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2024 HERITAGE EDITION



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

FREE



Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group member Angela Woodley recently snapped this beautiful photo of a sunrise at The Baden Hills. Photo courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot

Titans implement new dressing room policy

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Tavistock and District Minor Hockey Association (TDMHA) has a new dressing room policy, several months after the first attempt by Hockey Canada, and eventually, the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) tried to employ it.

A memo was released on the minor hockey website on Jan. 31 with a link to the rules all minor hockey organizations are to follow going forward.

"Please be advised that it was recently announced that the three Hockey Canada Members in Ontario ... will be updating the dressing room policy which has

been in place since 2009 and was updated in 2016. The policy was created in conjunction with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal. This new hybrid policy will be in place effective Feb. 1 and is another step towards creating welcoming and inclusive spaces for all players, while enhancing the safety of Minor Hockey participants

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EZT budget ready for the public eye

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Members of East Zorra-Tavistock council appear to be ready to pass the 2024 budget, but township residents will have an opportunity to give their input next week.

Councillors heard from each department head at a five-plus hour meeting and appeared to be satisfied with a document that, if approved, would result in a nearly 7 per cent tax increase. The budget was open to the public but for listening purposes only.

Mayor Phil Schaefer, who voted in favour of a 16.7 per cent increase at the Oxford County council table, said he's pleased with the township's version.

"I feel in this inflationary environment a 6.63 per cent tax increase is responsible considering that service levels are not being decreased, and most importantly, reserve contributions are being made as needed to manage our asset-replacement requirements."

Councillors didn't make any major adjustments after hearing from township staff. Schaefer explained they were able to keep reserves at prudent levels.

"I think it is a testament to our staff that they presented a budget that did not require a lot of tweaking. There were changes made, like adjusting reserve contributions, but these did not change the resulting tax increase. We could have easily lowered the increase by raiding reserve balances, but that is not a prudent or wise road to go down."

Some of the big-ticket items in the budget include a 3.05 per cent or \$220,000 increase to

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COMMUNITY —

New OMHA dressing room policy

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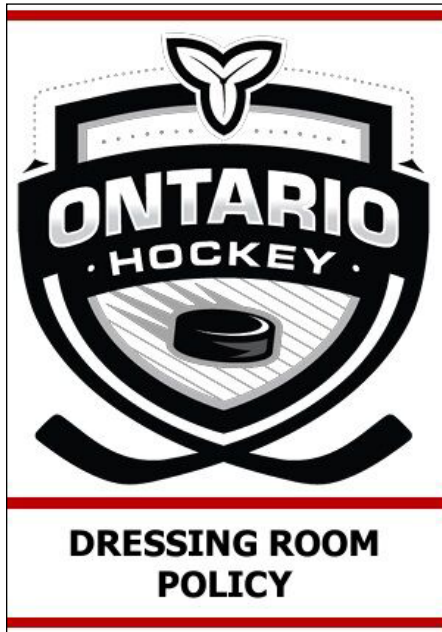
through proper supervision and minimum clothing expectations.”

The association, like every other one across Ontario, was given about a month to prepare and then implement the policy. The OMHA provided online training opportunities, but they were not made mandatory for coaches and other team officials. They are required to follow the new rules. Minor hockey president Jason Murray said all executive members did take part and then created a local policy that was sent out to team officials. The Gazette asked Murray if parents would be able to see it for themselves.

“We are considering whether we are going to post it. I think it will probably go up online for parents to read. We are still working that out,” he said.

The policy handed down to minor hockey groups is five pages long. In short, it states its purpose is to “provide all participants (athletes, officials, coaches, team staff, etc.) access to safe, inclusive, and equitable dressing spaces. In this regard, all participants have the right to utilize the dressing room or appropriate and equivalent dressing environment based on their gender identity, religious beliefs, body image concerns and/or other reasons related to their individual needs.”

The main regulation is that no player will be allowed to have anything other than the “minimum attire” on at all times while visible to anyone else. Minimum attire is described as “clothing or a base layer that covers the pelvic region (ideally coverage would be from waist to upper thigh but, at a minimum there needs to be coverage of the buttocks and genitalia) and the chest area of the participant. Ideally, minimum attire above the waist should include clothing or a base layer covering most of the body between



the neck and the waistline, it must, at a minimum, include clothing that covers most of the upper torso, such as a sports bra.”

In the event of a complaint if a parent, player, or coach isn't following the new policy, TDMHA would be required to launch an investigation.

“We would have to investigate the complaint and follow up with further discussion with the coaches or possibly some sort of sanction if they are willfully ignoring it.”

Murray said the organization also had to work with East Zorra-Township to get the arena properly outfitted to offer players privacy.

“They are working on getting curtains up in each of the bathrooms to make sure the kids are able to have that privacy.”

He added for younger players it is not a big deal because they always have a base layer on.

“It's the older kids that it's going to be tricky for.”

While TDMHA hasn't received much feedback in the two or so weeks the policy has been implemented, Murray did admit not too many people are thrilled about it. He added it is a big responsibility for them to take on.

“It is what it is. We will do it to the best of our ability and move forward.”

It is puzzling to some in the minor hockey community why a policy of this magnitude is being implemented by force as the season inches closer to an end. Murray said it was first introduced before the 2023-24 campaign but abruptly halted.

“There was so much backlash they withdrew it, reviewed it, made some adjustments, and reimplemented it. I don't know if they can be faulted for that.”

Murray said he would have liked more advance notice the policy was coming.

“Sometimes you just have to do these things. I understand the principles behind it. I think it's meant to be a good thing to help protect those who need it, but it might have been better if the OMHA worked with the parties it was going to affect.”

He added this isn't the first time minor hockey's governing body in Ontario has gotten pushback on a new rule.

“They are more of a let's put it in place and see where the chips fall organization.”

Anyone involved in minor hockey can provide feedback or ask questions about the policy by contacting the Ontario Minor Hockey Association at <https://www.omha.net/page/show/884952-office>. The policy itself is available at <https://www.omha.net/page/show/884952-office>. The policy itself is available at [Ontario_Dressing_Room_Policy_2024.pdf](https://www.omha.net/page/show/884952-office) ([tavistockminorhockey.com](https://www.omha.net/page/show/884952-office)).



EAST ZORRA-TAVISTOCK

2024 budget now available

Continued from page 1

the parks and recreation department to help pay for a much-needed arena-furnace replacement and a 2.25 per-cent hike for fire and protective services.

“Increased contributions to the arena reserve to pay for required repairs and replacements, as well as new breathing apparatus for our firefighters, are two key initiatives we are doing with this budget,” said Schaefer.

Township CAO Karen DePrest provided additional details on the purchase of the equipment.

“The overall project cost is \$459,000, of which the fire equipment reserve is contributing \$360,000. The overall increase to the fire budget is \$162,708. One-hundred-thousand dollars is attributable to the (breathing equipment) plus \$45,000 for fire hoses and bunker gear replacements.”

EZT's Corporate Services department has a minor increase of \$39,102.

“This is 100 per-cent attributable to the acquisition of blinds for the new building that will assist in temperature regulation in various offices. That cost will be tax-supported as a one-time operating expense,” added DePrest.

As for the next steps, a 2024 public budget meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at the township administration building in Hickson. Written and/or verbal comments will be considered by council at the public meeting. Anyone interested will have to attend in person as the township does not have a virtual system installed at the new township office. Depending on the outcome, staff would be presenting the budget bylaw for council's approval at the March 6 regular meeting.

The 111-page budget document is available on the EZT website at <https://www.ezt.ca/en/township-office/budget.aspx#2024-Budget>.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
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Notice is hereby given that the 152nd Annual Meeting of South Easthope Mutual Insurance Company will be held at **Grace United Church, 116 Woodstock Street South, Tavistock, Ontario, on Friday March 8, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.**

The meeting will commence with a presentation "Managing Severe Weather Risks" by Glenn McGillivray, from the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction.

The business portion will follow this special presentation for the purposes of:

1. Receiving and approving the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Corporation held March 3, 2023.
2. Receiving the Auditor's Report and Financial Statement for the year ended December 31, 2023.
3. Appointing Auditors for the 2024 fiscal year.
4. Electing three directors, each for a term of three years.

Any member wishing to seek election or re-election as a director must have filed their intention to stand for election in writing with the Secretary of the Corporation at least thirty days in advance of the Annual Meeting.

A complete version of the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 are available for viewing on the company website at www.southeasthope.com. A member may also request a copy by written request at least 14 days before the Annual Meeting.

Jennifer R. Kearsey, CIP – President & CEO
For the Board of Directors

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COMMUNITY —

Perth East resident falls victim to expensive scam

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Police are warning residents about cryptocurrency investment fraud after Perth County OPP received a report Feb. 6 that a Perth East resident lost over \$140,000.

Perth County OPP Const. Beth Hanlon said more people seem to be falling for scams like this one in large part because the criminals know exactly what they are doing.

"They are very skilled in identifying vulnerabilities in situations where they can take advantage of people. They have an ability to manipulate people."

She explained a perfect example is the fraud known as the 'grandparent scam' where the kindness of seniors is taken advantage of.

"It comes from their desire to be polite,

stay on the phone and not be perceived as rude. Also, their willingness to trust. We do see that population fall victim frequently."

Hanlon said these types of scams are severely underreported.

"We believe a lot of people who fall victim aren't comfortable telling someone, maybe feel embarrassed and they don't want to share the incident with family or police."

Police have released several tips and warning signs for the public to consider when potential fraud comes to their telephone or computer including when someone demands money immediately.

"Maybe a loved one is in trouble and you can help them by paying a sum of money or a gift card. Hopefully, that raises some flags especially when the person says not to talk to anyone. Call the police. We would be more than happy to help you work

through it."

She added reaching out to a family member is also a good idea to avoid being taken.

Hanlon said they can't always recover stolen funds, but if they can get an early jump on an investigation, it can happen.

"We investigate these incidents fully and, in some situations, we can assist in getting funds back. It depends on how long ago an incident occurred. We just need to be made aware of the crimes as soon as possible."

She explained the more police know about new and different scams the better, as they can warn the public about them to prevent others from falling victim.

Education is important, particularly among seniors who are often victims of these financial crimes. Hanlon said police

offer education for those interested.

"We will come to community meetings, schools, clubs, retirement communities, businesses, anyone who would like to hear some information to educate themselves or their loved ones."

Hanlon can be reached at the Sebringville detachment of the Perth County OPP at 519-393-6123.

According to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre Ontario (CAFC), residents lost approximately \$136 million in investment-related frauds and approximately \$20,332,013 in romance-related frauds in 2022. It is estimated that only five to 10 per cent of frauds are reported to the CAFC or police. If you do fall victim to fraud or know someone who has, contact your local police service to report the crime, and also report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.



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COMMUNITY —

Local OPP offer insight into mental-health response at recent Shakespeare Optimist meeting



By Gary West

Members of the Shakespeare Optimist Club were brought up to date last week on how the local OPP detachment and area health-care providers are working hand in hand to improve safety in crisis situations involving mental health.

Const. Jill Johnson has worked with Perth County OPP for over 10 years. During that time she has been involved in a variety of different roles including front-line policing, school resource officer, media-and-community safety officer and, most recently, community mobilization officer and mental-health liaison.

Johnson now works closely with and oversees the Perth County Mobile Crisis Response Team.

The Mobile Crisis Response Teams is made up of two people – a police officer and a crisis worker – who respond to calls involving a person in

crisis.

During a call for service involving someone in crisis, Johnson said police can focus on safety while the crisis worker can help to de-escalate the situation and support the person in crisis.

Police and health-care partners working together means improved safety and better outcomes for everyone. Johnson said she works with Jen Nixon, a social worker with the Huron-Perth Healthcare Alliance who has been with the Perth County Mobile Crisis Response Team the longest, and provides insight into qualifications, types of calls they attend and various outcomes.

She said the partnership has met with positive results. In 2022, Johnson told Optimist members there were 222 mental-health related investigating, while in 2023, the number was reduced to 94.

Similarly, suicide attempts and threats went down from 55 in 2022 to 52 in 2023 after 2019 saw a record-high 71 suicide attempts in the county.

Johnson also said family dispute calls under the Perth County OPP jurisdiction went from a high of 175 in 2021 to 158 calls in 2023, while domestic dispute calls went from 236 in 2022 to 212 in 2023.

The OPP also conduct wellbeing check. In 2020, there were 127 calls for wellbeing checks in Perth county and in 2023 that number increased to 165.

Following the presentation, Optimist members were happy to hear the constable's positive remarks on how the OPP and the Huron-Perth Healthcare Alliance are working together to make Perth County safer and provide the right help to those who need it.

Const. Jillian Johnson addresses members of the Shakespeare Optimist Club and explains how the OPP and the Huron-Perth Healthcare Alliance are working together to support communities across Perth County. Photo by Gary West photo

Unknown soldier



Do you know any of the soldiers in these photos? The New Hamburg Legion Branch 532 is organizing its archives and is appealing to the public for help identifying the brave local men and women who served in the first and second world wars who appear in historical photos without identifying information. Email angelica.thomas@rogers.com if you recognize someone in these photos. Photos courtesy of New Hamburg Legion

BREAKING NEWS!

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette is your local trusted news source and we welcome story ideas from our readers. If you have a local story idea, email it to Editor Galen Simmons at: galen@granthaven.com



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COMMUNITY —

Zorra collision sends one person to hospital

A two-vehicle collision in Zorra Township has sent one person to hospital.

At 8 a.m. on Monday, the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police along with members of Oxford County Paramedic Services and Fire Services from Zorra responded to a collision that occurred at the intersection of 37th Line and Road 84 in Zorra Township.

The investigation revealed that a hatchback and a dump truck collided in the intersection. No injuries were reported from either driver however the passenger of the hatchback was airlifted to hospital by Ornge. Police say the injured person was last reported as being in stable condition.

Anyone with information about this ongoing investigation is asked to contact the Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122. No word yet on potential charges.



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Shop Local: New Hamburg On Par Golf offers a seasonless alternative to hitting the links

By Galen Simmons

Though golf in Canada is a seasonal sport, New Hamburg-area residents missing the close-cropped grass of the greens, the peaceful ripple of water hazards and the faint sound of cursing as someone duffs another shot now have an indoor alternative that not only offers that golf fix in the winter, but also gives players a chance to improve their games in the off season.

Located at New Hamburg Lanes, New Hamburg On Par Golf offers the best in golf-simulation technology with three Golfzon TwoVision+ indoor-golf simulators. James Aoki, owner of both businesses, says he purchased and installed the indoor-golf simulators to provide customers with more ways to have fun inside.

"I've always wanted to do something more as far as a multi-sport facility," Aoki said. "Bowling is a seasonal sport and so is golf, so why not tie the two of them together?"

Designed in South Korea, the Golfzon network of simulators includes such features as a dual-swing plate that moves in 24 different directions mimicking different terrains and slopes, an auto-ball tee pop-up system so golfers don't need to retrieve their balls, more than 200 courses from around the world, a mobile app that saves and tracks players profiles, preferences and stats, and a number of player-assist features that helps players understand their game and improve it.

For those golfers keen on improving their game before they bring it on the course in the spring, as well as wannabe golfers who would like to learn the sport, On Par Golf also has two golf pros on the roster, Connie Deckert and Mark Maue, who can offer expert lessons.



New Hamburg On Par Golf owner James Aoki shows off one of three Golfzon Two-Vision+ indoor-golf simulators that were recently added to the New Hamburg Lanes bowling alley. Photo by Galen Simmons

"The software is so user-friendly and so descriptive, they can show you what you're doing wrong and everything like that," Aoki said.

"... This system, you can set the level of play. You can do beginner, amateur, pro or tour settings. Kids can use it because there's forward tees. There's chip-and-putt courses on there as well. Simulator 1 has arcade games where you give the children putters and all you do is just tap it and there's little ramps for them to hit targets, so the parents can actually swing a club and the kids use the putter to play games."

On Par Golf also offers flexible league play for golfers who want to compete with one another during the off season, weekly specials including date night, a seniors' rate and ladies

night, gift cards and party packages for adults and kids with the option for both golf and bowling, as well as special food menus provided by either Domino's Pizza or Turmeric Indian Bistro.

"Our customers love the system; the technology is state of the art," Aoki said. "There's a gentleman coming in at 10:30 a.m. every day who was here last night. We have some pretty hardcore golfers who like to come in, play on the driving range and then they'll play a round of golf to see what the difference is. They'll keep playing the same course over and over to see what they're doing and keep getting better."

To learn more about New Hamburg On Par Golf and to book your session now, visit newhamburgonpargolf.ca.

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Melody, Tim & family

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Roger Bender

The family of Roger Bender would like to thank our friends, family, and the community for the overwhelming support and kindness shown to us during our recent time of loss. All of the cards, visits, messages, flowers, food, donations, and gifts have been very much appreciated and have provided great comfort to the family.

We'd also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the bystanders who quickly came to Roger's aid, the Tavistock Fire Department, paramedics and the staff at Stratford General Hospital who provided exceptional response and care to Roger, and for helping us through that devastating day. Special thanks to Jeff Glendinning and staff of Francis Funeral Home, Pastor Steve Hoffard, Pastor Leanne Darlington, and our Trinity Lutheran church family for your guidance and for helping us navigate this difficult time.

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS,
ROSANNE, DARYL & ANGIE, TRICIA & NICK, LEANNE & DAVE AND FAMILIES

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Feb 29	Tavistock Missionary	Hope
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Mar 14	East Zorra Mennonite	Despair
Mar 21	Hebron United	Awe

Worship at Noon
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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. Who won Super Bowl 58?
2. Ornithology is the study of what?
3. When was Black History Month first celebrated?
4. What killed Napoleon Bonaparte?
5. What country has the most sheep?
6. What was the name of the band formed by Maurice White?
7. Does hot or cold water freeze faster?
8. Who wrote The Paper Bag Princess?
9. What are the 4 different parks at Disney World?
10. Where does Bingo originate from?

Answers found on page 34

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 15: Happy birthday to Ryder Brenneman (15), Joshua Wettlaufer (20), Caitlyn Burchatzki (23), and Karen Wirth. Happy anniversary to Ross and Glenda Roth (60th)

February 16: Happy birthday to Wyatt Becker (17), Ethan Becker (17)

February 18: Happy birthday to Vienna Kalbfleisch (2), Danielle Kropf (8), Rhys Neumeister (20), Nathan McQueen (22), Willie Elzinga (65), and Katie Hamilton, and anniversaries for Jeff and Ann Skubowius (34th).

February 20: Happy birthday to Jeff Wagner.

February 21: Happy birthday to Makai Roth (9), Brianna Kropf (11), Isla Romano (20), and anniversary for James and Lindsay Parr (16th).

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 13-20, 2019, Edition (5 years ago)

February is a significant month in Women's Institute (W.I.) history. The first branch was formed in Stoney Creek Feb. 19, 1897. To mark this day, W.I. members across the province have held afternoon teas, banquets, rallies, parties and music festivals to review and celebrate the many years of social achievements.

At the annual general meeting of the Tavistock Agricultural Society, Janet Heinbuch received the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies 2018 Meritorious Service Award presented by president Mona Eichmann who congratulated Janet on her 35 years serving with the society.

Oxford 4-H is holding their 14th Annual Pancake House throughout March and early April. Come to Jakeman's Maple Farm on Saturdays and Sundays to enjoy fluffy pancakes drizzled with Jakeman's award-winning maple syrup.

Cannabidiol oil or CBD products are popping up at convenience stores in Oxford County, Elgin County and the City of St. Thomas. Local enforcement agencies want retailers and members of the public to know that CBD products and products containing THC at these stores are illegal and should

not be for sale.

February 11-18, 2009, Edition (15 years ago)

Tavistock became an Incorporated Village in 1909 and restructured into East Zorra-Tavistock in 1975. To mark Heritage Week, Tavistock is celebrating 100 years since incorporation.

From Feb. 9-15, local Tim Hortons stores will participate in a Food Drive to help replenish the Wilmot Family Resource Centre Inc. Customers are asked to fill Tim Hortons brown paper bags with non-perishable food items and drop them into the food drive bins located inside participating stores.

Over \$1,200 was raised last weekend at the Tavistock Mennonite Church where the Pie Auction for Paraguay was held. More than 90 people were in attendance for a lovely soup lunch and pie auction.

A 911 call reporting shots had been fired at 70 Maria St. in Tavistock last Friday has landed a Tavistock resident in jail charged with public mischief and uttering threats to cause death. The individual is well known to police and the individual who made the call was arrested. Investigation by police officers determined that this was a false report and no shooting occurred.

The Bantam Jets played at the International Silver Stick near Belleville last weekend and were shy of winning but lost on a penalty shot goal. The finalists battled hard against Kanata but placed second for the

second year in a row.

February 16-23, 1994, Edition (30 years ago)

The Tavistock Cheese, team #1, Atoms travelled to Harriston to compete in the Minto tournament on Sunday, Feb. 13. Tavistock clinched the championship in game three beating Georgetown 3-2. Congratulations to the atoms who earned the "B" title.

The top two winners in the Optimist Zone Spelling Bee were also the top two in the Tavistock competition held Feb. 13. Adam Zehr of Tavistock Public School and Corey McKay of Hickson School both represented the Tavistock Optimist Club, finished first and second on Sunday.

February 13-20, 1974, Edition (50 years ago)

Ingersoll had an emergency last Friday when 32 members of the Essex Company suffered from a gas inhalation.

Ladies' night at Tavistock Rotary Club is usually a gala occasion. This time it featured "The Ladies of The Mop". On Feb. 11 the cast of the top play from the school's Drama Night of last December put on a play and the legion hadn't heard so much chuckling in a long time.

Larry Capling was high triple bowler in Men's League with 685. Janet Bleay was high triple bowler for the week in the ladies bowling with 680.

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COMMUNITY —

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Getting ready for the upcoming sports season, workers from the Shakespeare area were busy last week digging up a plugged drain to ensure a dry baseball field when spring arrives in Shakespeare. Pictured are Paul Bender of MTH contacting with Jeremy Berger and Frank Meconi Jr. of Berger Plumbing, and Jake Hovius of Jake Hovius Contracting operating the mini-excavator. After a couple hours of digging and installing new field tile, the drain was running water through to the catch basin, ensuring many years of a dry baseball field operated by the Shakespeare Community Athletic Association (SCAA). Photo by Gary West

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2024 HERITAGE EDITION



Heritage of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

Compiled by Stewart Grant

The first Tavistock Gazette was published on Sept. 25, 1895, by J. W. Green with operations based in the village's Loth block where the Commercial Hotel was located. The very first editions of The Gazette are not available, and reports indicated they were burned in the Square on Hallowe'en night. The earliest copy I have seen of the newspaper is dated June 3, 1897, by which time the operation was based out of Tavistock's Wildfang's Block. In 1897, a subscription could be purchased for \$1 per year, otherwise it was a cost of \$1.25. For those wishing to place advertisements, it was noted that sale bills could be printed in both English and German.

Frank H. Leslie was the newspaper's second publisher, acquiring the Gazette in 1900. In June 1904, Mr. Leslie sold the newspaper to Charles Fraser, who remained as publisher until 1908. Around this time, Gazette operations were published in the Staebler Block, in the area where Quehl's Restaurant now stands. From 1908 to 1910, the late N. E. Dopp was the publisher.

In June 1910, Frank Leslie again became the publisher with George Shipley and son as managers. In March 1912, Mr. Leslie moved the plant from the Staebler Block to the Opera Hall Block on Woodstock Street North, where the Gazette would remain for 50 years and nine months.

In August 1914, The Gazette was sold by Mr. Leslie to William Appel. Mr. Leslie had purchased the Niagara Falls newspaper and wished to devote his entire interest to the business there. On May 1, 1916, Mr. Appel sold the business to his son, Lorne W. "Chick" Appel.

Mr. Appel published The Gazette until October 1929, when the business was purchased by the late George K. Brown. In February 1930, K. Hartford Brown came to Tavistock to become associated with his father, and he was the editor-manager from April 1932 until January 1957 when he purchased the business.

The move of Gazette operations was necessary by the 1960s as heavier printing machinery on the building's second floor became too much for the original beams in the 100-year-old Opera Hall Block to burden. The old building would be torn down in 1966.

The new home for the Tavistock Gazette would be located at the familiar corner of William and Woodstock Street South, at the former home of Strahm Garage.

On Dec. 18, 1962, plant equipment was moved to the Gazette's new location, which boasted ample parking space, facilities for the receipt of paper stock at the side door (William St.) entrance as well as at a large door into the cellar, where some printing machinery was installed.

After 40 years of the newspaper and printing business being in the Brown family, a new era was entered into on July 1, 1969, when the Tavistock Gazette was



Stewart Grant, present owner of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette, holds one of the oldest-preserved copies of the Tavistock Gazette from Thursday, June 3, 1897. Photo by Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

purchased by C. Robert "Bob" Gladding and his wife, Doris. A generation later, their son Bill and wife Sheri would buy the enterprise in March of 1988.

Robert and Doris Gladding continued to be instrumental in the publication of the family-run Gazette. During his eighties, Bob was celebrated as "the oldest working pressman in Canada". He passed away in 2012 at the age of 87.

The following was written in the pages of the Gazette in 1995:

"As we enter our 100th year of publication, we can look back to the time when the Gazette was printed on a Washington press one sheet at a time with each letter of each paragraph painstakingly set into a matrix of type. A Linotype machine was installed in 1923 to set the hot metal slugs and offset printing of the weekly editions was phased in late in 1974. Computerized typesetting workstations were installed in 1988 which not only set type, but scan photographs and artwork for each individual page. What will the next 100 years bring? The Gazette is already looking at an on-line service which would optimize the digital information already contained in the files each week. Digital cameras, sound and video access to local happenings are all possibilities as we look to the twenty-first century."

The new century brought massive changes to the newspaper industry. First, many small-town publications were bought up by conglomerates that, in the search for cost savings, began to reduce local journalism in favour of generalized content that could be spread across multiple papers. This fate never befell the Gazette, and each week Tavistock residents could look forward to dedicated local content from publisher Bill Gladding, including a cover story that featured a unique personality from within the village.

The local-first commitment shown by

the Gazette also helped stave off the next great challenge to the industry – that being competition from online platforms, including social media sites such as Facebook. While many newspapers in much-larger towns and cities throughout the country were closed, the Tavistock Gazette, amazingly, remained.

A third significant challenge facing newspapers in this century involves succession. There are not that many people interested in buying newspapers in an era that is increasingly moving online. As Bill and Sheri eyed retirement, the Gazette was advertised for sale locally, but without success.

It was during the spring of 2020 that I came to read the Tavistock Gazette when it was available to read online during the short period of time that printing had ceased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I sent a message to Bill in appreciation of his outstanding publication, and we developed a relationship. Later that year, Bill approached me about the idea of purchasing the Gazette, as he had seen the

same care that I took towards local journalism in my administration of the St. Marys Independent over the past number of years.

After exactly 51 years of the Tavistock Gazette being in the Gladding family, I became new owner of the newspaper and printing business on July 1, 2020. Though I did not have the resources to buy the iconic Gazette building, we continued to rent the office for another year until the building was sold. The business now operates out of our St. Marys office, but we maintain a drop-off and pickup kiosk within D&D's Homestyle Cuisine at Tavistock's five corner intersection.

As part of our regular weekly deliveries of the Tavistock Gazette to nearby communities, I stumbled upon the New Hamburg Independent and was very disappointed with the lack of community news within this once-proud newspaper which was now owned by Metroland Media. As a result, just four months after purchasing the Tavistock Gazette, our team decided to launch the Wilmot Post as a weekly newspaper serving Wilmot Township and Wellesley.

One year later, on October 21, 2021, the Wilmot Post was combined with the Tavistock Gazette, becoming the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. At the same time, after 126 years of being a "paid newspaper", we switched the format to a free model so that as many people as possible could read the community news. Weekly circulation is now typically 4,000 copies available at pickup locations throughout Tavistock, New Hamburg and the surrounding areas, while others read each issue online from their homes wherever they are in the world. There are also a couple hundred subscribers who pay for the convenience of having the Gazette mailed to them each week through Canada Post.

After 129 years, there have been many changes to the Tavistock Gazette, but I believe the newspaper has successfully evolved with the times and is in a strong position to continue serving the community in the decades to follow.



Nearly every copy of the Gazette over its 129-year history has been preserved and bound. Above, the July 2, 1969, edition memorialized the sale of The Tavistock Gazette from K. Hart Brown to C. Robert Gladding. The Gladding family would go on to publish the Gazette for 51 consecutive years before selling the business to Stewart Grant in 2020. Photo by Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

Tavistock and District Historical Society to celebrate 60-year-old student history of Tavistock

By Paul Bartlett, Tavistock and District Historical Society

In the fall of 1963, the Grade 7 and 8 students of the Tavistock Public School compiled and published a history of Tavistock. The school principal at the time, Mr. James Axtmann, had his students collect the information for a school project and the booklet that was completed is believed to be the first comprehensive history of the village.

More than 40 senior students contributed to the project. Several of the students spent untold hours going through old files of the Tavistock Gazette in their search for material in preparation for their contribution. Others interviewed older residents of the village, digging up little-known or forgotten facts. Some had access to old records and books that were used to their advantage. Many of the students were second or third generation relatives of the business owners.

Included in the booklet are histories of most of the businesses and organizations in town, including a number that have vanished. There are stories for instance of the railroad and the old train station, of the J. G. Field Woolen Mill, of the Zimmerman Box Factory, of the turnip-waxing plants, and of the distinctive Glasgow Warehouse in the centre of town. There is an article about how the streets of Tavistock got their names. The long and often humorous story of the Tavistock



The Tavistock Public School circa 1908. Contributed photo

Band is described and there is a biography of the founder of Tavistock, Captain Henry Eckstein.

The students, of course, were most familiar with their own Tavistock Public School. They produced a drawing of the school that showed where the classes were located and who was teaching in them. Two of the students, John Pletsch and Gary Bender, produced a history of the school in Tavistock. Until 1879, students attended a one-room school in Sebastopol, then for a few months they went to Loth's Hall behind the Commercial Hotel at the five

corners. Finally in 1879, a more permanent two-room school was built on William Street.

Valentine Stock, who would later become a Member of Provincial Parliament for Perth South, was one of the early teachers at the new Tavistock School. In 1898, a second storey with three new rooms was added to the building and then in 1916 two more rooms were added. The result was a fine, two-storey brick structure crowned by an impressive bell tower and situated on a beautiful lot with many trees.

The Tavistock Public School did include a continuation school (or high school) at first, but after 1955 the high-school students were bussed to Waterloo-Oxford High School. As Tavistock grew and the school population grew, it was decided to build a new school. In 1966 (after the student history was written), a new school was opened in Tavistock and the old school became part of the PeopleCare nursing home.

The Tavistock Gazette, in 1964, predicted "in years to come, the booklet will prove to be a most valuable source of information, and the students who took the time to work on their individual project are to be highly commended." Three years later, in time for Canada's Centennial, Carl Seltzer and the Tavistock Rotary Club produced "Fact and Fantasy", the definitive history of Tavistock and it is believed that the student history produced in 1963-64 formed the basis for many of the items in that book.

In recognition of the 60th anniversary of the publication of this student history, the Tavistock and District Historical Society will recognize those who wrote the booklet at the society's annual meeting in April (date and location to be announced). It will be like a class reunion and the students will be invited to share their memories of what it was like growing up in Tavistock in the 1960s. All are warmly invited to attend!

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Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Wilmot Lodge No.318

By Taylor Hynes, Museum Assistant Castle Kilbride

Freemasonry or Masons refers to one of the oldest fraternal charitable and social organizations in the world. Freemasonry finds its roots in the traditional medieval stonemasons of Europe who, similar to the Masons of today, distinguished themselves from others by choice of words, grips and signals. Today, Masons focus on steps to lead productive lives that benefit the communities in which they live.

When Masons meet, their organizational unit is referred to as a Masonic Lodge. Lodges meet regularly where they approve minutes, elect new members, appoint officers, take their reports, consider correspondence, bills and annual accounts, organize social and charitable events, and so on. In addition, their

meetings may also focus on ceremonies or lectures on Mason's history or teachings. Many of these ceremonies focus on Masonic degrees such as Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft (or Fellow Craft), and Master Mason.

One of the major cornerstones of the fraternity is charity in the form of helping other people. Charitable projects may differ from lodge to lodge, but examples of local Masons' involvement include supporting hearing research, a bursary program for university and college students, autism services, prostate cancer research, alcohol and drug awareness, and support of the Canadian Blood Services, to name a few.

Locally, 2024 marks a major milestone year for Wilmot's very own Masonic Lodge, No. 318 as members celebrate

150 years. In 1874, sufficient funds were collected so a Masonic Lodge could be formed in Baden. First Lodge meetings were held in a third-floor hall above Mr. E. Boye's general store in Baden. This building is still standing in the center of Baden. Masons paid a \$25 annual rent for the hall. Their meetings continued there until 1888 when they moved to a hall adjacent to the William Kraus Hotel – also known as The Baden Hotel. For 65 years, the lodge remained at this location before moving to its third location.

In 1951, the Lodge moved into a room on the top level of Livingston Presbyterian Church. The rental fee for this location was \$100 annually. This Lodge Hall was dedicated in 1954 by Rt. Wor. Bro. Allen Bennett D.D.G.M. for Wellington District with other Grand Lodge officers. In 1972, New Dominion Lodge No. 205 vacated their Lodge Hall in New Hamburg and were invited by the brethren of Wilmot Lodge to use their Lodge Hall in Baden.

In 2021, Wilmot's Masonic Lodge No. 318 moved from the Livingston Presbyterian Church as the property had gone up for sale. Wilmot Lodge No. 318 now meets in Cambridge.

In 1874, James Livingston, owner of Castle Kilbride, was a part of the first group of brethren to secure funding for the Lodge. At Castle Kilbride National Historic Site, various artifacts belonging and relating to James Livingston's time as a Mason are housed in the collection. One includes a Charter for the establishment



Letter of Intent for Masonic Lodge in Wilmot June 1874. Photo courtesy of Castle Kilbride Collection

of the Wilmot Masonic Lodge with signatures from petitioners, including James Livingston, for permission to establish a Lodge. Another is a silver medallion celebrating 100 years of Freemasonry in Canada from 1792 to 1892. The medallion was given out on Dec. 27, 1892, in Toronto.

To mark the 150th anniversary of Wilmot's Masonic Lodge No. 318, a small exhibit will be on display at Castle Kilbride from July to mid-November in the Belvedere Gallery. Please note, the gallery space is only accessible by stairs.



Masonic Centenary Medal 1892. Photo courtesy of Castle Kilbride Collection

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Haysville Bridges Over the Nith River 1883-2000

By Al Junker

The Huron Road, constructed by the Canada Company from Guelph to Goderich, served as a colonization road enabling settlers to move into the Huron Tract. This road passed through the southern portion of Wilmot Township. Construction began in 1828 and was completed that year; though at that point, it was more of a path than a road.

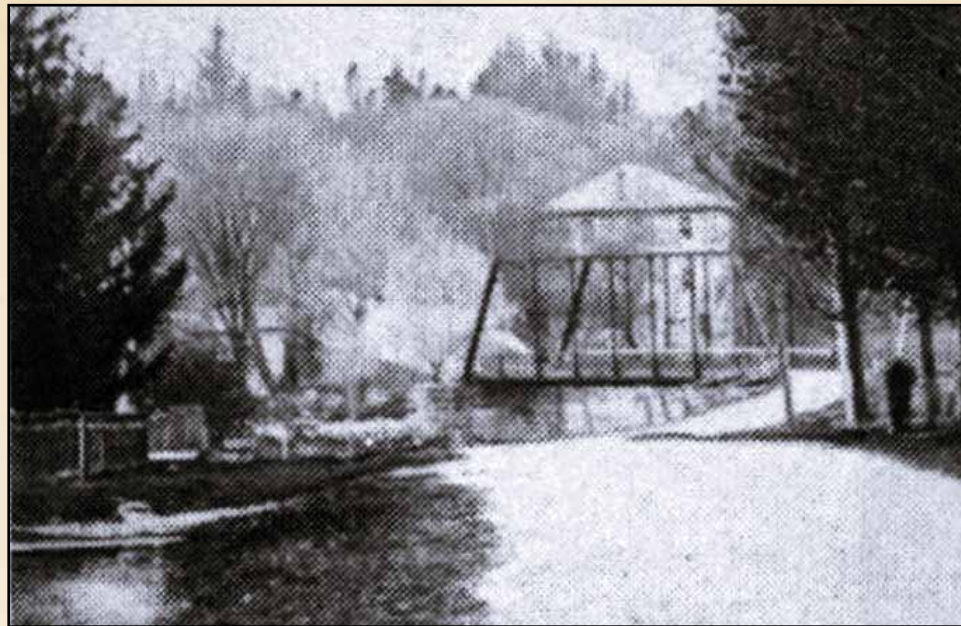
Work began in Wilmot near what today is Punkeydoodle's Corner under the direction of Dr. Wm. "Tiger" Dunlop. The survey work was led by John McDonald, the deputy provincial surveyor, and Samuel Smith. They were followed by a team of glazers who marked the trees, and then by woodman who cut the trees down. When they reached Lake Huron, the surveyors and some workers remained to lay out the site of Goderich. The rest of the crew returned to Wilmot, clearing off the fallen trees along the 60-mile route. In 1829, the road was improved to 12 feet wide, which was termed a "sleigh road." In 1830, the road was completed to a width of 66 feet.

A significant obstacle on the Wilmot portion of the Huron road was the crossing of the Nith River (also known as Smith's Creek) at what is now Haysville. Prior to the start of construction in June 1828, a preliminary group was sent out to examine the construction of a bridge over the river. The group consisted of Dr. Dunlop, Samuel Strickland, whose role with the Canada Company included overseeing the construction of roads and bridges, and Thomas Smith, the company's accountant.

Upon arriving at the Nith River, the expedition discovered that a previous traveler had created the first crossing by chopping down a tree across the river. While crossing this "bridge," Dunlop apparently stopped to enjoy a pinch of snuff and dropped his snuffbox into the water. He dove in and retrieved it, and a fire was lit to dry him off.

The crossing was described as a "stream in the centre of a narrow valley below the level of the surrounding country, bordered by trees which held, hanging from stem to stem, great trailers of wild grape – all pure wilderness not yet broken by a single farm." The first bridges built across the Nith at the Haysville location were constructed of wood. They were frequently damaged and sometimes swept away by floods, so they often had to be rebuilt.

Around 1883, an iron bridge was installed, which was considered to be flood proof. However, this was not to be the



1883 Haysville Bridge showing original road alignment. Photo courtesy of Waterloo Historical Society Annual Volume 1983

case. In August 1883, the worst flood in history occurred on the Nith River. Local newspaper accounts headlined: "The Nith Roaring," "Six Feet Above High Water Mark." Following a week of heavy rain, a downpour on Aug. 18 and 19 sent the river on a rampage. A dam broke in Wellesley sending a torrent of water through New Hamburg towards Haysville. A horse rider was sent from New Hamburg to warn the residents of Haysville of the approaching danger. The distance by road was three miles while, by the meandering Nith River, it was twelve miles. Despite the warning and the pleas of fellow villagers, three individuals stood on the bridge. Messrs. Blatchford, Plum and Forsyth had to be rescued by Ab Hayes, "a local athlete and swimmer," who pulled them to safety just before the iron bridge was swept off its abutments.

Local newspaper accounts stated "the Iron Bridge is lying in a broken state below the rapids" and "the quiet little village [Haysville] is nearly destroyed." Every bridge and culvert in Wilmot was damaged or swept away, including seven bridges on the Nith River. In the immediate aftermath of the flood, a footbridge was erected and a floating bridge for vehicles was installed shortly thereafter. Although no photos of the 1883 flood in Haysville appear to have survived, a sketch of the aftermath was made by Charles Davy Brown, a local artist.

Wilmot Township was faced with a

mammoth task in repairing and replacing bridges. At its first meeting after the flood on Aug. 20, the council voted that it would be "advisable to cancel all Grants" made at former sessions of the Council" for roadwork due to the "enormous expenses for rebuilding and repairing bridges, etc." At the same meeting, By-law 272 was passed appointing Isaac L. Bowman P.S.S. as Township engineer for ditches and watercourses.

Reeve Fred Holwell communicated with the Dominion Bridge Co. to see what could be done with the Haysville iron bridge. It was determined a new bridge would be required at Haysville. However, on Feb. 8, 1884, council approved an arrangement which Reeve Holwell had made with the Dominion Bridge Co. of Toronto "to work over and reerect [sic] the Haysville Iron Bridge at Rau's, Bleams Rd. (Oak Grove Cheese Factory today) for the sum of \$775."

On March 10, township clerk Henry Liersch was directed to advertise for tenders to build two stone abutments for the Haysville Bridge. The clerk was instructed to request the township engineer to meet council at Haysville on May 3, 1884 to locate the abutments for the new bridge. Over the course of the year, the temporary floating bridge at Haysville had to be repaired multiple times. At its meeting on

June 16, 1884, council directed the clerk to advertise in the New Hamburg papers, the Galt Reporter and Canadische Bauernfreund, calling for tenders for "an Iron Bridge also for a Union bridge at Haysville" and for mason work to construct abutments for the bridge.

The council was to supply the material for the abutments (stones from Acton). On June 28th, council decided, that since the tenders for the mason work were too high, the work would be done by "day labour" under the direction of a subcommittee of Reeve Holwell and Coun. Edwin Daniel. After opening the tenders for the bridge, council decided to go with an iron bridge rather than a combination bridge and accepted the tender of the Dominion Bridge Co. from Toronto for \$20.90 per lineal foot. The work was to be supervised by the above subcommittee, which was authorized to hire "a practical Man to see the work done in a first class manner."

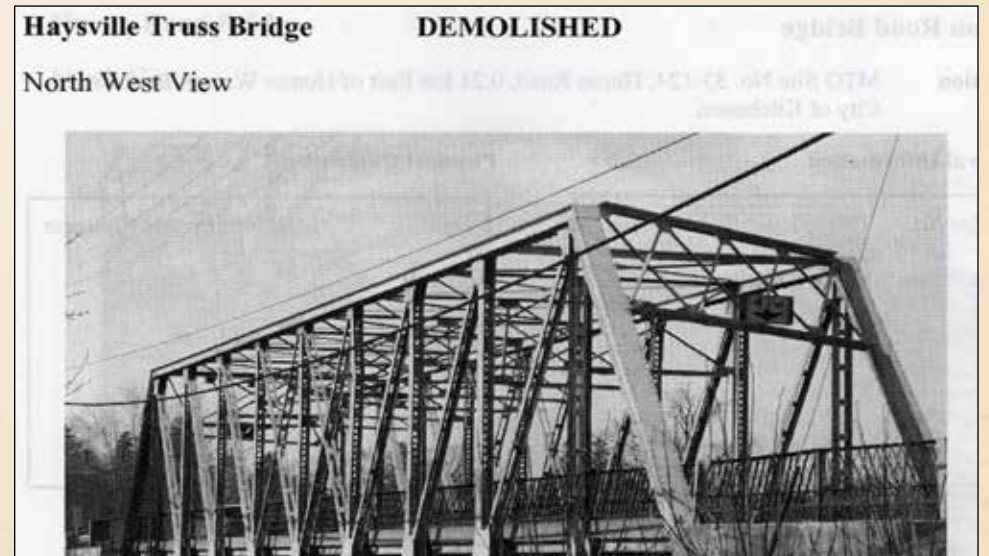
On July 14, 1884, council hired Mr. A.J. Mark, "a practical Builder" from Toronto to oversee the building of the Haysville bridge at a salary of \$4 per day. Final payment to the Dominion Bridge Co. for "constructing a Highway bridge at Haysville 128 ft by x 16 ft" of \$2,675 was approved on Dec. 15, 1884. This amount does not include the cost of constructing the abutments or the approaches to the bridge, or any other associated work or materials. This bridge remained in place until 1930 when it was replaced by the County of Waterloo.

Since bridges in the Township were such a large component of Wilmot's infrastructure, rules and regulations were put in place to protect them from damage, some of which were very interesting. On Nov. 22, 1888, a lengthy procedural bylaw was passed which amended and consolidated previously passed bylaws. Under the roads and bridges section, people were prohibited from riding or driving "at a faster rate than a walk" on any bridge with a span greater than twenty feet. Any individual driving cattle across a bridge could only take eight cattle at a time. A load restriction of five tons was placed on all culverts and bridges. It was necessary for anyone driving a steam fire engine or any other machine with steam power to have a team or span of horses, mules or oxen attached on front.

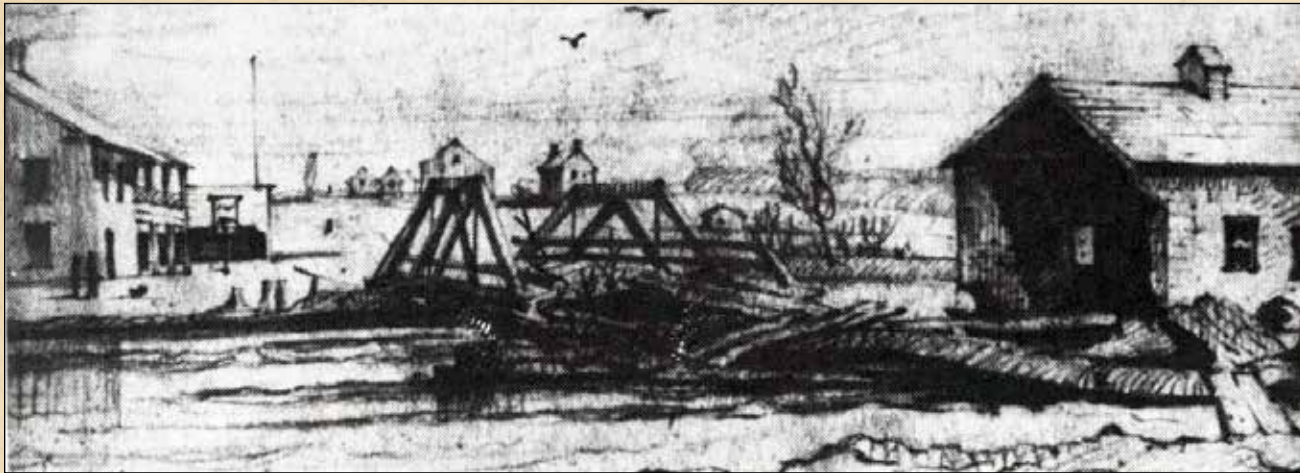
The Huron Road was improved in 1928



Kathleen Coxson in front of the 1883 Haysville Bridge c1928. Photo courtesy of Township of Wilmot



1930 Haysville Bridge c1998. Photo courtesy of "Region of Waterloo Spanning the Generations"



Haysville Bridge after the 1883 flood. Sketch by Charles Davy Brown of Nith Grove, Haysville. Photo courtesy of Waterloo Historical Society Annual Volume 1983

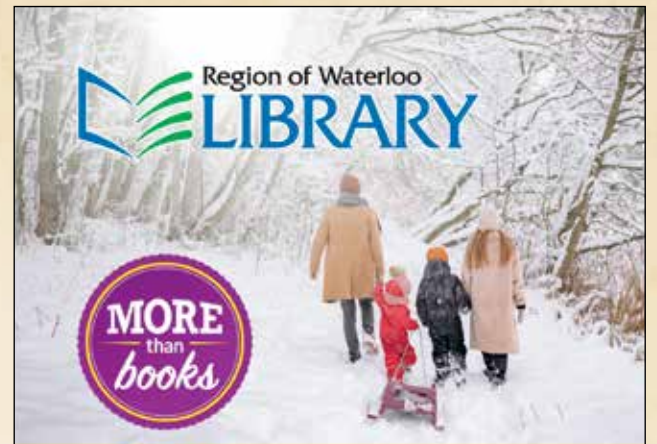
to accommodate motor vehicles. It was straightened and paved. In 1930, the 1883 iron bridge was removed and a new bridge installed on the realigned road. This bridge crossed the river at a much straighter angle than the previous one. It was located twenty feet south of the 1883 bridge. The 1925 photo of Haysville shows the angle of the earlier bridge. The construction of the 1930 bridge was undertaken by the County of Waterloo and was overseen by Herbert Johnstone, the county engineer. It was constructed of steel and the abutments were concrete as opposed to stone.

The stone abutments of the 1883 bridge were not removed. The tenders for the bridge were awarded on June 6, 1930 – the concrete work to Lichty Bros. for \$7,729 and the steel work to the Hamilton Bridge and Tool Company for \$15,989. The steel work began June 28 and was completed June 30. On July 11, the bridge was completed and it was opened to traffic Aug. 10. It had a “Class A” loading which enabled it to accommodate cars and snow removal equipment. The bridge was 164 feet long and 20 feet wide (longer and wider than the previous bridge)

and had a steel-latticed handrail. This type of bridge is referred to as a “single-span, single-lane, steel riveted through truss bridge.” It underwent repairs over the years to strengthen and extend its life.

In 1998, the Region of Waterloo commenced a study about what to do with the Haysville Bridge. Several options were looked at, ranging from full restoration of the existing bridge to the construction of a new two-lane, concrete bridge. Several open houses were held, and the community was divided. Despite a previous study of old bridges conducted by the Region (Spanning the Generations) that stated the Haysville Bridge was the seventh-most significant heritage bridge in the region, the decision was made by Wilmot Township council to construct a new, two-lane concrete bridge. The 1930 bridge was demolished in 2000 and the current bridge was constructed.

Since 1828 when the Huron Road was constructed, bridges were built over the Nith River in Haysville. Four of these bridges, starting in 1883, were iron or steel truss bridges. Prior to that, the bridges were made of wood.



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- Grand River Conservation Authority
- Waterloo Region Museums
- Hamilton Art Gallery

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March Break Program registration - February 23
Spring Program registration - March 22

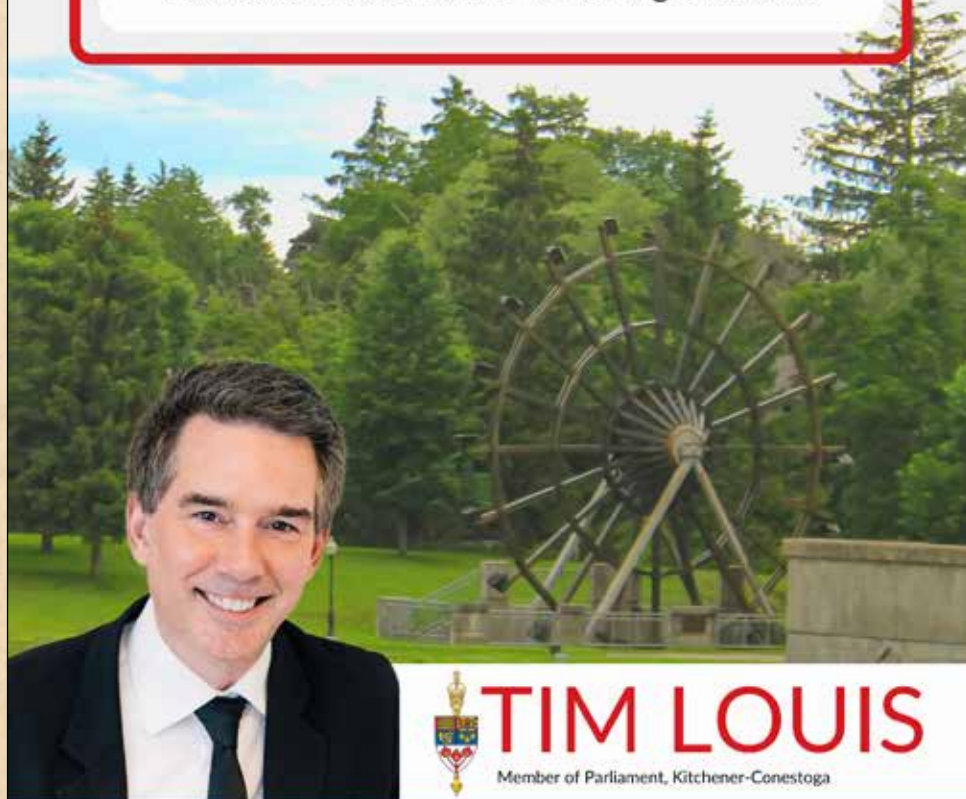
Visit RWLibrary.ca to reserve passes or browse and register for programs
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These bridges were examples of the technology that was available at the time. They provided a vital link on the Huron Road and served the transportation needs on this heritage highway that runs from Guelph to Goderich to this day.

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Member of Parliament, Kitchener-Conestoga

519-578-3777 | Tim.Louis@parl.gc.ca | TimLouisMP.ca | [@TimLouisKitCon](https://www.facebook.com/TimLouisKitCon)



This 1872 hotel was totally restored from 2014-2016 and now contains 12 elegant one-bedroom apartments for seniors; the main floor features commercial space for A Portuguesa Bakery, Peel Street Beverages [Brewery], Imperial Market & Eatery and Stonetown Travel.

Celebrating Castle Kilbride's 30th anniversary

By Sherri Gropp, Museum curator Castle Kilbride

The history of Castle Kilbride in the Township of Wilmot is one to celebrate. This year marks 30 years for Castle Kilbride as a museum. In honour of this milestone, we are looking at 30 things that have made Castle Kilbride an outstanding piece of Wilmot's heritage.

1. Castle Kilbride was built in 1877 by flax entrepreneur James Livingston for his family.
2. The Castle was home to the Livingston family for three generations from 1877 to 1988.
3. In 1988, a huge auction was held and the artifacts were scattered all across Canada.
4. Five years later, the Township of Wilmot purchased the Castle with the intention of finding a home for their administration and council needs.
5. Local carpenters at Herner Wood Products were tasked with replicating the detailed exterior wooden features.
6. On Sept. 25, 1994, the museum officially opened to public with much fanfare and excitement.
7. Chair of the museum's acquisitions subcommittee was successful in securing original Livingston artifacts. This included the Krug Library Set, Homer Watson's "Old Mill and Stream"



Castle Kilbride Museum Opening Day Sept. 25, 1994. Photo courtesy of Patty Clarke Collection

8. The Castle's most famous visitors: Wayne and Janet Gretzky checked out the museum in 1994.
9. Castle Kilbride is named a National Historic Site and the plaque is officially unveiled.
10. In 1999, the first Curator was hired for the museum. Until this point, it was led by a host of dedicated volunteers.
11. By 2000, many of the original

and the Livingston's floor lamp.

artifacts were returned to the Castle. All artifacts were numbered and catalogued to create the Castle Kilbride Collection.

12. In 2003, Parks Canada sends their experts to perform conservation work on the designated wall and ceiling murals.
13. A major donation of original artifacts including leather dining room chairs and original Livingston utensils returned to the museum.
14. Thousands of visitors descend on New Hamburg and Castle Kilbride for Harry Potterfest in July of 2007.
15. In August 2008, a "royal" wedding took place on the Castle Kilbride grounds when descendant Lindsay married Adam.
16. In 2010, the Livingston tradition of hosting music on the lawn was revived with the establishment of the Castle Concert Series.
17. Artist Lori LeMare is contracted for the first time to perform restoration work on the designated trompe l'oeil murals in 2013. Her first project is the conservation of the "statue".

18. In 2014, it was 150 years since James and John Livingston established the J&J Livingston business, manufacturers of flax and linseed oil.
19. The Castle Kilbride advisory committee publishes a new Castle Kilbride book in 2016.
20. The CBC/Netflix series Anne with an E turned Castle Kilbride into Aunt Josephine's mansion in 2017.
21. All of 2018 is dedicated to what would have been the 100th birthday of Laura Louise Livingston, who was born at Castle Kilbride May 24, 1918.
22. The second "royal" wedding for a Livingston descendant was held on the grounds when Laura wed Mike.
23. It was all about the Castle's silver anniversary in 2019.
24. A partnership with Ghost Walks offered new and unique tours of the Castle.
25. The museum was all set to open in March of 2020 when everything shut down at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
26. In the fall of 2020, an oilcloth floor was added to the hallway and main staircase of the home, replicating the material that James would have furnished it with in 1877.
27. A condensed mobile storage unit was installed to house the Castle Kilbride Collection in January 2022.
28. In 2023, the original Livingston grandfather clock was returned to the Castle.
29. Two film companies chose to feature Castle Kilbride: The Dickson & Bruce feature, "The Ghost and Castle Kilbride" and the CBC series, "Ghosting".
30. Castle Kilbride celebrates its 30th anniversary with a special exhibit co-curated with the Stratford Festival Archives called "Fabled."

Thank you for looking back at the past 30 years with Castle Kilbride. We are looking forward to the next major milestone in 2027, marking 150 years since the construction of Castle Kilbride.



Castle Kilbride's National Designation plaque unveiling in 1995. Photo courtesy of Castle Kilbride Collection

251 Huron Street, New Hamburg



This land was originally part of the Ray Baechler property (225 Huron Street) where his barn was located.

Ray sold the property to Ted Stock and in 1963 Ted built a new structure which housed a creamery to the rear and a Fattum's grocery store to the front..

During those years, Ray picked up and delivered eggs to Loblaw's and Dominion stores in Toronto.

In 1963, Ray sold his egg route and truck to Vernon Erb from a newspaper ad.

Later, Frank Erb and Merv Roth bought the property and turned it into an egg grading station, Erb's Eggs.

In 1987 fire destroyed the egg grading station and Erb's Eggs sold the business to LH Gray in Strathroy.

Merv Roth renovated the building and turned it into what it is now.

In 1993 Dr Betty Fretz remodeled the rear part to become an optometry office. And in 1994, Drs. Howard and Kim Dolman purchased the clinic.

Today, Drs. Howard & Kim Dolman continue to offer residents of the area "state of the art" eye care services.

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New Hamburg



Castle Kilbride Baden



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Restoring the Past!

The publications change, but the vision remains

By Paul Knowles

It's hard to believe, but it was almost four decades ago when I first walked into a crowded, smoke-filled newspaper office at 100 Huron St., New Hamburg. I arrived at the newspaper we affectionately called "The Indy" as interim editor – a short-term fill-in while the newspaper's owners, The Fairway Group, looked for a permanent editor.

They found one, and I went on my way until a few months later when the job again opened up and I was asked to fill in once again. I not only agreed, I applied for the full-time position and was hired as editor, soon adding the role of publisher. I spent the next decade in that job.

The late 1980s and 1990s were a time of great transition in the newspaper business – a transition that has continued right to this day. Those were the earliest days of computerization. The desks of the editorial staff held Sanyo computers, which used large, floppy disks. The evolution to Apple products had not yet happened.

Let's pause a moment and recall my introduction to the already experienced and talented staff at the Indy. There were three tasks covered by the team: front office (which was a lone receptionist/clerk/Jill-of-all-trades), editorial (editor and reporter/photographers) and advertising sales.

Ah, the advertising department. It was headed by a woman named Mary Riche, who detested me, her new boss, on sight.



The staff of the New Hamburg Independent circa 1993. Contributed photo

She thought I was an arrogant jerk. Fortunately, she changed her mind and a couple of years later, married me. Together, we led a fantastic team at the Indy until her untimely passing in November 1996. It's probably not surprising that I left the newspaper a few months later.

Mary and I were very proud of our enterprise. We were, in fact, a rogue entity in the Fairway Group world. The company, a subsidiary of The Record, owned and operated several city weeklies (Cambridge, Waterloo, Guelph and

eventually Kitchener), and three glossy magazines, including Exchange Magazine for Business. After leaving the Indy, I eventually became the part-time editor of Exchange, working with publisher Jon Rohr, for about 25 years!

The Independent was the only small-town publication and the only paid-subscription newspaper in the group. We were different.

But we were determined to thrive, and we did. Over the years, we created a number of additional products including a local phone book, a magazine originally known as "New Era" which eventually merged with Today's Seniors, and – appropriately enough considering the publication which includes this article – an annual Heritage Edition that won scads of national awards and, at its peak, numbered close to 100 pages. Eventually, between all our projects, our staff totalled 10 people, and our annual income topped seven figures. We had a great team, including some very fine reporters and a top-notch advertising staff that included Sharon Leis, now associated with the Gazette.

The day-to-day, week-to-week job was, quite simply, running as fine a local newspaper as we could. And no week was ever the same.

There were highs and lows, and both are seared into my memory. Perhaps the worst single moment, professionally, came the night when I managed to erase the entire newspaper just as we were finishing it.

In those early days, all the news stories, columns, obituaries and so on were stored on a floppy disk. The proposed layout of the newspaper was sketched out by hand on layout sheets, and I would drive the disk and the draft layouts to Fairway's head office in Kitchener. There, the production team would take over.

But one night, I hit the wrong button, or series of buttons, and managed to irrevocably erase all the editorial copy for that week's newspaper. I remember yelling very loud and impolite words as Mary and the others still in the office at that late hour rushed into my back office, wondering if I had suffered a horrendous injury. We had to rebuild the entire editorial section of the paper, and I am sure there

were potentially prize-winning articles lost in the disaster. But still, we published on schedule.

It was not many years later when the system completely changed – Mac computers, email and layout software programs meant the late-evening trip to Kitchener was no longer required, and the graphic artists who did our layout were relocated to the offices of the publications.

There were many memorable moments in my early years at the Indy. I have written a column of some kind or another for what feels like a century, starting at my first newspaper, The Tillsonburg News. So, when I came to the Indy, I immediately started writing a weekly opinion piece, often seasoned with what I saw as humour.

One week, I decided to employ irony – that particular column was a tongue-in-cheek comparison of the Mennonite Relief Sale and Oktoberfest. Now, you need to know that I really do not enjoy Oktoberfest, but I think the Relief Sale is a wonderful event, accomplishing all kinds of good things in terms of community spirit, relief and development funding.

But my ironic approach was to suggest that the Relief Sale would never be all it could be unless it took the same approach as Oktoberfest. I remember recommending the addition of a "Miss Third World Pageant" and a beer tent because, "You haven't really had a good time until someone has thrown up on your shoes."

I thought it was funny and it would be obvious I was dissing Oktoberfest and supporting the Relief Sale. Well, a fair number of local Relief Sale fans did not see it that way. Pastors arrived to sit in my office and chastise me, I was told there were prayer groups praying about this issue, my boss at Fairway was asked to remove me from my job, and I wrote a second column apologizing and trying to explain my attempt at humour.

Fortunately, the editor of a national publication called The Mennonite Reporter learned of the uproar, enjoyed the humorous slant of my original piece, and published an article about the whole thing, including my entire article. I felt somewhat vindicated – but I had also learned a lesson.

In those early days, letters to the editor did not arrive via email; they were on paper, delivered by snail mail, or dropped at our front desk. I have always loved letters to the editor. I think they are a strong indication of readership and interest in the newspaper. And if they disagreed with the paper, or with me as editor and publisher, that was fair game. But sometimes the writers crossed a line into slander, or they declined to sign their letters. One of my least-favourite duties was to decide which letters were unprintable for these reasons. There was one regular correspondent who was vicious in his comments about neighbours and was homophobic and profane. Most of his letters, which arrived scribbled in pencil on dirty scraps of paper, would never appear in print. But I kept them and others of that ilk, and when I eventually wrote two mystery novels involving a newspaper editor, I adapted them as excellent copy in my fictional accounts.

Continued on page 19

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More than half a million bucks!

The people of Wilmot township – with a little help from their friends – have now donated \$508,000 to the Campaign for Castle Kilbride. The fundraising drive began only last October, with the ultimate goal of raising \$1 million to restore and refurbish the Castle in Baden, which has been designated as a National Historic Site. Castle Kilbride will open to the public with a giant celebration, Sunday, September 25. The Corporate Fundraising Committee of the Friends of Castle Kilbride celebrated the milestone last week; shown, from left, are Friends of Castle Kilbride chairperson Paul Knowles, Dave Seyler, Mike Schout, Corporate chairperson Don Wagler, Mayor Lynn Myers, Dorene Rudy and John Hanson. (Photo by Kelly Daynard)

A photo of the Castle Kilbride fundraising group published in the New Hamburg Independent. Contributed photo

Continued from page 18

There were more serious issues, too. Newspapers have to cover the bad stuff, and nothing could have been worse than the murder of a woman by her estranged husband in a New Hamburg donut shop. That shook the entire community including the newspaper staffers who had to cover it.

Also very serious were the tragic automobile accidents that were an all too frequent occurrence. I eventually decided to cease publishing photos of those crashes because it was starting to feel like a perverse kind of voyeurism. I still don't know if that was the right answer from a journalistic perspective.

One moment that seemed very serious occurred when Mary was making a sales call at the township office, at that time located across Huron Street from our quarters. She walked into the office of the then-clerk and found him apparently dead at his desk. In a panic she ran to the front desk and told them what had happened.

"Oh, no, he's just napping," she was told. "He does that sometimes."

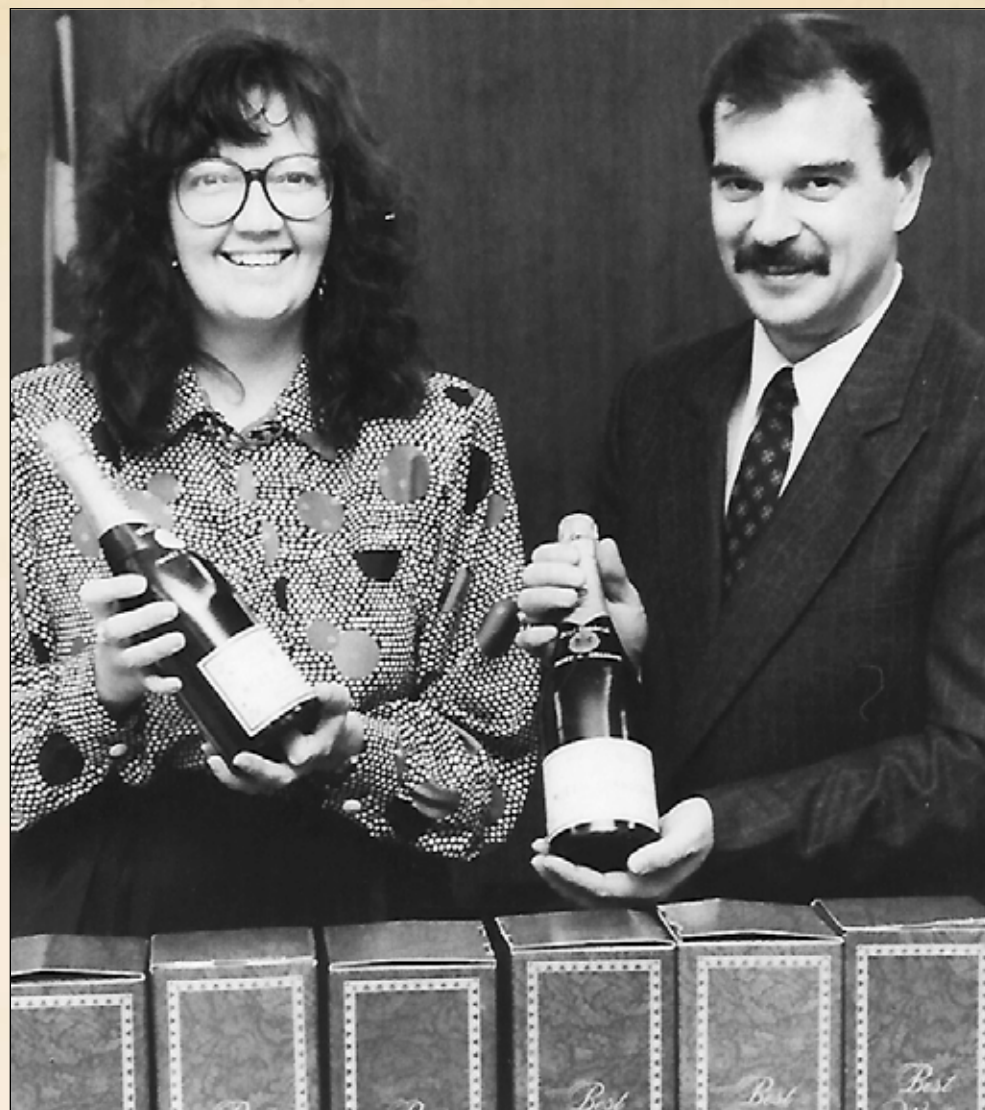
I have been grateful, from that time to this, that my stint at the Indy opened many doors to wonderful opportunities in this community. Because I was publisher of the local paper, I was part of the Board of Trade and was honoured to serve as

president for five years. I was invited to head the committee that raised funds to restore Castle Kilbride and, after working with a wonderful group of volunteers on that cause, became the founding chair of the board at the national historic site. Mary and I were invited to participate in a visit to Alsace, France, to celebrate that region's historic connections with Wilmot, and then we organized the return visit of about 30 folks from Alsace a year later.

As I mentioned, I left the Indy in 1997, though I continued to write a column (avoiding mention of the Relief Sale) for some years. I have lived in Wilmot from that day to this – and I have been saddened to see the decline of the newspaper I loved over the decades.

That's why I am thrilled Stewart Grant and his team have created this newspaper, the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette, and four other papers across southwestern Ontario. And I am even happier he invited me to write a weekly travel feature published in all the papers. I will soon reach a milestone – 150 consecutive travel features!

Stewart has the same vision that Mary and I shared to those many years ago. And through my travel stories – and an article like this – it feels so good to still be a part of a publication that carries this community close to its ink-stained heart.



A photo of Mary Knowles and New Hamburg Mayor Lynn Myers with champagne ready to greet the delegation from Alsace in 1992. Contributed photo

Tavistock Reflections.... Preserving Our Past



Photo by Lemp Studio Collection



40 Woodstock Street, South Tavistock

The Oxford Hotel opened in 1906 and replaced the Union Hotel which was built in the mid 1850's.

Today, the Tavistock Library is the tenant.

After extensive renovations they moved to this location in 2010.


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Steinmann Mennonite Church Marks 200 Years of Worship and Service



The Steinmann Mennonite Church congregation is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year. Photo by Galen Simmons

By Galen Simmons

In many ways, the Steinmann Mennonite Church congregation laid the foundation on which New Hamburg, Baden and Wilmot Township as a whole was built.

This year, the congregation is marking a milestone many rural congregations don't see - 200 continuous years of worship, service to the community and fellowship.

"In 1824, (Amish settlers) established the church here," said Brandon Gingerich, the congregation's resident history expert whose family has been part of the church's history going back almost as far as the congregation itself. "The actual church building wasn't built for almost 60 years. Most settlers would have met (for worship) in houses for the first 60 years."

The congregation was first established by Christian Steinmann, who was previously ordained in Europe by Amish pastors from Pennsylvania. He brought his family from Bavaria to Canada as part of a significant Amish-Mennonite migration from Europe to what became Wilmot Township.

After 60 years of meeting in households, the congregation built its first meeting house - a simple, white frame structure with space for horse and buggies out front - in 1884.

"People would have come from as far as Punkydoodle's Corner and St. Agatha. They would have walked (or travelled by horse and buggy) here to this area before other congregations and churches were built in those areas," Gingerich said.

The current church building where it stands today at the corner of Snyder's Road West and Nafziger Road was built in 1947 on land donated by Daniel Steinmann that was originally settled by his ancestor, Christian Steinmann, after he and his family arrived in Canada. In 1975, the congregation added a new wing onto the church which initially housed Sunday school classes and today is home to church offices and meeting spaces. In 2007, the congregation built a second addition, a large fellowship hall for both church and community programming and

events.

"That was a big shift, I think, for our church to try and go beyond a building for the congregation to a building for the community," Gingerich said. "We envisioned it as a space we would use, but we didn't want it to sit still from Monday to Saturday. We wanted it used for blood-donor clinics, girls' camps, basketball practices, pickleball, you name it. It's always got something happening."

While today's Steinmann Mennonite Church congregation looks very different than the Amish settlers who established it in 1824, those values of putting community first and welcoming newcomers with open arms and a warm embrace are still very much at the heart of what the congregation holds dear.

"We were formed from refugees; people fleeing persecution in Europe coming here for freedom. That's always been something that we hold close to our heart," Gingerich said. "In 1979, welcomed our first Hmong refugees from southeast Asia, and they're now a growing community in Kitchener now. We've since sponsored refugees from Lebanon and most recently Syrian families in concert with other local communities."

Just as it has been for the last 200 years, the Steinmann's Mennonite Church congregation is dedicated to sharing its gifts of people, spaces and fellowship with all who need it. The congregation is celebrating that legacy of sharing gifts with a whole host of 200th anniversary events throughout 2024.

They include displays of historical church artifacts, and anabaptist history worship series, efforts to strengthen ties and understanding with local Indigenous communities, an Amish-beard-growing challenge and, to cap it all off, a massive Wilmot-area Mennonite church choral concert in December where Mennonite church choirs from far and wide will meet in Wilmot to make music together.

To keep up with the 200th anniversary events and happenings at Steinmann Mennonite Church, visit smchurch.ca.

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*Trivia: In Canada. Only one cheese producer makes Limburger Cheese,
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Ernie Ritz: A legend in local community news

By Galen Simmons

At the tail end of his 99th year, New Hamburg's Ernie Ritz remembers his career as a printing-savant-turned-newspaper man like it was yesterday.

Some might say Ritz was born into the business of community news. When he was young, the New Hamburg Independent – a once thriving community newspaper at the heart of local politics, sports and events – was owned and operated by Ritz's uncle, but the business had been in his family for generations before that.

"The newspaper started in 1855," Ritz told the Gazette in a recent interview. "It was sort of a rebuttal to an existing, little publication in New Hamburg at that time. It was called The Beobachter – that's a German word for The Observer. ... That May, my ancestors came from Bavaria and there was a 14-year-old Jacob in the family. He was looking for work and he was able to speak both German and English. They were looking for someone who could handle both languages and he started as a typesetter. That was our family's connection with the printing business."

The Beobachter was bought out four or five years later by a man who turned out to be a charlatan, ran the paper for several more years before skipping town overnight to escape the business debt he'd accrued. A prosperous local businessman, Samuel Merner, had guaranteed payment to the vendors of the newspaper and wound up taking ownership of it so he could get it back up and running to pay his vendors what they were owed.

In 1878, after a few decades running a successful German-language paper, Merner ran for a seat in Parliament as an independent.

"They needed a campaign newspaper and that's when the New Hamburg Independent started, and it was printed in my ancestors' print shop," Ritz said, smiling.

While Ritz was familiar with the printing side of the business as a young person when his uncles ran the newspaper and his father, before he passed, was their line type operator for a brief time, he didn't start his career as a printer until after he came home from his service with the Royal Canadian Airforce in the Second World War.

"I had decided, at the urging of my older brother, I should go into the printing business in order to become a printer and learn ... (to) run a printing press. And I did," Ritz said.

"When I came out of the air force, we had a process where ...

we had to have an interview with a personnel counsellor. The personnel counsellor that I had at the time was a flight lieutenant and I said, 'I want to do a printing course.' He said, 'I'm sorry to say there are not courses available in Canada at the moment.' ... But he said, 'I have a friend who's in the printing business here in Toronto. They are a very progressive firm, they do experimental work and they are more oriented toward technology than they are toward service. I want you to go and talk to them.'"

So that very same day, which happened to be Victory in Europe Day (May 8, 1945), Ritz made his way to that printing shop and launched a career that would set him on a path back to the newspaper his family helped establish so many decades prior.

Before he got there however, Ritz mastered the latest in printing technology during a two-year stint at the printing business in Toronto before eventually moving on to operate the hand-fed printing press at the Kitchener-Waterloo Record newspaper. While Ritz was working at the record, one of his uncles died suddenly in 1950 and Ritz found himself running the New Hamburg Independent with his other uncle and his brother.

"I made all the improvements I could over the years based on my (printing) experience and tried to get rid of some of the primitive practices. I also had to take over a portion of the business management," Ritz said, noting the business side of the Independent wasn't something he had much experience with. "You learn, you lose a few accounts receivable here and there."

Reporting the news was another part of the business Ritz hadn't done much of prior to taking ownership of the Independent. As an active member of and volunteer in the New Hamburg community, oftentimes Ritz found himself reporting on the activities of friends and neighbours and, in some cases, he became the story he was meant to report.

Around the time he took ownership of the paper, Ritz said he attended a local nomination meeting at which members of the community would nominate those they wished to serve on council. Though Ritz had only gone to the meeting to report on its results, he quickly found himself thrust into a political career that would ultimately see him elected as both Reeve of New Hamburg and then Mayor of Wilmot Township.

"The public was invited to come participate in their government and make their nominations for who they'd like to see on



About to turn 99 in April, Ernie Ritz recently sat down with the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette to recall his time as a local newsman at the helm of the New Hamburg Independent. Photo by Galen Simmons

council," Ritz said. " ... Members of the public would look around and fill out nomination papers. ... Sometimes they'd ask (nominees) and sometimes they wouldn't. Of course, I was sitting there and they were getting a little desperate one year. It was the first year I was home, actually, a few months after I'd come back to New Hamburg.

"I was nominated to council."

After he accepted the nomination, Ritz was acclaimed as a town councillor as there were only four candidates and four seats on council. Ritz was acclaimed again when it came time to elect a new council, but after that, he vowed that he wouldn't continue to sit on council unless there was an election. He needed to know whether the people wanted him to serve or not.

Apparently they did because he was elected for a third term.

"And that created problems," Ritz said of having to report on council while serving as a councillor. "I had to learn something about objectivity."

After serving a third year as councillor, Ritz opted to step back from political life for a time to focus on his work at the Independent.

Another instance when the people who write the news became the front-page story was when the New Hamburg Independent office burned down in July 1959, killing four people living in the apartment above it. At the time, Ritz was on vacation with his family in Cornwall and only heard news of the fire over the radio. He quickly drove home to assess the damage.

"The central part of building had been gutted up to the third floor, but our business was at the end, so we had no fire damage, but the smoke and water damage was horrible. It would have been better if the whole place had

been burned and we could start over," Ritz said.

"It turned out that our insurance wasn't up to what it should have been, but fortunately we had business-interruption insurance, and that helped save the day. We struggled through for two or three years, but we decided it was time not to operate in a rented (printing) facility. We built our own plant. My brother and I managed to get financial help and put up a building of our own on my brother's lot. I drew up the plans for a printing plant I thought would be adequate. The building is still there and it's still called Ritz Printing after several successive owners."

And while the commercial printing business continued, Ritz said the technology used to print newspapers was changing rapidly in the 1960s. While Ritz and a group of other weekly newspaper owners tried to secure financing to establish a central newspaper-printing plant with an offset press, they were unable to find the backing they needed, and Ritz ultimately took his newspaper-printing needs to the offset press at the Goderich Signal Star.

"We had all kinds of technical problems (in New Hamburg) with ancient equipment and stuff that had been resuscitated after the fire," Ritz said. "It turned out, we did the front-end stuff, we did the setup, I ran the darkroom among other things, and the platemaking, and we took the plates and drove them to Goderich. It turned out, rather unfortunately, that the time slot we had was 11:45 p.m. So, there I go. I put the plates in the car and head to Goderich. Fortunately, it only took a little over an hour from the time we put the plates on the press to when we could put the papers in the car and drive home.

" ... It was a bit of a challenge

on a wintery night. ... I remember coming home one night in a driving snowstorm. Nobody had been on the road and all I could see was the telephone poles."

That arrangement only lasted between eight and 12 weeks before an offer to purchase the Independent came in from the Kitchener-Waterloo Record in 1967. Exhausted from late nights driving to and from Goderich in blinding snowstorms, Ritz, his brother and his uncle accepted the offer.

That offer, however, came with a clause that Ritz could not work or write for any newspaper within 40 miles of New Hamburg for the next decade, so Ritz stepped away from the newspaper game and focused his efforts on building up his commercial-printing business.

But that departure from community news didn't last forever.

"There was a period of time when I was really happy that I didn't have to pick up the editorial pen, but you know, it gets into the system and you start reading stuff that other people have written. 'I think I could have done better than that,' Ritz laughed. " ... There was a time here a few years ago when we were not happy with the Independent content. We didn't feel like they were covering New Hamburg as well as they should, and they shut down their local office and operated remotely.

"There were two or three of us with some newspaper sensibility ... we got together and said, 'We should buy the Independent.'"

While that idea never came to fruition, Ritz and publisher Stewart Grant of Grant Haven Media launched the Wilmot Post, which was then merged with the Tavistock Gazette to become the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette.

Wanting to stay involved, Ritz started writing a column he dubbed "Perspectives" for the Gazette until, at age 97, he began experiencing symptoms macular degeneration, making it difficult to read text on the computer, so he made the difficult decision to write his last column.

"It was very dramatic. I started out by talking about the train coming into the station and the boat pulling up to the dock at the then of a journey; the aircraft pulling up to the terminal. So too, my writing comes to an end," Ritz recalled. " ... When I finally decided I just couldn't do this anymore, I felt it would impact my ability to meet deadlines, and I sure hated that. I was always wishing to be very punctual about that.

" ... I used to brag about being Canada's oldest, weekly columnist. I don't know if I was or not."

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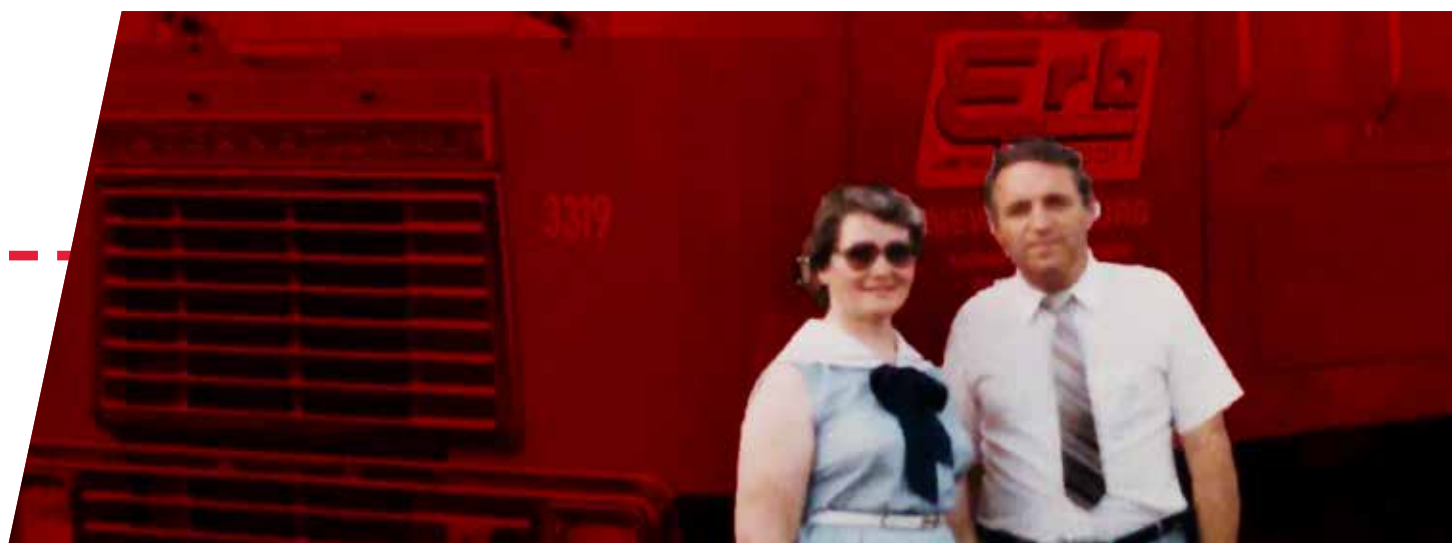


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New Hamburg's historic Imperial Hotel finds new life as seniors' housing

By Galen Simmons and Marie Voisin

Once a thriving hotel that temporarily housed many of the workers who came to work in New Hamburg's factories and mills until they found homes for their families at the end of the 19th century, the historic Imperial Hotel has recently undergone a revival to become attractive housing for active seniors looking to live at the beating heart of their community.

Marie Voisin is the woman responsible for this recent transformation. Thanks to her love of history and experience restoring older homes, Voisin has managed to return the once-proud hotel to its former glory.

"I took on this project for a variety of reasons. I had come to know many widows and widowers who owned houses in the community. These individuals wanted to sell their homes and move into apartments, but there were no apartments in the downtown core. I thought The Imperial would be perfect for them because of its location," Voisin said.

"I wanted to create a beautiful living space so they could enjoy this chapter in their lives. I have restored over four houses to date and the potential to rejuvenate a large building seemed perfect. I tried my best to recapture the original elements of the building and preserve details that had been lost – both in the interior and exterior of the building. History is important to me. The finished building gave new life to this corner of downtown New Hamburg."

John and Fanny Jackson first built The Imperial Hotel in 1872. It was a two-storey-yellow brick structure with an attached livery. A third floor was added to the hotel in 1902 by its sixth owner, John Buckel Jr., who used a different shade of yellow brick. In 1907 and 1908, Buckel added a first-floor addition to the rear of the building and redecorated the entire hotel.

The hotel was used primarily for lodging of commercial travelers. New Hamburg had become a growing village with many industries and men came to town for jobs in the factories and mills, often staying in the hotel until they found a house they could rent for their family.

As the industrial boom began to wane, The Imperial Hotel's business also began to decline. The need for ammunition and



A photo of the Imperial Hotel circa 1908. This photo, restored by Mark Pfaff, was the basis of Marie Voisin's exterior restoration work. Contributed photo

wheat diminished after the First World War and prohibition in 1919 was the final blow. The third floor was closed off; a few lights on cords hung from ceilings and a rusty wood stove sat at the end of a hallway. There was never indoor plumbing or central heating on this floor.

The second floor of the hotel was used less often in the ensuing years. More electric lights were evident and quasi-central heating was added. The owners of the hotel lived on the second floor until the late 1980s. Prior to Voisin taking on ownership of the hotel in 2014, no tenants lived in the hotel after 1990. Only the tavern on the first floor was in operation and the name of the hotel was changed to Eddy's Tavern in 1982.

Aside from being a hotel and a tavern, the front portion of the hotel facing Huron Street housed a number of commercial businesses between 1872 and 1900 including a hardware store, a liquor store, a shoe store, a bank, a grocery store, a tailor shop, a printing shop, an early library, and a meat store and butcher shop. Additionally, from 1901 to 2014, the space housed another butcher shop, a barber shop and billiard hall, a millinery shop, a jewellery store, a men's clothing store, an electrical-appliance store and another grocery store.

In May 2014, Voisin became the 17th owner and changed the name back to The Imperial. She removed all the debris,

ceilings, walls and floors from the building and discovered the quality of workmanship was disturbingly poor.

She reinforced the existing structure through the addition of a new steel structure. The new structure of 13 columns was threaded through the building from the roof to the basement. Over 25 steel beams were welded to the columns throughout each floor. The former livery and an old kitchen were removed to make way for an addition. All windows were replaced with high-quality, aluminum-clad windows. Several layers of paint were chemically removed from the bricks, more than 10,000 bricks were replaced, all the bricks were repointed, and original rotted wood

sills were replaced with limestone sills.

The Imperial was transformed into apartments for active seniors who wanted to live downtown close to amenities. These seniors sold their large homes, moved into the centre of New Hamburg so they could walk to their favourite places.

Gone are the tiny hotel rooms on the second and third floors. They have been transformed into 12 luxury one-bedroom apartments with wood floors, high ceilings, crystal chandeliers, large windows and original trim. Each apartment is self-contained with a full kitchen, furnace, air conditioner, water heater, and washer and dryer. They range in size from 730 to 1,029 square feet. An all-season sunroom on the second floor and an outdoor terrace on the third floor were also added.

The main floor of the hotel was refurbished to accommodate The Imperial Market and Eatery, The Peel Street Brewery, a Portuguesa Bakery and Stonetown Travel.

"Community support was apparent during and after the restoration," Voisin said. "I provided tours during the rebuild and wrote a blog each week about what was occurring in the building. I had no trouble finding tenants. In fact, I always have a waiting list of 21 names when an apartment becomes available."

The Imperial is once again offering accommodation in the downtown core to its citizens, only this time to the seniors, some of whom are the descendants of New Hamburg's early residents who may have stayed in the building when it was a hotel.



A photo of the Imperial Hotel in its heyday in the 1880s. Contributed photo

South Easthope's Evangelical United Church still standing since 1800s

By Gary West

The history of South Easthope Township in Perth County saw many churches and schools built on many corners that were accessible by horse and buggy since farmers and residents in the area didn't have automobiles or tractors until the 1930s and 1940s.

Like many smaller churches in the area, this church had a humble beginning with people in the area feeling a real need for a place to worship together.

It was noted in the church's history that in 1941, during a storm, the spire of the church was struck by lightning, and because of

extensive damage, the congregation decided to dismantle it. That's the reason for an absence of a spire to this day.

Taken from the History of South Easthope in the "Country Roads" history book, the congregation began as part of a circuit from Waterloo and Berlin. Bishop John Siebert had arrived from the United States to attend a camp meeting in 1839 near Waterloo, and Evangelism came to Canada.

The congregation became known as the South Easthope Evangelical Church. Some of the early family names included Herlick, Faulhafer and Otto, whose families still

remain in the area today.

This circuit included the Lingelbach congregation, located east of Shakespeare, where the church still stands today on Highway 7 and 8.

Both churches do not hold services any more, but families from both had their memberships transferred to Grace United Church in Tavistock, which still holds weekly services to this day.

Pictured is the South Easthope Evangelical United Church, which still stands today on Perth Line 33, also known as Pork Street, northwest of Tavistock. Photo by Gary West



SPORTS —

Royals win on the road but lose at home to start OEHHL playoffs

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Tavistock had a golden opportunity to take a 2-0 lead at home in their first-round Ontario Elite Hockey League playoff series on Sunday afternoon, but dropped a 3-2 decision in overtime to Durham.

Riley O'Connell scored his second goal of the game with just under four minutes left in the extra period while Tristan Hohl was serving an unsportsmanlike penalty. The frustrated Royals were hit with three minor penalties in overtime leading to some frustration. Tavistock trailed 2-1 in the third before Geoff Killing tied it up. Drew Gerth

gave the Royals a 1-0 lead late in the first period before the Thundercats scored two in a row.

In game one on Friday night in Durham, the Royals came away with a 3-2 victory. Erik Robichaud netted the game-winner early in the third period on an unassisted marker. Lucas Bast and Devin Kropf also scored for Tavistock who were outshot 39-33. Jensen Van Boekel earned the win between the pipes.

Game three is set for Friday in Durham at 8:30 p.m. and game four will be played in Tavistock on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.



Erik Robichaud scored the game-winning goal in Durham on Friday night. Contributed photo

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

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Ripley Wolves	22	18	4	3	39
Minto 81's	22	15	7	1	31
Creemore Coyotes	22	14	8	2	30
Tavistock Royals	22	14	8	1	29
Saugeen Shores Winterhawks	22	13	9	1	27
Durham Thundercats	22	13	9	1	27
Seaforth Centenaires	22	12	10	1	25
Georgian Bay Applekings	22	7	15	2	16
Erin Outlaws	22	6	16	1	13
Milverton Four Wheel Drivers	21	5	16	1	11
Lucknow Lancers	21	3	18	1	7

Tavistock Royals 2023-24 Point Leaders

PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Sean Kienapple	F	19	14	15	29
Drew Gerth	F	21	11	9	20
Trevor Sauder	F	18	7	10	17
Deven Kropf	F	20	4	13	17
Sean Leslie	F	21	5	8	13
Collin Hartwick	F	14	6	6	12
Jeremy Munro	F	20	8	4	12
Erik Robichaud	F	8	4	7	11
Lucas Bast	D	18	4	7	11
Adam Barr	F	16	2	8	10
Mike Noyes	D	17	3	7	10
Matt Zilke	F	17	6	3	9
Cam Leslie	D	22	2	7	9
Greg Noyes	D	18	3	5	8
Callan Christner	F	19	4	3	7
Mitch Facey	F	14	2	5	7
Jon Jutzi	D	8	0	4	4
Patrick Vulgan	F	2	1	2	3
Geoff Killing	D	8	1	1	2
Tristan Hohl	D	19	1	1	2
Chad McIntosh	F	9	0	1	1
Reid Ramseyer	D	13	0	1	1
Graham Kitching	F	5	0	0	0
Zach Mark	F	5	0	0	0
Samson Walsom	D	11	0	0	0

Doherty Division's newest team livid about mandated move

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) has announced changes to its divisional structure for the 2024-2025 season. A new franchise, the Muskoka Bears, has joined the Carruthers Division in the North Conference forcing division realignment to balance the number of teams.

What that means locally is the Dorchester Dolphins will be joining the Doherty Division in the fall to play against Tavistock, New Hamburg, Wellesley, Woodstock, Norwich, Paris and Hespeler.

PJHL commissioner Terrence Whiteside said he's excited for new rivalries to be born and hopes the moves foster a high level of competition between teams.

"We have discussed alignment for a couple of years trying to find a competitive balance of seven or eight teams in each division," said Whiteside. "It allows for better scheduling balance and for all teams to play a similar playoff path to get to the Schmalz Cup. We are hopeful that our changes in alignment will create some new rivalries and opportunities for balance within the divisions."

Reaction from the Dolphins community has been swift and negative, illustrated

by an anonymous post on the team's Facebook page that didn't hold back any punches.

"With this change, the league has put players in a position that most came to the Dolphins and the PJHL to avoid, which is extensive travel and time commitment as most of our players attend Western, Fanshawe and/or work full-time jobs. Due to this, with our current roster, 63.63 per cent of players live in or around central London."

The Gazette reached out to general manager Mark Steele several days ago but did not hear back as of press time. A group called the Dolphins Player Group has started a petition on change.org asking for the PJHL to "put a stop to this and let us focus on the game we love playing in front of a town we love playing for." To date, the goal of 1,000 signatures has almost been met.

Whiteside disagrees the extra travel will pose a hardship on the team's players, especially when you take into consideration what some others go through.

"Their time commitment is nowhere near what most players in our league commit to. Not even close. To use that is not accurate."

He added the furthest trip from Dorchester

would be an hour to Wellesley or Hespeler, far from something substantial.

"If you look at any other division, say Caledon to Huntsville. It's over three hours on a bus and has been happening for years. Schomberg to Huntsville, Kincardine to Fergus, nearly two hours. The Doherty and the Yeck have the least amount of travel."

The Facebook statement added "The Dolphins have been a part of the Yeck division predating the conglomeration that created what we now know as the PJHL. Over decades, generations of Dolphins have poured literal blood, sweat and tears into building entertaining and competitive rivalries with our divisional peers. Now the league wants to scrap it all."

The PJHL has been discussing realignment for about two years over a series of meetings, and the league said the reason for it is to achieve more of a competitive balance, a balance of schedules, and create the right scenario for all teams to be treated fairly.

"There are divisions with nine teams, so some don't make the playoffs, then we have the Todd Division with only six teams. The idea was to balance the divisions with seven or eight teams," explained Whiteside.

SPORTS —

PJHL Roundup

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Firebirds take over Doherty Division lead

Woodstock's season-long stranglehold on first place ended Friday night as the Navy Vets dropped a 5-1 decision in New Hamburg.

Tyler Reid gave the Firebirds a 1-0 lead with the first period's only goal before Nolan Brett tied it nine minutes into the second frame. That's when New Hamburg exploded for four straight markers to earn two points and move one point up on Woodstock. Owen Fischer, Josh Soulliere, Justin McManus and Jake Thompson found the back of the net as the Firebirds outshot their guests 41 to 32.

On Saturday, New Hamburg made it 11 straight games without a loss with a hard-fought 3-2 victory in Wellesley. After two scoreless periods, Ken Harron made it 1-0 for the Applejacks but Keegan Metcalf and Jake Thompson scored less than two minutes apart to give the Firebirds a 2-1 lead.

Connor Doerbecker tied it up, setting the stage for Thompson's game-winner goal with just one second left in the third period, his 20th of the campaign.

Wellesley hosted Hespeler on Friday night and earned two points with a 6-1 win. Isiah Katsube and Doerbecker led the Applejacks attack with a pair of goals each with singles going to Kaelan McDougald, and Jake L'Heureux. 19 minor penalties were called as Wellesley went 2 for 8 on the powerplay.

Disappointing stretch for Braves

Tavistock skated into Wellesley Tuesday night to play a rescheduled game and dropped a 3-2 decision to the Applejacks. The Braves have now lost two of their last three games. Dimitri Elefthereriadis scored twice for Wellesley with a single marker from Eric Lacey. Ryan Suljack and Nicholas Hambly replied for Tavistock.

Tavistock hosted Norwich on Friday night and lost 4-1 to the Merchants. Daniel Tremblay scored the only goal for the

Braves. They did bounce back on Saturday with a 3-2 win in Paris over the Titans. Stephen Peppas scored twice while Trent Davies added a single to give Tavistock a 3-0 lead after 40 minutes. Paris scored the only goals of the third as the Braves held on for the win.

	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
New Hamburg Firebirds	38	29	7	2	0	60
Woodstock Navy Vets	38	28	7	3	0	59
Tavistock Braves	37	22	12	1	2	47
Norwich Merchants	38	16	16	5	1	38
Wellesley Applejacks	36	16	19	1	0	33
Hespeler Shamrocks	38	10	26	2	0	22
Paris Titans	37	8	26	2	1	19

PJHL - South Doherty Division 2023-24 Point Leaders

Team	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
WNV	Davin Gray	F	38	16	43	59
NHF	Owen Fischer	F	36	31	24	55
WNV	Nolan Brett	F	37	25	26	51
HES	Boden White	F	32	19	26	45
NHF	Tyler Reid	D	35	15	26	41
NHF	Jake Thompson	F	35	20	19	39
NHF	Owen Bruder	F	35	17	20	37
HES	Jack Restauri	F	38	12	25	37
WNV	Ethan Szabo	F	32	13	23	36
TAV	Nicolas Thibodeau	F	37	13	19	32
NOR	Joel Storoschuk	F	35	16	16	32
TAV	Stephen Peppas	F	34	15	15	30
WNV	Brodie Kearns	F	30	8	21	29
NOR	Malcom Scott	F	35	14	15	29
WNV	Tyler Smeda	D	38	10	18	28
NHF	Matt Domm	D	32	5	23	28
NHF	Owen Sculthorp	F	18	8	20	28
WNV	Chris Coulter	D	31	12	15	27
TAV	Ian Glendinning	F	37	10	17	27
NOR	Brandon Balazs	F	30	14	13	27
WEL	Connor Doerbecker	F	22	16	10	26
TAV	Jacob Reid-Brant	F	36	10	16	26
HES	Andrew Harris	F	35	15	11	26
WNV	Ty Crombie	D	30	10	14	24
NHF	Antonio Pasqualino	F	31	5	19	24

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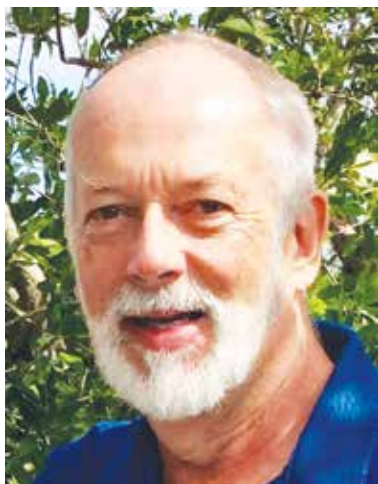
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: An underappreciated day-trip destination



By Paul Knowles

Once upon a time, a company called Gooderham & Worts was the largest distillery in the world, and the largest corporate taxpayer in Canada. The company was founded in 1832, and by the time the twentieth century dawned, the Toronto-based distillery complex covered 13 acres and included more than 40 buildings.

Today, Gooderham & Worts exists only as a brand name owned by another, international company. By the end of the 20th century, though the Gooderham & Worts property had been designated a national historic site in 1988, it was a collection of derelict buildings.

But no more. Just over 20 years ago, the Distillery Historic District was opened as a centre for arts, culture, entertainment, dining and boutique shops. Today, it's perhaps best known for its Christmas Market, but the district is actually a great place to visit 364 days a year (it closes only for Christmas day).

I wandered through the district earlier this month. To say it was not busy would be an exaggeration. But while visitors were a bit thin on the ground, the shops and attractions were open and welcoming.

It's perhaps not surprising that

February is a slower time for a district that requires visitors to walk outside to get from building to building. But even the summer months don't present the challenge of fighting through crowds, partly because the site is so large and partly because the Distillery Historic District is less well known than it deserves to be.

And that's why I am telling you about it.

The folks who reclaimed and reimagined the district have done an incredible job. Walking along the pedestrian-only streets with names like Distillery Lane, Tank House Lane, and Gristmill Lane, you are transported back to the Victorian era of solid, red-brick industrial structures. It feels like a highly authentic movie set.

Inside the shops, restaurants and entertainment venues, heritage is married with modern design to delightful results.

The district boasts dozens of businesses. There are more than 40 boutiques alone, ranging in size from the tiny British shop, "The Queen's Trunk," to the large and quirky Bergo Designs. Entertainment venues include the Young Centre for the Performing Arts and Illuminarium (a fully-immersive experience). There is a full menu of options for good places to eat and drink.

And yes, while Gooderham & Worts is no longer in the building, there is a distillery in there and it's a happening place – The Spirit of York. Never one to bypass a distillery, I popped in unannounced and asked if I could take a photo or two. That led to a warm conversation with general manager Ray Zwicker.

Ray told me the place has taken on new life in the past few months. Many of the staff – including Ray – have joined the enterprise since last fall, and they have initiated a lot of

programs based in their distillery. Twice a week, they hold gin-making classes where people learn to combine their own mix of botanicals to produce a unique, personal gin. They also host cocktail workshops, offer tasting tours on the weekends, and present a monthly concert series.

The Spirit of York distillery makes vodka, gin, aquavit and whisky all on site, and all from 100 per-cent Ontario rye. Zwicker told me that makes the product very special because most distilleries use a grain blend.

Then he uttered the magic words, "Would you like a tasting?" I can tell you the vodka was smooth and soft – a delightful spirit, unlike many harsher vodkas – and the whisky was very tasty, aged in oak. I'd recommend both.

I thanked Zwicker and continued my exploration of the Distillery District. The place has several coffee shops. I met a travel-writing colleague at the Stage Door Café – part of the Young Centre for the Performing Arts – and enjoyed a conversation and a creamy cappuccino. The reason I was in the district in the first place was to attend a tourism-media function that evening hosted by the state of Colorado at the Mill Street Brewpub.

While the streets of the district may have seemed underpopulated, the brewpub was not. It was a happening place – and this is only one of a huge selection of pubs and restaurants in the district.

The British newspaper, The Guardian, has called the district "one of the coolest shopping districts around the world." The goal of the team that transformed an abandoned distillery complex into the destination it has become was "to create a place that would excite

and inspire the senses where people could experience new ideas, new foods, new designs and new ways of living and working." Their vision "was to provide a place where creativity would flourish and passion would be aroused."

I admit that sounds rather over the top, but having spent an afternoon in the Distillery District, it's also spot on. The dis-

trict is exciting and relaxing at the same time. This is a seldom-thought-of destination that is definitely worth the day trip to Toronto.

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.



The Spirit of York carries on the Gooderham & Worts tradition. Photos by Paul Knowles



The finished product of the Spirit of York distillery.



The dozens of eclectic and welcoming boutiques, bars, restaurants and entertainment venues in the Distillery District are all housed in buildings once part of the Gooderham & Worts distillery complex.



A work of art entirely made from hundreds of small locks.

REVIEW —

Oxford County Library book review

Noopiming: The Cure for White Ladies by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

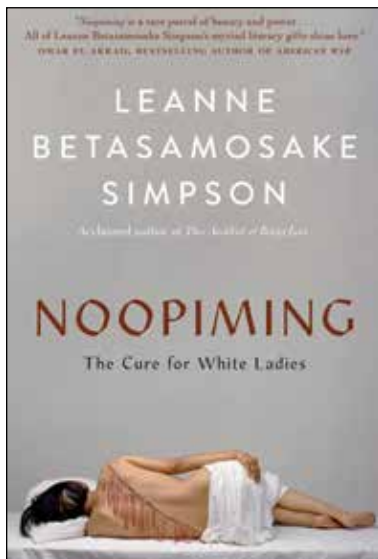
By Amy Coles, Oxford County Library

For those wanting a slightly more complex read, this book blends a wide mesh of characters, their deep communal scars, their ridiculous outlooks, their earnest individualism, and their search for identity and selfhood with seamless grace.

The story follows Mashkawaji, someone who lies frozen somewhere between life and death, in a lake. Or rather, the story follows the wide cast of characters that Mashkawaji uses as catalysts for themselves, like the old man Akiwenzii who is Mashkawaji's will, or Lucy who is Mashkawaji's brain.

Each new chapter tells how each character, each aspect of the frozen narrator, attempts and fails to navigate and integrate into the colonial world of logos on bandages and mugs and sweaters, and then attempts and fails to connect with the natural world because every remaining pocket of it is controlled and owned.

The wide cast of characters and unique style of the prose may be daunting at first. The word "experimental" can be a scary one to some but, with only a little bit of time, readers will get the flow of the novel's style even when the prose indicates it's moving and not going to hold your hand so you can keep up.



Readers will find a rapidly engrossing story within that will make them reconsider their assumptions about the world. The many characters that make up Mashkawaji feel so real it's almost a violent experience to read their joys and sorrows, and their community and frustrations therein. The author has an immense presence within the story that is impossible to ignore, and similarly impossible not to engage with.

Gazette Puzzles

Small Town Treasures: Heritage Word Hunt

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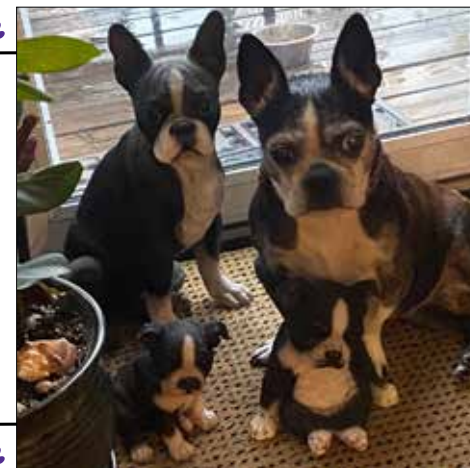
Pet of the Week



ELLA

Only one is real. Can you guess which one? Ella seems to think that her place is among the other Boston terriers taking up space in her house. Ella is 13 years old and has always been sweet tempered, loving and very loved. She is quiet and readily accepts all the other animals in her home, even live ones.

Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing info@wilmotpost.ca



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FEATURE —

Wellington County family offering local farmers a chance to make cheese out of excess milk

By Gary West

A Wellington County family is offering local dairy farmers a chance to use their extra milk to make cheese.

Farmers Cheese Inc. is a mobile cheese-making business operated by Maynard Martin from his home near Drayton. After seeing dairy farmers being forced to throw away any of the milk they produced beyond their allotted Dairy Farmers of Ontario quota, Martin launched the business that helps dairy farmers, including those in Perth and Oxford counties, turn that extra milk into cheese either for their own consumption or to give away to friends and neighbours, but not to sell.

They make cheddar cheese from their three mobile cheese-making trailers, each of which can be taken onsite to any local dairy farm to produce fresh cheese daily.

All dairy farmers in Ontario own a milk quota and sometimes, since it's hard to stem the flow of milk from a producing animal, overshooting that quota can be a regular occurrence. Rather than disposing of or dumping the milk, they call on Martin and his family to process it into cheese.

Martin says he started the business more

than a decade ago. His wife and son now work alongside him, both running their own mobile cheese-making trailers during the business' busy times at the end of the month when dairy farmers are trying to figure how much milk they are over quota.

"The areas of Waterloo, Wellington, Perth and Oxford are by far my busiest areas since this is the area where dairy animals are most prevalent," he said.

Recently, Farmers Cheese Inc. was at Elhaven Farms in South Easthope Township south of Stratford where the Meadows family milks roughly 100 Holstein dairy cows. They regularly call on Farmers Cheese Inc. to help turn 1,000 litres of extra milk produced that very morning into roughly 250 lbs of cheddar cheese.

Smaller dairy operations, including those that milk goats, sheep or water buffalo, usually only make batches from 500 litres. The higher the butterfat percentage in the milk, the more cheese is produced.

Martin says he learned the art of making quality cheese from a farmer from France who was producing cheese in Eastern Ontario. That farmer taught Martin how to make high-quality cheddar and ultimately

sold his old equipment and recipe to the Martin.

Farmer's Cheese Inc. offers five flavours that can be added to the cheese-making process including onion and parsley, onion blend and paprika, garlic and sun-dried tomato, hot jalapeno pepper, and cumin.

New this year, the Martin family now offers vacuum packaging, allowing farmers to have their cheese cut and packaged in

whatever sizes they would like. Usually the cheese should be aged for two months or more to obtain a great aged taste.

Martin says homemade cheese can sometimes have a bitter aftertaste; however, the cheddar Farmers Cheese Inc. produces is good tasting without that bitter aftertaste.

For more information on Farmers Cheese Inc. and the services offered, email maynardchristine@mwpol.ca.



Maynard Martin of Farmers Cheese Inc. shows how he makes cheese from his secret recipe in his mobile cheese-making trailer on Elhaven Farms near Stratford in Perth County.

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FEATURE —

Maple syrup season has officially arrived

By Mercedes Kay Gold

Wintertime wonderland means mittens, ice skating and hot chocolate. Thanks to Canada's cold climate, marvelous maple trees store starch in their trunks and roots all winter long in anticipation for the perfect temperature.

Mother Nature's sweetness began to officially flow Feb. 4. I was absolutely thrilled to visit the Wagler Family Farm on Feb. 6 for a bird's eye view and tutorial on tapping. The Wagler Farm is family-owned and family-run with the help of a small tight-knit crew led by Chris and Rosalind Wagler. The Wellesley family production farm or sugarbush is home to approximately 1,000 maple trees over 20 acres, and the six-to-eight-week syrup season will yield upwards of 600 gallons of syrup or "Canadian coffee".

The timeless process of tapping begins by drilling one to a maximum of three holes approximately an inch and a quarter deep into the maple tree. A spile is gently tapped in place and a line secured prior to pumping. The sap begins to run, flowing down into a holding tank before being pumped up to the house.

It is here in the sugar shack where the

process of reverse osmosis will remove 50 per cent of the water. Next the sap travels to the preheater where it reaches the boiling point, and 25 per cent more water evaporates. A wood heater is then used, and steam helps with evaporation before the syrup heads to the filter. Removing impurities ensures top-notch quality.

The syrup will remain hot until bottled at 198 degrees Fahrenheit. It takes roughly 40 gallons of sap to make just one gallon of syrup. The time-honored tradition of producing maple syrup is an integral part of the Wagler's rich family history. Not much has changed over the last century, other than adding an evaporator in 1927, a new sugar shack in 1985 and, in 2012, a canning and storage facility. The modernization set the wheels in motion for selling federally inspected syrup once securing their registration number in 2014.

Maple syrup is Mother Nature's sweet tree sap, containing 24 natural antioxidants, lower on the glycemic index than both white and brown sugar, and surprisingly high in the trace mineral manganese. This holistic nutritionist loves using both maple syrup and maple sugar in dreamy desserts, marvelous marinades and super

Continued on page 33



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FEATURE —

Time to Tap!

Continued from page 32

salad dressings. Syrup is simply outstanding on oatmeal, perfect on pancakes, a waffle wow and adds pizzazz to popcorn.

Fun fact: The colour is linked to the weather and flavour. The lightest and most-delicate flavoured syrup known as golden starts off the season, followed by the classic amber syrup. The dark syrup has a purer maple flavor and as the season winds down, very dark, the most intense syrup, rounds out the fab four.

The line of Wagler Maple Products includes barbecue sauces, maple sugar, hard candy and of course good old-fashioned syrup in the timeless jug. Looking for a Canadian gift? Wagler's mouthwatering maple syrup is available in an array of novelty glassware from the iconic maple leaf to hockey players and festive favorites like a

gingerbread man, Christmas tree and even a heart. The family pack offers all four types to tempt taste buds and help you discover which liquid gold is your go-to in culinary delights. From tree-to-tabletop, the Wagler's have been proudly producing maple syrup since 1921.

Mark your calendars. On April 1, The Wagler Family Farm hosts their annual open house to welcome springtime. Take a horse-drawn ride to the sugar bush, tour the facility and learn all about the process from first drip to dinner table. Begin April by making memories while enjoying a piping hot coffee and the most delectable donut with the star of the show, maple syrup. Support local and stock up on maple syrup with on-farm shopping. See you at 2014 Perth Line 56 in Wellesley. For more information visit waglermapleproducts.ca and follow Wagler on social media @waglermapleproducts.



Chris and Kylar Wagler work to tap one of the 1,000 maple trees on their 20-acre Wagler Family Farm earlier this month. Photo by Rosalind Wagler

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 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

New Hamburg home game vs. Paris Titans
 7:30 p.m.
Wilmot Recreation Complex
 1291 Nafziger Rd. Baden

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

MONDAY, FEB. 19
Free Family Skate Hosted by Tavistock Fire Department
 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Tavistock Arena
 1 Adam St. Tavistock

Free Family Skate Hosted by MP Tim Louis
 11a.m. -12 p.m.
Wilmot Recreation Complex
 1291 Nafziger Rd. Baden

Family Day Fun Hosted by the New Hamburg Legion
 1-4 p.m.
New Hamburg Legion
 65 Boullée St., New Hamburg

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

New Hamburg home game vs. Hespeler Shamrocks
 7:30 p.m.
Wilmot Recreation Complex
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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

TUESDAY, FEB. 27
Woodstock Agricultural Society Annual General Meeting
 7:30 p.m.
Oxford Auditorium
 875 Nellis St., Woodstock

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28
Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
 12 p.m.
Linwood Community Centre
 5279 Ament Line Linwood



SATURDAY, MAR. 2
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Tavistock Arena
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COMMUNITY —

Sebastopol's Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes octet, One More Time

By Gary West

Good nutritious home cooked food and great harmonizing music was served up at last week's High Noon luncheon at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sebastopol.

On the second Thursday of every month, a fellowship lunch along with music or speakers from the area are brought together by the Tavistock and Area Ministerial Group, and this month the hosts were the congregation at Trinity Lutheran Church.

A group of area harmonizers called One More Time sang songs the church audience could relate to.

The men are a small group of singers who are members of the Twin City Harmonizer's Chorus.

In introducing the harmonizers, Tavistock's Glenna Roth said the group is made up of men from all walks of life whose common interest is singing in four-part harmony. Some are very experienced singers, and some relatively new to singing



The singing octet: back row from left, Ray Brenneman, Dennis Duek, Paul Roth and Terry Hallman. Middle row, Dave Litt, and front row from left, Bill Orr, Larry Martin, Bob Norman and Art Groff. Photo by Gary West

four-part, a-cappella harmony.

They rehearse almost every week because they enjoy the fun and fellowship. They will sing almost anywhere because they raise money for their favourite charity, the Ontario Harmonize for Speech Fund. It is a charity that funds programs in

hospitals, schools, clinics and treatment centres that assist people of all ages who have speech impediments acquired from birth, illness, or injury.

New members are always welcome. Visit twincityharmonizers.com for more information.

Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Kansas City Chiefs | 7. Hot water |
| 2. Birds | 8. Robert Munsch |
| 3. 1970 | 9. Magic and Animal, Kingdom, Hollywood, Studios, EPCOT |
| 4. Stomach Cancer | |
| 5. China | |
| 6. Earth, Wind & Fire | 10. Italy |

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