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About 100 landowners and supporters showed up at Monday's Wilmot Township Council meeting to support those opposed to the Region of Waterloo's proposed land grab. Supporters packed council chambers, an overflow room, and outside the municipal building. Photo courtesy of Rory Farnan

## New Hamburg filmmaker's Block Dog to air on CBC Gem next month

By Galen Simmons

A New Hamburg native's recent documentary exploring the lives of dogs kept for companionship and protection at a remote, British Columbia tree-planting camp will air on CBC Gem next month.

As a follow-up to his hit CBC documentary, *One Million Trees* (2020), Everett Bumstead's *Block Dog* follows the daily lives of eight loyal but mischievous dogs in a remote tree-planting camp in Quesnel, B.C. Filmed during the sweltering summertime, the 44-minute film chronicles the highs and lows of forestry industry practices through canine eyes.

"Once again, it really does come from my tree-planting experience," Bumstead said, referring to his time planting trees at a remote camp after finishing film school in Vancouver. "I'd say the whole thing with the dogs comes from a feeling everyone can relate with – wondering what is my cat or my dog doing while I'm away at work. I'd be tree planting and I'd have that thought about these dogs because they'd come and visit you and then they'd run off into the bush, and you'd think, 'What is that dog up to for eight hours in the day in this remote area?' Sometimes they'd come back with a bone from some animal or battle wounds from who knows what.

"It really did seem like paradise for a dog. The dogs out there have a strong sense of purpose and there's a lot of space to roam and freedom. You get used to seeing how dogs behave when they're kind of pent up in a small apartment – a city dog kind of behaviour – and they're kind of acting up like a child. I think these dogs are kind of the opposite of that. They have so much personality and responsibility, and they're kind of warriors too, taking on the

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Continued on page 2

## Landowners remain without answers surrounding Wilmot land grab

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Silence and unanswered questions continue to be the order of the day for landowners in Wilmot Township who could soon lose their land.

Alfred Lowrick represents landowners in the affected and surrounding area, many of whom attended Monday night's regular meeting of Wilmot Township council both inside council chambers as well as in an

overflow room. The Region of Waterloo is attempting to purchase over 700 acres of farmland but there is no official word on why.

In his presentation, Lowrick said if property owners did not sell their land after receiving offers from Canacre it would be expropriated.

"The timeline given for the acceptance of this offer was a week later, March 20, which is absurd given the massive disruption to

our lives," he said, adding the region's goal is to have all the land acquired by August of this year.

Lowrick said he and other landowners have met daily to determine what can be done.

"We feel this is an immense misuse of prime Wilmot Township agricultural farmland. What is most upsetting is the lack of information received ... particularly from regional council where this presentation




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# Landowners Still Seek Clarity on Wilmot Land Acquisition

*Continued from page 1*  
 was made last week. All were willing to listen, but we got no details and no answers to our questions. He explained the group is fully aware the land acquisition is not the result of decisions made at the township or regional level.

The group said they are united in opposition to losing their land and are looking for support from people outside of the affected area.

"We will engage other citizens in the larger New Hamburg and Baden community as this land acquisition will change lifestyles and the social fabric of our community forever," said Lowrick, who also argued the actions by the Region of Waterloo are contrary to its environmental, sustainability and climate-change initiatives.

The group, formally called Fight for Farmland, feels the land grab is for an industrial plant initiative, though they admit they have no proof. In his presentation, Lowrick argued the location makes no sense and said any project should be built on reclaimed aggregate land or other compromised land.

"Why is this site being located outside

the settlement boundaries and so far from the region's major cities which will make the roadways even busier? Why has there been no public engagement or even discussion about this particular location?"

Volkswagen announced about a year ago the construction of an electric-vehicle battery plant in St. Thomas at the former Ford Talbotville plant, which first opened in 1967. Lowrick explained that when a plant of that magnitude is built, a need for more land comes along with it.

"It will set off a chain reaction of much additional farmland loss for additional and ancillary uses."

He added members of the group went to St. Thomas recently and saw what happened to 1,600 acres of farmland at the plant there.

"We spoke to a farmer whose land is being expropriated and her concerns are very similar to the ones we are facing. Clearly, from our viewpoint, regional staff haven't done their homework and have made a really poor choice with this distant, constrained location lacking most of the essential infrastructure and features industrial purchasers will be seeking. So, I ask

why here?" Lowrick concluded by saying he and members of Fight for Farmland look forward to working with Wilmot, the Region of Waterloo and the province to find a better solution, though that level of willingness to collaborate doesn't appear to go both ways.

Members of Wilmot council, who have reportedly signed non-disclosure agreements, did not comment on the presentation nor did they ask any questions. The Gazette also reached out to Premier Doug Ford's office for comment but was told to contact the Region of Waterloo. The Region, Wilmot and Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Mike Harris have released the same statement, which was printed in last week's newspaper.

Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen thanked the group for presenting but said the responsibility was at the regional level.

"We wanted to give you a platform for your concerns to be heard by us. I will take that back in my role as regional councillor as your representative there and continue to advocate and, of course, our staff are always happy to help," she said.

# Upcoming CBC Gem Premiere for Block Dog

*Continued from page 1*  
 elements – the rain and the cold – and on and on."

While the dogs provide companionship for the tree planters, Bumstead said they also serve a very important role in protecting those planters – who work in difficult conditions far removed from the nearest hospital or medical assistance – from dangerous wildlife. In his film, Bumstead said the tree-planters are working in a region devastated by forest fire last year, making it prime territory for black bears with plenty of new berry growth and sightlines that allow them to hunt smaller game unobscured by large trees and dense undergrowth.

Working as a pack, the dogs claim a territory for themselves and their humans, forming a protective boundary between the planters and the bears Bumstead says makes dangerous encounters extremely rare.

At the same time, Bumstead said telling a story from the dogs' perspective allows another, more important story to unfold in the background, one that explores the impacts of climate change, forest fires and oppressive heat on remote forests, and how



Twelve-year-old Olive, a ski-border mix, is the matriarch of a pack of dogs that protect a tree-planting camp in remote British Columbia and the star of New Hamburg native Everett Bumstead's new documentary, Block Dog, airing on CBC Gem April 19. Contributed photo

these young planters are working in extreme conditions to ensure the future of the next generation of tree life.

"If you're paying attention, there's a lot of conclusions one could make about environmental issues, about social dynamics between the tree planters, and about just what that world looks like," Bumstead said.

Produced by CBC and Bumstead's production company, Here Boy Films, with the support of Creative BC and the Canada Media Fund, Block Dog will premiere on CBC Gem April 19.

Bumstead is also working to release another film, Forest for the Fires – a music-driven forestry opus that challenges contemporary forestry practices – at some point later this year.

# COMMUNITY —

## Show us your Wilmot



Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group member Darryl Gingerich posted this photo of a juvenile bald eagle near New Dundee recently. Photo courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot

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COMMUNITY —

## Wilmot welcomes new director of corporate services and CFO

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

The Township of Wilmot has announced that Greg Clark, most recently with the City of London, will join Wilmot as the director of corporate services and chief financial officer on April 2.

Clark was London's director of capital assets and projects, leading a team overseeing corporate asset management, growth capital funding and tangible capital asset reporting.

Clark has worked to deliver organizational value through improved data collection, tracking, analysis and reporting. He holds an honours Bachelor of Commerce from McMaster University and is a designated certified management accountant.

In a press release, Wilmot CAO Sharon Chambers said Clark will be an important part of the township's team.

"I am pleased to announce that Greg Clark is joining the Township of Wilmot as the Township's director of corporate services and chief financial officer. Greg is a dedicated professional with more than 20 years of experience in financial services and government. I am confident that his proven expertise at developing comprehensive budgets, work plans and schedules will be an asset to the Township of Wilmot."

Clark is coming in at a time when Wilmot councillors are concerned about the township's financial situation, including dwindling reserves, part of the reason the 2024 budget was passed with a nearly 11



Greg Clark, who most recently worked at the City of London, has been appointed as Wilmot Township's new director of corporate services and CFO. Photo courtesy of Wilmot Township

per-cent increase for taxpayers.

Before London, he worked at the City of Guelph for more than 12 years in that city's capital planning and budget areas. While there he led a team of 17 people and was responsible for the implementation of new software to manage the procurement, inventory, work-order and asset-management functions of the organization.

## Police continue to investigate collision at Wellesley Township intersection

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

Waterloo Regional Police is continuing to investigate a motor vehicle collision in Wellesley Township.

On March 23 at 5:45 p.m., emergency services responded to reports of a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Hessen Strasse and Maplewood Road.

A 76-year-old female passenger and a 59-year-old female passenger were both transported to a local hospital with injuries not deemed life threatening.

The intersection was closed for approximately four hours for the investigation and has since been reopened.

The investigation remains ongoing by the Waterloo Regional Police Service's traffic services unit.

Anyone who witnessed the collision or has dash-camera footage is asked to call police at 519-570-9777 ext. 8856.

Anonymous information can be provided to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at [www.waterloocrimestoppers.com](http://www.waterloocrimestoppers.com).



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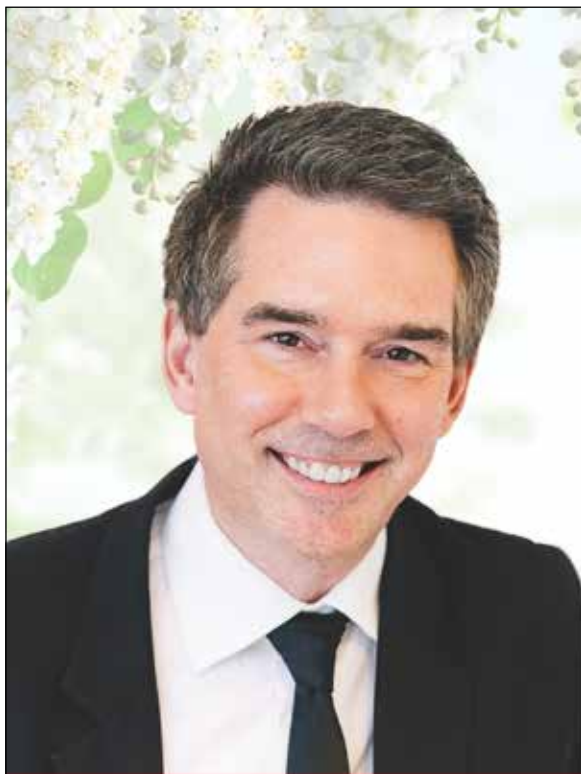
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COMMUNITY —

# Oxford County Library launches rural questionnaire

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford County Library is looking for feedback from its rural communities to help shape the future of local branches.

The Rural Community Engagement Survey is open until May 1 for public input on library branch hours, the physical setup of library spaces, collections, technology offerings, programs and activities, and more.

CEO and chief librarian Lisa Marie Williams said the focus on feedback from rural branches is to make sure people's needs are being met and to get a better understand of everything users are hoping to see in a public library.

"We did get funding to increase hours at some of our small village branches so that's one of the pieces we are hoping to get, to find out what people are looking for in hours," Williams said.

She added the organization wants to make sure they put extra hours on the right days, in the right places,

where people will be able to use the library more.

The survey, which can be accessed through Speak Up, Oxford! or the Oxford County Library website, takes about five to 10 minutes to complete and, for taking part, rural residents will have an opportunity to win one of five \$40 gift cards to a local shop or restaurant of their choice.

For those who would rather send feedback directly, there is also an online question and comment form on the survey website. The survey is not intended for residents who use Oxford County Library's Ingersoll or Tillsonburg branches, or Woodstock Public Library.

Activities at branches of the library returned to normal once the pandemic ended and Williams explained business is booming.

"A lot of them are strong and doing a lot of really great programming and events, and people are coming back after we were closed for a few years off and on. People have come back and are using the libraries a lot. Our usage is up, people are coming into

the branches to attend programs and take out physical books."

She added now is a good time to look at programs and operations to see what more they can do, what they are doing right, and what they can change.

Branches often receive informal feedback from customers when visiting, something Williams said is also useful.

"People put in book requests all the time and can do that when they are looking for something specific we don't have. We do get feedback every once in a while through the online forms with the county."

Oxford County Library's rural branches are in Brownsville, Burgessville, Embro, Harrington, Innerkip, Mount Elgin, Norwich, Otterville, Plattsville, Princeton, Tavistock and Thamesford. The Library also serves rural communities through Ox on the Run, a mobile book unit.

To learn more or fill out the survey, visit [www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup).



Tavistock's public library is one of several across the county taking part in a survey. Photo by Lee Griffi

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COMMUNITY —

# EZT implements flag and social media policies

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

East Zorra-Tavistock council has implemented two new policies for the township, and both are firsts.

Three flagpoles have been installed at the new EZT administrative building in Hickson and the approval of a flag policy provides a framework to govern requests for flag raising and establishes a consistent protocol for the flying of flags at all township facilities. It also sets the stage for requests from the community to fly a flag at the township office.

EZT CAO Karen DePrest said the document is in line with those at other municipalities.

"This policy ensures that flags are flown and displayed in accordance with the etiquette and manner outlined by the Department of Canadian Heritage," she said, adding council has the discretion to review and make changes to the policy at any time. "As with all policies, they are

living documents open to revisions at the request of council. As of right now, council has approved it."

Several criteria need to be met for a request to fly a community flag to be approved. DePrest explained members of council have the final say.

"All requests will be received by the clerk for inclusion on a council agenda at least four weeks prior to the flag-raising request date. Council will discuss and approve or deny requests for community flag raising based on the criteria laid out in the policy."

Requests to fly a community flag may be approved for support of a particular event by a non-profit or charitable organization, celebration of achievements or civic events, or public awareness campaigns. Approval will not be given to fly flags to support or promote political parties or organizations, and for religious organizations, events, or celebrations. Celebrations, campaigns, or events intended for profit-making purposes will also not be

approved nor will events that support discrimination, hatred, violence, racism, or prejudice. Celebrations, campaigns, or events with no direct relationship with the township will also be denied.

Oxford County has seen some vandalism of Pride flags in recent years, something not lost on Mayor Phil Schaefer.

"There is always a potential for controversy when you embark on a change like developing a community flag policy, however, community flagpoles are used in many municipalities without an issue," he said, noting a community flagpole is a great way to promote local events and to celebrate local achievements.

EZT has also implemented a social-media policy, one that has been developed to ensure a clear and concise administrative procedure for the township's website and social media platforms. DePrest said everyone needs a thorough understanding of the expectations regarding content.

"(The policy is intended) to provide rules

on the acceptable participation in social networks by members of council and municipal employees. The policy serves to provide direction to those managing and administering corporate social media sites, protect the municipality's reputation, provide employees and members of council with clear usage guidelines, and provide protocol around monitoring, administration, acceptable use, and privacy.

While it won't affect him much, Schaefer said he is supportive of the policy.

"I think it is an important step to clearly define the responsibilities of staff and council regarding their use of social media and to set standards for the township's social media sites. I do not see any wholesale changes in how the township uses social media. Personally, I use social media very sparingly, so I am not foreseeing any changes there either."

The policy also applies to employees who are part time, volunteer firefighters, casual, contract, seasonal or students.




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COMMUNITY —

# Theatre Wellesley to present Making God Laugh next month

By Galen Simmons

The cast and crew for Theatre Wellesley's upcoming production have a fun challenge ahead of them as they prepare to mount American playwright Sean Grennan's *Making God Laugh*, a play that follows the lives of a family across four successive snapshots in time.

*Making God Laugh* follows Ruth, Bill and their three children over four decades. Their oldest, Rick, is a flashy ex-football player living the party life and always looking for the next get-rich-quick scheme. Their middle child, Maddie, is an aspiring actress who constantly deals with her mother's scorn. And their pride and joy, Thomas, their youngest, has decided

to become a priest. The plans they make for their lives may amuse the almighty – and audiences – but the way those plans unfold over the years will reveal the faith an ordinary family discovers they have in each other.

"In the fall, we typically do a large ensemble (production) that's a comedy and in the spring, we like to do something with a smaller cast that has a little bit more substance to it," said Rhonda Caldwell, who is co-directing this production with Aidan Tessier. "So, this is a drama, but it also has some really hilarious moments in it too. Who can't relate to a story about a family? We all have family who have great things about them, and we all have some challenges within family. I think, in terms of the story, you can relate to it.

"And we loved that it took place over four decades. We haven't done something like that before, so it was a real opportunity for us to ... look and go, 'How do you represent the aging of the characters, the aging of relationships, the changing of time?' That was a real challenge we really wanted to take on."

From using period costumes and props to employing makeup and having one character, Ruth, being played by two actors at different times in her life, Caldwell said the production is an exercise in finding creative ways to ensure the audience can easily follow the story and its characters from one decade to the next.

"We decided to use the same actors across all four decades except for the character of the mom," Caldwell said. "Ruthie we decided to share between two actors because we had two really great people audition for



Theatre Wellesley will present its upcoming production, *Making God Laugh*, at the Studio Theatre above the Wellesley Public Library across eight shows April 18-28. Photo courtesy of Theatre Wellesley

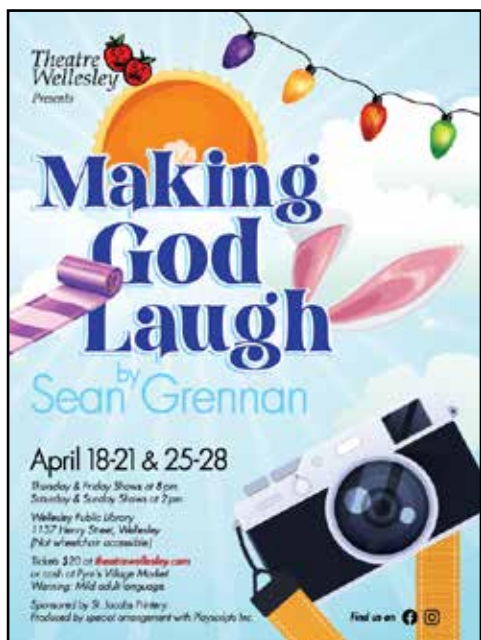
the part, and it's worked really well for us in terms of sharing that role. We're working on little things like (having the actors playing Ruth match their mannerisms), and also things like Bill calls his wife ladybug all the time – it's his pet name for her – so therefore there's a ladybug pin that, in each scene, the actors wear the ladybug pin (which) gives some continuity."

According to Caldwell, *Making God Laugh* has attracted some of the finest talent in the region with many veteran cast and crew members helping Caldwell and Tessier, who are new to the director's chair, helm a production that will be both fun and entertaining for its small, 30-person audiences in Theatre Wellesley's

Studio Theatre above the Wellesley Public Library (1137 Henry St.).

*Making God Laugh* will run for eight shows. Evening performances will begin at 8 p.m. on April 18, 19, 25 and 26, and matinee shows will begin at 2 p.m. on April 20, 21, 27 and 28. As space is limited and tickets are selling fast, Caldwell encourages anyone who wants to see the show to act fast by visiting [www.theatrewellesley.com](http://www.theatrewellesley.com) for online ticket purchases, or by stopping in at Pym's Village Market in Wellesley to purchase tickets with cash.

*Making God Laugh* includes some adult language and the Studio Theatre space is not accessible.



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## OBITUARY

### BENDER: Marjorie (nee Steinmann)



Passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth. Marjorie was born 79 years ago in Mornington Township, a daughter of the late Elmer & Bena (Lebold) Steinmann.

Cherished and loving wife of the late Ralph Bender (July 11, 2023). Devoted and loving mother of Dawn Bender.

Marjorie will be missed by her siblings; Harold Steinmann (Reta), Earl Steinmann (Eileen), Ervin Steinmann (Irla), sisters-in-law Anna Steinmann, Norma Steinmann, Ruth Steinmann and by "Bender" brothers and sisters-in-law Luanna Gravelle (John), Bruce Bender (Marlene), Glen Bender (Dorothy), Ruth Gingrich (Jim).

Predeceased by her 3 daughters Anne Marie Bender (1970), Donna Bender (2000), Debbie Bender (2011), by brothers Ray Steinmann, Wayne Steinmann, Bruce Steinmann, by sisters Rita (Leonard Cressman) and Marilyn Steinmann and sister-in-law Elaine Cressman.

Marjorie was a longtime and active member of Cassel Mennonite Church. Marjorie and Ralph farmed for many years south of Punkey Doodles Corners where their dairy cows and daily farm chores kept them busy.

Relatives and friends were invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Tuesday from 2 – 4 & 6 – 8 p.m. Funeral service was held at the East Zorra Mennonite Church, 16th Line on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. Interment took place prior to the service at 2:00 p.m. at the adjoining church cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth or the Mennonite Central Committee and would be appreciated by the family. Personal condolences and donation information available at

[www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca](http://www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca)

## OBITUARY

### SIM: Carmine Lee June 29, 1944 - March 25, 2024



With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Carmine Lee (Lupton) Sim, surrounded by the love of her family. Cherished wife of Robert Sim for almost 60 years. Daughter of the later Chester and Muriel (Hutchison) Lupton.

Loving mother of Lynda (Cliff Bartlett), Gwen (Dave Mathes) and Glen. Devoted grandmother to Lindsay (Ethan Wells), Ian Bartlett (Jillian), Jackson and Olivia Sim and Emma Mathes. Proud "GG" of Thomas and Laura Wells. Survived by her siblings; Marlene Steinacker, Janice (Bill) McIntosh, Sandra (Dave) Priestap and John (Kathie) Lupton.

Predeceased by her brother-in-law Vern Steinacker.

One of Carmine's greatest pleasures was time spent with her family and friends and gardening. Her flower gardens were immaculate and her vegetable garden plentiful.

A private gathering will take place. If desired the family kindly requests donations be made in Carmine's memory to the charity of their choice and can be arranged through Francis Funeral Home, Tavistock.

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.



## WORSHIP IN WILMOT TOWNSHIP

### St George's Anglican Church

Corner Waterloo St. and Byron St., New Hamburg  
In-person service and online worship Sundays at 10:15 a.m.  
Programs each Sunday for children during service.

#### Holy Week Services:

**Palm Sunday March 24 at 10:15am:** Service of Holy Communion

**Monday March 25 at 7pm:** Monday of Holy Week

**Tuesday March 26 at 7pm:** Tuesday of Holy Week

**Wednesday March 27 at 7pm:** Wednesday of Holy Week

**Thursday March 28 at 7pm:** Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion

**Friday March 29 at 10am:** Good Friday at Zion United Church

**Sunday March 31 at 7:00am:** Easter Sunday Sunrise service

**Sunday March 31 at 10:15am:** Easter Sunday service of Holy Communion

### St James Chapel of Ease

4339 Huron Rd. Wilmot Township

#### All Welcome

Rev. Margaret Walker; Office: 519-662-3450

[sgacnewhamburg@gmail.com](mailto:sgacnewhamburg@gmail.com)

Current health and safety protocols are followed.

### St Agatha Mennonite Church

1967 Erb's Road St Agatha 519-634-8212

Pastor Jim Brown

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

## The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. In what country did the tradition of the Easter Bunny originate?
2. What Christian event does Easter celebrate?
3. In what Canadian town would you find the Giant Ukrainian egg?
4. What baked good is a Good Friday tradition in England?
5. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on a simnel cake?
6. When was Cadbury founded?
7. What is the 40-day period before Easter?
8. Children in Finland dress as what on Easter?
9. What egg-shaped candy is illegal in the United States?
10. What US city hosts "The April Fool's Day Parade" each year?

Answers found on page 22

## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sebastopol-Tavistock

# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

7:00 PM March 28  
Maundy Thursday

10:00 AM March 29  
Good Friday

8:30 AM to 9:30 AM March 31  
"Son"rise Breakfast

10:00 AM March 31  
Easter Sunday

[www.trinitytavistock.com](http://www.trinitytavistock.com)  
2210 Perth Line 29, Tavistock, ON

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## COMMUNITY —

## OBITUARY

Ernst F. (Ernie) Ritz  
1925 — 2024

Passed away March 13, 2024, just a few weeks shy of his 99th birthday. He was well-known for his remarkable memory of decades of New Hamburg and area history, his dedication to local public service, his love of learning, and his warm and gregarious personality.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hamburg on Friday, April 5 at 1pm, which would have been his 99th birthday. A reception will follow at the New Hamburg Legion to celebrate a life well-lived and honour his contributions to the community. In his memory, donations may be made to the Trinity Endowment Fund, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, or Wilmot Family Resource Centre.



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

March 28: Happy birthday to Benjamin Hartfiel (8) and Emily Romano (15).

March 29: Happy birthday to Kyle Roth (22).

March 30: Happy birthday to Ainsley Adams (13).

March 31: Happy birthday to Samantha Roth (18), Kathryn Rudy (19) and Brooklyn Duguay (21). And happy anniversary to Larry & Diane Berger (51 years)

April 1: Happy birthday to Ava Ropp (16), Bailey Brenneman (16), Kaydence Vandenberg (19), Jacob Francis, and anniversary for Terry and Lexi Rozendal (9th) and Anne and Don Hauss (57th)

April 2: Happy birthday to Elaina Gunn (11), Charlotte Martin (3) and Lucy Martin (3).

April 3: Happy birthday to Travis Wettlaufer (21), and anniversary for Andy and Paul Roth (25th).

## 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.*

**March 27-April 3, 2019, Edition (5 years ago)**

P. T. Barnum would have been proud. Members of the Tavistock and District Skating Club held their biennial carnival on Sunday afternoon, billed as the "Greatest Show on Ice". From Canskate tots to seasoned gold skills skaters, there was something for everyone under the big top. Each sequence featured appropriate songs and costumes depicting the magic of the circus.

A rotating crew of workers from the Hesson area were on site last week dismantling the former Wettlaufer bank barn on the east side of William Street South in Tavistock for Bert Loggan. Alen Green and Bert had been working at salvaging lumber from the site since the property was sold for future development.

On Saturday, March 23, the Tavistock Curling Club youth had their season-ending wrap up. The season ended with a team-skills competition followed by awards. Matthew Brenneman captured the regular season championship after another strong season.

The Tavistock Juvenile Titans finished their 2018-2019 season with an exciting championship victory in the six-game series with the Campbellford Colts on Sunday, March 31 in Tavistock. Tavistock scored a 4-2 win to earn the trophy and championship in front of a packed house.

**March 23-30, 2009, Edition (15 years ago)**

Tavistock hockey history was made once again this past weekend when the Midget Rep team captured the first ever Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship title in Hensall. This is a first for their age group of 15,16 and 17-year-old players.

O' Canada, from sea to shining sea, was brought together in a colorful and entertaining fashion Sunday as members of the Tavistock and District Skating Club presented their Carnival theme in two shows.

Fifty-Five children spent one half day during their March break in a morning and afternoon session at the Tavistock Mennonite Church learning about gardening and most of all having fun.

This past weekend the Tavistock District Minor Hockey Association hosted yet another successful Jimmy Roth Memorial Tournament. The tournament featured teams from Norwich, Paris, South Huron, Twin Centre, Lucan, New Hamburg and Tavistock. Thanks to all the players and coaches for coming out!

**March 23-30, 1994, Edition (30 years ago)**

The Terminators Tavistock Men's Slow Pitch team made a generous donation to the Tavistock Arena Fund last week in support of the new recreational facility being planned for the township. Dave Yungblut and Hugh Brenneman made the presentation cheque for \$500 to support the project, along with the Tavistock Evangelical Missionary Church donating \$300 shortly after.

With the recent opening of the Tavistock Public School addition, many remodeling projects are taking place like the new library, which was originally the school gymnasium. Librarian

Mary Alice Roth was given the opportunity to decorate and remodel the room and receive a pleasant surprise from Pete Francis who donated a rocking chair to the school.

The Tavistock Chamber of Commerce has been circulating a petition to residents of Tavistock this past week which will be presented to the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock council at their April 6 meeting. The petition requests that the ultimate decision of policing in the former village of Tavistock be placed on the 1994 municipal election ballot in November.

**March 27-April 3, 1974, Edition (50 years ago)**

In good stiff competition on Monday night, Don Eckstein and Harvey Schultz emerged as Haussenpfeffer Champions for the second year in a row. The disappointed losers were Percy Wettlaufer, George Weicker, Clarence Neeb, Scotty McDermott, Tom Kaufman and Elmer Pletsch.

Over 100 men sat down to the Men's Club Annual Rural Urban Night last Thursday in the Tavistock Memorial Hall. Members invited neighbours and friends to share a dinner and fine speaker. Mr. Morris Huff of the Ontario Food Council spoke on agriculture to the crowd.

The Senior Fellowship of Trinity Lutheran Church met on Wednesday following Lenten devotions and enjoyed a sumptuous potluck dinner convened by Mrs. George Berg, Mrs. Gotthard Koellner, Mrs. Henry Faulhafer on their birthday anniversaries.

Singer Pat Boone came up from Hollywood to be Tommy Hunter's guest, along with the boys of St. Michael's Choir School and organist Eric Robertson on Tommy Hunter's 90-minute Easter Special Good Friday, April 12, 1974, on CBC television starting at 8:30 p.m.

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Church Office 519-655-2372

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[www.trinitytavistock.com](http://www.trinitytavistock.com)

## TAVISTOCK MENNONITE

Interim Pastor Harold Schlegel.

131 Wettlaufer St., Tavistock 655-2581

Sunday Worship services begin at 9:45am, with coffee and fellowship to follow at 11am. Masks welcomed but not required.

All Ages JRSS will follow after the worship service.

Stream services online at

[www.tavistockmennonitechurch.ca](http://www.tavistockmennonitechurch.ca)

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Questions or Need Help?

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[tavistockbc.org](http://tavistockbc.org)

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[www.tavistockbc.org](http://www.tavistockbc.org)

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN LCC

Church Phone 519-276-0701

Wellington Street, Tavistock

[stpaulstavistock@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulstavistock@gmail.com)

Pastor Rev. Michael Mayer

Regular Services 2pm

## EAST ZORRA MENNONITE

677044 16th Line Road, East Zorra

Pastors Ray Martin & Mike Williamson

[www.ezmennonite.ca](http://www.ezmennonite.ca)

Service audio recordings available at:

<https://ezmennonite.ca/worship/>

## TAVISTOCK MISSIONARY

77 Mogk St., Box 220, Tavistock NOB 2R0

Pastor Hugh Rutledge 655-3611

Email: [office@tavistock.church](mailto:office@tavistock.church)

[www.tavistock.church](http://www.tavistock.church)

COMMUNITY —

# Happy Easter from the Tavistock and District Historical Society

By Marilyn Pearson

Be sure to visit the Tavistock Public Library to view the travelling museum display themed, "Easter Traditions and the Egg Business in Tavistock."

You will learn about the Tavistock Egg Circle organized in 1919 by Duncan N. McKellar, manager with a membership of 50 patrons. McKellar would drive out with his horse and rig and collect eggs from his customers, or they would bring them into town on Saturday night. McKellar was known for counting eggs almost as fast as a modern machine, but he could not candle them at the same time. Other owners over the years at 35 Elizabeth St. were Frank P. Corp and Clarence C. Wettlaufer.

The Tavistock Produce Company began an egg-producing and grading operation in 1946 at the rear of the Opera House Block by brothers Les and Roy Knights, and his nephew

Fred Ghent. They branched out in 1959 and also sold feed at the west edge of Tavistock. In the display, you will see artifacts including a metal weigh scale and egg-measuring device.

A unique print by famous artist Ross Butler of a chick and bunny complements the display along with an assortment of colorful eggs, baskets and vintage Easter cards.

By reading the captions throughout the display you will find out:

- Why does the Easter bunny bring eggs?
- What does the Easter chick represent?
- What is the connection between Easter and Jesus?

So, get cracking down to the Tavistock Public Library for an awesome egg experience!



Check out the Tavistock and District Historical Society's Easter history display at the Tavistock Public Library. Contributed photo

# Happy Easter



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## COMMUNITY —

# Forest Glen students donate winnings from Christmas food-drive contest back to locals in need

By Galen Simmons

Instead of spending it on something fun like a pizza party, students at a New Hamburg elementary school decided to put their winnings from a recent food-drive competition back into the wider community to help those in need.

On March 20, students and staff at Forest Glen Public School donated a total of \$750 to two important, local organizations – \$500 to the Wilmot Family Resource Centre and \$250 to Food4Kids. The money was awarded to the school and its Grade 8 class for winning a challenge posed to area schools by New Hamburg No Frills owner Dave Mackay to see which school could bring in the most food donations for the Wilmot Family Resource Centre last November and December. Five-hundred dollars was awarded to Forest Glen as the winning school, and an additional \$250 was awarded to the class in each local school that brought in the most donations for their school.

Unsurprisingly, the winning class at Forest Glen was the Grade 8 class, which had taken the lead on organizing and promoting the food-drive challenge for their school in the first place.

“Usually, every Christmas time we do a lot of different sponsorships and help out different organizations. This year, we saved a little bit extra ... (and) instead of taking that money (directly to the organizations), we decided to say, ‘Let’s see how far we can push it,’” Mackay said. “So, we put the competition out to the schools to see how much more food we could get back instead of running a simple food drive. ... The schools all came through in spades and (Forest Glen) was the winning school.”

“So, then we could do whatever we wanted

with (the money),” continued Forest Glen principal Tamara Kaufman. “We could have used the \$750 to do whatever but, as a school – staff and students – we decided to donate \$500 to the Wilmot Family Resource Centre on top of the food we donated, and then \$250 to Food4Kids, which is also a program that provides food to some of our families.”

According to Wilmot Family Resource Centre executive director Trisha Robinson, who was on hand to accept the donation from the school, the need for supports like the resource centre’s food bank in the community continues to rise. Last year, the centre saw a total of 63 new applicants looking for support from the food-bank program and served a total of more than 9,200 people in need. Those numbers were up from the year previous when the program saw 49 new applicants and served nearly 7,400 people total.

“It helps us fulfil a need,” she said of the donation. “Food-bank requests are going up and up, so it helps fill the gap. I know some of the food will go to help some of the families here (at Forest Glen).”

Similarly, Food4Kids program coordinator Cali Dubois, who was also at the school to accept the donation from the staff and students March 20, said the donation will help the Waterloo Region organization in its mission to provide packages of nutritious, healthy food to children aged one to 14 living with chronic hunger from severely food-insecure homes.

Food4Kids provides food to children in need when they are not in school, 40 weekends of the school year, and 90 days of school breaks. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, the organization delivers food directly to the children,

inserting highly nutritious food packages into backpacks at school before the child goes home for the weekend or delivering food boxes directly to their homes during school breaks.

“Each bag (of food) is \$12, so that (\$250) will serve (more than 20) kids for a week,” Dubois said. “We have 1,200 kids in the program every week with three schools in New Hamburg, including Forest Glen, which we think has been in the program about four years. When schools give back to Food4Kids, it means so much because it

means we’re getting it right.”

As for the Forest Glen students who brought in the food donations in the first place and agreed to share their winnings, they’re just happy to continue helping those in need.

“We got to feed a lot of kids and people who are in need,” said Grade 8 student Parker Pfaff.

“It just feels good to help out people who are not as fortunate,” added classmate Julia Teertstra.



Students and staff at Forest Glen Public School donated \$500 – the school’s winnings from a recent food-drive challenge issued by No Frills in New Hamburg – to the Wilmot Family Resource Centre. Pictured from left are Grade 8 teacher Sandy Carter, Grade 8 student Nadia Hussein, Wilmot Family Resource Centre executive director Tirsah Robinson, Grade 8 students Charlie Williams, Parker Pfaff and Julia Teertstra, Forest Glen principal Tamara Kaufman and No Frills New Hamburg owner Dave Mackay. Photos by Galen Simmons

## Waterloo County 4-H seeks new members for 2024

By Gary West

Organizers and leaders from Waterloo County 4-H clubs recently got together at the Wilmot Recreation Complex to invite locals across the county to sign up for this year’s 4-H clubs.

Dairy Farmer and 4-H leader Graham Johnston said membership numbers have climbed from previous years and the organization has goals to continue that increase in 2024.

He said they are looking to recruit new leaders to help current clubs, start their own clubs, or revive clubs with the resources of 4-H Ontario.

Johnson says it will be an exciting year with new club options like astronomy, aviation and cheese clubs. Other clubs include a barn club, quilt club, beef club, craft club, dairy club, go-for-gold club, line-dancing club, poultry club, sheep club, veterinary club and a

virtual-cooking club. He also feels there may be more clubs that will pop up as the year continues.

The Waterloo County 4-H program is designed to enable youth to “learn to do by doing,” and to make the “best better.”

Area youth can choose from a broad menu of 4-H club projects, which they complete with guidance from their adult leaders in a fun, inclusive and safe environment that encourages individual leadership.

Any youth aged nine to 21 years as of Jan. 1 are encouraged to join.

They also have a Cloverbud program for kids aged six to eight. Cloverbuds get a taste for the topics in 4-H projects and an understanding of 4-H values.

For more information on the Waterloo 4-H association, contact Cathy Nederend at [waterloo4-h@hotmail.com](mailto:waterloo4-h@hotmail.com).



Students and staff at Forest Glen Public School donated \$250 – the Grade 8 class’ winnings from a recent food-drive challenge issued by No Frills in New Hamburg – to Food4Kids. Pictured from left are Grade 8 teacher Sandy Carter, Grade 8 students Nadia Hussein and Charlie Williams, Food4Kids program coordinator Cali Dubois, Grade 8 students Parker Pfaff and Julia Teertstra, Forest Glen principal Tamara Kaufman and No Frills New Hamburg owner Dave Mackay.

**SPORTS —**

# Royals in a two-game hole against Minto 81s



East Zorra-Tavistock Mayor Phil Schaefer performs the ceremonial puck drop before game one of the Royals OEHL Championship Series with the Minto 81s on Saturday night. Tavistock would lose the game 3-1. Contributed photo

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Tavistock Royals find themselves in a position they have yet to be in during the inaugural Ontario Elite Hockey League playoffs – trailing by two games.

Following a 3-1 loss to Minto in game one at home Saturday night, Tavistock was hurt by a slow start in a 6-5 road loss in Palmerston on Sunday.

Matt Zilke gave the Royals a 1-0 lead just minutes into the first period, but the 81s tied it up before Jeremy Munro's short-handed, unassisted marker restored the lead. The teams went into the first intermission tied at two apiece, but the next 20 minutes were dominated by Minto as they scored four consecutive times to take a 6-2 lead after two periods.

Tavistock mounted a rally in the third led by Geoff Killing who scored 50 seconds in, followed by another goal less than a minute later, both markers coming on the powerplay. Deven Kropf added a short-handed goal with just under five minutes remaining, but the comeback would fall short.

On Saturday, the Royals outshot the 81s by a 45 to 22 count. Minto led 2-0 by the 13-minute mark of the second period before Sean Kienapple pulled the Royal to within one. The 81s added an insurance marker 29 seconds into the third period to seal the victory.

Game three is set for Friday night in Palmerston at 6:30 p.m. with game four back in Tavistock at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. 550 fans attended game one in Tavistock.

# Firebirds strike first in PJHL divisional final



The Firebirds and Navy Vets are battling for the Doherty Division title with New Hamburg taking game one by the 4-1 score. Contributed photo

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

New Hamburg has drawn first blood in their Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) divisional championship series with Woodstock.

The Firebirds led 2-0 after the first on goals from Owen Bruder and Owen Fischer. Josh Soulliere made it 3-0 before Ethan Szabo put the Navy Vets on the board halfway through the second. Riley Benko added an insurance marker for New Hamburg in the third on a powerplay.

A total of 540 fans showed up on a Monday night to watch the Firebirds outshoot the Navy Vets 41-24 including 18-8 in the third. Kyle Kraemer added two assists for the winners.

Bruder said the team was well prepared.

"Everyone was ready to go. We've been waiting for this game all season, so we were ready for anything," he said. "We were the first on pucks, we won battles, we

gave them nothing and our neutral zone was unreal. If we keep playing like that, bringing the effort, we'll be good."

Fischer said they have a game plan and will be sticking with it.

"Woodstock is a good team. We've been neck and neck with them all year. It was a good win tonight and we brought some different keys to the table that worked out for us. We know what to do, we know what our game plan is. We will make a few changes in (Woodstock's) big barn, but we aren't changing much."

Game two in the Doherty Division final will be in Woodstock Good Friday at 1:45 p.m. with game three set for New Hamburg on Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

The Navy Vets finished in second in the Doherty Division, three points behind the Firebirds after spending the first 21 weeks of the season in first place. Woodstock won the season series, four wins to three, though New Hamburg took the last two regular-season games.

**SPORTS NEWS**

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**TAVISTOCK ROYALS SR. "AA" HOCKEY**

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**SPORTS —**

# Tavistock Minor Hockey Roundup Day



Tavistock Minor Hockey held its Wrap-Up day on Saturday for the younger players in the system. Here the U7 Beginner group played against each other in a fun matchup. The kids were treated to pizza after the game to cap off a fun season of learning hockey skills and a few exhibition games. Photo by Lee Griffi

# Tavistock Youth Curling wraps up another season



Pictured are members of the Tavistock Youth Curling club. In the back row, from left, are players Andrew Weitzel, Jayden Ruby, Alex Chiles, Simon Ruby and Keegan Schallhorn. In the middle row, from left, are Evan Nahrgang, Regan Oesch, Marshall McKay, Dylan McCann, Ben Church and Elliott Peters. In the front row, from left, are Tanner Schallhorn, Logan Nahrgang, Keaton Roes, Alyssa Matthews, Starryn Campbell and CJ Campbell. Coaches pictured are Chris Campbell, Kris Matthews, Bill Green, Sharyn Campbell and Glen Weitzel. Absent from the photo are Ryan Carey, Sophie Bender, Cole Beggs, Jake Lichti, Cole Lichti and Nathan Taylor. Photo courtesy of Tavistock Youth Curling

By Bill Green

On March 16, Tavistock Youth Curling wrapped up its 2023-2024 season.

Every year the club has grown, and this year the club grew to 23 curlers in total. The final day included a fun game of draw and takeout where the players showed off the skills they developed throughout the season. In the second draw, the young curlers then took on their parents in another fun game.

The regular season was split into two draws. In the first draw, the final standings were Andrew Weitzel in first, Simon Ruby in second, Evan Nahrgang in third and Keaton Roes in fourth.

The second draw winners were Starryn Campbell in first, Cole Beggs in second, CJ Campbell in third and Alyssa Matthews in fourth.

All players then collected their prizes as the season came to a close. Congratulations to all and a job well done!

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COMMUNITY —

# Oxford 4-H clubs serving up pancakes and maple syrup at Jakemans to raise funds



Maple Mascot Chad Jakeman (in costume) with 4-H member Emma Overbeek.

By Gary West

The 4-H program in Oxford County is one many areas in the country would love to emulate.

The North Oxford dairy calf club members led by Jack Danen, served up pancakes at Jakemans March 23 and poured their famous maple syrup to complete the perfect breakfast.

Every Saturday and Sunday since March 9 and continuing until Maple Weekend on April 7, a variety of Oxford 4-H clubs are serving up maple baked beans, pancakes and fresh maple syrup at Jakeman's Pancake House near Sweaburg.

Since 2005, the Jakeman family has graciously lent their dining space to Oxford 4-H clubs for fundraising events. Family and friends can enjoy a pancake breakfast, shop local vendors and tour the maple bush.

The Jakeman family are one of the oldest maple syrup producing families in business in Oxford County, operating since 1876.

Along with their own trees, they also source the sweet treat from over 200 local maple syrup producers.

There are always surprise visitors who come through the doors for a pancake meal and this year Senator Rob Black, Oxford MP Arpan Kahanna and their families enjoyed a meal served up by 4-H members.



From left are Oxford 4-H members and leaders Shonna Ward, Marilyn Lichti, Dakota Jones, Kirsten and Levi Dill, Lexi Dill, Julie DeBruyn, Elizabeth Jones, Emma Overbeek, Olivia Overbeek and Elizabeth Bruce. Photos by Kirsten Dill

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From left, Levi Dill, Olivia Overbeek, Julie DeBruyn, MP Arpan Khanna, Elizabeth Bruce and Shonna Ward sample award-winning maple products.

COMMUNITY —

# OAAS District 7 seeks judges for local fall fairs

By Laurie Caldwell

Have you ever thought about becoming a Fair Judge at local fall fairs?

The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) District 7 is hosting four judging schools this year. The intent is to encourage people who may not be involved in fairs but are interested in how various categories are judged learn the steps they need to take in order to become a certified OAAS judge.

Our fairs across Ontario are in need of new judges in all categories from quilts, needlework, crafts, baking, canning and woodworking to produce, eggs, honey and maple syrup.

The District 7 judging schools are taking place at various locations in the province. Each school covers different categories.

- Grains and Hay, hosted by Erin Agricultural Society on April 27.
- Antiques and Woodworking, hosted by Fergus Agricultural Society May 11

- Flowers and Arrangements, hosted by Arthur Agricultural Society June 22
- Hobbycrafts, TBA this fall

Participants will learn how to judge each of the categories and what they should be looking for by using the judging-standards book. This will ensure that judging across Ontario is consistent.

To become a certified OAAS judge, you need to attend one judging school in a category that you are interested in and apprentice judge with three different certified OAAS judges at three different fairs.

To participate in these schools, there is a fee that can range from \$20-30 each.

All are welcome to attend our judging schools. You never know what you might learn.

For more information, please contact Laurie Cadwell, District 7 Judging contact, at [district7judgingcontact@gmail.com](mailto:district7judgingcontact@gmail.com).

# Show us your Wilmot



Mike Grummett took this picture through the trees of the New Hamburg dam on a sunny March day. The new path along the river is complete and amazing. Photo by Mike Grummett

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**LIFE OUTDOOR 11**

OPINION —

# KIDS AND FOOD: *Nutritional education starts at home*



By Mercedes Kay Gold

Nutrition is the cornerstone of health. Making healthy choices consistently is the foundation for building a strong and fit body, and it's never too early to start.

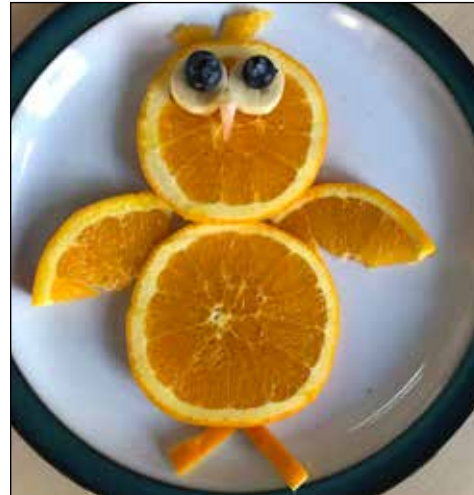
Raising healthy children is our responsibility, and making the commitment to serve nutrient-dense foods from birth positively impacts their future health as well. Carbohydrates, protein and fats, the three macronutrients, are mandatory for thriving while growing strong. Eating a wide variety of fresh vegetables and fruit in a rainbow of colors supplies vitamins, minerals, all-star antioxidants, and over 25,000 phytonutrients.



Make food fun and healthy to help your kids get excited about cooking and eating nutritious, whole foods with the whole family. Photos by Mercedes Kay Gold

Produce is a powerhouse of plant-based energy. These complex carbohydrates are packed with protein and are fiber-filled for full, trouble-free tummies. Protein helps build muscles, skin and bones, boosts immunity, and is linked to healthy hormones. Of the 20 amino acids that make up protein, the body produces eleven, but kids must get the other nine amino acids from their diet.

Fats fuel the body, help absorb vitamins



A, D, E and K, and are the building blocks of hormones. Whether your household chooses to eat meat or plant-based foods, food is supposed to support health. Over-processed foods stocked with sugar, artificial colours and preservatives are enemy number one. Avoid them at all costs. Think of your child as a top-of-the-line car and fill them with the best fuel.

Sometimes being a positive, carrot-munching role model isn't enough to have our mini-ones eager to try beloved brussels sprouts or swap sweets for strawberries.

Here are my top-notch tips to make mealtime magic not mayhem.

Back to basics means serving a balanced meal with all the macros. Start by sitting down together and creating a list of foods they love and foods they hate. Everyone in the house can have a say in planning the weekly household menu.

Mix it up. Make dinnertime culturally inclusive. Take turns choosing a new dinner destination. Cooking dishes from other countries is a tasty and neat way to escape mundane meals while exposing children to cuisines from faraway places.

Having fun in the kitchen with kiddies is possible. Delegate age-appropriate tasks.

Helping with meal prep tempts taste buds and teaches appreciation for the work involved to serve healthy, nutritious meals. Farm-to-table cooking is a life skill and prevents a lifetime of takeout, this nutritionist believes.

The world is so busy, it's crucial to make time for family dinners whether you are a single parent, part of a blended family or a three-generation household. Mealtime is more than the food we prepare, serve and eat. Family dinners are about sharing the day, good and bad, and connecting with the ones we love. Leave phones on silent and focus on the value of family time.

Children will learn to eat slowly, intuitively and mindfully. It's also an opportunity to build self-esteem and resilience, and the positive impact on children is undeniable. From a healthier weight, lower rates of depression and less behavioral problems to even stronger vocabularies, dinner time is undeniably priceless.

While March is National Nutrition Month, it's also a great reminder that we lead by example. Type-2 Diabetes is controllable, and by consistently shopping, cooking and eating, we are role models paving the way for the next generation to treat their body as a temple.

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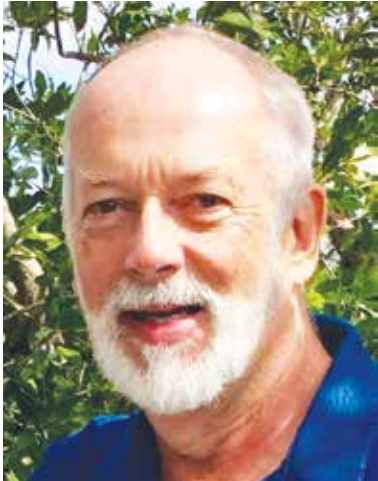
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## TRAVEL —

# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: An unexpected artistic treasure trove in the Nation's Capital



**By Paul Knowles**

I couldn't believe my own eyes. I had walked into a large exhibition hall in an art gallery I had never heard of.

Admission was free – open the door and you're in. And I found myself alone, surrounded by the works of many of the best artists Canada has ever known.

There were wonderful paintings by every member of the famed Group of Seven. And, as art lovers will know, the group actually numbered 10, thus demonstrating that art is not necessarily rational.

There were fine examples of Canadian impressionist art and terrific abstracts.

And there was an inspiring display of A.Y. Jackson artifacts, paintings and sketches, including multiple pullout drawers containing examples of his pencil sketches, works that led to some of the masterpieces of this prolific, original member of the Group of Seven.

I was in the Ottawa Art Gallery, an imposing, multi-storey building that somehow manages to be ignored by most visitors to Canada's capital city.

Actually, I understand this. As the nation's capital, Ottawa is replete with cultural attractions. Visitors with an eye for art will flock to the admittedly wonderful National Gallery of Canada. While in Ottawa, I got a chance to chat with Liliane Lê, vice president of public affairs and marketing at the national gallery, and she told me of many exciting things that are happening or are about to happen at that attraction. But's that another article.

Visitors come to Ottawa with a long to-do list: The Museum of History in Gatineau, The National War Museum, Parliament Hill, Rideau Hall House and Gardens, the Canada Science and Technology Museum, the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, and much, much more.

But honestly, most of those to-do lists will not include the Ottawa Art Gallery because most visitors are not even aware of its existence. It lives in the reputational shadow of the national gallery.

I stumbled on it by accident. I was attending the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada's annual conference and stayed at a hotel new to me – Le Germain – only a block or two from Parliament Hill, the Shaw Centre (which hosted the conference), the Byward Market and all the other interesting sites around downtown Ottawa.

Le Germain was terrific. I would highly recommend it as your headquarters for your exploration of Ottawa.

As soon as I arrived at the hotel, I noticed, right next door, a clearly marked entrance to the Ottawa Art Gallery. I assumed, quite mistakenly, this was a cute little facility offering exhibition



The A.Y. Jackson corner at the Ottawa Art Gallery includes Jackson paintings, drawers full of his sketches and his snowshoes and palette box. All photos by Paul Knowles

space to local artists. But when I took the time to check it out, I realized how wrong I had been.

There are five floors with exhibitions, though only a very limited number on the lower floor, which houses a café.

The floor labelled 1 because it opens from the front entrance, one floor up from the back door I had discovered, has a big exhibition space that does, indeed, feature work by local artists. But this is not to be dismissed. Many of the works are excellent art by talented people.

I climbed the stairs to the second floor and entered a room called the Firestone Gallery. Here is where the wonder really set in. Here I was alone with Lawren Harris and A.J. Casson, Emily Carr and Paul-Émile Borduas. Wonderful works by

artists of international significance but with a distinctly Canadian point of view.

Jack Firestone was an Austrian immigrant to Canada in the 1930s, a man who fell in love with his adopted country and its culture. A successful businessperson, academic, author and advisor to political leaders, he began to collect art in the 1950s when, let's be honest, a Lawrence Harris painting could be acquired for a tiny fraction of today's multi-million-dollar price tag. But the Firestones went all out. They collected 1,600 paintings and, in 1972, donated the entire collection to the Ontario Heritage Foundation with one proviso. The paintings had to be made available for the public to enjoy.

The Heritage Foundation decided to pass that challenge on

and gave the paintings to the City of Ottawa, which made the Ottawa Art Gallery stewards of the collection. A smart move in my opinion because today you and I can see these wonderful works of art free of charge.

One floor up was a temporary exhibit of the striking work by Ottawa artist Norman Takeuchi, spanning his work from 1961 to 2022. I did not know his work before my visit. I am very glad to have encountered this visionary creator.

I finished my tour of the Ottawa Art Gallery by returning to the Firestone Gallery, where I spent another half hour, once again alone, drinking in the delight of being up close and appreciative of such great work.

And then, as I was about to descend the elaborate staircase to return to the first floor, I read the panel that explained the staircase – like the paintings – had actually been moved to the art gallery from the Firestone mansion.

A perfect pathway to important Canadian paintings.

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



A wall full of paintings by Group of Seven member A.J. Casson.



Abstracts by four important Canadian artists. From left, Marcelle Feron, Paul-Émile Borduas (top), Kazuo Nakamura and Harold Town.

OPINION —

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK: *Spreading that second-hand love*



**By Galen Simmons**

In a society where we're constantly inundated with advertisements for that next, new thing, buying used can be an oddly exhilarating and environmentally friendly way to save money.

Since moving into our new house

in January, my girlfriend and I have been scouring Facebook marketplace and frequenting the Habitat for Humanity Restore in Stratford in search of the furniture and appliances we need (and want) to make our house a home.

On a shoestring budget, we've managed to buy couches, a dining-room table and chairs, two shelving units, three bathroom cabinets and a chest freezer – the latter of which the seller told us was made by a company that went out of business because its freezers were too good and no one ever needed to buy a new one.

While only time will tell if that seller was just giving us a sales pitch, there really is something

strangely satisfying about finding a piece for a good price that is still functional and was well taken care of, and seeing it find its place in your home.

Even better than finding that used treasure at a good price is finding something for free. Recently, I was scrolling through Facebook while at the gym when I noticed a post on a Shakespeare community page by someone giving away an espresso machine for free. It had been posted an hour before I saw it, so I figured someone had likely scooped it up.

My girlfriend, however, wasn't so sure. The post only had three likes when I read it and no one had commented, so we jumped in her car after finishing our

workout and drove out to Shakespeare where, lo and behold, the foretold espresso machine was sitting there, on a stump, waiting for us to take it.

After bringing it home, we bought some espresso beans which we ground fresh the next morning and enjoyed the first of many cappuccinos to come. I swear the coffee tasted better somehow because the machine that made it was free.

While playing the second-hand game can be a bit of a gamble – used things aren't always as functional as advertised – the benefits, in my opinion, outweigh the risks. Not only have we saved hundreds if not thousands of dollars buying used instead of new, by giving these items a new

home, we're essentially helping keep them out of landfill.

As Earth Day approaches, that ubiquitous phrase, "Reduce, reuse and recycle," comes to mind. By buying used, we've managed to both reduce someone else's waste and reuse something that might otherwise have become garbage.

While we can all do more to protect and preserve our environment, this is just enough to assuage my ever-present eco-guilt, at least until the next time I'm forced to recycle single-use plastic.

I love when saving money and saving the environment are one in the same, don't you?

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STRATFORD NISSAN



REVIEW —

# Yumi and the Nightmare Painter by Brandon Sanderson

By Oxford County Library staff

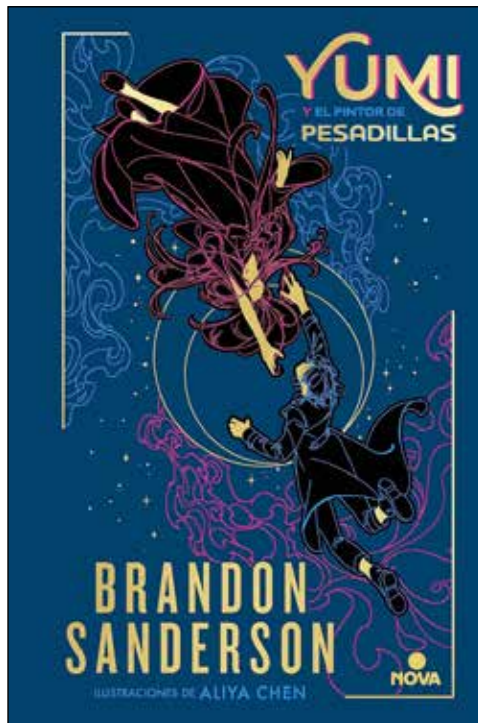
A young man who lives in a world of neon lights, technology and darkness who makes a living painting nightmares to protect his community. A young woman who lives in a world of sunlight, meditation and floating foliage who has dedicated her life to stacking rocks to please the spirits and bring good fortune to her community.

These two worlds collide when the spirits call out for help and entwine these two people together in magical, cosmic ways in order to save both communities from threat.

Back in January of 2023, author Brandon Sanderson announced he had secretly written four new books and would be funding and selling them through a Kickstarter campaign. Little did he know, those four books would be in such high demand that he would break (and almost double) a world record for the most funded Kickstarter campaign with a whopping \$41.7 million raised in one month. One of those four books in the campaign was Yumi and the Nightmare Painter.

This story is for the reader looking for a fantasy book with vivid imagery, masterful world-building, a focus on community, a slow-burn love story, and a comical narrator. We follow our two main characters, Yumi and Painter, as their worlds and lives become intertwined and they need to rethink everything they'd ever known about their worlds and themselves.

As far as fantasy novels go, this one is a fairly easy read with funny, thought-provoking prose, a small cast of characters



Cover art for Yumi and the Nightmare Painter by Brandon Sanderson. Contributed image

and a small collection of settings in which the story takes place – this is no globetrotting, dragon-riding epic. While this story is technically a stand-alone, it is also set within the Cosmere – the broad universe in which many of Sanderson's books take place.

So, if you've read some of this author's other books, some names and references may sound familiar.

# Gazette Puzzles

EASTER WEEKEND

D	N	B	C	Y	Q	N	H	S	J	R	I	Z	C	T	I	A	I	C	D
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From Our Families To Yours

# HAPPY EASTER

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

## Pet of the Week

### MICKY

A 6 year old cockapoo who loves to fetch the newspaper from the driveway every morning. She looks forward to doing this, as she gets a little treat for it. Owners Brian and Sandy Fedy say she's the happiest little dog when she gets to go for a car ride.

Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing: [thewtgazette@gmail.com](mailto:thewtgazette@gmail.com)



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# OPINION —

## EXPERT ADVICE: *Winners and Marshalls: Embrace the difference*



**By Scott Dunstall**

Winners and Marshalls are a confusing sea of racks if you're a newbie to the fashion game or a guy like I was 12 years ago before I discovered my style.

I was as a "toddlband" (toddler and husband) in tow. You've seen those guys shuffling behind their wives, head down and arms full of ladies' scarves, sweaters and a throw pillow, mumbling to themselves, "Have mercy. Please end the suffering."

I was that guy, but now I have a purpose when I walk into one of these stores. In fact, Lil and I go our separate ways when we walk in, and we don't see each other until we check out. If I am not looking for anything in particular, I will still stop into a Winners or Marshalls if I'm driving by.

If I walked into either loca-

tion right now, I would find two things going on. The spring/summer stuff is moving onto the racks and there is some clearance activity. Yes, Winners and Marshalls are essentially clearance stores for name-brand odd lots, end of lines, last-season slow movers and end-of-the-range sizes like XXL and XS. But they also have clearance items as well; clearing the clearance, if you will.

The changing seasons is one cue to see what's happening in these stores. As so often is the case, if you snooze, you lose. I start checking for summer items as early as late February for the best selection on polos, light jackets, shorts and, in Marshalls' case, shoes. You'll notice these stores also carry first-release products from obscure designers mostly from Europe that are looking to build awareness in North America. I have found some real gems from this group.

There are a few tricks I use to navigate these stores. First of all, I am walking in for one of two reasons, either I need a piece to add to a Flash (Outfit) because the old one wore out or I need something to kick a new Flash up a notch.

Another reason I may walk into one of these stores is for what

I would call market research or preventive maintenance. In other words, I am going in to see what's what. I know which way to turn when I walk in. I know which racks have long-sleeve shirts, short-sleeve shirts, jeans, pants, sweaters, shorts, belts, underwear, coats, gloves, scarves and wallets. I know what my size is – knowing your size in key clothing pieces is foundational in building your style – so I will look for the colour-coded ring on each hanger.

For example, 36 waist jeans are green. Knowing which way to turn, which rows have which items and what my size is all mechanical. You can learn this stuff after a couple of visits, but that is only half of it. What catches my eye and what I pull out to take a look at is completely subjective. My tastes are completely different than yours in terms of what stands out simply because we are different.

I am taking a bit of a diversion here as this is a good place to restate the essence of what it is to create your own style. One of the hidden benefits of Winners and Marshalls is you can see many things at once, and the difference between them all unlike The Bay, where one colour of one style and brand of shirt is

stacked together.

Difference is the element that changes fashion into style. It is your difference that creates your own, unique style. It's all about the colours you wear, the combinations you wear, the cut or style of garment you wear and the way you wear it. You and I could be wearing the exact same thing and one of us may not be able to pull it off even if the right sizes are used. That cut of jean will look good on only one of our body styles or that sweater colour looks better with only one of our skin tones.

It's what you pick and how you wear it that creates style and makes you stand out. When you refine your search field and know where you're going and what category of thing you are looking for, the fun part of this game kicks in. For me, it is looking at the colour of something first. For example, if in my mind's eye I am imagining a quarter-zip, pale-blue sweater with dark-blue accents, like a band in the collar, to go with my new ink-blue, no-stitch jeans, then I am already standing in front of the medium and large sweaters. We just went through how I got there. I will check both sizes because different designers have different cuts and they

fit differently.


When I go to the changeroom, I will most likely have that item in the two closest sizes I think will fit. At Winners and Marshalls, what you like in one size is not guaranteed in another size. You have to look.

Get good at working these stores. Don't buy clothes in a panic. Smooth out your buying. Take it easy and be a Winner or a Marshall.

"Style is just fashion filtered through your personality"

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

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Ecoboosters express concern with proposed Wilmot land acquisition

To the Editor:

The Nith Valley EcoBoosters is very concerned about the Region of Waterloo's proposed plan to acquire over 750 acres of farmland in Wilmot Township for the purpose of having it "shovel ready" for an unidentified, future industrial project.

We feel called to take action when we see our water sources, natural areas and farmlands threatened. We see that happening now with the planned acquisition of land in Wilmot in the area bordered by Nafziger Road, Bleams Road, Wilmot Centre Road and Highway 7/8.

We are in the midst of a climate crisis that poses a serious threat to the future wellbeing of our planet. This requires long-term planning, especially with regards to protecting our resources for the future.

Protecting prime farmland is essential for helping to ensure food

security for the future. Waterloo Region has some of the best farmland in the country. It is a finite resource that needs to be valued not squandered. In addition to the value that farmlands have for growing food, they are also an important part of our natural landscape. Other plants grow on farms that are important for a variety of uses. Trees are important for carbon capture and, along with other plants, provide habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife that contribute to biodiversity.

Furthermore, it is our understanding that the properties that are being considered for this acquisition contain streams that connect to the Nith River and are adjacent to regional water-source well heads. Aquifers are the main source of clean water for Waterloo Region and they are accessed by wells, many of which are found in rural areas of the region. With an increasing population and erratic weather patterns caused by climate change, we

need to prioritize the protection of all our water sources. This requires a thorough environmental assessment to determine what impact any industrial uses will have on our water in the coming years.

While we have no information about why there is a move by the Region of Waterloo to acquire this land, it will certainly result in the loss of prime farmland, and it has the potential to impact our water sources and compromise natural areas. The consequences will certainly be detrimental to the landowners directly involved, the local communities and the region as a whole. The Nith Valley EcoBoosters strongly believe that the land-acquisition project in this location needs to be reconsidered.

*Dorothy Wilson*

*Communications Team  
Nith Valley EcoBoosters  
New Hamburg*

**COMMUNITY —**

# Business group releases networking event schedule

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Oxford Rural Entrepreneurs networking events are returning in 2024.

Five county businesses are hosting events that will travel to township this spring and summer. Crystal van Roekel, Rural Oxford's economic development officer, expressed the enthusiasm of community partners for the continuation of these events.

"A survey was released at the end of last year's events to gauge interest and gain some feedback from attendees. Rural business owners see value in these events, so we knew it was important to continue them into 2024."

The networking events offer a diverse blend of businesses from across the

county, providing a platform for owners to connect, collaborate, share ideas and enjoy local snacks and drinks while learning about the host business. Van Roekel explained there are many benefits of attending the events, including the opportunity to build rapport with others in the business community.

The 2023 events saw upwards of 30 attendees per event, and organizers hope to draw more entrepreneurs this year.

"We have a unique dynamic to these events. The emphasis is truly on enjoying a social night out with likeminded individuals," she said.

The events are held at businesses that can accommodate outdoor settings, offering attendees a delightful "patio-like" experience on summer nights. However, arrangements can be made to move indoors

if weather conditions are unfavorable.

"Thanks to the sponsorship of community partners, tickets for these events are provided at no cost to business owners. Rural Oxford Economic Development manages ticket distribution through its website. Although attendance is free, the organization requests a head count to manage food waste effectively," explained van Roekel.

The Oxford rural entrepreneurs committee is made up of organizations across the county including Rural Oxford Economic Development, Community Futures Oxford, The Small Business Centre, Oxford County Library and Libro Credit Union. A local business venue in each rural Oxford township has agreed to host one of the travelling networking sessions.

"That is our focus and it will always remain in the rural townships where there

are many incredible small businesses. This is rural networking at its roots," said van Roekel.

Events are scheduled as follows:

- April 10, 6-8 p.m. at Bright Cheese and Butter
- May 8, 6-8 p.m. at Willow Grove Animal Wellness Centre
- June 12, 6-8 p.m. at Gunns Hill Artisan Cheese
- July 10, 6-8 p.m. at Deep Purple Lavender Farm
- Aug. 14, 6-8 p.m. at Orange Door Acres Farm

To register for these networking events, go to [ruraloxford.ca/networking](http://ruraloxford.ca/networking).

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR - MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2024

### THURSDAY, MAR. 28

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

**Rib & Tail Stag**  
6 p.m. - Take out  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
*Shakespeare and District Optimist Hall  
Thompson St. Shakespeare*

Good  
**Friday**

March 29, 2024

EASTER  
**Sunday**

March 31, 2024

### TUESDAY, APR. 2

**Ostomy Support Group Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.  
'Humour and Feeling Good' with Dr. Ken Shonk  
Social time and snacks. Everyone welcome.  
*93 Morgan St., Stratford*

### MONDAY, APR. 8

**Garden Wilmot (Wilmot Hort Society) Monthly Garden Talk**  
7 p.m.  
Topic: Growing cannabis in your yard  
*Wilmot Rec Complex,  
Meeting Room A (upstairs).  
1291 Nafziger Rd. Baden*

**Township of Wilmot council meeting**  
7-11 p.m.  
*Council chambers  
60 Snyder's Rd. West Baden*

### TUESDAY, APR. 9

**Township of Wellesley council meeting**  
6:45 p.m.  
*Council chambers  
4805 William Hastings Line,  
Crosshill*

### WEDNESDAY, APR. 10

**Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship**  
12 p.m.  
Join us for lunch and fellowship.  
Cost: \$14.00. Must register by April 5 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.  
*Wellesley Recreation Complex,  
1401 Queen's Bush Rd. Wellesley*

### SATURDAY, APR. 20

**Tree Planting for Habitat Restoration**  
9 a.m. to noon; 1-4 p.m.  
*Nithview Senior Community Floodplain  
40 Albert St. New Hamburg*

**Tavistock Historical Society Annual Meeting**  
1:30 pm  
Presentation: Growing Up In Tavistock In the 1960's  
*Grace United Church  
116 Woodstock St S, Tavistock*

### WEDNESDAY, APR. 24

**Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship**  
12 p.m.  
Join us for lunch and fellowship.  
Cost: \$14.00. Must register by April 19 by calling 519-664-1900 or toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.  
*Linwood Community Centre,  
5279 Ament Line, Linwood*

### THURSDAY, APR. 25

**Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship**  
12 p.m.  
Join us for lunch and fellowship.  
Cost: \$14.00. Must register by April 19 by calling 519-664-1900 or toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.  
*Wilmot Rec Complex,  
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden*

### TUESDAY, APR. 30

**Nith Valley Ecoboosters free in-person educational event**  
7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Topic: "STOVE TALK: Introduction to Induction". Please join us to learn about the benefits of induction cooking and see cooking demonstrations by local chefs.  
Register at: [nvecoboosters.com](http://nvecoboosters.com) Questions? Contact [nvecoboosters@gmail.com](mailto:nvecoboosters@gmail.com)  
*Wilmot Recreational Complex,  
Room A  
1291 Nafziger Road in Baden*

### SATURDAY, MAY 4

**Tree Planting**  
9 a.m. to noon  
*Riverside Park  
Riverside Drive New Hamburg*

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**Weekly Quiz Answers**

- |                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Germany                      | 6. 1824            |
| 2. Resurrection of Jesus Christ | 7. Lent            |
| 3. Vegreville, AB               | 8. Witches         |
| 4. Hot cross buns               | 9. Kinder Surprise |
| 5. Eleven                       | 10. New York City  |

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