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Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen serves up some cake at the Wilmot Canada Day celebrations in New Hamburg. Turn to page 4 for more photos from the event.

(AMANDA NELSON PHOTO)

Council rejects integrity commissioner's recommended sanctions for Ehgoetz

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Perth County council has declined to formally reprimand Coun. Rhonda Ehgoetz or suspend her pay after the county's integrity commissioner found she breached multiple provisions of council's code of conduct stemming from a contentious forestry-bylaw debate earlier this year.

Instead, following a presentation by integrity commissioner John Mascarin and lead investigator Meghan Cowan of Aird & Berlis LLP at its July 2 meeting, council voted only to require Ehgoetz to remove the Facebook posts that formed part of the investigation. Council voted against recommendations to formally reprimand Ehgoetz and suspend her remuneration for 20 days.

The investigation arose from three formal code-of-conduct complaints related to Ehgoetz's actions before and after a special county council meeting on Feb. 12, when council debated the future of the county's forestry bylaw. Those complaints focused on an email Ehgoetz sent to all members of council before the meeting outlining the motion she intended to introduce, as well as subsequent Facebook posts and comments she made to

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Citizens group claims latest water report should not be treated as a 'clean bill of health'

Farnan said more transparency is needed by the region

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

The confusion surrounding the water situation in Wilmot Township and the Region of Waterloo didn't improve following the release of what's called a centre well field groundwater monitoring

results report.

Citizens for Safe Ground Water (CSGW) is calling on the region to treat it as an early warning signal, not as reassurance the aquifer is healthy.

"A review of the Burnside 2025 Biennial Groundwater Monitoring Report identifies a sustained downward

trend in the AFB2 production aquifer beginning around 2019/2020, with late-2025 water levels reported approximately one metre below historical pre-2020 lows," explained a press release.

It added the same aquifer is used by other municipal wells, making the decline

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Citizens group claims latest water report should not be treated as a 'clean bill of health'

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relevant to the region's drinking water supply and nearby private well users.

The release added the report confirms the region remained within its permitted annual taking volume but warns that "within permit" does not necessarily mean "sustainable." While the report sounds confusing, CSGW treasurer Rory Farnan said it's a pretty simple issue in some ways.

"The biannual Burnside report said water levels have declined. I get the impression (the region) doesn't seem to believe there is a problem. The interesting thing is they knew this report was coming out. They decided to vote in increasing the pumping before it came out."

Farnan said Mayor Natasha Salonen has been supportive of Wilmot on water issues at regional council, meeting with residents affected by the alleged water interference as well as members of CSGW. However, he noted that, at the end of the day, she is only one of 16 votes on regional council, alongside three other rural township mayors.

"Quite frankly, I think all of them should be speaking in unison. We should all be

concerned because when they are done pumping Wilmot, where are they going next?" he said.

He added he understood the development community needs to be assured it can continue to build, but at what expense is there for the rural well users?

"I think right now they are not being treated with the same amount of urgency and respect as developers are," Farnan said.

The Wilmot Centre well field produced 3,761,142 cubic metres in 2024 and 4,161,928 cubic metres in 2025, an increase of over 400,000 cubic metres or 11 per cent, while nearby precipitation stations recorded below-average rainfall conditions.

"The report is not a clean bill of health. It's identified a couple of things that have raised some alarm bells, one being the decline of the municipal production aquifer," said Farnan. "The well is at a historical low, but what did the region do? Twice in the last 90 days, they have approved increases in the amount of pumping they are doing."

He added when the region has increased pumping, the water table has dropped.

"To me, there's an obvious connection. The report goes on to say they are pumping within their limit, but that does not equal sustainable pumping ... especially over the hot summer we have experienced so far."

CSGW is also warning the region's dismissal of recent well-interference complaints and lack of complaints before 2026 should not be treated as proof that there are no impacts.

"Private well owners may not know that groundwater interference is occurring, may not know how to report it, or may experience gradual changes before a well failure becomes obvious. The report also notes historical mitigation related to a pond west of the well field, reinforcing that impacts connected to the well field have been serious enough in the past to require ongoing attention," said Farnan.

The citizen's group said the core issue is simple; the monitoring program should not only document deterioration after the fact. It should identify risks early enough

to prevent harm to the shared groundwater resource, the municipal water supply and private well users.

"This report should be treated as a warning light on the dashboard," Farnan said. "The right response is not to wait for private wells to fail or for aquifer levels to decline further. The region should act now with stronger monitoring, clearer public reporting and better protections for rural residents who depend on private wells."

Farnan was scheduled to delegate at last (Wednesday) night's Region of Waterloo regular meeting and said CSGW will continue to advocate for the people of Wilmot. He is hopeful the region gets its review of the well-interference complaint process right.

"We hope that come August, there will be a clearer framework that provides more fairness to the current situation."

CSGW is asking for a third-party investigative process as opposed to the current system where the region investigates itself.

The region is holding a public meeting on Tuesday, July 14, at the region's cafeteria at 150 Frederick St. in Kitchener.

Region claims it has restored and increased water capacity

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

The Region of Waterloo announced what it calls a significant increase in water capacity at the Mannheim Service Area.

"This restores water capacity, ensuring a continued safe and sustainable water supply to support community needs," said a region press release.

The move means a seven-month freeze in construction starts in Kitchener, Waterloo, Elmira and other parts of the region will be lifted later this month.

"Unlocking this additional supply sooner than anticipated is a critical turning point for our community," said Regional Chair Karen Redman. "This is welcome news for families looking for a place to

live, businesses looking to invest, to create jobs, and for communities planning for the future."

The region said a total of 30 litres per second (L/s) of water capacity is ready for area municipalities for projects within the Mannheim Service Area. This includes 10 L/s immediately and 20 L/s available this fall when Mannheim Side Stream is expected to be online. The announcement was made at a Kitchener press conference on Tuesday morning.

"Unlocking this additional supply sooner than anticipated is a critical turning point for our community," added Redman. "Regional council challenged staff and our technical partners to leave no stone unturned in identifying additional water

capacity, and I'm proud that their hard work has delivered results ahead of schedule. This achievement reflects the innovation, determination and expertise of staff, as well as the valuable contributions of our municipal, provincial and industry partners.

Redman said the new water strengthens the water system, supports housing for up to 10,500 residents and up to 5,000 jobs.

The region explained a key part of its achievement was optimizing existing wells, which generated the extra 10 L/s of water, a significant addition to overall capacity. Well optimization looks at the overall supply system to see how wells can be used more efficiently, increasing supply from some wells and protecting the long-term health and sustainability of others.

"As we focus on new, innovative infrastructure to deliver water when and where we need it, I want to allay any fears and be clear; we have enough water for Waterloo Region residents," said Ken Brothers, the region's commissioner of water services. "I also want to recognize that today is a milestone moment in addressing the capacity constraint, and I want to take this

opportunity to thank regional council, staff, area municipal colleagues, technical experts and the development industry. Through this work, I am confident we have a balanced path forward."

Brothers said he wanted to ease any concerns residents may have about water supply or quality.

"We have enough water for Waterloo Region residents. As a result of everyone coming to the table to find solutions, to work as quickly and safely as possible, to find us a balanced path forward out of this constraint. I think we're there today."

The region explained that over the last six months, the region, area municipalities, the province and industry have worked together to expedite infrastructure repairs, transfer water from Wilmot Centre and implement operational improvements to stabilize and strengthen the Region's water system.

"This has allowed the region to restore and boost capacity, unlocking additional water to support new opportunities for jobs, housing and essential community services," added the release.

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Council rejects integrity commissioner's recommended sanctions for Ehgoetz

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Grant Haven Media that were published in the St. Marys Independent, among other papers, criticizing Warden Dean Trentowsky and alleging the meeting recording had been "doctored."

"To be absolutely clear, the recommendations are actually the only matters before council for consideration this morning," Cowan said. "Council is the decision-making body and is entrusted with enforcing its code of conduct. As noted, we have investigated the complaint and have produced a report that details its findings and conclusions. We saw fit to make recommendations in this case."

In their report, Mascarin and Cowan concluded, on a balance of probabilities, that Ehgoetz contravened multiple sections of the county's code of conduct, including provisions requiring councillors to act in good faith, respect council's decision-making process, refrain from making derogatory comments and exercise sound judgment when communicating publicly. The investigators found no breach of the code's workplace harassment provision.

The report found Ehgoetz's Feb. 11 email, sent to all members of council ahead of the special meeting, amounted to "a deliberate attempt ... to get 'in front' of the debate" by advancing council business outside of a public meeting.

"As an experienced member of council, and indeed as the former warden of the county, the councillor ought to have been very well aware of the procedures expected of members of council," the report states.

Investigators also rejected Ehgoetz's assertion that Warden Dean Trentowsky bullied her during the Feb. 12 meeting after he warned council about the potential implications of her email.

"We do not agree at all with this view," the report states. "In our opinion, the warden was making council aware of an issue that he believed was a concern and, as chair of the meeting, he was entitled to do so."

The report further concluded Trentowsky "remained calm but firm and did not disrespect the councillor," adding Ehgoetz "overreacted in labelling the warden a 'bully.'"

Investigators also found Ehgoetz's public allegations that county staff had "doctored" the council meeting recording were unsupported and should never have been made without first seeking clarification from staff.

"If the councillor had concerns about the recording and posting methods of council meetings, she could have made appropriate inquiries with staff," the report states. "She did not and instead repeated her unfounded assertions without taking steps to attempt to educate herself about the process."

In recommending sanctions, the integrity commissioner noted Ehgoetz's long experience in municipal government, including her previous service as county warden, her refusal to apologize and the fact the Facebook posts remained publicly accessible months after they were made.

The report recommended council formally reprimand Ehgoetz, suspend her remuneration for 20 days – 10 days for sending the email and 10 days for her public comments – and request she immediately remove the Facebook posts.

"The only thing I have to say is I do not agree with the recommendations, and I have nothing more to say," said Ehgoetz at the July 2 meeting.

Earlier in the meeting, the councillor and Perth East mayor declared a conflict of interest with the agenda item and did not vote on the matter but was given a chance to comment on the integrity commissioner's recommendations. The warden, meanwhile, stood down as chair of the meeting, handing proceedings over to past Warden Doug Kellum, while the integrity commissioner's report was being discussed.

In response to the report, Ehgoetz provided written submissions to the integrity commissioner defending her actions, maintaining throughout the investigation that her email was intended only to point out what she believed was a procedural discrepancy regarding the forestry bylaw and not to influence council's decision. She also reiterated concerns about how the Feb. 12 meeting was handled and argued the integrity commissioner should also have examined the conduct of the warden and county staff, though the report notes those matters were outside the commissioner's jurisdiction because no complaints had been filed against them.

Following discussion, council rejected the recommended reprimand and pay suspension, opting only to direct Ehgoetz to remove the Facebook posts identified in the report.

"Unfortunately, we're in a position that does not put the county in very good light, I believe," Coun. Bob Wilhelm said. "I think that probably Coun. Ehgoetz has been through enough and I don't agree with any of these recommended penalties."

"... I think Rhonda's been through enough."

Council's decision brings the integrity commissioner's investigation to a close, though the findings remain part of the public record.

Ehgoetz announced on her personal Facebook page earlier this year that she would not run for re-election as Perth East mayor in the Oct. 26 municipal election, making this term her last as a member of Perth County council unless she seeks re-election again in the future and is once again appointed by Perth East council to serve on county council.

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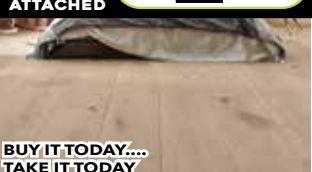
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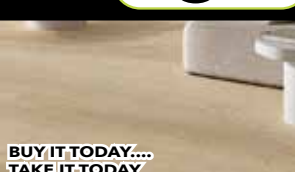
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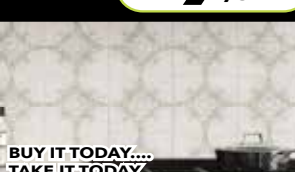
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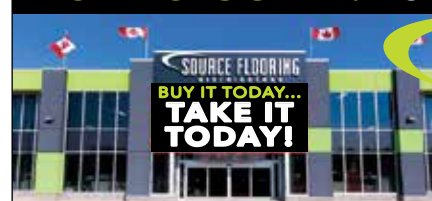
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Wilmot Township celebrates Canada Day at Norm Hill Park



(AMANDA NELSON PHOTOS)

Cake, community and Canadian pride filled New Hamburg as residents celebrated Canada Day on July 1, including Wilmot Agricultural Society Ambassador Erin Jackson pictured top left. The celebration continued throughout the day with live entertainment, activities, food vendors and fireworks.



Township of Wilmot council hosted the annual community Canada Day cake cutting that was enjoyed by residents of all ages. Pictured, Coun. Lillian Dunstall serves cake to attendees alongside other council members during the celebration.



Members of Wilmot Fire Services joined residents in celebrating Canada Day, taking time to pose for a group photo during the festivities.

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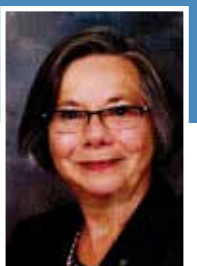
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Families gathered for the Township of Wilmot's opening ceremonies, featuring the New Hamburg Legion Colour Guard and a performance of "O' Canada," by The Community Players and the New Hamburg Concert Band



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Oxford MP appointed to justice critic role

JEFF HELSDON

Gazette Reporter

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna says he will be creative while holding the government to account in his new role as the official opposition's shadow minister for justice and attorney general of Canada.

Khanna's appointment was announced among other shuffles in the Conservative benches by Opposition Leader Pierre Poilievre on June 30. Khanna will also continue to serve as the Conservative Party's national outreach chair.

As a former lawyer, Khanna brings legal experience and a strong record of advocating for common-sense justice reform. In Parliament, he was active on the file, introducing the "Jail Not Bail Act," which championed tougher measures to keep repeat violent offenders behind bars and restore accountability to Canada's justice system.

Interviewed the next day, Khanna was upfront that the new role will be a challenge in the face of what he called the "manufactured majority" in Parliament and changes in the structure of the committees. But he said he will do everything he can to fight for a justice system that protects victims, secures the borders, upholds the rights and freedoms of law-abiding Canadians and ensures violent criminals face meaningful consequences.

"I will use every tool in the toolbox to fight for Canadians," he said.

The shadow cabinet is a team of opposition MPs who are assigned roles to monitor government ministers and offer alternative policies.

"I look forward to getting to work with our Conservative team on behalf of Canadians. Our message is simple; Canadians deserve a justice system that protects the innocent, supports victims, respects the rights

of law-abiding Canadians and puts public safety first. We are ready to do the work to restore confidence in our justice system."

Khanna's portfolio overlaps with Shadow Minister for Public Safety Frank Caputo's on the firearms file. This is a large issue in rural Canada where gun owners are critical of Liberal policies they say target them instead of criminals. Khanna said he will "defend lawful gun owners while keeping criminals off the streets."

Although his responsibilities have increased at the national level, Khanna said his priority is still Oxford residents.

"My commitment to the people of Oxford remains unwavering," he said. "It is the honour of a lifetime to represent our community in Parliament, and I will continue fighting every day for the families, workers, farmers and businesses that make Oxford such a great place to call home."



(ARPANKHANNAMP.CA PHOTO)

Arpan Khanna has been appointed the Official Opposition's shadow minister for justice and attorney general of Canada, while continuing to serve as the Conservative Party's national outreach chair.

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Dunstall not seeking re-election in Wilmot

Ward 2 councillor will focus on Board of Trade duties

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

Lillianne Dunstall's political career will come to an end in November.

One of two Wilmot Ward 4 councillors will not have her name on the ballot on Oct. 26 after serving one term. Dunstall made the announcement in a recent Facebook video.

"After some considerable thought, I have decided not to run for re-election. Some of you may be pretty happy about that and some of you may not, but I am not going away," she said in the video.

Dunstall is now the president of the New Hamburg Board of Trade, something that has taught her the area needs more of a commercial sector.

"It creates jobs and it takes the tax burden off of our residents."

As she reflected on the last few years as a member of council, Dunstall said she learned how little power lower-tier municipalities actually have.

"Many, many decisions that affect our community are made at the regional level, which leaves local council frustrated and with a lot less influence than our residents expect."

The Gazette reached out to Dunstall to

take a closer look at her thoughts on how regional government functions.

"Before I ran for council, I made the assumption council has a lot more influence on decisions. I found out very quickly that isn't the case. Water, wastewater, transit and some growth decisions, those are all regional responsibilities, and I don't think our constituents are aware of that."

Dunstall said residents deserve to know who makes what decisions in a two-tier system.

"It's about understanding who has the authority to make the decisions. Local council still plays an important role but knowing what level of each government is responsible for helps our constituents understand."

She added it is important to ensure decisions at the regional level don't come at the expense of Wilmot residents, its farmers and rural way of life. Dunstall also pointed out regional staff members have always been supportive when she would reach out.

"I have worked with Grand River Transit both as a councillor and as the president of the Board of Trade to get transit into Wilmot for residents and businesses. They have always been there to offer what they could. The issue is that regional council

makes the decisions as to where funds are allocated, and it is at that level we need to have more representation."

Wilmot provides the Region of Waterloo with significant water, aggregate resources and land, but Dunstall said when it comes to making investment decisions, the township doesn't have much of a voice at the table.

"That's where I think there is an inequity. I don't think we can change the authority who makes those decisions. The region has it whether it's right or wrong, and it is what it is."

Dunstall shared her Ward 4 post with Coun. Steven Martin, who is throwing his hat back in the election ring. She said despite their differences, they worked well together.

"We have always been extremely respectful of each other. We have different approaches and we view things from a different lens. However, that was an advantage because it meant all voices in New Hamburg were at the table."

She joked the pair vowed not to come to blows in the parking lot and added they always explained their positions to each other when they took different stances on an issue.

"When I understood where he was

coming from, I may not have agreed, but I understood his thought process," Dunstall said.

Dunstall also highlighted some of the achievements during this term of council, including Canada Day operations being given back to local service clubs, the resurrection of the Prime Ministers Path and the introduction of mandatory financial training for all members of council.

"Why was that never implemented? We are dealing with millions of taxpayer dollars, and that's probably something people have never experienced in their careers, but it was really important."

She added she can be most impactful for Wilmot in her role with the board of trade.

"Wilmot has the lowest base commercial tax rate compared to Kitchener and even some of the other rural locations that have a lot more industry. I'd like to see the board of trade expand to include manufacturing, trades and service providers. They bring the jobs, and we need more of them. People want to work where they live."

Dunstall also thanked other councillors, the mayor and township staff. She ended her video by thanking her constituents.

"It was truly a privilege to represent you."

Gazette readership area feels the wrath of Mother Nature on Canada Day

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

Canada Day thunderstorms left moderate damage and power outages scattered across the region.

Wilmot Township

"Damage from Wednesday's storm includes large tree limbs on roads, in parks and along trails throughout the township. Staff continue to inspect affected areas and remove debris to help ensure public safety," said a statement from the township.

It added that residents who see downed trees on roads, boulevards, in parks, or along trails are encouraged to report them by emailing publicworks@wilmot.ca.

"Cleanup efforts are expected to be completed by the middle of (this) week. We thank residents for their patience and understanding as staff continue this work."

East Zorra-Tavistock

"Overall, we didn't see a lot of damage on municipal roadways from the storms on Canada Day. We had a few larger branches that had to be cleared from the

roadways with our loader," said Tom Lightfoot, the township's director of infrastructure and community services.

"Two locations had trees that were in contact with the hydro lines, so we had to barricade those areas until Hydro One could take the trees off the hydro lines. One location was cleared Thursday afternoon, and the other was cleared yesterday morning. Public works staff was out Thursday morning patrolling the roads and clearing any smaller debris," he added.

Perth East

"We had multiple trees down over multiple days last week, creating hydro disruptions and road closures," said roads supervisor Justin Taylor.

Craigowan Golf and Country Club

The golf course on Highway 59 at Huntingford lost power following a powerful Canada Day storm, and as a result, thousands of dollars of food was lost. The operation was closed for approximately 18 hours and opened on Friday with a limited menu.



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WHAT'S UP WILMOT FACEBOOK PAGE)

Township of Wilmot Councillor Lillianne Dunstall caught the image on the right of the storm rolling in over Norm Hill Park in New Hamburg, cutting the annual Canada Day festivities short. Jennifer Pearl shared this image of a downed tree in front of Scrans and Drams on Waterloo street in New Hamburg following the storm.

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES CONTACT HEATHER DUNBAR AT 226.261.1837 OR HEATHER@GRANTHAVEN.COM

Wilmot hopes Nithy will lure visitors to local attractions through new tourism campaign

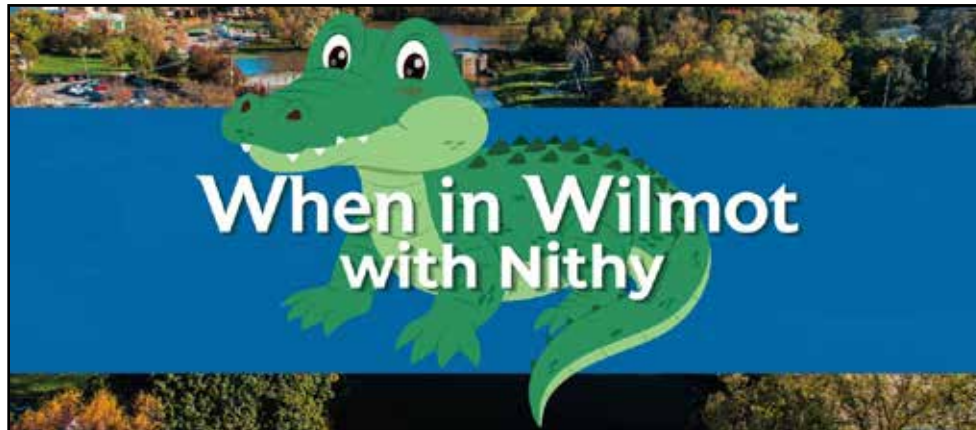
GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Wilmot Township is hoping its most famous mythical resident will help introduce more people to some of the community's biggest attractions.

At its June 22 council meeting, councillors were introduced to a new tourism initiative called "When in Wilmot," a social-media campaign featuring Nithy, the legendary Nith River Monster, as its mascot. Developed by staff from the township's community services department and Castle Kilbride, the campaign is designed to encourage residents and visitors alike to explore key destinations throughout the municipality.

"When in Wilmot has the potential to increase tourism across the township and showcase all of our local shops, businesses and farms that are Nithy approved," said township supervisor of recreation programming Lacey Smith. "We can expand Nithy and his adventures to all aspects of the community, including everything from special-event visits to local celebrations like Victoria Day, the Mennonite Relief



(IMAGE COURTESY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT)

Nithy the Nith River Monster is making a comeback as the featured mascot in the Township of Wilmot's new social-media tourism campaign, When in Wilmot.

Sale, Canada Day and the New Hamburg Fall Fair.

"Through our adventures with Nithy, we can learn and explore heights as tall as the waterwheel and highlight the features that make Wilmot the perfect place to call home."

The campaign centres on a series of short social-media videos featuring Nithy visiting three of Wilmot's signature attractions:

the Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve, Castle Kilbride National Historic Site and the New Hamburg Waterwheel.

The initiative stems from a recommendation in the township's Community Services Master Plan, which called for the development of day-trip tourism opportunities highlighting Wilmot's unique attractions.

According to the presentation, Nithy was chosen as the campaign's central character because the legendary creature is unique to Wilmot and has been part of the township's folklore since the 1950s. The campaign aims to use that history to create a fun and recognizable brand while

encouraging people of all ages to discover local attractions.

Nithy's story has long been woven into New Hamburg's history. The monster was first reported in 1953 by then-New Hamburg police chief George Thomas and has since inspired newspaper stories, community celebrations, MonsterFest, parade floats and decades of local lore.

"This family-friendly and beloved character offers something for everyone, from those reminiscing on when they first met Nithy to those being introduced to him for the first time," said Sherri Gropp, the curator at Castle Kilbride.

The campaign also builds on renewed interest in the legendary creature. In recent years, local volunteers restored a long-forgotten fibreglass Nithy statue and began collecting memorabilia tied to the monster's history in an effort to preserve what many consider an important piece of New Hamburg's heritage.

As part of the new tourism initiative, visitors to featured sites will eventually be able to scan QR codes linking to additional information and the campaign's video reels. The township also plans to encourage visitors to take selfies with Nithy, interact with the campaign on social media and explore local shops, businesses and farms while visiting Wilmot.



Region of Waterloo

The Region of Waterloo is reviewing how it responds to groundwater interference complaints from private well owners. The Region is seeking feedback to help shape a process that is fair, transparent, and responsive to the needs of our community. This review focuses specifically on the general complaint and appeal process, including how concerns are assessed, how decisions are made, and what happens when interference is identified.

Join us for an in-person drop in public information and consultation session:

- **Location:** Cafeteria at 150 Frederick St., Kitchener
- **Date:** July 14, 2026
- **Time:** 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

And fill out the survey online at the link below, or by calling us at 519-575-4400.

More details at engagewr.ca/groundwater-interference-complaints-policy-update

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OXFORD COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

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What services matter most to you, and why? Oxford County's municipalities are working together to better understand residents' priorities and preferences.

Share your 2027 budget priorities by **August 31, 2026**, at:
www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup

United Way Oxford launches annual school supply campaign

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

As the cost of back-to-school shopping continues to climb, United Way Oxford is once again launching its Supplies4Students campaign to help Oxford County families.

The Supplies4Students campaign converts monetary donations into gift cards for Giant Tiger, Staples and Dollarama, giving families the flexibility to buy the supplies their children actually need. Every dollar donated goes directly toward purchasing gift cards.

“For over a decade, our community partners have been promoting this program as a more intentional, more appropriate and more dignified model of support. It allows families to purchase what they actually need and provides children with the classic back-to-school shopping experience that is part of the fun and excitement experienced by so many,” said Kelly Gilson, the local United Way’s executive director.

Last year, the campaign supported 1,382 students from 674 families, but with the continued rise in need, United Way Oxford has set a goal of distributing gift cards to 1,400 students and reaching even more people. When the program first started in 2016, just 300 students received help.

“Back to school is an expensive time of year – from school supplies to indoor/outdoor sneakers and everything in between, the costs add up. With more and more



(VECTEEZY PHOTO)

As families prepare for the new school year, United Way Oxford is once again launching its annual Supplies4Students campaign to help Oxford County students access the school supplies they need through gift cards funded by community donations.

families struggling to make ends meet, this is a meaningful way to lend a helping hand,” said Gilson.

The program is open to elementary and high school students, and Gilson explained it works differently than others, something done by design.

“Traditionally it's very much a backpack type of program where there are no choices. You receive a backpack filled with things people have generously donated,

but they may not be the things you actually need. By allowing choice, you're actually providing a much more dignified opportunity for families.”

Families can register online through the program website, which also includes an eligibility chart. Assistance is available to Oxford County families with children attending publicly funded schools, including those in the Thames Valley District School Board, London District Catholic School

Board and Conseil scolaire catholique Providence.

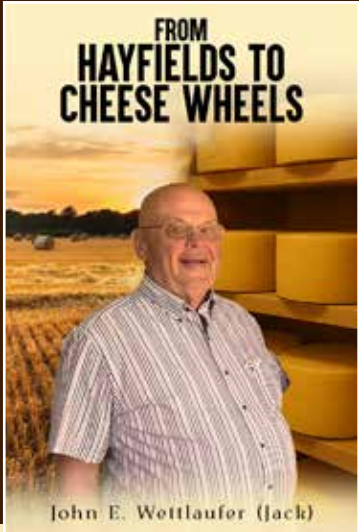
“We provide behind-the-scenes support and all of the administration, accounting and all of those things. But we do that all as our in-kind donation,” Gilson said. “So, 100 per cent of the donations received for this program go to buy gift cards. If we were ever in a position, and sometimes we have been, where there might be some extra dollars at the end of August, we set it aside for the next year's program.”

Gilson said the biggest concern each year is raising enough money to meet demand.

“There's often stress on whether there will be enough money, but it just goes to show that we are committed to ensuring that the dollars for this Oxford Supplies4Students program stay within that program.”

Supplies4Students is a partnership between Operation Sharing, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford, Salvation Army, 211, Oxford County Community Health Centre, Children’s Aid Society of Oxford, Oxford Community Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll and the Ingersoll Community Foundation, with United Way Oxford acting as the coordinating lead.

The website includes a chart that shows whether families qualify, and children must attend publicly funded schools in Oxford County. Donations and registration are both available at unitedwayoxford.ca/supplies4students/.



DROP BY FOR A CASUAL BOOK SIGNING AND SAY HELLO!

Whether you've already read the book or are just curious, I'd love to see you, chat and sign a copy. No speeches or formal program. Just great conversation and friendship.

Location: Oxford County Naval Veterans Association (Woodstock Navy Club)
959 James Street, Woodstock ON

Date: Tuesday, July 14

Time: 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

All proceeds will be donated to the Woodstock Hospital

Bring your own copy or purchase one at the event. I hope to see you there! -Jack

In this candid and deeply human memoir, Jack (John E. Wettlaufer) recounts his journey from a young farm boy armed with grit and determination to the founder of Bright Cheese House, Canada's largest independent cheese company. Along the way, he shares the lessons he learned through hard work, risk-taking, loyalty, and the steady support of family and community.

Set against the changing landscape of the Canadian dairy industry, this book offers a rare behind-the-scenes look at entrepreneurship done the right way. Jack writes openly about earning trust with employees and suppliers, navigating industry consolidation, making difficult decisions, and ultimately facing the most challenging choice of his life: letting go of the family business he built from the ground up.

Throughout the story are moments of humour, humility, and warmth. From unforgettable employee stories and fishing adventures to thoughtful reflections on marriage, parenthood, leadership, and giving back, this is not just a business story, but a life story.

Honest, reflective, and often laugh-out-loud funny, this book is a tribute to resilience, integrity, and the importance of never forgetting where you came from.

Whether you are an entrepreneur, a business leader, or someone who simply enjoys a well-told life story, this memoir is a reminder that success is measured not only by what you build, but by the people you lift along the way.

Township of Wilmot

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Voting is open for Wilmot's Citizen of the Year Awards

These awards recognize exceptional individuals who make a difference in our community.

COMMUNITY SERVICE NOMINEES



Alena Barreca



Brittany Harpell



Janice Bechamp



Kathryn Gray



Kristy Chambers



Lou Divita



Melanie Austin



Samantha Lernout

SENIORS NOMINEES



Arlene McBride



Helen Rempel



Shirley Menel

Voting is open until July 12, 2026!



Vote online: wilmot.ca/citizenoftheyear



Perth East building activity surges ahead of last year's pace

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Construction activity in Perth East is off to a strong start in 2026, with building values for both agricultural and residential projects well ahead of where they were at the same time last year.

A comparison of first-quarter building statistics shows significant growth in new construction throughout the township, something that has become increasingly evident with new homes, farm buildings and commercial development taking shape across the municipality.

Coun. Andrew MacAlpine said he was

surprised by the increase in construction values when the figures were presented to council earlier this year.

According to the township's building department report for the end of March, the value of new agricultural construction reached \$3.79 million in 2026, compared to \$450,000 during the same period in 2025.

Residential construction also saw a substantial increase, with building values climbing to \$1.75 million compared to \$900,000 during the first three months of last year. Those figures include new homes as well as additions to existing residences.

One of the township's largest residential projects is now underway on the south side of Milverton.

Mayor Rhonda Ehgoetz said the new subdivision will include a mix of housing types, featuring 27 single-detached homes, 28 semi-detached homes and 17 street townhouses.

The development will also include commercial and industrial lands, storm-water-management infrastructure and a pumping station.

Ehgoetz noted council received a report on the development, along with a zoning bylaw amendment and draft plan of

subdivision, in May 2024. The approvals were granted while the property was still owned by Jeff Bateman.

The property was purchased by O'Malley Homes, owned by Jon and Derek O'Malley, in September 2025, and development is now underway.

As part of the project, an additional entrance has been constructed from Perth Road 131 to serve the new subdivision.

The increase in construction activity reflects continued investment in Perth East's agricultural sector while also meeting the growing demand for housing throughout the township.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

New home construction continues in Sebastopol off Perth Road 107 as residential building activity in Perth East remains well ahead of last year's pace.



A new poultry barn takes shape east of Shakespeare along Perth Road 106, contributing to a significant increase in agricultural construction values across Perth East in 2026.



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Fryfogel Tavern launches summer fundraising campaign

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Summer is one of the busiest times of the year at the historic Fryfogel Tavern and Arboretum, and with visitors arriving throughout July and August, the Stratford Perth Heritage Foundation has launched its 2026 fundraising campaign to help preserve the landmark for future generations.

The foundation, which owns and operates the Fryfogel Tavern, is a registered charitable organization that relies on donations to support the site's day-to-day operations and ongoing restoration work.

Funds raised help cover operating expenses while also providing the materials needed to continue preserving the historic inn and tavern, one of Perth County's best-known heritage sites.

The foundation is encouraging residents and visitors to support its preservation efforts. Donations of \$20 or more are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

Contributions can be made by e-transfer, credit card or cheque payable to the Stratford Perth Heritage Foundation and mailed to: Stratford Perth Heritage Foundation, 675 Foreman Ave., Stratford, Ont., N5A 0G2.

Board members thank everyone who continues to support the restoration and preservation of the historic property, helping ensure the Fryfogel Tavern remains an important part of Perth County's heritage for generations to come.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Noelle Taylor (front), along with Ali Doupe (left) and Emily Coyne, welcomes visitors to the historic Fryfogel Tavern and Arboretum east of Shakespeare this summer. In addition to greeting guests, the trio helps with painting, maintenance and caring for historical artifacts donated to the site. They invite everyone to stop by and explore one of Perth County's most treasured heritage landmarks.

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Ontario 

Wellesley council seeks public input before considering wind-energy proposal

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Wellesley Township council wants to hear from residents and learn from other municipalities before deciding whether to support the next stage of a potential wind-energy project within the township.

At its June 23 committee-of-the-whole meeting, council heard a presentation from Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Canada Inc., a company exploring the possibility of developing a wind-energy project in Wellesley. Representatives Anita Ifeadi, development manager, and Nate VanGeest, director of development, outlined why the township has been identified as a promising location and explained the early stages of the development process.

"(Wellesley) has really good wind resource in the area, it has minimum seven-metres-per-second wind speed, it is close to transmission infrastructure that has capacity on it," Ifeadi said. "The land configuration is well suited for construction and operation, as well as conversation

with (township) staff says there is opportunity to advance wind energy development in the community."

Ifeadi also cited growing electricity demand across Ontario and the province's need for additional non-emitting sources of power over the coming decades.

The company told council it is in the earliest phase of the project-development process and is seeking permission to install a temporary Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) unit on private property for approximately one year. The equipment would collect wind-speed and wind-direction data to determine whether the site is suitable for a future wind-energy project. Collecting the data would not commit the township or the landowner to a project proceeding.

RES also outlined the lengthy process required before any project could move forward, including environmental and technical studies, consultation with municipalities, Indigenous communities, landowners and neighbours, and provincial approvals. The presentation noted

that a municipal support resolution would signal a municipality's willingness to continue discussions but would not constitute approval of a wind farm.

Rather than making an immediate decision, council opted to gather more information before considering whether to support the proposed wind-monitoring work.

"Obviously, this bears with it a lot of conversation and change within our community," Coun. Derek Brick said. "... For the members of the community, this is news to them and I think it will take time to get out and spread across the community. So, I certainly don't feel comfortable making a statement now about the project. I think it's going to take time to get ... true feedback."

Councillors asked RES to provide references from municipalities that have hosted similar projects so they can better understand the long-term impacts and experiences of other communities. Council also expressed a desire to hear directly from Wellesley residents before taking any further steps, recognizing the level of public

interest wind-energy projects typically generate.

Staff were directed to gather additional information and report back to council at a future meeting.

"My sense is council's not ready to make a firm commitment to go past this initial stage," Mayor Joe Nowak said. "But I don't think we have to stop the conversation at this point."

If the project eventually advances beyond the wind-monitoring stage, it would still be subject to multiple rounds of public consultation and provincial review before any turbines could be constructed.

According to the presentation, potential benefits of a wind-energy project could include increased municipal tax revenue, construction and permanent jobs, lease payments to participating landowners, community-benefit funding and opportunities for Indigenous partnerships and municipal investment.

For now, however, council's decision means no approval has been granted for a wind-energy project in Wellesley.



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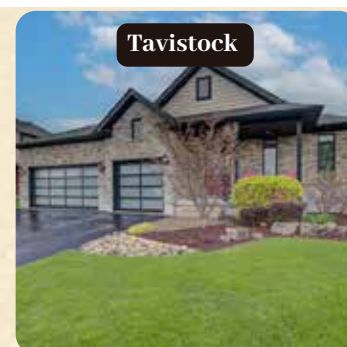
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Railway crossing repairs close Road 107 south of Shakespeare



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Traffic on Perth Road 107 (Highway 59) south of Shakespeare was detoured Tuesday while CN crews repaired the railway crossing, which had become increasingly rough for motorists over the past year. The one-day closure allowed workers to rebuild and smooth the crossing surface before reopening the road later that evening. Crews paused work briefly to accommodate the midday VIA Rail train before completing the repairs.

OBITUARY

Douglas Stanley Otterbein



The family of Douglas Stanley Otterbein is sad to announce his passing on Wednesday June 24th after a courageous battle with cancer. Born April 11, 1962 to Stanley Jacob and the late Barbara Ann Otterbein. Doug was the youngest of three with older brother Brad (Claire) and his sister Karen (Rick). They lived in New Hamburg, ON and spent many of their summers in Honey Harbour on Georgian Bay.

Doug grew up playing a variety of sports and was on many of the school and local sports teams. Being a modest man he would later in life tell his children he was “the New Hamburg champion of this and that” depending on what activity we were participating in that particular moment.

After his grade 13 math exam he recruited his best buddy to join the Army and travel the world seeking adventure. They joined the Canadian Armed Forces together. He had a natural aptitude for military life and was quickly promoted to Sergeant, it was one of the quickest promotions they had given out in infantry.

Doug was always committed to a healthy lifestyle, running, cycling, and weightlifting, this led him to compete in several Ironman competitions throughout his military career.

After leaving the CAF in 1987 he pursued a policing career and joined Durham Regional Police Services in 1988 where he worked frontline patrol, was a Use of Force Instructor, and spent 17 years in the Tactical Support Unit. He was also a member of the Explosive Disposal Unit and Hostage and Rescue Team, he won many sniper awards, team competitions, and was a repel master during this time. One of his many highlights was rappelling from inside the top of what was known as the Skydome at the time in Toronto. Doug completed 30 yrs before retiring in 2018.

It was early on within his time at DRPS he met his wife Elaine. They settled in the small community of Enniskillen, ON in 1996 after the birth of their first child, son Brett. And they remained there to welcome two additional children Eden and Georden.

Doug loved animals and over time had 7 dogs and 7 cats. Doug coached the kids in their various sporting activities soccer, baseball and hockey. When both sons decided to be goalies Doug researched and focused specifically on goalie coaching. He really enjoyed the physical training aspect of coaching and creating dry land training workouts and he built a prowler for the kids to push/pull as part of the workout.

Being a Mopar man, he owned two Dodge Challengers along with many motorcycles, boats, snowmobiles and trucks throughout his life. Doug was very hands on and a devoted do it yourselfer and spent much time outdoors working on his various jobs, or cleaning his ‘toys’. Among his friends they often use the term “Dougie approved” when cleaning their own vehicles or would make a point to clean before coming to visit him knowing he would point out any spot they missed.

Doug was diagnosed in Dec 2024 and fought the good fight trying any and all treatments offered at both Lakeridge Health Oshawa and at Princess Margaret Hospital. Doug spent his last 6 weeks at LHO before going into Marigold Hospice in Newcastle with his family by his side during these past few weeks. Even during his last weeks in care Doug counseled other cancer patients providing advice and guidance proving he lived a full life of service. And a life in the service of others is a life well spent.

Two celebrations of life will take place in Doug’s honour. One on Thursday, July 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Durham Regional Police Association, 725 Conlin Road in Whitby. The second will take place on Sunday, July 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the New Hamburg Legion, 65 Boullee Street, New Hamburg. In lieu of flowers the family requests you consider a donation to Marigold Hospice in Newcastle ON.

QUIZ TIME

BY JAKE GRANT

1. What year did Doug Ford become premier of Ontario?
2. Who plays Rick Grimes in The Walking Dead?
3. What element makes up the majority of Earth's atmosphere?
4. Which animal was the most sought after during the fur trade era?
5. Who says, "Th-th-th-that's all folks!"?
6. What is botany the study of?
7. What prominent facial feature is Hello Kitty missing?
8. Where is the lowest elevation point in California?
9. Michael Stipe was the lead singer of which band?
10. What is the roman numeral for 10?

Answers found on classified page



by PeterS 2026

2		9					1	7
3			9					2
			4	7		6		
4				1			5	
	1			9				6
		8		3	9			
6					7			1
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Answers found on classified page

NEWS

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Canada Day windstorm leaves its mark on Perth County hay fields

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Some Perth County farmers are still talking about the powerful windstorm that swept through the area on Canada Day, saying the intense gusts caused damage unlike anything they have seen in years.

Just one hour before the storm struck, a hay field north of Shakespeare near Amulree had been neatly raked into windrows and was ready to be baled.

Then the winds arrived.

Farmers in the area say the sudden blast scattered rows of dry hay across nearby fields and left some crops flattened or damaged. Several residents suggested the storm may have included a small tornado or localized wind burst because of the concentrated damage in some areas.

The storm also caused widespread power outages throughout parts of Perth and Waterloo counties as high winds toppled trees and damaged hydro infrastructure.

Along with the wind came an enormous cloud of dust and soil that reduced visibility to near zero in open areas before heavy rain settled the dust.

Many local residents said they had never experienced a



High winds on Canada Day created a massive dust storm across parts of Perth County, reducing visibility to near zero until rain settled the airborne soil. Many area residents said it was one of the worst dust storms they had ever witnessed.

dust storm of that magnitude.

While cleanup from the July 1 storm continues in some locations, farmers are assessing crop damage and hoping favourable weather will allow harvest operations to resume.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

A hay field north of Shakespeare near Amulree had been raked into windrows just an hour before the Canada Day windstorm struck. Powerful gusts scattered the dry hay into a neighbouring soybean field before baling could be completed.

OBITUARY

Marietta Elizabeth Gingerich (Roth)

1939-2026



Passed away into the arms of her loving Saviour on June 29, 2026, at Nithview Community in her 88th year.

Born on June 18, 1939 at Punkey Doodles Corners, Marietta lived her life centered on Faith and her family.

She will forever be cherished by her children: James and his wife Anna, Jennifer and her husband Mike, and

Jane and her partner Tim, and also her beloved grandchildren Bex, and Daniel (Nathalie).

Marietta is survived by her brother Ross (Glenda), her sisters Christine (Gerald) and Kitty (Cathy), and her sisters-in-law Judy and Shirley Gingerich.

Marietta was predeceased by her loving husband Verlus (2021), her father Titus Roth, her mother Marjorie Hartlieb (Pat), her sister Patsy Faessler, her mother and father-in-law Mabel and Willis Gingerich, and her brother-in-laws Ronald, Robert and Richard Gingerich

Marietta loved music, tending to her flower beds, and animals of every kind. She enjoyed knitting and had a lifelong love of words. Marietta enjoyed a career at the KW Record as a type setter.

Marietta loved God and was a faithful member of First Mennonite Church in Kitchener.

Forever loved.

Relatives and friends were invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Friday, July 3, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. until 11:45 am. The funeral followed in the chapel of the funeral home at 12:00 p.m.. Reception followed in the Waterwheel Room of the funeral home. A private family interment took place in the First Mennonite Church Cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy donations to First Mennonite Church or the Alzheimer's Society of Waterloo Region and would be greatly appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be shared at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

OBITUARY

WETTLAUER, Joyce Elaine (nee Schwartzentruber)



Died peacefully on Saturday July 4, 2026 at Brightshores Owen Sound at the age of 85.

Joyce is survived by her husband of more than 66 years, Earl Wettlaufer. Cherished mother to Ron Wettlaufer (Miriam), Carol Murray (Bill), Dave Wettlaufer, Brian Wettlaufer (Michelle), and Elaine

O'Hara (Shawn).

Joyce is the beloved grandmother to Leah, Rebecca, Kevin, Kayleigh, Morgan, Brooke, Caitlin, Regan, and Erin; and great-grandmother to 17 great-grandchildren.

Joyce will also be missed by her siblings, Nancy Livingston (Larry), Jim Schwartzentruber, and Bonnie Jokic (John); and by her sister-in-law Nancy Schwartzentruber.

Joyce is predeceased by her parents, Allan and Winnifred Schwartzentruber, brother Jacob Schwartzentruber, and her son-in-law Bill Murray.

Joyce will be remembered for her devoted volunteering at the Warton Hospital Auxillary, and the Hepworth Legion (who loved her so much they hired her). She had a long career in the office at Klassen Bronze. But more than work and volunteer titles, she was a much loved mom and grandmother and great-grandmother.

At Joyce's request, cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will take place at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Brightshores Owen Sound ICU, and Brightshores Warton Hospital are appreciated and can be made through the funeral home.

Personal condolences may be posted at www.mark-jutzifuneralhomes.ca

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of Oliver Kropf Our Devoted Husband, Father & Grandpa



Forever in Our Hearts

One year has passed since you left us, yet not a day goes by that we don't think of you. Your love, wisdom, strength, and quiet kindness continue to guide us. You were a devoted husband and father, a proud grandpa, and the heart of our family. The memories we shared and the love you gave will remain with us always.

"God saw you getting tired, and a cure was not to be. So He put His arms around you and whispered, 'Come to Me.' A golden heart stopped beating, hard-working hands now rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best." Though we miss you more than words can express, we find comfort knowing you are at peace. Your love lives on in each of us, and your legacy will never be forgotten. Forever loved. Forever missed. Forever remembered.

*Until we meet again,
Love Shirley and family*

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.



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The Old Gazettes

By Sydney 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.

July 1 - 8, 2021, Edition (5 years ago)

The Grade 12 graduating class of Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School (WO) commemorated the end of their high school career last week with an outdoor celebration after completing their final year entirely online. WO staff and the Wilmot community worked together to put on the event to recognize the accomplishments of the 2021 graduating class. They had originally planned to do a drive-through celebration similar to last year but shifted gears when the province entered Stage 1 of reopening.

The Township of Wilmot council voted unanimously to remove the controversial Prime Ministers Path during a council meeting on July 5. "I think we've put ourselves in the right path," said Mayor Les Armstrong after the vote. The decision means the four existing statues on the path outside Castle Kilbride will be removed and put into storage, and all future plans for the Prime Minister's Path project will be stopped permanently. The decision was made based on the recommendations outlined in a report presented to council during Monday night's meeting from the First Peoples Group, an Indigenous advisory firm from Ottawa.

It's a homecoming of sorts for incoming Sir Adam Beck Elementary School principal Rebecca Bearinger Fay. Born and raised in Wilmot Township, and a graduate of Wilmot schools, she'll be returning to the building where she served as a teacher for seven years, between 2006 and 2015. Bearinger Fay earned the role of principal of the 600-student school in Baden, beginning September 2021. And she's champing at the bit to take on her new assignment. "I was thrilled to accept it," she stated. "It's an assignment with a challenge, for sure," she admitted, adding, "there's a complexity in taking on a leadership role in one's own community."

July 6 - 13, 2011, Edition (15 years ago)

The Tavistock Bantam Boys, sponsored by Ramseyer Earth Works, have become Team Ontario 1 for the Eastern Canadian Softball Championships to be

held in Waterford Valley, Nfld. Aug. 25-28. "This is a huge accomplishment for our little town and minor ball program," said coach Kevin Zehr. "This has never happened before. I thought winning the Summer Games last year was the best thing these boys would experience in their ball careers," he added, "but this tops it. Now we are going for a national championship." Members of the Team are Tyler Hyde, Spencer Zehr, Carson Lamond, Angus Rowland, Derek Wagler, Tristan Hohl, Terran Rogers, Dylan Taylor, Cody Brown, Deven Kropf, Tyson Zehr, Travis Ramseyer, Jesse Deweerd and Connor Drinkwalter.

Over the past three weeks, Sierra Construction has made a good headway on the watermain and sanitary sewer project in Tavistock. The full length of Hendershot Street from east of the elevated water tank has been completed to Maria Street. The construction progressed north to the intersection Tuesday with water shut-off valves installed to keep residents and businesses supplied. They will then turn their attention to Decew Street East and the north end of Wellington Street to the intersection at Hope Street East. Site supervisor Tony Decoo expects the work to move to the main intersection in about three weeks. At the west end of the village, another crew has begun the line from Saputo to Woodstock Street.

Congratulations to Jordan Bartlett and Michael Zilke who used their imaginations to create the winning entry for the Queen's Park Project Slogan Contest! The winning entry was "Queen's Park - The Royal Reno." The winners share a prize with each receiving a \$100 gift certificate from Best Buy! Children under the age of 18 were asked to name and/or draw a picture of what they would like to see in Queen's Park. Thank you to the 31 entries.

July 3 - 10, 1996, Edition (30 years ago)

The new East Zorra-Tavistock Arena is a hive of activity these days with block layers busy between inside support walls and outside finished block work. On Tuesday, employees of GA Masonry, Kitchener, completed the north side of the building, and continued work on the Curling Club entrance. Then masonry workers moved inside to begin the west entrance and lobby support walls.

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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette SPORTS

World's top six teams headline 2026 Cephias Roth Memorial Tournament

JEFF ROTH

Submitted to the Gazette

The 2026 Cephias Roth Memorial Tournament is shaping up to be one of the premier fastball events of the summer, with tournament organizers announcing that the top six ranked teams in the world will compete in Tavistock for what promises to be an unforgettable weekend of elite competition and community celebration.

The annual tournament will showcase many of the sport's top athletes as they battle for one of fastball's most prestigious titles. Fans can expect championship-calibre action from the opening pitch through Sunday's championship final.

The weekend of fastball will get underway on Thursday, July 16, at Queen's Park, featuring two local fastball Teams. The Tavistock Yard Goats will play at 7 p.m., followed by the Tavistock Merchants at 9 p.m. A food truck and beer tent will be open throughout the evening, allowing fans to enjoy food and refreshments while taking in the opening night's action.

Official round-robin play gets underway on Friday, July 17, with a full slate of eight games. Action begins at 5 p.m. at Queen's Park, Optimist Park and Shakespeare, followed by games at all three venues beginning at 7 p.m. The evening concludes with two late games at the Tavistock diamonds,

with 9 p.m. starts at both Queen's Park and Optimist Park.

Saturday will feature 12 round-robin games. Play begins at 9 a.m. at both Queen's Park and Optimist Park, with games continuing throughout the day. The round-robin will conclude with games scheduled for 7 p.m.

Championship Sunday will determine the 2026 tournament winner. The playoff schedule opens with quarter-final games at both Tavistock parks beginning at 9 a.m., followed by semi-finals at 11 a.m. The tournament concludes with the Cephias Roth Memorial Tournament Championship Final at 2 p.m. at Queen's Park.

With Cephias Roth being a charter member of the Tavistock Optimist Club, tournament organizers are excited to partner with the Optimist Club this year to enhance the weekend experience. On Friday evening, the club will host its popular Friday Night Fries at Optimist Park, providing another gathering place for families, visitors and fastball fans. Two of the games at Optimist Park on Friday will feature the Toronto Batmen, whose roster includes several outstanding local players, giving fans an

opportunity to cheer on hometown talent competing at an elite level.

Food and refreshments will be available throughout the tournament. A food truck and beer tent will operate all weekend at Queen's Park, while a food truck will also be serving spectators at Optimist Park on Saturday.

Sunday morning will also provide an opportunity for the community to support the next generation of local fastball players. The Tavistock U17 Boys fastball team, which recently qualified for the Canadian Championships in British Columbia later this summer, will be selling coffee and breakfast sandwiches at Optimist Park as a fundraiser.

With world-class competition, a packed schedule, outstanding local talent, great food and strong community partnerships, the 2026 Cephias Roth Memorial Tournament promises to be a memorable weekend for players, volunteers and fans alike. Organizers invite residents and visitors to come out, enjoy some of the best fastball in the world and support the many local organizations helping make the tournament a success.

SCHEDULE		DIVISION A		DIVISION B	
		Bear Creek Gremlins Hill United Chiefs JDT First Energy Nova Scotia East Hants Mastodons Ohsweken Redmen		Bear Creek Express Chippewa Chiefs NorthEast Drillers Toronto Batmen Waterdown Hammer	
ROUND ROBIN SCHEDULE					
Friday Night					
	Location (Venue)	Matchup			
5:00 PM	Queens Park	Hill United Chiefs		vs	Ohsweken Redmen
	Optimist Park	JDT First Energy		vs	Nova Scotia East Hants Mastodons
	Shakespeare	Bear Creek Express		vs	NorthEast Drillers
7:00 PM	Queens Park	Hill United Chiefs		vs	Bear Creek Gremlins
	Optimist Park	Toronto Batmen		vs	Waterdown Hammer
	Shakespeare	Bear Creek Express		vs	Chippewa Chiefs
9:00 PM	Queens Park	Bear Creek Gremlins		vs	JDT First Energy
	Optimist Park	NorthEast Drillers		vs	Toronto Batmen
Saturday					
	Location (Venue)	Matchup			
9:00 AM	Queens Park	Waterdown Hammer		vs	Chippewa Chiefs
	Optimist Park	Nova Scotia East Hants Mastodons		vs	Ohsweken Redmen
11:00 AM	Queens Park	Bear Creek Express		vs	Toronto Batmen
	Optimist Park	Hill United Chiefs		vs	JDT First Energy
1:00 PM	Queens Park	Bear Creek Gremlins		vs	Nova Scotia East Hants Mastodons
	Optimist Park	NorthEast Drillers		vs	Waterdown Hammer
3:00 PM	Queens Park	Hill United Chiefs		vs	Nova Scotia East Hants Mastodons
	Optimist Park	Bear Creek Express		vs	Waterdown Hammer
5:00 PM	Queens Park	NorthEast Drillers		vs	Chippewa Chiefs
	Optimist Park	Bear Creek Gremlins		vs	Ohsweken Redmen
7:00 PM	Queens Park	Toronto Batmen		vs	Chippewa Chiefs
	Optimist Park	JDT First Energy		vs	Ohsweken Redmen
PLAYOFF SCHEDULE					
Sunday – Quarterfinals					
	Location (Venue)	Matchup			
Quarterfinal #1					
9:00 AM	Queens Park	2nd Place Division B		vs	3rd Place Division A
Quarterfinal #2					
	Optimist Park	2nd Place Division A		vs	3rd Place Division B
Sunday – Semifinals					
	Location (Venue)	Matchup			
Semifinal #1					
11:00 AM	Queens Park	1st Place Division A		vs	Winner Quarterfinal #1
Semifinal #2					
	Optimist Park	1st Place Division B		vs	Winner Quarterfinal #2
Sunday – Championship					
	Location (Venue)	Matchup			
2:00 PM	Queens Park	Semifinal Winner #1		vs	Semifinal Winner #2

Cephias Roth Memorial Tournament 2026

July 17, 18 and 19

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Shakespeare Falcons U13 and U15 girls capture gold in Stratford

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

It was a golden weekend for the Shakespeare Falcons as both the U13 and U15 girls teams captured championship titles at the Tiffany Perkins Memorial

Tournament in Stratford.

The U13 Falcons claimed the gold medal with a hard-fought 4-3 victory over Mount Forest in the championship game.

The U15 Falcons completed an equally impressive tournament, defeating Cambridge 10-0 in the gold-medal game.

Both Shakespeare teams went undefeated throughout the tournament, showcasing strong teamwork and determination on their way to the championships.

The dual victories made for a memorable weekend for the Shakespeare Community Athletic Association (SCAA), with

players, coaches and families celebrating the success of both teams.

The SCAA congratulated the athletes and thanked the coaches, parents and supporters whose encouragement helped make the tournament such a successful one for the Shakespeare program.



Members of the Shakespeare Falcons U13 girls team proudly display their gold medals after winning the Tiffany Perkins Memorial Tournament in Stratford. Front row, from left, are Abbie Kulack, Zoe Debus and Kadence Bell. Middle row, from left, are Jenna Croft, Natalie Kuchma, Brittney Gruber, Alyssia Mosterd and Sophie Schmidt. Back row, from left, are coach Mike Schmidt, Anna Neeb, Samantha Hovius, Ashlin Christie, coach Isabelle Schmidt and assistant coach Avril Debus.



(RACHEL SMITH PHOTOS)

The Shakespeare Falcons U15 girls team celebrates its gold-medal victory at the Tiffany Perkins Memorial Tournament in Stratford. Front row, from left, are Leah Weicker, Lyric Brighton, Peyton Rader, Maisy Moore, Aline Smith and Sophia Hall. Middle row, from left, are Neely Lange, Emma Diehl, Cora Hall, Ava Mielke, Teagan Glaab and Emma McCauley. Back row, from left, are coaches Jamie Rader, Jesse McCauley, Jason Lang, Mike Hall and Trevor Glaab.

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Tavistock Public School celebrates new playground

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

Tavistock Public School students joined members of the Home and School Association to officially cut the ribbon on the school's new playground during a ceremony on June 5.

"The completion of this project has been a long time coming," said Fiona Patten, president of the Home and School Association.

Patten explained that although replacing the aging playground had been a goal for many years, it wasn't until the Home and School Association was formed in September 2023 that the structure was in place to launch a successful fundraising campaign.

"The Tavistock community has been incredible," said Patten.

Looking back on the project, Patten said the playground is a reflection of what can be accomplished when a community works together.

"I don't think we could have done this in a large city," she said. "This kind of success is only possible in a community like Tavistock, where people care deeply and show up for each other."

The new playground was designed to be accessible and inclusive for children of all abilities. Features include wheelchair-accessible ramps, eye-level play panels that encourage parallel play, multiple slides, and a variety of climbing structures that provide opportunities for active and imaginative play.

Now officially open for students and families to enjoy, the new playground stands as a lasting symbol of community spirit, teamwork and the generosity of the people, businesses and service clubs that came together to invest in the Tavistock community and its children.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Students of Tavistock Public School and members of the Home and School Association cut the ribbon at the school's new playground on June 5, celebrating the success of fundraising efforts led by the organization. The ceremony included Home and School volunteers, East Zorra-Tavistock (EZT) Mayor Phil Schaefer and key donors, including the Tavistock Optimist Club, Tavistock Opti-Mrs, Yantzi Home Building Centre, U-Turn Ranch and Sprucewood Tack Shop. The ceremony marked an exciting milestone made possible by the strong support of the Tavistock community.

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STRATFORD NISSAN



Divitas celebrate anniversary with Wilmot Heritage Antique Fire Brigade 50/50 win

GARY WEST
Gazette Correspondent

Lou and Janet Divita had an extra reason to celebrate their 31st wedding anniversary after winning the Wilmot Heritage Antique Fire Brigade's monthly 50/50 draw.

The Baden couple took home \$315 and accepted their cheque from brigade president Peter Gingerich.

The Divitas said they have supported the monthly draw for some time and were delighted to finally see their ticket selected.

They also encouraged others to support the fundraiser, noting the proceeds help the brigade preserve its collection of antique fire trucks and historic firefighting equipment.

The monthly 50/50 draw is one of several fundraising initiatives the Wilmot Heritage Antique Fire Brigade relies on to

support its ongoing restoration and preservation efforts.

Another successful fundraiser is the brigade's monthly bottle and can drive, held on the last Saturday of each month at the brigade's depot in Baden.

Volunteers collect empty alcohol containers, pop cans and glass bottles, sorting the materials before they are recycled. Pop cans are sold by weight, while alcohol containers are counted and returned through the province's deposit program.

Residents are also welcome to drop off eligible containers throughout the month. The brigade stores the donations until its next scheduled recycling trip.

Members thank the community for its continued support, noting the fundraiser not only helps preserve local firefighting history but also encourages recycling throughout the community.



Lou and Janet Divita celebrate their 31st wedding anniversary by accepting a \$315 cheque as the latest winners of the Wilmot Heritage Antique Fire Brigade's monthly 50/50 draw. Presenting the cheque is brigade president Peter Gingerich (left).



Volunteers with the Wilmot Heritage Antique Fire Brigade collect and sort bottles and cans during the organization's monthly recycling fundraiser in Baden. The bottle drive is held on the last Saturday of each month, with residents also welcome to drop off eligible containers throughout the month.

Gazette Puzzles

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Z	X	F	C	T	S	L	G	I	C	F	A	U	P	F	V	M	R	Y	G
O	O	V	Y	K	S	N	N	U	A	F	I	C	S	L	D	O	M	N	Q
E	O	W	N	P	I	H	Q	N	M	B	C	S	D	S	A	N	I	L	L
P	Y	L	J	M	F	C	X	X	P	I	E	G	H	D	Y	D	F	O	X
V	C	Q	M	T	E	A	X	T	I	H	W	L	C	I	R	Z	L	M	E
P	E	I	Z	B	A	E	K	V	N	A	O	Y	M	A	N	H	O	J	D
W	W	M	Z	E	U	B	A	A	G	S	C	O	O	B	O	G	G	O	E
S	G	M	X	Y	U	E	C	Z	Y	L	B	B	K	I	R	P	G	L	P
I	S	C	K	L	T	H	H	R	I	A	E	P	R	R	L	E	O	R	M
T	U	N	Y	B	F	T	N	N	B	T	K	Q	H	B	Z	I	M	P	A
Z	C	O	X	M	X	T	G	J	A	M	P	I	J	G	L	F	N	T	T
W	D	C	B	L	M	I	O	K	C	G	K	B	N	Z	R	D	G	E	S
D	H	C	N	N	T	H	S	V	Z	R	L	P	Y	G	Y	X	P	N	Y
G	N	I	K	I	B	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M	B	I	P	O	N	R
G	D	N	A	L	R	E	D	N	O	W	S	A	D	A	N	A	C	I	A
U	N	M	S	C	L	U	J	O	T	C	A	N	O	E	I	N	G	S	G
O	Z	I	B	D	Z	L	H	R	R	O	D	D	E	G	M	S	V	T	L
X	I	C	K	H	O	R	S	E	B	A	C	K	R	I	D	I	N	G	A
Q	D	K	U	I	J	J	U	F	T	E	U	T	X	Q	X	X	G	A	C
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Mable may be shy, but she has a secret: there are actually a few tricks to help her become more brave! She does best with calm, quiet introductions at first. She'll also summon up the courage to say hello to anyone who brings wet food, treats, or a recording of a cat purring.

She loves to explore at night in her foster home and her playful side is just starting to shine. If your family is looking for a sweet kitty who just needs some time and space to open up, Mable may be a perfect fit. She's available for adoption through our Stratford Perth Centre, you can learn more about Mable at kwsphumane.ca/adopt/cats!

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Gabbing about gout

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



Question: *I am dealing with painful gout and I may need medication. Is there anything I can do naturally?*

Great question. Yes, there's tons of things to support diminishing pain associated with gout whether you are in the early stages or alongside gout medication.

Gout is a type of arthritis, extremely painful, causing swelling in joints. Inflamed joints are often red and hot to the touch. Most people associate gout with the big toe but it's not uncommon to be found in knees, feet, ankles and fingers.

Gout occurs when the body produces extra uric acid. The

body does this in response to purine chemicals found in the diet. Excess uric acid is filtered through the kidneys, leaving the body through urine. When the body is overloaded and acid is not excreted, crystals may form and deposit on joints. Gout sufferers may notice flare-ups often occur at night without warning, disrupting sleep.

Gout, often referred to as the "disease of kings," is not just about overindulgence in food and alcohol. There are other mitigating circumstances and triggers.

- Genetics
- Being overweight

- High blood pressure
- Taking diuretics
- Decreased kidney function
- Male over 45 years of age
- Drinking alcohol, especially beer
- Crash dieting
- After major surgery or illness
- High fructose corn syrup (HFCS) in the diet
- Diet rich in purine foods such as organ meats and shellfish
- Diabetes
- Insulin resistance

To lower pain and minimize flareups, decreasing inflammation throughout the body is crucial. Stress whether physical, mental or dietary impacts the body. What can you do?

- Get tested for food sensitivities and avoid high-risk foods at all costs.
- Avoid all preservatives, additives and HFCS.
- Cut out or at least limit

alcohol consumption, especially beer.

- Get adequate sleep.
- Exercise daily. Walking counts.
- Cut out seed oil. Choose 100 per cent coconut, avocado or olive.
- Drink enough water to support kidney function. Urine should be the colour of straw. Anything darker or smelly is a sign of dehydration.
- Have a cup of black coffee. Yes, coffee helps reduce uric acid according to a 2015 study.
- Studies support cherries as a healthy, all-natural way to lowering uric acid. Drinking pure tart cherry juice daily is dynamite.
- Take a high-quality multi-vitamin.
- Eat lots of fatty cold water wild caught fish or take high-quality fish oil.

- Grate fresh anti-inflammatory herb turmeric into tea or take in a supplement form.
- Increase vitamin C rich foods such as berries, peppers and citrus.
- Add more fermented foods to meal planning. Unpasteurized sauerkraut and pickles support gut health.

There are two key supplements that support Gout. Talk to your health expert about N-acetyl cysteine and methylsulfonylmethane, better known as MSM.

Consistency is key. You only have one body to live in. Take care of it.

Before you begin any supplements, always check with your medical practitioner to make sure there are no contraindications. Have a question? Find me on social @mercedeskaygoldfitness.

Making sense of colour

DRESS SHARP. SPEND SMART.

By Scott Dunstall



I don't know about you, but I've bought more than a few shirts over the years simply because I liked the colour. Standing under those bright lights in the store, they looked terrific. Then I'd get them home, hang them in the closet and realize I didn't own a single thing that really went with them. That shirt would end up sitting there for months while I reached for the same dependable favourites every morning.

It took me a while to figure out that the problem wasn't the shirt. I was buying individual pieces instead of thinking about my wardrobe as a whole. Once I started looking at my closet differently, I realized that the people who always seem well dressed aren't necessarily buying more clothes than the rest of us. They simply know how to make colours work together.

One of the easiest ways to do that is by building around neutral colours. Navy, grey, white, black, beige and tan are the quiet workhorses of a wardrobe. They don't scream for attention, but they make almost everything else look better. If you've ever wondered why a navy blazer seems to work almost anywhere, it's because navy gets along with just about every colour you can throw at it.

A crisp white shirt with navy has been a classic combination for decades, and for good reason. Add tan shoes or a camel-coloured jacket and you've got an outfit that's simple without being boring. Navy also looks terrific with burgundy, forest green and even soft pink.

Grey is becoming a colour I am rediscovering. Years ago, I probably dismissed it as being a little dull. Now I appreciate how

versatile it is. A charcoal sport coat with a light blue shirt always looks sharp. A grey sweater with jeans is comfortable without looking sloppy. Grey has a way of making the colours around it stand out without competing with them.

I've also learned that accents are often more effective than making every piece of clothing the star of the show. A burgundy tie with a navy jacket, a colourful scarf over a black coat or a bright handbag with a neutral outfit can completely change your appearance. Those little touches draw the eye without overwhelming everything else.

One idea that has helped me is surprisingly simple. Let one colour be the main attraction and allow the others to support it. When every piece of clothing is trying to be the loudest thing in the room, nothing really stands out. Balance almost always looks better than competition.

If you're ever stuck trying to decide which colours belong together, take a look outside. Nature does an incredible job of combining colours without making them feel busy. Think about the colours we see every autumn around here. Olive greens, deep burgundies, golden yellows, rusts and browns all seem to blend together effortlessly. Those combinations have

inspired clothing designers for generations because they simply look natural.

That doesn't mean there are hard and fast rules. Fashion changes far too often for that. Years ago, people insisted brown and black should never be worn together. Today, you'll see that combination everywhere, and when it's done thoughtfully it looks great. The same goes for navy and black, another pairing that was once considered off limits. Sometimes, the old rules deserve to be broken.

One habit I've developed has saved me from making more than a few impulse purchases. Before I buy another shirt or sweater, I ask myself whether I can think of at least three things already hanging in my closet that will work with it. If I can, it's probably a good purchase. If I can't, there's a pretty good chance it'll become another piece of clothing that spends more time on a hanger than on my back.

The funny thing is, dressing well often has less to do with buying new clothes than it does with making better use of the ones you already own. Most of us already have more options than we realize. We just haven't experimented enough with mixing colours that naturally complement one another.

The next time you're standing

in front of your closet, instead of reaching for the same outfit you've worn a dozen times, try swapping one piece for another colour that works with it. You may be surprised at how different an old favourite can look with one small change.

I've come to believe that style isn't built one garment at a time. It's built by learning how each piece works with the others. Once you start thinking that way, your wardrobe suddenly becomes much bigger without spending another dollar.

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.

SEND YOUR STORY IDEAS AND YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO GALEN SIMMONS AT GALEN@GRANTHAVEN.COM

An undiscovered treasure: Richmond's Olympics Museum

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



The first exhibit you encounter makes the point immediately. It's a display of 20 different and unique Olympic torches, including examples from the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics, the 1988 Winter Games hosted by Calgary and the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.

The information panel reads: "The Olympic flame is a symbol of peace, friendship, tolerance and hope. The Olympic Torch Relay reminds us that we are part of something bigger – a global community." It immediately occurred to me this was a message much forgotten in our current, fractured world and reminders like this one, at the Richmond Olympic Experience Museum, are even more important today.

I was in Richmond, B.C., for the 2026 Travel Media Association of Canada (TMAC) conference. I arrived in the city flat out ignorant about the place. I knew from looking at a map that Richmond was south of Vancouver, but close enough that the Vancouver airport is actually in Richmond.

Media members of TMAC get the option of doing a "pre-tour" – spending a few days being guided around the conference's host city, for example. So, for four days, I learned a great deal about Richmond.

And one of the most striking experiences was our visit to the Olympic Oval, home to the Olympic Experience Museum and much more. Visitors are welcome to come to the Oval, to tour, to visit the museum, or, for a modest price, to use the outstanding athletic facilities now housed in the place. The "Oval Drop-in" pass, which allows you to use everything for the day, is \$23. Adult admission to the museum is \$16, less for kids and seniors.

Those facilities are certainly impressive. In 2010, the building housed the Oval, home to Olympic speed skating competitions as well as spectator facilities, media centres, VIP areas and all the features that come with a world-class venue. But the Oval was designed to serve the community for decades to come and it does so in amazing fashion. There are ice rinks, basketball courts, table tennis facilities, state-of-the-art gyms, a terrifying rock-climbing wall and

more.

The place is pretty special. It features the largest cantilevered wooden roof in Canada. More significantly, 2010 marked the first time Indigenous groups – the Coastal Salish – had been involved in planning and participating in the official opening of an Olympic facility.

The Oval continues to be a key training facility for national teams including Canada's Women's National Volleyball Team. It also boasts a world-class training area for para-athletes.

I will admit that for this relatively non-athletic writer, the athletic facilities offered only a certain level of interest. But the Olympic museum experience was amazing.

Gregory Huzor showed us around the museum. He's the enthusiastic manager of the Richmond Olympic Experience.

He told us the Richmond museum is one of 36 official Olympics museums, located in 25 countries on five continents. Headquarters of the Olympic Museums Network is the museum in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Richmond museum is the only one in Canada.

The Oval is also designated as an "Olympics Legacy Site," which allows the facility to proudly display the much-protected Olympic rings symbol and other Olympic-branded material.

The museum itself offers visitors a whole menu of hands-on activities, and I was surprised how immediately available they were because the place was not busy. In fact, I think I could categorize the

Richmond Olympic Experience as a hidden gem, one just waiting to be discovered by visitors who will be thrilled by their find.

There are fascinating exhibits in the museum, highlighting both Canadian involvement in the Olympics and the global vision of the games. Visitors can enjoy an array of virtual experiences – careening down a bobsled run, experiencing ski jumping, kayaking through rapids, or walking a balance beam – conveniently located about 20 centimetres off the floor level, so even an unbalanced guy like me could give it a try without risking injury.

This is very much an interactive facility. In addition to the virtual experiences, visitors can hoist an Olympic torch, don replica Olympic medals and even dress in Olympic hockey jerseys.

The entire Oval facility was designed to be of ongoing use to the community, and to welcome visitors from around the world. And more than that – Huzor told us, should the opportunity arise, the Oval could be transformed back into a competition site for a future Olympics!

The multi-purpose facility is a testimony to the vision of Richmond's leaders. The Oval was originally supposed to be located at Simon Fraser University, but Richmond made an offer that could not be refused – the Oval eventually cost \$178 million, and Richmond guaranteed to fund all costs over the \$60 million mark.

Huzor echoes the comments of many Richmond residents who, 16 years later, think the \$118-million investment has paid dividends far beyond the original price.

Visitors will find the people who planned this Olympic venue deserve a gold medal for foresight.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and past president of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



The virtual bobsled ride.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The display of Olympic torches greets visitors to the Richmond Olympic Experience, one of 36 Olympic museums around the world.



The Olympic Oval, home of speed-skating competitions during the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.



As an Olympic Legacy site, the Oval can continue to display the Olympic rings.

Historic Baden building finds new life as global auction studio

AMANDA NELSON

Gazette Reporter

Once a space for hidden gems and antiques, 8 Foundry St. in Baden – the Miller Antiques building – has been transformed from a former family-run antique shop into a studio for Miller & Miller's livestream auction broadcasts featuring high-value collectables, art, antiques and other treasures.

The building has been part of the Miller family's history for decades. Originally a hardware store, it became an antique shop for much of the 20th century. It was owned by Hap Veach, who married a granddaughter of Castle Kilbride founder James Livingston. Through that connection, Veach acquired many artifacts from Castle Kilbride, which he sold from the shop.

"James was the famous Castle Kilbride Flax King," said Ethan Miller, owner. "When Hap married, his wife came with all of the treasures from Castle Kilbride. So, they spent a lot of their life selling those relics that they found stored in the attic."

In the mid-1970s, Jim Miller, father of current owners Ethan and Justin Miller, purchased the building after first working for Veach refinishing furniture. The building then became home to J.C. Miller Antiques, and many original features, including the light fixtures and antique storefront sign, remain today as part of the family's identity and heritage.

"The joke was Hap wanted my dad to purchase the shop with the inventory at the time, and my dad said I'm happy to buy the shop, but you're on your own with the inventory, so he wasn't too happy about that," said Ethan Miller. "I know that the two of them had a great relationship, though."

The family business began as a traditional antiques dealership, buying and reselling antiques through industry connections. However, the arrival of eBay dramatically changed the antiques industry by creating a centralized online marketplace. Sellers no longer needed dealers to connect them with buyers, forcing many antique businesses to adapt.

"The antiques industry has changed dramatically over the last 25 years," said Ethan Miller. "Dad's cohort of



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A production crew from Ballinran Entertainment works behind the scenes during a Miller & Miller Auctions livestream event at the historic Baden building.

people could make a living buying and selling antiques, and they did so because of something economists would call information asymmetry. In other words, they knew where inventory was, and they knew where the buyers were, and so they were able to pair the two and make a living out of buying something for a low price and selling it for a high price."

"Around 1995, when eBay came out, all of those asymmetries related to information started to disappear because there was the centralized marketplace where people could bring their things, and suddenly all of the secrets that at one time were powerful to know disappeared."

After Jim Miller passed away in 2011, the family briefly tried to revive the building as a destination antique store but realized retail antiques had already declined significantly.

Instead, they shifted to an auction model, acting as agents on behalf of consignors rather than purchasing inventory themselves, which led them to their warehouse location in New Hamburg.

Today, Miller & Miller Auctions has grown to about 19



(AMANDA NELSON PHOTO)

The historic Baden building that once housed J.C. Miller Antiques now serves as a professional broadcast space where Miller & Miller Auctions hosts livestream auctions for bidders around the world.

full-time employees, led by Ethan and Justin Miller, and Ethan Miller's wife, Aki Ohtsuka.

The Miller brothers kept the original building in Baden, knowing the space's history could be used in some capacity. Now, the team at Ballinran Entertainment from Stratford has transformed the space into a live auction venue, noting the historic site is ideal for broadcasting across North America and worldwide.

Rather than housing inventory, the studio serves as a professional broadcast space where auctions are livestreamed to bidders around the world. Items are displayed digitally on screen for bidders, with everything handled behind the scenes.

"The building was empty for so long and walking into this space and seeing it bustling with activity; there were people taking bids, there was an entire production crew, there were some assistants that were doing phone bids, there could be as many as 20 people in here," said Ethan Miller. "To walk into a space that has been, in some ways, lonely and lost; it was really neat to open the door and to see that life and energy."

Keeping the historic J.C. Miller Antiques sign and preserving the building was important to the Miller brothers because they reflect the family's roots. On auction days, the space now fills with auctioneers, production staff, phone bidders and media crews — sometimes as many as 20 people — bringing energy back into the building.

"This building is a part of our identity; it's a part of our heritage," said Ethan Miller. "It's a building that means a lot to us, and certainly having that signage there speaks to the fact that we have great memories of this place."

Ethan Miller said that while his father may not have agreed with every business decision along the way, he believes he would ultimately have appreciated how the family successfully adapted the business while honouring its history.

"He was always trying to predict how interesting the next five or 10 years would be," said Ethan Miller, speaking about his late father. "I think in some ways he would be absolutely shocked. He would probably say we made decisions, many that he probably would have disagreed with, but when all the dust settles, and you stand back and you look at the result, I think he would nod his head and say it all made sense."



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THURSDAY, JULY 9

22nd Annual Childhood Cancer Fundraising BBQ
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Call 519-634-5852 or email sales@bechtholdhome.com. Call or email to place order for pick up by July 7
1239 Notre Dame Dr, Petersburg ON

FRIDAY, JULY 10

Optimist Club of Tavistock Friday Night Fries
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Optimist Food Trailer
Tavistock Optimist Park

SATURDAY, JULY 11

Saturday Strolls in Sylvan Splendor - Laschinger Woods, New Hamburg
1:30 - 3 p.m.
If you enjoy puns, this trail might be Wilmot's 'Muscle Beach'. There are some really big trees in here. Details and registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/lets-tree-wilmot-34384003923>
Forest Glen Public School
437 Waterloo Street, New Hamburg

SUNDAY, JULY 12

The Stevie B. Ride for Hospice
10:00 a.m.
The ride starts at the Linwood Community Centre, 5279 Ament Line, Linwood at 10 a.m. and heading west. To donate if not on a bike - contact Beth Baechler at bsbaechler@gmail.com
After ride gathering at
1205 Greenwood Hill rd., Wellesley.

MONDAY, JULY 13

Food Trucks at Grace United Church Tavistock
4:30-7:30 p.m.
SWAT, Pablas Street of India, Beavertails
Donations to Grace United Church
116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Perth East council meeting
7 p.m.
Council chambers
25 Mill Street East, Milverton

SATURDAY, JULY 18

Legion New Hamburg Branch 532 100th Anniversary Open House
1-4 p.m.
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532
65 Bouleee St, New Hamburg
Tavistock & District Historical Society Museum
1-4 p.m. (other times by appointment)
Email: info@tavistockhistory.ca or call 519-655-3334. All welcome.
37 Maria Street, Tavistock

MONDAY, JULY 20

Wellesley Special Council meeting
5:45 p.m.
Council chambers
4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill

TUESDAY, JULY 21

Free Caregiver Connection peer support groups
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) offers free peer support groups for caregivers, in person, virtual, or hybrid. Visit family.cmho.org or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.
Revel Realty Woodstock,
111 Huron Street, Woodstock

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

Wednesday Walks in Wilmot's Wonderful Woods - Scott Park, New Hamburg
7 - 8:30 p.m.
This park, on the flood plain, has had a good variety of mature trees and newly planted ones. See the challenges of floods have on the trees. Details and registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/lets-tree-wilmot-34384003923>
William Scott Park
75 Hunter Street, New Hamburg

THURSDAY, JULY 23

Pic-nic In the Park
Lunch : 12:00 to 1 pm from Tavi Chill
Music & Dancing : 1.30 to 3.30 pm
Entertainment : Dianne & Gary The Cavaliers, with Steve Todd. Bring lawn chairs. For tickets and more information, call Don Junker (519) 535-7052
Queens Park Pavilion,
1 Adam St, Tavistock, ON

THURSDAY, JULY 23 CONT

All Things Green Youth Trivia Night
6-9 p.m.
Hosted by the Nith Valley EcoBoosters Youth Advocates. For more information contact nveb.youthadvocates@gmail.com
Wilmot Recreation Complex
1291 Nafziger Rd., Baden

SATURDAY, JULY 25

Saturday Strolls in Sylvan Splendor - Schmidt Woods, NH
1:30 - 3 p.m.
Keep an eye out for the rare rock elm, and look at the tree trunks. Some look like elephant legs, some shaggy, and others like burnt cornflakes. Details and registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/lets-tree-wilmot-34384003923>
Wilmot Recreation Complex (meet at trail entrance near the Splash Pad)
1291 Nafziger Road, Baden

MONDAY, JULY 27

Wilmot Council meeting
6-7 p.m.
Council chambers
60 Snyder's Road W., Baden

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

East Zorra-Tavistock Council meeting
9 a.m.
Council Chambers
89 Loveys Street East, Hickson

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

Optimist Club of Tavistock Friday Night Fries
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Optimist Food Trailer
Tavistock Optimist Park

EVERY WEDNESDAY

TOPS - Taking off Pounds Sensibly
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Contact Cathie 519-662-9273
St James Church, Baden

Euchre Night
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
New Hamburg Legion
65 Bouleee St., New Hamburg

FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES

Tavistock Seniors Pickleball
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12-4 p.m.
Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052
Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St.
Tavistock Seniors Card Games
Monday drop in 1-4 p.m.
Contact: Bob Routly 519-301-2118
Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St.
VON Senior Exercise Drop-In Standing Class
Tuesday and Thursday 9-10 a.m.
To register contact 519-539-1231 ext. 6319
Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St.
VON Senior Exercise Drop-In Sitting Class
Tuesday and Thursday 10:25-11:25 a.m.
To register contact 519-539-1231 ext. 6319
Village Manner, 98 Woodstock St., Tavistock

TAVISTOCK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM DISPLAYS

Museum Display: "The Glasgow Warehouse"
Can be viewed anytime
Tavistock Home Hardware (Front window),
24 Woodstock Street S., Tavistock
Museum Display: "Heritage of Hickson Post Office"
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm
runs until July 13
Ezt Township Administration Building (lobby),
89 Loveys Street, Hickson

PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

Plattsville & District Heritage Society exhibit "Holidays & Celebrations That Bring Us Together"
June 6 to September 19 | Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Donations accepted. Refreshments. Contact plattsvilledistrictheritage@gmail.com or call 519-535-1417.
Archive & Museum at Chesterfield,
816661 Oxford Rd 22, Bright

Events submitted for the Community Calendar will be published as space permits. Submission does not guarantee publication, and events may not appear every week prior to the event date. Please submit your events to thewtgazette@gmail.com by Tuesday at 3 p.m.

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Quiz Time Answers

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. 2018 | 6. Plants |
| 2. Andrew Lincoln | 7. Mouth |
| 3. Nitrogen | 8. Death Valley |
| 4. North America | 9. R.E.M |
| Beaver | 10.X |
| 5. Porky Pig | |

Coming Event



Branch 532
New Hamburg

Discover the story of Branch 532. Join us as we open our Hall to the community to showcase the milestones and contributions that have defined our Legion since 1952 on **Saturday, July 18th between 1 and 4 p.m.**

Food will be available.

New member welcoming ceremony will take place at 2:00 p.m.

Joining the Legion is free in 2026.

Applications will be available at the event.

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2	6	9	3	8	5	4	1	7
3	7	4	9	6	1	5	8	2
8	5	1	4	7	2	6	9	3
4	3	2	7	1	6	9	5	8
9	8	6	2	5	3	1	7	4
7	1	5	8	9	4	2	3	6
1	2	8	6	3	9	7	4	5
6	9	3	5	4	7	8	2	1
5	4	7	1	2	8	3	6	9

Coming Event

PICNIC IN THE PARK

FOR SENIORS ACTIVITIES TAVISTOCK

Thursday, July 23

Queens Park Pavilion
1 Adam St., Tavistock

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch from Tavi Chill

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Music and Dancing

Entertainment: Dianne and Gary
The Cavaliers with Steve Todd

Bring lawn chairs.

Tickets: \$25 (lunch included)
\$10 (no lunch)

Call Don Junker:

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