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Tavistock native to appear on Jeopardy!



Tavistock native, Scott Shewfelt (right) stands with Jeopardy host, Ken Jennings, during the taping of the Champions Wildcard edition which is being aired on Thursday, December 7.

By Veronica Reiner

Scott Shewfelt, who grew up in Tavistock and attended Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School (WODSS), will once again appear on the game show Jeopardy! for their Champions Wildcard edition. The episode will air today on Thursday, December 7.

In this show format, there were 27 people vying for one spot. The winner received \$100,000 and the next spot in the Tournament of Champions. The entire tournament was shot on three consecutive days (November 6 to 8) at Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, California.

"Being part of a TV show, there's a lot of stuff you have to do behind the scenes. It's fun to play the actual Jeopardy! game and it's fun to talk with the other contestants, but the rest isn't exactly fun," said Scott, in an interview with the Gazette.

"The time between the taping and when it airs is trying mentally. There is the urge to somehow steal all the footage from Sony so my mom and dad won't be bullied at the curling rink. When the episodes air, it's never been as bad or embarrassing as I think it will be."

This is the fourth time that Scott has appeared on the game show, winning twice

and placing second once. The first of his original Jeopardy! taping days occurred during the pandemic, shot in an empty room, and the host was television presenter Dr. Mehmet Oz. "It was a long day filled with what seemed like endless delays, technical mishaps, and Dr. Oz being Dr. Oz," said Scott.

Compared to his previous experiences, this time around was much smoother.

"Unlike the first time, this tournament was shot in front of a live studio audience," said Scott. "I could actually hear them cheering and occasionally gasping. Ken Jennings

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All-party consensus on a new suicide prevention tool

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The creation of a National Suicide Prevention Hotline is drawing praise from all political stripes, including two area Members of Parliament. The hotline is for anyone having suicidal thoughts or emotional distress and is available to everyone in Canada. It is being led by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and is available by phone and text, provided in English and French, and accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Arpan Khanna, Member of Parliament for Oxford, said the initiative is a game-changer for those in need of help. "This life-saving service will provide Canadians who are struggling with mental health the opportunity to call or text 9-8-8 and receive free, confidential, immediate, and non-judgmental support, 24 hours a day." The motion that led to the initiative was introduced and passed in the House of Commons by Conservative Shadow Minister of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Todd Doherty, on December 11, 2020.

Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis said he couldn't be happier that all parties worked and worked together hard to make it happen. "Putting partisanship aside is what Canadians want and this is a wonderful example of how we can put politics aside and do what's best for Canadians." Khanna echoed Louis and is pleased to see an easy-to-use service in place. "It took a few years for this to get implemented into law, but it's good to see everyone come together around such a feel-good story. This is a big crisis that we are seeing in our communities with 200 people attempting suicide every day. We all have our battles and challenges, so just having

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COMMUNITY —

Shewfelt appears on Jeopardy for the 4th time

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was my host this time. Ken is a great host.”

Over the course of his previous Jeopardy! experiences, Shewfelt walked away with about \$50,000 in winnings. “Not bad for a day of work,” he quipped.

All three of his episodes aired in April 2021. Described as a writer from Tavistock, Ontario, Scott competed against a variety of people, such as Yungsheng Wang (three time champion, attorney from Los Angeles, California) and Robin Lozano (one-time champion, Shaverton, Pennsylvania).

In addition to Dr. Oz, Scott participated in an episode hosted by NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

One of his answers from his losing game went viral. During the final question portion of the show, Shewfelt wrote out the answer “Who wanted to kick that field goal?” to host Aaron Rodgers. This was a reference to the decision that occurred during a game with the Packers (Rodgers team at the time) against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in January 2021. While trailing 31-23 with 2:09 to go in the fourth quarter, the Packers elected to kick a field goal, instead of going for the end zone for more points.

It can be intimidating to go on TV, noted Scott. “You’re very alone on that stage, it’s quite scary - when you answer incorrectly, the silence is deafening,” he said.

Scott said that the best way to prepare to go on the show for him was watching Jeopardy!. “The questions aren’t as hard as the buzzer is. It’s tricky - you can’t buzz in the second you know the answer. That would make for horrible television. You have to wait for a light to flash on the screen in the studio,” he said.

“There hasn’t been a single question that I studied for. Watching that show is probably the best thing you can do, and trying to understand - it’s got its own language, trying to get used to that.”

Scott grew up watching Jeopardy! with his grandparents. He added that his grandparents watched the show religiously, and it would have been nice for them to see him on it.

He currently lives in Santa Monica, California with his wife Raechal. After studying at WODSS, he attended Western University with degrees in economics and history. He went to grad school for journalism at the University of Maryland.

New National Suicide Prevention Hotline

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somebody to listen I think goes a long way.”

Louis said in addition to having a new resource for those thinking about taking their own lives, it also raises awareness of the issue. “People are starting to realize that suicide is a public health issue, and it affects people of all ages and backgrounds. An average of 12 people a day in Canada die by suicide. As a society, I think we are making progress talking about it.” He added the message for anyone struggling is that they are not alone. “It’s a three-digit number to make it as easy as possible for people to get help when they need it.”

Both members of parliament agree that while this is a positive step in combatting a serious issue, there is much more work to be done. Louis said the last three years have shown how important mental health is. “We recognize the importance of mental health because we had a minister responsible for that and addictions, but it isn’t federal, provincial, or local. It has to be all levels of government working together.”

Khanna agreed and added that mental health usually gets a back seat from government and the community in general. “There is a stigma still attached to mental health, especially in some of the cultural communities. There is always this notion that physical health is more important

than mental health, which I disagree with.” He added a strategy is needed that will also touch on the homeless problem since often the two go hand in hand. “We don’t have those kinds of supports in Oxford County and across Canada. There are no crisis beds here. If somebody wants help or treatment, we can’t even put them anywhere. By finding enough resources and making sure they go to the front line, to the people who provide help.”

Louis explained the federal government is making sure there are conditions in health care transfer payments to the provinces. “Money needs to be earmarked specifically for mental health. On the ground, there are services and organizations in our communities doing that great work. We need to continue to support them and have all levels of government work together with these organizations and non-profits and the health care system itself. It has to be an all hands on deck approach.”

“Please, if you are struggling with mental illness, know that you don’t have to suffer alone. You belong here, and your life is worth living,” added Khanna. Louis said everyone’s heart goes out to people who have lost loved ones to suicide. “I appreciate you getting this message out there that people aren’t alone. They can call or text 9-8-8 and people will be there with no judgment.”

Hickson school looking to bring holiday cheer to those less fortunate

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Hickson Public School has started its annual gift drive. The school is collecting items from Friday, December 1 for two full weeks.

This year they are collecting items for the Ronald McDonald House in London, Operation Sharing in Woodstock, and the Ingamo House in Woodstock.

Each of these places plays a crucial role in helping our community around the holiday season.

Ronald McDonald House helps families physically, economically, and emotionally during their healthcare journey. A Ronald McDonald House program helps reduce stress and financial burden for families when they must travel far from home to access medical care for their children.

Operation Sharing is a non-profit organization that provides services to the homeless community through a donation-based homeless shelter.

Ingamo Homes is a non-profit organization, committed to ending gender-based violence by providing second-stage housing, outreach, and programming to women and their children, serving Woodstock, and Oxford County.

This year the following items are being collected:

- New clothing



- New toys (for all ages and genders)
- Gifts for parents (books, body care sets, blankets)
- Food (snacks/school snacks, condiments, breakfast items, canned fruits/vegetables/meat, baking items, quick meals)
- Gift cards (Giant Tiger, grocery stores, Walmart, Dollarama, Rexall, Shoppers Drug Mart)

Items can be dropped off at the school during regular hours.

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COMMUNITY —

Area Public Health Unit issues opioid warning

Local overdose rates are above provincial average

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Southwest Public Health Unit last week put out a public advisory to warn the community about non-fatal poisonings from red or beige coloured fentanyl. The organization received word from an unnamed service provider about three overdoses which led to the alert.

Public Health Nurse Julie Gillespie said the process to let providers and the public was followed and she added they rely on drug users to provide them with information. "We work with clients every day and build relationships with them. They are able to tell us when things are going on out of the ordinary. Any street-level fentanyl is dangerous, and we know there have been overdoses but, in this situation, there were more than expected. We actually heard from a community partner in this situation who also builds relationships with people who use drugs." She added the health unit decides to send out an advisory if they hear something out of the ordinary to alert those who use opioids and people who care for them. "Even though we know fentanyl is always dangerous on the streets, in this situation we are hearing about something especially toxic and we are taking precautions as necessary."

Gillespie explained that addiction is a complex issue and people are addicted for various reasons. "Some are at a certain point in their journey where they aren't ready or able to stop their use and that is what harm reduction is about. Keeping people as safe as possible in their use without requiring the cessation of that use."

While she can't say precisely in what communities overdoses are occurring, she can say the numbers in the Southwest Public Health Unit area have reached a concerning level. "We don't drill the numbers down that small to the town level. We look at a higher lever covering Oxford and Elgin Counties, but we know from our statistics that our region has surpassed the provincial numbers. It's not a big city issue. It can happen anywhere." The health unit's website has a dashboard available to the public where many statistics are available, and they do not paint a positive picture of the opioid issue locally.

During the height of the pandemic, the statistics were much higher, particularly in 2021. There were 255 emergency room visits compared to 146 to date in 2023. There were 46 overdose deaths two years ago and 32 this year. "That gives you a snapshot of what's going on in our region. The messaging surrounding opioid use is to never use alone, something rendered very difficult during the COVID-19 years.

At the height of the pandemic, harm reduction messaging went against that so you can't save yourself if you are overdosing. People were more isolated and weren't sure if services were open and that was true across the province."

Gillespie added that as a public health professional, the numbers locally are very concerning. "I have worked in this field for a long time, and we have certainly known that opioids cause a risk of overdose, and it has worsened. I develop relationships and care about people and don't want them to die from something that can be prevented. It is difficult."

She said her organization's role is on the prevention and harm reduction side. "We offer a needle exchange program and naloxone for people who use substances. We also work with a larger team that works at more higher-level policy issues such as opioid monitoring." Gillespie's hope is everyone will add naloxone to their first aid kit. "Understand signs of an opioid overdose, get a kit, and learn how to use it. Talk to your loved ones if you are concerned about their use. There are many resources locally that can help."

Health unit encouraging vaccinations before Christmas

Over the past week, Southwestern Public Health has received notification of seven lab-confirmed cases of influenza A, the first cases of the season. One case was in a resident of a local Long-Term Care Home. The remaining cases were in people living in the community.

The health unit says the confirmed cases are an indication that influenza is circulating in the area. "The influenza vaccine is widely available. Now is the time to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community from this respiratory virus by adding a flu shot to your regular habits of handwashing, staying home when unwell, and covering your coughs and sneezes," said Dr. Ninh Tran, Medical Officer of Health.

With families readying for holiday gatherings, the health unit is asking residents to keep their shots up to date. They would like everyone, but particularly those at highest risk of serious respiratory illness, to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and the flu before the holiday season.

"Anyone over the age of 65, people who are pregnant, children under 5, and those who are immunocompromised should protect themselves from serious illness and hospitalization by getting vaccinated very soon," said Dr. Tran. "I don't want you to miss any part of the festive season, and certainly don't want you to be hospitalized if it can be prevented."

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COMMUNITY —

Shakespeare Optimist Club donates funds to local schools

By Gary West

North Easthope Public School

Members of the Shakespeare Optimist Club felt that with the giving season upon us, they wanted to help area schools with their needs for the coming year.

The club does budget funds to enhance youth programs in the area schools that includes North Easthope Public School, which has purchased smart boards and laptops in the past with those budgeted funds.

The school is in need of a new playground, and the Optimist Club decided they would help with a \$5,000 donation to the fund-raising committee.

Jessie Wilhelm, who has kids at the school, is the fundraising chair, and thanked the club for their service to area youth who will have many hours of enjoyment on the new playground equipment.

They hope once it's built in another year, and after months of fundraising, will help keep kids active and involved during their time at school.

Sprucedale Public School

When the end of every year rolls around, members of the Shakespeare Optimist Club like to help out schools in their area with programs that might not be covered by the Avon Maitland District School Board.

At the same time, they like to say "thank you" to the community for supporting the good work the local members of the Optimist Club are involved with over the past 50 years, when the organization was established.

This year, two charter members from the Shakespeare club, paid a Christmas visit to students and staff at Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare.

Both Bob Kollman and Murray McTavish were happy to present a cheque for \$2,500 to Sprucedale's principal, Mrs. Lisa Cairn Cross, where they will use the funds to update and enhance some of their playground activity areas.

The Optimist Club helped extensively when the school's new playground was built in 2017.



At Sprucedale School last week is from left, Optimist Bob Kollman, Kiyah Marshall (grade 5 student), Lucas Reid (grade 8 student), Mrs. Lisa Cairn Cross (school principal), and Optimist Murray McTavish, as they present a cheque to the school for use to enhance their playground facilities.



The students in the grade 3-4 class of teacher Miss Clark. In front left is fundraising chair Jessie Wilhelm, with Optimist member Murray McTavish in centre. Back row includes from left Optimist Bob Kollman, Miss Clark, Tiffany Cook, fundraising committee member, and Charles Longston, school principal. (Photo credit: Gary West)

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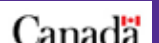
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COMMUNITY —

Big boost for TAP thanks to local donations

By Gary West

Hickson Fire Station

Santa Claus parades are popular this time of year. Sometimes, they supply entertainment and fun to welcome in the holiday season, and come with a purpose.

The Hickson-Strathallan area welcomed Santa and Mrs. Claus with a colourful parade in their hometown of Oxford County recently, and 20 members of the Hickson Fire Department were out in full force collecting non-perishable food items and cash to support TAP (Tavistock Assistance Program).

When the parade was over, hundreds of bags of food, paper and health care products, along with dozens of gift cards, had been collected by the firemen in uniform, to help those less fortunate who are helped through the TAP Program.

Station Chief Tom Bickle was more than pleased with area homeowners and farmers who answered the call to help an organization that helps those in need, especially this time of year.

This was the third year in a row the area firefighters collected for TAP, with donations on the rise every year.

Linda Holst, TAP's program director, visited the Hickson Fire station last week. She saw the hundreds of bags of groceries, and was emotional with thanks that one fire department could do so much to help their local

organization.

She also wanted to mention that the TAP, a not-for-profit organization, is directed by the very best local board of directors.

They include Jan Ramseyer as Chair, Paulette Roth, Treasurer, Ashlie Weicker, Secretary, along with members Elizabeth Halliday, Ray Martin, Cindy Kropf and Angie Brenner.

Linda thanked all those who donate and said, "their gifts definitely make the lives of those in need at Christmas just a little bit brighter."

Intact Insurance

There are many companies in the Tavistock area that go above and beyond to support those in our community with a hand up.

TAP (Tavistock Assistance Program), along with its program director, Linda Holst, "can not say enough about the good people in our area who reach out to help throughout the year, especially with the holiday season approaching."

Last week, the location was the Tavistock office of Zehr Insurance, with manager Kurtis Waymouth and Business Development Manager Olivia MacDonald, from Intact Insurance, who were there to help with a cheque for \$1,000 to support the good work of TAP.

Ms. MacDonald says the money comes through their Better Communities Program, which gives out \$250,000 every year to

charitable organizations in the area they serve.

Kyle Waymouth was happy to say, "This is the third year that Zehr Insurance has partnered with Intact to enhance the work done by TAP, serving the needs in the area communities of Hickson, Tavistock and Shakespeare."

Scotiabank

One of the busiest people in the Tavistock area this time of year, has to be Linda Holst, who is the ever positive and smiling program director for TAP (Tavistock Assistance Program).

She is out collecting groceries and household products almost every day, for those in the Hickson, Shakespeare and Tavistock areas, who will be visiting their warehouse's during the Christmas season.

She said the program is "so grateful for all those who are willing to make sure no one goes without this time of year."

We were able to follow Linda to some of the locations that have been collecting for the program, to show readers of the Gazette how area fire departments and financial institutions, along with schools and churches that she is called to have donations, through their collections, for pick up.

She is always very thankful for all those in the area that are thinking of TAP this time of year, where donations can also include gift cards, cash and cheques.



Hickson Firefighters with Santa and Mrs. Claus celebrates Christmas in a big way, with their parade collections.



Last week at the Hickson Fire Station with a van full of groceries is left to right, Linda Holst (TAP program director), Kevin Kaufmann, Luke Ward, and Nathan Brenneman, all members of the Hickson Fire Station of the East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Department.



In the Zehr Insurance office, last week are, from left to right, Olivia MacDonald, Linda Holst, and Kyle Waymouth with a \$1,000 cheque for TAP, for use in the organization's Christmas Cheer gift-giving program.



Three employees from Tavistock's Scotiabank, that have been collecting for TAP during this Christmas season. From left, Vicki Eckhardt, Margaret Herlick, and Deb Stevely, hope area visitors will drop by and donate non-perishable food items and household effects before December 24th, at their downtown location.

COMMUNITY —

Rain does not dampen spirits at the New Hamburg Santa Claus parade

By Veronica Reiner

Less-than-ideal weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of the Wilmot community, who made it out to the New Hamburg Santa Claus parade on Sunday night, December 3.

“The crowd was fantastic,” said Paul Mackie of the Wilmot Lions / Lioness Club, and parade co-chair. “We have a community that is so supportive of events that take place - when you’re dealing with volunteers, and people that are just out to participate and enjoy themselves - we succeeded on all fronts.”

There were about 55 participants featured in the parade that travelled along Peel and Huron streets. Participants included local businesses (such as Cressman Insulation), local politicians (such as Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis and MPP Mike Harris), and other local organizations (such as the New Hamburg Concert Band and the local fire department). Santa Claus himself made an appearance, appearing as the last float at the end of the parade.

“You get floats that people have spent hours and hours and hours assembling,” said Paul. “And people just love coming out to stuff like this, because we’re a small town, we’re agriculture based. We’ve got lots of farm equipment that comes out as well.”

The event was sponsored by the Optimist Club of New Hamburg, the Wilmot Lions / Lioness Club and the New Hamburg Board of Trade. Non-perishable food items were accepted for the Wilmot Family Resource Centre (WFRC). In addition, the New Hamburg Fire Department collected unwrapped toys for the WFRC.

It took about an hour for the parade to complete its route.

Paul said that planning for this event takes place months in advance and involves plenty of paperwork. “The township has a special events permit that needs to be completed; the Region of Waterloo needs to be advised of the fact that we’re going to be using their roads,” he said. “We have to book our auxiliary police officers who are so generous in their time to help us direct traffic and control traffic around the parade routes.”

The second annual Sip and Shop took place just before the parade from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Puddicombe House banquet hall. The event was organized by Laurie Ferrede of Is This Chair Taken. There were over 30 vendors displaying their unique products for sale.

“It was very, very well attended from a vendor standpoint, and it was very well attended by customers,” noted Paul. “It’s exciting - it’s all Christmas stuff that gets everyone in the holiday spirit.”



The team at New Hamburg Veterinary Clinic. (Photo credit: New Hamburg Board of Trade)



A fire truck going down Peel Street as part of the parade. (Photo credit: New Hamburg Board of Trade)



Agricultural equipment made its way into the New Hamburg parade. (Photo credit: New Hamburg Board of Trade)



The Fellowship Bible Church float in the Santa Claus parade. (Photo credit: Mick Grogan)



The Cressman Insulation float was decorated with colourful lights. (Photo credit: Cressman Insulation)

COMMUNITY —

Perth County OPP reminds drivers not to veer for deer

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is continuing to respond to motor vehicle collisions involving deer across the county. Deer are more active this time of year as this is their mating season, also known as rutting season.

The Perth County OPP is reminding drivers of the following tips to help reduce chances of hitting a deer:

- Be especially attentive from sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise. These are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions.
- Drive cautiously when moving through areas known to have a large deer population. Remember - deer rarely run alone. If you see one deer, others may be nearby.

- When driving at night, use high beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic. The high beams will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway.
- Slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.
- Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path but stay in your lane. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.
- Always wear your seat belt. Most people injured in deer-vehicle crashes were not wearing their seatbelts.
- Do not rely on devices such as deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors to deter deer. Slow down, stay in control and stay alert.

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COMMUNITY —

Your Family Isn't Built for a Crash

By Canada Safety Council

Every time we get behind the wheel, we're not just responsible for our own lives but also the lives of our loved ones. The road can be an unpredictable place, and collisions happen at a rate high enough that our family's safety needs to be top of mind at every moment.

December 1 - 7 is National Safe Driving Week, and the Canada Safety Council, in partnership with the Insurance Brokers Association of Canada, are reminding you that your family isn't built for a crash.

The statistics

According to Transport Canada's 2021 Canadian Motor Vehicle Traffic Collision Statistics, the most recent year for which this data is available, there were 1,768 motor vehicle fatalities across Canada. This represents an increase of 1.3 per cent over the 2020 figures, which saw roughly 20 fewer fatalities.

With Transport Canada estimating approximately 20 per cent of road deaths being partially or wholly attributable to distraction, this calculates out to roughly 353 road fatalities caused by driver inattentiveness

in the country in 2021.

The issue

Distracted driving is a well-established topic in the sphere of driver safety, of course. It is defined as any action that takes the driver's attention away from the road, causing them to focus their attention elsewhere.

Tips to Keep the Family Safe

To combat the hidden risks of distracted driving, here are some crucial steps we can take as everyday Canadians:

Stay focused on the road. Driving is a task that always requires full attention, so don't overestimate your ability to multitask. Put away your phone, avoid eating behind the wheel, avoid difficult or distracting conversations, and keep your focus where it belongs: on the road.

Use seatbelts. Always wear your seatbelt, and ensure all passengers do the same. Seatbelts save lives. Transport Canada reports that only five per cent of Canadians do not wear their seatbelts, however they are disproportionately represented in driver fatalities, to the tune of 28.6% in 2021.

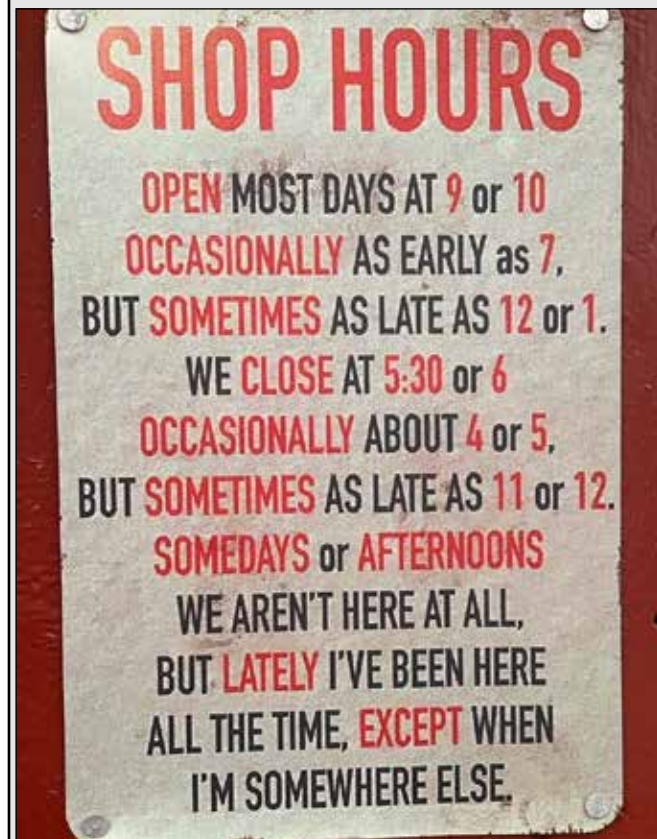
Respect speed limits. Speed limits are designed to keep road speeds manageable and to limit the impact in case of collision. Slow down and obey the limits in all conditions, adjusting for conditions where appropriate. Limits represent maximum speeds, not minimums.

Maintain your vehicle. Regular maintenance checks are of vital importance. Make sure your brakes, tires, lights, and signals are all in good working order. In the event where you may need to make a sudden maneuver, it's important both to be able to trust your vehicle and to ensure visibility.

Keep a safe following distance. Maintain a following distance of three seconds or more from the vehicle in front of you. This gives you time to react in case of sudden stops, emergencies, or unpredictable behaviour from other road users.

The dangers of distracted driving cannot be taken lightly. By recognizing the hidden risks and making a conscious effort to prioritize road safety, we can collectively create safer roads for ourselves, our families, and the families that make up our community.

Funny sign at repair shop in Perth County



Some repair men have a good laugh at this, which appeared beside the shop door of Roth Electric Motor Shop on Line 43, east of Amulree, in Perth East. (Photo credit: Gary West)

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COMMUNITY —

Waterloo 4-H Awards Night 2023

By Janice K Wagler

Another successful 4-H year has culminated at the Waterloo 4-H Awards Night on November 30th in St. Agatha, where 4-H members & volunteer leaders were celebrated for their accomplishments and everyone enjoyed fun, friends, pizza and chocolate milk.

Reports on Judging Competition, Opportunity Reports on Youth Leadership Camp, Leadership Camp, Impact Conference & Members Forum were shared. "Memories of 2023 Waterloo 4-H Slide Show" was shown.

Special Awards:

Outstanding Intermediate Member, Shea Cleave.

Outstanding Novice Member, Addison Kuepfer.

Missing: Outstanding Senior Member, Kasja Bowman.

The 4-H Ontario Gay Lea Award of Achievement was presented to Katelynn Cressman in recognition for her involvement in 4-H for five years and for completing 24 projects.

Project Recognitions:

- 18 Projects: Cole Schwartzentruber
- 30 Projects: Katelynn Cressman
- 36 Projects: Chelsea Weiler
- 48 Projects: Madilynn Cressman, Beck Sommerville
- 90 Projects: Ash Milne
- 96 Projects: Ash Milne, Alice Van Vugt

Volunteer Milestones:

- Volunteer Seal for 15 Years, Kevin Snyder
- Volunteer Seal for 20 Years, Helen Martin
- Volunteer Seal for 25 Years, Kelly Williams
- Volunteer Seal for 45 Years, Ken McNabb

John Drummond was recognized for his passionate and tireless involvement in Waterloo 4-H for the past 38 years. He retired from Floradale Feed Mill last year and now he is moving onto the next chapter in his life, back to his roots in Smiths Falls.

John led five 4-H clubs this year in Waterloo including Maple Syrup, Dairy, Vet, Waterloo-Wellington Edible Science and Pizza Cooking clubs. He was presented with a beautiful 4-H quilt (he will be missed!). John's kind heart, leadership, enthusiasm and humour will be sincerely missed by Waterloo 4-H! Best wishes on his next chapter!



Katelynn Cressman proudly displays the Gay Lea framed print and 4-H bag she received for completing 30 projects. (Photo credit: Kristen Cressman)



Graduating 4-H members Roselyn Metzger, left, and Micah Playford were recognized during the awards ceremony. Missing graduates are Chelsea Weber and Julia Sommerville. (Photo credit: Gary West)



Left, Shea Cleave of Ayr was the outstanding intermediate 4-H member, and Addison Kiepfer of New Hamburg won a plaque for the outstanding novice member. 4-H leader and coordinator, John Drummond made the presentations. Missing from picture is outstanding senior member Kasja Bowman. (Photo credit: Gary West)

Team from Waterloo County 4-H club compete at Royal Winter Fair

By Gary West

It has been a busy month of accomplishments for members of Waterloo County 4-H clubs.

A team of nine 4-H members were picked by a committee of leaders to compete at the TD Classic at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. This was after competing with their 4-H project at various shows and competitions throughout the summer and fall.

Waterloo 4-H co-ordinator, John Drummond, said "their team did great at the annual Royal Dairy Classic, when

five out of eight on the team made the finals in showmanship, with strong placings in confirmation as well."

Rilee Eby placed fourth in a strong class of Jersey senior calves, Beth Cleave was fourth in Jersey summer yearlings, Shea Cleave placed third in Jersey junior yearlings, and Kelly Stere was 10th in the finals of Holstein senior calves. with a beautiful 4-H quilt (he will be missed!). John's kind heart, leadership, enthusiasm and humour will be sincerely missed by Waterloo 4-H! Best wishes on his next chapter!



4-H members of the Royal TD Classic Team from Waterloo County: front left to right: Marissa Van Bergijk, Beth Cleave, Rilee Eby, Emma Stere, and Kelly Stere. Back row left to right, Aden Van Bergijk, Shea Cleave, Donovan Martin, and Devin Martin.

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) Who was the first U.S President to be assassinated?
- 2) What country has the most natural lakes?
- 3) Which Austin Powers character loved gold?
- 4) Which planet is known as the "Red Planet"?
- 5) What is the square root of 16?
- 6) In 2004, what became the first Morse code characters to be added since WWII?
- 7) What country does curling originate from?
- 8) Which bird has the largest wingspan?
- 9) How many herbs and spices are in Colonel Sanders' original KFC recipe?
- 10) What is the most common eye color in humans?

Answers found on page 22

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FAMILY MILESTONES —

OBITUARY

WETTLAUFER, Ronald



Passed away suddenly at home in Tavistock on December 1, 2023 at the age of 74 years.

He leaves behind his children Debra and Trevor Holtzworth, Darryl and Jessica Wettlaufer and Craig Wettlaufer as well as grandchildren Katelyn Gerber (Jarrett Mogk), Branden Gerber and Loic Scotcher-Wettlaufer.

Born October 1, 1949, the 5th child of the late Harry and Violet Wettlaufer. He leaves behind siblings Jack (Jean), Garry (Liz) Clare (Brenda), Tim and Ken and his sister Lynn (Ken) Blum. Predeceased by sister Heather in infancy.

For 30 plus years, Ron operated a Bright Cheese House stand at both the Guelph and St Jacobs Farmers markets. He was a past executive member of the Tavistock Royals Hockey Club, a member of the Tavistock Optimist Club and the Tavistock Masonic Lodge.

Ron enjoyed his life and the friends he made along the way, many whom were gone before him. He continued to enjoy a cold one around his kitchen table with Trevor, Roger Gerber, Tooke Zehr, Murray Holtzworth and Keith Reibling.

He will be fondly remembered by Barbara Wettlaufer and Robert & Irene Kaufman and many nieces and nephews.

His children wish to extend heartfelt gratitude to his caregivers, Colleen Zehr and Jacqueline Hunt who have been instrumental in allowing his life to be lived in his home.

Friends and family were received at Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock St. N. Tavistock on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 from 4-8pm. Funeral service was conducted in the Funeral Home Chapel on Wednesday December 6, 2023 at 11:00am. Burial followed in St Matthew's Lutheran Church Cemetery. Fellowship followed at the Tavistock Legion.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the St Matthew's Lutheran Church or the Tavistock Optimist Club would be appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be posted at www.gffh.ca

IN MEMORIAM

Ruth Kurzatz

In Loving Memory of Ruth Kurzatz who passed away 30 Years ago on December 11th

Keeping Resting in Peace Mom,
Your Memory lives on in all of our hearts!

Love from your Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

OBITUARY

McINTOSH; Kenneth Robert

March 8, 1942 - December 4, 2023



Passed away peacefully at his home in Maplewood.

Beloved husband of Jeanette Marian (MacGregor) McIntosh whom he married April 20, 1963. Dear father and grandfather of Richard & wife Tanya and their children Rebacca and Abigail; Heather & husband Scott Alexander and their children Nicholas, Mac,

Dean and Jay; Darryl & wife Stephanie and their children Jack, Peter, Michael and Anna. Survived by brothers Bill & Janice, Morris & Susan, Roger & Donna, Keith & Dianne and by brothers and sisters-in-law Carl & Ruth Thomson, Ron Thomson, Carole & Don Agar, Jane & Andrew McKewan and by several nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his parents Scott & Florence (Preiss) McIntosh, mother and father-in-law Muriel (MacGregor) & Lewis Thomson, sisters-in-law Doris Thomson and Wendy Coté.

Ken's working career started hauling milk, which in 1965 led him to farming at Maplewood for the next 36 years. Ken had a love for hockey, Clydesdale Horses and Holstein Cows. His real passion in life though was his wife, his 3 children and their spouses and his 10 grandchildren who he was so proud of!

Family and friends are invited to a Funeral Service for Ken on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Sebastopol-Tavistock at 11:00am. Burial to follow in the church cemetery. Reception to celebrate Ken's life will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Trinity Lutheran Church Improvement Fund or a Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Francis Funeral Home, Tavistock.

THANK YOU

Yantzi

We want to extend a THANK YOU to our relatives, neighbours and friends, for your expressions of sympathy, flowers, food brought to us, and your prayers on our behalf since the passing of our mother, Edna Yantzi.

We also want to say THANK YOU to the nurses from Care Partners, who guided us through the palliative care stage in caring for her at home.

A Heartfelt THANK YOU goes to Peter Francis, Jeff Glendenning and staff for their services during a difficult time in our life.

God Bless you all,
The Yantzi family

OBITUARY

ERB, Lyle Jaye



Passed away unexpectedly on Monday, December 4, 2023, at Stratford General Hospital, Stratford. Lyle was born in Stratford, Ontario, 65 years ago, a son of the late Stanley and Ada (Jutzi) Erb.

Beloved husband of Sherry (Countryman) Erb whom he has cherished 42 years of marriage with. Devoted father of Chris Erb. Lyle will be missed by his siblings Keith Erb and wife Eileen, Karen Erb, Mark Erb and wife Joyce, sister-in-law Hope Countryman and brother-in-law Jack Countryman and wife June. He will be fondly remembered by his nephews and niece; Jonathan Erb (Samantha), Sara Erb, Daniel Countryman and Andrew Countryman.

Predeceased by his son Matthew Erb in infancy.

Lyle was a member of Steinmann Mennonite Church. He was a life long dairy farmer, farming in the Tavistock community. He was an avid collector of farm toys, and loved music. He played the organ, installed the sound system at Steinmann Mennonite Church and was active in Live Sound for over 25 years.

Relatives and friends are invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 12 - 4 p.m. The funeral service will be held at Steinmann Mennonite Church, 1316 Snyder's Road West, on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Interment to take place at the adjoining church cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy, donations would be accepted to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario or Mennonite Central Committee and can be done by contacting the funeral home.

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

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COMMUNITY —

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Baby Bewhey



Carman and Debbie Wettlaufer are so excited to announce the birth of their newest grandson, Kody Jerome.

Born on November 13th, weighing in at 9 pounds, 5 ounces!

Proud parents and big sister are Sarah & Chris and Clara. Congratulations to Nanny and Poppy, Joe and Christine Bewhey of Conception Bay South, Newfoundland.

Welcome to the World Kody! ♥

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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.

December 7: Happy birthday to Jeffrey Gingerich (15).

December 8: Happy birthday to Elliot Shewfelt (3), Alarik Spylo (8) and Jared Shantz (13).

December 9: Happy birthday to Vanessa Trotter (7).

December 10: Happy birthday to Wayne Weicker, and anniversary for Ron and Mary Kropf (58th), Paul and Jan Haase (57th), and Bill and Sheri Gladding (47th).

December 11: Happy birthday to Gibson Merkel (22) and Wilfred Clemmer (87).

December 12: Happy birthday to Leah Ruby (14), Benjamin Reibling (20) and Braedon Roth (22).

December 13: Happy birthday to Isla Chemerys (10) and Nathan Patton (19).

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 28-December 5, 2018 Edition (5 years ago)

At the November 7th session of East Zorra-Tavistock Council, a zone change by-law was passed to allow for the creation of 13 lots for single-detached homes and five lots for 10 semi-detached homes on an extension to Jacob Street East in Tavistock. The plan is being developed by Gateman Homes.

Saturday's Tavistock Men's Club Santa Claus Parade was definitely one to remember. The warmer temperatures brought a misty rain that saw many people lined up under umbrellas along the street as well as on floats. The King Family of Hickson took first place in the Family float category, the Tavistock Ag Society was first for the Organizations, and Steph's Dog Grooming won in the Commercial category.

November 26-December 3, 2008 Edition (15 years ago)

The Tavistock PeeWee Reps sponsored by B. Kropf Forestry have won back-to-back tournaments in Mitchell and Port Dover. Team members include Bryn Wagler, Travis Ramseyer, Brendan Hammer, Derek Hyde, Drew Ross, Brayden Ehgoetz-Martens, Jeremy Kropf, Angus Rowland, Taylor Trachsel, Jared Yantzi, Aaron Jutzi, Jakob Wiffen, Justin Wagler, Mitchell Schurink, Kieran vanBoekel, and Jamie Kalbfleisch.

The team's head coach is Steve Yantzi, assistant coaches are Ryan Yantzi and Eugene Bender, manager is Eric Bender and trainer is Scott Rowland.

Tavistock Fish & Chips takeout opened their door Tuesday evening to tempt local residents with a delicious line of seafood snacks. Co-owners Shawn Hartwell and Steve Fewster served up a wide range of seafood products including fresh halibut, fresh cut fries and much more. Mr. Hartwell is also owner of Pathway Fish & Chips in St. Marys which has been in business for the past three years. The new business is located at 69 Woodstock Street South in Tavistock.

December 2-9, 1998 Edition (25 years ago)

It was strange having such warm, sunny weather for the annual Santa Claus parade held last Saturday, with very mild temperatures (17 degrees) and high winds still around by Monday. First prize for organizations went to the Tavistock Nursery School for their float entitled "The Gift of Christmas". The Shakespeare Business Association won best commercial float.

Although the Tavistock Braves are fourth in the Bauer Division, they already have more points than the entire last season. Chad Blum leads the team in scoring with 19 points followed by Ashley Yantzi with 18. Chris Weitzel has 9 goals on the year.

Moving ten thousand head of dairy cattle a year seems almost unbelievable, but that's just an average for Tavistock Dairy Sales. Started in 1984 by partners John Willsey and Harry Loewith, the company

will hold its six hundredth consignment sale today, December 9th.

December 5-12, 1973 Edition (50 years ago)

After two hours of pressure to justify their claims for a new four-lane, controlled access route from New Hamburg to St. Marys held at Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare last Wednesday night, the study group heard from a group of speakers in favour of a better highway which they said was long overdue. Waldron Eckstein of RR 1 Shakespeare, who owns a farm along the existing Highway 7 and 8, began the defence of the new routes. "It seems to me there is a silent majority at this meeting who feel the present highway is overloaded and unsafe."

The girls' team of Tavistock Public School rolled undefeated to the Oxford County "B" Volleyball Tournament held in Ingersoll last Saturday. Members of the local team are Melody Blikman, Beth Elliott, Linda Hoiting, Linda Kurzat, Darlene Mank, Lori Mosher, Tracy Patterson, Rose Roi, Kathy Rosenberg, Kim Wilker, Linda Wilker, Mary Lou Yantzi, and Darolyn Zehr.

Approval in principle was given by the Tavistock Council at its session Thursday night to the development of a proposed subdivision at the northwest perimeter of the village of some 42 building lots. The land in question is part of the Francis Dietrich farm, all within the corporation limits, and located to the rear of properties along Woodstock Street North.

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COMMUNITY —

Show Us Your Wilmot



This feature is inspired by the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page. This photo was taken by Ed Sonnenburg. "Here comes the roadrunner," he said. (Photo credit: Ed Sonnenburg)

Christmas trees on in Tavistock with Charlie Brown



On Sunday is Cletus Ditner and his granddaughter Ivy Hazen, picking out their Christmas tree, in the yard of Beth and Mike Kaufman. Ivy is nine-years-old and a student at Tavistock's Public School. She enjoys the trip with her grandfather every year to pick out a tree and then head home to decorate it.

By Gary West

It's a Charlie Brown Christmas again in Tavistock at the Mike and Beth Kaufman yard. In the yard are Christmas trees which are selling as fast as fresh Christmas cake, in the front and side yard of the Kaufman's on William Street.

It has become a tradition to pick out a freshly cut tree - there have been 110 trees brought in this year.

Ken and Gloria Reibling who are long time members of the Adult Study Fellowship of Grace United Church, have worked at displaying and offering the Christmas trees as a fundraiser for the church group for longer

than most can remember.

The tradition really got its start from Beth's parents, Bob and Jean Elliott, also adult fellowship members, when they suggested to use their yard to sell Christmas trees as a fundraiser.

It has been going on ever since and by the time readers read this, there might not be many left.

Mike Kaufman said they order more every year and every year they sell out, which the organizers of the adult study fellowship are thankful for, to all in the neighbourhood who support them.

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OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *Gliding Goodness*



By Mercedes Kay Gold

Snowflakes, shivering and skating are synonymous with winter-time fun times. It's never too late or too early to try something new or revisit a pastime. The bounty of benefits is overwhelming regardless of gender, skill level and age. As a personal trainer, I am more at home in a gym but after two decades of hanging up the ice-skates, I decided to glide out of my comfort zone. A quick trip to the local MCC Thrift Shop, and I set off to the Wilmot Recreation Center with my new gently used figure skates. Sharpened on-site, laced, a final deep breath, and I

nervously stepped onto the ice. Skating is an exceptional form of exercise. Over time, running takes its toll on the body, whereas skating is low-impact and much gentler on the joints. Skating is a great way to strengthen the gluteus maximus and all four main muscle groups in the legs. The legs and glutes push you forward, but the sideways motion builds strength and improves hip mobility. Skating works the abdominal muscles as well. By increasing core strength, balance and coordination improve. Good news! Even standing still on skates engages core muscles, helping keep you from landing on your tush.

The first time out, go easy and listen to your body. You may notice soreness in the lower legs and feet, but don't get discouraged. Count the laps, minutes, set your fitness tracker, and challenge yourself a little bit each time thereafter. Skating is a great form of aerobic activity, supporting cardiovascular health. In-

creasing the length of physical activity leads to improved endurance and a positive trickle-down effect throughout the body. Burning calories helps support a healthy weight. The average 155-lb woman burns between 300-650 calories in an hour, depending on the speed. More good news! Replacing fat with lean muscle increases the metabolism and burns calories even at rest.

All exercise releases feel good hormones or endorphins, reducing stress. Friends, family, fresh air, and sipping hot Wellesley's apple cider equals a great wintertime escape. There's no shortage of outdoor rinks so bundle up on sunny days and skate outdoors. Be mindful to leave a bit of exposed facial skin and receive the free immune boosting, bone building and happiness promoting Vitamin D thanks to the sun.

Stepping out of our comfort zone builds confidence and the opportunity to meet new people. I was fortunate to skate laps with Breanna, a regular at the center.

Learning something new also support's cognitive function, and helps slow the aging process.

Safety first. If you are a new skater, investing in a helmet is a great idea. Next is deciding whether you want to wear figure skates or hockey skates. Either way, ice skates are usually one size smaller than your normal shoe size. Wearing warm wool thin socks is better than bulky cotton ones. Lace the skates up firmly, not too tight. Sharpening is essential before you hit the ice for the first time. Indoor leisurely public skating from time to time doesn't require regular sharpening, but outdoor ice is another matter. All the moving and grooving over the grit dulls the blades and every few fun fresh air outings, skates need to be sharpened. Even though it is chilly on the ice, exercise causes dehydration. Don't forget a water bottle. Happy skating! Have fun!

Visit wilmot.ca/WRC for Up-ToDate cancellations, schedule changes and pricing.



Breanna is a regular skater at the Wilmot Recreation Center. (Photo credit: Mercedes Kay Gold)



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COMMUNITY —

Wellesley backyard barbecue and rec complex grand opening to be a combined event in 2024

By Veronica Reiner

The Wellesley Township backyard barbecue community event will be held in conjunction with the new recreation complex grand opening, scheduled for June 22, 2024.

Therefore, the event will take place at the new rec complex at the corner of Queen's Bush and Hutchison roads, which differs from its usual location in Crosshill. Council members discussed the matter during a hybrid council meeting on Tuesday, November 28.

Councillor Lori Sebben asked whether the event would continue to be held in Wellesley, as opposed to Crosshill.

"I know there's been a lot of good response with that event with people all through

the township that I've heard, and moving it to Wellesley, I think, is great with the grand opening. I think that's a good move," she said.

"I'm not sure for future events if that would be well received - just because Crosshill is so central, and everybody seemed to really enjoy it there."

Chief Administrative Officer Rik Louwagie clarified that this motion only referred to the 2024 event, and that council is free to pursue other options in future years.

Councillor Derek Brick suggested rotating the event to different Wellesley communities in the coming years, including St. Clements and Linwood. Crosshill is great, it's central, but everybody has to drive to get there," he said.

The event draws in thousands of residents, and was first created in June 2017 with the Canada 150 celebration. The event continued in 2018 and 2019, but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was once again hosted in 2022 and 2023.

Activities on offer at the event include live music, fire pits, smores, face painting, cash bar, food, touch-a-truck (including public works, fire department, recreation, Enova Power Corp. and police), fireworks and a community information forum.

New for the event in 2024 would include facility tours, tours of the complex grounds, demonstrations from community groups and involvement of community partners.

Staff begin the planning process in

January to ensure bookings are secured well in advance of the event. Council is requested to attend the event as part of the community information forum to provide an additional opportunity for resident engagement.

The event has a total budget of \$25,000. This is an additional \$10,000 from the typical budget for the event. Councillor Derek Brick asked staff about this increase. "Are we still on budget there? Do we foresee additional expenses there that this \$10,000 would be over and above?"

Louwagie said, "We are nicely within our budget still, \$27.2 million on the recreation complex. We do believe that there should be no issue with using \$10,000 of that original \$27.2 million towards this grand opening event."

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COMMUNITY —

WCDSB Chair and Vice Chair elected

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) elected Waterloo/Wellesley/Woolwich Trustee Linda Cuff as Vice-Chair of the board, and Cambridge/North Dumfries trustee Robert Sikora as Chair of the board. This occurred during a meeting on November 27.

The board of trustees is made of of the following representatives:

Kitchener/Wilmot:

- Kathy Doherty-Masters
- Winston Francis
- Renee Kraft
- Tracy Weiler

Waterloo/Wellesley/Woolwich:

- Linda Cuff
- Conrad Stanley

Cambridge/North Dumfries:

- David Guerin
- Marisa Phillips
- Robert Sikora

Region of Waterloo council news briefs

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Region of Waterloo council members made the following decisions during a meeting on Wednesday, November 22.

Eight new hybrid and electric buses

The Region of Waterloo plans to buy eight new hybrid or electric buses from Nova Bus Inc. for \$9.6 million to reduce the environmental impact of public transit. Nova Bus Inc. has also been selected as the supplier for any additional new Grand River Transit (GRT) buses purchased during 2023 and 2024. Grand River Transit has been gradually changing its fleet to zero-emission vehicles since 2020, when the region decided not to buy diesel-only buses. Switching from diesel buses to electric buses reduces the region's greenhouse gas emissions.

BusPlus service renewed for additional two years

Council has approved a two-year contract extension for Voyago to continue providing GRT's BusPlus service. BusPlus uses smaller vehicles to offer transit service on new routes or in areas with lower ridership. This helps GRT serve more neighbourhoods, build up ridership in new areas and provides more options for people to get around without a car. Voyago has been contracted to deliver the BusPlus service since 2016. These two more years of the BusPlus program will cost \$2.6 million.

Lower speed limits for schools across the region

Council is permanently lowering speed limits to 40 kilometres an hour (km/h) year-round for 31 school zones on regional roads, where speed

limits were previously 50 or 60 km/h. In 2022, the Region tested lower speed limits from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and found they did result in lower speeds. To help improve road safety for students and all road users, the new permanent speed limits will apply all day, every day.

Council advocates for more judges to speed up local cases

Council will contact Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney General to highlight how judge shortages are affecting local residents. The local Provincial Offences Court on Queen Street is hearing 40 per cent fewer cases, which creates backlogs, inconvenience, and limits access to justice for people in Waterloo Region. The Region of Waterloo is seeking a meeting with the provincial ministry to discuss these judicial shortages.



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SPORTS —

First game in new digs spoiled by Braves

By Lee Griffi

Wellesley was finally able to lace up for the first time at the new Wellesley Township Recreation Centre, but Tavistock spoiled the party with a 3-2 overtime win in an entertaining matchup Saturday night.

It was the team's annual Teddy Bear Toss, and it didn't take long for the barrage of stuffed animals to hit the ice as Stuart Sinclair scored two minutes into the first period to give the Applejacks an early lead. Jacob Reid-Brant's goal five minutes later tied it up as the teams went into the first intermission even at one. Jake L'Heureux gave the home team a 2-1 lead in the first minute of the second but Yianni Peppas scored the equalizer about 90 seconds later, his first of the season setting the stage for Andrew Van Boekel's overtime winner.

Wellesley has been using the ancient St. Clements Arena so far this season and had two games ended early due to poor ice conditions. The team's General Manager Brock Gerber said it was nice to be able to settle into their new home. "It was a tough start. Dragging equipment and gear, and not having a place to call home for the first four months of the season wasn't easy. The guys were excited, and it was a good hockey game." He added despite the loss



Applejacks players Tyson Gustaw, left, and Austin Stemmler, right, are ready for their first game in the new Wellesley Township Recreation Centre. (Photo courtesy of 519Sports)

the energy was there throughout the entire game. "Getting that first goal early on was good. The boys were all amped up and we are moving into our dressing home hopefully this week. There is a new spirit among the team."

The Applejacks are a single point behind fourth-place Hespeler and have played fewer games than anyone in the division so he's hopeful they can gain some ground. "We need to win the games we need to win from here on and

just continue to get ready for playoffs. Forget about the start, forget about being on the road that long. We do have a good hockey team." Gerber said not having a true home rink was hard on the entire organization including equipment staff who had to drag everything from arena to arena since there was little storage in St. Clements.

The Applejacks are the defending Schmaltz Cup Champions and despite their struggles to date, Gerber is still confident they can

make some noise in the postseason knowing the potential of his offense. "We have been outshooting teams for the last four weeks. We've been carrying most of those games. It hasn't translated into goals yet but the forwards we have are going to start scoring, they have to. There's no way they can't."

Gerbers admitted his team has gotten off to a slow start this year but taking three of four weekend points was encouraging. "Things are looking up and we are starting to trend in the right direction. For the last three or four weeks we've been playing really good hockey and it's starting to show." He added some injured players are back in the lineup and some acquisitions have been made to shore up the roster. "We've brought in a couple of defensemen to help out back end out we have identified what we were struggling with earlier. We have to make changes based on what other teams are doing in our league. What worked last year isn't necessarily working this year for us. We have an older core with 11 guys returning from last year's team and it's hard to come back when everyone is gunning for you."

The Applejacks first game of the weekend was in Norwich where they earned a 3-2 overtime win over the Merchants. L'Heureux

scored the winner, his second of the season, 49 seconds into the extra period on a setup from Kian Harron to give Wellesley its seventh win of the season. Curtis Butler and Liam Wadel scored their fourth goals of the campaign in the first period as Wellesley led 2-1 after the first. Harron assisted on all three Applejacks markers.

Tavistock hosted Paris on Friday night but could only manage a 3-3 overtime tie with the last-place team in the Doherty Division. The Braves jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period on goals from Bo Schurink and Ryan Suljack. The Titans scored the only goal in the second then Suljack's second of the game and ninth of the year made it 3-1 but the Braves gave up the next two goals forcing the extra period. Paris goalie Josh Roman was the story of the game, kicking out 44 of 47 shots.

Firebirds blanked by Navy Vets

New Hamburg managed to keep the Provincial Junior Hockey League's number-five point-getter off the scoresheet, but Woodstock held the Firebirds scoreless for all 60 minutes on Friday night.

Davin Gray was held pointless, but teammate Sam Barry picked up the slack with a goal and a helper to lead the Doherty Division leading Navy Vets to a 3-0 road victory over the second-place Firebirds.

Current progress on the Wellesley Township Recreation Centre

By Veronica Reiner

Part of the Wellesley Township Recreation Centre on Queen's Bush and Hutchison roads are up and running, such as the arena, seating area, and walking track (excluding weekday business hours). The remainder of the facility is expected to open by mid January in 2024.

"I'm immensely proud of the community when I walk into the spaces and see people using it - with what limited they can so far," said Chris Martin, who spearheaded the idea for a new arena in 2019. "I'm just incredibly pleased with what our community, the township and the contractor have been able to accomplish."

"I think we're really lucky in Wellesley township to have this. We're half the size of Wilmot and Woolwich, which would be our comparators, and our facility is comparable to what they have."

The single ice pad is an NHL size ice surface (200'x85'), with seating for about 500 people. Eight dressing rooms are also now open, along with the main floor washrooms. All user groups have

had the chance to test out the new ice.

"It's beautiful - it's well-lit, the architecture is lovely, there's lots of lighting, with big windows on the north side, so in the daytime, the arena is flooded with natural light. The seating has excellent sightlines," said Chris.

The Wellesley Applejacks tested it out themselves by playing their first game in the facility on Saturday, December 2, against the Tavistock Braves, which drew in a crowd of about 300 people. The Braves won 3-2. The event also featured the annual Teddy Bear toss.

Chris added that he's heard a lot of positive feedback from members of the community.

"People are really impressed," he said. "Comments like 'I can't believe we have that in our township,' 'great improvement of what we had before.'"

The facility is still considered a construction site, so throughout weekdays from Monday to Friday in the mornings until about 4:30 p.m., the public is not permitted in the building. After that,

however, members of the public are welcome to come check out the new facilities.

The walking track features a rubberized floor for walking and running ease, along with benches for a water break or tying up shoes. Coat hooks can hold outdoor wear and distance markers can help visitors keep track of the distance they have travelled. One lap around the track is 215 metres.

Outdoor amenities have yet to be completed. "The soccer fields - the grass is there, but the nets aren't up," said Chris. "The skateboard park is complete, but they need to do landscaping. I think they're building the children's playground as we speak. The outdoor multi-use basketball/pickleball/tennis courts - they're all in, but they're building a fence around it. It's still an ongoing site."

The site will also include a seniors/active living centre, youth centre, commercial kitchen, gymnasium/community hall/banquet hall (with a wall to divide the room), gym, meeting rooms, and horse and buggy shed.



The Wellesley Applejacks take on the Tavistock Braves in the new Wellesley Township Recreation Complex arena. (Photo credit: Something for Everyone)

The facility cost about \$27-million and the project was awarded to Ball Construction in December 2021. About \$16-million came from the provincial government. Chris took on the role of Campaign Chair to raise funds for the project in the Something for Everyone Campaign.

He said he was very pleased with how the campaign turned out, raising about \$4.3-million for

the project with an initial goal of \$2.5-million.

"We announced in January we hit \$3.8-million, but since January, money has still continued to come in, despite the fact that we're not actively campaigning or soliciting," said Chris. "I think it's a testament to the generosity of the community, and the support that the community has for the project."

SPORTS —

Royals lose late lead in OEHL loss

By Lee Griffi

The Tavistock Royals were two minutes and 12 seconds away from a win over third-place Creemore at home on Saturday night, but the Coyotes exploded for three goals in just 52 seconds to earn a 7-6 victory.

Creemore led 2-1 after 20 minutes and 4-3 after two periods before Tavistock scored three consecutive goals in the third to take a 6-4 lead. The Royals did get a balanced attack with goals from Devin Kropf, Drew Gerth, Sean Kienapple, Matt Zilke, Greg Noyes, and Collin Hartwick. Kienapple added three assists and Gerth two. Ben Hughes, who played parts of two seasons with the Ontario Hockey League's Niagara Ice Dogs, scored four times for the Coyotes

including the game-winner with 80 seconds left in the third period.

Kienapple is now the league's second-leading scorer with 11 goals and nine assists in 10 games. Drew Gerth is second in Royals scoring with 10 points. He spent three years with the New Hamburg Firebirds before joining Tavistock where he is lacing up in his eighth season.

The Royals outshot the Coyotes 33 to 29. Tavistock is on the road for a pair of games next weekend, Friday night in Minto to face to 81's and Saturday in Durham for a battle against the Thundercats. The Royals remain in seventh place in the eleven-team league with a record of five wins and 6 losses.

Waterloo Oxford Sports: A Victorious Fall Season!

By Connor Murray

With the WCSSAA fall season coming to a close, Waterloo-Oxford has produced teams with incredible skill and discipline, representing us at some of the highest levels of high school sports. For the second year in a row, the senior girls basketball team captured the WCSSAA championship, beating Galt Collegiate Institute (GCI) 48-31. The team has had a solid core for three years, maintaining players from the junior girls team and winning two championships, as well as producing superstars such as Jade Dittmer, who was chosen as the league MVP last season and played a big role in the decisive win over Galt. On the turf, the senior boys football team was also able to capture the tier 2 championship, beating Cameron Heights 17-4. Their run started off in the quarter-finals, losing to Jacob Hespeler, but their placement allowed them a second chance at winning in tier 2. They

then beat Glenview Park 28-20, and advanced to the tier 2 finals, where they won it all. While senior football and basketball won it all, the junior football team also got a taste of the finals. They started out strong by beating Grand River 33-12 on home turf, then kept going after a shutout win against Jacob Hespeler, 20-0. After this win, they advanced to the tier 1 finals against the undefeated Elmira. On a sunny Remembrance Day, the boys took to the UW Warriors field, but came just short, losing 28-13. This marks one of the first times the boys have been to the finals in the last 20 years. The girls field hockey team also had a taste of 3 finals, advancing to the WCSSAA, CWOSSA and OFSAA finals, placing 2nd overall at all three tournaments, and 2nd overall in Ontario. The girls have shown incredible talent and resilience throughout the season, and hope to win it next year. This wraps up the fall season of WCSSAA sports, stay tuned for winter!

COMMUNITY —

Navigating the mortgage world in tough economic times

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The housing crisis is affecting people across Canada as the strain to find a new home or apartment in their budget continues.

For most people struggling with high monthly housing payments, it can be difficult to get unsolicited advice on the best action to take, so the Gazette decided to turn to an expert for her thoughts. Julie Brenneman is a former Tavistock resident and mortgage broker with Mortgage Architects in Woodstock, and she said we are in tough times. "Some people's payments are rising as much as 40 percent. Especially if they did a short-term renewal during COVID. If someone is doing a renewal now lenders are allowing re-amortization to 25 years. Though they end up paying more interest, for some people that's what they have to do right now to allow for cash flow." She is also seeing people refinancing mid term as a result of high credit card debt, even if they had a low interest rate on their mortgage. "I just did an application for someone who had a two percent interest rate but the rate on their line of credit was in the eight percent range and the payment was substantial. It made sense for them to refinance at six percent."

Brenneman explained she is seeing a lot of two and three-year terms on renewals because many economists have projected an economic slowdown and slightly lowered rates. However, as interest rates decrease, home prices will likely rise. She added she is seeing a lot of seniors choosing to take alternative financing products. "People who have worked hard to pay their houses off and maybe only have ten years left. They were expecting a small payment and are on a fixed income but are looking at lenders who offer interest-only payments. Again, it is a band-aid solution."

She added it is always a good idea to visit a mortgage broker who has access to a long list of options and products to find the best fit for each situation. "There isn't a one-size-fits-all solution. If you are going to a lender that only has a few options, you are doing yourself a disservice. You aren't looking at it from every angle. I get calls from people asking what rate I can offer, and if I can beat what a competitor is offering. It's an education piece where I have to say we can match or beat the banks, but there is a lot more to take into consideration. What are your needs?" Brenneman said a product like a reverse mortgage may work for one person but not be the best solution for someone else considering it.

"The lowest rate people can get is on a five-year term. If you look at it from a payment standpoint, it depends on how much you have left on your mortgage as to how much the savings is versus a shorter term a few points higher. It might only be 60



Tavistock resident and mortgage broker with Mortgage Architects in Woodstock, Julie Brenneman.

dollars a month more to go to a three-year term. If rates do go down and you want to break that mortgage your penalty is going to be thousands and thousands of dollars breaking a 5 year versus a 3 year term." She adds many lenders want to see customers with a longer-term rate to guarantee their investment.

Brenneman said that while it may be tempting for people struggling to pay their mortgages and bills to sell their home, holding on to that asset if possible is the best advice she can give. "Some people have to, but if you can hold on you will prosper. There are other ways to save money. Look at your entire budget and see if you can eliminate something. Maybe you don't need a new car, or you can shop around for insurance. Every way you can save to make up for the extra money you're spending will make a difference." She added it is a good time to get into the housing market since people are buying low even though interest rates remain high. "When interest rates do go down a little bit and housing prices increase, you are going to have a great investment."

These are unique economic times that have seen mortgage payments, down payments, and rents double in the last few years. Brenneman said some people making six-figure incomes can't even qualify for a mortgage. "They just can't qualify, and they are paying more for rent. We are seeing younger people come together to buy a home, getting into the market, building their equity, and it is a temporary solution. When the markets do go up, they will have a down payment and hopefully qualify for a home of their own."

OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: Walk a mile in my shoes - on second thought, get your own



By Scott Dunstall

Shoes. Probably my biggest weak spot. If I could have 1000 pairs of footwear, it probably wouldn't be enough. But I don't... so I manage. The struggle is real.

One of the ways to do that is to look after your shoes. I know it sounds obvious. But a lot of us don't do it. My tools for doing this are pretty simple. As soon as I buy a pair of winter boots or shoes that have a flock finish (kind of a faux suede) I always treat them with a silicone spray that helps to repel water

and protect against scuffing. And I will probably do that every three months. I also have a white rubber similar to the pink ones on the end of a pencil. Rubbing that into a scuff on a flock finish and watching it disappear is remarkable. For leather finishes on dress shoes, I should use a polish and buff more often than I do, electing to use the simpler and more temporary solution of using a Kiwi silicone sponge. These can be purchased near most shoe departments or at the end of the aisle in drug and grocery stores. For summer shoes, most have either a cloth or canvas top with rubber soles - usually white. For the canvas top, I usually use some kind of sneaker cleaner that comes with a brush. For the cloth finish, I will soak them in soapy water and scrub out the scuffs with a brush. For the rubber soles, I use a magic eraser - they really are magic! Most of this so far doesn't cost much, and it kind of presumes you have some shoes

to start off. But if you don't and you are cost-conscious as I am, you might want to consider this starting point. If budget is king and style is its offspring then I would suggest buying your shoes at Call it Spring. There is one in each of the local malls. You will find leading styles, materials and colours, and prices below \$100/pair and, in most cases... well below. Your work/lifestyle dictates the type of shoes you will buy.

For me, if I was buying my first three pairs of shoes I would start off with a blue pair of lace ups. They could be an oxford or a cap toe or even have broguing (stamped embossed leather design). They could be flock, leather, or cloth. For me, all they would have to be is blue. I basically split my shoes between summer and winter. At last count, I have 8 pairs of blue winter shoes and two pairs of blue winter boots. Why blue? My favourite colour and they go so well with blue jeans, which is pretty well my

winter base. I have an array of jeans, some of them look dressier than dress pants. Depending on the shade, Dockers slim fit tan pants also rock that flash (look). Besides the blue shoes another pair of lace-ups I would get would be a tan pair of leather or flock tops. Tan goes well with all kinds of shades of blues and grays, as well as black. If you're like me 30 years ago, you don't have a pot. In which case, you may not be trying to cover it up with multiple optical illusions and deceptions - like layering. You may wish to actually show your belt... if you do, just try to get the colours to match as close as possible. Finally, I would select a low-heel, low Achilles guard all-white sneaker with leather tops. I bought a really nice pair of Michael Kor's this summer from Marshalls. These are not your boxy multi-layered heel monstrosities hitting the market now. They are simple yet classy additions to most winter or summer flashes (outfits).

I think shoes are an easy way to make you stand out because it's an area mostly ignored by men. Take a walk down wild street in your new shoes; you might be surprised by what you find.

"Style is just fashion filtered through your personality"

BIO:

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 Kitchener 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 —

Dinner with the Livingstons

By Castle Kilbride Staff

Using items from the Archival Collection at Castle Kilbride. Information provided by the diary entries of Alice Livingston

Throughout the three generations, the Livingston family was known for its hospitality towards their friends and family. Many Wilmot residents recount their fond memories of stopping by the Livingstons to enjoy a cup of tea while spending some time catching up. But when it came to hosting meals, what did the Livingstons serve?

Through the pages of Alice Livingston's 1926 diary, readers can get a better understanding of what types of foods were prepared for guests when visiting the family. On February 6th, 1926, Alice had Mrs. Carrington over for dinner. Although what was served was not stated, a fine spice cake with wonderful, boiled icing was prepared earlier in the day and was served for dessert.

When it comes to the Livingstons, it is no surprise that many guests got to sample some sweet treats, but their meals sounded just as delicious! On Saturday, February 13th, Alice had friends Rose and Jessie up for supper. Even though her friends insisted they were going home later to have a big dinner, Alice wasn't deterred from making sure her friends were well-fed before leaving. Together, they enjoyed rolls, baked ham, tomato, lettuce salad, strawberry jam, ice cream, and cake.

For those that were unable to visit, the Livingstons made sure their home cook-



Alice Livingston.

ing was sent to friends in need. On March 17th, baked beans, homemade bread, and rice pudding were made. Seeing as their friend Dr. Ned Stevens was suffering from a bad cold, a plate of the hardy meal was prepared and sent over. It's hoped that this meal, prepared with love, was all the doctor needed to recover from the pesky cold!

It is said that food brings people closer together, and through the writings of Alice Livingston, it would seem that this was no different for the Livingstons and their friends.

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Pet of the Week



BROOKLYN

The pet of the week is two-and-a-half-year-old Brooklyn, who was so intent on watching the Santa Claus parade through Tavistock that it was hard to get her attention. Here, she is showing off her red laced sweater. Her masters are the Toole family from Shakespeare, who say the energetic and lovable American bulldog is best friends with their son, Cory.

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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A tale of two Abbeys



By Paul Knowles

Living in southwestern Ontario, it is not a frequent occurrence to run into a monk or abbot. In fact – no, it has never happened to me. So when, during our road trip through parts of Québec, in August, I was offered the chance to visit not one, but two abbeys, I jumped at the chance.

In fact, while we visited and toured both Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac, on the shores of Lake Memphremagog, and Abbaye d'Oka, in the community of Oka in the Laurentians, we actually also got to stay at the latter for a couple of nights.

The Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac is the real deal – a functioning monastery inhabited by monks, led by an Abbot, who we encountered during our tour. Oka Abbey is no longer home to a religious community – it has been converted into an event space, open for weddings and other celebrations, with plenty of rooms for overnight guests and a very fine restaurant.

But both were fascinating destinations. And both, coincidentally, have been known for their local cheese production. That continues at Saint-Benoit-du-lac – where we completed our tour with a cheese tasting – but at Oka, the brand that still bears the iconic name is actually produced nearby, at a huge Agropur



The Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac, on the shores of Lake Memphremagog in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. (All photos taken by Paul Knowles)

plant.

Both abbeys are well worth a visit for very different reasons. I have studied church history, but still managed to learn a great deal more from our in-depth tour of Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac. We thought we had come to taste cheese, but that was almost an afterthought to the lengthy, informative tour of the place. It was essentially an “everything you ever wanted to know about monastic life, but were too uninformed to even ask,” tour.

Saint-Benoit-du-lac was founded in 1912 by two Benedictine monks from France (along with two brothers). Today, 30 monks continue to live at the abbey, following the monastic rule of St. Benedict.

The tour introduces visitors to St. Benedict, and the 73-chapter “Rule” that guides the daily lives of the monks.

The building itself is an architectural gem, and visitors get to see much of it,

including the very modern church. Prior to the cheese tasting (and the inevitable stop at the gift shop), you will watch a video in which a number of frankly charming monks explain their reasons for choosing their celibate, monastic life.

And finally, the cheese – excellent stuff. In 1943, the monks at this abbey made the first blue cheese produced in Canada, and continue today to make five varieties of blue cheese, as well as Gouda style, a goat milk cheese, and more... 350,000 kilos of cheese, annually. All are overseen by one of the monks, who also must find time to attend the eight or so religious services every day.

On the other side of the St. Lawrence – and a 177 kilometre, two-and-a-half hour trip including a stretch through the heart of Montréal – is the Abbaye d'Oka, now more properly called the Auberge de l'Abbaye d'Oka, because it is a hotel and event space, no longer an abbey.

But the presence of the monks and brothers is never far removed, as you walk through the place, and especially as you stay in one of the not-very-renovated rooms. Most have no bathroom – you share one, including private showers, just down the hall – although there is a sink. However – and this is important – there are robes in the rooms, to render your hallway trek to the bathrooms more modest.

There's no TV, and hovering over the king size bed (undoubtedly a luxury



One example of the amazing architecture at Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac.

the monks would not have enjoyed) is a giant photograph of a priest and a monk, peering down at you. A tad disconcerting, but it quickly morphs into part of the charm of the place.

And I cannot mention this soon enough – the abbey's “Sacre-Bistro” is a superb restaurant, highlighting the local products of this “foodie” paradise in the southern Laurentians. My mouth-watering dessert came from Fays Terroir Chocolaté, just down the road.

One morning at the Oka Abbey, abbey team member Julie Provost Beauregard guided us through the enormous facility. Founded in 1891, Oka was, at one point, home to 180 monks. That era ended in 2008, when the eight remaining monks moved to the Abbaye Val Notre-Dame in St.-Jean-de-Matha, 121 kilometres northeast of Oka.

The abbey is decorated with huge photographs illustrating the history of the monastery.

Ten years after the monks moved out, the current owner purchased the sprawling property, and opened it as a wedding and event venue and inn. Last year, Beauregard told us, there were 42 weddings in the beautiful, but now deconsecrated, chapel.

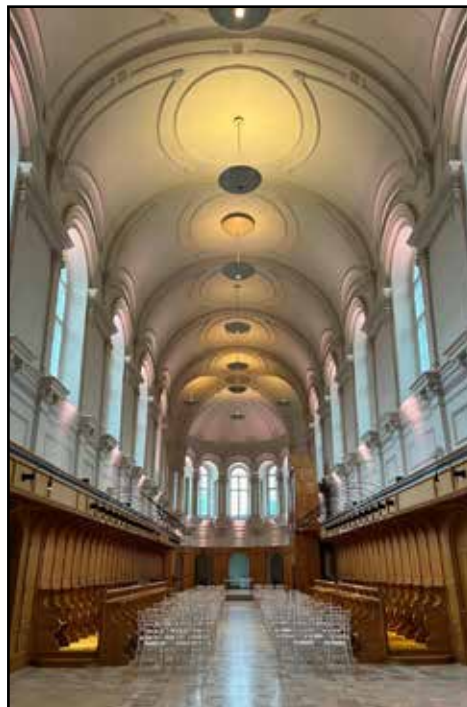
And about that chapel – when this version of the monastery was built (after a fire destroyed the original), the Vatican had mandated that a chapel in an abbey had to have walls of black marble. So it does. But the monks didn't like the look, and covered the marble with oak – as it is still seen today.

So maybe the monks' well-known vow of “obedience” had a little wiggle room after all.

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



L'Abbaye d'Oka, in the community of Oka, Québec.



The chapel at Oka.

OPINION —

Letter to the Editor:

It's important to remember a good friend. But tell them while you can. Harry Baechler was a man with hands as big as a grizzly bear and almost as strong.

For seven years, each summer, we were positioned 46 feet apart on a ball diamond. One hoped he could do what the other one asked for;

Harry was a true friend to myself and many others. He played hard, and was also known to party the same way. Consequently, he has some faults, but surely we all do.

Harry passed away in October 2022. I trust we think of him and remember him for the good times. Also, I admire his intense dedication to the tasks he chose to pursue.

May he rest in peace. I want to say I was privileged to have known him as a friend and a member of the original "Tavistock Merchants Ball Team."

With respect,
Keith Wagler



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<p>December 8th to December 9th Christmas Tyme in Wellesley Craft Market</p>	<p>662-3113; New Hamburg Legion, 519-662-3770; Community Care Concepts, 519-662-9526.</p>	<p>December 11th Wilmot Council Meeting</p>	<p>Hall. Taking place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All ages welcome. Make your own gnome workshop starts at 7 p.m. Wear a Christmas sweater and win a prize. Many prizes to be won!</p>	<p>Line in Innerkip. December 14th Community Care Concepts Community Dining event</p>
<p>Takes place at the Wellesley Community Centre at 1,000 Maple Leaf Street on December 8th (4 p.m. to 8 p.m.) and December 9th (from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Hosted by the Wellesley Township Fall Fair. Support local artisans and enjoy the magic of the holiday season.</p>	<p>December 9th Shakespeare's Christmas in the Village</p> <p>Save the date for a wonderful Christmas filled day in Shakespeare. The day will be kicked off by the Santa Claus Parade, put on by the Shakespeare Men's Club. During the afternoon there will be Santa visits, kids activities, shopping incentives, and more. Event will conclude at Shakespeare Brewing Company with live music, food, drinks and a prize draw.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>December 12th Youth Holiday Crafts Drop-In</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>December 9th Christmas Benefit Breakfast</p> <p>Sponsored by Community Care Concepts at the New Hamburg Legion. Full breakfast served. Tickets available at the door or in advance: Ross Eichler, 519-</p>		<p>December 12th Wellesley Budget Meeting</p>	<p>Taking place at the Wilmot Family Resource Centre in New Hamburg. Ages 6-8: 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (parents must sign child in and out) and from ages 9-14 is 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.</p>	<p>December 16th Ugly Sweater Night</p> <p>Taking place at New Hamburg Lanes from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Join for a night of classic party music, disco and UV lights, and of course, holiday cheer.</p>
		<p>December 12th Free Holiday Fun Night</p>	<p>December 13th East Zorra Tavistock Council Meeting</p>	
		<p>Join the Shakespeare Optimist Club at the Shakespeare Optimist</p>	<p>In-person council meeting taking place at 7 p.m. at 695566 17th</p>	

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Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt.Carmal fruitful vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the son of God. Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity, O star of the sea, help me and show me here in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother, Oh Mary, Conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee. (three times).

Holy Spirit you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal you who gave me the Devine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, I want in this short prayed to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you the eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. (The person must say this prayer three consecutive days. after Three days the request will be granted this prayer must be published after the favour is granted) C.V Jn31 Kevin Straus

Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Abraham Lincoln | 6) The "@" symbol |
| 2) Canada | 7) Scotland |
| 3) Goldmember | 8) Albatross |
| 4) Mars | 9) 11 |
| 5) 4 | 10) Brown |

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COMMUNITY —

40th Tree of Light ceremony cancelled, but colouring contest is still on

By Veronica Reiner

The 40th annual Tree of Light ceremony, scheduled for Friday, December 1, was cancelled due to weather, but anyone who wanted to submit a picture for the Christmas Tree colouring contest is still welcome to do so.

Coloured pages are being accepted at the New Hamburg Sobeys on Mill Street until around December 12. The box to store the pages has been placed right by the cash register.

"It was just a joy to see some of the kids who didn't necessarily know it was cancelled, coming down and how sad they looked when we told them we were cancelled," said Wilmot Lions / Lioness Club member Paul Mackie.

"They were hanging onto their pictures in plastic bags because they wanted to make sure they got their picture into the draw. There were about 20 parents that came by with their kids with pictures. Rest assured, they're all in the draw."

He added that the decision to cancel was made at about 4 p.m. on the day of the parade. "It was pouring rain; it had been pouring rain all day, the forecast showed pouring rain continuing throughout the evening," said Paul.

The event was to take place at the Centennial Fountain and feature the New Hamburg Concert Band and the Waterloo Oxford Appassionata Choir. Hot dogs, apple cider and carolling were to be offered.

Although the event did not happen, the tree was still lit up in downtown New Hamburg, bringing this accelerated training to the County.



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