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(MIKE GRUMMETT PHOTO)

The new mural on the side of the New Hamburg Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532 honours those who served and those who never came home.It was painted by Ukrainian artist Viktoriia Makarova.

Memorial banners honouring local veterans targeted ahead of Remembrance Day

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

As communities across Waterloo Region prepare to honour the locals who served and sacrificed for Canada, two communities are left wondering why someone would target the banners commemorating their veterans.

A memorial banner honouring Pte. Tyler William Todd, a local soldier killed in Afghanistan, was vandalized with spray paint in downtown New Hamburg Oct. 24, while another banner honouring Second World War veteran Roman Voisin mysteriously disappeared from a hydro pole in St. Clements sometime over the same weekend.

For Deb Roeder, Voisin's niece, the disappearance is particularly heartbreaking after she made arrangements to have her late uncle recognized in the community he called home his entire life.

"I'm still trying to understand why someone would do this," Roeder said.

Voisin, who served during the Second

Continued on page 2

Oxford OPP officer wins prestigious award

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

Oxford provincial police Const. Randi Crawford is this year's recipient of OPP West Region's Laurie Hawkins Community Services Memorial Award.

The award is given to community engagement or media relations officers for exemplary service.

"From school and community presentations to high-pressure media demands, Const. Crawford does it all and does it well."

That was a comment from the OPP on its West Region social media channels this week as the announcement was made. Const. Laurie Hawkins was an OPP officer who died in 2008, along with her husband, Richard Gignac, and their two children, Cassandra and Jordan, from carbon monoxide poisoning in their home in Woodstock.

"I am so honoured to receive such a meaningful award. The fact that Laurie Hawkins was a community officer in Oxford makes this award even more special to me," said Crawford, who added while she did not have the privilege of meeting Hawkins, she feels like she knows her and has been inspired by her through the stories that have been shared by her peers and community members.

"This award comes at time where the world

Continued on page 3



Veterans' memorial banners vandalized in New Hamburg, missing in St. Clements as Remembrance Day approaches

Continued from page 1

World War, returned home to St. Clements, where he and his brother operated H&R Voisin Motors. While his family knows relatively little about his military service, Roeder remembers her uncle as an exceptionally generous man who deserved recognition for his contribution to his country.

"He couldn't have been a nicer person," she said.

Roeder arranged for the banner to be displayed this year through the local veterans' recognition initiative. It was installed around Oct. 19 and was still hanging Oct. 24.

On Oct. 26, however, township staff contacted Roeder to ask whether she had removed it.

She hadn't.

The banner had disappeared without explanation, leaving Roeder and her family disappointed and searching for answers.

According to Roeder, no nearby security cameras captured what happened, and residents living near the pole reported hearing nothing unusual.

Whether the banner was deliberately removed or disappeared for another reason remains unknown.

"These banners are more than just decorations – they represent real people, their sacrifices, their families and the history of our community," Roeder wrote in a Facebook post appealing for information. "They deserve to be treated with respect."

Roeder has since contacted the Elmira Legion and others about obtaining a replacement. While she hopes to have another banner installed before Remembrance Day, she said she will purchase one for next year if necessary.

Meanwhile, in New Hamburg, Waterloo Regional Police are investigating after two individuals were captured on video vandalizing a memorial banner honouring Todd around 1:57 a.m. Oct. 24.

Todd, 26, grew up on his family's dairy farm near Bright and served with the Edmonton-based 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was killed by a roadside bomb while on foot patrol near Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 2010.

The vandalism extended beyond the memorial banner, with spray paint also reported on the RBC building, a bench along Waterloo Street and pavement near the downtown waterwheel.

New Hamburg Legion president Bill Pearson said the incident has deeply affected local Legion members.

"We are disappointed and heartbroken that, at this time of year especially, someone would deface what the Legion basically stands for – veterans," Pearson said.

He confirmed the Legion has spoken with Todd's family and is working to replace the damaged banner, ideally before Nov. 11.

"We are going to get the banner back up there. We hope we can get it done before Remembrance Day, but it's yet to be seen."

Nujma Bond, national communications and public relations manager for the Royal Canadian Legion, said incidents involving damage to memorials honouring veterans are particularly discouraging.

"We don't understand why people would be motivated to do that but we hope everyone, including those who do things like this, understand that it is because of the sacrifices of our veterans that we are all here today living the kinds of lives we live and having the freedoms we enjoy," Bond said.

"It's not typically something we see, so it's very discouraging when it happens."

Waterloo Regional Police public information officer Const. Melissa Quarrie said investigators are seeking the public's assistance identifying those responsible for the New Hamburg vandalism.

"We will not tolerate acts of vandalism targeting memorials or signs that honour our veterans and fallen military members," Quarrie said. "These acts are deeply disrespectful to those who served and sacrificed for our country, and we are treating this investigation with the seriousness it deserves. Dedicated resources have been assigned, and we are actively investigating."

Anyone with information or video footage related to the New Hamburg incident is asked to contact Waterloo Regional Police at 519-570-9777, ext. 6399. Anyone with information about Voisin's missing banner in St. Clements is encouraged to contact Roeder.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

A banner honouring the military service of Pte. Tyler Todd, who was killed n Afghanistan in 2010, was vandalized with spray paint in the early morning hours of Oct. 24.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A banner honouring St. Clements Second World War veteran Roman Voisin disappeared from a hydro pole sometime between Oct. 24 and Oct. 26, leaving his family without any answers.



(IMAGE COURTESY OF WATERLOO REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE)

A banner honouring St. Clements Second World War veteran Roman Voisin disappeared from a hydro pole sometime between Oct. 24 and Oct. 26, leaving his family without any answers.

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Crawford honoured for community service

Continued from page 1

feels very challenging. For those who don't know, this past year, I have been faced with numerous health challenges that resulted in surgeries and impaired mobility. Although I am heartbroken to not currently be able to physically be in the community, I am doing everything else I can to spread positivity and safety messaging throughout Oxford County," Crawford said.

"My desire to try to do at least something to help, along with the wonderful support from the Ontario Provincial Police, enabled me to come back in some capacity. To have my good intentions, hopes, wishes and efforts for this community recognized feels incredible."

Crawford added she is fortunate to have the opportunity to represent her peers and superiors from OPP and work with so many community partners such as other first responders, schools, media partners, social services and other organizations.

"Those are relationships I don't take for granted and am grateful for every day. I sincerely care about the safety and wellness of everyone in and around Oxford County and I will continue to work hard to help keep everyone safe and secure."

The tragedy that killed Hawkins and her family led to the introduction of the Hawkins-Gignac Act in Ontario in 2013. The legislation requires carbon monoxide alarms in homes with fuel-burning appliances or attached garages.

The award honours her memory and commitment to community service and recognizes OPP officers whose work goes beyond traditional policing, particularly building relationships with schools and community organizations, delivering public education and crime-prevention presentations, and promoting public safety.

It also takes into consideration maintaining positive relationships with local media and communicating effectively with the public during emergencies and major investigations.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The West Region OPP's Laurie Hawkins Community Services Memorial Award has been awarded to Oxford provincial police Const. Randi Crawford. Crawford was given the award by Oxford OPP detachment commander Insp. Tony Hymers.





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Pawsitively Furever hopes to find dogs homes before the holidays with annual adoption campaign

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

With the holiday season fast approaching, a Tavistock-based dog rescue is hoping to find loving homes for more than 70 dogs currently in its care, while reminding prospective pet owners that a dog is a lifelong commitment, not a Christmas gift.

Pawsitively Furever has launched its second annual Home for the Holidays campaign, encouraging families considering adopting a dog to do so before the hustle and bustle of the holidays begins, giving their new four-legged family members time to settle into their surroundings.

"Pets are not gifts, they are living beings who require care, physical exercise and proper health care," said Paige Chambers, founder and executive director of Pawsitively Furever. "They should not be given as gifts as they then become the responsibility of the receiver, who may not be willing or able to keep up with these requirements."

Founded in Tavistock two-and-a-half years ago, Pawsitively Furever is an entirely volunteer-run, donation-supported rescue that has helped 996 dogs find second chances. The organization operates exclusively through foster homes, meaning every dog in its care lives with a family while awaiting adoption.

Chambers said the organization launched Home for the Holidays last year after recognizing the challenges dogs can face when introduced to unfamiliar homes during one of the busiest times of the year.

While the excitement of surprising a loved one with a puppy on Christmas morning might seem appealing, Chambers said the reality of caring for a new pet can quickly become overwhelming, particularly when the recipient has not had an opportunity to consider the responsibilities involved.

For rescue dogs, the challenges can be even greater.

Chambers pointed to what rescuers call the three-three-three rule, a general guideline describing the time dogs may need to adjust to a new environment: three days to begin decompressing, three weeks to become familiar with their surroundings and three months to feel comfortable and secure.

Holiday gatherings, unfamiliar visitors, disrupted routines and increased activity can make that adjustment particularly difficult.

"A rescue dog needs stability and structure especially during the first few weeks in a home to get used to the sights, smells and sounds of their surroundings," Chambers said.

Without that stability, dogs can become fearful, reactive or withdrawn, potentially creating challenges for both the animal and its new family. By encouraging adoption in November, the rescue hopes dogs will have an opportunity to build trust and confidence with their new families before Christmas arrives.

This year's Home for the Holidays campaign includes a two-day event Nov. 20 and 21 at Transitions Acres, 965243 Maplewood Sideroad, Tavistock, where prospective adopters can meet dogs currently awaiting permanent homes.

The festivities kick off Friday, Nov. 20, from 5-8 p.m. with an outdoor artisan vendor market and photos with Santa for families and their dogs, available for a $25 donation.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, from 1-4 p.m., the vendor market returns alongside an opportunity to meet adoptable dogs and speak with the rescue's volunteers and foster families about adoption, fostering and animal rescue.

The event will proceed rain, snow or shine, and everyone is welcome, whether they are considering adoption or simply looking to support the rescue.

Beyond finding homes for dogs in need, Pawsitively Furever operates several community initiatives aimed at keeping pets with their families, including a pet pantry, Charlie's Legacy medical bursary program and support for spay-and-neuter initiatives.

Chambers said anyone considering adoption should carefully evaluate their ability to provide lifelong care, including managing potential medical expenses, behavioural challenges and the time required to help a dog settle in.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF PAWSITIVELY FUREVER)

Hulkie is just one of the dogs up for adoption during Pawsitively Furever's Home for the Holidays adoption campaign.

Those interested in learning more about adoption or supporting the rescue can connect with Pawsitively Furever through its Facebook page or attend the Home for the Holidays event Nov. 20 and 21.

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Young trick-or-treaters enjoy sunny Halloween afternoon in Tavistock

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The streets of Tavistock were filled with ghosts, goblins, superheroes and plenty of other colourful characters Saturday afternoon as local children headed out for some Halloween fun.

With Halloween falling on a Saturday this year, many younger trick-or-treaters got an early start, making their way from house to house with bags and buckets ready to be filled with candy.

Parents accompanied their little ones through neighbourhood streets, smiling and laughing as the children showed off their costumes and eagerly collected treats from friends and neighbours.

Mother Nature also co-operated, providing clear skies, sunshine and comfortable weather for the annual Halloween tradition.

The beautiful afternoon made it that much more enjoyable for families to spend time outdoors, visiting neighbours and taking in the many creative costumes and decorations throughout the community.

Adding to the excitement was the return to standard time overnight, with clocks turning back one hour early Sunday morning.

For many youngsters, that meant an extra hour of sleep after a busy evening of trick-or-treating, followed by plenty of time Sunday morning to sort through their collection of Halloween goodies.

The Halloween spirit wasn't limited to the streets of Tavistock, either.

Residents and staff at The Maples Home for Seniors also got into the festivities, dressing up in costumes and enjoying a special visit from two friendly cocker spaniels.

From the youngest trick-or-treaters to seniors enjoying the celebrations, Halloween once again brought plenty of smiles, laughter and community spirit to Tavistock.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Young trick-or-treaters were out enjoying the sunshine in Tavistock Saturday afternoon as they showed off their Halloween costumes. Pictured from left are six-year-old Elle O'Hearn, dressed as Jessie from Toy Story; her eight-year-old sister, Meyer O'Hearn, dressed as a cheerleader; one-week-old Charlee Bender, sporting an orange toque and sleeper; six-year-old Emma Bender, dressed as a Jurassic Park ranger; and four-year-old Oliver Bender, dressed as a green monster.



Residents and staff at The Maples Home for Seniors in Tavistock got into the Halloween spirit with colourful costumes and a visit from two friendly cocker spaniels. Pictured from left are Tavistock's Tracy Lobsinger with her dogs, Carel and Cruz; Janet West, dressed in a Mexican-themed costume; Shirley Mills as Sherlock Holmes; and Maples caregiver Jie-Zhu, dressed as a queen complete with a crown. The festivities brought plenty of smiles to residents at the long-term care home.

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United Way Oxford launches 2026 Ultimate Burger Battle

Two Tavistock eateries taking part

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

Oxford County restaurants are heating up their grills this fall to compete for Ultimate Burger glory while raising funds for United Way Oxford.

For the third year in a row, the month-long culinary showdown will see local restaurants serving unique Ultimate Burger creations, donating $2 from each burger sold to United Way Oxford. The event kicked off on Nov. 1 and it combines great food with the power of giving back.

In November, restaurants will compete for three titles: Ultimate Burger of the Year (chosen by a panel of community ambassadors), People's Choice (voted online) and Most Ultimate Burgers Sold.

This year's lineup features a mouthwatering mix of platinum and gold-level participants, including:

- Platinum: The Mill, Charles Dickens Pub, Brickhouse Brewpub, The Cabin at UTBC, Madmash Brewery & Restaurant, Churchy's Pub, The Copper Mug Pub, Chrissy's Catering, P.B's Fries, Boston Pizza Woodstock
- Gold: Boston Pizza Tillsonburg, Brunny's Sports Bar & Grill, The Pub at Norwich Ave, Louie's Pizza & Pasta

Sierra Construction is this year's signature sponsor, made possible by their generous support of this community-driven event. United Way Oxford also thanks Oxford County Cattlemen's Association for supporting local impact.

"We are so excited to be hosting Ultimate Burger Battle for its third year. We know it has been a challenging year for many local businesses, and we're incredibly grateful to have so many restaurants participating. Last year's event raised more than $20,000, and those funds made an incredible impact right here in Oxford County," said resource development coordinator Megan Porter.

Tavistock's Madmash won last year's People's Choice Award with its "Ultimate Jammin Burger." It was created by Will Churchward, who is now the head chef at Churchy's Pub in Tavistock. Churchward's creation this year is called the "Burger in a Blanket," which starts off with an 80-20 blend burger patty.

"It's 80 per cent beef and 20 per cent bacon. It is stuffed inside a homemade cheese bun. Inside the bun is the burger patty, a mushroom, onion, garlic, thyme, mayo Dijon blend. It has a beef wellington flavour with some red wine and extra old cheese from Gunn's Hill. It's nice a juicy, and hopefully something a little different."

Churchward said he's never made anything like this before but the kitchen at the recently purchased Churchy's doesn't yet have the necessary ventilation or equipment to grill.

"This is something I can do. It's a little different than what you might expect from a cheeseburger in a contest, but it does have the properties of a burger. Even if I don't win, it's going to be something unique people I think will really enjoy."

He added the recipe just came to him recently while watching TV.

"I've never had a beef wellington in my life, and I was looking at recipes, but I didn't want to call it that because I'm not using puff pastry. It's in a bun instead, and that's the more cheeseburger side to it."

The Madmash creation this year is called the "Grand Royale."

"We took a juicy quarter-pound smash patty and gave it the crown it deserves. Rich melted Havarti, crispy bacon, delicate crispy leeks and a luxurious spread of sweet fig jam to bring it all together," said owner Jon Ross. "The true crowning glory is the bun; a warm, buttery, flaky croissant that holds this sweet and savoury masterpiece together.





(PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNITED WAY OXFORD)

Two Tavistock eateries are competing in the United Way Oxford 2026 Ultimate Burger Battle. Madmash Brewery & Restaurant will serve the Grand Royale (above) while Churchy's Pub has created the Burger in a Blanket (right).

"Undeniably majestic."

Ross said, jokingly, the pressure to repeat is immense.

"The entire kitchen has been on edge, which isn't ideal with sharp knives around. I saw one lad trying to sharpen a whisk yesterday. Next, they'll try to mop the floor with meat pie filling! But in all seriousness, the team has been meticulously crafting this beast. We did have a massive scare Thursday – our custom croissant buns were delayed to Nov. 5, but our supplier, Morton's, pulled off a miracle."

Cooks Mack and Austin came up with the idea and pulled from traditional Scottish staples like leeks and figs and added a French twist to the bun.

"France and Scotland actually share a deep culinary and historical bond going back centuries to the Auld Alliance. (Co-owner) Chad and I threw in our feedback, so it was truly a collaborative scran, top to bottom, just like everything at Madmash," Ross said.

Burger lovers can vote for their favourite burger online at www.unitedwayoxford.ca/burgerbattle. The top burger will earn the coveted People's Choice title.

Participants can also pick up the Ultimate Burger Battle Passport at participating restaurants to track their tastings. Those who try five or more burgers and return their passport to United Way Oxford will be entered for a chance to win a Burger Battle Ambassadorship for next year.

To learn more, visit www.unitedwayoxford.ca/burgerbattle or follow @unitedwayoxford and @uwburgerbattleoxford on social media.

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Oxford municipalities unite to defend their right to reject new landfill proposals

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

As the Ontario Government considers changes to provincial legislation for new landfills, Oxford's municipalities are asking for a commitment to maintain existing the "right to approve" for all municipalities.

Oxford County, with its local municipalities, has been working to fulfill strategic-plan commitments to reducing waste, maximizing resource recovery and promoting a circular economy.

"We are in agreement. Ontario should continue to explore waste management alternatives and revisit the strategy for a waste-free Ontario," said the statement signed by all current mayors and mayors-elect.

It added that when it comes to Ontario's Proposed Actions to Address Landfill Capacity, now undergoing public consultation through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), all mayors and mayors-elect share a conviction that municipalities must maintain their right to approve future landfills in their communities.

"Oxford County has long been considered a leader in waste reduction, recycling and prudent and proactive landfill management," said East Zorra-Tavistock Mayor Phil Schaefer, a member of Oxford County council. "Eight municipalities are united in their desire to retain the ability to determine whether they wish to have a landfill located within their municipality, much like the situation that exists with nuclear waste storage and renewable energy projects."



(OXFORD COUNTY YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT)

The entrance sign at Oxford County's Waste Management Facility. County municipalities are calling on the province to protect their right to approve or reject proposals for future landfills in their communities.

There is currently no landfill located in East Zorra-Tavistock.

The statement went on to say the message was unequivocally delivered by 150 municipalities in 2018, led by the Town of Ingersoll in Oxford County as part of the "We Demand the Right" campaign. Bill 197 in 2020 subsequently provided municipalities with the right to approve or deny new landfills within their own communities and if the landfill is sited within 3.5 kilometres of an adjacent municipality.

"We commend Minister Todd McCarthy for his public statement that municipalities will retain the ability to decide whether to accept a landfill in their communities. Maintaining this in legislation will continue to give Ontario's municipal governments and citizens the ability to engage with landfill proponents, and to ensure their needs are respected and addressed," the statement said.

The mayors added this right does nothing to diminish a proponent's ability to develop a fair proposal that fully considers the social, economic and environmental impacts of its operations. Amending section 17.5 of the Environmental Assessment Act would leave municipalities without leverage or meaningful voice at the table, with little to no opportunity to negotiate the necessary terms to safeguard their communities.

"We are committed to protecting the same rights for municipalities for landfill development as those afforded to other projects that have high local impact, such as nuclear waste storage and renewable energy. This is the only way to achieve the best possible outcome for all involved."

The statement added the issue is too important to Oxford County and all of Ontario for ambiguity; the right to approve must be protected.

"Oxford County municipalities will continue to collaborate with the province on this important issue. We will be working to raise awareness of the impacts of this potential legislative change and encourage the residents of Oxford and beyond to share their thoughts through the ERO process at ero.ontario.ca/notice/026-1056."

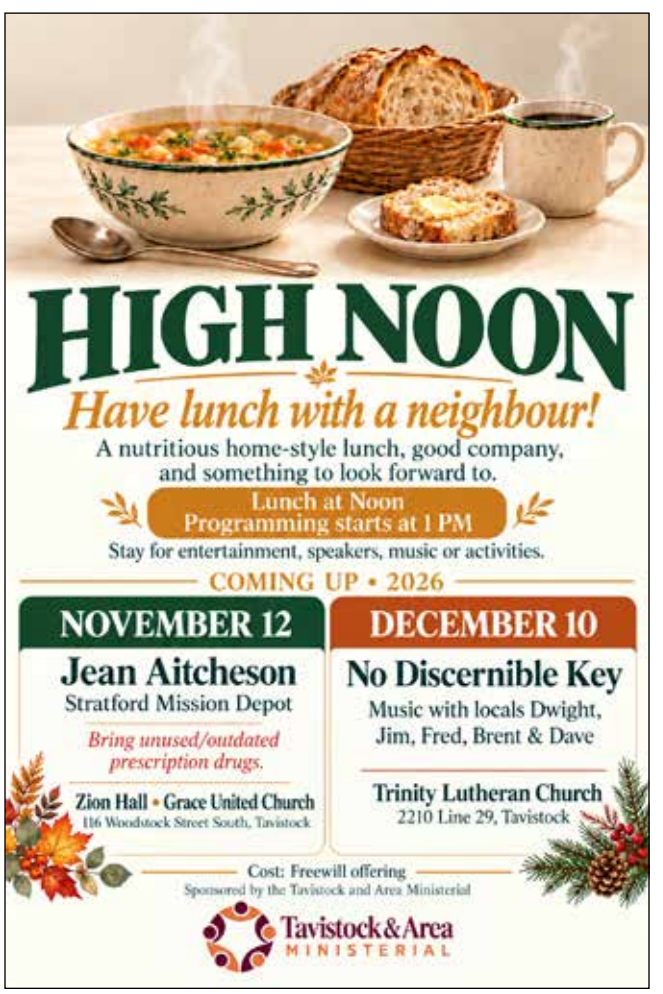
The provincial government is proposing to amend the Environmental Assessment Act to remove the requirement for municipal support before a proponent can submit a comprehensive environmental assessment for a new large landfill.

Under the existing rules, established through Bill 197 in 2020, a new landfill proponent must obtain support from the municipality in which the landfill would be located and an adjacent municipality if the proposed site is within 3.5 kilometres of lands with authorized residential uses in that municipality.

The province wants to remove that requirement as it is running out of landfill capacity. Only one large new landfill has been approved in the last 20 years and approximately 25 per cent of Ontario's waste is shipped to the United States.

McCarthy has suggested Ontario's landfill capacity could be exhausted within 10 years. He has also warned that U.S. tariffs on Canadian waste could accelerate the problem.







Khanna tackling home invasions with bills

JEFF HELSDON

Gazette Reporter

With two home invasions making the news within a week, Oxford MP Arpan Khanna is calling for all-party support for a bill to tackle the issue.

One of the invasions hit close to home in the north end of Oxford, where two individuals, one of whom was armed with a shotgun, forced their way into a home on 29th Line in Zorra Township, shortly after midnight on Oct. 26.

According to police records, a physical altercation ensued between the homeowner and the two suspects that resulted in the shotgun being discharged. One of the suspects was struck and sustained unknown injuries. The suspects fled in a vehicle and are still at large. The homeowner sustained minor injuries.

Though police believe this incident was targeted and assured the public is not at risk, that was not the case in a home invasion in Toronto last Thursday. In that incident, a father and his two daughters were shot, and the mother was struck with a hammer.

"Home invasions are happening across our country at an alarming rate," Khanna said. "Toronto Police released stats yesterday that said there were 119 home invasions in 2026 alone, a 50 per cent increase from last year."

The Oxford MP said the Liberals say crime numbers are down, yet he contests that the number of incidents and people's worries say otherwise.

"Canadians don't feel safe in their own homes; that's the one place where everyone should feel safe. That's where your family is, your most precious belongings are," he said, adding that's a dramatic swing from a few years ago when people kept their doors unlocked and garage doors open.

Statistics say home invasions are already up 50 per cent over last year. To address safety concerns, the Conservatives have been exploring ideas in consultation with police forces, premiers, mayors and other stakeholders. Khanna's Jail Not Bail Act, which was voted down on second reading, was one part of what he saw as a solution. While researching that bill, he found home invasion is not a standalone offence.

"There is no criminal code offence for home invasions; it results in multiple offences like break and enter, robbery, forcible confinement," Khanna said, adding that when multiple charges go to court, "it gets pleaded down to one small charge so the actual criminals never get a hard sentence for that."

In partnership with his colleague, MP Michael Guglielmen of Vaughan-Woodbridge, the Conservatives tabled the Safe at Home Act two weeks ago. If passed, this legislation would make home invasion a standalone offence with a five-year minimum sentence. It would also strengthen the bail laws for repeat home invaders.

In addition, six months ago, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre and his team announced the Stand on Guard Law. This legislation would give home occupants more rights when it comes to self-defence.

"It would allow reasonable force to be used to defend your family, to defend your belongings," Khanna said. "As a father, I can tell you if someone broke into my house, I would use any possible means to keep my family safe. It shouldn't be that my rights are trumped by the rights of the criminal."

In the meantime, Khanna said the Liberals are only proposing band-aid solutions and running television ads telling Canadians how safe they are.

"Every single day we are seeing that's absolute nonsense," he said.

Khanna also put in an order paper question asking the government how much was spent on the ads, money he said would be better spent on frontline policing or sent to victim services groups.

"It's the government's number one job to keep Canadians safe, and they are failing at that," he said.

Speaking to the incident in Zorra, he said it reinforces home invasions aren't just a city problem.

"Once they are finished the turf in the city, they are going to look for other easy targets. What we saw a few days ago in Zorra is very concerning for us," he said.

Both bills have passed first reading and should come up for second reading within six months. If passed at that stage, the bill would be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, which Khanna serves on as the opposition justice critic. Then the bills would need to come back to Parliament for third reading, adding up to a long process.

Khanna is suggesting all-party support could expedite the bills.

"Get it done, Canadians can't wait. Lives are at risk," he said, adding his request isn't without precedent. "When there is support across party lines, those can pass at a very fast rate. We are hoping they will put their partisanship aside and do what's right for Canadians."

Khanna met with Justice Minister Sean Fraser after the press deadline and planned to discuss expediting passage of the legislation.

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Nominations open for 20 Citizens Who Make Oxford Better award

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

Oxford County MP Arpan Khanna is inviting residents to nominate individuals who go above and beyond to strengthen their communities and make Oxford a better place to live.

Nominations are now open for 20 Citizens Who Make Oxford Better, an initiative which will recognize 20 outstanding residents whose actions and contributions have made a meaningful, positive difference in Oxford County.

"Our communities are only as strong as the people who step up to make a difference," said Khanna. "Across Oxford, there are incredible people who give their time, support their neighbours, volunteer with local organizations, mentor young people and lend a helping hand when someone needs it most. Many of these individuals do their work quietly, without ever expecting recognition. This initiative is an opportunity to celebrate their contributions and thank them for everything they do."

He explained the idea grew out of the Coronation Medal ceremony, which was such a heartwarming and inspiring event.

"We wanted to create another way to recognize and celebrate the individuals in our community who go above and beyond, bring hope to others, and inspire positivity through their contributions."

The inaugural 20 Citizens Who Make Oxford Better initiative will celebrate people whose contributions reflect the very best of Oxford. This includes volunteers, community builders, service club members, mentors, local leaders, dedicated neighbours and everyday citizens whose actions have a lasting, positive impact on others.

"Behind every strong community are people who dedicate their time and energy to making it a better place," added Khanna. "Whether they are volunteering their evenings and weekends, supporting families in need, or bringing people together, these individuals help make Oxford the incredible community we are proud to call home. I encourage everyone to think about someone who deserves recognition and take a few minutes to nominate them."

Volunteerism is something on the decline today, but Khanna is hopeful the initiative could turn that trend around by recognizing the people who do give so much of themselves.

"Volunteers are the heart of Oxford. They give their time and energy to make our communities stronger, often without expecting anything in return. Oxford is a special place because of the people who step up to help their neighbours. Through this program, we want to recognize these incredible individuals, celebrate their contributions and inspire more people, especially the next generation, to get involved and give back."

He added everyone has something to contribute, and even a small act of service can make a big difference.

Nominations will be reviewed by a committee that will carefully consider each submission against the established criteria.

"Our goal is to make sure every nomination receives fair, thoughtful and thorough consideration," said Khanna.

The awards will be presented at a special ceremony in early 2027, where recipients will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community. Additional details, including the date and location, will be announced in the coming weeks.

To be eligible for consideration, nominees must be a current resident of the federal riding of Oxford, be nominated by another individual or organization, have demonstrated a positive contribution to the Oxford community, reflect the spirit of the initiative through actions and conduct that positively impact others and the community, and be 14 years of age or older.

Residents are encouraged to nominate someone who has made a meaningful difference in their community.

To submit a nomination, visit https://arpankhannamp.ca/20citizens/. Nominations close on Jan. 17, 2027.



(ARPANKHANNAMP.CA PHOTO)

Oxford County MP Arpan Khanna is inviting residents to nominate local volunteers, community leaders and everyday citizens who go above and beyond to make a positive difference through his new 20 Citizens Who Make Oxford Better initiative.



TAVISTOCK MEN'S CLUB

SAUERKRAUT & BBQ PORK CHOP SUPPER

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
TAVISTOCK MEMORIAL HALL
3 Adam St., Tavistock
Pick-Up Only $30

Tickets available at Men's Club Hall - 78 Woodstock St. N.
Every Wednesday 4-6 pm and Saturdays 11am-2pm
Starting October 10th to November 10th
or from Club members
or call 519-655-3573
or at Tavistock arena booth
or email: info@tavistockmensclub.ca
or online: tavistockmensclub.ca

Optimist Club of Downie Inc.

OPTI-CASH CALENDAR DRAW

Oct. 18 Jeff Rolston, St. Marys	$50.00
Oct. 19 Vanessa Dunsmore, Tavistock	$50.00
Oct. 20 Jim Schneaker, Milverton	$50.00
Oct. 21 Judy Wood-Hubill, Mitchell	$50.00
Oct. 22 Kim Boyce, Cambridge	$50.00
Oct. 23 Chris Montgomery, Toronto	$50.00
Oct. 24 Reid Dundas, St. Marys	$200.00
Oct. 25 Gail Adams, St. Marys	$50.00
Oct. 26 Sebastian D'Amice, Oshawa	$50.00
Oct. 27 Mike Thompson, St. Marys	$50.00
Oct. 28 Marion Ready, St. Marys	$50.00
Oct. 29 Wayne & Rose Priestap, Stratford	$50.00
Oct. 30 Jeremy Core, Stratford	$50.00
Oct. 31 Jeff Kritler, Stratford	$200.00

Franklin E. Hinz
196 Ontario Street, Stratford
519-273-1633

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Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School Presents...
Grade 8 Night
Wednesday, November 18th, 2026
From 6:00-8:30pm

W-O GATORS

Join us in the cafeteria at 6:00 pm for the opening presentation followed by school tours.

For more information about W-O, please visit our Future Grade 9 page at:

wod.wrdsb.ca

From Shakespeare farm boy to internationally recognized scientist: Dr. Steve Wilhelm makes his hometown proud

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

It's always interesting to hear where people who grew up in our communities have ended up, particularly when their hard work and determination have taken them to incredible heights.

For Dr. Steven W. Wilhelm, who grew up on a family farm south of Shakespeare in the former South Easthope Township, that journey has taken him around the world and earned him international recognition for his research into the microscopic organisms that inhabit our lakes and oceans.

Wilhelm was raised on the family farm of his parents, Wray and Patty Wilhelm, alongside his brother, Brian. Like many farm kids growing up in the area, he was actively involved in 4-H, participating in both the Swine Club and Small Engines Club.

One of his proudest childhood accomplishments was being named Grand Champion Gilt showman at the Ontario Pork Congress, an achievement he still recalls with a smile.

After attending Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare and Stratford Central Secondary School, Wilhelm pursued a career in science that would eventually take him to some of North America's leading universities.

Today, Wilhelm is the Kenneth and Blaire Mossman Professor of Microbiology at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he has spent the past 25 years studying the complex relationships between microscopic organisms and the environments in which they live.

Following his studies at Western University, Wilhelm continued his academic training at the University of Texas and the University of British Columbia before joining the faculty at the University of Kentucky. He later moved to the University of Tennessee, where he has established an internationally recognized research program.

His work focuses on the relationships between microbial communities and the natural processes that influence the health of lakes and oceans.

Using advanced scientific techniques, including DNA and RNA sequencing, Wilhelm and his research team study viruses, bacteria and algae to better understand how these organisms interact and influence aquatic ecosystems.

His contributions to science have earned him numerous prestigious honours.

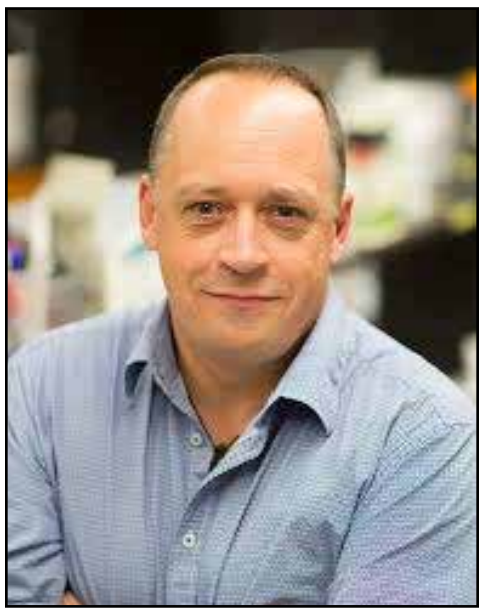
In 2016, he was named a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and a Sustaining Fellow of the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography.

In 2021, he was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, one of the most respected scientific organizations in the world.

That same year, Wilhelm and fellow researcher Curtis Suttle received the John Martin Award from the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography for their contributions to understanding the viral shunt, a process through which viruses influence how nutrients and organic matter move through aquatic ecosystems.

Beyond his own research, Wilhelm has dedicated much of his career to mentoring the next generation of scientists.

His research group has graduated 16 doctoral students and eight master's students, while providing research opportunities for more than 100 undergraduate students.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Dr. Steven W. Wilhelm, who grew up on a farm south of Shakespeare, is now an internationally recognized microbiologist and professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where his research focuses on microscopic organisms in lakes and oceans.

He has also helped lead a National Science Foundation-funded undergraduate research program, served in academic leadership positions and contributed to numerous scientific editorial advisory boards.

For those who remember Wilhelm growing up in the Shakespeare area, his accomplishments are certainly something to celebrate.

Interestingly, he isn't the only former Sprucedale Public School student to achieve international recognition in the sciences.

His former classmate, Dr. Laurel Schafer, whose accomplishments have previously been featured in this newspaper, has also built an impressive career in scientific research.

Continued to page 11



Dr. Steve Wilhelm, pictured with his wife, Jennifer De Bruyn, and their daughter, Georgia, enjoys travelling with his family when he isn't conducting internationally recognized scientific research.

Notice of Public Consultation

on a licence transfer for The Maples Home for Seniors located in Tavistock, Ontario

The **Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)** is reviewing a licence request from Caressant-Care Nursing and Retirement Homes Limited for The Maples Home for Seniors (the "Home"), a 43-bed long-term care home located at 94 William Street South in Tavistock, Ontario.

The proposal involves:

- The transfer of the Home's licence from Caressant-Care Nursing and Retirement Homes Limited to Woodstock Long-Term Care Centre Inc. subject to meeting all licensing requirements under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* (the Act).
- Woodstock Long-Term Care Centre Inc. is a newly incorporated subsidiary of Jarlette Health Services.
- The transfer of all 15 long-term care homes licensed to Caressant-Care Nursing and Retirement Homes Limited to subsidiaries of Jarlette Health Services.

In accordance with section 109 of the Act, public opinion is being sought prior to the Director, Capital Lending and Development Strategies Branch, making a final decision related to the proposal. The management of this consultation has been delegated by the Director to an independent third-party, Burson Canada.

If you have comments or opinions and would like to bring them to the attention of the MLTC, you can present them orally at a Zoom public meeting:

On **November 26, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. ET:**

1. By Videoconference: Join online via the following link: **https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83560974746** or;
2. By Phone: Dial-in to the public meeting using the following Zoom dial-in information +1-647-374-4685 or +1-647-558-0588. When prompted, please key in the participant passcode 835 6097 4746#

Submit them in writing on or before **December 18, 2026**, by:

a) an email at LTCHomes.Licensing@bursonglobal.com; or

b) a letter by mail to:

MLTC Long-Term Care Licence Consultations
c/o Burson Canada
45 O'Connor St., Suite 1240
Ottawa, ON K1P 1A4
Project Name: The Maples Home for Seniors
Project Number: #26-027

Please include the name of the Home "The Maples Home for Seniors" and quote 'Project #26-027' on all written submissions. As part of the MLTC's review, the Director will consider all written submissions before making a final decision relating to the proposal.

Ontario

Continued from page 10

Both have travelled extensively, sharing their knowledge as guest speakers and contributing to research that could help improve lives and our understanding of the world for generations to come.

Despite their remarkable professional accomplishments, family and their hometown roots remain important to both scientists.

Wilhelm continues to cherish the memory of his late father, Wray, while maintaining close ties with his mother, Patty, and brother, Brian.

He and his wife, Jennifer De Bruyn, also enjoy travelling and spending time with their daughter, Georgia.

Similarly, Schafer continues to remember her late mother, Kathy, while remaining close to her father, Bill, and sisters, Heather and Angela.

From their early days at Sprucedale Public School to their internationally recognized scientific careers, Wilhelm and Schafer are wonderful examples of what young people from small rural communities can accomplish through education, curiosity and determination.

And while their careers have taken them around the world, Shakespeare will always be a place they can call home.

Their hometown community certainly has plenty of reasons to be proud.



Despite a busy career in scientific research, Dr. Steve Wilhelm makes time to enjoy the sunshine and sandy beaches with his wife, Jennifer De Bruyn, and daughter, Georgia, during their travels around the world.



Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades raise $600 through monthly bottle and can collection



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Volunteers with the Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades load a trailer with returnable bottles and cans collected during the organization's monthly fundraiser. The latest collection raised $600 to support the preservation and restoration of historic firefighting vehicles and artifacts. Pictured from left are Blain Bechthold, Doug Ferguson, Paul Shantz, Peter Gingerich, Phoenix, a guest volunteer from Dundas, Nob Bender, Kyle McGrath and Lyle Shantz.

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

If there is one organization in the Baden and New Hamburg area that exemplifies hard work and dedication to preserving local history, it is the Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades.

Thanks to the continued generosity of local residents, the organization raised $600 through its monthly collection of empty bottles and cans, which volunteers returned to The Beer Store in New Hamburg last week.

Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades president Peter Gingerich recently expressed his gratitude to the many residents who continue to support the organization through its fundraising initiatives, including its popular monthly 50/50 draw.

The draw has raised thousands of dollars to help support the organization's efforts while also giving participants the opportunity to win cash prizes.

Another successful fundraiser is the monthly collection of returnable bottles and cans, held on the last Saturday of each month. Gingerich thanked residents of Baden, New Hamburg and the surrounding area for their continued contributions, which have helped make the collection one of the organization's most successful ongoing fundraising initiatives.

Money raised through these efforts helps maintain the brigade's collection of historic fire vehicles in working condition while supporting the restoration and preservation of other firefighting artifacts housed at its museum beside the Baden fire hall.

Gingerich also extended a special thank you to the staff at The Beer Store in New Hamburg for their assistance and good spirits whenever volunteers arrive with a truck and trailer full of returnable bottles and cans.

With the continued support of the community, the Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades can carry on its work preserving an important piece of the area's firefighting history for future generations.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES IN
The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette
CONTACT HEATHER DUNBAR
AT 226.261.1837 OR
HEATHER@GRANTHAVEN.COM

New Hamburg resident wins $557.50 in Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades draw

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Another New Hamburg resident is celebrating a cash prize after winning the Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades' monthly 50/50 draw for October.

Marg Forler of New Hamburg was presented with a cheque for $557.50 last week by Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades president Peter Gingerich.

The monthly draw continues to be an important fundraiser for the organization, helping members preserve and maintain historic firefighting vehicles, equipment and artifacts at the Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades Museum in Baden.

With October's winner announced, the organization is now encouraging area residents to purchase tickets for its November draw and support the volunteer group's ongoing preservation efforts.

The November draw marks the organization's 52nd 50/50 cash raffle, giving participants another opportunity to take home a cash prize while contributing to a worthwhile community cause.

Those interested in purchasing tickets can visit the Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades' website at wilmotfiremuseum.com.

With continued support from residents of Baden, New Hamburg and the surrounding communities, the organization can carry on its work preserving the area's firefighting history for future generations.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

New Hamburg resident Marg Forler, right, accepts a cheque for $557.50 from Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades president Peter Gingerich after winning the organization's October 50/50 draw. Joining them is Marg's sister, Connie Forler, left. Behind them is a museum display featuring a historic New Hamburg Fire Department dress uniform. The organization is now selling tickets for its November draw, the 52nd in its ongoing fundraising series.

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Ontario

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Tavistock Legion's Poppy Campaign in full swing with Remembrance Day ceremony booked for Sunday

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

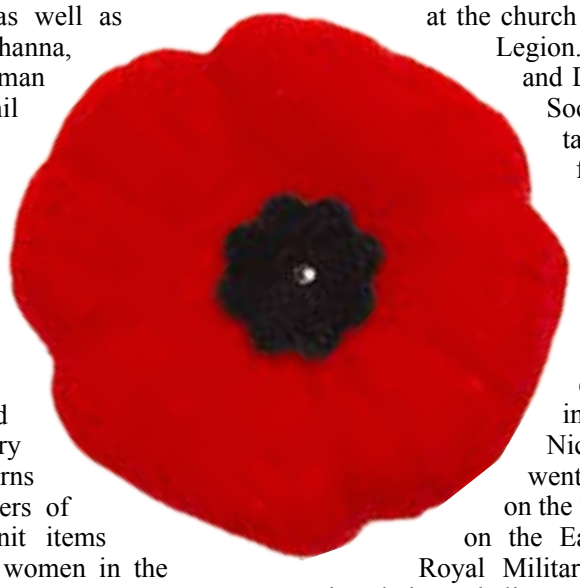
Poppies are available at several locations across Tavistock as Nov. 11 approaches.

The Legion's Poppy Campaign chair, Mary Boland, said Remembrance Day will be celebrated on Sunday, Nov. 8.

"We have a service at Grace United Church at 10:30 a.m. A few of the Legion folks are coming and will be reading off the names on the honour roles from the other churches who came together to create Grace United."

Ah honour role is a list of local men and women who died while serving in World War I, World War II, the Korean War or other conflicts. These lists are often displayed on cenotaphs, plaques, in Legion branches, schools or municipal buildings.

"Then at 1 p.m. we will be at the Legion where a wreath-laying service will take place. We have folks from the community and businesses, as well as MP Arpan Khanna, MPP Ernie Hardeman and Mayor Phil Schaefer."



Also on hand will be Stratford resident Sharon Louttit who, during the pandemic, found a booklet about knitting during the First World War. The military provided patterns and asked members of the public to knit items for the men and women in the service.

"She taught herself how to knit and she made all of the items in the booklet. We will be displaying them during the service at the church as well as at the Legion. The Tavistock and District Historical Society will also be taking that display for a short time to the peopleCare long-term care home."

While there are no Second World War veterans still alive in Tavistock, Nicholas Hendry went from growing up on the family dairy farm on the East Coast to his Royal Military College training, being a helicopter pilot, and serving our country during conflict overseas. He is now the president and co-owner of Stonecrest Engineering in Tavistock.

Hendry, whose military career ended in 2011, said his thoughts are with the soldiers killed and severely injured as the result of a grass fire at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright in Alberta.

"I didn't know anyone who passed away in that group but a lot of my friends are deployed to Latvia right now or just came back. My thoughts go out to the those affected by the recent events in Wainwright where the soldiers passed away during training, and to their families and those injured as well."

He added he's also thinking about the Canadian service men and women deployed in Latvia to ensure NATO is proving the necessary global security.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, a fast-moving fire swept through part of the military training area at CFB Wainwright while Canadian soldiers were conducting live-fire exercises.

The incident resulted in four Canadian Armed Forces members killed, 39 people injured, including 19 who were critically injured. Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and Army Reserve members were involved.

According to military officials, the fire had initially appeared to be contained but spread rapidly following a sudden change in wind direction. Reports indicated it travelled approximately one kilometre in 36 seconds. Canadian soldiers involved in the Oct. 17 tragedy at CFB Wainwright were preparing for a deployment to Latvia as part of Canada's NATO mission.

Hendry offered a clear message to area residents – though the number of First and Second World War vets are scarce, the Canadian military remains actively involved in keeping the world safe.

"Just because we don't have major armed conflicts Canada is currently involved in, we are doing things for the international community that are still providing security. Our community is very safe and I think sometimes we forget those things are happening on the global stage and that Canadian Forces are still vigilant and preparing. Sometimes that preparation can be dangerous."

He added we can't forget people are serving today and, in doing so are, "maintaining our comfort and security in Canada, but it still comes at a price."





REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

New Hamburg Legion prepares to honour fallen soldiers on Remembrance Day

AMANDA NELSON

Gazette Reporter

Residents are invited to gather in New Hamburg on Nov. 11 as the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532 leads its annual Remembrance Day ceremony, honouring the men and women who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The annual observance will begin with a brief service at the New Hamburg Cenotaph, followed by a parade to the former arena, where a larger Remembrance Day service will take place.

The ceremony will include participation from the local high school choir, which will perform hymns, as well as remarks and prayers from the chaplain. Approximately 35 wreaths will be laid in honour of veterans, including wreaths presented on behalf of the member of provincial parliament and member of parliament.

Following the service, residents are welcome to return to the Legion branch for refreshments, fellowship and its popular beef stew lunch.

"The day is about our veterans," said Legion president Bill Pearson. "It's remembering their legacy and what they did for New Hamburg."

The cenotaph honours local residents who lost their lives in service during the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War.

Among those remembered are 14 soldiers who died during the First World War, 14 who died during the Second World War and one who died during the Korean War.

Remembering New Hamburg's fallen

The names commemorated at the cenotaph include:

First World War

- Captain Russell Williams
- Lance Corporal Elgin Eby
- Private Charles Daniells
- Private Herbert Erbach
- Private Alvin Forler
- Private Glen Goebel
- Private Wilfred Lashinger
- Private Leslie Shephard
- Private John Strauch
- Private Nathaniel Steir
- Private George Kamel Schmidt
- Private Theodor Schuler
- Private Clinton Walker
- Private Charles Young

Second World War

- Captain M. Nile Bier
- Flying Officer Robert W. Honderich
- Flying Officer Charles W. Hostetler
- Flying Officer Russell Saltzberry
- Corporal Herbert Ditner
- Corporal Donald Milne
- MM, Lance Corporal S.W. Foster
- Lance Corporal Kenneth Laverne Fried
- Signalman Earl Yantzi
- Leading Aircraftman Erhardt George Wagner
- Private Walter Carl Kurt
- Private Albert G. Reinhardth
- Private John Henry Stiefelmeyer
- Private Burkle Toman

Korean War

- Sergeant Gerald W. Koch

Beyond its annual Remembrance Day observance, the New Hamburg Legion continues to serve as a gathering place and source of support for veterans and the broader community.

The branch also organizes fundraising initiatives and opportunities to support and educate local youth, including their poster contest.

The youth poster contest promotes Remembrance Day and highlights the history of the wars. Legion members visit local schools to talk about the importance of Remembrance Day, and students create posters to help educate others.

"The Legion is a home for the veterans to come to and turn to for support, but we're also there for the community," Pearson said. "We offer events at the Legion to bring people in for camaraderie. Our membership has actually grown. We're up to about 360 members now."

All members of the public are welcome to attend the Nov. 11 ceremony and join the Legion afterward.

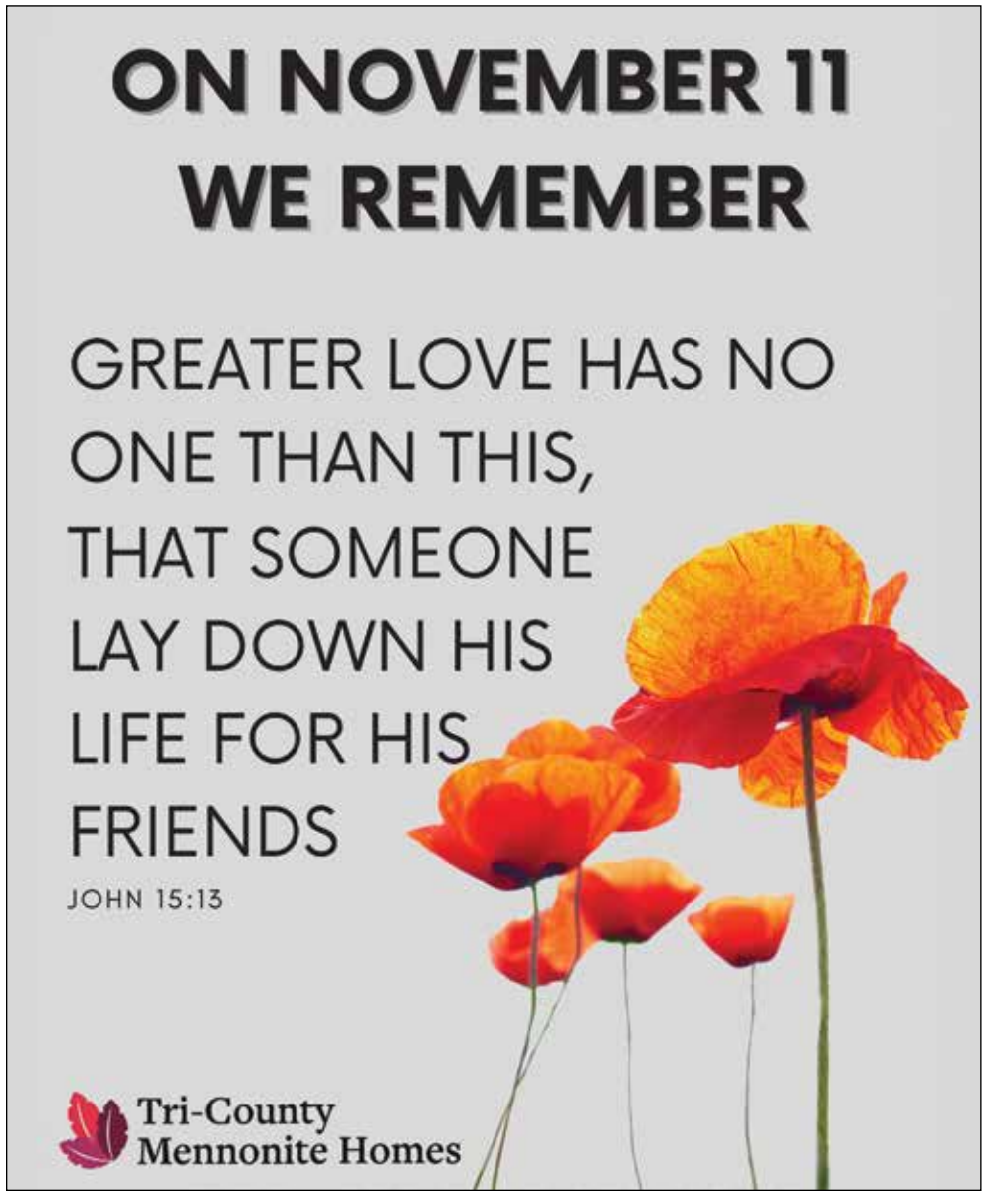
For more information about the New Hamburg Legion and its activities, visit newhamburglegion.ca.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Members of the New Hamburg Legion Colour Party leads last year's Remembrance Day Parade from the New Hamburg Cenotaph towards the New Hamburg Community Centre for the annual Remembrance Day ceremony.





REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Royal Canadian Legion celebrates veterans with massive Toronto mural

Personal stories of fallen soldiers highlight this year's Remembrance Day

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

The Royal Canadian Legion has unveiled four uniquely designed murals, each of which tells the story of a fallen Canadian service member.

The featured mural tells the story of Allan "Scotty" Davidson who, at just 22 years old, was the captain of the Toronto Blueshirts, the team that would become the Toronto Maple Leafs. In 1914, he led his team to that city's first Stanley Cup. Five months after that victory, he left his team, his career and his home behind to become one of the first professional hockey players to volunteer for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Serving in France and Belgium, accounts describe acts of remarkable bravery, including rescuing wounded officers and fighting on the front lines.

L-Cpl. Davidson was killed in action on June 16, 1915, when a shell exploded near him in the trenches. Another mural honours him and the more than 120,000 Canadians who gave their lives in service to our country, whose names and stories should never be forgotten.

The mural was unveiled on Oct. 24, the first day of the Poppy Campaign. It stands 23 feet tall and 13 feet wide, and Davidson was chosen because of his connection to Toronto and the fact it was going to be located inside Union Station.

"He and others, their faces and their stories represent all Canadians who have died in the line of duty," said Nujma Bond, the Legion's national communications manager. "It encourages people to think about that, to remember all of them, connect a little more deeply with their personal stories and realize, just like you and I, they had lives and hopes and passions."

The mural is made of about 5,000 sticky

Continued on page 17



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

A new mural unveiled recently at Union Station in Toronto features L-Cpl. Allan "Scotty" Davidson who, at just 22 years old, was the captain of the Toronto Blueshirts, the team that would become the Toronto Maple Leafs. In 1914, he led his team to that city's first Stanley Cup. Five months after that victory, he left his team, his career and his home behind to become one of the first professional hockey players to volunteer for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Serving in France and Belgium, accounts describe acts of remarkable bravery, including rescuing wounded officers and fighting on the front lines.

LEST WE FORGET
REMEMBRANCE Day
NOVEMBER 11



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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Continued from page 16

notes and on those notes are messages from Canadians across the country speaking about their gratitude for veterans.

"There are also memories people have of family members who served. They are all very personal messages and those are what compose that huge mural. It's quite amazing to see it in person but you can get a good sense of it online in the photos at www.legion.ca."

Bond said Canadians will be fascinated to read about the stories behind the people in the three other murals.

"It puts a face to the name and helps us tell the story of remembrance itself, why we do this and why it is so important. It all leads back to the freedom we have in Canada today and the ability to live our lives as we wish."

In addition to local poppy campaigns, the Royal Canadian Legion launched its official Amazon.ca storefront on Oct. 25, 2024. The storefront offers lapel poppies, available for donations of $2, $5, $10 or $20, red neon window poppies, "We Remember" lawn signs and other official Remembrance merchandise.

One hundred per cent of the money raised through poppy donations goes directly to the Legion's Poppy Trust Fund to support veterans and their families. More than 20,000 lapel poppies were distributed through Amazon in 2024, and total sales surpassed $200,000.

New this year is the ability to tap to donate to the campaign with a debit card, credit card or digital wallet via tap-on-phone. Legion volunteers from participating branches can use their own compatible smartphones to collect contactless donations.

"This is very exciting. It allows the region to increase its reach and as these methods expand across the country and more branches take part, it means a Legion volunteer who has an app on their phone can potentially collect donations anywhere they are; not just at their branch, but maybe at the grocery store where someone is looking to donate."

Bond said society is becoming more cashless, though there is no plan to eliminate the poppy cash boxes located across the country. There are also about 2,000 tap to donate boxes available in some areas.

The Legion's inaugural year of rolling out the new technology is supported by BMO.

"For a century, the poppy has carried a profound promise; that the sacrifice of Canada's Veterans will never be forgotten," said Mike Bonner, the head of Canadian personal and business banking distribution for BMO.

"BMO is honoured to stand with The Royal Canadian Legion in keeping that promise. Having recently had the privilege of addressing delegates in Winnipeg at the Legion's 50th Dominion Convention in celebration of their 100th anniversary, I remain humbled by how much those in uniform have done and continue to do in service to Canada."

The Legion continues to offer free memberships, something Bond said has resulted in a huge increase.

"We have seen well over 100,000 people join this year. We were already seeing an increase over the past few years and we are really excited. With new members come new ideas, new energy and we are able to harness that and allow people to use their skillsets and put them to use at the local level."

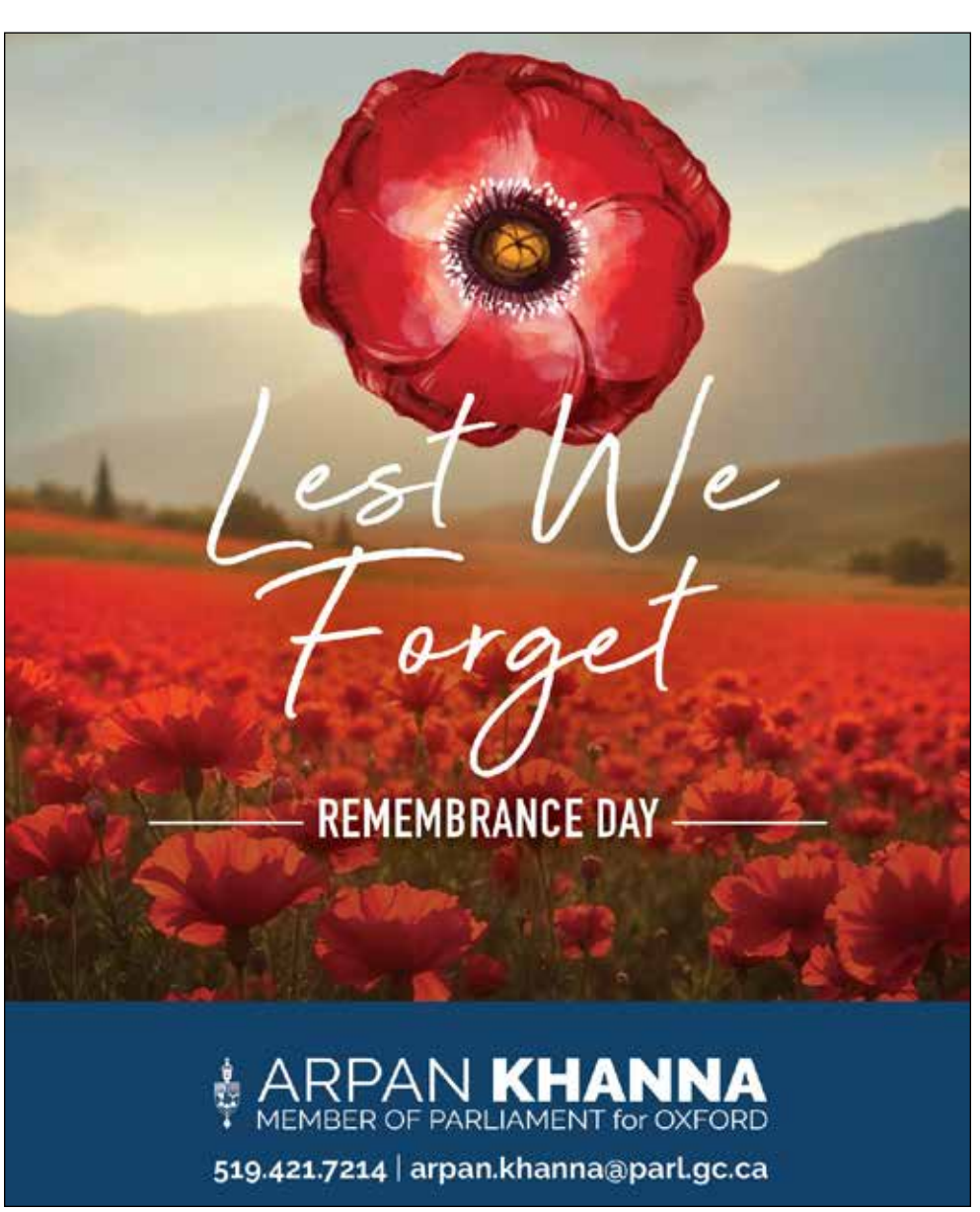
She added there are now over 300,000 members across the country.

"It really tells us that Canadians are very supportive of the Legion's mission and they want to be a part of it. They are supportive of our veterans, our families and they see the Legion as a community hub and community supporter. It bodes well for the future."



Alexina Dussault (1882-1918), nursing sister, Canadian Army Medical Corps. Alexina Dussault served as a nursing sister during the First World War, caring for the sick and wounded. On June 27, 1918, she was aboard the Canadian hospital ship Llandovery Castle when it was torpedoed by a German submarine. She was one of 14 nursing sisters who lost their lives that night. She was 36 years old.





REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026
Lest we forget

MP Louis hosts second annual Poppy Flag raising on Parliament Hill

LEE GRIFFI
Gazette Reporter

Parliamentarians, veterans and community members gathered on Parliament Hill on Monday for the second annual Poppy Flag Raising Ceremony, marking the beginning of Poppy season on Parliament Hill and honouring the service and sacrifice of Canada's veterans.

Hosted by Tim Louis, member of parliament for Kitchener-Conestoga, in partnership with Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532 in New Hamburg, the ceremony brought together parliamentarians, veterans and community representatives in a shared commitment to remembrance. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 632 in Orléans also participated by providing the Colour Guard.

"Raising the Poppy Flag on Parliament Hill is a reminder that we must never take the sacrifices of our veterans for granted," said Louis. "I'm grateful to Donald Eenkooren for his initiative, and to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532 in New Hamburg for helping bring this ceremony to Parliament Hill."

The initiative was brought forward by retired Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Donald Eenkooren, whose determination and commitment to remembrance helped bring the ceremony to Parliament Hill.

"When a veteran sees that flag, they know what it means. It's recognition. It's remembrance. And every flagpole is an opportunity to remember," said Eenkooren, who is also a member of the New Hamburg Legion.

This year's gathering also took place in the shadow of the recent tragedy at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright. As Canadians reflect on the risks and sacrifices associated with military service, the ceremony provided an opportunity to honour those who have served, remember those who have lost their lives and stand in solidarity with serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families.



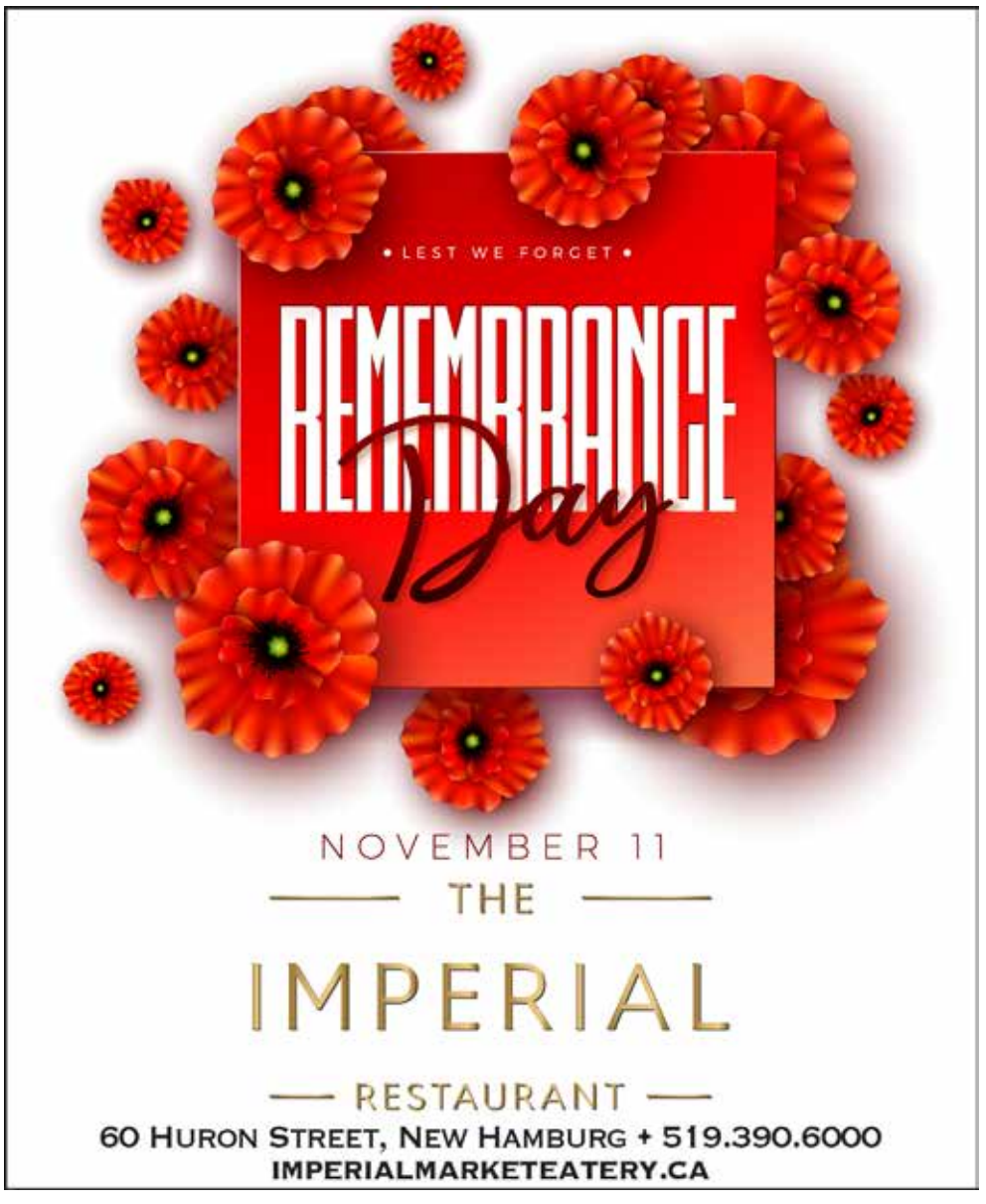
(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis hosted a Poppy Flag Raising Ceremony on Monday, Oct. 26, on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The idea came from retired Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Donald Eenkooren, who is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532 in New Hamburg.

The Honourable Jill McKnight, minister of veterans affairs, joined members of parliament, senators, veterans and representatives of the Royal Canadian Legion for the ceremony.

"As we raise the Poppy Flag on Parliament Hill, we also mark the Royal Canadian Legion's 100th year and its leadership in promoting the Poppy as Canada's national symbol of remembrance," McKnight said. "The Poppy calls us not only to remember, but to actively honour those who served. I encourage all Canadians to wear the Poppy, attend a local ceremony and make Remembrance a commitment that lives beyond Nov. 11 and one we carry forward 365 days a year."

The Poppy Flag serves as a visible reminder of the sacrifices made by generations of Canadians in service to our country. As the annual Poppy Campaign continues in the lead-up to Remembrance Day on Nov. 11, Canadians are encouraged to wear a poppy and support the Legion's work on behalf of Veterans and their families.





REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Remembering Second World War veteran John Sebben and his family's farming legacy near Stratford

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

With Remembrance Day approaching, families across Perth County are remembering the sacrifices made by those who served their country during the First and Second World Wars.

Among those veterans was John Sebben, a decorated Second World War soldier who returned home to Perth County after the war and continued his family's agricultural legacy as a dairy farmer near Stratford.

The Sebben family has a long history in North and South Easthope townships, where generations of hardworking and progressive farmers helped shape the area's agricultural community.

Sebben was one of four brothers, along with Ken, Hamilton and Jim Sebben, who were raised on a family farm on the eastern outskirts of Stratford.

During the Second World War, John Sebben served overseas as a trooper, including in Europe and North Africa. His military service included working as a tank gunner and radio communications operator, both important roles during some of the war's most difficult years.

Following the war, John Sebben returned to the Stratford area, where he continued farming and raised a family with his wife, Florence.

Together, John and Florence Sebben had five children: Dorothy, born in 1952; Allan, born in 1953; Ruth, born in 1955; Stanley, born in 1957; and Joan, born in 1969.

Sadly, John Sebben died of cancer in 1969, just two months after his youngest daughter, Joan Sebben, was born.

Though Joan Sebben never had the opportunity to know her father personally, she has made an effort to learn more about his life, particularly his military service and the sacrifices he made during the war.

During a recent conversation, Joan Sebben shared several photographs of her father taken during his years overseas, along with the military medals he earned while serving his country.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Second World War veteran John Sebben is among the local servicemen honoured on commemorative streetlight banners displayed throughout Stratford. After serving overseas as a tank gunner and radio communications operator, Sebben returned to Perth County and operated a dairy farm with his family on Ontario Street, where the Stratford Home Hardware store stands today. Sebben died of cancer in 1969, but his military service and contributions to the community continue to be remembered by his family.

These photographs, medals and family memories have helped Joan piece together the story of a father she never had the chance to know.

John Sebben's contributions to Canada during the Second World War continue to be recognized in Stratford, where his photograph and name are displayed on one of the commemorative banners mounted on streetlight poles honouring local veterans.



Joan Sebben displays photographs and military medals belonging to her father, John Sebben, who served overseas in Europe and North Africa during the Second World War. As Remembrance Day approaches, Joan reflects on her father's service and the sacrifices made by thousands of Canadian soldiers who left their homes and families to serve their country.

The family's former dairy farm was located along Ontario Street on Stratford's east side, on property where the Home Hardware store stands today.

For Joan Sebben and the rest of the Sebben family, Remembrance Day provides an opportunity to reflect on John Sebben's service, his life after the war and the legacy he left behind.

His story is one of many belonging to Perth County residents who answered the call to serve their country, endured the hardships of war and returned home to build lives and raise families in their communities.

As Nov. 11 approaches, John Sebben's story serves as another reminder of the importance of remembering those who served and preserving their stories for future generations.

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

Our staff would like to take this opportunity to honour Canada's Veterans and to remember all those who sacrificed so that we may enjoy the freedoms we cherish today. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the many community-minded businesses whose support made this special feature possible.

Remembrance Day

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Remembrance Day

NOVEMBER 11, 2026

2026 VETERAN BANNER LOCATIONS

Legion Branch 532 New Hamburg

Ackersviller, Fred - 319 Wilmot
Armstrong, Arthur - West side of Library
Armstrong, Joseph - 288 Peel
Armstrong, Leslie - 272 Peel
Armstrong [Klasssen], Margaret - beside the Cenotaph
Armstrong, Robin - West side of Library
Armstrong, Walter - Beside the Cenotaph
Armstrong, Winnifred - 288 Peel
Arnold Brothers - Post Office on Huron
Ayling, Fred - In Front of 290 Huron
Bailey, John - 56 Burns
Baird, John - on Wilmot & Church corner
Becker, Robert - In Front of Murrays
Becker, Roy - 39 Bleams West
Bier, Nile Maxie - in front of Jerry Pfeil Motors on Huron
Bingeman, Lawrence - in front of A Portuguesa Bakery on Huron
Boshart, Ken - St. Peter's Church on Huron
Bowman, Claude - side yard of 285 Peel on Church
Bradshaw, William - 32 Church
Brenneman, Erwin - beside 16 & 22 Bleams West
Brenner, Jack - 231 Wilmot
Brenner, Ollie - 231 Wilmot
Brenner, Robert - In front of the Board of Trade
Broda, Fred - in front of Physiotherapy Alliance on Huron
Brydon, Robert - 51 Bleams W.
Cairns, David - beside the cannibis store on Burns
Canadian Armed Forces - 412 Peel
Cave, Julian - between 19-27 Waterloo
Cheeseman, Sid - West side of The Legion on Boullee
Cleary, Francis - 182 Union
Cockerton, Ward - corner of Huron & Hunter
Colasimone, Henry - 213 Wilmot
Connolly, Joseph - 302 Wilmot
Cook, Norman - 347 Huron, corner of Huron & Huron Pl.
Cook, Roy - 347 Huron, corner of Huron & Huron Pl.
Coxson, Donald - Peel at 3 Bleams East
Cressman, Allan Ezra - 354 Huron
Cressman, James Oliver - between 386 - 394 Peel
Cullaton, Patrick - 354 Huron
Daniels, Charles - 254 Peel
Daniels, Fred - 244 Peel
Deckert, Kenneth - on corner of Huron & Hunter
Dick, Harry - between 19-27 Waterloo
Ditner, Hubert - 318 Peel Street [Bell Canada Building]
Doerr, Woody - 319 Wilmot
Duncan, Jack - 213 Wilmot
Durrer, Alfred - across from Waterlot on Wilmot
Durrer, Eugene - across from Waterlot on Wilmot
Durrer, Frank - 97 Wilmot
Dusome, George - beside 16 & 22 Bleams West
Ebert, John - 183 Wilmot
Eby, Elgin - in front of Jerry Pfeil Motors on Huron
Edgell, John - on Wilmot on the corner of Church
Eichler, Douglas - 313 Peel
Eichler, Ernie - 18 Bleams East
Eichler, Nora Mae - 295 Peel
Eichler, Paul - 295 Peel
Eidt, Lloyd - 291 Huron - funeral home
Emslie, George - 62 Boullee
Erbach, Herbert - beside 237 Peel on Boullee
Everts, Albert - beside the cannibis store on Burns
Faulhafer, Gord - 32 Church
Feick, Thomas Dr. - 253 Peel
Fewkes, William - in front of the Puddicombe Restaurant - south side
Fink, Aussie - 195 Peel
Fink, Walter - 195 Peel
Fischer, Henry - across from 22 Church
Forler, Alvin - 216 Peel
Forler, Claude - 196 Peel
Forler, Edward - 196 Peel
Foster, Samuel - south end of Peel Street West Plaza
Fried, Kenneth - 35 Peel
Fritz, Robert - side yard of 285 Peel on Church
Frizell, Raymond - 43 Bleams West
Gallant, John - 276 Wilmot
Glab, Jozef - 27 Peel
Glendinning, Willliam - 334 Peel
Goebel. Glennie - 176 Huron
Goebel, Ward - in front of A Portuguesa Bakery on Huron
Grundenberger, Harry - 35 Peel
Guy, Donald - 316 Wilmot
Hallman, Ervin - 169 Mill Street [Peel continued]
Hammer, Maurice - 115A Peel
Harris, Gordon - 258 Peel
Harrison, James - 54 Waterloo
Hartman, Howard - 233 Huron
Hartwig, Arno - 316 Wilmot
Hill, George M. Jr. - in front of Puddicombe Restaurant - north side
Hill, George M. Sr. - in front of Puddicombe Restaurant - north side
Hinz, Carl - 58 Boullee
Holtzworth, Carl - 299 Wilmot
Honderich, Robert - 216 Peel
Hostetler, Charles - 88 Burns
Hulzebos, Jacob - in front of the Murray's Building
Ingold, Irvin - 19 Boullee
James, Albert - 394 Peel
Jantzi, Earl - Holy Family School on Huron
Jantzi, Jonas - in front of Holy Family School
Jones, Herbert - 25 Boullee
Junker, Gordon - 231 Jacob - on the corner of Boullee & Jacob
Kastner, Elmer - 176 Huron
Katzenmeier, Earl - beside entrance to 10 Waterloo parking lot
Kerr, George - 393 Huron
Klassen, David - in front of Riverside Florist
Kilgour, Lloyd - 231 Jacob & 58 Boullee on Boullee
Koch, Gerald - 165 Peel
Koenig, Dr. Melvin E. - In front of Holy Family Parking Lot
Koenig, Vernon - In front of Holy Family Parking lot
Kraemer,Clarence - 10 Waterloo b
Krampien, Irvine - 318 Peel Street
Kropf, Emmett - corner of Peel & 1
Kropf, Lavina - 346 Peel
Kropf, Lloyd - 18 Bleams East
Kropf, Lorne - corner of Peel & 1 Bl
Kruspe, Robert - in front of the Fo
Kurt, Walter - 25 Boullee
Langford, John - 334 Peel
Laschinger, Wilfred - 183 Wilmot
Lautenschlager, Harold - CIBC on
Linton, James - in front of Trinity L
Lipsit, Herb - 10 Waterloo - beside
Lotz, John - 279 Peel
Lotz, Lloyd - 279 Peel
MacIntyre. Alastair - 97 Wilmot
Maher, Edmund - 251 Huron
Marty, Ivan Bernard - 394 Peel
Massel, Bud - 245 Peel
Massel, Byron - 245 Peel
Marston, William - 265 Peel
McEllistrum, Gord - 230 Peel
McFayden, Henry - across street f
McKie, Carlie - 328 Huron
McKie, Michael - 328 Huron
McNichol, Douglas - 31 Bleams W.
McNeil, Michael - 304 Peel
Mead, William - 285 Wilmot
Meeker, Howie - 115A Peel
Menard, Albert - 7 Bleams West
Menard, Ira - 23 Bleams West
Menard, Marcella - 7 Bleams West
Merner, Albert - 380 Peel
Merner, Ross - 380 Peel
Migliarini, Oliver - 272 Wilmot

Legion Branch 532 New Hamburg

REMEMBRANCE DAY AGENDA 2026
NEW HAMBURG SERVICE

7:00 a.m. -	**Tudor Squadron 822 Cadets stand vigil at New Hamburg Cenotaph**
10:15 a.m. -	**Parade arrives at the New Hamburg Cenotaph Laying of Wreaths and Dedication**
10:25 a.m. -	**Parade Departs Cenotaph**
10:40 a.m. -	**Parade arrives at the New Hamburg Arena**
10:55 a.m. -	**O CANADA**
11:00-11:15 a.m. -	**1. A Moment of Silence**
	2. Last Post (Colours are dipped)
	3. Lament
	4. Reveille (Colours are Raised)
	5. The Act of Remembrance
	6. Prayers
11:30 - 11:35 a.m. -	**God Save The King**
11:35 -	**Colour Party Dismissed. Ceremony Ends.**
11:45 a.m. -	**Fellowship & Refreshments New Hamburg Legion**

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION NEW HAMBURG REMEMBRANCE DAY DETAILS



SEND US YOUR PICTURE!

COLOUR PARTY PARADE ROUTE

IF YOUR LOVED ONES BANNER IS ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE WE ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY TO STAND BELOW AND HAVE SOMEONE TAKE A PICTURE AS THE COLOUR PARTY PASSES BY. PLEASE SEND THOSE INTO US! WE ARE CREATING A VIDEO!



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Lest We Forget

NOVEMBER 11, 2026

2026 VETERAN BANNER LOCATIONS

eside medical building
[Bell Canada Building]
Bleams West

eams West
cus Computer, 73 Peel

Huron
Lutheran Church on Church Street
medical building

rom 27 Waterloo

but on Joseph

Miller, Clare - Post Office on Huron Street
Miller, Sonny - 412 Peel
Milne, Donald - across the street from 27 Waterloo
Mitchell, George - parking lot for Pfeil Motors on north side
Nairn, John - parking lot for Pfeil Motors on north side
Nauman, Clayton - 393 Huron
Neath, William Jr. - 312 Peel
Neath, William Sr. - 312 Peel
Neubauer, Joe - Josslin Inurance
Nielson, John - 96 Huron
Norton, Scott - 43 Waterloo
Oesch, Clayton - beside Mill parking lot on Mill
Omand, Bruce - 291 Huron - Funeral Home
Orobko, Steve - in front of Bar Burrito
Paciello, Pasquale - West side of CIBC on Mill Street
Panchen, William - parking lot beside fire hall
Parker, Roy - between 253 Wilmot & corner house on Church
Pearson, Jack - 244 Wilmot
Perry, Walter - between 231 Jacob & 58 Boullee on Boullee
Pfaff, Orville - 43 Bleams West
Poirier, Al - West side of The Legion on Boullee
Poll, Elmer - 11 Bleams West
Priest, John - Josslin Inurance
Racho, Wallace - 285 Wilmot
Rahn, Arthur - Holy Family Church
Reiner, Lloyd - 331 Wilmot
Reinhart, Albert - Beside B&W Feed on Peel
Richards, Alfred - 144 Huron
Rickert, Ross - 299 Wilmot
Riediger, Eric - 373 Huron
Riedl, Paul - corner of Wilmot and Huron on Wilmot
Riedl, Vendel - corner of Wilmot and Huron on Wilmot
Riehl, Jack - 3 Bleams East
Riehl, Gerald - 3 Bleams East
Rielly, Arnold - 265 Peel
Ritz, Ernie - 27 Peel
Robertson, Henry - 244 Wilmot
Ross, Jack - 233 Huron
Roth, Ben - Home Hardware
Roth, Harold - Holy Family Church
Roth, Harold - corner of N. Peel & Bleams E.
Roth, Lyle - Home Hardware
Routly, William - left side of 31 Bleams W. on Joseph
Ruthig, Alfred - 308 Huron
Salonen, Dr. Otto - 272 Peel
Salzberry, Russell - Beside B&W Mill
Schaefer, Lorne - beside Anglican Church
Schaefer, Walter - beside Anglican Church
Schmidt, Eric - 23 Bleams West
Schmitt, George - 253 Peel
Schofield, Douglas - 269 Huron
Schroeder. William - beside entrance to 10 Waterloo parking lot
Schuler, Theodore - Garden Stand at 90 Peel
Schwing, William - 313 Peel
Scott, John R.A. - 62 Boullee
Shantz, Cameron - corner of Peel & Huron on Huron
Shantz, Daniel - 269 Huron
Shantz, Stuart - 311 Wilmot
Sheppard, Leslie - North end of Peel West parking lot
Sheppard, Kenneth - North end of Peel West parking lot
Shilling, Percy - corner of Peel & Huron on Huron
Simpson, Reginald - across from Bailey house on the corner
Sirois, Guy - 54 Waterloo
Sivyer, Jean - 178 Peel
Sivyer, Teddy - 178 Peel
Spahr, John - 39 Bleams W.
Steiner, Carl - St. Peter's Church on Huron
Stiefelmeyer, John - North of Felt Boots on Peel
Stier, Nathaniel - 245 Wilmot
Strauch, John - across from Bailey house on Burns
Strickland, Lyle - 373 Huron
Summers, Leonard - on Church & side yard of rectory [on Peel]
Taylor, Thomas - on Church & side yard of rectory [on Peel]
Thalen, Jacob Harm - Peel at 3 Bleams
Thomas, George - Parking lot beside firehall
Thomas, Herbert - 331 Wilmot
Thomas, Margaret - in front of Riverside Florist
Thomas, Newton A. - Cook's Pharmacy
Thomas, Newton O. - Cook's Pharmacy
Todd, Tyler - corner of Peel & Huron
Toman, Burkle - between 253 Wilmot & corner house on Church
Torrie, Duncan - Garden Stand on Peel
Uptgrove,Helen - RBC on Huron
Uptgrove, John - RBC on Huron
Voisin, Louis - by the bandstand on Wilmot
Voisin, Urban - by the bandstand on Wilmot
Wagner, Erhardt - 311 Wilmot
Walker, Clinton - 73 Peel Focus Computer
Wallbank, William - 251 Huron
Walsh, Mary Margaret - 31 Bleams W
Walsh, Walter - 31 Bleams W
Walter, Eric - 19 Boullee
Weber, Norm - 96 Huron
Whitman, Donald - 258 Peel
Wildfang, Gerald - Union beside the red church
Wildfang, Roy - Union beside the red church
Wilhelm, Carl - 302 Wilmot
Wilhelm Dell - in front of CIBC on Huron
Williams, Russell - 245 Wilmot
Wolfe, Kenneth - 272 Wilmot
Work, Howard T. - In front of 182 Union; NH Lanes
Yearwood, Manley - 276 Wilmot
Yonge, Charles - 43 Waterloo
Zehr, Donald - corner of Peel & Huron Streets
Zoeller, Henry - 11 Bleams West

Poppy Fund Donations and Community Support 2026

Program / Fund	Amount	Description	Period	Donation
Youth Education	$2,500	The Legion works directly with schools and youth to keep the memory of fallen Veterans alive. Local Branches distribute poppies and educational materials and offer Veterans as guest speakers to share personal stories and the significance of Remembrance.	Oct 2016 – Sept 2017	$26,135.10
Poppy Fund Ontario	$1,000	The Ontario Poppy Fund, held in trust by local branches of The Royal Canadian Legion, provides financial assistance and support to Canadian Veterans, RCMP members, and their families in need.	Oct 2017 – Sept 2018	$32,750.68
Provincial Bursary Fund	$1,000	Provides financial assistance to students entering or continuing post-secondary education, including university, college, and vocational or technical programs. It primarily supports currently serving Canadian Forces members, Veterans, and their spouses, children, or grandchildren based on documented financial need.	Oct 2018 – Sept 2019	$27,921.00
Charitable Foundation	$4,000	Supports the operation of the Ontario Command Service Bureau and funds Veterans welfare programs for aging Veterans, medical research, medical equipment, bursaries, and other charitable or benevolent purposes approved by the Board of Directors.	Oct 2019 – Sept 2020	$30,287.26
Military Family Resource Centre	$5,000	Military Family Services supports Canadian Armed Forces members and their families by providing programs that ease the unique challenges of military life, including relocation, deployment, employment, mental health, and child-care resources.	Oct 2020 – Sept 2021	$17,703.00
Ruck to Ruck Fund	$2,000	Rucking, which is walking long distances with a weighted pack, raises funds directly supporting Operation: Leave The Streets Behind, a national Legion program that helps house homeless Veterans.	Oct 2021 – Dec 2021	$37,860.90
Leave the Streets Behind – Homeless Veterans	$10,500	A national program developed by The Royal Canadian Legion to identify and assist homeless Veterans and those at risk of homelessness. Supports include emergency shelter, transitional housing, addiction services, rental assistance, medical needs, and essential daily living items.	Jan 2022 – Dec 2022	$35,309.67
Parkwood Veterans Hospital Comfort Fund	$2,000	The Veterans Care and Comfort Fund at Parkwood Institute provides special care and comfort items to enhance the quality of life for resident Veterans.	Jan 2023 – Dec 2023	$53,532.90
Air Cadets – Squadron 822	$2,100	Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron 822, Ituer Squadron, serves youth ages 12–18, offering aviation training, marksmanship, drill, and leadership, with no military obligation.	Jan 2024 – Dec 2024	$40,140.10

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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Sprucedale students create Remembrance mural



(DIANE DANEN PHOTO)

Sprucedale Public School students in Ms. Eichler's Grade 6/7 class worked collaboratively to create a beautiful Remembrance Day mural. Each student coloured an individual piece of the picture. Their contributions came together to create a meaningful work of art honouring and remembering those who served and sacrificed for our freedom.

Wilmot Township raises the Poppy Flag, marking the beginning of Remembrance season



(DIANE DANEN PHOTO)

Members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532 in New Hamburg were joined by Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen and Michelle Beaupre, executive assistant to MP Tim Louis, at Castle Kilbride on Friday, Oct. 23, to raise the Poppy Flag marking the start of the annual Poppy Campaign. The flag was lowered to half-mast in honour of four Canadian Armed Forces members who died at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright in Alberta.

LEST WE FORGET

McDonald's
NEW HAMBURG

FREE COFFEE FOR VETERANS THIS REMEMBRANCE DAY WITH GRATITUDE

COLOUR THIS PICTURE AND REMEMBER THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO MADE SACRIFICES TO KEEP OUR COUNTRY FREE. WE REMEMBER AND THANK THEM ON REMEMBRANCE DAY.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

New Hamburg Legion members launch annual Poppy Campaign



(DIANE DANEN PHOTO)

Cliff Ziegler and Ross Richler, members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532 in New Hamburg, distribute poppies to local businesses in downtown New Hamburg. Legion members are collecting donations and distributing poppies at Sobeys, No Frills and McDonald's in the lead-up to Remembrance Day.

Foxboro Green residents honour veterans through Poppy Project



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Residents of Foxboro Green are once again honouring Canada's military veterans with their annual Poppy Project. Each poppy in the blanket was handmade and sewn together by Foxboro residents.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead: Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved: and now we lie
In Flanders fields!

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from failing hands, we throw
The torch: be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

JOHN MCCRAE



Written on May 3, 1915, during the Second Battle of Ypres in Belgium, shortly after the death of McCrae's close friend, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, and after noticing bright red wild poppies sprouting up around the graves of fallen soldiers.

North Easthope Antique Tractor Club members gather for annual banquet in Shakespeare

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Members of the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club (NEAT), along with their partners and friends, gathered at the Shakespeare Optimist Hall last week for the club's annual banquet, an evening filled with good food, music and fellowship.

Each summer, members of the club, including farmers and non-farmers alike, take to the countryside on their antique tractors, enjoying scenic drives while raising money to support local clubs, organizations and businesses.

While the cooler weather and shorter days have brought the tractor-driving season to an end, members still had plenty to celebrate as they gathered for their annual banquet, catered by Quehl's of Tavistock.

The evening provided an opportunity for members to reconnect, share stories from the past season and celebrate their shared appreciation for antique tractors and the agricultural history they represent.

Entertainment was once again provided by three talented local musicians, who performed a selection of familiar country favourites made popular by the likes of Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard and Conway Twitty.

The toe-tapping music added to the evening's lively atmosphere as members and guests enjoyed a night of friendship and fun.

One of the highlights of the banquet was the annual live auction, featuring a variety of items generously donated by local businesses.

Mitchell auctioneer Doug Jacob brought his many years of auctioneering experience to the event, assisted by Stratford's Martin Ritsma, who served as ringman.

The auction generated plenty of excitement and friendly bidding, with all proceeds supporting NEAT club activities throughout the coming year.

The annual banquet continues to be a popular tradition for club members, bringing together those who share a passion for preserving antique farm machinery and enjoying the friendships that have developed through their involvement with NEAT.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

North Easthope Antique Tractor Club (NEAT) members Ron Neeb, left, club president Murray Gingerich and executive member David Neeb stand in front of a rare German-made UNIMOG vehicle displayed at the club's annual banquet in Shakespeare. Ron Neeb of Stratford purchased the vehicle in poor condition before completely restoring and custom painting it to showroom condition. Combining the capabilities of a four-wheel-drive truck and tractor, the unique vehicle features a power take-off, three-point hitch, dump box and hydraulic connections. Some UNIMOG models were even equipped with front-end loaders.



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A 90th birthday to remember for North Easthope's Murray McGonigle

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Who says birthday wishes don't come true?

For longtime North Easthope dairy farmer Murray McGonigle, his wish for his 90th birthday came true when a large crowd of family members and friends gathered to celebrate his milestone at Foxboro Green, his current home east of Phillipsburg in Wilmot Township.

For McGonigle, who has spent much of his life surrounded by family, friends and the agricultural community, the celebration was another reminder of just how fortunate he has been.

He and his wife, Margaret, who have been married for nearly 70 years, say they couldn't have asked for a better life together.

The couple raised four children, two sons and two daughters, and have been blessed with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Born and raised during his early years in Waterloo, McGonigle eventually developed a love for farming while helping his grandfather on the family farm near Amulree, a few miles north of Shakespeare.

He later took over the farm with his parents, beginning what would become a lifelong career as a dedicated dairy farmer.

His father, Ross McGonigle, served for decades as clerk-treasurer of North Easthope Township while living in Amulree, close to Murray and his growing family.

Over the years, McGonigle developed a highly respected herd of registered Holstein dairy cattle under the Hill Pond prefix, a name inspired by a pond located near the family farmhouse.

His dedication to breeding quality Holsteins eventually earned him the prestigious Master Breeder designation, an honour recognizing excellence in Holstein breeding.

McGonigle was also actively involved in the agricultural community, serving on numerous committees and organizations throughout his farming career.

Beyond the farm, he served as a director and president of South Easthope Mutual Insurance Company, an organization that remained close to his heart long after his retirement.

Among the many guests at his 90th birthday celebration were three representatives of the insurance company, whose presence was especially meaningful to the longtime former director and president.

But for those who have known Murray over the years, his accomplishments in agriculture and business tell only part of the story.

Friends and neighbours have long described him as quite a character, someone who has never been afraid to have a little fun, pull a prank or find an unusual way to bring laughter to those around him.

His enthusiasm for life has extended well beyond dairy farming.

An avid sportsman, McGonigle enjoyed playing hockey and baseball with friends throughout the Wellesley area.

Later in life, he developed a passion for horses, owning a carriage and light horse team and competing at local fall fairs whenever he had the opportunity.

His love of horses and competition has also carried on through the next generation, with McGonigle continuing to support his grandson, Cody McGonigle, a successful rodeo calf roping competitor.

McGonigle and his wife, Margaret, have also been longtime supporters of the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club (NEAT), regularly attending club activities and enjoying the friendships that come with their shared interest in antique farm machinery.

Murray's own antique tractor is an Allis-Chalmers WD-45, a reminder of the

Continued on page 27



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Margaret and Murray McGonigle have long enjoyed their involvement with the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club (NEAT). The couple is pictured attending the club's annual banquet in Shakespeare last week. Murray, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, owns an antique Allis-Chalmers WD-45 tractor and has remained an enthusiastic supporter of the organization.

OBITUARY

MOGK: Kenneth John Conrad



Passed away peacefully surrounded by his family, at the Maples Home for Seniors in Tavistock on Monday, November 2, 2026. Ken Mogk of Tavistock was in his 91st year.

Beloved husband of Carol (Blum) Mogk whom predeceased him March 1, 2026. Loving father of Donna Mogk of Bright, Brenda & husband Marlin Bender of Tavistock, Ken "Butch" & wife Christine of Tavistock, Brad & wife Karen of Tavistock and Cindy Mogk of Tavistock. Sadly missed by his grandchildren Karla & Dwayne, Amy & Drew, Kim & Jordan, Jarrett & Kate, Kayla & Jackson, Nikkole, Kelsey & Mike, Larissa, Brandon & Kim, Caitlin, Mitchell, Brady, Morgan & Justin and great grandchildren Wyatt, Ethan, Beau, Quinn, Owen, Logan, Lily, Jake, Ava, Mason, Henry, Natalie, Case, Wesley, Derek, Blakely and Jett. Survived by his brother Hank and wife Reta of Stratford, by his brothers and sisters-in-law Ken & Lynn Blum, Alan & Brenda Blum, Ina & Jim Seyler, Janice Ballantyne, Susan & Bill Little, Sonya & Mike Floyd, Kathy & Dave Ashkanese, Nancy & Tony Ernest and Maribeth Youngblut,

Predeceased by his parents Robert and Anna (Krug) Mogk, and by his sister Carol Satchell.

Ken was a member of the Woodstock Trotting Association, Tavistock Agricultural Society, Tavistock Optimist Club and the Royal Canadian Legion - Tavistock Branch. Ken bred, trained, raced and showed Standardbred Horses for many years. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, where he was the Cemetery Caretaker for many years. Ken worked at many things including driving truck, driving school bus and owned and operated Mogk's Butcher Shop until his retirement.

Relatives and friends will be received in the Francis Chapel of the Glendinning Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock St. N. Tavistock on Saturday, November 7, 2026 from 1-4pm. Funeral service will be at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sebastopol on Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 2pm with a Burial to follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Trinity Lutheran Church or Tavistock Optimist Club would be appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be shared at www.gffh.ca.

OBITUARY

Veenhof, Frederik VE3CMV
February 13, 1933 - October 29, 2026



Fred died peacefully at home surrounded by the love of his family.

Born in Doorn, Netherlands, he spent his formative years in Zwolle during WW2, being forever grateful to the British and Canadian forces for liberating Holland.

He became fascinated by all things technical and electrical leading to a life-long passion for satellites, microwaves, radio, telephone, short wave radio, eventually becoming proficient in the digital wave.

He immigrated to Canada with his parents and siblings in 1951 and initially lived in St. Catharines. Pursuing his interest in electronics he worked for Bell installing microwave towers across Northern Ontario, finally settling in North Bay where he met the love of his life, Dinah May Langille. Here he designed and built their first home and began family life 69 years ago!

They moved to Kitchener in 1963 when Fred was offered a position as the first electronics/electricity teacher at Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School. For the next 30 years he championed the skilled trades encouraging like-minded individuals to pursue their passions.

Once he retired in 1993, he spent wonderful winters with Dinah and their new friends in North Fort Myers where he golfed, swam, and was active in the community. He also gained his ham radio licence and checked in daily with people all over the world. Fred eventually donated this equipment to WOSS. He was an avid sailor, building his own boat in their bedroom and having to remove two windows to get it out. Fred was an advocate for and passionate about family, equality, climate, peace, homelessness, and mental health. He also published a collection of quotes he wrote about his concerns for the environment, human rights and democracy.

He will be dearly missed by his wife of 69 years, Dinah, his children, Ric (Edie), Holly (Donna), Cory (Rich), grandchildren Chad, Jordan, Dan (Marta), Zach, Jake, Jessi (Anton) and Michael, and three great grandchildren, Parker, Remy and Autumn. He is also loved by his sisters Toni (Jack), Janny, sister-in-law Anna (Roger), and many nieces, nephews and friends.

The family thanks people who assisted us in having Fred at home where he was happiest. Many thanks to our PSW support workers and to the Ontario Health at Home palliative team.

Burial has taken place and a celebration of Fred's life will occur at a later date.

Donations in Fred's memory can be to MCC or to a local food bank.

VE3CMV 73

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, New Hamburg and condolences and donation information can be found at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

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equipment that helped shape his many years in agriculture.

From his early days working on the family farm to his accomplishments as a dairy breeder, community volunteer, sportsman and family man, McGonigle has certainly packed plenty of living into his 90 years.

And judging by the many family members and friends who gathered to celebrate his birthday, he has made a lasting impression on plenty of people along the way.

For Murray and Margaret, surrounded by generations of family and a lifetime of friendships, it was a birthday celebration they won't soon forget.



(CATHY MEADOWS PHOTO)

Former South Easthope Mutual Insurance Company president and director Murray McGonigle, second from left, was pleased to welcome representatives of the insurance company to his recent 90th birthday celebration at Foxboro Green. Pictured from left are Deb Holdsworth, McGonigle, Holly McKay and Helen Schildermans.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A young Murray McGonigle helps operate the family sawmill, located along the northern boundary of the McGonigle farm near Amulree. The sawmill was used to cut logs harvested from the hardwood bush lots of surrounding farms. McGonigle would go on to become a respected dairy farmer and Master Breeder of registered Holstein cattle under the Hill Pond prefix.

OBITUARY

Phylis Arlene Sisco (née Dahl)

April 24, 1941 – November 1, 2026



Phylis Arlene Sisco (née Dahl) passed away peacefully, but unexpectedly, on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at Waterloo Regional Health Network – Queen's Boulevard Campus.

Born on April 24, 1941, in Magog, Quebec, Phylis was a daughter of the late Anders and Beulah (Clark) Dahl. She was a longtime and proud resident of the New Hamburg community, where she made a home, built lifelong friendships, and created countless cherished memories.

Phylis will be deeply missed by her beloved husband, Guy Sisco, with whom she shared over 66 years of marriage, having wed on July 16, 1960. Together, they built a wonderful life filled with family, adventures, laughter, and treasured memories.

She was the cherished mother of Jeffrey Sisco and his wife Rebecca, and Jodie and her husband Jeff Rellinger. Phylis was a devoted grandmother and great-grandmother, whose family was always her greatest source of pride and joy. She will be lovingly remembered by Kelly (David) and their children Myriah and Mickenna; Jacqueline (Michael) and their children Oakley and Violet; and James (Jennifer) and their daughter Janelle. She was also a very proud great-great-grandmother to Bodhi and August.

Phylis was a woman who loved life, cherished friendships, and was always ready to keep busy. An avid pen pal, she maintained her correspondence with friends right up until her untimely passing, never losing her enjoyment of keeping in touch and staying connected with people near and far.

Phyllis and Guy were particularly proud of their involvement In helping set up the shuffleboard program at the rec center, and they ran those programs for years. She was also an active member in the restless seniors for many years. Her community spirit also extended to her involvement with girl guides and brownies, where she gave her time and enthusiasm to the younger generation.

Phylis loved an adventure and enjoyed making memories along the way. Whether camping, boating, fishing, water skiing, snowmobiling, travelling, or RVing, she embraced the many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and explore new places. These activities and adventures were an important part of the life she shared with Guy, her family, and friends.

Above all, Phylis loved her family and her home on Grace Street. It was a special place where memories were made, family gathered, and the simple joys of everyday life were treasured. Her home and the life she built there were a reflection of what mattered most to her: family, friendship, and being surrounded by those she loved.

Phylis will also be fondly remembered by her siblings Donald Dahl (Janice), Doris Coote, Raymond Dahl (Debbie), Ralph Dahl (Karen), Gloria Casey, Nelson Dahl (Phyllis), and Betty Dahl Olienick, along with her many nieces and nephews, all of whom held a special place in her heart.

She was predeceased by her parents, Anders and Beulah Dahl, and her brothers-in-law Harvey Coote and John Torres.

Phylis leaves behind a lifetime of memories, friendships, and a family that she loved dearly. From the letters she lovingly wrote, the community activities she helped build, the adventures she enjoyed, and the welcoming home she treasured on Grace Street, she leaves a legacy of connection, enthusiasm, and love.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial visitation will be held t the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 10 – 12. A service of remembrance will follow in the chapel of the funeral home at 12:30 p.m.

As expressions of sympathy, and in lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be given to KW Humane Society or Community Care Concepts, through the funeral home.

Personal condolences can be posted for the family at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

OBITUARY

Helen Boshart

November 26, 1948 - October 29, 2026



On October 29th, 2026, Helen (Zehr) Boshart peacefully passed away following a sudden and unexpected diagnosis of cancer.

Her family takes comfort in knowing her faith in God's promise of eternal life, has allowed her to be free of pain and suffering and to be reunited with the love of her life, Ken Boshart with whom she shared 50 years of marriage.

Helen lived 77 years filled with love, service, and faith. Helen's Christian faith was the cornerstone of her life. It guided her actions, strengthened her during difficult times, and gave her hope and peace. Helen was first and foremost a family woman. She shared a loving life with her husband, Ken, and although she experienced the sorrow of losing him, she carried his memory in her heart every day. Their love and commitment created a strong foundation for their family and left a lasting example for future generations.

She dedicated much of her working life as a Registered Practical Nurse, caring for residents in long term care. Her compassion for others was evident in everything she did. She had a gift for making people feel valued, cared for, respected, and she touched countless lives through her kindness and dedication.

Helen enjoyed entertaining. The only thing better was having something to celebrate! Milestone birthdays, anniversaries and a second wedding (to the same love, Ken of course) brought her great joy.

Loving mother to Wendy (Scott) Wagler and Scott (Juleen) Boshart. She will be deeply missed by her grandchildren Brieanna, Tyson (Olivia Davidson) Wagler and Justin, Daniel, Joey Boshart.

Survived by her brother Ron (Ann Tanner) Zehr, and sisters-in-law Janet (Zehr) Schultz, Donna Zehr. Helen will be fondly remembered by Ken's family Judy (John) Stewart, Karen (Brian) Lavery, Dave (Kathy) Boshart, and Linda Kipfer. Also affectionately remembered by many nieces and nephews and their families.

Predeceased by her husband Ken in 2021, her parents Norman and Edna (Lebold) Zehr, brothers and sister-in-law, Lloyd Zehr, Gordon (and Vivian Zehr), niece Shari (Zehr) Langis and by Ken's parents Elroy and Willetta (Roth) Boshart, and brother-in-law Eric Kipfer.

In the past number of years Helen was blessed with the opportunity to travel both with family and wonderful friends. She filled her calendar with beautiful trips. Her goal was to travel while she could and that she did! Her most recent trip was to the Calgary stampede in July.

Helen's family is grateful for the kindness and care she received from Dr. Charles Picard, Dr. Dawn Yew, and the home health palliative care team. Thank you to the PSWs that came in to help Mom stay comfortable in her home. Thank you to the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth team for your kindness and exceptional care for Mom. Thank you to our extended family, Mom's neighbours, church families and friends for your love and support over the past few months. Your prayers, calls, and visits were a blessing!

Memorial visitations will be held at the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Thursday November 5th from 2 pm–4 pm & 6 pm–8 pm. Interment will take place in Steinmann Mennonite Church cemetery. A service of remembrance and celebrations will be held on Friday November 6th at 1 pm, Steinmann Mennonite Church, 1316 Snyder's Road West, Baden, Ontario, with Pastor Sara Erb and Pastor Wayne Domm to officiate.

As expressions of sympathy, please consider a donation in Helen's memory to the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth, or WRHN Midtown. Donations can be made through the funeral home.

Lift up your hearts, rejoice with me, God wanted me now, He set me free.

Personal Condolences and donation information can be found on the funeral home website at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

St. James Lutheran Church preparing for 29th annual Journey to Bethlehem

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

With November underway and the Christmas season fast approaching, members of St. James Lutheran Church near Hampstead and Wellesley are preparing to bring the story of the first Christmas to life once again.

The historic red-brick church, which has stood for more than a century, continues to welcome worshippers for weekly services and remains an important part of the surrounding rural community.

Beside the church stands a large building affectionately known as the "Red Shed," which once sheltered horses and buggies while families attended worship services in years gone by.

Each year as Christmas approaches, members of the congregation, both young and old, come together to present Journey to the Bethlehem Stable, a live production depicting the story of Christ's birth.

This year marks the 29th anniversary of the popular Christmas tradition, which continues to attract visitors from throughout Perth County and beyond.

One of this year's organizers, Carol Horst, said the production will once again feature live farm animals brought in from surrounding farms, helping create an authentic setting for the biblical story.

The performance offers visitors an opportunity to step back in time and experience the journey to Bethlehem while reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas.

Two performances are planned for Saturday, Nov. 28, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at St. James Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Perth Road 45 and Perth Line 106.

Following the performances, visitors are invited to stay for refreshments and fellowship with members of the congregation.

Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of religious affiliation.

For those who have made the Journey to Bethlehem part of their annual Christmas traditions, or anyone interested in experiencing it for the first time, the congregation looks forward to sharing this special celebration once again.

For more information, contact Carol Horst at carolh@cwisp.ca.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Mary and Joseph watch over the recreated Nativity scene during the 2024 presentation of Journey to the Bethlehem Stable at St. James Lutheran Church, a Christmas tradition returning for its 29th year on Nov. 28.







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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.

October 26 - November 2, 2016, Edition (10 years ago)

On Oct. 21, 1966, the new Tavistock Public School opened at 32 Maria St., replacing the old school on William Street. The old school had served the community since its construction in 1880 and additions in 1898 and 1916. Fifty years ago, the new school ushered in an entirely new education model and is the only school the last two generations of Tavistock residents can remember. This past Friday, Oct. 21, 2016, students and staff gathered on the ball diamond to spell out "50" as a chill, westerly October wind blew. The students huddled together, some doing jumping jacks to stay warm, until they all began the chant, "Go Tigers Go!" to end the session.

We all know that shopping local helps provide jobs and puts money into the local economy. To encourage local consumers to buy local, the Rural Oxford Economic Development Corporation (ROEDC) is kicking off a six-week campaign entitled "Buy Close By" to try and reverse the trend of shopping in the city. On Nov. 25, consumers will be able to pick up a punch card at participating local stores and professional offices. When you spend $10 or $20, your card is punched. Show the card every time you shop. When it is full, it can be dropped off at Zehr Home Hardware to be included in a draw in the new year for prizes worth $1,000 in vouchers.

October 25 - November 1, 2006, Edition (20 years ago)

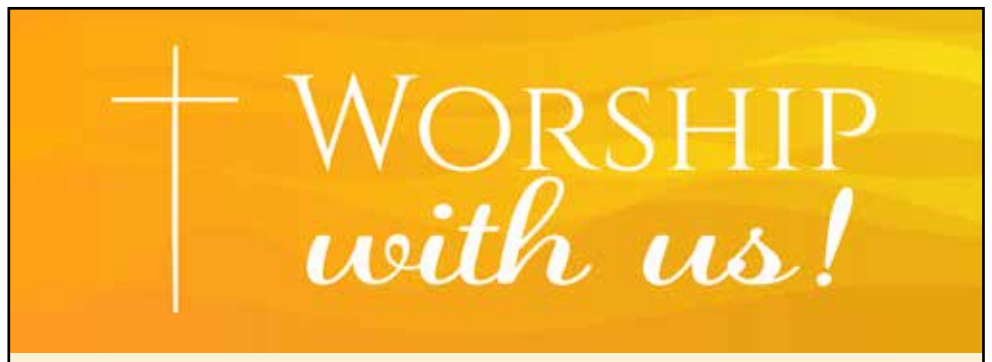
The Tavistock Bantam Rep girls, sponsored by Barry Ruby Electric, suffered their first loss of the season on Oct. 21, losing 3-1 to St. Catherines on home ice. The home team out-shot the visitors 26-10, however, two of the chances the girls gave up were breakaways where goalie Rachel McKay had little chance to stop the puck. St. Catherines was up 1-0 in the second when a perfect breakout from the Jets defence set up a tic-tac-toe passing play between Emily Sanderson, Tawnya Helm and Desiree Brennemant to tie the score at one apiece. Late in the second, St. Catherines took a 2-1 lead, then scored one more, late in the game. Tavistock holds on to first place in their division, with a record of three wins, one loss, and one tie.

The end of another era came last week with the removal of playground equipment in the back section of (upper) Queen's Park. Two years ago, a merry-go-round was taken out of the treed area, and last week, Larry Ehnes was authorized to remove the slide, climber, swings and rocket climber. The equipment was installed in 1959 as a gift from Roy Rennie. For many years, Mr. Rennie was the custodian of the old Tavistock Public School and cut the grass at Queen's Park without remuneration. He donated the Paris playground equipment to the park and the equipment, especially the rocket climber, were a favourite with generations of local youngsters.

October 29 - November 5, 1986, Edition (40 years ago)

The Hickson Squirt Boys softball team had a great year. They were league champions after finishing first in their North Oxford division. In their quest for the Ontario Rural Softball Association (ORSA) Championship, they encountered four teams, Jarvis, Glanworth, Fisherville and Drumbo. The most difficult series was against Fisherville, who hadn't lost a game all year. They were defeated in two games straight in a real pitching contest. Each ORSA series was won in two games. The squirts also won a tournament in Hickson. Players are Jason Smith, Steve Axon, Pat McBride, Mike Donaldson, Greg deBelleval, Bob Brenneman, Darryl Wharram, Lucas Lorentz, Jeremy Weicker, Brad deBelleval, Robbie Fishback, Goeff Carter, Daniel Huras, Nathan Doherty and Todd Harmer.





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stpaulstavistock@gmail.com
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All are welcome

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66 Mill Street, Baden, ON
Sunday School at 10:15 AM
Worship service at 11:00 AM
Pastors: Richard Bean and Gabriel Jantzi
www. oasismennonite.com

To have your place of worship listing included here, please contact thewtgazette@gmail.com

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

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette SPORTS

PJHL Roundup: Braves lose fourth straight Applejacks win second in a row as division tightens up

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

Things are getting a little more interesting in the Provincial Junior Hockey League's (PJHL) Doherty Division.

Just two points separate first from third after weekend action and Tavistock is holding a one-point lead over Wellesley while New Hamburg is just two points out of first. All three teams have played 15 games.

New Hamburg split a pair of weekend road games, downing Tavistock 3-2 Saturday after dropping a 5-1 decision in Norwich on Friday.

The Firebirds trailed the Braves 2-0 after 20 minutes as Brett Bell and Evan Palubeski found the back of the net as Tavistock peppered 15 shots at Blake Richard. Oliver Lyon and Kaiden Cormier scored second period goals for New Hamburg, setting the stage for Cormier's game-winning marker with the man advantage half way through the third frame.

The Firebirds outshot the Merchants 37-28 during Friday's loss as Cormier was the only player to find the back of the net.

New Hamburg captain Jack MacDonald said while Tavistock losing four games in a row is a surprise, every team need its A game.

"You have to come to play every game. It's not good enough to just show up, you have to play well to win."

The parity in the division is on the rise over the last couple of weeks, something not unnoticed by MacDonald.

"Our wins early in the season, we were up on our opponent all game, but these last couple of games we were down but were able to fight our way back which is something I really like to see. That's playoff hockey right there. We aren't always going to be up in a game, but we've been putting our heads down and grinding."

Most hockey players will say they would rather lose a tight game where their team played well and fought right until the end as opposed to a blowout victory. MacDonald agreed and added even in some of their lopsided wins and losses, a 5-1 score seemed much closer because of how tough the division is.



(FILE PHOTO)

New Hamburg Firebirds captain Jack MacDonald says the team's recent ability to battle back from deficits is a positive sign as the Doherty Division race tightens.

As for his own game at this point in the season, the forward who isn't known for his scoring prowess said he likes where his play is at.

"Points are always nice, but we have other guys to do that. I'm thriving right now playing defensively, moving the puck well and trying to create scoring opportunities for the team."

One of the keys to success of any team in the league is how young players can adjust to a higher level of hockey where a 17-year-old is battling a 20- or 21-year-old who is much more experienced and often physically mature.

"They've adapted very fast and have been playing like they've been here for a couple years. Kaiden Cormier is close to leading the division in goals right now and it feels like every time he has the puck on his stick it's going into the back of the net."

Cormier, who scored six goals in 12 games with the Kitchener Rangers U18 AA team last season, leads the team in scoring with a whopping 18 goals and six assists in 15 games. Tate Davison, another 18-year-old rookie, is second in team scoring with 14 assists and 22 points in 16 games.

MacDonald said Cormier is just flat out fun to watch.

"His hands are unreal. He'll be toe dragging and he just creates a lot of offence. He's got two guys on his line that can get him the puck, and he always finds the right spot to go to."

Despite playing better hockey the last few weeks, the captain said there is still room for improvement.

"I think we need to have a little more focus on our regroups, not throwing away pucks and not playing hope hockey. We need to make tape-to-tape passes and play fast. That's what we've talked about since training camp."

Despite outshooting their opponent 45-24, Tavistock dropped a 4-3 shootout loss against Hespeler at home on Friday night. Nolan Miller, Jacob Skuta and Bartlett found the back of the net for the Braves.

Wellesley played just once last weekend and earned a 5-2 victory in Dorchester. Colton Henderson, Hudson Parker and Ethan Stover had a pair of points each to lead the offense while Brock Schaus kicked out 26 of 28 shots to earn the win. Schauss now has a goals-against average of just 2.27 and a save percentage of .928. Parker leads the team in scoring with 17 goals and 25 points.

The Hespeler Shamrocks are now the hottest team in the Doherty Division as they are riding a three-game win streak. The team is now one point ahead of last-place Paris as the Mounties have lost three consecutive games.

SOUTH - DOHERTY

gamesheetstats.com

RK	TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	T	OTW	PTS	SOW	SOL	GF	GA	DIFF	PCT	PIM	RW	ROW	STK
1	Tavistock Braves	15	10	2	2	0	1	23	0	1	67	39	+28	.767	367	9	10	Lost 4
2	Wellesley Applejacks	15	11	4	0	0	1	22	1	0	65	45	+20	.733	344	9	10	Won 2
3	New Hamburg Firebirds	15	10	4	0	0	1	21	0	1	61	49	+12	.700	205	9	10	Won 1
4	Norwich Merchants	16	8	8	0	0	2	16	2	0	50	69	-19	.500	374	4	6	Lost 1
5	Dorchester Dolphins	15	6	8	0	0	1	13	0	1	58	66	-8	.433	321	5	6	Lost 1
6	Hespeler Shamrocks	16	5	9	2	0	0	12	1	0	51	68	-17	.375	310	4	4	Won 3
7	Paris Mounties	16	4	9	2	0	0	11	0	1	53	69	-16	.344	362	4	4	Lost 3

Minor baseball in Wilmot celebrates continued growth of girls program

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

The Wilmot Softball Association has nine seasons under its belt after New Hamburg and Baden amalgamated and, according to its outgoing president, has seen positive growth in its girls' system.

For the 2026 season, the Wilmot Softball Association registered a total of 612 players, consisting of 190 girls and 378 boys across all divisions. Overall registration reflects an eight per-cent increase from 2025. The girls program continues to show positive growth, up 34 per cent since 2022, while total registration has increased 31 per cent in the same period.

"One of the main reasons we amalgamated was both centres were struggling to put together girls teams," said outgoing association president Ryan Roth. "It was not unusual at many age levels where one would have seven girls sign up and the other five. We were shuffling kids back and forth just to give them a chance to play."

The year before the merger, the boys played separate as Baden and New Hamburg, but all girls teams were merged playing under the Wilmot banner.

"This wasn't the only reason we did it, but it was one of motivations behind it. We were just hoping to have a team at each age level so the girls had a chance to play," Roth said.

The association has been proactive in not only keeping the number of female players up but also looking to expand it through community outreach.

"We have some executive members who run open houses in schools during the offseason in school gyms that is centred on young girls, trying to get them out and just have some fun. Our efforts have paid off as we are seeing our numbers go up faster than the boys," Roth said.

The Wilmot Softball Association has girls teams all the way up to the U21 age group and some ages have multiple teams.

"We have a few teams playing at a more competitive level but we also have girls playing at the recreational level. It's exciting to see two, sometimes even three teams in one age group. When we started this, we were hoping to get even one team for each age level," added Roth.

Along with growth comes challenges, however, as the association had some struggles finding diamond time along with umpires. Roth said there are 10 diamonds available to be used in Wilmot, but the challenge is finding time during the week in the summer.

"People don't necessarily want to be at the ball park every weekend. We will have a few tournaments, but people want to go to the cottage or the beach. We are using all the diamond time that is available and we continue to brainstorm to find more time during the week," Roth said.

He added they are trying to recruit more umpires and are encouraging junior umpires to stick with it as they age.

"A big part of that is trying to encourage respect for our umpires," Roth said. "With any minor sport, there is the challenge of negativity towards officials. I was involved with minor hockey for years and I saw it all the time from parents and coaches and ball is no different. Umpires might make mistakes but being disrespectful and rude is simply dragging people away from it. There's not a lot of people who want to step up and umpire."

Roth added minor ball continues to appreciate the strong partnerships it has with community businesses and organizations.

"We'd like to once again thank all of our sponsors and again recognize the New Hamburg Optimist Club for their assistance at many of our tournaments. We would also like to thank the Township of Wilmot for their investment in the batting cages in New Hamburg and Baden, something that will be used by the youth of this township for many years to come."

A total of 58 teams were fielded this season, including 46 local league teams and 12 competitive teams. The organization hosted the second annual Wilmot Spring Showcase, adding a U11 division. Over 40 teams from Ontario and Quebec participated in five divisions over two weekends.

"It was a very successful event, with many compliments on the event from many visitors and participants," said Roth. "We again hosted a few provincial events, beginning with 14 teams coming to for the OASA U15 Eliminations from July 3-5. From July 17-19, we welcomed teams entered into the Under 15 Boys and Girls ORSA Championships. The following weekend, we hosted the ORSA Under 17 Boys Championship. Finally, in late October, we hosted teams from Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario in the Under 17 Eastern Canadian Championship."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Wilmot Softball Association recently held its award banquet where many players, fans and even umpires took home some hardware. Arianna Baetz (left) from the U13 local league team was awarded the Penny Roth Memorial Award for sportsmanlike play and ability. Mya Bannerman from the U13 girls rep team was presented with the Murray Wagler Memorial Award for the most improved player.

SUDOKU

by PeterS 2026

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

Answers found on classified page

QUIZ TIME

BY JAKE GRANT

1. What are the two birthstones for November?
2. What is the more common name for the Fibonacci sequence?
3. What is the color of liquid oxygen?
4. What is the largest power plant in Canada?
5. In what year did Korea split?
6. What is a popular 1990's slang for very short cutoff jeans?
7. What is a full moon in November called?
8. What kind of stone is the Taj Mahal made of?
9. What are the small bones that make up a backbone called?
10. What continent is Andorra in?

Answers found on classified page

Tavistock figure skaters take centre stage in 1989



(W.M. GLADDING PHOTO)

Tavistock has a long history of talented athletes, including those who have taken to the ice in figure skating. Pictured from left are Angie Bender, Allison Willsey and Julie Wiffen, holding light sticks during the Tavistock Figure Skating Club's "The Space Odyssey" skating carnival at the Tavistock arena in March 1989. The event provided plenty of memorable moments for the young skaters, who may still remember their time in the spotlight nearly four decades later.

Milverton Four Wheel Drives celebrate 60 years of hockey history

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

For 60 years, the Milverton Four Wheel Drives has been a fixture in Perth County hockey, building a proud history that includes championship seasons and a longstanding rivalry with the Tavistock Royals.

The senior hockey team was established in 1966 through the efforts of four local hockey enthusiasts who believed Milverton deserved a team of its own.

Ron Kipfer, Dave Shearer, Bob Harrow and Bill Nafzinger were the driving forces behind the organization, bringing their enthusiasm and determination together to make their vision a reality.

The four men approached Percy Schneider, a farm machinery dealer from Brunner, for financial support.

At the time, Schneider operated a Ford tractor dealership in downtown Brunner and was among the first farm machinery dealers in the area to introduce a line of four-wheel-drive tractors.

Schneider agreed to support the new hockey club, which was subsequently named the Four Wheel Drives in recognition of his business.

The team's first executive included Dave Shearer as manager, Jim Brough as treasurer and Bill Nafzinger as secretary.

That marked the beginning of a hockey tradition that continues six decades later.

Over the years, the Four Wheel Drives have attracted players from Milverton and surrounding communities, including Mitchell, Listowel and Elmira, making the team a source of pride for hockey fans throughout the region.

Among the highlights of the club's early history was its championship season in 1969-1970, when the Four Wheel Drives captured a title that remains an important part of the team's legacy.

The rivalry between the Milverton Four Wheel Drives and Tavistock Royals has also been a longstanding highlight of the local hockey scene.

With the two Perth County communities located just a short drive apart, games between the teams have traditionally drawn enthusiastic crowds, particularly during home-and-home series.

The close proximity of the two communities, combined with their competitive spirit, has helped make the rivalry a memorable part of senior hockey in the region.

As the Four Wheel Drives mark their 60th anniversary in 2026, the team remains a testament to the vision of four local hockey enthusiasts and the community support that helped establish the organization in 1966.

Thanks to Milverton's George Nahrgang for providing the historical information.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured are the championship-winning 1969-1970 Milverton 4 Wheel Drives. In the front row, from left: Ron Steckly, Bob Gropp, Murray Kerr, George Nahrgang, Barry Dietz, Paul Dietz and John Scrimgeour. Second row, from left: Bob Harrow, Mike Mohr, Ed Erb, Dave Murray, Ron Kipfer, Jim Holmes, Richard Sloat, coach Tom Collins and assistant coach Dave Shearer. Third row, from left: Ken Gropp, John Melrose, Glen Marth, Frank Huras, Ron Huras and Ron Tanner. Fourth row, from left: Stan Leisure, Bill Nafziger, Bob Bundscho, Glen Shackleton, Lyle Leis and Bob Arand.

Region of Waterloo

2026 Appointments to the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC)

For more than 20 years, the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) has served the Waterloo Region by providing advice and recommendations to participating municipal councils to help advance accessibility.

The Region and City of Waterloo are currently recruiting new members who want to make a meaningful difference in their community. Membership is open to:

- People with disabilities;
- Designated representatives of an agency serving people with disabilities; and
- People supporting persons with disabilities, e.g. caregivers.

Your lived experience, expertise, and perspective can help turn ideas into meaningful change.

Ready to make an impact? Apply by November 19th, 2026, to help shape a more accessible and inclusive Waterloo Region: https://qrco.de/GRAAC

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Ideal fall weather brings strong corn yields for Perth County farmers

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

With favourable fall weather, high yields and relatively low moisture levels, corn farmers across Perth County are enjoying what some are calling one of their best harvest seasons yet.

In South Easthope Township, near Shakespeare, the Danen family has been making the most of the ideal harvesting conditions, with combines and grain wagons working steadily to bring in this year's corn crop.

Adriana Danen and her brother, Nick, have been busy keeping the harvest moving, while their uncle, Rob Danen, and his son, Andrew, operate the family's John Deere combine and grain buggy.

The family has been harvesting well over 200 bushels of corn per acre, with favourable grain weights and moisture levels adding to an already successful season.

Despite a day of rain last week, combines were back in the fields the following day, harvesting shelled corn with moisture levels ranging from 20 to 22 per cent.

Those relatively low moisture levels are especially welcome for farmers facing continued high costs for propane and natural gas used to dry grain before storage.

At the Danen family farm, everyone has a role to play during the busy harvest season.

While Adriana, Nick, Rob and Andrew Danen have been working to bring in the corn crop, Adriana and Nick's brother, Mitch, has been busy feeding the family's herd of Holstein dairy cows at their modern dairy farm on Perth Line 33, also known as Pork Street.

Their mother, Janice, has also been doing her part, keeping the hardworking crew supplied with sandwiches and meals so harvesting can continue until dark.

The Danen family is hoping to have the corn harvest wrapped up and the combine washed and put away by the time readers pick up this week's edition of the Gazette.

Across Perth County, farmers are taking advantage of every available day to finish harvesting soybeans and corn, complete fall spraying, plowing and vertical tillage, and haul manure before winter weather brings fieldwork to a close.

For farming families like the Danens, these are some of the busiest days of the year, but with strong yields and favourable weather, there is plenty to be thankful for as another growing season draws to a close.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Adriana Danen, left, and her brother, Nick, were busy unloading freshly harvested shelled corn at the family's on-farm grain dryer near Shakespeare on Saturday afternoon. The Danen family has been enjoying excellent harvest conditions this fall, with corn yields exceeding 200 bushels per acre and relatively low moisture levels. While family members worked in the fields, their brother, Mitch, tended to the family's Holstein dairy herd on Perth Line 33, and their mother, Janice, kept everyone supplied with sandwiches so harvesting could continue until dark.

Gazette Puzzles

OCTOBER NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

G	L	X	M	Y	Q	V	B	T	K	B	Y	W	K	C	E	S	V	B	B
S	A	O	H	F	Z	X	Z	Y	W	I	X	X	N	F	C	T	Y	E	Y
L	B	N	A	O	Y	H	B	Y	G	V	Z	D	R	B	A	E	A	M	V
S	M	C	Y	R	X	Y	H	D	K	Q	E	Y	X	W	P	E	Z	I	P
H	T	M	E	S	S	I	R	E	T	I	R	E	S	A	S	L	O	L	I
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Z	U	Z	R	O	H	H	T	M	U	R	U	W	H	R	Y	L	V	K	T
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Z	J	Q	R	X	S	A	E	G	F	Q	V	V	W	N	C	J	P	R	R

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BC Election
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Pet of the Week

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Rosco would do best in a home without shared entrances and with older children who have experience with large dogs. He would also prefer to be the only dog in the home. With structure, routine, and a patient family committed to helping him succeed, Rosco will reward his adopters with loyalty, fun, and endless companionship. Meet Rosco in-person at our Kitchener Centre or online at kwsphumane.ca/adopt/dogs



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The power of pumpkin

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



A pumpkin is a ravishing round orange fruit – yes, a fruit – with a thick shell, vibrant pulp and piles of sensational seeds. Pumpkins may come in a variety of colours, shapes and sizes, but all share a long history of farming dating back to 7000 BCE. Pumpkins are heaps of holistic health benefits. Say hello to autumn's favourite comfort food and holiday-menu magic right through to Christmas.

Pumpkins are truly versatile from side dishes to smoothies to decadent desserts, and they're even used as a baking dish. This holistic nutritionist jumped on the Tik-Tok trend and tried cooking a chicken inside the pumpkin. It worked absolutely brilliantly; a main course and scrumptious side with no clean up.

Pumpkin is a superfood with an impressive nutrient profile. One cup of pumpkin contains just 49 calories, 12 grams of carbohydrates and three grams of fabulous fiber.

Pumpkin contains a multitude of minerals, vital vitamins and an all-star lineup of antioxidants, but a few stand out. The outrageous orange hue is a sign of Vitamin A and it's off the charts. One cup of pumpkin contains approximately 10,000 micrograms of carotenoids, beta-carotene which is converted into the active form of vitamin A, your first line of defense for strong immunity and healthy vision.

Pumpkin is all about C, too; another immune booster and linked to youthful, plump skin. C is essential for supporting collagen production.

Pumpkin is piles of potassium, a key electrolyte and part of the magnesium and sodium trio for healthy blood pressure.

A little less-known fact about pumpkins is they have 94 per cent water content. Fiber and water are a dream team for weight management.

Pumpkin is this nutritionist's favourite complex carbohydrate. Take a pass on pasta, roast over rice and swap mashed pumpkin for potatoes for an unforgettable meal.

There is a lot of hype for the pulp, but please don't forget the pumpkin houses a superfood. Seeds are best known for zinc, a plethora of prostate support, selenium for thyroid health and knees love their mega-manganese. A quarter cup a day is a satisfying snack-on-the-go and macro-mission accomplished for optimal health.

As the temperature drops, a warm cup of coffee or herbal tea and a muffin are my favourite self-love for a snuggly bookworm night in.







(MERCEDES KAY GOLD PHOTO)

This pumpkin muffin/loaf recipe is loaded with healthy pumpkin – seeds and all – with no added sugar.

This pumpkin spice muffin is low in calories and nutritious. Pumpkin takes centerstage in the one-bowl-wonder recipe. Instead of wheat flour, I chose a combination of corn and oat flour. Eggs are exceptional and study after study supports the brain-boosting of choline found in the yolk. The recipe has zero added sugar, with sweetness from the raisins and a tablespoon of honey used to toast the seeds and nuts.

Simplicity is always in food fashion, and a smear of butter or nut butter and this marvelous muffin or slice of loaf is a great snack.

Pumpkin spice muffins or loaf

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of corn meal
- 1 cup of oat flour
- ½ tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 2 Tbsp of any non-seed oil or butter
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup canned pumpkin puree
- 1 tsp pure vanilla
- ½ tsp sea salt
- 1 cup milk or plant-based alternative
- 2 Tbsp extra virgin cold-pressed coconut oil
- ¼ cup raw pumpkin seeds
- ½ cup raw pecans
- 1 tbsp raw honey
- Avocado or olive oil non-stick cooking spray

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F. Line a muffin pan or loaf with parchment-paper cups or spray.
2. In a large bowl, whisk eggs with oil and milk. Add the pumpkin. Stir.
3. In a separate bowl, combine both flours, baking soda, powder, spices and salt.
4. Combine both bowls. Add the raisins. Stir.
5. On low heat, melt the coconut oil. Add honey, seeds and pecans. Stir gently until golden brown. Cool
6. Divide the batter evenly into muffin cups or a loaf pan.
7. Top with the nut and seed mixture.
8. Bake for 18-22 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. The loaf will take about 45 minutes.

Cozy up to foods based around holistic healing with a side of emotional wellbeing.

Support local pumpkin love!

The fallacy of first impressions

INTERFAITH COUNSELLING CENTRE

By John Dinner

There's an old saying that you only have one chance to make a good first impression. As much as there may be truth in that, I've wonder whether people forming those first impressions aren't short-changing themselves.

A few weeks ago, I spent five days with 12 complete strangers at a writing retreat in rural England. As is human nature, I formed some quick impressions of my fellow participants. Within a day or two, however, many of those half-baked conclusions had shifted. By the end of the week, my initial impression seemed not merely incomplete, but almost laughably wrong.

I had cheated them – and myself.

The experience reminded me how much more complicated people are than we often allow ourselves to believe. Every one of us carries a lifetime of experiences, disappointments, relationships, ambitions, insecurities and joys. None of that can possibly be revealed in a brief conversation, a first meeting or even an awkward introduction.

Yet we routinely make judgments on this kind of limited evidence. We decide someone is aloof when they are simply shy. We mistake confidence for arrogance, reserve for disinterest, or talkativeness for self-importance. Sometimes we get it right, but more often than not we don't.

And once we've formed an impression, we have a tendency to look for evidence that confirms it rather than facts that challenge it. Our first conclusion can easily become a lens through which everything that follows is interpreted.

I was fortunate at the retreat to have time to discover how wrong I could be. We shared classes, wandered through the village, gathered at the local pub and ate three meals a day together. Gradually, the real people behind the first impressions emerged. Each turned out to be interesting and engaging in ways I could not have anticipated. Had circumstances not given us the opportunity to spend so much time together, I might have gone home with a regretfully inaccurate picture of several of them.

Of course, most encounters don't come with the luxury of five days together. We meet someone at a party, in a business meeting, on a plane or at a restaurant and may never see them again. We have little choice but to make quick assessments.

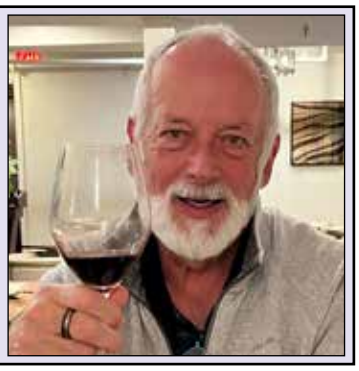
Perhaps the lesson, then, isn't that we should abandon first impressions. They can be useful. It is that we should hold them lightly. After all, a first impression is a hypothesis, not a verdict.

If we could remind ourselves of that, we might become a little slower to judge and a little more curious about the person standing in front of us. That would be fairer to them. And, as my week in England reminded me, it might also save us from missing someone we would be very glad to know.

John Dinner RP is a counsellor at Interfaith Counselling Centre in New Hamburg. He does his best to make a positive first impression with his clients.

Grenada's ever-changing Underwater Sculpture Park

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO



By Paul Knowles

There is a conundrum that faces travel journalists: should we constantly visit new destinations, or is it okay to return to those we love? Well, obviously, it's ideal when we – and therefore, our readers – discover somewhere new. And that's usually the goal, and I usually manage to accomplish it.

But there are some places so special that they almost demand our revisited attention. And the Underwater Sculpture Park at the Caribbean island of Grenada is one of those.

I first experienced the sculpture park in 2023. I had the great good fortune to be on the spot as many new sculptures were added to the attraction. And I was able to spend a lot of time with the primary sculptor who has produced the amazing works – Jason deCaires Taylor.

So, when I got the invitation to return to Grenada and pay another visit to the underwater attraction, I was delighted.

Here's the back story. Taylor, a very talented artist, is also an experienced scuba diver. He came to Grenada in 2004 planning to open a dive shop. That didn't happen.

But something much more significant did take place. He became aware of a bay on Grenada's west coast where all the underwater life had been decimated by a hurricane. To the artist in Taylor, this was an easel begging to be filled.

So he did. In 2006, the first sculptures were lowered into the bay. Life-sized or larger, they were intended to attract the attention of divers – including, of course, tourists – and also to serve as artificial reefs that might encourage the regrowth and return of coral and other marine life.

The project grew – both expanding and successfully fostering oceanic growth – eventually including over 40 sculptures by a number of different artists.

Then came 2023 when the park nearly doubled in size, with 31 sculptures added – again, most by Taylor – to bring the total to 75. The new sculptures included "Coral Carnival" – many large statues representing figures from Grenada's folk culture. The entire installation has been named one of the 25 wonders of the world by National Geographic. And I was blessed to be on hand as the works were lowered into the sea, and then to be able to don my snorkel and swim among them.

Taylor never sees his works as finished products. He loves the fact that as they remain in their aquatic setting, they inevitably change. Some of the changes to the earlier works involved the erosion of some features, but Taylor and his artistic colleagues have constantly improved their materials – always aware of causing no environmental damage – so today, the changes involve natural additions. Coral and sea plants grow on the sculptures, changing their appearance, often in dramatic ways.

And I got to see this up close and personal on my return visit this year. I don't dive, but I do love to snorkel, and the works in the Underwater Sculpture Park are in water sufficiently shallow that snorkelers can get a very good look at each one without diving. Taylor says the sculptures are all at depths of no more than eight metres.

During this 2026 trip, I and a few travel-journalist colleagues went out on a tour with folks from Eco Dive, a dive shop deeply committed to environmental protection and education. Led by a well-informed guide, we snorkeled around the Molinere Beauséjour Marine Protected Area (the official name of the bay) to see every one of the 75 works.

And yes, time and salt water have certainly collaborated with the original artists to bring continual change to the sculptures. The most exciting changes reflect the success this project has had in turning static pieces of art into living, artificial reefs. In my opinion, the pieces are continually becoming more beautiful, more interesting and more compelling.

Taylor was also asked to create and place an underwater sculpture off the shore of another island – Carriacou – which is officially part of Grenada. Carriacou was slammed by Hurricane Beryl in 2024, but is well on the way to recovery, and a visit – by small plane or ferry – can be a fascinating part of your visit to Grenada.

From time to time, I get asked for my opinion about travel destinations. Especially now, when many Canadians are avoiding travel to the U.S., people wonder about warm-weather holidays including in the Caribbean.

I have not visited every Caribbean island, but having sampled quite a few, I can easily say that my favourites are the Windward Islands – those in the eastern Caribbean, including Dominica, Barbados, Grenada and their neighbours.

They are all great spots for a cold-weather escape. But Grenada is undoubtedly special for a number of reasons – warm hospitality, superb beaches (especially Grand Anse), terrific food, unique culture, fascinating history (where else will you find a child's playground sharing a park with the hulks of abandoned Russian war planes?).

But first on my list of great Grenadian treasures is the ever-changing Underwater Sculpture Park. Grab your snorkel and go!

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.



(PHOTO BY JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR)

The author was an on-the-spot spectator for the installation of 31 new sculptures in 2023.



(PHOTO COURTESY PURE GRENADA)

Vicissitudes by Jason deCaires Taylor is one of the early works in the Underwater Sculpture Garden, clearly visible to snorkelers as well as divers.



(PHOTO BY PAUL KNOWLES)

The artist, Jason deCaires Talor.



(PHOTO BY JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR)

Coral and other sea life constantly changes the appearance of the sculptures, as the installation succeeds as an artificial reef.

Boots made for a Wilmot winter

DRESS SHARP. SPEND SMART.



By Scott Dunstall

There comes a morning every fall when you step outside, feel that first proper bite of cold and think, "I should probably find my winter boots." This is usually followed by discovering that last year's pair still has the same split seam you promised to deal with in March. Apparently, leaving them in the basement for seven months does not repair them. With another Wilmot winter coming, let's talk about buying boots that keep your feet warm, your socks dry and your spending somewhere within reason.

Before heading out shopping, think about what you actually do outside. Are you walking the dog, clearing the driveway, working outdoors or travelling between the car and the grocery store? Those are different assignments. Buying a boot because it looks rugged is a bit like buying a pickup truck because you might someday need to move a refrigerator. Start with the job. Then find something you like wearing.

Traditional snow boots are useful for shovelling, deeper snow and standing around outdoors. They generally have insulated uppers, often with a rubber bottom, and some have removable liners you can take out to dry. Check their weight, though. You want to clear the driveway without feeling as though you are training for an expedition. For longer walks, insulated winter hiking boots can offer a closer fit and adjustable laces. Just check that they are actually made for winter. A hiking boot does not become insulated simply because you bought it in November.

Then there are insulated rubber boots, useful when everything turns to slush and the end of your driveway develops its own shoreline. Make sure they have a winter lining; ordinary rain boots offer little warmth. Dressier leather boots, Chelsea boots and ankle boots can work nicely for errands or an evening out, provided you check their construction. Some are properly waterproof and insulated. Others have a fluffy cuff and considerable confidence. If you work outdoors, buy winter safety boots that meet your workplace requirements. Looking the part will not satisfy the boss.

Whatever the style, read the waterproofing information. "Water resistant" and "waterproof" are different promises. Ask about seams, zippers and how far up the boot the protection extends. A rubber bottom will not stop snow melting through an unprotected upper. Waterproofing spray can help suitable materials, but it cannot perform miracles. Around here, we need footwear that can handle the puddle hiding beneath what looked like perfectly respectable snow.

Take your usual winter socks shopping and bring your orthotics if you wear them. Try both boots, do them up properly and walk around. Your toes should have room to move, while your heel should feel secure. Do not automatically go up a size, and do not buy something tight because somebody says it will stretch. You are buying boots, not adopting a project. Wool or moisture-wicking synthetic socks are good choices. Extra-thick socks are no bargain if they squeeze your feet inside the boot.

Warmth needs a closer look, too. That lovely lining might feel wonderful under your hand, but your hand is not spending an hour watching an outdoor event. Think about whether you will be moving or standing still. Temperature ratings also deserve some caution: footwear warmth ratings are not standardized, and comfort depends on fit, socks, activity and the person wearing them. A dramatic number on the box does not mean everyone will feel comfortable at that temperature. Some of us get cold just looking at the forecast.

Now turn the boot over. A low, broad heel and stable sole make sense for everyday winter walking. Deep tread can help in snow, but it does not automatically mean good grip on ice. Check the exact model through Canada's Rate My Treads program, which independently tests footwear on icy surfaces. Even good results are no invitation to hurry across a frozen parking lot. Removable ice grips can help outdoors, too, but follow the instructions and take them off before walking on indoor surfaces where they may slip. Getting safely to the entrance is only part of the trip.

Finally, spend your money on fit and useful features before paying extra for the name. Check return policies, especially on clearance boots. Plain black, brown or charcoal works with most wardrobes, and you can save your dressier pair for occasions that involve more sitting than snowbanks. Once home, wipe away salt and dry your boots according to the care instructions. Look after the soles, too; worn tread deserves attention. Buy carefully now and you can spend winter thinking about better things than your feet, like whose turn it is to shovel.

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.



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGES)

Norman Grey suede lace-up ankle boot.



Barbour — Harle brown leather and classic tartan chukka boot.



Jeffery-West — Navy suede brogue Chelsea boot with burgundy elastic side panels.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Remembrance Day 2026 Wreath Laying Service
1 p.m.
For more information, call Mary Boland 519-655-2992
Lawn signs and Poppy Lawn Ornaments are now being sold in support of the Legion. For more information contact Mary Boland.
Tavistock Memorial Legion
223 Hope St. W Tavistock

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Free "Explore Your Future" career expo for Gr 7-12 students/parents
5-8 p.m.
bepwr.ca/eyf
Tapestry Hall,
74 Grand Avenue South, Cambridge, ON

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

Let's Tree Wilmot Celebration of Accomplishments and Volunteers
7-9 p.m.
Join us for a fun evening celebrating LTW's accomplishments and recognizing our volunteers. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Alison Morrison, from the U. of Guelph's Arboretum 'Dating Service for Lonely Elms: the Arboretum's Elm Recovery Project.
Wilmot Rec Complex, Baden, Meeting Room A
1291 Nafziger Road, Baden

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Please register by Nov. 6 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900
Wellesley Recreation Complex,
1401 Queen's Bush Rd., Wellesley

Tavistock Men's Club Sauerkraut & BBQ Pork Chop Supper
4 - 7 pm (Pick Up Only)
Tickets are available until November 10th from club members or call 519-655-3573 or at Tavistock arena booth or email: info@tavistockmensclub.ca or online at www.tavistockmensclub.ca or at Men's Club Hall (78 Woodstock St N) every Wednesday from 4-6 pm and Saturdays from 11am-2pm
Tavistock Memorial Hall, 3 Adam St., Tavistock



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

High Noon Community Lunch
12 noon
ATTENTION SENIORS!
Speaker: Jean Aitcheson
"Stratford Mission Depot"
Grace United Church Tavistock
116 Woodstock St. South, Tavistock

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School presents Grade 8 Night
6-8:30 p.m.
Join us in the cafeteria at 6 p.m. for the opening presentation followed by school tours. For more information visit the Grade 9 page at wod.wrdsb.ca
Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School
1206 Snyder's Road West, Baden

East Zorra-Tavistock Council meeting
7 p.m.
Council Chambers
89 Loveys Street East, Hickson

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

The Catholic Women's League of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Annual Christmas Market\Bazaar
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Free admission. Crafts, baking, Silent Auction, lunch in the Church hall available for purchase. All proceeds allow the women to donate back to the church and community.
Saint Joseph's Catholic Church
96 Huron St., Stratford

Christmas Bazaar
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Bake Tables, Penny Sale, Raffle with top prize of $700.00, Lunch Tables.
Holy Family Church 329 Huron St ,
New Hamburg

Morningside Adult Community New Hamburg Annual Christmas Bazaar
10 a.m. - 12 noon
Crafts, Raffle, Baking, White Elephant, Cafe' Silent Auction. Free Admission
Morningside Adult Community New Hamburg,
behind McDonalds

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 CON'T

Widow and Widowers Banquet
Doors open at 5:00 p.m.
Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.
To register contact Merle by text or phone at 807-737-9215 or by email at merleburkholder@gmail.com. 40 seats available. If you are a widow or Widowers we want to bless you with this banquet
Oasis Mennonite Church
66 Mill Street Baden

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Please register by Nov. 20 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900
Linwood Community Centre,
5279 Ament Line, Linwood

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Nith Valley EcoBoosters will be hosting its next Repair Café
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Questions? Contact nvecoboosters@gmail.com
Zion United Church
215 Peel St., New Hamburg

Tavistock Men's Club Santa Claus Parade
1 p.m.
Theme – Favorite Christmas Carol
Entry & Details: call 519-655-3573, email info@tavistockmensclub.ca or online at tavistockmensclub.ca
Downtown Tavistock

St. James Lutheran Church 29th Traditional Journey to Bethlehem
4 p.m. & 7 p.m.
A nativity re-creation with live farm animals. Dress warmly and bring a blanket! All welcome. For more details, contact Carol Horst 519-274-4494 or email carolh@cwisp.ca
St. James Lutheran Church (Church's Red Shed)
1998 Line 45, Perth East

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

LYNN RIVER FARM PRESENTS CANDLELIGHT DINNER at Brocksden Country School + Museum
5:30 p.m.
Join us for a family-style Lynn River Farm Christmas dinner inspired by the tables of generations past. Approximately 15% of ticket sales will return to Brocksden to support the school museum. For more information call 519-949-2871.
2719 Perth County Line 37, Gads Hill

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Wilmot Lions/Lioness Club 43rd Annual Tree of Light
6:30 p.m.
Complimentary Hot Dogs & Apple Cider. Mixology Cappella Choir with New Hamburg Concert Band. Dress warm & see you there.
Downtown New Hamburg

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Waterloo Regional Police Chorus
6:30 p.m.
Free admission - Free will offering
Rosebank Church
1434 Huron Rd. Petersburg

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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Contact Cathie 519-662-9273
St James Church, Baden

Euchre Night
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
New Hamburg Legion
65 Boulee 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

Travelling Museum Display: "Heritage of Hickson 4-H Clubs"
This display features 4-H Clubs in Hickson and area since inception in the early 1960's. Many awards and achievements over the years are on display. You can also view some of the projects completed at the 4-H Homemaking clubs.
Location: EZT Township Administration Building (lobby), 89 Loveys Street, Hickson

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

Deadline: Tuesday prior at 3 p.m.
Contact: thewtgazette@gmail.com

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

- **The Community Calendar allows non-profit organizations to promote their free admission community events at no charge. Event listings can include your event name, date, time and location as well as contact information (ie phone number, email address or website).**
- **If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette offers the following options for promoting your community events:**
  - **Coming Events Word Ad (50 word max.) - $10 + hst**
  - **Coming Events Boxed Word Ad (50 word max.) - $15 + hst**
  - **Display Ad - Sizes begin at a Small Classified Display ad (3.3" x 2.5") - $35 + hst**

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Haskap etc. Lots of healthy strong Spruce, Cedars and White Pine for your privacy hedges and wind-breaks. Hundred of flowering shrubs. Reg Hours 7am-6pm Mon-Sat at Martins Nursery c/o Emanuel Martin. 42661 Orangehill Rd., Wroxeter, ON

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This is Doug.

Doug is an active member of his community.

Doug knows he can stay up to date by checking the local newspaper, in print and online, for the community calendar and other details about upcoming events and social gatherings.

Doug is smart.

Be like Doug.

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UPCOMING AUCTION



Herd Dispersal Live Auction Sale

of 135 Bred Cows/Heifers

Saturday November 21, 11:00am

to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON
Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Cattle: (79)Heifers: (18) Char, (17) Blk Simm, (33) Angus, (11) Red -1st time calvers, bred Angus & Limo, vacc. **(18) X-bred Heifers** - bred Black Angus, vacc. **(17) Angus Heifers** - bred Black Angus. **(10) Blk Angus cows** - all bred Black Angus, vacc. **(8) Charolais Cows** - bred Charolais, vacc. **(3) Mixed Cows** - with calf at side, vacc.
All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.
Lunch Booth
Washroom Available
Terms & Conditions: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

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

Quiz Time Answers

1. Topaz and Citrine
2. The Golden Ratio
3. Blue
4. Bruce Nuclear Generating Station
5. 1945
6. Daisy dukes
7. The Beaver Moon
8. Marble
9. Vertebrae
10. Europe

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