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Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group member Jen Christensen took this photo recently from Nafziger Road near Philipsburg. Photo courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot

Contrary local opinions on the 2024 federal budget

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The latest federal budget has been released and, to no one's surprise, the government and the official opposition are at odds.

The 2024 document goes after the country's highest earners with new taxes to help offset billions in new spending designed to enhance the country's housing supply and social supports. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland's budget outlines how the Liberals plan to allocate \$39.2 billion in net-new spending, while upholding what they call fiscal guardrails.

The Liberals are asking the country's wealthiest to pay more and Freeland said it would be wrong to pass on more debt to future generations. Public debt charges are on track to grow to \$64.3 billion by the 2028-29 fiscal year.

Oxford Conservative MP Arpan Khanna said it's the same old story being spewed by the Liberals.

"After eight years of Justin Trudeau, this budget is exactly what got us into this mess in the first place. We have had record inflation over the last few years and the budget is doing absolutely nothing to stop that and nothing to bring down interest rates."

He added inflation rose to 2.9 per cent in March and by bringing in a budget with over \$50 million in new spending, it's a recipe to make things worse.

"You're putting our essential services, our programs at risk. This is their attempt to try and change the channel. Canadians are tired of paying extra for a bag of groceries and too much for housing. It's empty promises, more photo ops and no plan to get our country back on track."

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Federal government announces increased firefighter tax credit

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The federal government has announced it will be increasing tax credits and providing additional funding and support for volunteer firefighters.

There are over 90,000 volunteer firefighters in Canada who put their lives on the line every single day. Many of them have to pay out of pocket to cover expenses associated with the life-saving services they provide. Right now, they get a tax credit of \$3,000 to

cover those expenses. In a pre-budget announcement last week, the federal government confirmed that Budget 2024 will propose to double the Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit and the Search and Rescue Volunteers Tax Credit to \$6,000.

Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis and Cambridge MP Bryan May have been vocal in calling for increased tax credits for volunteer firefighters and search-and-rescue volunteers. The two MPs recently hosted a roundtable with the Region of Waterloo townships' fire chiefs and their mayors in

Baden's fire station alongside Longueuil-Charles-LeMoine MP Sherry Romanado, who is also the parliamentary secretary to the minister of emergency preparedness.

"I was thrilled to hear the announcement of the increased tax credit and supports for volunteer firefighting and search-and-rescue volunteers, which recognizes and rewards their commitment to public service. I will continue to advocate on their behalf, as they continue to protect us all," said Louis.





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COMMUNITY —



Government increases tax credit for firefighters

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Those sentiments were echoed by Wilmot Fire Chief Rod Leeson.

"Extremely happy to see the tax exemption increase to \$6,000 annually. This is important to further support our valued volunteer firefighters and demonstrate the commitment to protecting the volunteer model. We hope to see this amount further increase in future federal budgets to continue supporting our volunteer firefighters."

He added his firefighters are encouraged to see support from the federal government and hope to see increased support in future budgets.

Some volunteer departments in Ontario have reached critically low levels of firefighters, which has been at least part of the political push for the improved tax break. Leeson said the Wilmot department isn't in a similar position, but the move certainly won't hurt.

"In the past, recruitment was not required annually. Today we see retention as an issue, but recruitment continues to be successful

annually. Financial incentives may lead to longer tenure from our volunteer firefighters. This tax credit increase is one tool that should help."

Leeson also pointed out the importance of volunteers from a financial standpoint and added the work isn't done yet.

"These decisions take time, however proactive steps are required to maintain the volunteer-firefighter model. This extremely cost-effective model is vital to smaller communities. We have more work to do and appreciate support from the provincial and federal governments."

During the roundtable discussion hosted at the Township of Wilmot Fire Station 1, the MPs discussed issues important to small-town local firefighting, including an increase of tax credits for volunteer firefighters.

The government believes the increased tax credit will help alleviate a real issue for the Waterloo Region's local townships when trying to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters, a problem East-Zorra Tavistock has been fortunate enough not to have.

Pictured left Kitchener Conestoga MP Tim Louis speaks with Paul Koenig, district Fire Chief in Baden. Photo By Lee Griffi

Local Perspectives on the 2024 Federal Budget

Continued from page 1

Kitchener Conestoga MP Tim Louis said he liked how his government rolled out budget announcements in stages over the last few weeks.

"It gave Canadians and our community and even myself time to get behind the messaging and find out what kind of programs we are doing. It addressed housing and affordability. Those are the issues I have been hearing about from people in the community for a long time."

He added the budget addresses those issues responsibly and fairly.

"There are big challenges, and we need some big solutions. We aren't adding to inflation, and it has been below three per cent for the past three months. If we are careful, and we have been, Canada isn't going into a recession. We are doing the things we need to do in a responsible way."

Louis said the targeted support his government is putting out is going to help people and the economy, which will bring the deficit down.

Khanna said the budget will do nothing to make life more affordable for Canadians when it comes to housing and the cost of living.

"We are in a housing crisis. Rent has doubled. Mortgage payments have doubled. Down payments have doubled. Canadians can't buy homes. We have two million Canadians going to a food bank every month and more are expected to join them this year."

He added the working class is pushing back against the Trudeau government.

"This is the same prime minister who said budgets balance themselves and he doesn't think about monetary policy. Sadly,

you can't run your household on a credit card, and you can't run the country that way."

When asked if the Liberal-NDP partnership has outworn its welcome with Canadians and his constituents, Louis explained the deal is a positive one.

"The NDP is probably saying we are not doing enough, and the Conservatives are saying we are doing too much. It's that middle ground I am fairly comfortable being in. We have to work together and cooperate. We don't agree with everything they say but negotiations are going on and I am sure there are things they wish we would do differently."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made it well known this week his government is focusing on the generations of Gen Z and Millennials, something Louis said revolves around allowing more young people to

purchase houses.

"We are building more homes. The comprehensive housing plan we are putting out including the housing accelerator fund is making a difference. That funding goes right to our communities to build homes."

The Liberals have talked recently about the country's AAA credit rating and a low debt-to-GDP ratio, but Khanna said that doesn't mean much when you talk to people struggling in Oxford.

"Tell that to a single mother who is struggling to put food on the table for her kids. Tell that line to our seniors on a fixed income who are calling me to say they are asking their children for handouts. Tell that to the average, working-class family who have good jobs and dual incomes who are now saying we are working hard, trying to get by, but we are struggling."



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COMMUNITY —

Wilmot Roots sells out of trees

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

In celebration of Earth Day, the Township of Wilmot offered a free tree giveaway program called Wilmot Roots for the second year in a row.

This community initiative is the result of a donation of funds from Enova Power Corporation to help reforest the township. With the ongoing organizational support of the volunteer-based Let's Tree Wilmot group, the township offered over 300 free trees to residents this spring.

Chris Catania is the township's director of community services and said the program is an important one.

"There will be times in many municipalities when trees come down. They are diseased or at the end of their life span so what we are trying to do is ensure we are replanting as we need to. This is an opportunity for residents to plant a free tree on their property."

He added the township is thrilled with the uptake from Wilmot residents.

"It's a very successful initiative. When the

registration opened, there was a supply of about 345 trees. They included sugar maples, white spruce, white pine and red maples. It's one of these initiatives where we promote it and we have had a really good community uptake when it comes to signing up and participating."

Going forward the township hopes not only to continue with Wilmot Roots but expand on it.

"We would like to increase the tree canopy in Wilmot. If the funding is still available, then we would definitely want to promote it."

Catania added if funding were to increase, he would like to see more species of trees available to participants.

"We have something that is working well. It's great for the environment, great for the community and we want it to be successful."

The program has a limit of one tree per household and that tree must be planted in the Township of Wilmot on private property. Residents are responsible for planting and caring for the tree.

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COMMUNITY —

**Tavistock Agriculture Society
hosts Trivia Night**

By Gary West

Members of the Tavistock Agriculture Society were kept busy with a sold-out crowd for a dinner and a night of fun and trivia.

Different categories included Canadian geography, world history, sports and some local Tavistock trivia.

The first-place team named themselves "Taking Care of Quizness," and the second-place team was named "The Untouchables."

Agricultural Society directors said they are hoping to run some events like a trivia night in the future again, and they said they loved to see so many members from the community come out for a fun night.

They appreciated the community coming out to support events like this that help raise funds for the fall fair and other future events of the active society.



The winning Taking Care of Quizness trivia team were all smiles receiving their prize money. They included, from left, Stephanie Krauskopf, Alison Michel, Adam Pallone, Erin Vollmer, Leanne Kresky, Lindsay Gropp, Denise Wreford and Karen Spillane. Contributed photo



Restoring small-town journalism, one community at a time!

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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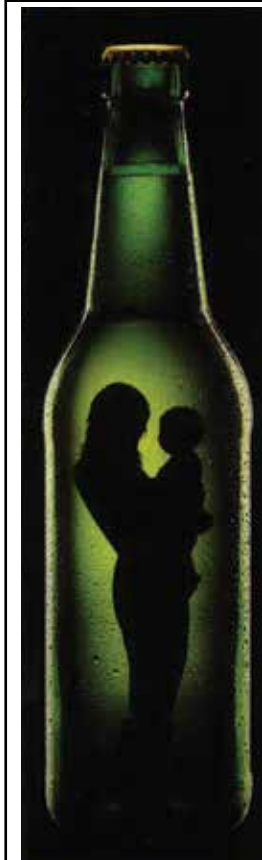
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COMMUNITY —

Shakespeare's Optimist Club elects new leader



Pictured from left are the newly elected Shakespeare Optimist Club first vice-president Jeremy Witzel, president Mike McNeil and second vice-president Murray Schlotzhauer. Contributed photo

By Gary West

Members of the Shakespeare Optimist Club held their yearly elections last week, electing Mike McNeil, who was born and raised in the village, to lead the club into another year of activities for youth in the community.

One of McNeil's projects for the spring and summer will be to encourage all area kids and parents to plant a sunflower seed supplied by the club and, later in the year, have them judged for size and colour.

He's hoping the offer of substantial prize money that will encourage everyone to take part and have the whole village and area get involved.

McNeil's idea is to have those sunflowers planted in front of houses and businesses so the bright-yellow flower will help to beautify residences in the area.

The club will also be involved in the fishing derby in May and the bike rodeo in June and hope to host many youth activities during the summer months.

Optimist Club of New Dundee to host Mother's Day Brunch

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

The Optimist Club of New Dundee is hosting a Mother's Day Brunch at the New Dundee Community Centre from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 12.

The Optimist Club of New Dundee has organized this Mother's Day Brunch for several years with the help of its dedicated members, community volunteers and local businesses. It is an important fundraiser which allows the club to provide many supports and activities to young people in our community.

Brunch includes a hot and cold buffet, desserts and a make-your-own sundae bar.

Tickets can be purchased at the door at a cost of \$25 for adults, \$10 for kids aged six to 12 and free for kids under five.

All proceeds support youth activities in

New Dundee. The Optimist Club of New Dundee provides many benefits to local youth including:

- Youth Scholarship Award
- Youth Appreciation Awards and Dinner
- Nutrition for Learning
- Free community skating at local arenas
- Soap Box Derby
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Children's Christmas Party
- Support for the Holiday Hamper program at the Wilmot Family Resource Centre
- Support for local school initiatives

Local businesses supporting the brunch at the time this article was written include Colour Paradise, Gary West of Perth-Waterloo Egg Farmers and Village Caterer.

NDP hosting town hall in Wilmot Friday

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Ontario New Democrats have scheduled a town hall meeting April 19 to further protest the attempted land acquisition by the Region of Waterloo.

This time, NDP leader and leader of the provincial opposition Marit Stiles will be in attendance. A release from Stiles' office said since last August, government officials have put into play the expropriation of 770 hectares of farmland for industrial development without public consultation.

"To date, there are no clear answers on how rezoning will affect water resources for this area. Community leaders, residents and organizations have come together to call on the government to halt this plan. This protected parcel of land was never slated for development and is reminiscent of the Greenbelt fiasco."

Waterloo MPP Catherine Fife will also be in attendance and said the party is

trying to create a space for issues and concerns to be raised about the potential expropriation.

"It's important to bring people together in the face of silence from all regional politicians, staff and local provincial representatives."

She added the plan comes back to the provincial Conservative government.

"I've briefed Marit, and we share the concerns of the community around lack of transparency, environmental issues and the role of the Ford Government in this scheme. Creating an opportunity for folks to share their concerns and solutions in support of the farming community is much needed."

The event is at the Wilmot Recreation Centre on Friday, April 19 from 5-6:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A. The party is asking people to RSVP to reserve a spot and email questions for speakers to reply to at outreach@ndp.on.ca.

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COMMUNITY —

Tavistock Jersey cow sells for second-highest bid at Ontario's Invitational Sale



Kawartha Canadian Jayla, the top-selling animal at the recent Ontario Invitational Sale, sold for \$7,200. Photo by Liz Sullivan

By Gary West

For many years, the Ontario invitational sale sponsored by Jersey Ontario has been one of the most successful Jersey spring sales where 4-H calves are selected and many milking cows are made available for Jersey breeders across the province and beyond.

This year was no exception with a sale average on 64 head of cows and heifers at \$3,345. Kawartha Canadian Jayla,

from Lindsay, was the top seller going to Maker Farms Inc. and Vanessa Birt from Rockwood for \$7,200.

The second-highest bid came from Lencrest Jerseys in Quebec, who paid \$6,500 for Braeview Chrome Venus from Athlone Farms of Tavistock.

Animals in the sale went to locations as far away as Cotton Spring Farms in Pennsylvania.

The sale grossed \$214,100.

Paving at the Shakespeare Optimist Hall



Paving crews with Brantco are seen finishing paving the parking lot on Monday at the Shakespeare Optimist Hall. Photo by Gary West

By Gary West

Paving workers from the Brantco paving company were busy in Shakespeare on Monday paving the south parking lot at the Shakespeare Optimist Hall.

The Township of Perth East was pleased with the final quote of \$66,900, and patrons who use the hall will be equally pleased in rainy weather to be able to walk on a paved surface as opposed to gravel.

With many bookings and larger functions, the expanded paved lot at the Optimist Hall is welcomed by its many users.

Coun. Andrew McCalpine said concurrent upgrades to the hall will occur with the

replacement of acoustic panels to dull the noise from large crowds, the replacement of banquet tables and the replacement of ceiling tile in the upper hall.

"The township always enjoys working with organizations like the Shakespeare Optimist Club, delivering services where needed to replace aging infrastructure," McCalpine said.

In other Perth East news, council has approved the construction of a new sidewalk in Sebastopol, east of at a cost of \$65,000.

This year will also see paving of the boundary road, Perth Road 103, between Perth Line 43 and Perth Line 47 at a cost of \$624,606 shared with Wilmot Township.



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COMMUNITY —

Dr. Graham Shantz appointed as AMDSB director of education

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

The Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) board of trustees announced Monday that Dr. Graham Shantz has been appointed director of education, taking over from outgoing director Dr. Lisa Walsh.

Shantz took on this role after 26 years with the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB). His most recent position with WRDSB was associate director. In that role he was responsible for leading the human resources and equity, information technology, finance, planning and facilities functions.

Prior to becoming the associate director, Shantz first joined WRDSB as a teacher in 1997 and served in a variety of positions including principal, executive officer, superintendent of student achievement and wellbeing and coordinating superintendent. During his tenure, he supported student achievement, the migration of the IT network to cloud services, recovery from a cyber incident, changes in hiring practices that now reward lived experiences, transformation to more accessible school buildings and new facilities that incorporate nature in architectural and landscape design.

He has worked closely with librarians, trades, educators and non-education staff to create innovative solutions that centre students. Shantz was born and raised in the district and is a former AMDSB student. Shantz studied at the University

of Western Ontario where he earned his Masters and has a Doctorate in Education from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia.

"I am very excited to be returning to Avon Maitland as the director of education," Shantz said in a press release. "I have the most wonderful memories from my time as a student. It will be an honour to work for the system where I started my education journey. Avon Maitland ensured that I was prepared for life's challenges and opportunities, the same goal we have for all of our students."

"AMDSB is delighted to welcome Dr. Graham Shantz as our new director of education," AMDSB board of trustees chair Robert Hunking said in the release. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position and we look forward to his leadership in working together with our students and staff."

Hunking also thanked Walsh for her seven years of leadership at the board.

"We want to express our appreciation to Dr. Lisa Walsh for her excellent leadership and vision over the past seven years as director. Lisa's focus on teamwork, service and leadership has resulted in the significant progress of AMDSB. Her 35-year career in education has been exemplary and inspiring, and we wish her years of health and happiness in this next adventure of retirement."



Dr. Graham Shantz will replace Dr. Lisa Walsh as director of education at the Avon Maitland District School Board. Photo courtesy of Avon Maitland District School Board

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COMMUNITY —

Singing group Lifted Voices harmonizes at Grace United Church in Tavistock

By Gary West

There are many worship services in churches in the Tavistock and New Hamburg areas where the message is sometimes related through music.

The congregation at Tavistock's Grace United Church on Sunday were gifted with four-part harmony in song and messages from a musical group known as Lifted Voices from Kitchener's First Mennonite Church.

The group brought a musical message and sang along with hymns familiar to the congregation, along with intermittent scripture readings.

Even though they're based in Kitchener, some of the members still have family roots in the New Hamburg and Tavistock areas.

A member of Lifted Voices, Peggy Roth said the group was formed 35 years ago and little did they think then that the group of women would still be singing together to this day.

They not only sing at worship services, weddings, Christmas banquets, seniors homes and birthday celebrations, but have also released a third CD entitled "Sing For Joy" in memory of Joy Dorsch, a former member of the group who passed away in 2006.

It was a Sunday service to remember for the appreciative congregation of Grace United Church.



Lifted Voices, a musical group from Kitchener's First Mennonite Church, sang to congregation members at Grace United Church on Sunday. From left, members of Lifted Voices are Peggy Roth, Wendy Priebe, Carolyn Burkhardt, Jennifer Jacobi and Susan Pries on piano. Absent is Nancy Mann. Contributed photo

Residents of Maples Home for Seniors in Tavistock entertained by the Dynamic Duo



Standing in the back row from left are Raymond Ruby, Dianne Ditner, Gary Moser, Mary Brooker, Joan Hergott, Marcia Wilson, Tabitha Cook and Leanne Darlington. In the front row from left are Sabrina Bowman and Lylia Davidson. Contributed photo

By Gary West

It was a day of celebration and music at Tavistock's Maples Home for Seniors last week.

The band was the Dynamic Duo of Dianne Ditner and Gary Moser. They had all the residents tapping their feet and clapping their hands in a jovial mood on an otherwise rainy and cloudy day.

Like activity director Sabrina Bowman said, all it takes is some good down-home country music to make the residents feel uplifted.

Executive director Joan Hergott said the '50s, '60s and classic tunes the duo plays is always a good time for the residents, who enjoy the entertainment organized by the staff at the Maples.

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The family of the late Carmine L. Sim wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for their many acts of kindness; whether it was a floral arrangement, card, donation, message or food, it was all greatly appreciated.

A special Thank you to the Care Partners and South West Home and Community Care Support Services team members that supported and cared for Carmine over the last months.

Thank you to Jeff Glendinning - Francis Funeral Home for all his assistance.

*"Wherever a beautiful soul has been,
there has been a trail of beautiful memories."*

*With gratitude,
The Sim Family*

Bob, Lynda, Gwenie, Glen and families

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Place an announcement in the
Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

Call Sharon at 519-580-5418
or email sharonbleis@gmail.com

COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. Who created the first gasoline powered car?
2. What was the supercontinent on Earth called?
3. What was the first space probe sent to space?
4. What does RRSP stand for?
5. When did Nixon resign?
6. What is the most dangerous chemical element?
7. Who voices Joy in Pixar's Inside Out?
8. What follows Millions, Billions, and Trillions?
9. What is the capital of Australia?
10. How many colors are there on a rubix cube?

Answers found on page 22

BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES

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

April 18: Happy birthday to Devon Zehr (11) and Connor Weldrick (14).

April 19: Happy birthday to Hadley DeGouw (10), Lauchlyn DeGouw (10), Olivia Salese (19), Reegan Ziegler (19), Charles Tamblyn (20), Rev. Everett Mossman,

April 20: Happy birthday to Ava Cook (9) and anniversary for Jesse and Laura Harold (11th).

April 21: Happy birthday to Westyn Ropp (4), Cullen McCarten (13), Blake Bender (23), and Ruth Rosenberg (100).

April 22: Happy birthday to Charlie Van Nes (6), Jensen Gruber (14), Carson Neumeister (15), Hanna Edmonstone (22), and Julie Bergsma, and anniversary for Adam and Meghan Bender (7th).

April 23: Happy birthday to Lia Paige Van Nes (5), Lyla Hallman (16), and Peyton Duguay (17).

April 24: Happy birthday to Bridget Trachsel (10) and Blake Weicker (16).

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.

April 16-23, 2014, Edition (10 years ago)

Retiring Tavistock Brave Mac Kalbfleisch finished his junior career with most valuable player awards in both the regular season and the playoffs. He received honors at the Braves' annual banquet and awards night held in the Tavistock Legion Hall on Saturday. "Mac really turned it on in the playoffs," said coach Dan O'Hearn.

Grade 3 student Belle Houle, 8, and her grandfather, Wayne Houle, sunk the final 20 on the last shot to win this year's Tavistock Public School crokinole tournament. The pair defeated the father-and-son team of Dave and Ben Wiffen in the final to take home first place out of 50 teams.

Rock and roll is still alive and well. The students at Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare made sure of it on Wednesday April 16, 2014, when they presented a Spring Musical Karaoke-style performance of the great '50s and '60s hit songs.

April 14-21, 2004, Edition (20 years ago)

Woodstock: Cast and crew of Embro's Thistle Theatre production of Fiddler on the Roof were thrilled to win the award for Best Production in the WODL Festival, along with five additional awards.

On Thursday, April 15, the Tavistock School Council hosted its 21st annual crokinole tournament in the school gymnasium. A total of 100 students, family and friends participated in an exciting, fun-filled evening with Alex and Doug Drinkwalter finishing in top spot.

A violent storm on Sunday morning, April 18, 2004, damaged several properties around the Tavistock area around 9 a.m. and cut power to the village at two different times at the height of the storm. Trees were uprooted, sheds and barns heavily damaged, and other buildings shifted on their foundations after winds at 100 km/hr tore through the region.

At the Waterloo Siskins annual banquet, Tyler Townsend, 18, a son of Jack and Pam Townsend of RR 2, Tavistock, was awarded Rookie of the Year, Most Improved Player and the team's Best Defenseman after an impressive record with the Siskins this season.

If area farmers needed a boost in their spirits, they got it Sunday when the Tavistock Veterinarians hosted a We Care Day to show their concern for the BSE situation and its effect on the agricultural industry. Over 400 attended with children enjoying a variety of carnival games and tasty candy floss.

April 18-25, 1984, Edition (40 years ago)

On April 9 and 10, the Midgets and Juveniles played Wellesley in a best two-out-of-three play finals for the Grand Valley Minor Hockey championship. Both the Juveniles and the

Midgets defeated Wellesley in a clean sweep and captured league championships.

If the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock adopts the budget presented to the April 18 meeting, it will mean an increase of taxes in Tavistock of over 10 per cent, roughly \$120 on a \$5,000 assessment. It will all depend on how the police grant is distributed over the total number of residences.

A potluck dinner was enjoyed by all at the April meeting of the Senior Citizens. Roll call was answered by 32 members and the group played cards.

The Ontario March of Dimes' 1984 fundraising campaign is officially over. Mrs. Ramseyer is delighted to report that a total of \$1,671.60 was collected in Tavistock.

April 15-22, 1964, Edition (60 years ago)

Fourteen panes of window glass and the glass in one door along the east side of the Memorial Hall were smashed by stones some time Sunday. The cost of replacing the panes will be more than \$100.

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the large barn on the farm of Lester H. Wettlaufer, RR4, Stratford, late Sunday afternoon with loss estimated at \$25,000. Destroyed was approximately 1,500 bushels of grain, a number of farming implements and 30 pigs.

The elimination games in the Tavistock and District Women's Alley Bowling were played last week at Les and Hap's Lanes, with the high bowler being Cathryn Hohner with 618 followed by Pearl Wilker with 600.

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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
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Pastors Ray Martin & Mike Williamson

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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK —

Local mayors celebrate National Volunteer Week April 14-20

By Galen Simmons

In honour of National Volunteer Week April 14-20, the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette reached out to three local mayors to get their take on the importance of volunteers in our communities.

All three mayors – Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen, Wellesley Mayor Joe Nowak and East Zorra-Tavistock Mayor Phil Schaefer – were eager to respond and share their gratitude for the people in each municipality who give their time for the betterment of their communities.

This is what they had to say:

Mayor Natasha Salonen, Township of Wilmot

“Volunteerism is at the heart of our community. I don't know that you can live in Wilmot and not either be a volunteer or benefit from the work of volunteers. Ranging from our local service clubs, boards and societies that host some of the best events of the year – like the fall fair, parades, Cruise night, community meals, tree lighting, and Remembrance Day – to our volunteer-led and run teams and clubs, and the volunteers that keep our town beautiful through garden beds and tree planting, our volunteers make a difference. And, of course, there are our volunteer firefighters.

“Volunteers are critical to rural communities and carry out many activities that

we, as residents, love and expect that the Township would (otherwise) not have the manpower to undertake. Many of those I've outlined above.

“I would be remiss if I didn't thank the volunteers that provide critical services many of our residents rely on, like the school-breakfast programs, supporting the work of the staff at the Wilmot Family Resource Centre and the important aid work that local volunteers support through various faith organizations.

“There is an endless number of projects and events that would not be accomplished without volunteers in Wilmot, many of which I have noted. More examples include the efforts of volunteer groups like Let's Tree Wilmot. Our community will benefit from the 3,000-plus trees they have planted since 2020.

“The upcoming Canada Day festivities would not occur without the dedicated group of volunteers and Wilmot's shuffleboard and pickleball programming are made possible by the support of volunteers, like many other local sports and clubs.

“The Township of Wilmot supports volunteers in various ways, including through community grants, discounts and in-kind services to many local clubs and organizations. We also have various volunteer opportunities through our community services department.

“I want to thank everyone in our community who volunteers in some capacity. Your efforts and work are noticed and appreciated. You help to make Wilmot the wonderful place it is to live.”

Mayor Joe Nowak, Township of Wellesley

“Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”

“Whether raising funds for community projects, supporting those in need of assistance, helping a neighbour, or mentoring our youth on soccer fields and ice rinks, it is through the commitment of our volunteers that we all benefit.

“We would not be able to enjoy the quality of life that we do in small rural communities without their assistance. They are the glue that binds us together, people helping others, folks contributing in a positive way to make Wellesley Township a great place to live, work and play.

“Without their enthusiastic support, we would not be able to function as a cohesive, caring entity to provide support for our youth, our seniors and everyone in between. It is fitting and appropriate that on National Volunteer Week we take a moment to reflect on the enormous contributions our many volunteers do to enrich our communities and we thank them for their service.”

Mayor Phil Schaefer, Township of East Zorra-Tavistock

“As we go on with our daily lives, you would be hard pressed to not come in contact with something that volunteers have helped to provide in our township (including) our beautiful parks, gardens, a fish fry, sauerkraut supper, fall fair and even going to see your family doctor in Tavistock, whose clinic's future was secured over 20 years ago when volunteers rallied the community to purchase and operate it.

“Volunteering can take many forms in a small, rural community. From belonging to a service club, church, minor-sports organization, lending your expertise to a board of management, or countless other ways, it is so crucial to the wellbeing of small, rural communities due to the limited resources that traditionally are available at the government level.

“A couple recent examples of community volunteers coming together would be the new availability of pickleball facilities in the township, and the new spraypad in Tavistock. There are countless other examples of successful events and activities that volunteers have made possible in East Zorra-Tavistock.

“When volunteers step forward, the township endeavours to be a partner in any way possible to assist in making their vision a reality.”



Our Volunteers Help Create a Better New Hamburg with things like:

- ✓ Organizing the New Waterwheel
- ✓ Watering the Downtown Flowers
- ✓ Putting up the Christmas lights

The New Hamburg Board of Trade runs on volunteers and we thank each and every one of you!



Every Moment Matters

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

for your hard work and dedication to supporting our community!



TIM LOUIS

Member of Parliament,
Kitchener-Conestoga



519-578-3777

TimLouisMP.ca

Tim.Louis@parl.gc.ca

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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK —

National Volunteer Week



The New Hamburg Optimists honour our dedicated volunteers' and their selfless contributions.



Thank You Volunteers!

We couldn't do it without you.

Interested in helping? Sign up today at wellesleyabcfestival.ca/volunteer

Volunteer Week at Woodingford Lodge

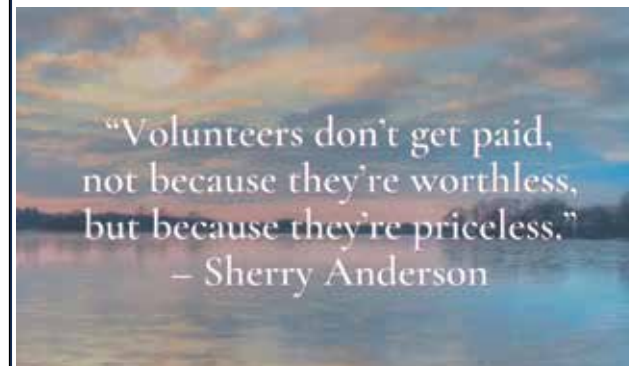
Thank you to the wonderful volunteers at Woodingford Lodge who make a real difference in our community. Woodingford volunteers enjoy personal connections that leave lasting impacts on our residents.

Volunteers help keep residents connected to their community: consider sharing your skills and interests! Volunteer areas include recreation, pet therapy, feeding assistant, visiting and more.

Woodingford is also a fantastic place for secondary students looking to complete their community hours and co-op placements. Apply today at www.oxfordcounty.ca/woodingfordvolunteer.



Thank you to all the volunteers for your amazing generosity and dedication, that is an inspiration to others.



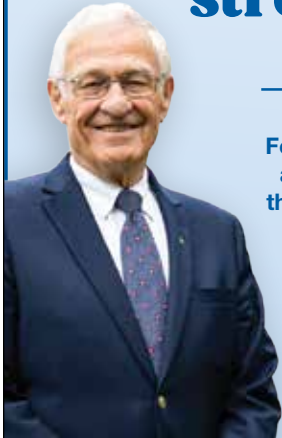
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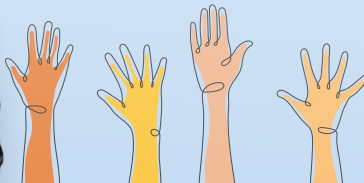


NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK —

Volunteering makes our community stronger!



For National Volunteer Week and all year long, let's appreciate all the amazing work volunteers do.



ERNIE HARDEMAN
MPP - Oxford

ernie.hardemanco@pc.ola.org
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK: *Where would we be without volunteers?*



By Galen Simmons

For the past decade, I've had the pleasure of reporting on and writing about governments at all levels.

With that experience under my belt, I've gained a good understanding of how the work of governments at the local, provincial and federal levels fit into our daily lives. The conclusion I've come to is our local governments and the councils we elect to make decisions have the most direct impact on us.

From planning for new development and attracting economic opportunity to ensuring residents can enjoy a high quality of life through the provision of municipal services and recreational programming, events and spaces, local governments make the decisions that matter most to Canadians.

Having sat through a decade's worth of municipal budget meetings, I also know how difficult it can be to balance municipal revenue and funding from other levels of government with the ever-rising costs of running a municipality. With the goal of, at very least, maintaining municipal-service levels and saving enough money to cover future replacements and maintenance of local infrastructure, changes in provincial and federal governments and the shifts in priorities that come with those changes can make the municipal-budget process feel a little like trying to put a 1,000-piece puzzle together that doesn't have all its pieces.

Yet while upper levels of government might not offer the consistency and stability local governments need, one thing communities across the country and beyond can rely on is the power of volunteers. From the smallest, rural towns to the biggest cities Canada has to offer, volunteers consistently and without fail

give their time for the betterment of their community. Whether it's raising money for hospitals and crucial social-support organizations or sitting on the local boards and committees that help municipal councils make their most-important decisions, volunteers are everywhere and their unpaid and sometimes underappreciated work is what truly makes a community shine.

In exchange for a little recognition now and then, volunteers do the work that makes a community unique and keeps municipalities and myriad other organizations pushing the needle forward with the services they provide.

And, when a municipality falls short in providing for its residents, volunteers are always there to pick up the baton and carry it on to the finish line.

This week is National Volunteer Week, so I'd like to thank each and every person who has ever volunteered their time to give back to their community. Whether you think your efforts were big or small, you've truly made a difference.

Thank you!

EVERY MOMENT MATTERS

National Volunteer Week
April 14-20, 2024

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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS



NATIONAL
VOLUNTEERS
WEEK

April 14 - 20, 2024

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world”

- Anne Frank



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EVERY MOMENT MATTERS

SPORTS —

Firebirds on the verge of PJHL South title

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

New Hamburg needs one more win to make it to the Schmaltz Cup final four thanks to a come-from-behind win in Grimsby Tuesday night.

The Firebirds trailed 2-0 after the first period but exploded for four goals in the second frame en route to a 5-2 road win Tuesday night. Jake Thompson, Antonio Pasqualino, Justin McManus and Matt Domm scored second-period goals while Keegan Metcalf added the lone third-period marker for New Hamburg who outshot the Peach Kings 40 to 21. The teams went a combined zero for 12 on the powerplay.

The Firebirds won game four at home by a 3-1 score. Owen Bruder had two assists for New Hamburg with Josh Soulliere, Owen Fischer and Kyle Kraemer finding the back of the net.

Head coach Shane Gerber said while the barrage of goals in the second seems positive, the slow starts in the playoffs are a concern.

"It's something we have to figure out for whatever reason. That's twice we've been (in Grimsby) and our starts just aren't good enough. We regroup in the second



and we find a way. That's the thing with this team. They are resilient. They don't quit. They believe they are going to win every game they are in."

He added he's hoping for a better first period in game five in New Hamburg on

Friday night.

The Firebirds have outshot the Peach Kings consistently in the series, but Gerber said that may be a bit of a misleading statistic.

"In stretches yes, but I would say their

top-end guys are really good. I feel like our depth and character are what has us winning. We just work really hard. Hard work is hard to play against."

Game five is back in New Hamburg Friday night and Gerber admitted he will talk to the team about a better opening 20 minutes.

"What we do know is our community will be behind us and it will be exciting. That will help us."

He added his team is ready to accomplish something that hasn't been done in New Hamburg in a long time; a conference title.

"This group deserves that, and I am really hoping they can accomplish it." Gerber said.

While he and his coaching staff do converse with the team between periods, the kids don't need much direction.

"They know as a group when they need to be better. We don't need to say much but they know. It's a special group that way."

Game six, if needed, is back in Grimsby on Saturday night. A seventh game would be played in New Hamburg on Monday evening.



**NEW HAMBURG FIREBIRDS
VS. GRIMSBY PEACH KINGS**

SOUTH CONFERENCE FINAL

FRIDAY, APR. 19	HOME 7:30 PM
IF NECESSARY	
SATURDAY, APR. 20	AWAY 7:30 PM
MONDAY, APR. 22	HOME 7:30 PM

Township to host Wellesley Recreation Complex grand opening June 22

By Galen Simmons

Wellesley council has set a date for the grand opening of the new Wellesley Recreation Complex.

At its meeting April 9, council recognized the grand opening set for June 22 from 2-11 p.m. as a municipally significant event. Last fall, township council directed staff to begin planning for the annual backyard barbecue event to be held in conjunction with grand opening of the new recreation complex at 1401 Queen's Bush Road.

According to a staff report, the grand-opening event will feature facility tours, kids' activities and a community information forum.

The community forum will allow local groups including service clubs, user groups and health-care practitioners to engage with people at the event and display their impact on the community. These groups have an opportunity to speak with potential new members or provide information on their organization.

A cash barbecue serving hamburgers, sausage, hot dogs, chips and pop for a reasonably low price will be available during the afternoon. Entertainment for the event includes Lulu's Roadhouse Band as the headliner with opportunities for a

variety of groups to perform earlier in the day. Kids' activities will include the new onsite playground, access to the multi-use sports court and a fire department activity.

The staff organizing committee has also reached out to local dignitaries including MPP Mike Harris, MP Tim Louis and Regional Chair Karen Redman among others who will be in attendance and speak at the grand opening. Opening ceremonies including speeches, a ribbon cutting and a ceremonial tree planting will begin at 3 p.m. on the main stage.

"It sounds like a good plan and I'm looking forward to it," Wellesley Mayor Joe Nowak said at the council meeting.

Also called the Bill Gies Recreation Centre, the Wellesley Recreation Complex came about after township council decided to build a new recreation facility with the help of a \$16.1-million provincial grant and community fundraising instead of completing a laundry list of expensive structural repairs and upgrades at the aging Wellesley Arena.

The new recreation centre, which sits on a 40-acre property, includes an NHL sized ice rink, a walking track, a fitness gym, a gymnasium/community centre, a youth centre, a skateboard park, a playground, soccer fields and outdoor walking trails.

LOCAL SPORTS STORIES WANTED

We want to celebrate our local athletes with our readers. That's why we welcome photos and stories on any of our local sports teams and athletes!

Email them to:
thewtgazette@gmail.com



COMMUNITY —

Separate gravel and hauling-spreading contracts to save Wellesley more than \$50,000 this year

By Galen Simmons

The Township of Wellesley will save more than \$50,000 in resurfacing its gravel roads this year after council voted recently to reject an over-budget bid and instead contract the supply of gravel and hauling and spreading that gravel separately.

At its April 9 meeting, Wellesley council cancelled its gravel-resurfacing contract for this year after receiving just one bid for the supply, hauling and spreading of granular A gravel to resurface a portion of the township's gravel-road network at a cost of \$383,635.20, more than \$30,000 over the \$350,000 included for gravel resurfacing in this year's operating budget.

Instead of contracting the supply of gravel and hauling and spreading it together, council voted to award a contract for the supply of roughly 19,000 metric tonnes of granular A gravel for the resurfacing of about one-third of the township's gravel roads to Dufferin Aggregates at a cost of \$263,749.20. Council then awarded the

contract for hauling and spreading that gravel to Bre-Haul Trucking Ltd. at a cost of \$69,054.34. Together, both contracts came to \$332,803.54 including HST, nearly \$51,000 less than the original bid for supplying, hauling and spreading the gravel.

"Last year, we chose not to award the contract after tendering because we only received one bid and the bid was higher than our budget for the project," said Wellesley director of public works Chris Cook. "This year was almost identical other than this year we received two bids for the gravel supply. We chose to award it to the higher-priced supplier. The reason for this is due to the location of the source pit. The cost to haul the material from the pit with the lower-priced material was such that the total overall cost of the project was actually higher, which is why we're recommending going with the more-expensive gravel supplier.

"We will be looking at alternate ways to tender this in the future, but we might

have difficulties because with the total cost being over \$100,000; (in accordance with) the purchasing bylaw, we have to tender."

In his report, Cook said staff checked with the township's legal counsel to ensure not awarding the contract through the tender and further not awarding the gravel-supply contract to the lowest bidder, but rather the lowest overall combination of services, is acceptable, to which the lawyer said they do not have any legal concerns with the process.

"Well done. You saved the township \$50,000 and change," Wellesley Mayor Joe Nowak said. "Very well done. We appreciate it."

"It's a lot of extra staff work to do, to go through this process, but it's worth it that we save \$50,000," Cook said. "I'm going to find a better way to do it next year if we can find a way around the purchasing bylaw. We'll sort it out."

Each year, Wellesley resurfaces roughly one-third of its gravel-road network. This year, the township will resurface the following roads:

- Hackbart Road (Gerber Road to Ament Line)
- Hutchison Road (William Hastings Line to Ament Line)
- Ayrshire Lane (Hutchison Road to the end)
- Boomer Line (Hutchison Road to 160 meters west of Moser-Young Road)
- Empey Road (Boomer Line to the end at the Conestoga River)
- Powell Road (Lawson Line to Line 86)
- Temperance Road (Herrgott Road to Broadway Street)
- Bricker School Line (Temperance Road to Steffler Road)
- Mallot Road (Bricker School Line to Line 86)

Longtime mechanic at Stratford Farm Equipment outside New Hamburg retires after 38 years

By Gary West

After 38 years working in the farm-machinery business, first as a mechanic then as an owner-operator and manager, South Easthope Township's Kevin Kropf has decided to retire.

As a young graduate from Waterloo-Oxford high school, he decided he liked working on anything mechanical, especially tractors and farm machinery.

After working in other areas, his first two years in the farm equipment business saw him working at the Massey Ferguson dealership of Nafziger's of Brunner and then chose to work closer to home at the International Harvester dealer, Zehr Brothers, on the western edge of New Hamburg.

The year was 1986 and at the age of 25, he started a mechanical apprenticeship with dealership owners Harley and Elaine Zehr.

The four-year apprenticeship included class time at Fanshawe college and, after receiving his licenced-mechanic certificate, continued to work at the busy Zehr Bros. farm-machinery repair shop, which was their brand new location at the corner, west of New Hamburg, where it still remains as Stratford Farm Equipment today.

In the early '90s, Kropf became the service manager for the repair shop, where he was in charge of all mechanics and those who were apprenticing. He was in charge of booking in repair jobs and the assembling of new equipment that changed with the seasons. These would include new and used tractors, seed drills, corn planters, tillage equipment, balers, rakes and



Kevin Kropf stands by his collection of some of his miniature farm machinery toys, most of which are replicas of the machines he worked on through his many years as a farm-machinery mechanic. Contributed photo

haybines, combines, wagons and, lately, GPS installations and repairs.

In 1996, Stratford Farm Equipment bought the Zehr Brothers business and now owns five sales-and-service locations throughout southwestern Ontario.

He, like most farmers today, say it is unbelievable how equipment has continued to get bigger and more complicated with increasing technological advances and higher prices. He understands that when he started as a 20-year-old, most farms were 100 acres. Today that is considered

a small farm.

Here is what Stratford Farm Equipment's co-owner Dan Brown had to say when asked about Kevin Kropf.

"I met Kevin in 1996, the year we purchased the CaseIH dealership from the Zehr family. Our deal was basically done on a handshake as trust, honesty and integrity was the cornerstone of their business.

"I soon realized Kevin was a good fit and represented them well, having worked as a service technician, service manager,

and assuming the duties of parts manager when needed.

"Kevin and I had only worked together a short time when we asked him to take on more responsibility, in farm equipment sales and store management.

"Kevin was the person in the dealership who both customers and co-workers were comfortable approaching, and he knew farm machinery from time spent on the farm and inside the farm equipment dealership.

"If Kevin was your salesman, you knew he was both a trusted advisor and a friend. Always quiet with little to say, but when he is talking to you, you knew him to be sincere and correct.

"Like many in the community, we consider Kevin a friend and wish him a long and healthy retirement".

Through his years in the business, Kropf has known three generations of the same family, with the fourth generation now coming along with some family farms in the area.

Kevin and his wife Carolyn have two children Mallory, 29, and Jeremy, 27, and Jeremy has also followed in his father's footsteps as a technician who works for his company, Stratford Farm Equipment, while Mallory works in data-research analytics.

While still living on the 100-acre farm he was born on, Kevin hopes to still tinker at his own pace in his newly built farm shop, travel and just enjoy life with family and friends without the work and stress of what he has been doing for the last 38 years.

OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: Revamp sleep and reap the rewards



By Mercedes Kay Gold

Achieving optimal health is more than making the best decisions from the moment you wake up until your head hits the pillow. Yes, exercise, nutrition, social support and limiting stress are essential, but the most underrated health hack is sleep.

Canadians are not getting enough sleep according to recent findings. One in four adults aged 18-34 are sleep deprived. One in three adults aged 35-64 and one in four adults between the ages of 65 and 79 are also sleep deprived. These staggering statistics significantly impact one's quality of life.

Sleep is a basic human need. As a wellness expert, client intake forms tell an important story. People stay up too late, sleep a handful of hours or toss and turn all night long. Sleep is absolutely essential to thrive at the highest level and a deficiency leads to heaps of health problems. A common myth is people can get by on minimal sleep and make it up later. The average adult requires between seven and a half hours of quality sleep nightly. The body has a natural, built-in clock called the circadian rhythm, and in a perfect world, our sleep-wake cycle is responding to the sunrise and sunset.

Life is busy and sleep is not always prioritized but truthfully, sleep should top your health goals. Consistency is key. Getting enough shuteye supports the whole body. It boosts immunity, controls cortisol, and helps with weight-loss and maintenance while keeping emotions in check. Sleep is absolutely crucial at every age. Almost one-third of Canadian children and adolescents sleep less than the recommended amounts. Adequate sleep is linked to growing, cognition and behaviour in children.

Sleep hygiene is imperative. Go to sleep and get up at fixed times, even on the weekend. Allowing the body ample sleep

ensures regeneration, repair and a recharged, bright-eyed, conquer-the-world attitude.

Start by cutting out all caffeine approximately six hours before bed; coffee, green tea, energy drinks and cacao. Aim to finish a sweat session 90 minutes prior to hitting the hay. Avoid alcohol and nicotine all together. Aim to finish eating three hours before your head hits the pillow.

Start winding down slowly. Thirty to 60 minutes prior to lights out, say so long to electronics and dim the lights. Put the kettle on and brew a pot of tea. Chamomile, lavender, passion-flower, valerian root and lemon-balm tea have been used for generations to calm the mind and body. One way to release anxiety and the troubles of the day is to journal. Try yoga. It helps move the body from sympathetic or the "fight-or-flight" response to the para-sympathetic or to a state of "rest and digest". A hot bath with Epsom salts soothes sore muscles and adding a few drops of lavender essential oil is shown to help improve the quality of sleep.

Time to hit the hay. Love your sleep sanctuary. Aim for a clutter-free clean and very dark room. A cozy, comfortable bed with soft sheets and a perfect pillow catered to your aches and pains is worth the invest-

ment. The optimal sleeping temperature appears to be between 60- and 67-degrees Fahrenheit. Ear plugs, eye-mask, white noise, a cooling breeze and the sound of a whirling fan are superstar stratagems. Double check the phone is on airplane mode and visualize your deepest desires for delightful dreams.

Every day I see clients and how a lack of sleep impacts their health. As a personal trainer, clients cancel workouts due to tiredness. As a nutritionist, client food journals show scads of sugar eaten to increase energy. An ongoing lack of sleep is stressful on the body. The adrenal glands release cortisol in response, and intine can lead to weight gain, high blood pressure, diabetes and heart issues. Lack of sleep is self-sabotaging. Improving your quality of sleep leads to a trickledown effect. Emotional, physical and mental stressors become more manageable.

Grandma was right. Things always look better in the morning after a great night's sleep.

Holistic tricks of the trade are the best place to start. Sleep is key to longevity. Talk to your doctor or naturopath to see if there's an underlining issue. Sweet dreams!

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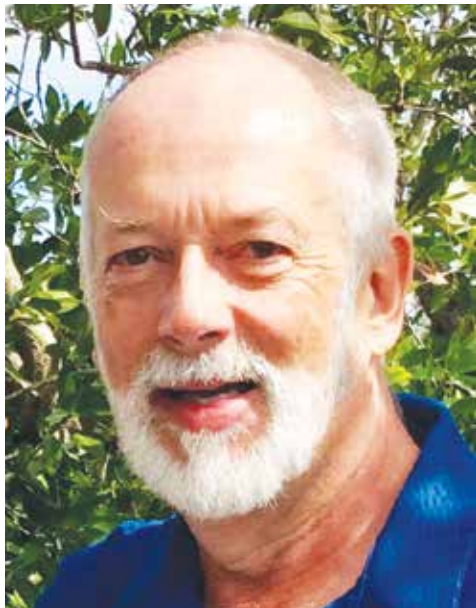
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Not the usual rides, glitz and amusing animals of Orlando



By Paul Knowles

We discovered this place with a collection of parks, just outside Orlando, Fla. It has great rides, a restaurant named for an animal mascot and amazing displays of over-the-top glitz.

Disney World? Well, we did also visit Disney – more of that in the coming weeks – but I am talking about an elegant, small city named Winter Park, a destination that is really the opposite of Disney, except both are great places to visit.

Winter Park had its beginnings as a winter getaway for well-to-do folks from the chilly north. It was originally named Lakeview – it adopted its current name in 1887. It has grown – the population is now something near 30,000 – but it hasn't moved far from those roots. Today, it is still known for its stately homes, beautiful natural settings, high-end shopping and dining, and focus on the arts. Winter Park is also home to the highly reputed Rollins College, a liberal-arts college founded in 1885 by Congregationalists from New England.

All of that may explain why this certain-

ly is not Disney.

Winter Park's parks are just that. The city is dotted with green spaces, often used for arts events and concerts. One highlight is the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival in mid-March. Held in Central Park and along adjoining streets, it attracts over 200,000 visitors each year.

Okay, I promised you rides and that doesn't seem likely in this setting, does it? But the thing is, Winter Park is situated on not one but three beautiful lakes. They're linked by quaint, narrow canals lined with wooden planks and a venerable operation called Winter Park Scenic Tours has been conducting boat tours of the lakes and canals since 1938. That's 33 years before Disney World opened.

The tour suits the ambience of the town. It's leisurely and friendly. The guides are very well informed, excellent communicators and funny as heck. The company operates about 10 small boats; they leave the docks in a miniature flotilla.

The time on the lakes is interesting, and the dozen or so passengers on each small boat get to see Rollins College and the elegant homes – celebrity owners are specifically not identified out of respect for their privacy – but the highlights are the passages through the one-lane canals lined with trees and gardens and tiny boathouses, always including the possibility that somebody is going to have to back their way out of the canal to make room for an oncoming vessel. In our case, it was oncoming kayakers that did an about face to allow our passage.

These comfortable tours are a highlight for any visitor to Winter Park and they cost – wait for it – \$20 for an adult and half that for a child. Winter Park may have a justifiable reputation as a high-end community, but that price is totally low-end for anything Orlando and worth every penny. Yes, Americans do still use pennies.

There are plenty of places to eat and drink in Winter Park across the spectrum of price and cuisine, but we were

quite taken with the gastropub with an animal mascot. Not a cute rodent, but a beast dubbed The Ravenous Pig, which is the name of the place. It could also describe some of the diners, I suppose, including yours truly.

The Ravenous Pig is owned by the head chef and the menu changes every day depending on what produce is best and freshest.

The food is great, the wine list very good, the products on the on-site brewery are excellent, but the best thing about it was the service – everyone from the guy doing the free valet parking to the person at the welcome desk to the manager were over-the-top friendly and helpful.

The walls of the place are well decorated with unique art and sculpture, often featuring pigs, of course, but that is not the over-the-top glitz I referred to earlier.

Winter Park is home to a number of good museums and galleries, and chief among them, from my point of view, the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of Great American Art.

What makes the Morse special is this is the home of perhaps the most comprehensive collection of the spectacular work of glass-making genius Louis Comfort Tiffany anywhere in the world.

Most of us know about Tiffany lamps – and there are plenty of those here – but this museum houses dramatic Tiffany windows, miraculous mirrors, elaborate vases, amazing jewelry and, in fact, entire rooms including the gob-smacking Tiffany Chapel, a unique and lavishly decorated chapel which Tiffany created for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

I'm not sure this chapel inspires worship of anyone but Tiffany. It's that impressive!

We came away convinced that Winter Park is an ideal break for anyone on a theme park pilgrimage to Orlando. Those parks are definitely fun, but Win-



One of the quaint, wood-lined canals that are part of the Winter Park Scenic Cruise. All photos by Paul Knowles

ter Park's stylist ambience coupled with the warm welcome we encountered everywhere makes for a delightful and relaxing day out.

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.



Is this the name of the restaurant or a description of some of its customers?



Our guide and captain on the boat cruise.



The astonishing Tiffany Chapel, now at the Morse Museum.



This Tiffany creation is a series of four doors created to give the homeowners a spectacular view of their garden.

COMMUNITY —

Tavistock Community Health Inc. holds annual meeting

By Gary West

The Tavistock Community Health Inc. (TCH) board held its annual meeting last week at the Tavistock Men's Club hall and elected a new executive.

Tavistock's Frank Meconi was elected to head up the 2024-2025 board of directors, taking over from Doug Green. Russ Huber becomes the newly elected vice chair.

With the board in charge of looking after the building and maintenance, Green said work is ongoing to "spruce up" the various offices and front entrance as the building is showing its age and thanked those on the board who worked on various areas to keep the building and washroom facilities in good repair.

When questioned on the doctor situation, he said this was the second year of operating as

a separate entity from Tavistock Community Health-Doctors who are in charge of hiring physician and nursing staff.

He reminded those in attendance that the board is only in charge now of building and maintenance.

Members retiring from this year's board include Julie Kimpel, Linda Schumm, Darlene Zehr and Bob Zehr.

Margaret Lupton and Dennis Kuepfer were nominated and accepted to be the two new members on the board.

Meconi said they still have one opening on the board for another member, and if interested please contact info@tchi.ca for information.

They meet in the board room of the clinic the fourth Thursday of each month except in July and August.



Board members from Tavistock Community Health Inc. are pictured. In the front row from left are Carolyn Kropf, Frank Meconi and Margaret Lupton. In the second row from left are Keith Wagler, Russ Huber, Bruce Swartzentruber, Bob Galloway and Doug Green. Absent is Dennis Kuepfer. Contributed photo

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COMMUNITY —

Help the New Hamburg Legion find family members of local First and Second World War veterans

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

To help the local Legion find family members of local veterans so they can be honoured in the 11th edition of the Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command's Military Service Recognition Book, the Gazette will regularly publish a list of names in future editions for which legion volunteers have been unable to find or contact family members. For this year's edition of the Military Service Recognition Book, the local legion has until May 15 to submit local veterans to the book's publisher.

This week's list of veterans are as follows:

- Lackey, Ida
- Miclon, Omer
- Langford, Jack
- Miller, Clare
- Laney, John G
- Mitchell, George
- Lautenschlager, Edward
- Morrison, Earl J
- Lautenschlager, Harold
- Morton, Robert
- Leadston, Gary L
- Nablo, Victor
- Lineham, Caroline
- Nauman, Clayton
- Lineham, Douglas
- Neibergall, Oliver
- Lips, Charles Gordon
- Nickilson, Wallace
- Little, Harry G
- Nickson, John
- Lose, Charles
- Nixdorff, R.
- Lotz, John
- Norman, Norman F
- Love, Walter R
- O'Hara, George
- Madter, Maximillian
- Pahl, Stuart
- Maher, Edmund
- Paige, Robert
- Malloch, Charles R
- Pearson, John F
- Margetts Roy G
- Peasley, Ernest L
- Marshall, John A
- Peck, Allen E
- Marshall, William
- Perkins, Harry
- Martin, Ronald H
- Pickup, James
- Maxwell, John
- Quehl, Robert
- Maxwell, Robert
- Ramsay, Donald W
- McColl, Ronald G
- Reeves, Joseph M
- McGarry, Patrick J
- Reid, Bernard
- Mead, William T
- Reynolds, Moyna
- Reynolds, Kenneth

If you are related to or know someone who is related to one of the above veterans or any local First and Second World War veterans and would like to have their name, story and photo included in the 11th Military Service Recognition Book, email Bob Berg at rwberg@gmail.com. Please note, a previous email address provided as contact information for Berg has been compromised and messages to that email will not be received.

Gazette Puzzles

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2024

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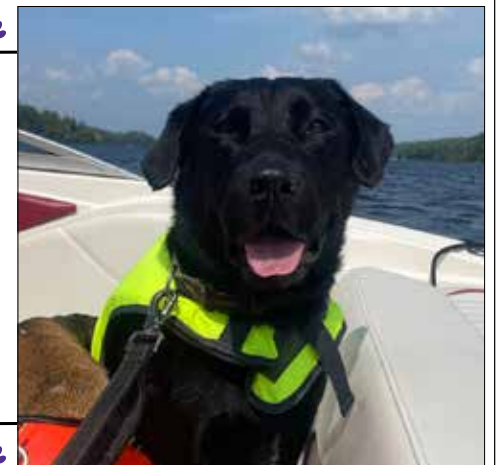
Pet of the Week



KLAUS

Our Pet of the Week is Klaus who will be 4 this June and is still filled with his puppy energy. Klaus loves going on long walks, boat rides, his mama, and food... of course! He's always up for an adventure followed by a long nap. A loving lab, loving life.

Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing: thewtgazette@gmail.com



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COMMUNITY —

Demolition Paves Path for New Development



The former Magnesun Furniture, a longstanding New Hamburg business, was demolished recently to make way for Cassel Crossing, a 62-unit townhouse development. Photo by Sharon Leis

CORRECTIONS:

An error was printed in the headline of a story published on page 10 of the April 4 edition of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. While the headline state OPP Sgt. Leanne Wilhelm is president of the Ontario Provincial Police Association, she is actually president of the police association for Perth, Huron, Wellington, South Bruce and Grey-Bruce. We regret any confusion this may have caused.

In the April 11 edition of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette this story attributed a sentence to OPP Commissioner, Thomas Carrique. "Carrique did say the only thing they found was the officer's phone showed he had Google Maps up with directions to where his meeting was being held in Toronto." The content should have been attributed to London Police Services Detective Inspector Alex Krysgman. The Gazette apologizes for the error.

Rae tables the Growing Agritourism Act

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae recently tabled the Growing Agritourism Act at Queen's Park.

The Growing Agritourism Act aims to mitigate some of the risks involved with agritourism operations on farms across the province. To benefit from the liability protections in this bill, agritourism operators would have to clearly inform visitors of the inherent risks associated with farm operations.

"Agritourism is ripe for growth over the coming years in Perth-Wellington and across Ontario," Rae said in a press release. "This legislation, if passed, will remove barriers to investment, provide consistency across Ontario's agritourism providers, and ensure participants are aware of the inherent risks associated with farm activities."

"Thank you to MPP Rae for tabling this piece of legislation," said Darlene Downey, board chair of Farm Fresh Ontario and owner of Downey's Farm Market, in a press release. "We are grateful for his leadership in putting forth the Growing Agritourism Act. This act will give peace of mind to farm operators across Ontario, allowing us to continue to welcome visitors to our homes and farms, sharing our passion for agriculture through fun and educational experiences."

As the first of its kind in Canada, the Growing Agritourism Act would remove barriers to investment in the agritourism sector across the province.

"This bill will serve as a benchmark for the rest of Canada to strive towards," Rae said in the release. "Many of our farm families in Perth-Wellington, and across Ontario, are choosing to offer agritourism activities on their farms. They are opening their homes to the public to share their love of the land and animals. It is important we ensure all parties know the inherent risks associated with walking on to an active

farm operation."

In 2022, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture conducted a local food and agritourism survey of their membership. More than 40 per cent of the respondents indicated that they would sell value-added products ranging from baked goods and wool to preserves and prepared meals, as well as providing on-farm experiences. Agritourism provides opportunities to both diversify farm income and raise awareness of the farm and agriculture sector with urban neighbours.

"Agritourism is one of Ontario's premier food, farming and visitor exports, but faces many challenges which limit its economic potential – one of which is liability exposure," said Andrew Siegart, president and CEO of the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario. "TIAO welcomes the introduction of the Growing Agritourism Act, which we believe will provide businesses with the necessary protection against frivolous claims and equip them with the confidence to grow and invest in compelling agritourism experiences that enhance the competitiveness of Ontario's tourism industry."

"Ontario farmers are innovating through agritourism opportunities and connecting with Ontarians by selling exceptional local products, educating consumers on where their food comes from, and growing our provincial economy through new revenue streams," added Drew Poelstra, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. "The Growing Agritourism Act 2024 will reduce red tape and help agritourism operators grow and diversify their operations across Ontario."

This is MPP Rae's second private members bill since being elected two years ago. His first private members bill, Bill 141, Life Lease Act, aims to improve transparency and accountability for life lease communities. He also introduced Motion 63, which called on the Government of Ontario to build out its clean, green nuclear fleet.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - APRIL/MAY 2024

SATURDAY, APR. 20

Let's Tree Wilmot 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

MONDAY, APR. 22

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



WEDNESDAY, APR. 24

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Join us for lunch and fellowship.
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.
Wilmot Rec Complex,
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden

FRIDAY, APR. 26

Wilmot Lions / Lioness Club Spaghetti Dinner
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New Hamburg Legion Branch 532,
65 Boulee St, New Hamburg

SATURDAY, APR. 27

Women Walk the World event
10 a.m.
New Dundee Community Centre
1028 Queen St., New Dundee

Wilmot Senior's Woodworking Spring Sale
10 am - 2 pm
27 Beck St., 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 Questions?
Contact nvecoboosters@gmail.com
Wilmot Recreational Complex,
Room A
1291 Nafziger Road, Baden

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Township of East-Zorra Tavistock council meeting
9 a.m.
Council chambers
89 Loveys St. Hickson

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Let's Tree Wilmot Tree Planting
9 a.m. to noon
Riverside Park
Riverside Drive, New Hamburg

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Ostomy Support Group Meeting
7:00 p.m.
"How to Avoid Scams and Frauds" with Constable Darren Fischer (Community Resource and Media Relations Officer) Stratford Police Service. Social time and snacks.
Everyone welcome. (519)273-4327
93 Morgan St., Stratford

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 8

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Join us for lunch and fellowship.
Wellesley Recreation Complex
1401 Queen's Bush Rd. Wellesley

SUNDAY, MAY. 12

Optimist Club of New Dundee Mother's Day Brunch
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
New Dundee Community Centre
1028 Queen St., New Dundee

TUESDAY, MAY 14

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 22

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Join us for lunch and fellowship.
Linwood Community Centre,
5279 Ament Line, Linwood

THURSDAY, MAY 23

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Join us for lunch and fellowship.
Wilmot Rec Complex,
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden

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- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Karl Benz | 5. Aug. 8, 1974 |
| 2. Pangea | 6. Plutonium |
| 3. Voyager 1 | 7. Amy Poehler |
| 4. Registered Retirement Savings Plan | 8. Quadrillion |
| | 9. Canberra |
| | 10. Six |

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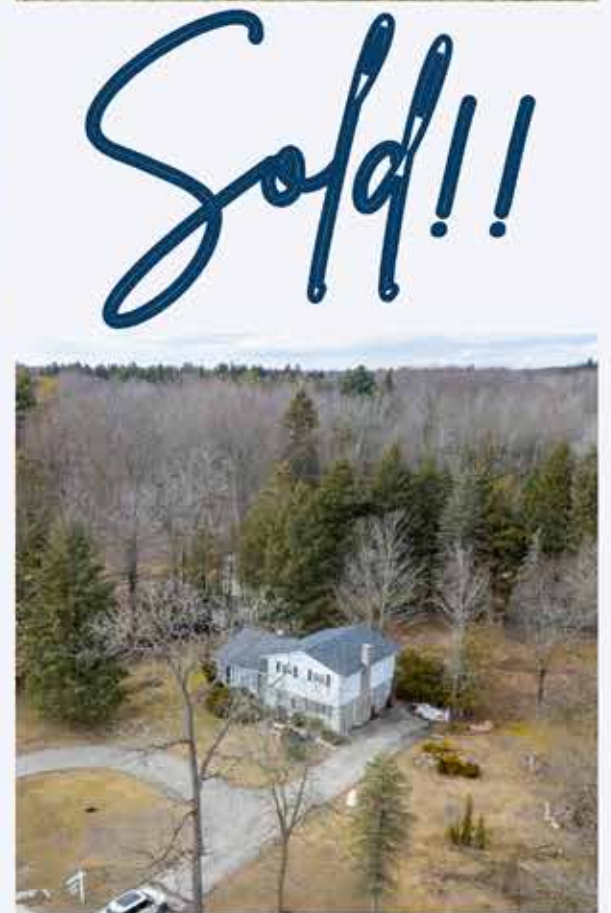
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