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This photo of a pair of foxes was taken in a field between New Hamburg and Baden by Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group member Ron Bricker. Photo courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot

Wilmot Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser to benefit local food bank

By Galen Simmons

One of several Coldest Night of the Year events taking place in the Waterloo Region, the annual Wilmot rendition of the fundraiser walk will bring in much-needed support for the Wilmot Family Resource Centre food bank.

Hosted by the resource centre, this year's walk will take place alongside similar fundraisers across the country on Feb. 24. The Wilmot event will begin at the New Hamburg Community Centre at 4 p.m. with a check-in and welcome speeches, and the walk itself – either a two or five-kilometer loop through downtown New Hamburg – will begin at 5 p.m. After they're done, walkers will gather at the New Hamburg Legion for a light meal at 6 p.m.

"This is one of our two main fundraisers throughout the year," said Wilmot Coldest Night of the Year event director Amanda Humphreys. "We do our community luncheon in September and then this is the other main one. Our food bank usage has gone up quite a bit, so we are really counting on this to help us keep that program going."

For more than 40 years, the Wilmot Family Resource Centre has been a leading provider of social services, including a food-bank program, for people and families in the rural Wilmot and Wellesley townships.

Last year, the family resource centre food bank supported more than 9,200 people – an increase of nearly 2,000 people over the previous year – and distributed nearly 3,300 grocery hampers, up by more than 500 hampers from those distributed in 2022. The number of new food-bank users also rose last year, from 49 in 2022 to 63 in 2023.

To support that program, event organizers have set a fundraising goal of \$36,000, similar to last year's goal. So far, 93 walkers and 20 teams of walkers have registered for the

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Citizens' group forms over proposed Cassel wind farm

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A grassroots organization has formed in East Zorra-Tavistock to raise concerns about a potential wind farm for the Cassel area.

The Gazette broke a story last week after Prowind approached several landowners in the area for a new project, as well as landowners to the south, toward Innerkip, in hopes of rekindling a wind farm first

introduced there eight years ago.

Davis Cunningham and Rick Hommes, both farmers who reside within the proposed Cassel wind farm area, are leading the group. Sixty farmers and landowners attended a meeting last Thursday at a local church to have a discussion and Cunningham said the overwhelming message was to say no to the turbines.

"It took us a while to get there because people were a little nervous and one of the

suggestions from the audience was that we should take a vote. That went to, 'Let's have a show of hands,' and I couldn't see any who were opposed. We knew he had support going forward to go to council and give everybody a comfort level that they have a voice here."

A presentation to EZT's elected officials is expected at the Feb. 21 regular meeting in Hickson. The group has identified four main concerns and is pulling no punches

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TIM LOUIS Member of Parliament Kitchener-Conestoga

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COMMUNITY —

Local group concerned about proposed wind farm

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when asked if one stands out.

"It's all four things, but the impact on the neighbourhood was our number-one point. Let's try to avoid pitting neighbour against neighbour. Let's treat everyone with respect, even those who want to sign (contracts). I am not going to spend any time coming up with things against Prowind. They are a business trying to put a product in place," Cunningham said.

Another concern is the deterioration of prime agricultural land, something both farmers say they want to preserve. Cunningham said Hommes partnered with him for that very reason.

"I own land here and Rick is a progressive young farmer looking to hand his farm down to his kids in the future. If there are enough people interested to make a go of it, then the next concern is setting these (turbines) far enough back so that we don't impact people and livestock."

He added the setback regulations don't make sense and many countries have increased the distance required from animal or human life.

The Feb. 1 meeting was initially by invitation only and flyers were put in the mailboxes of people who are landowners and live in the Cassel area, omitting those who own land but live elsewhere.

"We decided to go a little beyond those borders with people who were very close and would have a sightline of wind turbines. Unfortunately, a couple of people did come in and we had to have a conversation at the door just to say, 'It's nothing personal, but this meeting is not about pros and cons.' We want to hear what our community has to say," said Cunningham.

One of those asked to leave owns land near Cassel and has already signed on to the project while the other owns land in the proposed project area closer to Innerkip.

The Gazette reached out to the Ontario



David Cunningham and Rick Hommes have formed a community group to hear from Cassel-area landowners with the end goal of preventing wind turbines in the area. Photo courtesy of Rousant Poultry

Federation of Agriculture (OFA) for their stance on wind farms in Oxford County and was given the following statement by Oxford and Elgin zone director Tracey Arts.

"OFA understands that energy demands are increasing rapidly and our farm businesses are part of that growing demand. It will take a mix of all types of energy generation infrastructure to meet the growing demand for reliable, affordable and sustainable power. Finding the balance between responsible land-use planning in rural areas and protecting Ontario's most viable food-producing lands is an important factor in the conversation."

Cunningham admitted he was surprised when he read the OFA statement.

"We used to be so protective of prime farmland. We need to keep protecting it. A comment we heard from the people in the audience last week was they just want to farm. They love it, they want to produce and we

need to be very sensitive in this country."

The group understands the push and the timeline of renewable energy in terms of a carbon-neutral footprint, but they believe wind farms aren't the way.

"You can't just let everything go. It's not the wild west. You need to have other options and think through what's best," he added.

Another top-of-mind point for the group is the contracts required for a wind project, which members say is heavily slanted toward Prowind in terms of where the turbines are located and the required roadway to reach it, which is 20 feet wide. The two projects are also slated to use taller turbines than the ones at Gunn's Hill. A substation would also require as much as two to three acres of land.

Prowind vice president Helmut Schneider said the current agreement does not specify the exact height and several factors go into that decision.

"The turbine dimensions are determined as per project requirements and in compliance with local regulations and environmental considerations. Turbine dimensions have indeed evolved and the two-megawatt turbines we used at Gunn's Hill would not be considered efficient or effective in today's standards."

He added a 145- to 165-metre turbine height is very common today. As for the contract, Schneider said it emphasizes fairness, transparency and compliance with local laws, aiming to balance both the company's operational needs and the landowners' rights.

"I am glad to meet with individual landowners to discuss details in the option agreement, listen to concerns and learn from them, and to find answers to any questions now and throughout the development process."

The Gazette was told by a source there are enough people signed up with the project near Innerkip to move forward, but the Cassel project requires more interested landowners.

"For the Innerkip project, we are encouraged by the interest shown so far," Schneider said. "While this is a positive start, the project's progression will depend on various factors including further community engagement and regulatory approvals. As for Cassel, we are currently in the process of engaging with the community and assessing interest levels. The exact number of participants is still being determined as we continue our outreach efforts."

Cunningham and Hommes said they are planning another community meeting shortly.

"I think the next one is going to morph into something much bigger," said Cunningham, adding they are planning to have a speaker from a municipality who was successful in blocking a wind farm that already had contracts signed with landowners.

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COMMUNITY —

Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser

Continued from page 1

fundraiser, and a little more than \$11,200 or 31 per cent of the goal has been raised.

"We are still looking for people to join us as team captains and then recruit some of their friends to join their team, and then for those people to reach out to friends and family for donations," Humphreys said. "... We're looking to pick up the momentum here in the last few weeks. ...

This is a great event for team building. It's really an opportunity for people in the community to come together for a good cause and give back to their community."

For more information or to register a team for Coldest Night of the Year, visit cnoy.org/location/wilmot. Those who can't make it out on Feb. 24 have the option to register, raise money and walk offsite with friends and family.



Wilmot's Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser walk will take place in New Hamburg Feb. 24 in support of the Wilmot Family Resource Centre. Contributed photo

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FEATURE —

Unlikely partners open Tavistock brewery and restaurant

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Jon Ross and Chad James were brought together for a reason far different than beer, but the dynamic duo quickly realized they had common ground, eventually leading to the recently opened Madmash Brewery and Restaurant located in the heart of Tavistock.

The pair met through their children as Ross' daughter was dating James' son and the young couple moved into Ross' home.

"Chad is a drywaller and offered to help prepare the room where his son would stay. We discovered we had a shared love of craft beer, so we renovated the upstairs rooms to accommodate. He did the work and I just stood and watched while we drank craft beer."

While the kid's relationship didn't last long, Ross and James' friendship is still going.

"The kids split up, but we're still together," laughed James. "That's pretty much the start of the story."

At the beginning of the pandemic, Ross' two sons came home from college and they decided to brew their beer by purchasing a kit online.

"I asked them if I could borrow it to try my hand at making beer, so I told Chad and he said tell me where and when and I'll be there," said Ross.

James bought his equipment and they started brewing.

Here we are four years later," he said.

There seems to be a story for every step the two have taken to get to this point, including how they found the location right at the five-corner in downtown Tavistock.

"We were out at yard sales looking for an air compressor when we saw the for-rent sign," said James.

They called the owner but needed to check with the township to see if a brewery was even something they could do.

"I was told the building was zoned for mercantile use and he wasn't sure if a manufacturing facility could go in. I said to think of it as a restaurant that's going to make its own soup in big batches that we



Friends and business partners Chad James, left, and Jon Ross have teamed up to open Tavistock's first brewery and restaurant.

will turn into beer," said Ross.

The response from EZT was eventually a yes, but there were still many hoops to jump through to make the dream reality.

"They didn't tell us all the things we were going to have to go through. We were hoping to be open by the end of 2022," he said.

The beer

Madmash has several beers on tap which are all the result of the duo experimenting with recipes, both their own and those created by others. They first tried beers out of a catalogue with the ingredients that came along with them.

"We started understanding how different grains and hops went together. Then we

started experimenting on our own and came up with the recipes we use today," said James.

The operation has a total of 16 recipes including a new one for February.

"It's a red ale with chocolate and cinnamon and we call it Gettin' Lucky," said Ross.

Two of their most popular beers are the Cream Ale and the Tavi Light, which are popular with the Tavistock crowd, but some unique crafts like the Pineapple Giny and Stoutastic are more for the craft beer lovers.

"That's very important. That's how we put that list together. We want everyone to come in here and find a beer they enjoy,"

said James.

Madmash uses only Tavistock Hops and the bar also features a scotch, cocktail and wine menu including Chad's Caesar, which contains a shot of Tavistock Men's Club sauerkraut.

The food

The edibles could best be described as British pub food. The menu features nachos, bangers and mash, several meat and mushroom pies and a selection of kids' meals.

Chef and long-time Tavistock resident Will Churchward spent 10 years at the Jasper Brewing Company in Alberta.

"All of our pies are made from scratch right here onsite using traditional recipes. I can tell you I have been to Scotland and tried meat pies in pubs there, and what Will is producing is on par or better," said Ross.

"When we first started, we thought Jon and I could do the kitchen too. Now that Will is here, we realized we were idiots," quipped James.

People are now coming from out of the region for both the beer and the food now that the word is spreading.

The pair still have their full-time jobs and spend time at the brewery when they can, but they have big plans going forward.

"We are hoping we can do this again in another location. That's what we really want to do. Make this successful and grow the business," said Ross.

He added there is also a family aspect to the operation as Ross' son Mac is a chef in training who came up with the recipe for the Scottish Cranachan desert and James' son Austin, another chef in training, came up with the sauce on the latest burger.

In the end, Ross said Madmash aims to provide a place where people can enjoy themselves.

"We just love what we are doing. It's a dream come true. It's such a passion. We are here to serve the public to give them the best service, the best food. And if there is an issue, we want to know," Ross said with James butting in to finish his business partner's thought.

Cheers!

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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COMMUNITY —

Tavistock and District Historical Society establishes two traveling display cases

By Marilyn Pearson

As a way of exposing the residents of Tavistock to the rich heritage of the village, the Tavistock and District Historical Society (TDHS) has constructed two display cases filled with artifacts and located in various spots in the village, outside of the museum.

The first case was set up in the Tavistock Library in 2022 and since then has displayed articles related to a specific theme that changes every few months. The current display is focused around Valentine's Day. Featured in the Library is a collection of vintage Valentine's cards and postcards sent to loved ones by soldiers at the front in the First World War, old heart-shaped chocolate boxes detailed with fine lace, and unique and colourful 3-D valentines in mint condition.

Also on theme, there is section of the case devoted to one of Tavistock's most prominent citizens, Valentine Stock. Stock was a teacher at first and then took over the general store that was at Tavistock's main intersection where the post office now stands. In 1902, Valentine became MPP for South Perth. It was he who proposed a motion that everyone who drives a car should carry a registration and license with them. It is Valentine, then, that you should thank whenever you get stopped by the police.

A second display case has now been built and is presently set up in the Tavistock Scotia Bank. The theme in

this case is, "Early days of hockey in Tavistock and community." The first recorded hockey game in Tavistock was played on Feb. 17, 1899, between a local team and one from New Hamburg. There were seven men on a side (including a rover), no substitutions were allowed, forward passes were forbidden, and the referee used a bell instead of a whistle. The players had to skate around the support beam at centre ice that held up the roof. New Hamburg's 4-1 win was the start of a rivalry that has continued to this day.

Other items in the hockey display include a photo of Tavistock's first hockey team taken from the Lemp Studio Collection; a picture of the 1905 Lafayette Cup championship team; a Black-and-White uniform from the famous Cassel Blackshirts; a leather Jacket from the Harmony Hurricanes; and various trophies and vintage items including old skates, darned socks and well-worn gloves.

The TDHS would like to thank the library and Scotia Bank for allowing for the display of these artifacts. The plan is to keep changing both the displays regularly and their location to give Tavistock's history as wide an exposure as possible.

The Tavistock Museum, located at 37 Maria St., is also now open again every third Saturday from 1-4 p.m. All are welcome.



This is one of two displays featuring historical artifacts in Tavistock created by the Tavistock District Historical Society. This case, located inside Scotia Bank, features artifacts from the early days of hockey in Tavistock. Contributed photo

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FEATURE —

With Love and Grace: The birth of a homebased business

By Mercedes Kay Gold

Falling in love, marriage and building their lives as a couple flowed into family fun over the past 13 years for Kat and Matthew Cottrill and, for Kat, the overwhelmingly emotional gift of their beloved fraternal twins in 2021 was the motivation she needed to turn her crafting into a homebased small business.

Kat and Matthew decided to be surprised in the delivery room and were therefore showered with gads of gender-neutral gifts before the big day. The need to tell the twins apart ignited Kat's imagination.

Kat began buying fun fabrics, creating one-of-a-kind hair bows exclusively for her own bundle of joy, Grace. Under the name, With Love and Grace, Kat set up a tiny table in March 2022 at a Listowel market, marking the birth the family-owned, New Hamburg based business focused on creating family passion stitched together in a cute line of children's accessories.

It's not easy to juggle family, work life and a thriving side hustle, but these two busy bees are living the dream. Country markets are



Inspired by the birth of her twins, Grace and Noah, Kat Cottrill founded With Grace and Love, a small New Hamburg business that sells lovingly handcrafted children's accessories. Photo by Kat Cottrill

an opportunity to meet and greet their clientele. The in-person events lead to lots of requests and custom orders.

Seemingly overnight, Kat expanded her line of products. She added matching hairbands for momma and tot and an extensive earring selection from leather to polymer clay and vegan. Not

to be left out of the spotlight, Grace's twin brother is the inspiration behind Noah's Line – clip-on bowties for little humans, followed up with snappy bowties for pets.

Giving back is an integral part of their mission. As this labour of love literally began at 35 weeks with the premature birth of the

couple's twins in the special care nursery at the Stratford General Hospital, the decision to donate money to good causes was simple. With Love and Grace lovingly donates 10 per cent from every purchase to the Canadian Premature Babies Foundation and the Stratford General Hospital Foundation for the hospital's special care nursery.



Noah's Line includes snappy, clip-on bow ties for little humans and pets. Photo by Kat Cottrill

Almost two years since its first farmer's market table, With Love and Grace is busy filling and shipping orders thanks to a thriving online presence, and is selling its wares in three local stores. This March, the unique artisan and handcrafted love will be in full bloom at spring markets in Listowel, Stratford and Brussels.

Visit withloveandgrace.ca and follow on social @withloveandgraceca for more information.

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COMMUNITY —

OPP looking for shoeless suspect after EZT robbery

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Police are asking the public for help identifying a suspect linked to a robbery in East Zorra-Tavistock.

At about 10 p.m. Jan. 31, Oxford Ontario Provincial Police investigated a robbery at the Esso gas station on Highway 59 in Huntingford. Police say a male entered the store, demanded cash and left on foot. No injuries have been reported.

Const. Randi Crawford said the investigation is continuing but there are no new details to report. An employee at the store tells the Gazette the clerk working at the time was shaken up but is okay.

The suspect is described as a white male, wearing a black balaclava, a black hoodie with a grey hoodie underneath, light-washed blue jeans with rips and tears, and black socks with no shoes.

Members of the Oxford OPP Crime Unit are actively conducting an ongoing investigation and are appealing to the public for assistance.

Anyone with relevant information including video surveillance footage from the surrounding area in the time leading up to and following the robbery should get in touch with the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or leave an anonymous online tip at www.oxfordcrimestoppers.com.



Oxford County OPP are asking the public for help identifying a suspect (pictured) involved in a recent robbery at the Esso gas station on Highway 59 in Huntingford. Contributed photo



The Esso gas station on Highway 59 in Huntingford was robbed at around 10 p.m. Jan. 31. Photo by Lee Griffi

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COMMUNITY —

Show Us Your Wilmot



Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group member Darryl GINGERICH shot this closeup of a cardinal in his Wilmot-area backyard. Photo courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot

Wilmot Township council asking for greater financial transparency

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Facing a 10.6 per-cent hike to the tax levy, some members of council are calling for more information to be available to them and the public.

A pair of motions were put before council at the last regular meeting, one by Coun. Kris Wilkinson who asked all departments to release quarterly reports outlining key performance indicators, budget variances and other pertinent information. The second motion, tabled by Coun. Harvir Sidhu, demands a detailed, line-by-line breakdown for next year's budget deliberations that would be structured in a manner that more closely aligns with formats used by area municipalities. Sidhu's motion was passed while Wilkinson's was deferred to a May council meeting.

"Understanding that we are currently facing a challenging financial situation, I feel it would be prudent to ask for and receive a quarterly report from each department on their activities, goals, KPIs, year-to-date budget spending, and various other analyses in there as well," said Wilkinson, noting the information would provide greater transparency for the public.

"We're operating as if we're a start-up organization in the 1970s when, in fact, we're a township operating in 2024."

Wilkinson also asked the clerk's office to explore the potential of a dashboard or document the public could have access to that would provide a summary of items on upcoming agendas.

"If citizens want to delegate on a matter they can plan appropriately as opposed to having to wait for the agenda," he added.

Coun. Stewart Cressman brought up a concern regarding the amount of additional time it would take for township directors to provide more detailed reports. CAO Sharon Chambers explained she hasn't had time to have a detailed discussion with staff.

"There would be additional resources required to support this ask. We currently do not have resources to support the development of this."

She added Wilkinson's request to have the information pulled together following the first quarter just isn't realistic, but she does agree with the premise.

"These are excellent goals for us to have and we should be working towards them."

One area of weakness at the township seems to be the technology available to staff to produce the information councillors are asking for.

"I would suggest to you right now,

based on the systems that we have in place, we don't have good information to identify truly what the costs are of our service delivery. I think that there would be significant work around the systems to be able to provide the information that council needs," said Chambers.

When speaking to his motion Sidhu referenced Woolwich Township, which provided its councillors with a line-by-line document. He believes implementing a similar system in Wilmot would help staff and council by seeing where potential efficiencies could be made come budget time.

"If you are at home and doing your budgeting, sometimes it is easier if you write down line by line what you are spending as opposed to just looking at the big picture. And when you do that, you can identify areas of holy smokes, I'm spending too much on this, that, or the other thing."

He added he is somewhat baffled about how it got to this point.

"We don't know what we're spending on, how much we're spending on it. I mean, being a business owner, I don't know how this township has been operating. It kind of baffles me, really."

Wilmot is hoping to have the 2024 budget passed by the end of February.

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COMMUNITY —

Residents look to rename stretch of EZT and Zorra Road

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A resident living on a shared road in Oxford County may eventually get her wish for a name change. Valerie Hobbs has taken her request to Zorra and East Zorra-Tavistock Councils for what she calls safety concerns.

Formerly known as the 9th Line, the 22-km road that separates Zorra and East Zorra-Tavistock townships is currently named the Zorra/East Zorra-Tavistock Line. The road is jointly maintained by the two municipalities.

Hobbs presented a petition of over 100 names when she spoke to members of Zorra Township council Jan. 17. Those elected officials were convinced and passed a motion stating that council direct staff to undertake consultations with residents of Zorra/East Zorra-Tavistock Line as well as emergency services to get

feedback and concerns related to a potential name change. They also voted to collaborate with EZT staff and bring a report back to council in the fall of this year.

At Wednesday morning's East Zorra-Tavistock council meeting, Hobbs also spoke and submitted the same petition and put the ball in that court.

"They passed what I think was an identical motion to the Zorra one. The residents here would be pleased to see this move forward," she told the Gazette.

She and her fellow residents are hopeful a name change will be made in 2024, but a bit of a wrench has been thrown in by the nation's postal service.

"Canada Post has, up until recently, called us the 9th Line but now they have discovered we are on the Zorra/East Zorra-Tavistock Line. We have one year to change our addresses to (that name). It would be nice if (the councils) would select a new name

ahead of that."

She added Canada Post has told her they will update the name to whatever is decided by the two councils. The name was changed from 9th Line in 1996.

Residents say the confusion makes it difficult for both couriers and emergency services to locate homes and businesses, though for the most part, "It's mostly not a problem for the local fire departments, they all understand it. But its people coming from out of the area who aren't familiar with the road names. It really is very confusing," Hobbs explained.

Another concern is the length of the name itself which has to be shortened on forms of identification like a driver's license.

Now that it appears both councils are on board with the name change, the next obvious step is to come up with a new one. Hobbs said there are two that have been tossed around by residents.

"Most residents have suggested 47th Line because of the ease with the numbering system. Our 911 numbers all start with 47 but I did mention an idea from Zorra council to name it Lupton Line. At the end of the day, residents just want it changed and will go along with whatever council decides."

Lupton Line would be a tribute to Margaret Lupton who retired recently after 31 years of service in municipal government including a stint as mayor of Zorra and councillor at East Zorra-Tavistock.

"Many neighbours share frustration at this very long name. It makes it difficult for both couriers and emergency services to locate our homes and businesses. It is further confusing as the word Zorra appears on signs throughout the townships. Also, Canada Post still officially calls the road 9th Line and does not recognize the current name.

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COMMUNITY —

OBITUARY

LONG, Arthur (Art) William Joseph



Arthur (Art) Long went to his heavenly home on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at the age of 87.

Beloved husband and best friend of Jeanette (nee. Schnarr) with whom he shared 61 years of marriage.

Loving and proud father of Kim Child (Pete), Sandra

Martin (Brad), Rick Long (Bonnie). Caring grandpa of Jodie Honderich (Daryl Murphy), Brooke Honderich, Erin Frenette (Justin), Stephanie Breitung (Derek), Ricky Long (Courtney), Danielle Long (Cody White). Special great grandpa of Mackenzie and Madison Mueller, Alexandra and Lily Murphy, Ava and Parker Frenette, Cole, Ben and Ryan Breitung, Jade and Jocelyn White. Also survived by caring nieces and nephews. Dear brother to Kathleen Morrison (Carl deceased) and sister-in-law Patricia Ziegler (Paul)

Art was predeceased by his mother and father Stella and Emerson Long and his in-laws Marguerite and Wilson Schnarr, his sisters and brothers-in-law Marion and Irvine Silverthorne, Leone and Al Gunn and sisters Violet and Cora in infancy. Brothers Osborne (Irene), Edgar and Albert.

Art enjoyed life and his family above all. He owned and operated several businesses and spent his last 24 years of his working career at The Kitchener Public Library in Maintenance becoming manager of facilities. After retiring he drove school bus for Laidlaw for several years,

Special thanks to the PSW's, the Palliative team and nurse Bobbi for their kind and compassionate care enabling Art to remain at home.

Relatives and friends were invited to join the family on Friday, February 2, 2024, at the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, from 5 – 8 p.m. and again on Saturday, February 3, 2024, from 10:00 – 10:45 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 23 Church Street, New Hamburg. The funeral followed visitation at the church at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Tanya Varner officiated. Art will be laid to rest in Parkview Cemetery, Waterloo.

As expressions of sympathy, donations would be accepted to Trinity Lutheran Church or KW Humane Society and can be done on the funeral home website.

Personal condolences and donation information can be found at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

CELEBRATION



Family and Friends are invited to an OPEN HOUSE

on Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Brooksdale United Church.

Best wishes only or make a donation to VON Oxford (Sakura House).

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

BABY STECKLY

Carman and Debbie Wettlaufer are thrilled to announce the arrival of their newest grandson, Austin Nolan.

Austin arrived early on December 26, 2023, weighing in at a mighty 5 pounds, 15 ounces.

Proud parents are Allissa and Nolan Steckly, along with big sisters and brother, Danica, Tessa and Kasper.

Congratulations to Gramma June and Grampa Rod Steckly of Milverton.



Welcome to the World Austin

Pancake Supper

on Shrove Tuesday February 13th

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Pastor Jim Brown

Worship service 10am followed by coffee hour and sermon discussion. All are welcome

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Tavistock

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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. What number does M represent in Roman Numerals?
2. In the animated kid's show Franklin, who is Franklin's best friend?
3. Who was the longest serving host of the "Late-Night" show?
4. The Bay of Pigs invasion, planned to overthrow who?
5. What is the Super Bowl trophy called?
6. Wikipedia launched in what year?
7. What do you call the metal piece that separates the pencil and the eraser?
8. What are the three secondary colours?
9. What social media platform has the most users?
10. Which vertebrate animal has the longest lifespan?

Answers found on page 26

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.

February 8: Happy birthday to Noah Waymouth (7) and Benjamin Roth (16).

February 9: Happy birthday to Breana Blum (16) and Kelsey Ramseyer.

February 10: Happy birthday to Emma Gear (12).

February 11: Happy birthday to Natalie Marucci (9), Lauryn Marucci (9), and Ray Ramseyer (82).

February 12: Happy birthday to Jacob Crowley (17).

February 13: Happy birthday to Simeon Hulcoop (4). Margot Gabereau (1)

February 14: Happy birthday to Rob McLeod, Liz Raymer and Eleanor Raymer and anniversaries for Leah and Jarod Adams (5th) and Scott and Katie Hamilton (8th).

We accept all announcements - weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, new baby, etc.
For pricing call Sharon 519-580-5418 or email sharonbleis@gmail.com.

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.

February 5-12, 2014, Edition (10 years ago)

The late George Thornton, his parents, the late Harry and Jessie, his sisters, Beth Snow and Margaret Ogar, and his brother, Alfred, firmly believed in the 4-H motto and pledge, the benefits of 4-H membership and what this organization offers for the youth and the community. George wanted his love of 4-H and his farm to be remembered as his lifetime achievement. He left his estate of \$235,000 to the Oxford 4-H Association.

The Tavistock-based synchro teams had busy weekends with Team Unity Beginner I placing second at Synchro Capers invitational and first at the Ontario Regional Synchronized skating competition in Oakville. The Tavistock Unity Adult II team placed first at Synchro Capers in Oakville and achieved their highest score becoming Ontario Regional Champions in the Adult II category.

East Zorra-Tavistock firefighters from the Tavistock Station attend a single-vehicle rollover on the Maplewood Sideroad just

east of Hwy. 59 north of Tavistock on Friday afternoon. No one was injured in the accident.

February 4-11, 2004, Edition (20 years ago)

A 10-year-old Tavistock girl suffered a badly bruised right leg when she was struck by a car at the main intersection on Monday evening around 5:19 p.m. A witness saw the girl, ran into the path of the car and slipped. She was transported to Stratford General hospital by ambulance.

The former Super Scoop building at 18 Hope Street West in Tavistock has seen some positive changes in the last few months. It has been transformed into the Tavistock Physiotherapy Centre by registered physiotherapist Hans Dijk and associates.

Once again, the Tavistock Braves will finish their regular season in first place, earning the Bauer Division trophy in the Junior Development League with a current record of 30-8-1-0 with one game to play.

February 1-8, 1984, Edition (40 years ago)

The third Annual Spelling Bee was held in the Tavistock Library Hall on Tuesday by the Tavistock Optimist Club. Adam Robb walked away with \$25 for first place followed by John Schwartzentruber who received \$15 in second place.

Here in the Tavistock area, Katimavik volunteers have spent the last three months working with the disabled at Pineview Stables near New Hamburg and at Baden Public School. Before traveling to Quebec, the team will work with Nithview Seniors in New Hamburg.

The January meeting of Baby Band was held on the 18th with 25 mothers and 44 children in attendance. The children sung songs and read stories.

February 6-13, 1964, Edition (60 years ago)

More than 250 people from the area enjoyed a serving of pancakes at the shop of Harry Nuttall last Friday when a pancake festival was held with the co-operation of International Harvester Company.

With a score of 816 for three games, Mahlon Leis was top alley bowler in the Tavistock and District Men's Alley Bowling League at Les and Hap's Lanes last week. In second place was Len Youngblut with a score of 639.

Despite inclement weather and slippery roads, more than 200 people attended the dance at the Memorial Hall Saturday night. Music for dancing was by Royce Riehl and his country cousins.

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Sunday Worship services begin at 9:45am, with coffee and fellowship to follow at 11am. Masks welcomed but not required. All Ages JRSS will follow after the worship service.

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SPORTS —

PJHL Roundup: Firebirds top Braves in overtime

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

If Saturday's battle in Wilmot is any indication of what's to come in the upcoming Doherty Division playoffs, fans will be in for one heck of a treat.

New Hamburg outlasted Tavistock for a 3-2 overtime victory Saturday night with Owen Sculthorp's eighth of the season and second of the game. Special teams played a big part in the game as the Braves went 0 for 6 on the powerplay while the Firebirds converted 2 of their 3 chances. Stephen Pappas gave Tavistock a 1-0 lead late in the first before Sculthorp tied it up with 38 seconds remaining. Riley Benko forced overtime after Carter Arsenault gave Tavistock a 3-2 lead.

Braves general manager Jordan Zehr said the team seems to be coming together at the right time. We had a tough weekend coming right out of the holiday break, but since then we have been playing at a level we are much happier with. For us, we feel we are playing our best hockey when we are taking care of all the small details at both ends of the ice. Doing that allows us to play with more consistency, which is very important to our success."

Despite the loss in New Hamburg on the weekend, Zehr said the game offered a taste of what's to come.

"I thought it was a good, playoff-style game. We would have liked to hang on and get out of there with the win, but we have a lot of positives to take away from that game as we continue down the final stretch of games."

With less than a month left in the regular season, Zehr said he wants to see the team continue to do the little things required to win at a high level.

"We need to continue to put focus on the things that generate success for us as a team. This division has never been as competitive as it is this season from top to bottom, so there are no nights off. Getting our mindset into that playoff mode to be prepared for a competitive first round, whoever we end up playing, will be very important."

On Friday, Tavistock hosted Norwich in a game that saw the Braves score five consecutive goals in the third on the way to a 9-2 victory. Peppas scored twice and added an assist to lead the attack while Andrew Van Boekel had a single marker

	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
Woodstock Navy Vets	36	27	6	3	0	57
New Hamburg Firebirds	36	27	7	2	0	56
Tavistock Braves	35	21	11	1	2	45
Norwich Merchants	36	14	16	5	1	34
Wellesley Applejacks	34	15	18	1	0	31
Hespeler Shamrocks	35	10	23	2	0	22
Paris Titans	36	8	25	2	1	19

and two helpers. Kaden Brame and Jakob Reid-Brant added a pair of goals each.

New Hamburg hosted Paris on Friday and won by a 7-4 count. Owen Fischer netted his 30th of the season for the Firebirds. Justin McManus and Jake Thompson chipped in with two goals each.

Wellesley split their weekend games, downing Norwich 4-1 at home on Saturday before dropping a 4-2 decision in Hespeler on Sunday.

Team	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
WNV	Davin Gray	F	36	15	43	58
NHF	Owen Fischer	F	34	30	24	54
WNV	Nolan Brett	F	35	23	26	49
HES	Boden White	F	29	19	23	42
NHF	Tyler Reid	D	33	14	26	40
NHF	Owen Bruder	F	34	17	20	37
NHF	Jake Thompson	F	33	17	18	35
HES	Jack Restauri	F	35	10	25	35
WNV	Ethan Szabo	F	30	13	21	34
TAV	Nicolas Thibodeau	F	35	13	19	32
NOR	Joel Storoschuk	F	33	13	16	29
NOR	Malcom Scott	F	34	14	14	28
TAV	Stephen Peppas	F	32	13	15	28
NHF	Owen Sculthorp	F	16	8	20	28
WNV	Brodie Kearns	F	28	8	20	28
NOR	Brandon Balazs	F	30	14	13	27
WNV	Chris Coulter	D	29	12	15	27
TAV	Ian Glendinning	F	35	10	17	27
WNV	Tyler Smeda	D	36	10	17	27
TAV	Jacob Reid-Brant	F	34	10	16	26
NHF	Matt Domm	D	31	5	21	26
HES	Andrew Harris	F	32	14	11	25
WNV	Ty Crombie	F	29	10	14	24
NHF	Antonio Pasqualino	F	31	5	19	24

SPORTS NEWS

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TAVISTOCK ROYALS SR. "AA" HOCKEY

Tavistock Royals vs Durham Thundercats

AA Quarterfinals Game 2

Sunday, Feb. 11th at 1:30 p.m.

Tavistock & District Recreation Centre

TAVISTOCK BRAVES JR. HOCKEY

Friday, Feb. 9th - 7:30 pm

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Over 1,800 lbs of food donated after Winter Classic hockey tourney



Members of the U10 New Hamburg Huskies recently delivered 1,852 lbs of food and \$250 in cash donations collected during the New Hamburg Huskies Winter Classic to the Wilmot Family Resource Centre food bank. Photo by Natalie St. Croix

By Galen Simmons

Minor hockey players, their coaches and family members managed to bring in more than 1,850 lbs of non-perishable food and \$250 in cash during the second-annual New Hamburg Huskies Winter Classic hockey tournament at the Wilmot Recreation Complex Jan. 19-21.

Hosted by the New Hamburg Hokey Association, the tournament saw a total of 30 U9, U10 and U11 teams from across southern Ontario play in more than 60 games over the weekend.

"It was an exciting weekend as it's generally the first tournament the U9 group can play full ice in," winter classic tournament convenor Mike St. Croix told the Gazette. "The most successful part of the tournament was the off-ice portion where I hosted a donation draw for many great prizes that were donated."

For each non-perishable food item a hockey player or family member brought in, they received a ticket in the draw. In total, 1,852 lbs of food and \$250 was donated to the Wilmot Family Resource Centre food bank.



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SPORTS —

Royals face Thundercats in OEHL's first-ever postseason

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Fourth-place Tavistock will battle fifth-place Durham in the Ontario Elite Hockey League playoffs. Anything can happen come the postseason, but on paper, this looks about as close as it gets.

The two teams split a pair of games in the regular season with the Thundercats taking the first meeting 5-3, and the Royals winning the second by a 5-4 count. Durham finished just one point back of Tavistock and the teams are very close in several statistical areas. The biggest difference is in penalty minutes as the Royals averaged just under 23 per game compared to just under 14 for the Thundercats.

The Trophy

The OEHL Cup is rich in history, dating back 90 years. First awarded in 1935, it was awarded to the Ontario Hockey Association's Intermediate B champions.

Aside from a halt in play during the Second World War, the trophy was awarded

annually for the next 36 years until a reorganization of Intermediate hockey led to it being retired.

The Ontario Elite Hockey League said it is proud to re-energize the beautiful award, which will now be presented to the champions of the AA Playoffs.

A Hardware

The lowest-seeded three teams in the OEHL will participate in a round-robin playoff with the winner taking home the Hugh McLean Trophy.

The trophy is believed to have been created in the 1970s as the championship trophy of the Continental Sr. A Hockey League. Later, it was used as part of the OHA Sr. A Hockey League (the predecessor of present-day Allan Cup Hockey) in the 1980s, most likely as a regular-season championship trophy.

Named in honour of the late Hugh McLean, a longtime OHA and NHL referee, who also served as president of the OHA from 1976-1978.

**Tavistock Royals
2023-24 Point Leaders**

PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Sean Kienapple	F	17	14	13	27
Drew Gerth	F	19	10	9	19
Trevor Sauder	F	18	7	10	17
Deven Kropf	F	18	3	12	15
Sean Leslie	F	19	5	8	13
Jeremy Munro	F	18	8	4	12
Collin Hartwick	F	12	6	5	11
Adam Barr	F	16	2	8	10
Mike Noyes	D	15	3	7	10
Lucas Bast	D	16	3	7	10
Cam Leslie	D	20	2	7	9
Matt Zilke	F	15	6	2	8
Greg Noyes	D	16	3	5	8
Erik Robichaud	F	6	3	5	8
Callan Christner	F	17	4	3	7
Mitch Facey	F	12	2	5	7
Jon Jutzi	D	7	0	4	4
Patrick Vulgan	F	2	1	2	3
Tristan Hohl	D	17	1	1	2
Reid Ramseyer	D	13	0	1	1
Geoff Killing	D	6	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	5	0	0	0

**TAVISTOCK VS. DURHAM
QUARTER-FINAL SERIES**

FRIDAY, FEB. 9 AWAY 8:30 PM

SUNDAY, FEB. 11 HOME 1:30 PM

FRIDAY, FEB. 16 AWAY 8:30 PM

SATURDAY, FEB. 17 HOME 7:30 PM

IF NECESSARY

FRIDAY, FEB. 23 HOME 8:30 PM

SATURDAY, FEB. 24 AWAY 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, FEB. 23 HOME 2:30 PM




Pictured is Tavistock native and Royals captain Tristan Hohl.

**O.E.H.L. Senior "AA" Hockey
Regular Season Standings**

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Ripley Wolves	20	16	4	3	35
Creemore Coyotes	20	14	6	1	29
Minto 81's	20	13	7	1	27
Tavistock Royals	20	13	7	0	26
Durham Thundercats	20	12	8	1	25
Seaforth Centenaires	20	12	8	0	24
Saugeen Shores Winterhawks	20	11	9	1	23
Erin Outlaws	20	6	14	1	13
Georgian Bay Applekings	20	5	15	2	12
Milverton Four Wheel Drivers	20	5	15	1	11
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Pet of the Week



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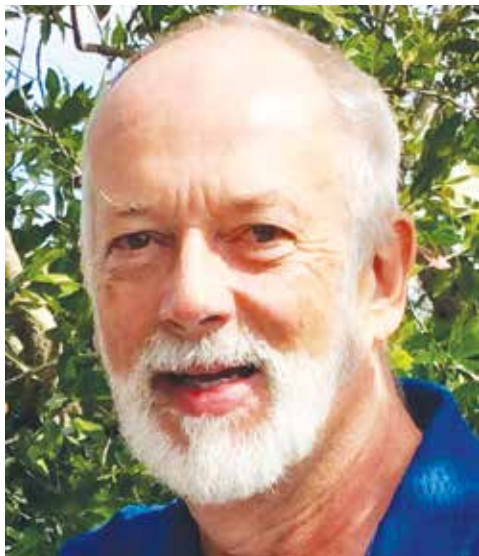
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Family-friendly must-sees in... believe it or not ... Sudbury



By Paul Knowles

Let's be honest. When we hear the name, Sudbury, family entertainment is probably not the first thing that comes to mind. In fact, this northern Ontario is probably not on your bucket-list radar at all.

But the truth is Sudbury is home to two of the most intriguing family destinations in the country: Science North and Dynamic Earth. Both offer hands-on, science-based activities for people of all ages with a special focus on kids. Both are state-of-the-art facilities. Both deserve a visit.

The first thing you will notice standing tall alongside Dynamic Earth is Sudbury's iconic symbol, the Big Nickel. This sculpture – the largest coin in the world – was created in 1964 to symbolize the importance of nickel mining in Sudbury. Today it is one of the most popular selfie-spots in the country. And it only made sense that when Dynamic Earth was launched in 2003, it was built side by side with Sudbury's long-time attraction, the Big Nickel.

The sculpture is one of those unique things that just oozes trivia. The Big Nickel is an exact replica of the 1951

Canadian nickel. It weighs 13,000 kilograms. It's about 64,607,747 times the size of a real Canadian nickel.

By the way, today's actual nickel is only two per-cent nickel. Its other elements are steel (94.5 per cent) and copper (3.5 per cent), but enough about the ginormous coin.

When you venture inside Dynamic Earth, you will find everything you could want to know about earth science and mining, most of it presented via hands-on experiences that perfectly combine entertainment and education. Highlights include a guided underground mining tour and an outdoor science park.

The facility closes in the coldest month but re-opens for the season in mid-February.

Dynamic Earth is run by the same people who operate Science North, a well-known destination that opened in Sudbury in 1984. The official ribbon cutting was actually done by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip on Oct. 4 of that year.

Science North is the second-largest science centre in Canada (Dynamic Earth is eighth-largest). Science North offers a wider window into all things scientific, but still emphasizes hands-on experiences for both kids and adults.

One of the highlights at Science North is the Vale Cavern. When I visited the centre, it was hosting a Travel Media Association of Canada conference and one of our banquets was in this space. Frankly, it blew me away. This is a gigantic meeting space, also used for screening movies, which is blasted out of solid rock. It is one of the most magnificent rooms I have ever been in.

When I was wandering around Science North, I was fascinated by a beaver lodge located on the third floor and occupied by a lone beaver whose name, I learned, is Kash. Interesting, I thought, but unusual, in that this wild animal was kept in isolation from others of its kind. I have since learned that the beaver, who was born in a zoo, is being relocated to a



Visitors to Science North can experience the odd sensation of lying on a bed of nails.

facility which is home to other beavers. A loss for visitors but undoubtedly the right decision for a science facility that is committed to being up to date, both in its exhibits and in its overall philosophy.

The exhibit will now house turtles and fish.

Kash's departure does not mean there is less to do at Science North. The facility is also committed to offering a creative and dynamic series of temporary and permanent exhibits. One of the most popular is the second-floor F. Jean MacLeod Butterfly Gallery, where the visitors are not allowed to touch the exhibits but the living, flying exhibits may well pay a personal visit to the visitors!

The institution is faithful to the second noun in its name. Much at Science North is about Ontario's northern ecosystems. Visitors will encounter (safely, of course) a porcupine, snakes and even flying squirrels. A scurry of southern flying squirrels was introduced at Science North less than a year ago and has already proven to be a very popular draw.

An entire floor of Science North is dedicated to playful, hands-on experiences including the chance to lie on an actual bed of nails.

There is also the Toddler Treehouse, a play area for infants and toddlers from newborn to age five. I was impressed with this aspect of the facility because many family destinations struggle to meet the needs of the youngest members of the family. That's not a problem in Sudbury.

But not everything at the destination involves indoor activities. Science North is located on the shores of Sudbury's Ramsey Lake and, in the warmer months, visitors can enjoy a one-hour boat cruise on The William Ramsay.



One exhibit at Science North mirrors the actions of the visitor, but as a skeleton. Shown is a much skinnier version of the author.

To return to my original premise in this article; it's likely that you haven't included Sudbury in your list of proposed family trips. Check out Science North and Dynamic Earth, and I am guessing you will change your mind.

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.



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OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *Heart Healthy Valentine's Chocolate Love*



By Mercedes Kay Gold

February is cupid's favourite month and also heart month across Canada. Eating a whole food diet doesn't mean skipping sweets.

Pecan pie is a classic and this holistic nutritionist is bringing the old-fashioned dessert-diet disaster to modern menu planning, replacing high fructose corn syrup with nature's sweet sap. So long white sugar, saturated animal fat and white flour. Hello high fiber, gluten-free oat and coconut flour plus plant-based coconut oil.

Dark chocolate is full of flavonoids and mega-magnesium, releasing feel-good endorphins. Tahini is the total package. This nutritionist is obsessed with swapping nut butters for sesame seed paste. Besides the perfect palate-pleasing profile, tahini provides protein, healthy fats, selenium, zinc and non-heme iron.

Pecans are often passed over but oh, what powerhouses of health. They are high in protein and low in carbohydrates. Pecans are a monosaturated fat, helping to lower the bad (LDL) cholesterol, and have an abundance of vitamins from A and D to boatloads of B. Pecans also contain mega-minerals such as manganese, zinc and iron.

Dessert should be seen as occasional, healthy indulgence, satisfying a sweet tooth while still feeding the body whole foods that support health rather than sabotage goals.

Chocolate Pecan Tart

Ingredients:

Crust:

- 1 cup oat flour
- 1/3 cup coconut flour
- 4 Tbsp cocoa powder
- ¼ tsp aluminum-free baking soda
- ½ tsp Himalayan Sea salt
- ½ cup virgin coconut oil melted
- 3 tbsp Wagler Maple Products maple syrup

Pecan Topping:

- 2 cups raw unsalted pecans
- ¼ cup tahini (almond butter works, too)
- ¼ cup Wagler Maple Products maple syrup

- 1 tsp pure chocolate extract

Chocolate Filling:

- 253 grams (bag) vegan chocolate chips
- 4 Tbsp coconut oil melted
- 1 Tbsp Wagler Maple Products maple syrup
- ¼ tsp Himalayan Sea salt

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Grease a 9" tart or springform pan with coconut oil. Use a pan with a removable bottom.
3. For the crust, combine almond flour, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt in a bowl. Add maple syrup and melted coconut oil. Stir in the chocolate extract. Mix well with a fork, pressing the mixture with the back of the fork. It will look and feel like slightly damp dirt, not a cake batter.
4. Press the mixture in the bottom and up the side a little of the coconut oil greased pan.
5. Bake for 8 minutes. Remove from the oven and leave it to cool.
6. In a frying pan on low, toast the pecans in a tablespoon of maple syrup. Be careful to toast and not burn the pecans. Turn off the stove. Stir in the tahini. Remove and cool.
7. Place the chocolate in a microwave safe bowl and melt the chocolate in the microwave. Stop and stir every 20-30 seconds. Whisk in the maple syrup, vanilla extract, coconut oil and salt. Pour over the cooled crust. Smooth with a spatula.
8. Spoon the pecan mixture on top of the chocolate and smooth. Refrigerate an hour minimum.
9. Cut into 8-10 servings. It is the perfect cookie or decadent chocolate treat alongside ice cream.

This dessert is perfect to make ahead. Take it out an hour prior to serving and cut with a warm, dry knife. There's no fork required. It has a cookie texture and is amazing served with ice cream or your favorite plant-based substitute.



This heart-healthy, whole-food inspired pecan pie eats like a cookie and goes great with ice cream or your favourite plant-based substitute. Photo by Mercedes Kay Gold

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Construction

Rehabilitation of bridge 59755 on Oxford Road 59

Oxford Road 59 (Vansittart Avenue) in Woodstock to be open to northbound traffic only between Devonshire Ave. and Tecumseh St., February to December 2024

Oxford County has awarded a contract to rehabilitate Bridge #59755 on Oxford Road 59 to Sierra Bridge Inc. of Woodstock, Ontario. Bridge 59755 crosses the Thames River and a section of the Canadian Pacific rail line between Devonshire Avenue and Tecumseh Street in Woodstock, Ontario.

The work includes rehabilitation of the bridge structure, including asphalt and concrete restoration works as required.

Construction is scheduled to begin mid-February and is anticipated to be completed by December 2024. Construction schedules are weather dependent and subject to change based on contractor availability and other operational demands.

For updates on this project, please visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/59bridge.

Traffic controls

To complete the required work, Oxford Road 59 from Devonshire Ave. to Tecumseh St. will be closed to southbound traffic, with northbound traffic maintained in a single lane throughout.

In consultation with local emergency services, Woodstock Transit and City of Woodstock Public Works, two (2) detour routes will be set up for southbound traffic at Oxford Road 17 (Detour 1 west to Oxford Road 30/11th Line, Detour 2 east to Oxford Road 4). Tecumseh St. will remain open to local traffic only.

The contractor will be required to maintain access as best as possible to all properties. Some short-term interruptions and delays can be expected during this work. Construction is anticipated to be completed in two (2) traffic stages with a northbound lane for traffic to be maintained at all times.

All transit buses southbound on the City's Route 4 are to be detoured for construction for this project. Northbound routes will remain unchanged.

Pedestrian access over the bridge will be maintained on one side of the bridge throughout construction. Sidewalk location is subject to change along with traffic staging.

There is no expected impact to regular household waste and recyclable collection.

Contacts

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 519-536-0218
 dgyenes@oxfordcounty.ca

Ryan Vink
 Project Manager
 Oxford County
 519-539-9800, ext. 3023
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The Wellesley Lions raised funds through its Tree of Lights campaign and recently presented a cheque for \$7,000 to Community Care Concepts to go towards the Meals on Wheels and Wellesley family resource funds. Pictured is Jodi Purdie, Wellesley & District Lions Club president, and Cathy Harrington of Community Care Concepts. Contributed photo

Waterloo District School Board seeking feedback on policy review

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

The Waterloo District School Board is undergoing its biannual policy review and is seeking input from parents and caregivers, and the wider community.

Currently, the school board is reviewing policies around school councils, accessibility, visits by political candidates during election periods, outdoor and off-campus education, alternatives in education, and school nutrition. All policies under review can be read in their entirety at www.wrdsb.ca/about-the-wrdsb/policiesprocedures/policy-review.

As part of the board's policy review process, policies under review are posted to

the school board website twice a year. Currently, feedback on those policies and the overall process until March 6. That input will be reviewed by board staff responsible for drafting those policies and the board of trustees' policy working group.

Decisions related to policy revisions are based on a number factors including the school board's strategic plan and current federal, provincial and municipal legislation.

Questions about the policies under review or the review process can be emailed to policy@wrdsb.ca. School community members can also reach out to a trustee at any time to discuss board policies.

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OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *Oh boy, you're gonna carry that weight*



By Scott Dunstall

We're heading south for a bit. As a matter of fact, we leave the day after this hits the streets. And I am really ticked off with myself. I have had a month to lose the holiday baggage I've been dragging around, and I chose to procrastinate when I know what needs to be done. For me the formula is pretty simple. No night feedings, dial back the bread, dial back the pasta, dial back the Ho-hos. Amp up the free weights and tread mill. Amp up the chicken, fish and greens.

I know what needs to be done,

but do I do it? Nope. So here I am. Two weeks to go and I have to go do OMAD (one meal a day) and all that related suffering. "Oh have you tried OMAD? It's greeaaaat!" No it's not. It's hell especially when you are increasing physical activity. I need to drop 8-10 lbs before I go. And the problem with leaving it too late is that I have now removed my window to shop for anything that I need to top up. There is no point trying on anything until I am at my desired weight and that won't happen until I go - or when I get there.

The way I wear my summer clothes at a lower weight is different than at a higher weight. For example, at a lower weight I will tuck my polo into my shorts, in which case my belt plays a bigger role in the overall look of the flash (outfit). For me, the belt, if used properly, will tie the entire look together. When I first started this journey, I was probably guilty of being a bit garish in the colours I would pair - mostly bright colours like an electric-blue wide belt with yel-

low shorts and a pink polo. I did that. But I would say that was mostly lack of experience. I've learned that thinner belts with muted or pastel colours delivers a more complete, upscale look.

So, for me, at a sleeker weight, the belt can add an additional and subtle dimension to your flash (outfit). With my lower weight I can move into a size smaller polo so that just adds to the overall sleekness. Showing my belt also affects the colour and style of my shoe. Generally, I try to pair belts with shoes. Ah, shoes. I truly have a strong interest in them, and I believe everything I have written up to this point was just a ruse to get to my favourite topic.

Most of my summer (vacation) shoes that I wear with shorts are slip-ons or low-profile, white sneakers. My slip-ons are usually canvas-topped or mesh. I also have two pairs of funky blue (one electric and the other navy) Sperry Docksidiers that are made of a rubberized polyurethane with an incredibly

comfortable sole and airy vents and openings all over - a white soul-and-heel combo and completely waterproof. I Got them at Designer Shoe Warehouse in Moncton. There's also one in the Mavis/401 area. They were pretty well my go-to last summer because they are so cool looking, and blue goes with everything I wear. And they don't scuff up or need any special cleaning like white tops or canvas tops.

Shoe brands I wear are Aldo, Call it Spring, Cole Haan, Sperry, Steve Madden and Ben Sherman. Colours I have include several shades of blue, red, yellow, gray, black, pink and orange.

Now at my heavier weight, I wear my polo untucked and the belt takes a holiday. It smooths out my bulging gut. With the belt out of the picture, my shoe colour is paired with my shirt and my look is simpler. You have to adapt.

I just went off on a shoe tangent and man did it feel good! Anyhow, the good news is that I will soon get a chance to wear some

of the things I bought at the end of the summer season clearance sales in Canada and hopefully I will hit my target weight around the time I get to our destination - or not. It Depends how many Cracker Barrels we hit on the way down.

"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 —

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK: *Welcome to the (social outrage) machine*



By Galen Simmons

As a local journalist always on the lookout for story ideas, I spend far too much time on community Facebook pages.

For the most part, these pages are invaluable repositories of important local information and events, and they serve to connect neighbours, friends, family and strangers to the wider community. And for their part, the people who run these pages do their

best to uphold those values.

But there is a dark side to these online gathering spaces.

Many folks use these pages as a way to air their grievances with governments that spend too much (or too little), businesses that don't meet their customer-service expectations, neighbours who don't keep up with their lawn maintenance or snow clearing, dog owners who don't pick up after their furry friends, kids who maybe have a little too much fun on a Friday night – the list goes on.

Almost like clockwork, every time someone shares a strong opinion on a community Facebook page – especially if that opinion is negative – it opens the proverbial Pandora's Box and releases the opinions of literally everyone you know – and so many others you don't – into this world.

I can't count how many times I've

seen someone who is perfectly pleasant offline latch onto an online argument like a dog with a bone – or my girlfriend's dog with one of my socks – and refuse to let go until someone threatens to quit Facebook for good. Problematic things are said, feelings are hurt and, in most instances, commenting is inevitably turned off.

And there always seems to be a pattern in how our local, neighbourhood keyboard warriors respond to a post. Some commenters agree with the poster's opinion and share their own experience with the subject matter. Others disagree with the poster and question (or attack) their perspective, bias, political affiliations or intelligence (often all of the above). Then you have those commenters who respond to every single comment they don't agree with, somehow engaging in several separate arguments about the same thing at the same time.

Comedian Bo Burnham described this pattern best in his 2021 song, *That Funny Feeling*, when he said, "The backlash to the backlash to the thing that's just begun."

Then you have people like me who comment on the absurdity of the comment section playing out the same way again and again, post after post. I suppose those comments are just a much a part of the cycle they're criticizing, as is this editorial.

So, what's my point?

I'm not entirely sure I have one. If I did, it would be something along the lines of reminding our readers that no matter how upset you might be or how much you might disagree with a post or a comment, there are real people with real feelings, friends and family behind each of those opinions.

And these aren't just any people.

These people live and work in our community. They live down the street or around the corner from us, shop at the same stores we do, and they all want the same basic things everyone wants – to love and be loved, to be respected, to find happiness and live a healthy life, and to contribute in a meaningful way to this community and this world.

I think if we treated each other online the same way most of us treat people in the real world, these social-media debates might actually result in something constructive. Instead of tearing each other down, let's build each other up and create an online community in which opinions and the people behind them are respected, and all ideas are considered.

I truly believe everyone has something valuable to contribute. We simply need to put our own opinions aside for a moment to hear what others have to say.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2024

FRIDAY, FEB. 9

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

Wellesley Public Skate
1-2 p.m.
Bill Gies Recreation Centre
1401 Queens Bush Rd., Wellesley

SUNDAY, FEB. 11

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.
Bill Gies Recreation Centre
1401 Queens Bush Rd., Wellesley

Valentine's Drive Thru Dinner
5-6 p.m.
New Hamburg Royal Canadian Legion
65 Boullee St. New Hamburg

MONDAY, FEB. 12

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

Gaia's Gardens' Top 5 Essentials for a beautiful garden
7 p.m.
Wilmot Recreation Complex
1291 Nafziger Rd. Baden

TUESDAY, FEB. 13
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
5-7 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
1716 Snyder's Rd. E. Petersburg

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 16
St. Clements Public Skate
1-2 p.m.
St. Clements Community Centre
1 Green St. St. Clements

Wellesley Public Skate
1-2 p.m.
Bill Gies Recreation Centre
1401 Queens Bush Rd., Wellesley

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

Wilmot Heritage Day
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
New Dundee Community Centre
1028 Queen St. New Dundee

SUNDAY, FEB. 18
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.
Bill Gies Recreation Centre
1401 Queens Bush Rd., Wellesley

THURSDAY, FEB. 22
Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Wilmot Rec Complex
1291 Nafziger Rd. Baden

FRIDAY, FEB. 23
St. Clements Public Skate
1-2 p.m.
St. Clements Community Centre
1 Green St. St. Clements

Wellesley Public Skate
1-2 p.m.
Bill Gies Recreation Centre
1401 Queens Bush Rd., Wellesley

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

Wilmot Coldest Night of the Year
4-7 p.m.
New Hamburg community Centre
251 Jacob St. New Hamburg

SUNDAY, FEB. 25
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.
Bill Gies Recreation Centre
1401 Queens Bush Rd., Wellesley

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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Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | | | | |
|---------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. 1000 | 3. Conan O'Brien | 5. Vince Lombardi Trophy | 7. Ferrule | 9. Facebook |
| 2. Bear | 4. Fidel Castro | 6. 2001 | 8. Green, Purple, Orange | 10. Greenland Shark |

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February 14, 2024

Wilmot Recreation Centre, Room A

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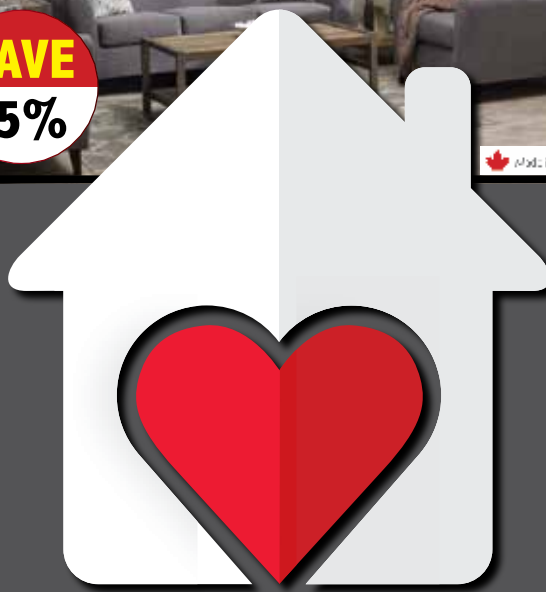
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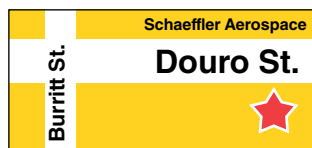


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