay Gold is a Certified Holistic Nutritionist, Certified Personal Trainer and published writer who loves helping others live their best life when not spending time with her children and grandson Theodore.



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COMMUNITY —

WO junior boys football coach reflects on successful season

By Veronica Reiner

The Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School (WODSS) Junior Boys football coach, Chris Wein, reflected on the team's success this past season.

The team, called the Gators, advanced to the Waterloo County Secondary School Athletic Association (WCCSSAA) junior football championship for the first time since 1995, he said.

"Part of it is, we usually have two or three coaches helping with the team. This year, we had a lot of volunteers come out, so it helped," said Wein. "We also had a bunch of the rep kids from Kitchener that played for the junior Warrior football team, and they ended up all coming out for the junior team."

"When you have a bunch of rep players, it makes things a little bit easier."

The final championship game took place at the University of Waterloo Warrior field on Saturday, November 11. The WO Gators fell to the Elmira District Secondary School Lancers, with a final score of 13-28.

Wein noted that the Lancers were the only team that the Gators lost to during the regular season. However, there were a lot of positive moments throughout the season as well.

"We ended up beating the Jacob Hespeler Hawks for basically the first time in the school's history," said Wein. "I've been a coach for 18 years, and I've never beat them."

The Gators beat the Hawks 20-0 in the semi-finals on Tuesday, November 7. Before that, the Gators took down Grand River Collegiate Institute 33-12 on November 1; they beat Bluevale Collegiate Institute 20-13 on October 24; won against Kitchener Collegiate Institute 66-0 on October 11.

Early on in the season, the Gators beat out Waterloo Collegiate Institute 35-0 on September 20; and Laurel Heights Secondary School 39-0 on September 27. Their sole losing game to Elmira took place at the EDSS field on October 5. The final score was 8-17.

When asked about standout players on the team, Wein said, "Riley Braden, he's our quarterback; he's probably one of the best players on the team. Rowan Bartlett, I think he's a Tavi boy. Colson Handfield, Oliver Siddall. They have very good football knowledge because they've all played before. So they're very good leaders."

Other scoring members of the team throughout the season include Carter Tonin, Tyler Braiden, Daniel East, Evan Fidler, Zach MacMil, and Jayse Londry.

Show Us Your Wilmot



This feature is inspired by the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page. This week's photo was taken by Carolyn Bentley, with the caption, "I'm not ready to say goodbye," referring to the fall season. (Photo credit: Carolyn Bentley)

Gazette Puzzles

Hockey

Q	E	Z	D	S	X	V	T	P	N	P	A	L	B	X	M	C	B	U	X
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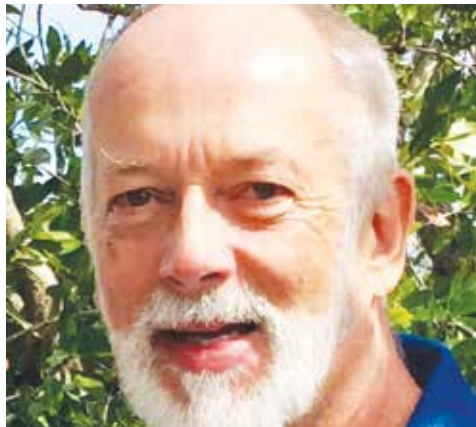
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: When a travel plan gets even better



By Paul Knowles

If you remember the TV show, "The A-Team", you will remember the phrase, "I love it when a plan comes together." Well, you know what's even better? When a plan turns out to be an even better plan than you planned!

Read it again – eventually, that will make sense.

And that is what has happened with the trip I am leading to Wales and the Cotswolds, next May.

Some background: last year, I collaborated with the excellent folks at Stonetown Travel to plan and lead a coach tour of southern England, which we dubbed "Canterbury to Cornwall." I had no idea how it would go, but – in my obviously biased opinion – it was great. A great tour, great destinations and, most importantly, a great group of fellow travellers. It was so enjoyable that I agreed to put together another itinerary, and lead a group to another part of the British Isles, in 2024.

I only want to take that on, if we're visiting places I am very familiar with – I think I owe it to my group to have a good idea of our destinations. I knew I wanted to go to the Cotswolds, that beautiful part of England often called "The Heart of England." A visit there must include Stratford, Coventry, and Oxford, all without spending a lot of time on the bus. And yes, I have been to the district several times, and loved every minute of it.

But as I looked at a map of the U.K., I realized that we could include a few days in Wales – a destination often overlooked – as part of this tour. And, yes, I have been to Wales – but at the time I planned the trip, it had been about 25 years since my last visit there. I recalled enough, though, to choose the charming town of Abergavenny as our headquarters for a three-night stay.

And that's where the plan turned out to be even better than I had planned. Because in September of this year, I got a call from a website publisher: "Would you like to go to Wales, next week, to write about the Abergavenny Food Festival?" I would have to leave in a week.

Really? I jumped at the chance, thanked the nice people at vacay.ca, and packed

my carry-on.

The time in Wales was amazing, and I got lots of material for travel articles, but at least as importantly, I got to visit the very town and surrounding area that I had already planned for our Wales and the Cotswolds trip. And that opportunity meant I could connect, personally, with people in Wales, and arrange unique experiences that would never have been possible if I were planning the trip based on decades-old memories. I got to visit the hotel we will be staying at. I met the owner of a vineyard where we are going to have a tasting of wine made in Wales – great stuff (I did check it out, assiduously), but never available in Canada. I talked to the folks at historic and scenic sites, and was able to arrange some unique experiences for our group.

My time in Wales was so good that when I returned home, I re-jigged the tour itinerary, to add one day in this fascinating country. My new plan is definitely better than what I had planned!

Of course, we will also be visiting amazing sites in England. We'll be staying in Stratford-upon-Avon for a few days, which will include attending a play at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, and visits to all sorts of sites connected to the great playwright, himself.

I can't wait to re-visit Coventry Cathedral, one of the most emotionally powerful places in the world. The story of the bombing of Coventry, including the cathedral; the decision to maintain the ruins as a memorial; and the construction of the new cathedral right next door, is a powerful narrative, full of poignant details that I will keep to myself, until we are at the site.

We'll also stay in Chipping Campden, a beautiful Cotswold town, and in Oxford, where there is so much to experience – including music in one of the historic churches.

I was especially excited to learn that a new visitor spot has opened, near Oxford – Bletchley Park, famed site of the top-secret decoding operation that cracked the Nazi's communications code, the Enigma Code. This has been made famous in historical accounts, books, and movies. I jumped at the chance for our group to pay a visit.

I am very grateful to the people at Stonetown Travel – including Stewart Grant, that very busy guy who owns the travel agencies and also this newspaper and its sister publications – for offering me the chance to put my travel experience into practice by introducing others to some of the most interesting parts of the world.

I am also grateful for the sheer coincidence that took me to Wales in September, turning my plan into a better plan than I had planned!

For more information, contact me, or Louise Bell at louise@stonetowntravel.com.



The High Street in Abergavenny, where the group will stay for four nights. (Paul Knowles photos)



Wild ponies abound in the beautiful Brecon Beacons, in Wales.



Historic memorials in the Parish Church of St. Mary's in Abergavenny.

OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *Three things you can do to improve your style... right now!*



By Scott Dunstall

I often get compliments on the way I appear. Notice I didn't say the way I look. Folks will say they like my coat or my shoes, but it is really the entire flash (look) they are commenting on. It is those small elements that work together to make a certain look (flash); here are some things you can do right now to tighten up your style and the way you appear.

1) Avoid a big pile up at the bottom of your pants or jeans. I gotta tell ya, it's the easiest thing to make sure of when you buy one of these items, but I would say 90% of men ignore it or can't be

bothered. To me, nothing looks more unkept than a big pile of material where your pants hit your shoes. Once you get into the routine, it gets easier, and you're happy every time you slip those puppies on. First things first, you should know what your inseam is. That is, the distance from your groin down to the ankle. Mine is 32", which is pretty well average. Most height for men is in their torso, so you would be surprised how common a 32" inseam is. But depending on the cut, rise and style of jean or pants, there may be slight variations. In which case, you might have to go a size up or down. If that doesn't quite cut it then I will take them to a tailor to get exactly what I want. It's a pain in the keister but once it's done, its done. And every time you slip those babies on and see that seamless flow from your pants/jeans into your shoes, you will smile with joy and happiness.

2) Ditch the wheelbarrow you use for a wallet. But Scott, my cargo pants easily carry my wallet, what is the problem? Stop it. You shouldn't be wearing car-

go pants anymore, either. Part of your look involves not having too many lumps or bumps sticking out. I can't do anything about your bulging gut, though. If I did, I would take care of mine too! So, look for a sleek credit card sleeve. Winners/Marshalls have them in their accessory department, usually down by the ties and underwear. The Bay in Conestoga Mall has them right at the checkout; mine is made of leather and is about the same size as a credit card but with slots to slip in my cards. But Scott, what about the left nostril inhaler warranty I've been carrying around for four years? That's what filing cabinets are for. I also don't carry anything bigger than an iPhone 13, thereby bucking the current trend of carrying around your living room in your back pocket. Bumps are bad. And I only carry the FOB, not the keys. I'm not a jailer or a janitor.

3) Do some personal hygiene guys. If you're going shaved, then rock it. I use a vibrating head (wow, seriously? THAT is the first place your mind goes?) ra-

zor that has the 5-blade cartridge. I always shave down, then shave back up against the grain. Chin stubble is the most noticeable, so just go back a fourth until you get it. Also, keep your nose and ear hair clipped. Nothing says "I gave up" more than a snauze that needs a haircut or wearing earmuffs in July. Also, use the same trimmer to hack away some of that forest above your eyes. Finally, clip your nails and even the ones in your socks. You don't want that to be a deal breaker when they come off. Get a haircut once in a while. I usually go every 2-3 weeks, or I start looking like a circus clown. Funny story. I thought I would cut my own hair, so I went to the men's grooming department at Walmart. I saw this kit with different heads and a powerhandle and it read personal hair trimmer. I got into line and I'm standing there if front of two older women. I held the package up in the air for all to see while I searched my inside pocket for my wallet. I heard one of them snicker. After I put my arm down and began reading the package in more detail and in big, bold

print halfway down the pack... "Especially Designed for the Public Area." I thought the heads looked kinda small. Anyhow, I texted my daughter and asked her to call me. She did, and when I answered, I left that line so fast, exclaiming that my daughter just drove by and called to tell me she saw my car on fire."

"Style is just fashion filtered through your personality."

Scott Dunstall has been on a stylistic journey for over 10 years. He believes that every guy has a style of their own. When it's discovered, it empowers and builds confidence. Scott has appeared several times on Rogers TV Kitchen as a guest on DAYTIME. His writing has been republished by LinkedIn Top Influencer and INC. Magazine contributing editor, Jeff Haden. He has also written several pieces for the Baden Outlook. You can follow Scott on Instagram @everydaystylebyscott or on LinkedIn @scottdunstall. Feel free to ask questions or propose collaborations: everydaystylebyscott1@gmail.com.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2023					
November 24th to November 25th A Merry Little Christmas Market Taking place at the St. Agatha Community Centre at 1791 Erbs Road, St. Agatha. Presented by Sweet Lights Company. Two day market - Friday hours are 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., while Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission can be a non-perishable food item or feminine hygiene product.	From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Quehl's Restaurant in Tavistock.	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. 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.	Complex from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be available. New this year at the craft sale - Santa Claus will be coming to town.	around 4 p.m. until around 8 p.m.	
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, raffle. Everyone is invited.	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 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.	December 2nd Wilmot Seniors Workshop Christmas Craft and Bake Sale Taking place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wilmot Seniors' Woodworking and Craft Centre, 27 Beck Street in Baden. Featuring cutting boards, potato boxes, wooden bowls, carved birds, clothes dryers, bat houses, children's furniture, Christmas ornaments and more. Credit, debit or cash accepted.	December 6th East Zorra Tavistock Council Meeting In-person council meeting taking place at 7 p.m. at 695566 17th Line in Innerkip.	
November 25th Quehl's Restaurant baking, preserves, gift baskets	November 27th 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.	December 2nd Optimist Club of Wilmot Craft and Bake Sale Taking place at the Wilmot Recreation	December 3rd New Hamburg Santa Claus Parade Taking place in downtown New Hamburg from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	December 9th Christmas Benefit Breakfast Sponsored by Community Care Concepts at the New Hamburg Legion. Full breakfast served. Tickets available at the door or in advance: Ross Eichler, 519-662-3113; New Hamburg Legion, 519-662-3770; Community Care Concepts, 519-662-9526.	
	November 28th New Hamburg Junior Optimist Club Parent/Student Q&A Session Taking place at the Wilmot Recreation Complex on the second floor, at the Optimist Youth Centre. Open to Grade 7-12 students in Wilmot. Aims to teach working as a team, leadership, financial literacy, volunteerism, and more.	December 2nd Optimist Club of Wilmot Craft and Bake Sale Taking place at the Wilmot Recreation	December 4th Blood Drive Taking place at the Steinmann Menonite Church at 1316 Snyder's Road West in New Hamburg. Booking times are available on www.blood.ca from	December 14th Community Care Concepts Community Dining event Taking place at 12 p.m. at the Wilmot Recreation Complex, 1291 Nafziger Road Baden. Community Care Concepts invites you to join for lunch, fellowship and entertainment. Cost is \$14, must register by calling 519-664-1900 or toll free 1-855-664-1900.	

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Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Suzanne Collins | 6) George W. Bush |
| 2) 4 | 7) Kampala |
| 3) Orange bands | 8) Doe or Nanny |
| 4) Casket, Coffin, Tomb | 9) 18 inches |
| 5) The Roman Empire | 10) Ted Kaczynski |

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COMMUNITY —

The Tavistock Mennonite Church presents an A Capella Christmas

By Gary West

Tavistock and area residents who love to get into the real meaning of Christmas through music, should mark their calendars for Sunday, December 3rd at the Tavistock Mennonite church at 2:30 p.m.

That's when the members of the church are pleased to present an "A Capella Christmas", performed by the Twin City Harmonizers, with the special guest ladies quartet, Onyx.

Members of the Tavistock Mennonite Church show committee, Paul Roth, Alyssa Kerfoot and Cheryl Bender, are expecting a sold out crowd.

Proceeds from the concert will go toward TMC's Refugee Sponsorship fundraising initiative, and Harmonize for Speech, a registered charity that provides funds and support for Ontario children and adults to improve their ability to communicate.

The Tavistock Mennonite Church portion will go towards sponsoring their soon-to-arrive Syrian refugees.

These six people are members of families they have sponsored in past years. They already have an apartment rented, fully furnished and waiting for their imminent arrival.

The church does support them financially for one full year until they become established in the community. Other area churches will also be helping financially as well.

Tickets are on sale now \$20 for adults, \$15 youth and

young adults 13+, and free for children 12 and under.

More info is available with Alyssa at : admin@tavistock-mennonitechurch.ca or call the church at 519-655-2581.

Tavistock Mennonite Church Presents

An A Cappella Christmas

In support of TMC Refugee Sponsorship Fund

With The **Twin City HARMONIZERS**

Sun. Dec 3, 2023 2:30 p.m.

[Doors open at 1:45]

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Children 12 & under free

For tickets.... call Tavistock Mennonite Church 519-655-2581,
visit twincityharmonizers.com
or go to Eventbrite

The Twin City Harmonizers and the Onyx Quartet, who will be performing at Tavistock Mennonite Church on Sunday December 3rd at 2:30 p.m. (Photo contributed)

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