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## Two wind farms proposed for East Zorra-Tavistock



The Gunn's Hill wind farm project, pictured here, was completed in 2016 by Prowind. (contributed photo)

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A forecasted increase in energy demand in Ontario has an area windmill company looking at revisiting a site near Innerkip for a wind farm, and they have a proposal for a second site near Cassel.

Helmut Schneider, vice president of renewable energy development at Prowind Renewables, an international company with an office in Woodstock, said they are looking to help the province meet its power demands in the not-to-distant future.

"Our vision is to build another community

wind project in Oxford Center with two clusters of wind turbines in the Innerkip and Cassel areas. The reason for exploring the possibilities now is a recent announcement by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) that Ontario needs an additional 5,000 MW of capacity over the next 10 years and is planning the next procurement of 2,000 MW capacity in the next two years."

The original site is located between the 'Field of Dreams' and Braemar Sideroad on both sides of the 16th Line while the new proposed location is amongst the 14th and 17th Lines in the Cassel and

Maplewood Sideroads area. Prowind brought the current Gunn's Hill wind farm online in 2016, a development located in Oxford Centre south of Woodstock.

Prowind is working with a co-operative, Oxford Community Energy, to get the project going. Schneider said he is involved with both organizations.

"I am an employee at Prowind but also the president of the co-op. It was formed in 2015 when the approval was given for the Gunn's Hill project. The co-op owns 49 per cent of that wind farm meaning

*Continued on page 2*

## EZT budget deliberations set to begin

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The 2024 version of the East Zorra-Tavistock budget will soon be in the public eye. The budget will be released on the EZT website Feb. 8 for anyone interested in reviewing the document.

No number has been released yet, but Mayor Phil Schaefer told the Gazette recently he expects the township will table a responsible tax increase. Some area municipalities have struggled with their budgets including Oxford County which passed a 16.7 per cent tax hike onto residents. Wilmot Township is currently grappling with a 10.6 per cent jump in its draft document.

CAO Karen DePrest said she is hoping the public and members of council will take a keen interest in the process.

"Given the budgets we have seen in neighbouring communities, we know how important it is for council to be engaged in the discussions this year. I even received an anonymous letter encouraging full participation of council this year."

A special meeting of council is being held Feb. 15 beginning at 9 a.m. It will be a working session for elected officials to ask questions, make recommendations for changes and give staff feedback on their wants and needs before a public meeting on Feb. 21 where the public can make delegations.

DePrest said she wants to make sure every councillor can participate in the special meeting.

"Should a council member be unable to attend due to illness or otherwise, we provided for a one-time exception to the procedural by-law for the special meeting to allow members to be brought in using TEAMS to a laptop at their workstation in the chamber. This will not be

*Continued on page 3*





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COMMUNITY —

# Wind farms proposed to help meet growing energy demands

Continued from page 1

that members of the community own it and benefit from the electricity that has been produced."

He added the people who invested in the project receive a solid financial benefit from it. The same type of model is planned for the two projects in EZT, which would also see a landowner receive a lease agreement calculated at three percent of the gross revenue with a minimum guarantee of \$ 25,000 per year for about half an acre of land.

"We see our landowners as partners and treat them with fairness," said Schneider.

The idea of a wind farm in EZT was first introduced by the same company about eight years ago.

"We did talk to some landowners in the Innerkip area and after the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program was closed down, we had to move away from that, but now that the Independent Electricity System Operator is inquiring about our piece for the next six to eight years, we wanted to go back to the same landowners to give them the opportunity first."

The highly controversial FIT was introduced in 2009 by the then-provincial Liberal government to encourage residents and business owners to install clean renewable energy projects.

Schneider explained planning is in its very early stages and the required procurement from the IESO means they don't know who they would be selling the power to yet.

"We anticipate that to come in early 2025 and we wouldn't know until mid-year if a project is approved for development. In order to get that approval, we of course want to first see if there are landowners interested in working with us. We want to see if the municipal councils are interested in supporting a project."

Should the project proceed as Prowind plans, the final decision would fall on the lap of East Zorra-Tavistock council. Mayor

Phil Schaefer said the township has not been approached with any proposal for wind farms in the township at this point.

"It is important to note that the process also includes the requirement that the applicant must submit to the IESO a resolution from the local municipal council that supports the application. The applicant will need to seek such a resolution from township council and it will be council's decision whether to provide one."

Schaefer said he has heard little from residents on this topic, most likely because it has just surfaced.

"I do expect more discussion with residents as the process unfolds."

At least one area politician is intrigued about the possibility of a pair of wind farms in EZT. Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan said the project fits into the recently approved strategic plan and a pledge of 100 per cent renewable energy.

"There is a commitment to advancing environmental sustainability, specifically climate-change mitigation and adaptation. If Oxford County was asked, I suspect it would be pretty easy to give support in principle," he added.

Much of the controversy when it comes to wind farms involves what critics say are the health risks to those living nearby. Ryan hopes people will follow the science which he said suggests the opposite.

"There is always some amount of resistance to change in our society. With respect to windmills, I would differentiate between evidence-based and justifiable concerns which are legitimate. If you have a windmill close to your property, it will be a visual change and that's relatively minor, I think."

He added concerns people have about health risks due to vibration and noise are largely unfounded.

"There are very large wind farms in very high-residential density areas around the world. We also know this because there is

a Gunn's Hill wind farm that's been there for a number of years with little to no complaints once it was up and running."

Not everyone agrees with Ryan's thinking, including a farming couple located in one of the proposed wind farm areas. They reached out to the Gazette asking that they not be named, at least for now. The couple was invited to an information dinner last week hosted by Prowind where area residents asked questions. She said despite that, there are many unanswered questions.

"They never talk about animal health or any effects on crops or the roads they plan to put in from one to the next turbine. If you sign the agreement (to have a windmill on your property) you give up the right to dictate how far it will be from your home."

The couple said they are not interested at all in participating but are worried a neighbour may think differently.

"I don't wish these things on any of them, whether they want them or not. I'm more

concerned about the neighbours who don't want them."

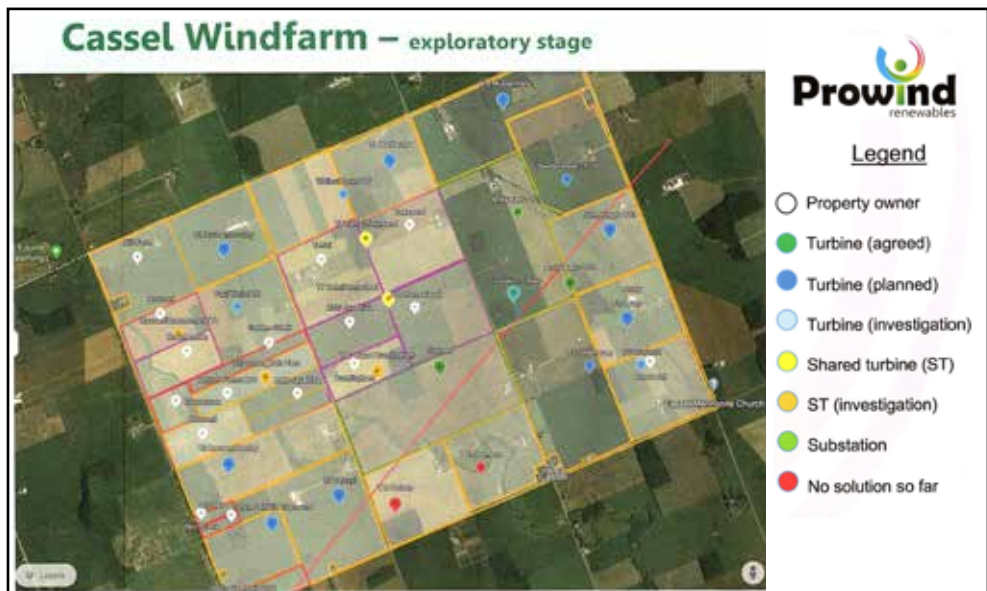
According to the couple, some people have already signed up to be a part of the wind farm project.

"We live in a gem of a county. We fought against the high-speed rail through here and now they want that land for wind turbines. We just want to farm. We want to see our horizons."

Another person also contacted the Gazette and said they are organizing a group of residents opposed to the development.

"What we do know is that there are a growing number of landowners and homesteads that do not support wind turbines in our community. The concerns are the use of good productive agricultural land, as well as safety and health concerns for resident families and livestock," he explained.

The Gazette will continue to follow this story as it unfolds.



The Gazette has obtained a map of desired windmill sites in the Cassel area. (contributed photo)

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COMMUNITY —

# "Responsible tax increase" likely for East Zorra-Tavistock

Continued from page 1

a virtual meeting but rather we are hoping to use laptops with speakers so that if someone is unable to attend physically, they would be able to fully participate."

EZT does not yet have the equipment to allow any meeting to be recorded for re-broadcast, but as with all of their meetings, members of the public are welcome to attend and sit in the gallery but will not be eligible to speak until the meeting on Feb. 21.

The township explained the number-one priority in the 2024 budget is the AV equipment acquisition, installation, and training which is being funded through a Rural Technology reserve with no impact on that tax rate.

"Having received pre-approval to acquire the equipment, we have spoken with the chosen company, and they have confirmed that they are expecting the full order to be delivered to their docks in late March, or early April. They are allowing three weeks

after that for installation and training," said added DePrest.

The township hopes that by the end of the second quarter, the technology will be fully operational in council chambers with the ability to record and stream meetings.

"Council will also need to look toward a permanent solution to our salt and sand shed for public works in 2024. We had previously done a temporary repair and cover to the existing storage facilities at our yard in Hickson, but the capacity is not sufficient for an extended significant winter event if it were to happen," she added.

Just because the budget won't be finalized that, doesn't mean property owners won't be paying taxes. A 2024 interim tax bills will be issued the week of Feb. 5 with installment due dates of Feb. 29 and May 31.

"These bills will be for 50 per cent of last year's final taxes, as prescribed by the Municipal Act," explained DePrest.

# Wellesley Township extends liquor sales to holidays

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Residents looking for a little extra wine or beer will have more opportunities to purchase it locally after council approved a motion to allow sales on holidays.

As a result, LCBO Licensed convenience outlets will be able to sell alcohol on New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Any stores opening on those holidays will need to meet the criteria in the Retail Business Holidays Act to carry on retail business. Provincial law states outlet stores can sell booze on holidays but local municipalities need to give their permission for it to happen.

Mayor Joe Nowak said it was an easy decision for him.

"Christmas Day, for example, I don't know how many stores are actually open, maybe this will help them. There are folks who need something in a hurry. I guess that's the best way to describe it."

He added he'd rather see residents spend their money locally as opposed to making a trip out of the area.

"I just thought it was the right thing to do. It's to keep the business in the community instead of people driving to Waterloo," added Nowack who said he has not received any negative calls from residents. "I think people appreciate the convenience."

One of the businesses to potentially benefit from the move is Pym's Village Market in Wellesley. Owner Krupal Patel asked the township last year if he could open on New Year's Day, a request that was granted which led to the most recent motion.

"It will help people stay local to shop on these holidays. This is the first time we have opened on New Year's so lots of people didn't know. It will take time. Maybe after one or two years everyone will know and come here to shop instead of New Hamburg or Waterloo."

He added the customers who did come in appreciated having the option.

"People maybe come in for a six-pack of beer and buy some cheese or something else," he said.

Ward 4 Councillor Claude Hergott had the only nay vote on the motion. The Gazette reached out to him to find out why but did not hear back before press time.

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## COMMUNITY —

# Wilmot budget discussions underway

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Wilmot Township's 2024 budget deliberations are underway as members of council ponder what to do with a proposed 10.6 per cent increase in the tax levy.

Interim treasurer Dan Elliott presented an overview at Wilmot's regular council meeting last week. The township's finance and budget committee will review and suggest changes at all-day meetings scheduled for Jan. 25 and 27. They can be attended in person or viewed on the township's YouTube channel. Additional budget review meetings may take place, if needed.

If passed as is, the residential tax rate would add approximately \$121 to the average assessed home's property tax

bill, or \$10 a month. The township said when combined with tax increases at the Region and for education, the impact on the average residential home is a 7.6-per-cent increase in the total tax billing, or about \$307.

A budget document on the township's website said "administration is focused on building the organization's capacity to address the many challenges facing the municipality. These include future growth planning, environmental and climate change issues, an aging population, the evolution of municipal services, the expansion of online services and information, and core financial issues."

The proposed capital plan totalling \$14.6 million includes repair and replacement projects with a price tag of

\$6.9 million, growth and new projects totalling \$7.2 million, and studies and other initiatives at \$465,000.

The township is pointing to several pressures they are facing as part of the proposed tax hike. CAO Sharon Chambers said one of them is inflation.

"Inflation was reported as 3.1 per cent by Statistics Canada for the period from June 22 to June 23. Without inflationary adjustments to base budgets, service levels and capacity to deliver diminishes over time."

She added the township is also putting money away for future infrastructure projects by way of a special tax levy of 2.8 per cent.

"We do know that the cost of non-residential construction was reported by

Statistics Canada for the same June-to-June period as 8.1 per cent, resulting in a loss of purchasing power of the special levy and of any reserve funds on hand."

Other pressures include increases in liability insurance and the cost of health and dental benefits for staff and council. Last year's budget included new debt financing to be paid by the tax levy. The debt payment carrying costs were not included in the 2023 budget, but are reflected this year.

Township residents interested in providing feedback on the budget can do so by sending an email to [budget@wilmot.ca](mailto:budget@wilmot.ca). You can also register to be a delegation at one of the upcoming public budget meetings. Information is available at [wilmot.ca/delegation](http://wilmot.ca/delegation).

# Region of Waterloo mayors call for reforms to put building and development back in local hands

By Galen Simmons

The mayors of all six lower-tier Region of Waterloo municipalities, representing almost 80 per cent of the region's population, are calling for reforms to the two-tiered local and regional government structure to help put decision making around new housing and economic development back in local hands.

Coinciding with a meeting of the provincial standing committee on heritage, infrastructure and cultural policy's study on regional governance, which was overseen by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the mayors of Wellesley, Wilmot, Cambridge, Kitchener, North Dumfries and Woolwich held a media conference last week at which they put their unified support behind a number of proposed reforms to the current two-tiered government structure in the region.

"It started back when we were informed about Bill 23 (Ontario's More Homes Built Faster Act)," said Wellesley Mayor Joe Nowak. "Bill 23 had to do with giving the lower tiers planning authority, so we thought it would be a good idea to take a

unified position on this because it would affect each of the lower tiers, possibly a little differently, and (we felt it was important to) have a unified voice when it comes to the standing committee."

Out of that came several proposed government reforms, the most important of which would reduce unnecessary red tape for each municipality to help the province meet its goal of building at least 1.5 million new homes by 2031.

"There's a lot of duplication and that is costing the taxpayers money as well as costing developers money and time," Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen told the Gazette about the group's ask to remove the need to secure the Region of Waterloo's approval for new building and development applications in each municipality. "Fifty years ago, when regional structures were formed, there wasn't as much (planning) capacity at lower-tier municipalities, however now we have that built-up capacity because we're already doing the work and it essentially then goes up to the upper tier to be looked over and then they get the final say. But there isn't any new component that's being added."

By removing that extra level of approval from the process, Salonen and Nowak said the approval process for developers would be faster and more in line with the timelines set out in Bill 23. In addition, each of the local governments, which have a better understanding of their municipalities' capacities for growth in both housing and economic development and the needs of residents and local businesses, will retain more control over the development process.

"The whole idea is to do what we can to help build the 1.5 million homes that the (provincial) government has (promised) by 2031," Nowak said. "Eliminate delays and duplication. I think that's what we're trying to accomplish."

In addition to transferring planning authority to the lower-tier municipalities, the group of six mayors also want to make sure the money residents are paying for planning services at the regional level goes back to their municipalities to help fund local planning and development services.

The group has also proposed a number of reforms aimed at improving service

delivery for residents by putting decision-making powers around things like water expansion, local roads, transportation, bylaw enforcement, traffic control and other areas back in the hands of lower-tier governments.

The city and township mayors are hoping to get the support of the provincial government towards this shared vision soon and look forward to continuing this work together with the province, their councils and other municipal and regional partners to improve the quality and efficiency of local services while also increasing capacity to build homes faster and drive economic growth.

"We have a great working relationship with the province, and they've been really clear that they want to get the 1.5 million homes built by 2031," Salonen said. "As well, they're looking to increase economic development in Ontario, which is part of that community building element. I'm confident we should see some changes for the better through reduced duplication and making life better for our residents."

## The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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COMMUNITY —

# EZT introduces a memorial program for residents

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Residents of East Zorra-Tavistock now have an opportunity to pay tribute following the loss of a loved one after council approved the township's first-ever commemorative bench and tree program policy at last Wednesday's regular meeting.

The idea came from Shirley Hanlon, a former councillor and Tavistock resident, who first floated the idea back in 2020 and then again in April of last year when she made a passionate plea to council. Hanlon's two surviving children, Kelly Gillis and Greg Hanlon, are pleased the township is moving forward with it.

"Our Mom was very passionate about seeing this program come to life for the community. She believed strongly in the benefits of the program, not only of the benefits of trees in our environment, but also the wonderful opportunity to commemorate a loved one with a living memorial," said Gillis.

She explained that when her mother served on council, she was a representative on the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and took her role very seriously.

"She believed we all need to do what we can to take care of our environment for current and future generations. Mom was also interested in genealogy and the preservation of history having spent considerable time cataloging cemetery records for the Oxford County Genealogy Society. The idea of Memorial Groves brought those two passions together."

Some of the fine print is still being worked out, including the cost involved for donors.

"Fee recommendations will be coming to council at the second meeting in February as part of my monthly treasury update report," said EZT CAO Karen DePrest. "This allows staff to get quotes on the cost of benches, plaques for benches and our tree costs. The fees that will be recommended will be intended to be based on cost recovery only to cover the purchase price and



Shirley Hanlon passed away in December, just one month before her ask for the township to implement the program became a reality. (contributed photo)

upkeep of the trees and benches."

Items such as wreaths or flowers are not permitted to be laid on or near any of the memorials, something DePrest said is meant to be preventative rather than punitive.

"The township does not take responsibility for those personal items if someone were to take or remove them."

Donors will also not have the option of placing a plaque on or near trees purchased, something DePrest said is, again, a preventative measure and an issue she has personal experience with.

"When my mother passed away in 2021,

I asked (London) about a memorial tree. Their program allows for the purchase of a tree in a set number of neighbourhood parks. The trees remain unmarked because you cannot adhere something to the tree that inhibits its health or growth and when the city tried using plaques on the ground or a marker beside the tree they were constantly having to replace or repair the markers due to vandalism."

She added the idea that someone would destroy a recognition plate is disturbing but it became such a problem in London that the program was cancelled for two years.

DePrest said when her mother passed

away last year, she purchased memorial trees for both her parents in the neighbourhood park where she grew up.

"Although passersby don't know they are my parents' trees, I know where they are, and I can sit by them whenever I want and remember them."

Gillis is hoping to be the first person to utilize the new EZT program.

"We hope that we will have the opportunity to make the first donation to the program in 2024 in honour of our mother who passed away on Dec. 23, 2023. We think that would be very fitting, and we are confident that she would agree."



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# COMMUNITY —

## Local snowmobile trails buzzing with activity!



Lots of snowmobiling is happening in the townships of Perth and surrounding areas. The Ontario Snowmobile Association (O.S.A.) has most trails opened and groomed, and reminds those who do not have a permit to get one, or risk being fined. Photo by Gary West



Ross McPherson from Shakespeare has his new Arctic Cat out for its first run of the year and was enjoying his ride on Saturday near Perth Road 106 in SouthEasthope township, south-east of Shakespeare, on the groomed trail. Photo by Gary West

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COMMUNITY —

# Grooming snowmobile trails, a tradition for Perth county's Dave Mohr

By Gary West

Winter finally arrived in southern Ontario last week with snowfall and freezing temperatures.

With the return of snow, winter activities ramped up in Perth county and snowmobilers were out in full force.

With snowmobiling also comes trail grooming, and Gadshill's Dave Mohr, was again up for the task. He has been operating the groomer for the North Easthope snowmobile club for years, over the many miles of trails staked out by members of the local club.

He was out again on the weekend, early enough to get ahead of the deluge of local machine operators who have waited for weeks to enjoy the popular winter activity. Mohr always hopes for more snow and was not excited in hearing rain and milder temperatures in the forecast.



Perth County's Dave Mohr was out early in the morning, grooming area snowmobile trails, making those local snow trails smoother for the hundreds that enjoy fun in the winter. Photos by Gary West

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# COMMUNITY —

## Hitting the tobogganing hills in Shakespeare



Kids from Shakespeare and area always seem to know where the fun happens in January, when snow and cold temperatures arrive, on the Optimist Hill in the village. Photo by Gary West

Shakespeare's Shawn Maloney along with daughters Nora, 4, and Fiona, 7, all bundled up and warm, enjoy the Shakespeare Optimists' tobogganing hill on a cold but pleasant Saturday afternoon. Photo by Gary West

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# COMMUNITY —

## IN MEMORIAM



**DONALD "DONNIE" PITTS**

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*We thought of you with love today,*

*But that is nothing new.*

*We thought about you yesterday*

*And days before that, too.*

*We think of you in silence.*

*We often speak your name.*

*Now all we have are memories*

*And your picture in a frame.*

*Your memory is our keepsake*

*With which we'll never part.*

*God has you in his keeping.*

*We have you in our heart.*

*Missing you always,*

**Julie, Larry, Meghan, Ashley, Emily and Jaris**

## IN MEMORIAM

*In loving memory of*

**JASON LEU**

who passed away 7 years ago

on January 21, 2017.

*A smile for all, a heart of gold.*

*Forever loved and remembered*

*Dad, Chris and Family*

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*Tuesday prior*

*at 10am*



## IN MEMORIAM



*Dorothy Bickle*

A dear Wife, Mom, Grandma and Great Grandma who passed away January 27th, 2022.

*We thought of you with love today,*

*But that is nothing new.*

*We thought about you yesterday*

*And days before that, too.*

*We think of you in silence.*

*We often speak your name.*

*Now all we have are memories*

*And your picture in a frame.*

*Your memory is our keepsake*

*With which we'll never part.*

*God has you in his keeping.*

*We have you in our heart.*

Always loved and forever remembered by Eric, Margaret and Ross, Harold and Kelly, Edward and Michelle, Jeanette and Jeff, James and Jacinthe and families.

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### Tavistock

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# COMMUNITY —

## The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. Which house was Harry Potter in?
2. Where is the great barrier reef located?
3. What music artist has the most diamond certified albums?
4. At what temperature are Celsius and Fahrenheit equal?
5. What is the only type of rock that floats?
6. What does a red card mean in Soccer?
7. When was Earth Day first celebrated?
8. A shape with 5 sides is known as what?
9. The quinoa plant is native to what continent?
10. What is the deadliest disease in history?

Answers found on page 22

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

**January 25:** Happy birthday to Lennyn Murray (5), Ethan Brooks (9), Ashlin Christie (11), Nate Witzel (15) and Ashley Giroux

**January 27:** Happy birthday to Jed Herlick (3), Jared Doehn (9), Carl Weitzel, and Ann Skubowious

**January 29:** Happy birthday to Pearce Stickney (6), Bennett MacLeod (7), and Camden Bartlett (13). Clara Zehr (97)

**January 30:** Happy birthday to Karen Schomphe

**January 31:** Happy birthday to Georgia Zehr (14), Kathryn Petrie (17), and Jane McKay.

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## The Old Gazettes

By Jake Grant

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

**January 22-29, 2014, Edition (10 years ago)**

Grade 3 and 4 teacher Mrs. Sandra Alyea leads her class in jumping jacks to keep warm in the school yard as a result of a fire alarm at Tavistock Public School on Thursday. The alarm was triggered by a malfunctioning censor in the school's activity room.

Students at Tavistock Public school now have access to more than twenty iPad minis for research and project work courtesy of fundraising campaigns over the past two years. Principle Laurie James expressed thanks to all who participated. "You have all helped enhance the school experience for our students," she said.

**January 21-28, 2004, Edition (20 years ago)**

A snowmobiler is recovering in Stratford General Hospital after being injured in a trail riding accident and found by a trail groomer operator. OPP in Perth County were called just after midnight to report an injured snowmobiler located off the trail in Ellice Ward. Police and ambulance were called and the individual was admitted for pelvic injuries and exposure.

Steerage's highly anticipated debut album

"overboard" is set to be released at the end of January. Steerage has taken a collection of century old Celtic songs and inserted a rock beat to give them a fresh and energetic sound. Local member, James Bickle, lives just outside of Tavistock and began studying classic violin at the tender age of nine.

**January 18-25, 1984, Edition (40 years ago)**

Holland Equipment Limited, 20 Phoebe Street, Norwich, has introduced the Aerway; a low cost, low maintenance agricultural implement for compaction relief and conservation tillage. It is ground driven, and its rolling principle requires minimal horsepower. The unique patented tine design provides a full 7" of penetration and maximum life is assured through the use of induction hardened steel forgings.

The Men's Dart League met last Wednesday night at the Legion Hall and two tied for top points with 47, Canadian and Budweiser; Golden had 46 and Export tied Black Label with 40; Old Vienna had 39; Blue had 36 and Miller 29. The high score of the evening saw four tie with 140, Jim Brenneman, Jack Yungblut, Paul Haase, and Vince Bastein.

**January 22-29, 1964, Edition (60 years ago)**

Good news for the Ontario farmer and others engaged in agriculture was announced last week when it was learned both the Ontario and federal governments have completed plans to eradication of Common Bar-

berry. Common barberry is the host plant on which stem rusts spends part of its life cycle. It should not be confused with the popular ornamental shrub which does not harbor stem rust spores, and therefore will not be affected by the eradication program. Stem rust poses a serious threat to the \$80,000,000 oat crop, one of the most important cereal crops in Ontario.

A new breed of swine named the Camborough has been officially recognized in Britain. Both Landrace and Yorkshires were used to develop the new pig, claimed to reach bacon weight of 200 lbs. in 150 days instead of the usual 197 days.

A crew of CNR workmen started last week on construction for new signals at the railway crossings on Woodstock and Hope Street.

Shortly after 11 p.m. last Tuesday night the local volunteer fire brigade members answered the summons of the fire siren to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Dietz. Upon arrival, it was found a chimney fire was in progress. There was no damage other than the smoke.

Mahlon Leis, owner and operator of the new Tavistock Dairy plant, says, "We handle approximately 14,000 quarts of milk each month." Located on Hendershott Street, the building is 30 feet by 65 feet and is the first of its kind in Tavistock.

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# COMMUNITY —

## Show Us Your Ancestors



At the grave of their parents in New Hamburg in 1910, are three of the children of Joseph and Mary Laschinger: Jacob, Victoria (McFarland), Joseph, Solomon, Adina (Wood) and Adam.

In a post to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page, Jen Krampien says: "Far left is my great grandfather, Jacob Laschinger, born May 11, 1850 in New Hamburg. (He is) standing in Riverside Cemetery at the gravestone of his father, Joseph Laschinger, Born Nov. 28, 1819. The family moved to Canada when he was 16, first settling in Elmira then moving to New Hamburg."

If you have photos of your local ancestors you'd like to share with the community, send them along with details about who is in the photo, where it was shot and in what year to Galen@granthaven.com.

## Show Us Your Wilmot



Darryl Gingerich posted this photo of a Cooper's hawk perched outside his workplace, Argo XTV in New Hamburg, to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page. Photo by Darryl Gingerich, courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot

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# COMMUNITY —

## Registration open for globe's top crokinole tournament

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

The world's biggest and best tournament is scheduled for June 1 at the Tavistock and District Recreation Centre. The World Crokinole Championship brings some of the best players in the world on the competitive side and many people just trying to enjoy a game they have played for life or one they have just picked up.

Online registration can be found at <https://www.worldcrokinole.com/register.html> and there is also an option to mail it in through the website. The cost ranges from \$10 to \$25 and those

received by March 31 will be eligible to win one of two official World Crokinole Championship spring jackets. It is recommended to register before the tournament, due to tournament day capacity limitations.

Full payment must accompany the registration to be accepted and those submitted or postmarked after May 1 will be subject to a late fee of \$5.00 per person. There are categories of play for all ages and skill levels. There are no pre-qualification requirements. Anyone can enter.



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# SPORTS —

## PJHL Roundup

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

**Tavistock's two-win weekend includes another victory over Navy Vets**

The Braves solidified their grip on third place in the Doherty Division standings with a pair of victories, including their third victory over division-leading Woodstock at home Saturday night in overtime.

Tavistock jumped out to a 3-0 lead after 21 minutes on goals from Carter Arsenault, Will Schlotzhauer and Ian Glendinning before Woodstock roared back with three consecutive goals of their own in a

nine-minute span of the second period. A scoreless third led to the extra period where Thibodeau scored his second of the night and eleventh of the season on a feed from Nicholas Hambly to give the Braves their eighteenth victory of the season. Tavistock outshot Woodstock 54-47.

The Braves hosted the Hespeler Shamrocks Friday in a game that saw a combined 88 penalty minutes where the two teams went a combined 0 for 17 on the powerplay. Glendinning led the Tavistock offense with a pair of goals, his seventh and eighth of the season. Kaden Brame, Schlotzhauer and Thibodeau also scored

for the Braves who are on a three-game win streak.

**Four-point weekend for Firebirds**

New Hamburg earned a pair of wins with a 5-4 win in Norwich on Friday and another road win Saturday, a 7-1 victory in Paris. Keegan Metcalfe's goal 12 minutes into the third period against the Merchants tied the game at four, setting the stage for Owen Fischer's game-winning goal with 72 seconds remaining in the third period, his twenty-seventh of the season. Jake Thompson led the attack against the Titans with three goals while Fischer scored twice and added an assist.

**Applejacks win and lose**

Wellesley started the weekend with a 4-3 loss in Woodstock Friday. The Navy Vets jumped out to a 3-0 lead after the first period and despite goals from Logan Crans and Curtis Butler in the second, they couldn't mount a comeback. The Applejacks bounced back on Saturday with a 3-2 win over Norwich in front of a home crowd of 640 spectators. The Merchants led 2-0 after 20 minutes but Isiah Katsube completed the comeback with the game-winner with four minutes remaining in the second period, his fifth of the campaign.

PJHL - South Doherty Division 2023-24 Point Leaders						
Team	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
WNV	Davin Gray	F	31	11	41	52
NHF	Owen Fischer	F	31	29	18	47
WNV	Nolan Brett	F	30	21	24	45
NHF	Tyler Reid	D	30	14	24	38
NHF	Owen Bruder	F	33	16	20	36
HES	Boden White	F	25	16	19	35
WNV	Ethan Szabo	F	26	12	22	34
NHF	Jake Thompson	F	30	15	16	31
HES	Jack Restauri	F	31	8	22	30
TAV	Nicolas Thibodeau	F	31	11	16	27
NOR	Joel Storoschuk	F	29	12	14	26
NOR	Brandon Balazs	F	28	14	12	26
WNV	Chris Coulter	D	24	11	14	25
NOR	Malcom Scott	F	31	12	13	25
WNV	Brodie Kearns	F	23	6	18	24
TAV	Ian Glendinning	F	31	9	15	24
NHF	Matt Domm	D	28	3	21	24
NHF	Antonio Pasqualino	F	30	5	19	24
HES	Andrew Harris	F	30	13	11	24
WNV	Tyler Smeda	D	31	9	14	23
NHF	Owen Sculthorp	F	13	5	18	23
TAV	Stephen Peppas	F	28	10	12	22
TAV	Jacob Reid-Brant	F	30	8	14	22
WNV	Ty Crombie	D	26	10	11	21
HES	Braeden Tyler	D	31	4	17	21
WNV	Nolan Burnside	F	27	7	13	20
HES	Justin George	D	29	3	17	20

Tavistock Royals 2023-24 Point Leaders						
PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	
Sean Kienapple	F	16	14	12	26	
Drew Gerth	F	18	10	8	18	
Trevor Sauder	F	17	7	10	17	
Deven Kropf	F	17	3	12	15	
Sean Leslie	F	18	5	8	13	
Jeremy Munro	F	17	8	4	12	
Collin Hartwick	F	12	6	5	11	
Lucas Bast	D	15	3	7	10	
Adam Barr	F	16	2	8	10	
Mike Noyes	D	14	3	7	10	
Cam Leslie	D	19	2	7	9	
Greg Noyes	D	16	3	5	8	
Erik Robichaud	F	6	3	5	8	
Callan Christner	F	16	4	3	7	
Matt Zilke	F	14	5	2	7	
Mitch Facey	F	11	2	5	7	
Jon Jutzi	D	6	0	4	4	
Patrick Vulgan	F	2	1	2	3	
Tristan Hohl	D	16	1	1	2	
Reid Ramseyer	D	12	0	1	1	
Geoff Killing	D	5	0	1	1	
Chad McIntosh	F	7	0	1	1	
Zach Mark	F	4	0	0	0	
Samson Walsom	D	11	0	0	0	
Graham Kitching	F	4	0	0	0	

PJHL STANDINGS South Doherty Division						
	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
Woodstock Navy Vets	31	24	4	3	0	51
New Hamburg Firebirds	33	24	7	2	0	50
Tavistock Braves	31	18	11	0	2	38
Norwich Merchants	32	13	13	5	1	32
Wellesley Applejacks	28	12	15	1	0	25
Hespeler Shamrocks	31	9	21	1	0	19
Paris Titans	32	7	22	2	1	17

W.O.A.A. Senior "AA" Hockey Regular Season Standings					
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Ripley Wolves	17	13	4	3	29
Creemore Coyotes	17	12	5	1	25
Tavistock Royals	19	12	7	0	24
Saugeen Shores Winterhawks	19	11	8	1	23
Minto 81's	17	11	6	1	23
Seaforth Centenaires	18	11	7	0	22
Durham Thundercats	18	10	8	1	21
Erin Outlaws	17	6	11	1	13
Georgian Bay Applekings	19	5	14	2	12
Milverton Four Wheel Drivers	19	5	14	1	11
Lucknow Lancers	18	3	15	1	7

## Royals earn OT victory to hang onto third place

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Tavistock picked up their seventh straight win of the inaugural Ontario Elite Hockey League's regular season on Saturday with a 4-3 overtime win in Milverton.

Greg Noyes scored the game-winner four minutes into the extra period on a setup from Collin Hartwick and Deven Kropf. The teams traded goals in regulation with the Four Wheel Drives scoring first in each period. Tristan Hohl picked up his first of the season in the opening frame on an unassisted marker. Drew Gerth scored in the second with assists going to Drew Robichaud and Sean Kienapple

before Adam Barr forced overtime with his second of the season from Jeremy Munro and Trevor Sauder.

Notes:

- Tavistock's last regular season game is Saturday night in Erin against the eighth-place Outlaws. The Royals defeated them 6-3 two weeks ago.
- The league has released its tie-breaking process once the regular season is over. First, head-to-head wins followed by head-to-head points. If that doesn't work next up is goal differential followed by goals for plus goals against divided into goal differential. Confused yet? Hopefully, that won't need to happen.

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# SPORTS —

## Fuhr family's backyard rink scores big fun in Shakespeare



The Fuhr family – Melissa, Grayson, Hadley and Jeff – have a large ice rink equipped with nighttime lighting in their backyard, which they open up to their friends, neighbours and other community members in Shakespeare. Photo by Gary West



Hockey night in Shakespeare on the Fuhr rink last Saturday night. Photo by Gary West



The kindergarten class from Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare took the short walk to have fun on the backyard rink of Melissa and Jeff Fuhr last week. Photo by Gary West

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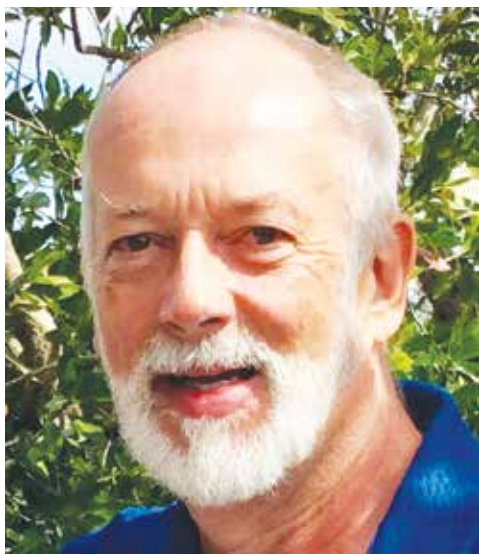
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## TRAVEL —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Two must-visit beverage havens in New Brunswick



By Paul Knowles

One of my favourite things about travel is the people I meet. Quirky characters, passionate activists, folks who have found their niche and are thriving in it.

And I have come to believe that some parts of the world are home to more interesting, unique individuals than others, which is a key reason why I love spending time in Canada's Atlantic provinces.

My latest sojourn in New Brunswick found me in several bars. That may sound like I am a bit of a degenerate – and there are those who might concur – but I was working. Honestly, I was looking for interesting travel stories and, at the Lunar Rogue in Fredericton and at a bar with the virtually unpronounceable name of Ka.ku.te.ru in St. John, I found them.

What I discovered were two guys – Frank Scott and Eric Scouten – who have found their happy places and have decided to share them with all who drop into these



Frank Scott, owner, founder and visionary behind The Lunar Rogue in Fredericton.

two beverage utopias.

The Lunar Rogue is named in honour of a 19th-century New Brunswick scoundrel who went by the pseudonym Henry Moon. It was founded by Scott in 1989.

Scott's passion is single malt whisky and, in fact, all things Scottish. He's worked in the whisky industry for 44 years, he has visited over 100 distilleries, he's married to a woman from Glasgow, he lives in Scotland for three months of the year, and he played in a pipe band for 27 years.

So, it's not too surprising that he decided to import his favourite parts of all things Scottish to his home city of Fredericton. That's instantly evident in his bar and in his work as the organizer of the New Brunswick Spirits Festival in mid-November each year. That festival is attended by whisky devotees from around the world.

The bar itself is a whisky-lover's paradise. Scott told me that he carries about 970 different brands of whisky, including three bottles that sell for \$900 per ounce.

I was not offered a taste.

Scott is clearly a visionary. His bar, he says, attracts "a lot of whisky tourists. In fact, I own the category."

But what about the bottom line? Scott chuckles and admits to "a little" profit. But the Lunar Rogue is not about the dollar. It's all about the drams.

Further south, in Saint John, Scouten's bar is tucked away in an alley a couple of short blocks from the harbour. The name – ka.ku.er.tu – is an English representation of the Japanese word for cocktail which, by the way, derives from Japanese efforts to translate cocktail into their language since they had no word for it. To further complicate the issue, As Scouten explains, "the bar doesn't have a name. ... The motto is a reminder that Japanese bartenders are way better."

He has spent time exploring mixology in Japan, and says, "Japanese culture has



A window with the image of the "scoundrel" who inspired the name of The Lunar Rogue.



Eric Scouten at work at Ka.ku.te.ru in Saint John.

been a big part of my life."

The Japanese connection is not surprising. Those expert in the creation of cocktails consistently credit Japanese mixologists as giants in the field, though Scouten is quick to say, "I hate the term mixologist. I'm a bartender."

Well, sure, but he's a unique and highly creative bartender without doubt. Kakuertu (if you're looking for the bar, leave out the periods, or GPS will not understand you) is also unique in many ways. It seats 12. That's it; 12 customers at a time and each one will get the personal attention of the bartender. It takes a while to get a finished drink from Scouten, but it's entirely worth it.

"I'm a giant nerd," he told me. "This is my kind of outlet. I'm obsessed with the micro-details." That includes a never-ending search for local, in-season ingredients for his creations. He told me he personally harvests sumac berries to create a sumac extract. He has also developed a system by which he makes utterly clear, clean blocks of ice with all impurities removed.

Case in point; Scouten asked my drink of choice. I told him that when it comes to cocktails, I like whisky. So, he decided to serve me his take on an original old fashioned. This quaffable work of art started with a block of his completely pure ice. Scouten wielded an extremely sharp knife and fashioned a jewel of ice that fit beautifully into a crystal lowball glass. He then poured the whisky and other ingredients. My notes, scribbled on the bar, include the phrase, "This is the first time in my life I've been impressed by an ice cube."

The bar is an inherently warm and friendly place. Scouten furnished it with cast-offs from a deconsecrated church, so the bar began its life as a church pew, and the backdrop came from the wood-



Eric Scouten's 12-seat bar is tucked into an alley a couple of blocks from the Saint John harbour.

work around the organ. With a maximum of only 12 patrons at a time and a chatty bartender, conversation blooms. All the while, Scouten is bringing smiles to the faces of his customers.

"Cocktails are what people know me for. I choose to explore my customers' palates," he said.

And his customers are happy to explore Scouten's creative expertise.

*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](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



OPINION —

**EXPERT ADVICE: Beat the January blahs with a Scottie D Bay Review**



**By Scott Dunstall**

Before I get started, I just want to give a shoutout to the new Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette editor, Galen Simmons. He is the new regional editor for Grant Haven Media, the parent company of the Gazette as well as The St. Mary's Independent, Stratford Times and the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo. Welcome Galen!

Well, we are now officially in winter Hell. I don't ski, I hate the Leafs for stomping on my heart every April and I spend half the day cleaning salt off my boots. I actually like that we are getting at it and we have less and less winter to endure every day that goes by. My heart starts to sink a little bit with each passing week after Labour Day – kind of like an ominous walk to the gallows. I cringe with each falling leaf. I hide under the bed when I see pumpkins on porches and when I see the first Christmas lights go up, they take away my shoelaces and eating utensils.

January or Beelzebub's birthday. It's the same thing to me.

But no one said you can't pursue activities that can help you blow those January blues away. Ta Da! Time for a Scottie D Bay Clearance Sale review!!

This is new for the Bay; or at least new for me and I have been following the Bay sales activity for years. What follows is the result of me scanning the Bay website for good deals in their first-ever na-

tional clearance sale. Rather than putting in a complicated link to copy, I just put in the words you should Google to get to the item. The other consideration I maintained was that there was no point reporting on anything that only had a couple of sizes remaining, especially end-of-spectrum sizes such as 8 and 13. Here we go!

1. Google: The Bay Hudson North: Cold Storage Quilted Bomber Vest

What I like about these vests: I like both colours. They offer a navy and what they call "mercury" which, to me, looks like light sand from the image. So, for what I wear, they can go with any of the colour combos I mostly use. Blues, reds, browns, grays, burgundies. For a clearance item, they have all the sizes available, which is unusual and begs the question, what is wrong with this item? Nothing as far as I can see except that the price point is higher than what most people would expect to pay for what they might think is the equivalent to half a coat. I also like the quilting pattern they use and it is distinctly different than the normal check-board puff pattern in most quilted outerwear. I look for different without being nuts and the pattern used in these pieces is longer and wavelike, which could be another issue with the wider audience. Most men are comfortable staying on trend without deviating much and this pattern is definitely that.

How would I wear them? As a stand-alone over a quarter zip sweater over a checked dress shirt. Throw a dress coat over that and you have full tilt layering. Add gloves and a scarf that match off the vest and, baby, you're going downtown.

I would wear dark coat, light vest. Light coat, dark vest. Regular: \$125. On Sale: \$89.99.

2. Google: The Bay Reserved Footwear New York Men's Vertigo Oxford Shoe

Why I like these shoes: The sand has a number of sizes available, as does the black. The gray has a lot of sizes, but sadly not mine. I Like the finish of the tops – a kind of flock that is becoming more and more popular but difficult to keep clean. I

recommended in a recent article that one use a combination of soap and water with gentle brushing (I use a shaving brush), along with a white rubber stick (yes like the old erasers from school but white and little flakier) that I rub into scuffs then brush off. For longer-term protection, I spray on an aerosol shoe protector. This kind of finish gives a softer look to the shoe – almost like a suede. And they come in a lot of colours that I like. I must have eight pairs of blue flock top shoes. These shoes also have a colour-matching stretchable band around the foot opening which, along with two stretchable slits on each side of the eyelets, makes slipping on easy. They have a brown faux leather heel patch and a tongue made out of the same material, which really does make sharp accent points.

I am a fan of the new-look, white-polyurethane combined sole and heel that looks sort of like a wedge, and this shoe does a good job with it. I think Cole Haan did not get that right with their moon shoe heels and I love the brand. Another story for another day. These are easy to clean with a magic eraser and some water. Finally, I like the stitching. It's visible but not overpowering and the use of a thin faux leather divider where the sole is

stitched to the top looks sharp.

Here is the best part. The shoe looks sharp and it's affordable at a clearance price of \$42.50, half off the regular price of \$85. This shoe also has a 4.9/5 review on TenereTeam, a reliable fashion brand online comparator.

There you go. Down the rabbit hole I went. My intention was to review seven or eight items, but as usual one thing led to another and I hit my word max for the week with only two.

*"Style is just fashion filtered through your personality"*

Scott Dunstall has been on a stylistic journey for over 10 years. His belief is 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 or Life & Style Wilmot on Facebook. Feel free to ask questions or propose collaborations: everydaystylebyscott1@gmail.com.

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## OPINION —

## EXPERT ADVICE: Carry forward Meatless Mondays through Veganuary and beyond with the magic of legumes



By Mercedes Kay Gold

Veganuary is almost done for 2024, but there's no reason Meatless Monday can't remain indefinitely. In honor of the last official week, let's go overboard on legumes. My recipe contains loads of lentils, chickpeas, and a touch of coconut to help you dream of warmer days.

In the plant kingdom, legumes are considered powerhouses of protein. These complex carbohydrates are high in fiber and promote fullness. The key to long-term weight-management is consistently satisfying a growling tummy and regulating blood sugar. The trick to offsetting the body's sugar cravings is providing enough protein throughout the day, and legumes are the answer for plant-based menu planning. For optimal gut digestion, always soak dry legumes in unpasteurized apple cider vinegar for 12-24 hrs. It helps banish bloating.

Vegetables are the cornerstone of happy holistic recipes. Sweet potatoes and carrots are both high in beta-carotene which converts to vitamin A in the body.

This fat-soluble vitamin is an amazing immune booster, exceptional eye-health helper and offsets cognitive decline. Onions overall are prebiotic perfection, gut health helpers and help kill bacteria throughout the body. The high-sulfur content in onions is linked to lower rates of heart disease, stroke, cholesterol and even Alzheimer's disease. Red onions are the jewel of the onions, especially high in quercetin and helpful for boosting insulin while also lowering the rate of developing lung cancer. Tomatoes are high in vitamin C and cancer-fighting lycopene.

Welcome to my recipe's herb garden. Ginger is a go-to flavor booster and so much more. Consistently incorporating fresh ginger into meal plans is a dream come true for those suffering from digestive distress. Diminishing the possibility of gas and bloating, especially in meals with a high-fiber content, is helpful. Garlic is a staple throughout the world and bad breath is not worth banishing this holistic herb. Whether raw, fried or roasted, the unbeatable flavor of garlic is second only to its phenomenal health value. The sulfur compounds found in garlic have strong biological effects on the body from heart health to warding off the common cold, detoxication and even improving athletic performance. Cilantro is often referred to as coriander, but the plant's leaves and stems are in reality cilantro while the seeds are called coriander. This helpful herb is a staple in Asian, Indian and Middle Eastern dishes

thanks to its fabulous flavor as well as boatloads of benefits. Cilantro is linked to heart, brain and digestion support with a side of sugar regulation, fighting infection and reducing inflammation.

Coconut milk is a healthy saturated fat and flavorful stand-in for anyone living with dairy drama. Maple Syrup, Mother Nature's sugar, helps balance the acidity of tomatoes.

This recipe is quick, easy to assemble, inexpensive, perfect for lunch leftovers and freezes well.

### A Touch of Exotic Plant-Based Legume Love

#### Ingredients:

- 1 Tbsp virgin cold-pressed olive or coconut oil
- 5 garlic cloves crushed
- 1 medium red onion diced small
- 2 large carrots chopped
- 1 medium sweet potato chopped into 1-inch chunks
- 1 Tbsp grated fresh ginger
- 1 ½ tsp dried turmeric
- 1 ½ tsp cumin seeds
- ¼ cup fresh chopped coriander
- ½ tsp cayenne pepper
- ½ tsp Himalayan Pink Salt
- 1 (28-oz) can salt-free diced tomatoes
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 1 (14-oz) can full-fat coconut milk
- 2 Tbsp unpasteurized apple cider vinegar



½ cup Oak Manor Farms dry green lentils

½ cup Oak Manor Farms dry chickpeas

1 Tbsp Wagler Maple Products maple syrup

Fresh chopped cilantro to garnish

Shredded sulfite-free coconut flakes to garnish

#### Directions:

1. Soak the beans and lentils with 2 Tbsp of apple cider vinegar for 12-24 hrs. They expand and soften. Drain and rinse.

2. Heat the oil on low to medium heat in a stockpot. Add the onion and fry until softened. Add the garlic and ginger stirring continuously for two minutes.

3. Pour in the crushed tomatoes and stock. Add the chickpeas, lentils, sweet potato, carrot, cilantro, maple syrup and dried spices. Bring to a boil and simmer for 90 min. Add the coconut milk, stir and simmer until the vegetables are soft.

Garnish with chopped fresh cilantro, shredded coconut flakes and serve over basmati rice.

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**COMMUNITY —**

**Shakespeare Optimist Club sponsors magic show**



There was a buzz of activity in the Shakespeare Optimist Hall this week. Scott the Magical Guy brought his fun, music and comedy, and wowed the 50 kids and parents in the audience as they tried to figure out how some objects would disappear into thin air, only to reappear, as astonished kids from the Shakespeare area looked on. The show was sponsored by the local Optimist club. Photo by Gary West

**Gazette Puzzles**

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**Pet of the Week**




**PIXIE RITZ**

Pixie celebrated her 5th birthday on January 24. She's an American Hunt Terrier. Born at Hilltopper Farm, just outside of Punkydoodle's Corners, her owners have given her the nickname "Punkydoodle Doodle."

Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing [info@wilmotpost.ca](mailto:info@wilmotpost.ca)



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# COMMUNITY —

## Sprucedale Public School Grade 8 bottle drive

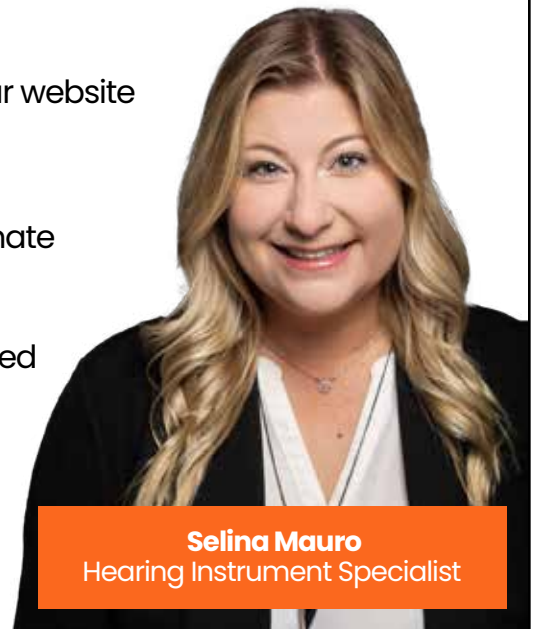


Grade 8 students from Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare, held a bottle drive recently. Their goal was to raise funds to help pay for their class trip to Camp Celtic later this year. The students travelled a large area in and around Shakespeare gathering bottles and cans for recycling to help fund their Grade 8 trip, which is a highlight for those graduating students. Pictured are Grade 8 students Daniel Hovius, Tyler Reis, Parker Glitz, and Benson Hodgson from Sprucedale Public school posing with the large haul of bottles and cans that they recently collected which will help pay for their year end class trip. Photo by Gary West

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COMMUNITY —

# Arnold Hearing Centres looking to give the gift of hearing this Family Day

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

The latest statistics suggest that hearing loss impacts one in five people across Canada. This means every family likely has at least one person in their lives who is struggling to engage in conversations, is missing the punchlines of jokes, and could be feeling isolated.

As a multi-generational, family-owned business since 1950, Arnold Hearing Centres' goal is to help more families stay connected through better hearing and has a reputation for helping thousands of families at its centres in New Hamburg, Guelph, Kitchener, Simcoe and Waterloo to truly enjoy the special moments in life.

As part of the 74-year-old business'

first-ever Family Day giveaway, Arnold Hearing Centres is looking for six deserving people – one for each location – to receive free a pair of premium hearing aids.

"My grandfather started this business before passing it to my father, who then passed it to me," said Arnold Hearing Centres owner Chris Arnold in a press release. "Family is so important to us, and it breaks my heart that there are thousands of families who are losing connection with their loved ones. This giveaway is a small way to help change some lives."

Nominations for people deserving of a free pair of hearing aids are open between Jan. 15 and Feb. 15. Visit [www.arnoldhearing.com](http://www.arnoldhearing.com) for more information.



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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

**FRIDAY, JAN. 26**

**St. Clements Public Skate**  
1-2 p.m.  
St. Clements Community Centre  
1 Green St. St. Clements

**SATURDAY, JAN. 27**

**Township of Wilmot Finance and Budget Meeting**  
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
60 Snyder's Rd. West Baden

**SUNDAY, JAN. 28**

**Wellesley Public Skate**  
12-1:30 p.m.  
Wellesley Township Recreation Centre  
1401 Queens Bush Rd. Wellesley

**MONDAY, JAN. 29**

**Blood Donor Clinic**  
2-8 p.m.  
Steinmann Mennonite Church  
1316 Snyder's Rd. Baden

**Township of Wilmot Council Meeting**  
7-11 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
60 Snyder's Rd. West Baden

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31**

**St. Clements Parents and Tots Public Skate**  
9-10 a.m.  
St. Clements Community Centre  
1 Green St. St. Clements

**THURSDAY, FEB. 1**

**Wellesley Parents and Tots Public Skate**  
9-10 a.m.  
Wellesley Township Recreation Centre  
1401 Queens Bush Rd. Wellesley

**Wellesley Seniors Skate**

2-3 p.m.  
Wellesley Township Recreation Centre  
1401 Queens Bush Rd. Wellesley

**FRIDAY, FEB. 2**

**St. Clements Public Skate**  
1-2 p.m.  
St. Clements Community Centre  
1 Green St. St. Clements

**Wellesley Public Skate**

1-2 p.m.  
Wellesley Township Recreation Centre  
1401 Queens Bush Rd. Wellesley

**SATURDAY, FEB. 3**

**Linwood Snofest 2024**  
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Linwood Recreation Centre  
5279 Ament Line, Linwood

**SUNDAY, FEB. 4**

**St. Clements Public Skate**  
12-1:30 p.m.  
St. Clements Community Centre  
1 Green St. St. Clements

**Wellesley Public Skate**

12-1:30 p.m.  
Wellesley Township Recreation Centre  
1401 Queens Bush Rd. Wellesley

**MONDAY, FEB. 12**

**Township of Wilmot Council Meeting**  
7-11 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
60 Snyder's Rd. West Baden

**TUESDAY, FEB. 13**

**Township of Wellesley Council Meeting**  
6:45 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14**

**Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship**  
12 p.m.  
Wellesley Community Centre  
1000 Maple Leaf St. Wellesley

**SATURDAY, FEB. 17**

**Wilmot Heritage Day**  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Castle Kilbride  
1028 Queen St. New Dundee

**THURSDAY, FEB. 22**

**Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship**  
12 p.m.  
Wilmot Rec Complex  
1291 Nafziger Rd. Baden

**MONDAY, FEB. 26**

**Township of Wilmot Council Meeting**  
7-11 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
60 Snyder's Rd. West Baden

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28**

**Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship**  
12 p.m.  
Linwood Community Centre  
5279 Ament Line Linwood

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- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Gryffindor      | 6. Ejected from game |
| 2. Australia       | 7. 1970              |
| 3. Garth Brooks    | 8. Pentagon          |
| 4. -40°C and -40°F | 9. South America     |
| 5. Pumice stone    | 10. Bubonic Plague   |

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