

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

Serving New Hamburg, Tavistock, Baden, Wellesley, New Dundee, St. Agatha, Shakespeare, Petersburg, Hickson, Punkeydoodle's Corner and area



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
COLDEST NIGHT FEBRUARY 22, 2025
 Visit cnoy.org/wilmot

 **Wilmot Family Resource Centre**
 175 Waterloo St, New Hamburg, ON
 (519) 662-2731
wilmotfamilyresourcecentre.ca

SINCE 1895

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

FREE



(SHOW US YOUR WILMOT PHOTO)

Bill Fleming recently shared this photo he shot of a cardinal perched in the cedars to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page.

Councillors shave four per cent from massive Wilmot budget increase; Budget may not be passed at Jan. 27 meeting

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Three meetings down, at least one more to go. Maybe.

The Township of Wilmot continues to work through the process of approving a municipal budget for 2025.

Council has had three meetings to discuss the 2025 draft budget, which was released last month and carried a whopping 51 per cent tax increase. The operations portion of

the budget was debated at a Jan. 16 meeting and, after hours of discussion, the increase dropped to 10.31 per cent from the original 14 per cent. Next up for council on Jan. 27 is the capital budget, which comes in at a hefty 36.87 per-cent hike.

Counc. Lillianne Dunstall felt council made significant progress during the six-and-a-half-hour meeting, addressing many items and making notable decisions.

"We requested and will wait for more information on several matters before

finalizing decisions. We were able to remove some items from the budget and approved others."

She explained her disappointment when a motion she brought forward to eliminate the constituency liaison position failed. The dedicated staff member reports directly to the mayor and council. If the cut had been made, the township's operating budget would have been reduced by nearly \$120,000 or 0.96 per cent.

Continued on page 3

East Zorra-Tavistock shutting down Tavistock's sewage-dumping station

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

East Zorra-Tavistock (EZT) council has voted in favour of closing a sewage-dumping station in the parking lot at Queen's Park in Tavistock, but the lack of information as to why the decision was made has some people asking questions.

"In response to negative feedback from users of the newly installed spray pad in Queen's Park, township staff have reviewed the ongoing viability of the dumping station in Queen's Park," said a report from community and recreation services manager Will Jaques.

The site is utilized by residents with recreational vehicles as a site to clean out their septic systems.

Deputy Mayor Brad Smith, an avid RVer himself, said the service is offered to residents at a minimal cost and is supplied at a minimal cost by the township.

"I don't see the issue leaving it where it is. Yes, I can go to Woodstock and dump there for free, but I can't flush out my system and, for a non-RVer, you have no idea what I am talking about but there is no water available in Woodstock," he said.

Smith also took issue with the alleged complaint of a foul smell coming from the station.

"We built that spray pad next to a (sewage) lagoon and next to a feed mill, so the smell would be minimal at best. Being next to the lagoon, it is going to smell at certain times; it's just something that is there. I don't know if the smell would be an issue."

Continued on page 2

Johnbear



BUICK GMC

Harvir Sidhu

Sales & Leasing Representative



GMC
NO FINANCE
PAYMENTS
FOR UP TO 90 DAYS



2025 SIERRA 1500 PRO GRAPHITE

1.99% FOR UP TO **72**
 FINANCING MONTHS

AND MAKE NO FINANCE PAYMENTS FOR UP TO 90 DAYS

100 Heritage Dr., New Hamburg • 519-662-1200 • www.johnbearnewhamburg.com

EZT shutting down Tavistock's sewage-dumping station

Continued from page 1

Smith added he has waited in line at provincial parks for up to three hours to utilize sewage facilities upon leaving.

"To me, this is a service we have available and I don't see the need to take it out. I think it's just another service we can provide our constituents. Lastly, a lot more people are using their RVs not just for going camping, but for family visits if the RV is parked at their house. Friends come over and you want to be able to dump it out at the end of their visit."

The motion to decommission the depot was passed by a vote of 6-1 at last week's EZT council meeting with Smith the only member of council voting against it.

Mayor Phil Schaefer asked Jaques if the Tavistock Agricultural Society utilized the depot during the fair weekend in September since some employees do camp onsite with RVs.

"I can't speak to that," said Jaques. "I don't have any direct information on whether (the ag. society) provided specific dumps to that from the record we have. Very good question, I don't know. It would be maybe some of the carnival workers you are suggesting. I don't know the answer to that."

Any information that may have shed some light on how the depot wound up at the current site has been destroyed.

"The original costs for the dumping station were built into the overall costs of the pavilion. As financial records are only required to be retained for seven years, copies of any actual invoices or financing receipts are no longer available," Jaques said in an email this week.

Schaefer also asked what would be needed to get approval from Oxford County to keep the depot in operation. Jaques said the county is in charge of everything relating to sewage and wastewater, but he added there is next to no paper trail concerning how the depot even came to be.

"The reality is the township is already in an area where, frankly, we aren't authorized to be. Sanitary and sewage-related matters are an upper-tier responsibility of the County of Oxford. We have little to no records on the installation of this system and, further to that, there are many regulations



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

East Zorra-Tavistock councillors have voted to decommission the sewage depot at Queen's Park in Tavistock. The site has been operating since 2013 but there is no information on who paid for it or who built it.

and pieces of legislation that are involved with sanitary systems which we have no record of ever having any sort of a permit for."

EZT decided to stop allowing overnight camping at the park two years ago, something that went on for years to accommodate campers during fastball tournaments and other events. It was discovered the necessary insurance for camping did not exist, so the service was removed.

Coun. Steven Van Wyk asked how many complaints the township was aware of regarding the smell from people utilizing the site. Jaques said he did not have an exact number.

"Me, personally, I heard from a couple, just to be very clear, but it's still the nature of the complaint there. Again, no it's not hundreds of people, but when you hear that, when you look at the situation, sometimes numbers don't necessarily need to be there for it to happen."

The dumping station was installed when the Queen's Park pavilion was built in 2013 and the vote ensures it will be

decommissioned in the spring. Anyone dumping sewage was charged a fee of \$10.

Tavistock resident Tom Murray, an avid RVer, understands the depot will be gone but would like to know why.

"I said to everyone else I've talked to, if it wasn't there, the 33 of us who used it 44 times, it does not justify having it. I get that. But, if it's there and working, why are we taking it out? My fear is, and I've seen it when we lived on the farm, people drive down the back roads and they pull the (sewage) plug in the ditch."

Murray sold his farm in 2015 and now lives in Tavistock but added he's seen people dump their sewage several times over the years.

"For some reason, (the township) wants it gone and I think there's a missing part. If two people complained, they would not change any rule for anything else."

That missing part could be the fact the county, which is in charge of all things wastewater and sewage, had no record of Tavistock asking for the depot let alone having it built and operational.

"A staff member told me last week they were contacted by someone at the township," said Tom Ford, the county's manager of water and wastewater services. "It's the first we've learned of it ... so there are no records here."

He added if the township had asked for the site before it was constructed, the answer would have been no.

"There is no provision for receiving stations because there is a county approved policy for hauled waste and in (it), there are only two locations. That's Woodstock's wastewater treatment plant and the Ingersoll wastewater treatment plant."

Ford explained the county's sewage by-law also does not allow for a receiving station to be built. The Gazette asked Ford if it would be safe to say the facility was operating illegally.

"It's not a stretch. The ministry of environment would not know there would be a discharge location in a park in Tavistock. For good reason, it shouldn't be there because of odour and also the possibility of other residents using the park for other purposes who might come in contact with waste if it's spilled or not looked after."

Murray reached out to Mayor Phil Schaefer and explained their conversation was disappointing. He also emailed Tavistock councillors Steven Van Wyk and Scott Zehr but didn't get a reply.

"Phil was the only one who responded and he gave his very short answer, and I responded but heard nothing back. It's a done deal, bang, period, too bad. He told me it's a poor location and it shouldn't be in a park. What is a good location? I don't know."

The Gazette reached out to the township to see what it would cost to decommission the site, but there was no reply by press time. We also asked if the depot was paid for by the township or through fundraising by residents, but that question hasn't been answered.

"I don't know what decommissioning costs or means, but if something is working and you are going to shut it down, there is a cost to that. I question why we need to shut something down that works," added Murray.

Maximize your return.

Conservative Advice for Intelligent Decisions



Donna L. Hinz



Franklin E. Hinz

196 Ontario Street
Stratford, Ontario N5A 3H4

519-273-1633 franklinehinz.com



Proudly serving Wilmot township and area for over 25 years

Call the Snow Pros
519-662-6198 treefellar@netflash.net

Now Accepting New Clients Call me for a quote
Residential / Commercial / Retail

massel's marine
38 Milton Street New Hamburg
(519) 662-1650 (866) 627-7357
www.masselsmarine.com

Factory Trained Technicians ~ Accessories ~ Service to all Makes
Shrink Wrap & Winter Storage ~ In House Financing



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS WITH US!
Contact Sharon Leis at 519-580-5418 or sharonbleis@gmail.com

Councillors shave four per cent from massive Wilmot budget increase; Budget may not be passed at Jan. 27 meeting

Continued from page 1

"The motion represented an important step in demonstrating leadership by ensuring that we, as a council, share in the sacrifices required to maintain fiscal responsibility," said Dunstall. "As leaders, we have a responsibility to set the tone for others, ensuring that our actions align with the sacrifices we ask of staff and constituents. If we are not willing to sacrifice in our own operations, it sends the wrong message and undermines the trust and respect that should exist between leadership and those we serve."

The motion was defeated thanks to a 3-3 vote. Councillors Stewart Cressman and Steven Martin also voted in favour while councillors Harvir Sidhu and Kris Wilkinson, and Mayor Natasha Salonen voted against it.

Other issues still to be discussed include a staff cost-of-living adjustment and a development charge exemption of about \$2 million approved a few months ago for the redevelopment of the Nithview Long-Term Care Home in New Hamburg.

Several new proposed staff positions were removed from the draft budget on Jan. 16 including a senior urban forester, economic development and tourism officer and grants coordinator.

Council also asked staff to prepare a report with further details about suggested increases to departmental operating budgets.

Salonen said she and members of council are working hard to finalize a document residents can live with.

"After significant consultation with Wilmot residents, council has begun the hard work of deliberating on the proposed budget in partnership with staff. I am striving to work with council to achieve a budget that respects the current and future needs of our community. I look forward to the next round of deliberations on Jan. 27," Salonen said.

Coun. Sidhu said the first chance to reduce the tax hike is like the first period of a hockey game.

"We were able to chip away at the operating budget and make some decisions on the capital asks. I believe there is still a lot more work to do before I can support this budget."

He did hint the final approval may take more time.

"I don't have enough information in front of me to be able to pass the budget currently. We are still waiting on justifications and further reports. I am prepared to take as long as it's needed."

In terms of looking at the capital budget, Sidhu said he is ready to prioritize what's necessary and delay what isn't.

"I would say we need to focus on what is absolutely needed. There may be opportunities to delay some projects so it's not such a large hit on our tax base this year. I would not be doing my job if we didn't explore all options."

Coun. Kris Wilkinson said he isn't prepared to pass a budget until he receives all the information he needs to make informed decisions.

"In chatting with you at this point, it is Tuesday at the end of the day and I haven't looked at my (township) inbox yet, but we are three business days out from the next meeting and, as far as I am concerned, that isn't enough time to go through that information."

He said he is hopeful there is more information to look at come Monday, but isn't ruling out asking staff for more and he is in no rush to pass the document.

"We can continue to have the conversation about what the budget is going to look like. My hope is before we pass it, I would like to see a revised draft budget that we can take back to taxpayers for feedback before we even consider voting on it."

Wilkinson has been a driving force behind the township providing more information to councillors and residents, and he has no issue delaying the budget until the wrongs are righted.

"It's harsh to say, but if the operations and capital outlay grinds to a halt then that maybe has to happen. We are clearly in a financial position where we need to take a deep dive and hard look at this. In a perfect world, council wouldn't be digging into this at the committee level and having to micro-manage every department and every capital request."

He added, unfortunately, that is exactly the position council finds itself in.

"I feel we owe it to the ratepayers and citizens of Wilmot Township to dig into every single page of this and really uncover where every single penny of tax dollars is going."

The Gazette also reached out to councillors Cressman and Martin for comment but they did not respond by press time.

More information about capital-budget requests is included in the township's draft 10-year capital plan, which council will discuss at the Jan. 27 meeting. It starts at 5 p.m. in council chambers at the township office in Baden. Members of the public can attend the meeting in person or view it live on the township's YouTube channel.

BARGAINS & DEALS

SOURCE FLOORING

IN STOCK

BARGAINS & DEALS

13"X13" PORCELAIN

69¢

FROM /SQ FT REG 3.99

BARGAINS & DEALS

12"X24" PORCELAIN

\$1.59

FROM PER SQ FT REG 3.99

IN STOCK

BARGAINS & DEALS

12MM THICK LAMINATE

\$1.99

FROM PER SQ FT REG 4.99

IN STOCK

BARGAINS & DEALS

WATERPROOF LAMINATE

\$1.99

FROM PER SQ FT REG 4.99

IN STOCK

BARGAINS & DEALS

DRY BACK VINYL PLANKS 100% WATERPROOF

99¢

FROM /SQ FT REG 2.99

IN STOCK

BARGAINS & DEALS

LUXURY VINYL PLANKS

\$1.67

FROM PER SQ FT REG 4.99

IN STOCK

BARGAINS & DEALS

SUBWAY TILES

\$1.99

FROM PER SQ FT REG 3.99

IN STOCK

BARGAINS & DEALS

2-TONE FRIEZE CARPET

\$1.99

FROM PER SQ FT REG 3.99

IN STOCK

BARGAINS & DEALS

3/4" THICK X 4" WIDE HARDWOOD

\$3.99

FROM PER SQ FT REG 8.99

IN STOCK

BARGAINS & DEALS

HERRINGBONE HARDWOOD

\$3.99

FROM PER SQ FT REG 8.99

\$0.99

FROM PER LIN FT REG 3.99

3/7" WIDE COLONIAL

\$4.99

FROM PER SQ FT REG 8.99

HARDWOOD STAIRTEAD

\$8.99

FROM PER SQ FT REG 10.99

47"W VINYL STAIRTEAD

BARGAINS & DEALS

5' X 8" AREA RUGS STARTING FROM

\$99

**SEND YOUR STORY IDEAS TO OUR EDITOR
GALEN SIMMONS AT GALEN@GRANTHAVEN.COM**

**FULLY STOCKED!
BIGGEST ON THE BLOCK!**

1362 VICTORIA ST N. KITCHENER
MON-FRI 9AM-8PM SAT 9-6 SUN 10-5

**CANADIAN
OWNED & OPERATED**

Tavistock daycare provider forced to sign on to federal program, says “arm was twisted”

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Sadie-May Harrett has been director of the Tavistock Little Preschool for five years and had an opportunity to sign on to the federal Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care program (CWELCC) in 2022.

She had no intention of participating then as it didn't make sense for her small business model until an email from Oxford County in August of last year arrived in her inbox. One month later, her hand was forced after county staff told her in late September she would lose out on all provincial funding if she didn't sign onto CWELCC.

“We didn't have to raise our fees by a crazy amount by not signing on, about \$3 per day. Everything stayed the same until Jan. 1,” she said.

Harrett said there was no formal training to deal with the administrative burden she now faces, but she was given hundreds of pages of rules and question-and-answer pages to read through.

“The county is there to answer any questions they can. I will say, when the information was released, there were a lot of questions from operators across Oxford County in terms of how everything would work out.”

She added the cost-recovery program has turned into cost-based funding instead.

“What the government has done is come up with a crazy formula that barely makes sense to operators, let alone the average person. It comes down to what an average child would cost per day in Canada.

There was no consideration for the fact some programs are half days, like mine, and some programs offer extended hours.”

Harrett's half-day program is charging the same rates as a full-day program under the CWELCC system. Her rates have dropped from \$27.50 per day to \$22.

“Our government has fought long and hard to make sure Ontario parents are getting the best deal as part of the federal government's national child-care program and has made substantive progress by capping fees at \$22 a day for families with young children,” said Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman. “This has reduced fees for 44 per cent of these spaces and lowered the average daily base fee to \$19 per day.”

Harrett explained some additional funding has flowed to top up employee wages, but the program demanded a one-size-fits-all approach.

“That truthfully is where my issue lies,” she said. “I don't disagree there are programs benefitting from this. Full-day child-care centres and families paying \$50-60 a day for their child to be there do benefit. Those centres also have the resources to better manage the changes and the administrative burden that comes with it.”

Harrett said she doesn't feel the program is sustainable in the long term and asking different providers to operate the same way across the board isn't realistic. The federal government has hung its hat on the pledge of \$10 a day daycare, something she said isn't something she has faith in.

She explained she was able to be on the floor Monday to Thursday and perform the back-end duties in the afternoon and sometimes in the evening. What used to be about 15-20 hours of work

has turned into much more. Because of the new administrative burden, she spends less time in the classroom with her educators and the children.

“Now, I'm doing hours and hours of work at home whether it's new administration tasks or reading through and trying to understand the 400 pages of CWELCC guidelines.”

Harrett recently became a parent and explained while she understands being a business owner is a commitment, much of the time she used to spend with her family is now spent working.

“It has taken away from the reason why I decided this business and career was the best thing for my family. I set myself up with this career so I would have those extra pockets of time to be more flexible.”

She admitted she is not a political person by any means, but the Gazette asked if she thought a new government might make changes to the current CWELCC program.

“I am sure we will see major changes regardless of whether we have a new (federal) government or not. There's no saying when I could potentially get the opportunity to go back to where I was, running my program and my business the way I want to instead of doing what the government tells me I have to do.”

The Gazette reached out to Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman and was provided with a written statement.

“To ensure the success of the national child-care program in Ontario, starting Jan. 1, all direct provincial and federal funding has been reallocated to the CWELCC program.”

It went on to say Ontario will continue to advocate for parents, child-care workers

and municipal partners to the federal government to build a sustainable child-care system.

Tim Louis is the MP for Kitchener-Conestoga and agreed to look into the issue as a member of the current Liberal government. He explained the decision to divert child-care money away from normal funding streams comes straight from the Ford government.

“The decision in this case is made by the province. We are building a national system but we are working with the province and they are dictating how it's rolling out. One of the concerns I have is with Ontario coming on (to CWELCC) late; they are one of the provinces that aren't \$10 a day yet.”

He added he feels for the parents and kids who are affected and for the people who own daycares, especially in small towns.

“It has to be challenging and stressful.” On the other hand, Oxford MP Arpan Khanna pointed the finger of blame squarely on the federal government.

“Just like everything else he touches, Trudeau's child-care photo-op announcements have resulted in chaos and disorder, and he has broken yet another promise. Joining a waitlist is not access and announcing a program doesn't mean it exists.”

He added Trudeau and Jagmeet Singh promised to make child care more accessible however, across Canada, daycare providers have pulled out of Trudeau's Liberal-NDP program, more families are struggling to find spaces and child-care workers are walking out in protest of what he said were Trudeau and Singh's failures.

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

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

Publisher
Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor
Galen Simmons • galen@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries
Erin Parsons • thetwgazette@gmail.com

Business Development
Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator
Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant
Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

Contributors
Lee Griffi, Nancy Silcox, Gary West, Paul Knowles,
Mercedes Kay Gold, Julia Paul

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
thetwgazette@gmail.com | 519.655.2341 | granthaven.com

ocna Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada | **Canada**

Bickle's Orchard Park Farms

Apples available are Gala, Empire, Mutsu, Idared and Red Delicious.

Apple Products, Fresh local produce, Honey, Jams and Pickles

Red Grapefruit and California Navel Oranges

Kintore Coffee and Deep Purple Lavender

WINTER HOURS:
Wednesday - Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm

Call 519-462-2259 or 519-462-2947
596633 County Rd 59, 3 miles south of Tavistock

Did You Know \$1

For every dollar you spend at a **local small business**

66¢ stays local

VS. only **11¢** when you spend at a multinational

#SmallBusinessEveryDay Presented by **CFIB**

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR LOCAL PAPER!
SEND US YOUR STORY IDEAS AND YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
TO GALEN SIMMONS AT
GALEN@GRANTHAVEN.COM

Wellesley and Wilmot residents without service for two days after phone and internet lines vandalised in Wilmot

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Residents near the border between Wilmot and Wellesley townships were without phone and internet services earlier this month following the vandalism of local phone and internet lines.

According to a spokesperson with the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS), police received a report of property damage to a Bell box at Lisbon Road and Nafziger Road in Wilmot Township, just south of the Village of Wellesley, on the morning of Jan. 9. Police said they did not know the total value of the damage and they did not have any suspects as of Jan. 13. Bell was advised of the damage.

According to a spokesperson from Bell, some customers in the Wellesley area experienced a service interruption Jan. 9 when Bell's network infrastructure was extensively damaged due to a copper-theft incident. The spokesperson said most of the repairs were completed by the evening of Jan. 11, with all services restored by Jan. 12.

"We ask anyone who witnesses suspicious activity in the vicinity of telecom infrastructure to contact local law

enforcement," the spokesperson said. "Copper theft continues to be on the rise with vandals stealing copper to sell on the black market for cash. Bell has experienced more than 1,600 security incidents to its network since January 2022, with copper theft accounting for 87 per cent of physical incidents on Bell's network."

Area residents who spoke with the Gazette said Bell worked diligently to fix the problem, though extended phone and internet outages become a real problem when older people do not have a cell phone and are not able to call 911 if needed in an emergency situation.

The Bell repairman who were working on the situation told the Gazette the culprits often put up flares and red traffic cones, and wear reflective clothing so passersby think they are just working on the lines when, in fact, they are stealing the copper from the Bell boxes.

Anyone who may have seen anything in the area prior to the internet and phone outages last week or anyone who knows anything about this incident is encouraged to call WRPS at 519-570-9777.

With files from Gary West



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Residents in the Village of Wellesley and neighbouring Wilmot Township were without phone and internet services for two days earlier this month after a Bell box was vandalized at Lisbon Road and Nafziger Road in Wilmot Township, just south of the Village of Wellesley, overnight Jan. 8-9.

Perth County Paramedic Service recruiting 15 new paramedics

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Perth County Paramedic Service is currently in the process of recruiting 15 new paramedics during its annual recruitment drive.

The paramedic service, operated by Medavie Health Services, began accepting applications on Jan. 13 with a closing date of Jan. 26 at 4:30 p.m. According to the job posting for primary care paramedics on Perth County's website (www.perth-county.ca/en/county-government/employment-opportunities.aspx), candidates must be certified in Ontario as a primary care paramedic, a paramedic eligible to work in Canada who has obtained or is obtaining the paramedic labour mobility equivalency exam, or a primary care paramedic student writing the provincial certification in June 2025.

"We are a progressive service with a focus on our patients through paramedic engagement," Perth County Paramedic Service chief Mike Adair said. "All of our paramedics are trained and re-certified annually to provide emergency care to our patients. We also focus on staff. Not only do we focus our training on patient care, but we also learn about responder mental health. We like to have fun at work as a

team. We are here for the community and would love to employ you if you are interested in clinical excellence, care for the community, and you're looking for a unique place to work, learn and grow."

According to the job posting, each primary care paramedic is responsible for responding to requests for paramedic service and delivering medical care to victims of accidents and illness, ensuring safe transportation to receiving medical facilities and assisting with the ongoing care of the patient within the facility as may be required.

Paramedics also participate in the ongoing maintenance of ambulance vehicles, equipment and stations, and other duties as may be required by the duty commander or the Perth County Paramedic Service.

Adair said there are numerous opportunities for primary care paramedics to advance and develop their careers within the Perth County Paramedic Service.

"Our service has many areas for engagement that include working as an acting-supervisor, training paramedic and community paramedic," he said. "... Perth County Paramedic Service is a place where people can grow, learn and flourish. We invest in our paramedics and patients in many ways.

"All paramedics practice at the highest

primary care paramedic level and must be IV certified. We strive to foster a caring culture of love, respect, excellence and accountability. We provide paramedics with the tools they need to do their job. We have modern equipment and facilities such as powerload stretchers, CPR devices and defibrillators. We engage our paramedics in the way of committee work or through our special positions or programs. We

have a peer-support team, paramedic-advisory committee, equipment committee, field-training paramedics and acting supervisors."

Perth County employs 127 people on the paramedic-services team. The county deploys paramedic services from five base locations across the entire geographic region of Perth County including in the City of Stratford and Town of St. Marys.

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

Wondering how local media can help grow your business? Let me help tailor a customized marketing plan for your business goals.



heather@granthaven.com

226.261.1837

St. Marys Independent The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette STRATFORDTIMES SIMCOEADVOCATE Tillsonburg POST
Woodstock Ingersoll Echo Goderich Sun NORFOLK FARMS BRANT FARMS NIAGARA FARMS INDY sunbury radio

Refresh plans underway at Tavistock Community Health Inc. building

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Tavistock Community Health Inc. (TCHI) board of directors report it has officially begun refresh plan at the medical building.

Board chair Frank Meconi said with the last power interruption of three to four hours in October, they discovered the clinic generator didn't function. They are thankful that the fridge with \$30,000 worth of vaccines and other medicines stayed cold enough, and the contents were not compromised.

They have since had a new generator installed.

When the building was inspected for the refresh, asbestos was found. The chairman reported asbestos abatement is not cheap, but it is need so the refresh plans can continue.

Also, the rooftop HVAC unit was inspected very recently. It is 30 years old and with the best-before date eight years ago – they normally last about 22 years – the board knows they are now on borrowed

time.

By ordering a new unit, it could take 12-16 weeks for delivery and they are presently getting quotes. They have also been looking at the roof that has maybe two to three years remaining before it needs to be replaced.

The board knows it will need money and, when everything is added up, the total is approximately \$500,000.

The front reception area is phase one of the refresh, and board chair Meconi would like residents of Tavistock and area, including Shakespeare, Hickson, Embro and all points in between, to know it will need financial support and donations.

He says donation forms will be mailed out to all available mailboxes in the near future. He hopes every resident and business in the area will take their request seriously.

For more information, contact Meconi at fameconi@rogers.com.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Pictured recently at the medical clinic in Tavistock are Tavistock Community Health Inc. directors Frank Meconi, Russ Huber, Carolyn Kropf and Dennis Kuepfer.

Unmatched Winter Savings – Your favorite rides under \$30K @ STRATFORD NISSAN

2014 Mini Cooper S  IQ GREAT PRICE \$12,999 + HST & lic LOW KMS - 96,964 KM	2018 Nissan Micra  IQ GREAT PRICE \$12,999 OR \$151 B/W LOW KMS - 58,307 KM + HST & lic	2017 Nissan Rogue PLATINUM  PRICE DROP \$17,999 OR \$266 B/W LOW KMS - 122,000 KM + HST & lic	2020 Nissan Sentra SV  \$19,495 OR \$161 B/W LOW KMS - 101,719 KM + HST & lic	2018 Honda Civic  \$20,495 OR \$235 B/W LOW KMS - 92,044 KM + HST & lic
2021 Toyota Corolla LE  PRICE DROP \$23,999 OR \$197 B/W LOW KMS - 90,370 KM + HST & lic	2024 Nissan Sentra S-PLUS  IQ GREAT PRICE \$25,998 OR \$190 B/W LOW KMS - 17,903 KM + HST & lic	2024 Nissan Kicks SR  PRICE DROP IQ GREAT PRICE \$25,999 OR \$190 B/W LOW KMS - 12,785 KM + HST & lic		
2017 Honda CR-V TOURING  PRICE DROP \$26,495 OR \$388 B/W LOW KMS - 97,165 KM + HST & lic	2023 Volkswagen Tiguan  IQ GREAT PRICE \$28,999 OR \$211 B/W LOW KMS - 36,232 KM + HST & lic	2022 Mitsubishi Outlander  \$28,999 OR \$211 B/W LOW KMS - 65,896 KM + HST & lic	2019 Chrysler Pacifica S  IQ GREAT PRICE \$29,495 OR \$279 B/W LOW KMS - 116,202 KM + HST & lic	2023 Honda HR-V SPORT  \$29,999 OR \$218 B/W LOW KMS - 80,000 KM + HST & lic

*While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, we are not responsible for any errors and omissions. Please see your dealer for current pricing. Plus tax and licensing. Bi-weekly payments are based on an interest rate of 7.99% O.A.C. Some terms and conditions may apply.

SERVICE CONTEST: SPIN THE WHEEL!
 Service Your Vehicle, Spin the Wheel, and WIN Exciting Rewards!

Find Your Perfect Match: Pre-Owned Cars for Every Taste and Budget!
 BAD CREDIT... NO PROBLEM! All Credit Approved with \$0 Down.

T&C APPLY, O.A.C.


Stratford NISSAN

2001 Ontario Street, Stratford ON.
519.273.3119
www.stratfordnissan.com

STRATFORD.NISSAN


STORE HOURS SALES: Mon.-Thu. 9:00-8:00; Fri.-Sat. 9:00-6:00

PARTS & SERVICE: Mon.-Sat. 8:00-5:00

Our Service Department is Now Open on Saturdays

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Stratford-Perth plaque program uncovering local history one building at a time

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For 13 years, members of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Stratford-Perth County branch have been helping owners of residential, commercial and other buildings across Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County learn about and share local built history.

The historical plaque program launched in February 2012 is sponsored by the Stratford-Perth County Branch of the ACO. It helps locals and tourists alike connect with the history of the community by identifying with a plaque residential, commercial and other properties built before the Second World War.

“It’s just to make people aware of the history, residents and tourists coming in,” said plaque program coordinator Michele Bailey. “I think they like to read the history of the houses. The names on the plaques aren’t necessarily the people who built the house, it’s the first people that lived in the

house (or occupied a building). It’s the people who own the house (or building now) who request a plaque. Their neighbours might have had a plaque, so they might want to find out what their house is all about.”

Volunteers with the local ACO branch spend between 30 and 50 hours researching the history of each property through the Stratford-Perth Archives and the R. Lorne Eedy Archives in St. Marys to determine the date of construction and the name and occupation of the title holders or registered tenant.

Each plaque records the date the structure was built and the name and occupation of the title holders or tenant of record. Though women were rarely named as title holders, Bailey said the ACO researchers strive to recognize them in one form or another. Plaques are located in an appropriate and clearly visible place on the façade of the building. The details of the researched information accompanies each

plaque presented to the current owners of the property.

“Nine times out of 10, there’s nothing very historically significant in a house (or building), but it’s always very interesting what you find when you start looking,” Bailey said. “... Sometimes, it’s just your average person lived there, nothing too crazy, but we always go back to where they come from originally – did they come from England, Ireland, Scotland – and then we found out some really crazy things about some of the houses, too.”

“The craziest one that I researched was, there was a murder in the house. The homeowner was not happy. I was so excited about it; she was not. So, I never put anything in the research about the murder because she didn’t want it.”

Bailey said the ACO volunteers always work closely with building owners, first to uncover anything they already know about their building or to obtain relevant historical photos and documents they may

have, and then to ensure the wording of the plaque and accompanying research is to their liking.

At the moment, Bailey said the local ACO volunteers are researching their 419th plaque since the program began. So far this year, she said requests for plaques have been slow to come in following the recent Canada Post workers strike, however she’s hopeful requests will pick up soon.

The plaque program does not involve heritage designation of the property under the Ontario Heritage Act, which means an ACO plaque does not impact what building owners can do on their properties or to their buildings.

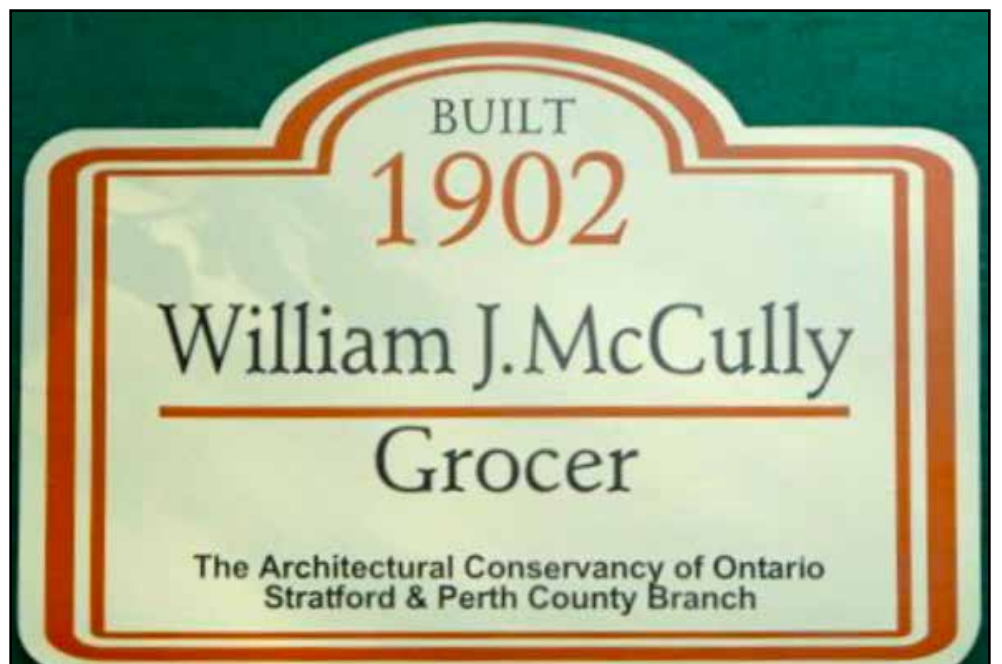
“It’s just fun,” Bailey said. “Fun knowing when it was built, who built it.”

For more information on the ACO Stratford-Perth County historical plaque program and to download a plaque-application form, visit www.stratford-perthcountybranchaco.ca/Historical_Plaque_Program.



(ACO STRATFORD-PERTH COUNTY PHOTOS)

An example of an Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Stratford-Perth County historical plaque. This one, located at 54 Waterloo St. N in Stratford, recognizes “gentlewoman” Annie Sydney-Smith, who moved into the newly built “granny’s cottage” in 1889 and lived there for three years before she died in March 1892.



This plaque recognizes Stratford grocer William Joseph McCully who had the home at 218 Ontario St. designed by architect James Russell in 1901. McCully moved into the home the following year.

FULL MECHANICAL SERVICES & TIRES FOR ALL VEHICLES

ALIGNMENT

SUSPENSION

OIL CHANGES

BRAKES

LICENSED VEHICLE
INSPECTION STATION

PASSENGER & LIGHT TRUCK

FARM TIRES

HEAVY TRUCK

LAWN & GARDEN

CAMPERS, RV'S,
ATV'S & MORE

OKTIRE
Service, Repair and Tires.

1413 Gingerich Road, Baden
519.662.4990 | oktire.com

Oak Grove Cheese
Factory Limited
Since 1879

Factory Fresh To Your Table

Over 20 cheese varieties available in our factory

Cheese Trays for Entertaining
Homemade Cheese Balls

Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm • Saturday 9 am to 1 pm
Closed Sundays

www.oakgrovecheese.ca | 29 Bleams Road West, New Hamburg | 519-662-1212

Two Tavistock cattle farms bring home the hardware in provincial and national Jersey shows

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

There are a number of local breeders of Jersey cows and heifers who came out on top at the All Ontario and All Canadian competitions, judged recently by a select panel of qualified Jersey cattle judges.

A herd owned by the Tavistock area's Mellow family, known as Glenholme, had a nomination in the intermediate calf class with Glenholme Fallen Angel, their junior breeders herd achieved an honourable mention, their milking senior yearling, Glenholme Vanity Fair TW, was named All-Ontario senior yearling, while their summer two year old was their All Ontario winner.

Glenholme Clear Appeal was the winner in the All Ontario mature cow class.

Another Tavistock area Jersey herd known as Perennial Jerseys of Bryan Weldrick and family had the overall champion heifer from the 2024 All Ontario and All Canadian contests with Perennial Getaway Frosty ET.

Another Weldrick (Perennial) bred senior calf, Perennial Maverick Kass, was nominated All Canadian senior calf and the farm's junior herd was named as the All Canadian winner.

Both these Tavistock area herds of Oxford County continue to put the area in the forefront of breeding-quality Jersey cattle show winners.



(VICKI FLETCHER PHOTOS)

The All Canadian Perennial Getaway Frosty ET, bred by the Weldrick family near Castle in the Tavistock area, was recently awarded with the top honours in the breed's All Canadian contest. The Weldrick junior herd was also named as All Canadian (the best in Canada).



The champion Jersey cow of the recently published All Ontario contest is Pleasant Nook Duiquiri Do Da, a five year-old owned and exhibited by Pleasant Nook Jerseys, Julie Eby and daughters of nearby Ayr, Ont.

Your Unused Treasures Can Change Lives

Start the year by giving back — donate to



mccthriftontario.com/newhamburg
41 Heritage Dr, New Hamburg

Stratford Perth Museum seeking nominations for Agricultural Wall of Fame

EMILY STEWART

Gazette Contributor

Perth County residents will have a chance to recognize significant contributions from those in the agriculture sector.

The Stratford-Perth Museum announced in a Jan. 13 press release that the nomination period started for 2025 inductees for the Agricultural Wall of Fame. Members of the public nominate current and former residents of Perth County who contributed to agriculture excellence. A committee determines the honourees after receiving the nominations.

"It's a chance to celebrate history, stories, how agriculture has changed, how some of these former recipients and people who are being nominated have made

an impact," said Kelly McIntosh, museum general manager.

The Wall of Fame, which honours the contributions of 24 Perth County residents, will mark its 10th anniversary in 2025.

McIntosh was new to her role as general manager for the museum when the 2024 Agricultural Wall of Fame nominations opened. She got to visit some of the nominees, including a family that nominated someone posthumously, sit with the committee and go through the nominations, as well as attend the Rural-Urban Dinner at which the inductees are celebrated.

"Perth County has been such a centre of innovation on agriculture for so long," she said. "My eyes were really opened."

While Perth County has a rich

agricultural sector, McIntosh said there needs to be more recognition for what she called "the stars of agriculture" in the region. The wall of fame does that.

"We hear a lot about the stars of the town visa vie culture, arts and culture especially, in Stratford," McIntosh said. "It's shining some light on the county; not only the essential service of food production but the creativity and educational opportunities."

Sandi Brock, a 2024 wall of fame inductee and sheep farmer, runs an educational YouTube page called Sheepishly Me about her farm.

"We want to point people in those directions because they don't come up first on Google," McIntosh said. "I think it's a wonderful thing for us to understand and

create community together."

Nominations will be accepted until Feb. 28. McIntosh encourages everyone to consider submitting a nomination, including for those who can be honoured posthumously.

"Nominations large or small, if you want to share someone's story, I would love to hear it. The committee would love to hear it," she said.

The wall of fame inductees will be announced at the Stratford Rotary Club's Rural-Urban Dinner on March 27. Nominations can be made online at www.stratfordperthmuseum.ca/stratford-perth-museum-agricultural-wall-fame-directory or in person at the museum between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.



We have a plan that's **connecting Ontario**

We're building new roads, highways and bridges to shorten your daily commute by up to an hour and keep our economy moving forward.

We're also leading the largest public transit expansion in North America to connect growing regions.

All so you can get around **faster, safer, easier**

See what we're building in your community at ontario.ca/builds

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario 

SUBSCRIBE TO THE GAZETTE TO HAVE IT DELIVERED IN YOUR MAIL!

The cost is \$57.75 for a year. Payment can be made by: Cheque mailed to PO Box 2310, St Marys ON N4X 1A2 OR dropped off at D&D Homestyle Cuisine & Café, 8 Woodstock St N, Tavistock OR call 519-655-2341 with credit card details OR e-transfer granthavenmedia@gmail.com

OBITUARY

Erma Mae Steinmann

August 7, 1930 – January 16, 2025



Erma Mae Steinmann (nee Leis), 94, passed away peacefully at Nithview Home in New Hamburg, Ontario, on January 16, 2025.

Born on August 7, 1930, in Wellesley, Ontario, Erma was one of five children of Catherine (Wagler) and John Leis. She spent her formative years in Wellesley and New Hamburg. On September 22, 1951, she married Ervin Steinmann, who predeceased her on September 28, 2023.

Erma was a trailblazer. While respecting tradition, she was not afraid to challenge norms. Her understated yet cutting-edge style turned heads—especially Ervin's. Her creative talents flourished in her job as a seamstress at the

Waterloo Lingerie Company in New Hamburg, where she quickly earned a promotion to the role of supervisor.

Erma's love for nature inspired her legendary flower gardens. Her influence brought bursts of colour to her home, her church and beyond; she designed several award-winning Christmas parade floats and light displays.

Her creative bent extended to music and the arts, supporting her children's and grandchildren's musical pursuits, the Stratford Festival, and Mennonite educational institutions.

Known for her quick wit and ability to connect with people, Erma deployed her playful sense of humour to charm and entertain. Her grandchildren especially enjoyed her funny and offbeat demeanour.

Erma revelled in extending hospitality. She gracefully welcomed everyone into her home, from family members to CEOs and college presidents and to those facing hardship. Her warm conversation, along with her exquisitely prepared and delicious meals, quickly put people at ease. No one ever left hungry, bored, or feeling overlooked. Every gathering reflected her attention to detail and care; she made it all seem effortless.

Central to her life was her relationship with Ervin. They were partners in every sense, dedicating their lives to their family, church, and service to community. All benefited from Erma's devotion, expressed through countless thoughtful acts that together created a profound and lasting impact. As Ervin often acknowledged, none of his achievements would have been possible without her support and accomplishments of her own.

Erma will be deeply missed by her children, Susan Seyler (David), Nancy Steinmann Yantzi (Lynn), and Doug Steinmann (Lynne Baril), all of New Hamburg; her grandchildren, James (Susan), John (Melissa), Rachel (Josh), Stephen (Janessa), Andrew (Allison), Justin (Nicole), Michelle (Craig), Stephanie (Austin), Kory (Samara), Trevor (Jordan), Curtis; and her great-grandchildren, Noah, Rebecca, Lillian, Louis, Connor, Leah, Michael, Evelyn, Jonathan, Zach, Logan, Lucas, Peyton, Brooklyn, Hayley, Clara, Mercer, Ethan, Addison, and Ellis.

She is also survived by her sisters - and brother-in-law Arvilla Leis, Irene Bender, and David and Ruth Steinmann, along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family members.

Erma is also deeply missed by her friends and caregivers, particularly Catherine Evenden, and Edna Gonzales. Erma benefited greatly from their care, compassion and friendship in recent years.

Erma was predeceased by her siblings and their spouses: Catherine Bartman; Vernon Leis; Florence and Harold McFarlane; and Ralph and Jeanne Leis. She was also predeceased by her Steinmann in-laws: Mabel (Reuben Kennel); Reuben; Walter (Leona); Ervin Bender; Dorothy (Willard Schwartzentruber); Arthur (Florence); and Ruth (Ross Bender).

Cremation has taken place. Friends and relatives were invited to gather with the family at Steinmann Mennonite Church, 1316 Snyder's Road West, Baden, on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, from 5-8 p.m. A memorial service will be held at the church on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 2 p.m., followed by interment in the adjoining cemetery and a time of fellowship. The service will also be live-streamed on the Steinmann Mennonite Church website.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Erma's memory are gratefully accepted to Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), Steinmann Mennonite Church, or the Alzheimer Society of Canada.

Personal condolences and donation information available at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

WORSHIP IN WILMOT TOWNSHIP

St George's Anglican Church

Corner of Waterloo St and Byron St, New Hamburg
Weekly Sunday services at 10:15 am. All are welcome.

<https://www.stgeorgesnewhamburg.com>

St James Chapel of Ease

4339 Huron Rd Wilmot Township
All are welcome.

Rev Margaret Walker; Office: 519-662-3450

sgacnewhamburg@gmail.com

St Agatha Mennonite Church

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

Pastor Jim Brown

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



**READ US
ONLINE**

GRANTHAVEN.COM/WILMOT-TAVISTOCK-GAZETTE/



The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

By Jake & Stewart Grant

1. What is rapper Diddy's real name?
2. What Canadian figure skater duo holds the most gold medals?
3. What year was NASA founded?
4. The majority of the human brain is made up of what?
5. In what State is Harvard University located?
6. Which city was the main target of the First Crusade?
7. What do bees collect from flowers?
8. True or False. O.J Simpson was considered for the lead role in Terminator.
9. What animal has the strongest bite?
10. What year did Martha Stewart go to prison?

Answers found on page 23

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette



**BE IN THE KNOW!
Get the Latest
Edition Delivered
Straight to Your
Inbox!**

FREE

granthaven.com/wilmot-tavistock-gazette

ADVERTISE WITH US!

**Contact Sharon Leis at 519-580-5418
or sharonbleis@gmail.com**

The Hicktown Hoedown coming to the Wellesley area for the first time

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

If those in the Wellesley area have never been to a hoedown, mark those calendars for Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and come enjoy the excitement at the new Bill Gies Recreation Centre.

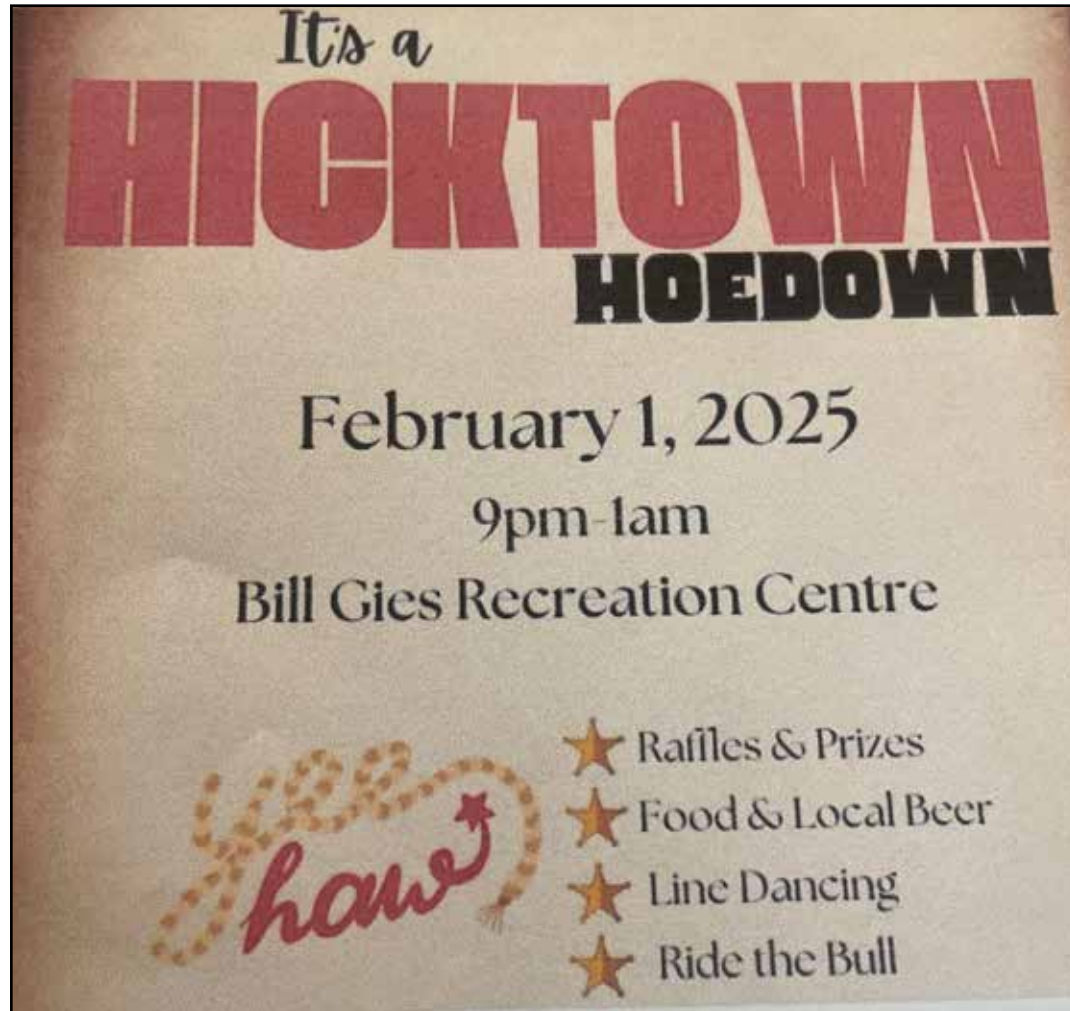
The Hicktown Hoedown is a brand-new event for the area, and the funds raised will go to help make the 2025 Wellesley Township Fall Fair the best yet!

This event has never been done before and it's the first big public dance at the new Bill Gies Recreation Centre. Committee members from the agricultural society who are organizing this event are hoping to organize a new take on the fair, and add some exciting events with funds this dance will bring in.

"So, get those boots on and glide across the new dance floor and learn some new dance moves with the line-dance instructor, or ride Wicked Wesley, the mechanical bull, for eight seconds.

Those who are in for an exciting night out will enjoy some great local craft beers and drinks for everyone's taste, while getting in on the action and helping the organizers of this year's fall fair in September at the same time.

For more information, email marlenekoster@gmail.com.



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

The Hicktown Hoedown will hit the Bill Gies Recreation Centre on Feb. 1 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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.

January 22-29, 2020, Edition (5 years ago)

On the evening of Jan. 14, 2020, unknown suspects stole a white Ford F150 truck from a rural residence located on Line 47 north of Gads Hill. The keys to the unlocked truck were left in the vehicle along with the owner's wallet. A banking card belonging to the owner was used in London in the early morning hours. The truck was located later that day abandoned in Tavistock.

About 49 volunteers attended the comforter knotting day sponsored by Hillcrest Mennonite Church, New Hamburg, held at Haysville Community Centre on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020. The stormy, winter weather didn't deter adults and youth alike from arriving for the day to complete 28 comforters as part of the MCC's Great Winter Warmup event. MCC aimed at having its church groups make 6,500 comforters in one day to deliver to people affected by disaster and conflict all around the world.

January 20-27, 2010, Edition (15 years ago)

Figure skaters with the Tavistock and Dis-

trict Skating Club returned from the Charles Dover Memorial Invitational competition in Grimsby on Jan. 8, 2010, with medals. Paige Nobel earned first place in her pre-preliminary A flight while Jessica Quinn earned the gold medal in her preliminary A flight. Kristen Lupton also placed third in her preliminary A group. Thirteen-year-old Derika Nauta was successful in earning her gold skills in December.

On Friday, Jan. 22 at about 1:14 a.m., members of the Perth County OPP responded to an alarm at the North Easthope Community Hall north of Shakespeare. Upon arrival by the police, it was discovered that quick entry was gained into the building and numerous locked doors had been kicked open. Nothing appeared to have been taken during the break-in, but damage was considered extensive. Unsuccessful attempts had also been made to gain entry into the Township of Perth East public works building located next to the community hall. A window was broken and a door had been damaged by the culprit(s).

January 18-25, 1995, Edition (30 years ago)

Warren Stein of Thames Bend Farms in Tavistock has been profiled in the fall issue of Canadian Farming, a national agricultural magazine sponsored by Case IH dealers. Each issue of Canadian Farming profiles

progressive farmers and farm families and describes the strategies and practices that add to the success of their businesses. According to the article, Thames Bend Farm Ltd. develops swine genetics. Sows, boars and semen from the "Stein pig" have been shipped to all Canadian provinces, most U.S. states and 34 countries.

The Tavistock Arena fundraiser committee began in 1995 by adding approximately \$7,000 to the arena fund, resulting from a very successful New Year's Eve Dance. Special thanks to the Tavistock Cheese Co. for donating cheese trays and to all those who volunteered before and during the dance. Our thanks is extended to the following for their generous donations to the arena fund: Carl and Connie Zehr \$2,500, Downie Opti-Mrs. \$500, and Stratford Cemetery Memorials \$1,000.

Students, winners in the Tavistock Public School oratorical contest held last Thursday, Jan. 19, will be busy the next couple of weeks in local competitions. Senior grade contestants include Holly Bender and Chris Witzel, Grade 6; Melanie McArdle and Krista Kropf, Grade 7; and Cassie Long and Cheryl McKay, Grade 8. The students will compete at Tavistock Legion Public Speaking Contest on Saturday, Jan. 28.

WORSHIP WITH US!

GRACE UNITED CHURCH

116 Woodstock St. S., Tavistock • Phone: 519-655-2151

All are welcome

Service led by Rev. Marilyn Arthur • Music by Marilyne Nystrome

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEBASTOPOL-TAVISTOCK

Pastor Steve Hoffard

Church Office 519-655-2372 • trinitylcoffice@gmail.com

www.trinitytavistock.com

TAVISTOCK MENNONITE

Pastor Julie Ellison White

131 Wettlaufer St., Tavistock 655-2581

Sunday Worship services begin at 9:45am, with coffee and fellowship to follow at 11am. All ages Junior Sunday School will follow after the service.

All are Welcome

Stream services online at www.tavistockmennonitechurch.ca

TAVISTOCK BIBLE CHAPEL

32 Oxford Street, Tavistock, Ontario

Questions or Need Help? Text or Call: (519) 655-2413

tavistockbc.org

Family Bible Hour - 11am Each Sunday

www.tavistockbc.org

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN LCC

Church Phone 519-276-0701

Wellington Street, Tavistock

stpaulstavistock@gmail.com

Pastor Rev. Michael Mayer

EAST ZORRA MENNONITE

677044 16th Line Road, East Zorra

Pastors Ray Martin & Mike Williamson

www.ezmennonite.ca

Service audio recordings available at:

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

TAVISTOCK MISSIONARY

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

Phone: (519) 655-3611

Email: office@tavistock.church

www.tavistock.church

PJHL Roundup: Applejacks win third straight to tighten grip on fourth place

LEE GRIFFI
Gazette Correspondent

Wellesley took both ends of a home-and-home with Dorchester on the weekend to move 10 points clear of fifth-place Tavistock in the Provincial Junior Hockey League's (PJHL) South Doherty Division.

On Friday, the Applejacks skated to a 5-1 win despite giving up a Dolphins goal just one minute into the opening period. Stuart Sinclair scored twice to lead the offence while Dimitri Eleftheriadis and Owen Troyer had two helpers each. Brandon Abbot stopped 33 of 34 shots to earn the win. The two teams combined were 0 for 18 on the powerplay.

Wellesley travelled to Dorchester on Saturday and came away with a 5-2 victory thanks in large part to a three-point night from Eric Lacey. Keenan McGrath added a goal and assist with single markers by Evan Silveira, Troyer and Eleftheriadis.

Applejacks head coach Derek Lebold said his team's goal is home ice for the first round of the playoffs, something they edged closer to with a pair of wins over the team chasing them in the standings.

"That's much more attainable now given the weekend we just had. We go weekend by weekend. I'm not an advocate for setting goals but we try to set one every Wednesday at practice heading into a

weekend; our weekly goals on what we want to accomplish."

He added last weekend, the team called the home-and-home a mini playoff series.

"It's shaping up. Right now, Dorchester and us would be a first-round series and we wanted to set a tone and precedent for what they can expect when they play Wellesley. We accomplished that."

Lebold said the Applejacks are better than a fourth-place team.

"We've had some down weeks with injuries and player movement, but we have a tightknit group and I think we are ready to roll here. I wouldn't be afraid; the goal would be to get us into that third spot to provide a deeper, home-ice advantage."

Wellesley, so far this season, has relied on defence and has the second-lowest goals against in the Doherty Division, but just the fifth-best offence. Lebold said the team plays from the back end out which, as of late, has led to more scoring opportunities.

"I have been very impressed lately with how structured we are on defence, but I think six games in a row we have outshot our opponents. We were getting outshot and our goaltending was holding us in, but we aren't allowing what we call Grade A opportunities."

The Applejacks are hosting Stars Night

on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. when they face the Paris Titans. Any minor hockey player wearing a team jersey will be admitted to the game at no charge.

Firebirds riding a five-game win streak

The last time New Hamburg lost a game was at home on Jan. 3, a 5-2 drubbing by Norwich. Since then, the Firebirds have rattled off five straight wins and find themselves in first place, two points ahead of the Merchants who have a game in hand.

The Firebirds avenged that loss with a 4-1 road win Friday night in front of 400 fans. New Hamburg led 2-1 after two periods on goals from Owen Sculthorp and Owen Fischer. Justin McManus and Fischer, with his 19th of the season, added third-period markers.

The third-annual Hockey Day in New Hamburg is this Sunday, Jan. 26. Festivities will begin at 1:15 p.m. when the U18 Jr. Firebirds take on the U18 Dorchester Dragons. At 3:30 p.m., the Firebirds will battle the Dorchester Dolphins. All New Hamburg Minor Hockey Association players will receive a free ticket to the game from their coach.

Braves drop three in a row

Tavistock lost a pair of weekend home games, beginning with a 3-1 defeat to Paris, the team now tied with the Braves

for sixth place in the Doherty. The Braves have three games in hand.

Paris jumped out to a 3-0 lead after 40 minutes of play on Friday before Keaton Bartlett scored his second of the season late in the third. Tavistock did have their chances as they outshot the visitors 45-19 but Titans goalie James Gall stopped almost everything that came his way.

Tavistock was outshot 42-26 on Saturday in an 11-2 drubbing at the hands of Norwich. Jacob Reid-Brant gave the Braves a 1-0 lead on a powerplay four and a half minutes into the first period, but the Merchants scored the next four goals of the game before Bo Schurink's second of the season made it 4-2. Norwich went on to score the next seven goals.

Tavistock starting goalie Lander Hartley stopped 19 of the 24 shots he faced before being pulled halfway through the game. Kaden Lange allowed six goals on 18 shots in relief.

The Braves next action is Friday night as they host New Hamburg and it doesn't get any easier on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. when Norwich is in town. That game is the Minor Sports Day promotion where any child in attendance is eligible to win a year's registration for the 2025-2026 season with minor soccer, hockey, baseball or figure skating in the village.

PROVINCIAL JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

PJHL

SOUTH DOHERTY DIVISION

STANDINGS

As of Wednesday, January 22

South Doherty Division	GP	W	L	OTL	T	SOW	SOL	PTS	OTW	GF	GA	DIFF	PCT	PIM	RW	ROW	STK	GPCT
1 New Hamburg Firebirds	35	26	7	0	0	0	2	54	3	139	93	46	0.771	585	23	26	5-0-0-0	0.599
2 Norwich Merchants	34	26	8	0	0	2	0	52	0	138	83	55	0.765	528	24	24	1-0-0-0	0.624
3 Woodstock Navy Vets	35	22	10	1	0	1	2	47	0	10	102	28	0.671	464	21	21	3-0-1-1	0.560
4 Wellesley Applejacks	35	21	12	1	0	5	1	44	1	108	89	19	0.629	689	15	16	3-0-0-0	0.548
5 Dorchester Dolphins	34	15	17	0	0	0	2	32	3	94	110	-16	0.471	572	12	15	0-2-0-0	0.461
6 Tavistock Braves	33	11	21	1	0	1	0	23	1	110	142	-32	0.348	776	10	10	0-3-0-0	0.437
7 Paris Titans	36	10	23	3	0	0	0	23	1	96	133	-37	0.319	551	9	10	2-0-0-0	0.419
8 Hespeler Shamrocks	34	7	23	2	0	0	2	18	0	81	144	-63	0.265	495	7	7	0-3-0-0	0.360



SEND YOUR SPORTS STORY IDEAS
TO OUR DIRECTOR OF SPORTS
SPENCER SEYMOUR AT
SPENCER.SEYMOUR88@GMAIL.COM

Royals split weekend games, drop to fourth in OEHL standings

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

A pair of road games earned Tavistock two points but dropped them down a spot in the Ontario Elite Hockey League (OEHL) standings.



(TAVISTOCK ROYALS PHOTO)

Tavistock captain Tristan Hohl believes the Royals have what it takes to make another run at an Ontario title.

The weekend kicked off with a 6-3 win in Milverton over the Four Wheel Drives. Erik Robichaud led the offence with three assists with Trevor Sauder, Sean Kienapple, Deven Kropf and Andrew Van Boekel adding two points each.

Zach Shomphe stopped 39 of the 42 shots he faced to earn the win.

The Royals weren't so fortunate on Sunday afternoon as they dropped a 4-2 decision to Minto in Palmerston.

The 81s jumped out to a 2-0 lead halfway through the first period before Trevor Sauder scored on a setup from Deven Kropf and Tyler Reid. Tristan Hohl's third of the season five minutes into the third period tied it up but Minto would score two third-period markers to seal the win.

Hohl, who is in his eighth season with the Royals and wears the captain's C, said his time with the team has been a great journey with some pretty special memories.

"The team, the community, the competition and my love for the game keep me coming back. There's a real sense of pride in representing Tavistock, and I love being part of this group."

The Royals have yet to play their best hockey this season, but the captain believes they can make another run at the OEHL title.

"We're close. We've had some tough losses to the top teams, but we're right there. We've got the talent and drive to make another push, we just need to stay consistent and execute when it counts."

Hohl has spent a lot of time on and off the ice with teammates and friends Trevor Sauder and Deven Kropf.

"Yeah, playing with Trev and Dev is always great. We've been teammates since we were kids, so there's that

strong competitive bond. We still play with that drive to win, but we definitely enjoy the game and the chance to play together."

Tavistock hosts Lucknow on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. The Lancers haven't won a game in 18 starts and have a goal differential of minus-103.



Canadian Blood Services
BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

Your donation matters

It matters to every patient across Canada. Because it's something we can do today to help others wake up healthier tomorrow.

Donate blood

Steinmann Mennonite Church

1316 Snyder's Road West
Baden, ON

Monday, January 27

2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Book now at blood.ca or call 1-888-236-6283

Join Canada's Lifeline

Visit blood.ca to learn more.

Message sponsored by:



Wellesley Home Centre
Building Materials | Rentals | Flooring
2196 Gerber Road, Box 10
Wellesley, ON | (519) 656-2010
www.homehardware.ca

TAVISTOCK ROYALS SR. "AA" HOCKEY

LADIES NIGHT
ALL LADIES
FREE ADMISSION
SPA GIFT CARD DRAW

Tavistock Royals

VS

Lucknow Lancers

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH
AT 7:30PM
TAVISTOCK & DISTRICT
RECREATION CENTRE

Tavistock Royals
ANNUAL PORK BBQ
Drive-Thru / Takeout Only

Saturday, February 1st
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

BBQ PORK, SCALLOPED POTATOES, SAUERKRAUT
BAKED BEANS, STUFFING, DINNNER ROLL, APPLE PIE

\$25
PER MEAL
ADVANCED TICKETS ONLY

Tavistock Memorial Hall
3 Adam Street, Tavistock

ONTARIO ELITE HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS - SENIOR MEN															
TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	OTW	OTL	P%	GF	GA	DIFF	PPG	PPGA	SHG	PIM
Ripley Wolves	18	18	0	0	36	2	0	1.00	104	47	57	17	9	8	435
Seaforth Centenaires	18	13	5	0	27	1	1	0.750	82	46	36	14	10	3	247
Minto 81's	15	11	4	0	22	0	0	0.733	78	36	42	14	6	3	276
Tavistock Royals	18	11	7	0	22	2	0	0.611	78	60	18	24	14	3	318
Saugeen Shores Winterhawks	19	10	9	0	21	0	1	0.553	95	83	12	29	21	8	240
Creemore Coyotes	17	8	9	0	17	1	1	0.500	72	61	11	17	15	3	284
Georgian Bay Applekings	17	7	10	0	16	1	2	0.471	75	77	-2	18	18	5	364
Erin Outlaws	18	6	12	0	15	1	3	0.417	76	97	-21	13	16	4	351
Durham Thundercats	17	7	10	0	14	1	0	0.412	70	89	-19	12	19	8	250
Milverton Four Wheel Drives	17	5	12	0	12	1	2	0.353	55	86	-31	14	12	2	215
Lucknow Lancers	18	0	18	0	0	0	0	0.000	26	129	-103	1	33	1	413

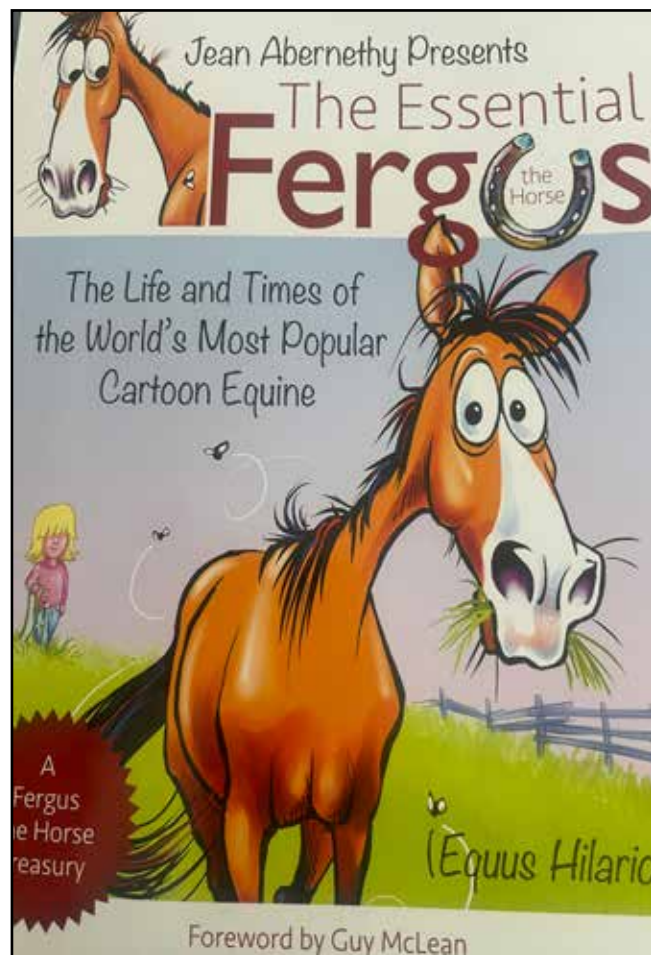
Optimist Club of Downie Inc.

OPTI-CASH CALENDAR DRAW
Jan. 12 Judy Bond, Ilderton \$50.00
Jan. 13 John & Brenda Bye, Dunchurch . . . \$50.00
Jan. 14 Liz Schweitzer, Bayfield \$50.00
Jan. 15 Brenda Jackson, Stratford \$50.00
Jan. 16 Grant Rolleman, Stratford \$50.00
Jan. 17 Cameron Kramer, Shakespeare . . . \$50.00
Jan. 18 Madonna Manuel, Pasadena NL . . . \$200.00
Jan. 19 Jean Roach, Stratford \$50.00
Jan. 20 John & Leah Verbaan, Thorndale . . . \$50.00
Jan. 21 Judy Elliott, Dorchester \$50.00
Jan. 22 Sharon Twamley, Stratford \$50.00
Jan. 23 Dave Standeaven, St. Marys \$50.00
Jan. 24 Bob Zimmer, Stratford \$50.00
Jan. 25 Stephen Bender, St. Marys \$200.00

2025 CALENDARS ARE GOING QUICKLY

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

The talented Abernethy sisters of Wellesley



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

The front cover of “The Essential Fergus the Horse” by Wellesley area artist and cartoonist Jean Abernethy, who has been working and producing many Fergus books for decades with one more in the works for this year.

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

When the Order of Canada recipients were announced recently, one name familiar to many residents in the Waterloo region area was that of Ruth Abernethy.

Ruth Abernethy is known across the country and beyond for her great sculpture work; her bronze busts of Canadians who have made an impact on the world are on display in communities across the country.

Her statues include Glenn Gould at the CBC building in Toronto, Oscar Peterson at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, the bronze portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and, of course, the Raising of the Tent sculpture in front of Stratford’s Festival Theatre.

I love to visit with world famous people who do not live far away, and hence a trip to a beautiful rural property southwest of Wellesley was in order.

Once there, I not only found Ruth Abernethy and her gallery to be most interesting, but was intrigued and interested once I was introduced to her sister, who also lives on this beautiful property.

Jean Abernethy, the younger of the two Abernethys, is also a very famous artist, illustrator and author in her own right.

I’m sure most readers with children and grandchildren would have heard about Fergus the Horse in a number children’s books that Jean Abernethy has artistically drawn, painted and illustrated on the life and times of the world’s most popular cartoon equine. Even though her audience is a younger generation, I was inspired and entertained by her many books and writings about Fergus.

She has Fergus out on social media and has hundreds of followers on Facebook alone, with many more on other platforms.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Sisters Jean and Ruth Abernethy pictured in their home country studio in Wellesley Township.

Continued on page 15



2025 KICKS PLAY S

LEASE FROM \$299 MONTHLY WITH \$2,129 DOWN.

THAT'S LIKE PAYING

\$69 WEEKLY AT **4.99%** APR FOR 39 MONTHS O.A.C.

PLUS, QUALIFYING NISSAN OWNERS MAY RECEIVE UP TO

\$500 IN LOYALTY BONUS



WINTER READY
EVENT



Stratford NISSAN

2001 Ontario Street, Stratford ON

519.273.3119

www.stratfordnissan.com

STRATFORD NISSAN



STORE HOURS SALES: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-8:00; Fri.-Sat. 9:00-6:00
PARTS AND SERVICE: Mon.-Sat. 8:00-5:00. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, OUR SERVICE DEPT IS NOW OPEN ON SATURDAYS

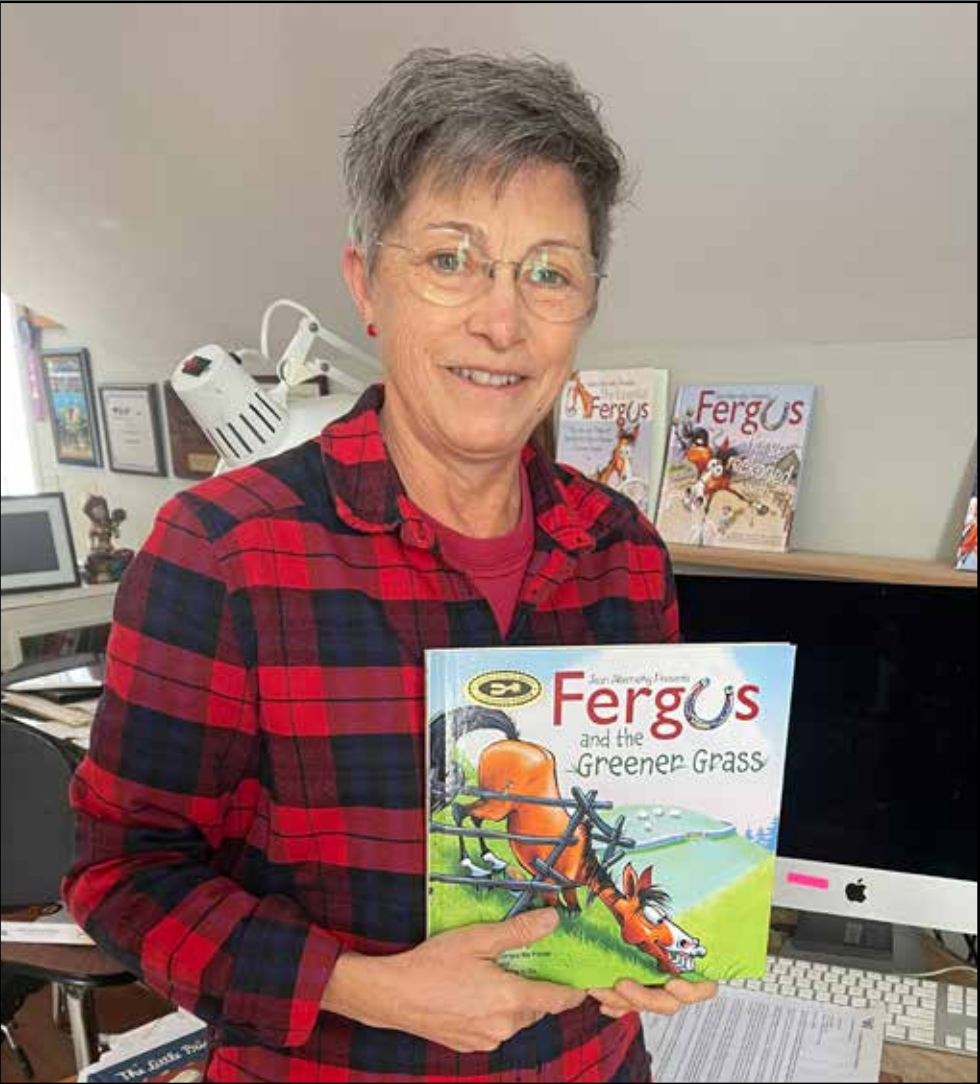
Continued from page 14

When reading her history, I found Jean Abernethy has loved horses since she was old enough to walk and, to this day, still rides extensively on her own horse that she loves.

I especially liked one of her expressions in one of her larger book projects, where a cartoon rider with helmet is falling off his mount while losing his riding boots, while

still hanging onto the bridle reins. The caption reads, “Courage keeps us Going, Laughter keeps us Sane.”

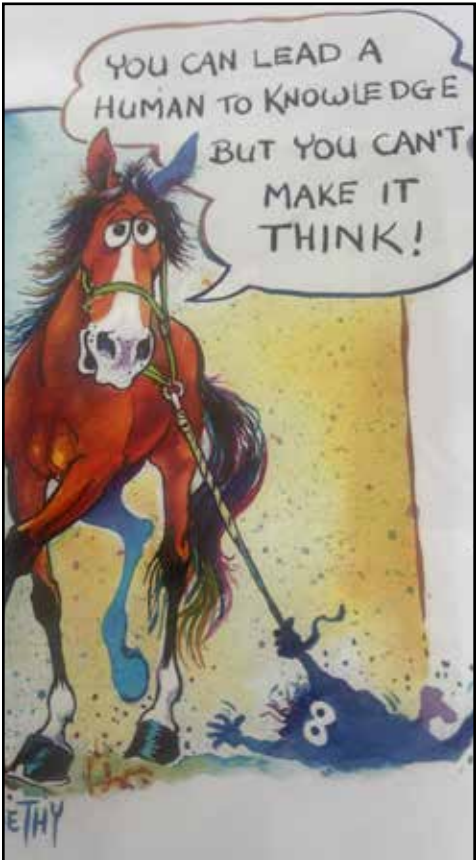
Jean Abernethy’s books and artistic renderings of Fergus are available in many area bookstores. More information is available at www.fergusthehorse.com or by emailing Jean Abernethy herself at jean@jeanabernethy.com.



Jean Abernethy in her studio, showing one of her latest creations of Fergus the Horse in hardcover children’s format.



Jean Abernethy shows off another talent of hers. She makes leather saddles and bridles.



Some of the more humorous captions that Jean Abernethy displays in her latest book, with Fergus the Horse.

Gazette Puzzles

PIE DAY - JANUARY 23

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

Apple
Bake
Blueberry
Cherry
Crust

Dessert
Filling
Homemade
Lemon
Meringue

Pecan
Pumpkin
Slice
Sugar
Whipped

SPONSORED BY:

ZEHR[®]

INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.

Since 1954 | www.zehrinsurance.com

PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS TO YOU

59 Huron Street
New Hamburg, ON
519-662-1710

24 Hope Street
Tavistock, ON
519-655-2422

Pet of the Week

OTIS

Meet Otis, a large-breed dog with a big heart and an adventurous spirit! This energetic boy thrives in an active home with space to roam and play. Otis loves long walks, quality time with his people, and learning new skills. He's selective with other dogs but could do well with a friendly, young canine companion after proper introductions. Otis isn't suited for homes with cats or small animals. He's working on leash manners and training, so his ideal family will be patient, dog-savvy, and ready to continue his progress. Loyal and eager to please, Otis will make a wonderful companion for those ready to help him thrive! Learn more about Otis at kwsphumane.ca.



SPONSORED BY:
TLC PET FOOD



3514 Bleams Rd, New Hamburg, ON
519-662-9500 | www.tlcpetfood.com

Support is key to change!

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



It's January! Did you make a New Year's Resolution? Are you on track or has it fallen by the wayside?

There is nothing more rewarding than inspiring others to fuel fitness with a rainbow of nutrient-dense foods. I love seeing clients achieve their goals. Once clients choose to focus on health and move forward implementing lifestyle changes, it's essential to enquire whether they have a strong social-support system.

A support system can look different to everyone. Staying the same is much easier. Starting a new protocol alone can be literally lonely. Whether you give up alcohol, sugar, couch surfing, or smoking and embrace cleaner, more active alternatives, not everyone will jump on board or be in your corner. Find a team to root you on or be your own cheerleader.

Take a look in the mirror. Be honest with yourself. Is the goal realistic or setting you up for failure? Write down the stumbling blocks and remember solutions overcome obstacles. Success is dependent on finding what works. Take the S.M.A.R.T approach. These goals are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound.

1. Instead of simply saying I will exercise, make it

specific. I will walk for 30 minutes every day.

2. Wear a fit bit to monitor heartrate to ensure your target heartrate is measurable.
3. Overconsuming calories leads to weight gain but cutting calories too low is not attainable in the long run.
4. Training at 5 a.m. is impossible if sleep isn't a priority, therefore shuteye is relevant to muscle building and repair.
5. For this week, I will prep all my lunches for work and skip eating out. Time-bound goals lead to success. The goal can be adjusted weekly.

Ready for action. It's 6 a.m., the alarm is sounding loudly and your partner rolls over annoyed. It's 6 a.m. and you live alone, snug as a bug in a rug. It's 6 a.m. and sneaking out is essential due to sleeping kids and the potential for a barking dog. It's 6 a.m. and in every scenario, sleeping in is sensational, but this time, it's going to be different.

The first day of anything new is scary, and opening the door to sign up, take a class or jump in for the first workout is tough. Using the word intimidating is an understatement. At first glance, high school cliquish comes to mind. Be



(VECTEEZY PHOTOS)

Fuel your New Year's resolution with balance: Energize through exercise, nourish with wholesome foods, prioritize rest, and rely on support to climb life's mountains—together!

brave. Say hi and always remember everyone has common goals.

A support system leads to body-boosting benefits inside and out. Support might be you and a phenomenal phone app, social-media site or one-on-one coaching live or via zoom. Smaller, boutique gyms are new-bestie recruiting heaven and franchise gyms offering classes thrive thanks to their sense of community.

Ask those who accomplished similar goals to share their knowledge. The person beside you may be battling depression, they may have lost 100 pounds, they may be dealing with diabetes or dreaming of placing first in an event. Meeting members who changed their lives is mega-motivational. Sweating together is bonding. I

promise.

Gym members share tips from how to stay hydrated to where to shop for bargain-priced runners. Having a foodie or workout partner offers accountability. Setting goals together and establishing check-ins are key. Troubleshooting obstacles is helpful. Knowing your partner is waiting to train or meal prep may have you reconsider skipping out. Never take criticism from those who are watching from the sidelines. Listen to those with a can-do attitude, not a can't state of mind. Negativity is never helpful.

Are you ready to live the life you deserve? Our lovely community has so many wonderful options. Yoga, adult ballet classes, outdoor trails and of course the Wilmot Recreation Centre offers

a slew of activities catering to all ages. Both Anytime Fitness on Waterloo Street and Evoke Fitness on Hamilton Road offer one-on-one, results-driven programs with certified personal trainers as well as 24-hour access to amenities.

Evoke is for the whole family. I love the idea of yoga to realign and there is peace of mind for parents knowing kids are close by in child care. It's never too early to make fitness a habit. Choose from several kid-friendly workout options at Evoke. Ninjas and Parkour is a program based on the fundamentals and combines martial arts and gymnastics. CrossTrain is a program designed to support minis at all levels and gymnastics is even available, too.

Set a goal! Seek support and strive to thrive alive!

Why do I always end up moving in the winter?

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Galen Simmons



This weekend promises to be potentially the coldest this winter.

While most people will be inside keeping warm, my fiancé, Julia, and I will be undertaking an activity I quite possibly hate more

than anything else I've done or will do in my life.

We're moving.

Almost exactly a year ago, we moved into our current place with the help of some very, very good friends. Had they asked me to help

them move in the dead of January, I wouldn't have told them no outright, but I would have thought it very loudly.

In addition to the chaos and physical strain of moving, which already sucks more than I can put into words safe to publish in this paper, we had to contend with the snow, ice, cold and many extra layers of clothing as we carried furniture, bins and boxes from apartment to truck, and truck to house.

When we were finally moved in, I told Julia I had no interest in moving again anytime soon. I think I've said that every time I've moved, actually, but this time

I meant it.

But, as so often happens, the universe heard my declaration and laughed. Flash forward a year, and I still don't get the joke, but here we are in the same boat, regardless.

As we finish packing and finalize the details for this weekend's frosty festivities, there are a couple of things keeping me from achieving a state of absolute dread.

First and potentially most importantly, friends of ours offered to pay for movers to transport the heaviest of our furniture and belongings. While I pity those movers, I'm grateful it will be

them doing the heavy lifting and not me. I honestly didn't know if my back could take it this time around.

Second, because Julia and I have purchased our new home instead of renting, I feel as if we now have more control over when we move next time. To me, that means no more winter moves, and I thank the universe for that!

So, while you're all warm and toasty, bingeing something mind-numbingly wonderful on Netflix, spare a thought for Julia and I as we once again battle the frigid temperatures to move all our worldly possessions from our current house to our new home.

A little-known island paradise rated number one

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



As I consistently confess to groups who invite me as a guest speaker, in my career as a travel writer, I am a very lucky guy and I don't deserve the amazing experiences I get on a regular basis. It's a great gig.

And sometimes it's even better than great. There are very few destinations I don't enjoy, but occasionally, I find myself somewhere that is darned near perfect.

That happened on my first and only visit to the small, eastern Caribbean island of Dominica. I fell in love with the place, with everything about it.

I wrote several pieces about Dominica, two of them for Grant Haven papers. Another article, published in the Toronto Star, featured the amazing Coulibri Ridge resort founded by Canadians Daniel Langlois and Dominique Marchand. Then, tragedy struck. About a year after those articles were published, Daniel and Dominique were brutally murdered, apparently by an American neighbour, the grisly result of a land dispute.

I was deeply saddened. I had spent time with both Daniel and Dominique, and had come to like them immediately. Oddly, the photo of the couple used in all of the media coverage of their deaths was strikingly similar to one I had set up and taken – a staff member must have stood beside me and captured the same image.

Why do I tell you all this? As I said, I fell in love with Dominica, and I guessed this very bad news would tarnish the island's reputation and discourage others who might have visited this small piece of paradise.

So, imagine how thrilled I was when I read an article on the BBC website declaring Dominica as their number-one recommended "Best Place to Travel in 2025."

Journalist Pier Nirand wrote, in part, "Visitors can explore hidden gorges, towering waterfalls and feast on local cuisine at unique eateries. ... Dominica isn't just a destination, it's a movement to support a burgeoning model of eco-tourism that balances biodiversity conservation with economic growth, ensuring that

your adventure helps protect this natural paradise for generations to come."

That's high praise, and I would echo every word.

In a world of travel where the word "unspoiled" is vastly overused, Dominica is just that. This volcanic island, located just north of Barbados, is in the chain of islands that includes Guadeloupe and Martinique. The land rises sharply from the coast to misty mountain heights. Unlike stereotypical Caribbean islands, all gated resorts and beach bars, Dominica has accurately been dubbed "the Nature Island." Visitors enjoy hiking, leisurely river cruises, diving, unique cuisine and constant, friendly interaction with local residents.

And speaking of friendly interaction, the BBC report informs us there is something brand new here; Dominica's waters are the location of the world's first sperm-whale reserve. This protected marine area is a safe space for the giant, marine mammals and also offers "limited permits" for visitors interested in actually sharing the water with the whales.

In my brief time on Dominica, I found there was always something wonderful around almost every corner. One of my favourite activities didn't initially seem all that impressive. I was informed we were taking a river cruise and, having enjoyed luxury voyages thus described on the rivers of Europe, I was somewhat discouraged when I first spotted a shabby

rowboat with plank seats, and a guide with oars. Hmmph.

Turns out, I could not have been more wrong. That leisurely afternoon on the Indian River was amazing. The slow pace allowed us to savour the scene: tropical trees, flowering plants, birds and animals. And by the way, Dominica has no poisonous animals or insects, a huge plus for any tropical destination. The cruise included a stop at a rustic bar where we sipped rum concoctions and watched hummingbirds flit among the bright-red ginger lily flowers.

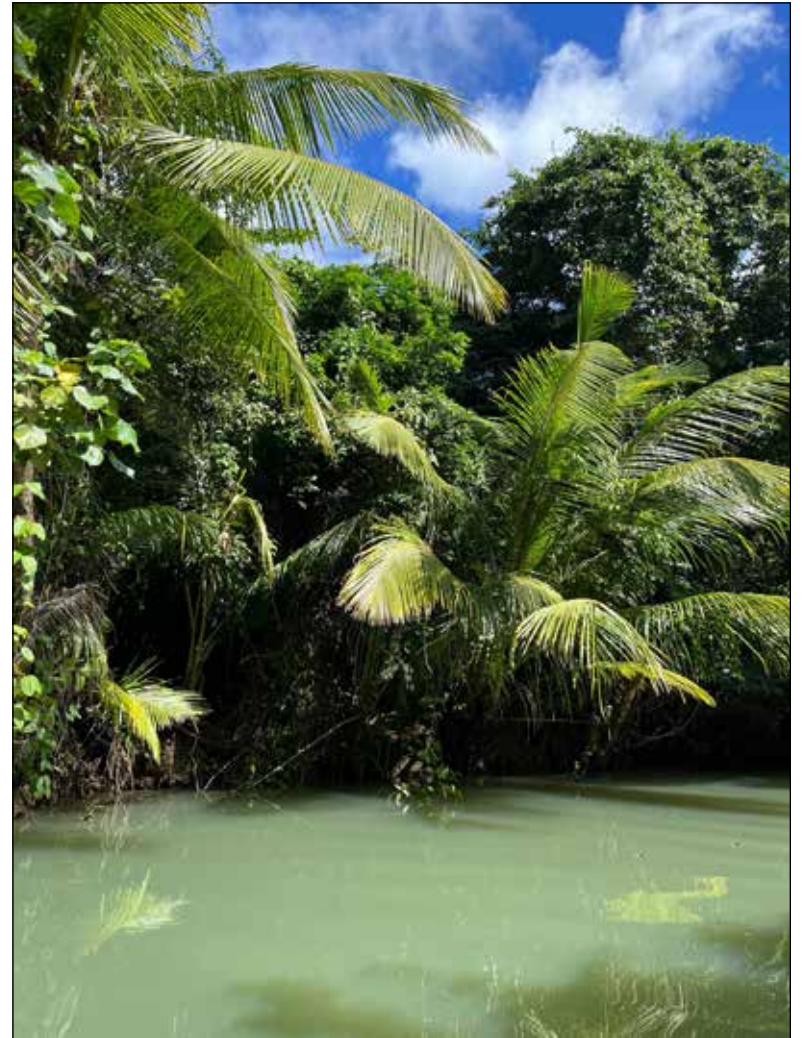
A drive high into the mountainous area brought us to the site of hot springs – common on the island because there are still nine active volcanos here, none spewing lava but the source of hot water local entrepreneurs have used to create relaxing hot-spring spas.

The twin Trafalger Falls are a very popular stop in the heights of the island. Viewing stations provide the opportunity to take in the sheer beauty of the place.

I stayed at two eco-friendly resorts during my time on Dominica – Coulibri Ridge, which I am happy to say continues to operate despite the loss of its visionary founders, and Jungle Bay, founded by Dominican entrepreneur Sam Raphael and guided day to day by general manager and Canadian Laura Ell. As a big fan of gardens, I could have spent weeks there without leaving the property, home to more than 75 species of fruit and nut trees, as well as innumerable shrubs and flowers.

Dominica was named "The Nature Island" not because you can encounter nature here, but because here, nature comes first!

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Tropical beauty along Dominica's Indian River.



Trafalger Falls high in the mountains.



A Dominican valley with a volcano on the horizon.



Red ginger lilies and other tropical flowers are everywhere on Dominica.



Luxury abounds at Coulibri Ridge.



Laura Ells of Jungle Bay.

Thanks for our memories, Dad

DRESS SHARP. SPEND SMART.

By Scott Dunstall



I was in Toronto this past weekend and without going off on too much of a tangent, this trip was particularly poignant for me.

I grew up in Scarborough and my dad was in the insurance business. During his career, he often worked with his company's lawyers on cases where clients were involved in litigation, and he became personal friends with some of them. When I was eight years old, my mother and I dropped into his office to surprise him, and he was meeting with one of the senior partners from their law firm. He promised me that when I turned

16, I would have a summer job as long as I wanted.

So, when I turned 16, I made him commit to his promise and that is how I spent my summers until I left university. I guess the formal term was law clerk, but it was a lot of fun. I was outside a lot during the day, I met a lot of interesting people and I got to know downtown Toronto like the back of my hand.

But an integral part of that memory was my dad. We would drive downtown and home together every day, and I would meet him almost every day for lunch, often

going to the lunch counter in the basement of Simpson's, which is now the Hudson's Bay flagship store.

This is the time of year that my dad passed, and I haven't been in this part of downtown for a few years. It made me think. It will be over in a heartbeat. You have to try to live your best life today because he did and I try to.

While reflecting on those memories, I also decided to do something that I haven't done in a long time, and that was to create a video montage of things I was seeing in malls and men's sections. So, I walked over to the Eaton's Center and that very flagship Hudson's Bay store which is just south of it on Queen Street. I actually had a blast and I am going to create a video in Canva and post it to my often-neglected Facebook fashion page, Life & Style Wilmot. As a matter of fact, I made a commitment to myself to post at least once a week and to create an Instagram account under the same banner.

Thanks for the inspiration, dad.

One other thing I noticed today while I was in the Zara's at the Eaton's Centre; I went upstairs to the men's section and in one corner, all the items were "marked down" by 60 per cent. So, I went over to see what all the hubbub was about, and it was mostly dog stuff with inflated MSRP's, like bombers and windbreakers made with lower quality material with a starting price of \$290.

So that was a discounted price of \$116. Now, if you don't know how Zara prices things or you really don't understand how to properly evaluate a piece of clothing, then you would be happy with your purchase. But just two racks over were these beautiful full-length dress coats in dove grey and light tan – sand, I guess – made with heavy material, a classic cut and narrow lapels.

I would have paid that bomber jacket's full price of \$290 for that full-length coat without it going on sale, but I didn't expect the price to be that high because I know Zara rarely has any outerwear that high.

And it wasn't. It was \$149 full price, and I bought the dove grey. When I was walking out with it, it occurred to me that me and the guy walking out next to me with the crappy bomber jacket were both happy as pigs in sugar, but for completely different reasons.

I guess it's all about what you know.

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.

protecting ☺
and the ones ☺ love

Now Celebrating

140
YEARS



1•888•567•7546
www.josslin.com

Josslin Insurance
a Real Insurance broker

collette

STONETOWN TRAVEL

GROUP TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY HOSTED BY STONETOWN TRAVEL

FRENCH RIVIERA & PARIS

APRIL 23 – MAY 4, 2026

Head Office: 150 Queen Street East, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4 ☎ 519-284-2332 ✉ agent@stonetowntravel.com TICO #50010159

Branch Office: 210 Mill Street, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9 ☎ 226-333-9939 ✉ newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com TICO #50025796

www.stonetowntravel.com

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

Digging into Wilmot Township's proposed monster tax increase

NATHAN BEAN

Gazette Columnist

The 37-page 2025 Wilmot draft Budget outlines the municipality's planned 50.87 per-cent tax increase. However, the most recent Jan. 16 budget meeting reduced this number to 47.18 per cent after cutting some proposed new jobs.

At a time when grocery prices are through the roof and housing is unaffordable, this tax hike will be hard for many people to swallow. What is up with Wilmot?

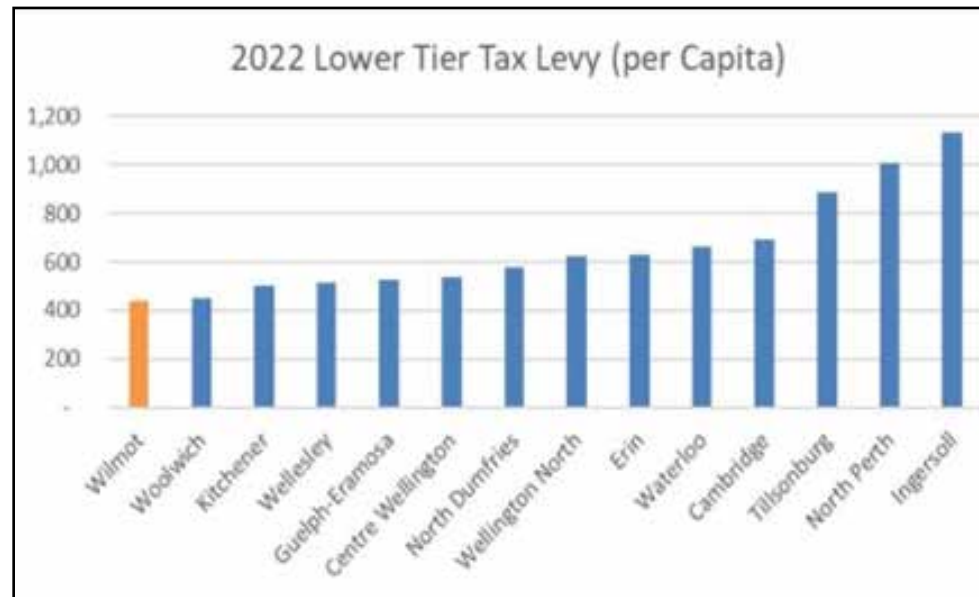
To understand this unique fiscal crisis, we must first understand municipal governance. While this topic can be boring, I hope this article will give you the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions about your local elected officials.

The main issue with this budget surrounds the difference between capital and operating budgets. A capital budget covers large-scale infrastructure projects — buildings, roads and vehicle fleets. An operating budget covers day-to-day operations including salaries, regular maintenance projects and utilities. The key difference lies in their focus; the capital budget addresses tomorrow's needs, while the operating budget ensures today's operations stay on track.

Unlike the provincial or federal governments, municipalities cannot take on long-term debt to finance operating expenses. According to the Municipal Act, municipalities may only take on long-term debt for capital expenses. The problem is emergencies do happen.

BOOM! Imagine an explosion rocks the local water-treatment facility and causes a shutdown requiring costly repairs. If there's no money in the operating budget and borrowing isn't an option, services could grind to a halt.

This hypothetical scenario is the same scenario facing the Township of Wilmot — minus the broken water treatment facility. After 10 years of low property tax rates where "no funds were accumulated in tax capital reserve funds," Wilmot's capital reserve funds are dangerously low.



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGES)

A chart showing neighbouring lower-tier municipalities' property tax levy increases in 2022.

To grow capital reserves and ensure Wilmot is prepared for emergencies, they need to raise money. With many different approaches available to solve this issue, Wilmot has decided on a "significant, one-time increase in property tax."

Of the new 47.18 per-cent proposed increase, 36.87 per cent is due to this capital-funding initiative. Of the \$514 annual increase on the average property owner's tax bill, \$420 of this growth is due to the capital fund.

When this one-time capital fund adjustment is removed, the tax increase rests at 10.31 per cent. While still hard on the pocketbooks, this number would be much more manageable than nearly 50 per cent.

We can further break down this number into two sections: one-time inflationary adjustments (5.76 per cent) and operating gap requests (4.55 per cent). The one-time adjustments cover certain reserve funds, employee-compensation changes and inflation-related increases. Operating gap requests, as defined by the township, are cost increases necessary to ensure Wilmot residents receive the same level of service.

Originally, the operating-gap requests accounted for an 8.24 per-cent tax increase

instead of the revised 4.55 per cent because of the addition of five new municipal jobs, which would cost the township over \$700,000. At the Jan. 16 meeting, Wilmot council decided to cut some of these jobs, which had financial impacts ranging from \$136,250 to \$150,400, to lessen the tax burden on residents.

Ultimately, this substantial tax increase is proposed at a time when neighboring municipalities are keeping their increases

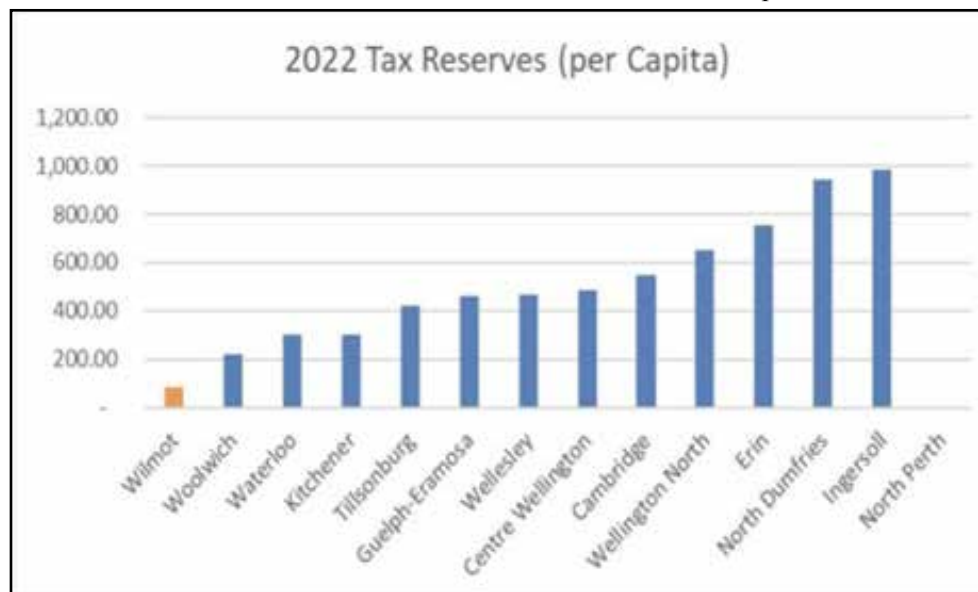
well below double digits: North Perth (6.29 per cent), Wellesley (3.94 per cent), Zorra (4.97 per cent), West Perth (7.24 per cent), and North Dumfries (5.9 per cent).

In 2022, the Township of Wilmot had one of the lowest tax rates compared to neighbouring municipalities of similar scale. Also in 2022, Wilmot had one of the lowest tax reserves per capita of any neighbouring municipality. The City of Waterloo had three times the tax reserves, Wellesley had almost five times as much and Ingersoll had nearly 10 times the capital reserves!

After nearly a decade of low property tax rates, Wilmot residents are feeling the impact of these decisions. To ensure a strong future, and to prepare for a sustainable 10-year capital plan, Wilmot needs to reconcile its need for capital reserves without unnecessarily burdening its residents.

To make the best decisions, we must make informed decisions. The only way to do this is to understand the issues around us and to learn why problems arise. Public consultation, as a cornerstone of municipal governance, is dependent on your involvement. If you care about this issue, please attend the next council meeting addressing the budget, which is on Monday, Jan. 27.

As Dr. Seuss would say, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."



A chart showing neighbouring lower-tier municipalities' financial reserves per capita in 2022.

Ontario's most sustainable & authentic hardwood floors

FLOORS MADE FROM THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Tilsonburg
1300 Jackson Side Road
Tilsonburg (Courtland), ON
519 888 3553
tilsonburg@breezewoodfloors.ca

Kitchener
1580 Huron Road
Petersburg (Wilmot), ON
519 696 2424
kitchener@breezewoodfloors.ca

Orillia
4071 Digby Road
Orillia (Bass Lake), ON
705 326 3965
basslake@breezewoodfloors.ca

Provincial Summer Company Grant Program open to students 15-29

LISA CHESTER

Gazette Contributor

The Stratford Perth Centre for Business (SPCB) is now accepting applications for grants of \$3,000 through the provincial Summer Company Program.

The program, which has been operating for over 15 years, has helped develop student entrepreneurs as they start and operate their own summer businesses.

"The province increased the funding for the grant program across all the centres that deliver the money, so we have eight grants this year," said Holly Mortimer, SPCB business advisor. "The goal of the participants is to experience entrepreneurship before they are out there and finished educating themselves and incurring debt and experimenting and realize they didn't enjoy it. So here, they can use somebody else's money to experiment with entrepreneurship and learn all the facets that they would need to know and decide if they like it or not."

To be eligible, applicants must be students in high school, college or university, not employed, between the ages of 15 and

29, Canadian citizens and intend to continue their education in the fall.

"The application process for the first time ever is now being done locally. Before, it used to be done provincially, so this is great news. Now, we can customize it for the region as to what we are looking for and what information we are going to gather. They would need to apply online and it's pretty straightforward; who are you, what's your address and what's your idea. Successful applicants will give us a bit more than just the idea; 'I'm thinking of doing this and here's why,' have you done this before and what do you hope to gain," said Mortimer.

Once the application is submitted, Mortimer reaches out and determines if technical criteria is met and if the idea can be viable through a business plan, how much it is going to cost to run and if the grant can help with that. The grant provides \$1,500 in start-up funds and \$1,500 at the end of the season.

"We guide them through a templated business plan and then, at the end of that process, here inside at investStratford, we

have a committee of people that banter it back and forth and decide, yes, it is good. It is first come, first serve, so as long as the idea is viable and they met the entry level criteria, then they are in. We really just want to take the viability of an idea and teach them how to turn that into a business," said Mortimer.

Businesses that have thrived under this grant program include those focused on landscaping, house painting, a children's camp, managing YouTube channels with paid subscribers, computer programming, game creation, tech support for seniors, and even detailers in niche markets.

"Having run this program for 14 years, I can't think of anyone that crashed and burned. We've had a lot of fun and so many success stories. We had a house painter who, in his first year of business, grossed \$85,000 as a university student. This will be his third season returning; he hired a management team and operated it from afar," said Mortimer.

Mortimer said running a business is a good alternative to finding summer employment in the job market.

"The cool thing about this program is I want to see anything and everything. Tell me what you love to do and we can turn that into a business. The biggest challenge that participants face is networking and communication. They come with less experience communicating and struggle to talk about themselves, talk about their business and talk to customers about what their needs are. But we are here to help with that; we always launch with a big launch party and get as many community and private partners to attend to just start talking to them. We have mentors that are really skilled with this," said Mortimer.

The program's impact on youth entrepreneurship in the region has been huge. Typically, 50 per cent of the students who participate decide self-employment is for them and something they would like to pursue. Of that 50 per cent, roughly 25 per cent return the following season to continue their enterprise in either a full- or part-time capacity.

For more information, visit stratfordperthbusiness.ca or email info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca.

HOMES FOR SALE

Meeting Your Real Estate Needs with
PROFESSIONALISM, HONESTY & EXPERIENCE since 2005

 <p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Open House Sun. Jan. 26th 2-4 pm</p> <p>📍 592 FAIRVIEW Street, New Hamburg</p> <p>🛏️ 5 🚗 4 🚗 3</p> <p>\$1,449,999 MLS# 40686049</p>	 <p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Open House Sun. Jan. 26th 2-4 pm</p> <p>📍 9-250 HOSTETTLER RD. New Hamburg</p> <p>🛏️ 3 🚗 3 🚗 1</p> <p>\$797,500 MLS# 40656876</p>	 <p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Open House Sun. Jan. 26th 2-4 pm</p> <p>📍 15 ROLLING BROOK LN., New Hamburg</p> <p>🛏️ 2 🚗 2 🚗</p> <p>\$579,999 MLS# 40677868</p>	 <p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Retirement Living Happy Hills-Year Round</p> <p>📍 316489 31ST Line., #904, Happy Hills</p> <p>🛏️ 2 🚗 1 🚗</p> <p>\$275,000 MLS# 40683736</p>
--	--	---	--



ALISON WILLSEY

Real Estate Broker

www.willseyrealestate.com

📞 519.275.4900
willseyalison@gmail.com



📞 519.747.0231
www.peakrealtyltd.com



SOLD!



📍 70 COMMISSIONER Street W, Embro

🛏️ 3 🚗 2 🚗

\$619,900
MLS# 40685182

📍 63 COMMISSIONER Street, Embro

🛏️ 3 🚗 2 🚗 1

\$607,500
MLS# 40659794

Serving
Ontario
Agriculture
since 1966!



B-W FEED & SUPPLY
BEYOND NUTRITION
WWW.BWFEED.CA • 519-662-1773

Family owned
&
Operated

Proud sponsor of the Community Calendar

COMMUNITY CALENDAR - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

FREE Programs for 55+
No Registration Required. Provided by The Township of Wilmot, The Government of Ontario and Community Care Concepts of Woolwich, Wellesley and Wilmot.
9:30-11:30 Coffee Club.
10:00-11:00 Joy and Mental Health Workshop.
11:00-12:00 Tech Device Support.
1:00-2:00 SMART Exercise Class.
2:00-3:00 Fall Prevention - Blood Pressure.
3:00-4:00 Line Dancing Class with Sandra from Fairytale Parties.
*New Dundee Community Centre
1028 Queen St, New Dundee*

Wilmot Council meeting
5-10 p.m.
*Council chambers
60 Snyder's Road West Baden*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship
12:00 p.m.
Please register by Jan 24 by calling 519-664-1900 or toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.
Linwood Community Centre, 5279 Ament Line, Linwood

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

"Hicktown Hoedown"
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Raffles, prizes, food, local beer, line dancing and you can even ride the bull. (Wicked Wesley). This is a fundraiser to support the Wellesley Township "Fall Fair". More info at: marlenekoster@gmail.com
Bill Gies Recreation Centre in Wellesley

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Community Dining for Seniors in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships
12:00 p.m.
Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please register by Feb 7 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.
*Wellesley Recreation Complex
1401 Queen's Bush Rd., Wellesley*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Optimist Club of Petersburg Valentine's Drive Thru Pork Schnitzel Dinner - Pick up at New Hamburg Legion
For tickets contact 519-465-1157 - please leave a message.
*New Hamburg Legion
65 Boullee St, New Hamburg*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp Free Family Day Open House
10am-3:30pm
RSVP to info@hiddenacres.ca
More info at hiddenacres.ca
*Hidden Acres Camp
1921 Line 37, New Hamburg*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Community Dining for Seniors in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships
12:00 p.m.
Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please register by Feb 14 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.
*Wilmot Rec Complex
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Community Dining for Seniors in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships
12:00 p.m.
Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please register by Feb 21 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.
*Linwood Community Centre
5279 Ament Line, Linwood*

FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES

Tavistock Seniors Activities
Inside walking Monday & Wednesday morning 8:30-12. Contact: Larry Brown 519-240-6715
Pickleball Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon, 12-4. Wednesday night 7-9. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052
Cards Monday, Wednesday afternoon 1-4, euchre, crib (bring board), etc. Just drop in to play, good to bring someone. Contact: Bob Routly 519-301-2118
Crokinole Monday, Wednesday morning 8:30-12, Just drop in to play, good to bring someone. Contact: John Schultz 519-655-2346
Shuffleboard @ arena, Wednesday 12:30-4 and Thursday 10-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052.
VON Smart Seniors Exercise, Tuesday and Thursday morning 9 - 10; Village Manor 10:25 - 11:25. Contact: 519-539-1231 x 6285
*Tavistock Memorial Hall
1 Adam St. Tavistock ON*

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 in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
 - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
 - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a Small Classified Display ad (3.3" x 2.5") - \$35 + hst

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette
ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

To book advertising
space contact our
sales representative

Sharon Leis, 519-580-5418, sharonbleis@gmail.com



CLASSIFIED ADS —

FOR SALE

TREES: Shade trees, Fruit trees, Apple, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Sweet and Sour Cherries, Apricot, Nectarines, Blueberry, Haskopp, Black Chokeberry, Grapes etc. Lots of Spruce, Pine, Cedars for wind-breaks and privacy hedges, Sizes 1 to 6+. Flowering shrubs and much more. Come check us out Mon-Sat 7:00am - 6:00pm Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Road, Wroxeter (1 concession north of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us; St. Jude worker of miracles, pray for us; St. Jude helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day, by the eighth day this prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. S.F.

WANTED

\$ Cash Paid \$ for your RECORDS and LPs. Jazz, Blues, Rock, Pop, Folk, Soundtracks, and more. Selectively buying CDs, Cassettes, Turntables, and Stereo Equipment. For more information: DIAMOND DOGS MUSIC 114 Ontario St. Stratford/ 226-972-5750

WANTED

I will pay cash for antiques and collectibles. Coca Cola, Pepsi, any pop company, Brewery items Kuntz, Huether Labatts, etc. Old radios and gramophones, Wristwatches and pocket watches, Old fruit jars, Beaver Star Bee Hive etc. Any old oil cans and signs Red Indian Supertest etc Any small furniture. If you are moving or cleaning out stuff please contact me - 519-570-6920.

CLASSES

KARATE!

CLASSES BEGIN FEB. 11TH

SCHWEITZER'S MARTIAL ARTS

Self-defense, Self-discipline, Self-confidence

GROUP CLASSES FOR AGES 4 TO ADULT

Taught by Renshi Becky Schweitzer,

4th Degree Black Belt and 12X World Karate Champion

Location Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church -

23 Church Street, New Hamburg

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL ONLY \$105+HST FOR 9 WEEKS

Uniform extra

Special ends Feb. 4. Regular price \$125+HST

Call 519-580-1418 or

e-mail becky_schweitzer@hotmail.com

www.schweitzersmartialarts.com

NOTICE

Notice

East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery

Trustees of the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery have submitted by-laws to the Registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Any interested parties may contact Greg Zehr (226-747-6229) for information, or to make copies. By-laws may be reviewed at 657173 15th Line Tavistock.

These by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Bereavement Authority of Ontario 1-844-493-6356

Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Sean Combs | 6. Jerusalem |
| 2. Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir | 7. Nectar, Pollen |
| 3. 1958 | 8. False |
| 4. Fat | 9. Crocodile |
| 5. Massachusetts | 10. 2004 |



READ US ONLINE

GRANTHAVEN.COM/WILMOT-TAVISTOCK-GAZETTE/



PICK UP YOUR COPY OF The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

New Hamburg

Thrift Centre, Short Stop, Sobeys, Office Pro, No Frills, Mario's Chicken, Library, McDonalds, Tim Hortons, Nith Valley Butcher, The Whining Tree, Town Square Pharmasave, Heart'n Home Creations, Cook's Pharmacy, Great Canadian Dollar, Wilmot Recreation Centre, Pizza Arca, Old Country Restaurant, TLC Pet Food

Tavistock

Double D's Restaurant, D&D Homestyle Cuisine, Tim Hortons, Hasty Market, Sam's Independent Quehl's Restaurant, IDA Pharmacy, Shell Gas, Library, Tavistock Arena, Scotia Bank

Baden

Tim Hortons, Circle K, Subway, Mars Variety, Baden Coffee Company, Pharmacy in Baden Plaza

New Dundee

New Dundee Village Market

Wellesley

Pym's, Schmidt's Bulk Pantry, Cook's Pharmacy Schmidtsville Restaurant, Wellesley Service

Shakespeare

Shakespeare Brewery, Shakespeare Variety

St. Agatha

Pfennings Store, Hasty Market

Petersburg

Petro Canada Gas Bar

Stratford

Food Basics, Sobeys, No Frills, Klomps Home & Garden

SERVICE DIRECTORY —

ASSISTANCE



TAVISTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Assistance for people & families in Shakespeare, Tavistock, Hickson

519-655-3500
tapisforyou@outlook.com
NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS



TAPISFORYOU.COM

AUTOMOTIVE



**Full Service
Maintenance &
Repair on All
Makes & Models**

272 Snyder's Road, Baden
matt@badenauto.ca

AUTOMOTIVE



SERVICE & REPAIR
27 Woodstock St. N., Tavistock
519-655-2500

 **AUTOPRO**

www.schultzautomotive.com

AUTOMOTIVE



CSN - E&L **Ryan Pacey**
374 Hamilton Road, Manager
Unit 4, New Hamburg, T: 519-662-1892
ON, N3A 2K2 E: newhamburg@likenew.ca
Website: csncollision.ca/el
24-Hour Towing Assistance 1-877-700-4CS (4276)

**To book your space call
Sharon Leis at
519-580-5418 or email
sharonbleis@gmail.com**

SERVICE DIRECTORY —

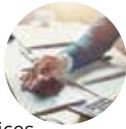
ACCOUNTANT

DAN YANTZI

PROFESSIONAL
ACCOUNTANT, CMA

Personal and business
accounting and tax services.

519-577-2237 djyaccounting@yahoo.com



CABINETRY



Specializing in Custom Kitchens, Baths,
Mantels, Bars, Entertainment Centers

Mike Foster • 519-655-2874

www.selectivecustomcabinets.com

e-mail: selective@sympatico.ca

380 Woodstock St. S. Unit 8, Tavistock

CHIROPRACTIC

LAFAY FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC

Dr. Stephen M. LaFay (Chiropractor)
New Patients Always Welcome
296 Ontario St. Stratford
519-273-4404

COMPUTERS

73 PEEL ST,
NEW HAMBURG
519-662-6720

NOW SELLING
AUDIO INTERFACES
AND OTHER MUSICAL
ACCESSORIES!!

★ VIRUS REMOVAL

★ ON SITE AND IN-STORE SERVICE

★ NEW AND USED COMPUTERS

FOCUS COMPUTERS

CONSTRUCTION

Agcore
CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

Foundations, Floors, Driveways, Patios
Drive Sheds, Barns & Bunk Silos

General Contracting - Anything Concrete!
www.agcore.ca • bstere@agcore.ca

Brian Stere
519-276-1851

**RESIDENTIAL
AGRICULTURAL
COMMERCIAL**

**MOHR
CARPENTRY**

New Buildings
and Renovations.
Box 250, Tavistock
Ph: 519.655.2355
info@mohrconstruction.com

CONTRACTORS

ENTWISTLE

CONCRETE & LANDSCAPE
DRIVEWAYS | PATIOS | WALKWAYS
STEPS | RETAINING WALLS

• EXPOSED AGGREGATE

• STAMPED 519-501-5260

• SPIN FLOAT entwistlecl@hotmail.com

• BROOM FINISH www.entwistlecl.com

FIVESTAR CUSTOM CONCRETE LTD.

Foundations • Floors • Driveways • Sidewalks

Jon Willsey 519-778-2616 Tavistock, ON

jwillsey@fivestarcustomconcrete.com

www.fivestarcustomconcrete.com



ADDITIONS • RENOVATIONS
REPLACEMENT WINDOWS & DOORS
DECKS & INTERIOR FINISHING
GARY PEARSON 519-655-2825

JW JON WITZEL
CONTRACTING LTD.

Residential • Commercial
Agricultural • jonwitzel.com

519-662-4239

Paving stone (installation & repair), sidewalks, patios,
pool decks, planters, driveways, retaining walls

ZEHR
INTERLOCK & MORE

P.O. Box 979, Tavistock
Kris Zehr Cell: 519-801-1743

DENTAL

Tavistock Dental
DR. KWON KIM

Offering I.V. Sedation,
Nitrous Oxide, Implant Tooth
Replacement and Root Canal
Treatment

48 Woodstock St. N.,
Tavistock, ON N0B 2R0

Tel: 519 655 2101

info@tavistockdental.ca

tavistockdental.ca

ELECTRICAL

Specializing in Agricultural, Solar,
Automation Control and EV Charging

Crescent Ridge
SERVICES

163 Hope St. W. Toll Free: 1-855-655-6802
P.O. Box 495 Local: 519-655-6802
Tavistock, ON N0B 2R0 Email: info@crescentridge.ca

EXCAVATING

**JEL-JOE
HAULAGE**

EXCAVATING SERVICES
Skidsteer and Mini Excavator
Randy Fletcher 519-272-3641

HEALTH SERVICES

REBALANCE
HEALTH AND WELLNESS INC.
FEATURING MANUAL OSTEOPATH & MORE
info@rebalancehealthandwellnessinc.com
519-545-2442
148 Peel St. Unit 10, New Hamburg, ON
RENEE YANTZI CANDICE FEDY
Manual Osteopath, D.O.M.P. Registered Psychologist (Qualifying)

HEATING/COOLING

Doug Woelfle
Owner/Operator

dwoelfle@rogers.com

Installation, Sales & Service,
Residential, Commercial

**TOTAL HEATING &
COOLING**

** Family Operated Business For Over 100 Years **

- Furnaces • Air Conditioners
- Fireplaces
- Gas Piping • Sheet Metal Fabrication

Shop: 519-421-3268

Cell: 519-532-2051

LANDSCAPING

WE DESIGN & BUILD LANDSCAPES

Ross Yantzi's
**PAVESTONE
PLUS** LIMITED

WWW.PAVESTONE.CA

LEGAL

Monteith Ritsma Phillips

PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

519-655-2900

www.tavistocklawyers.com

Appointments as arranged

MASSAGE

Massage Therapy Associates of Tavistock

KRISTY SCHLEGEL, RMT
24 Hope St. W., Tavistock

- Prevent & Treat Muscular Disorder
- Restore & Enhance Physical Well-Being
- Massage Therapy • Reflexology

Ph: 519-655-2512 for appt. or inquiries

To book your space call

Sharon Leis at

519-580-5418 or email

sharonbleis@gmail.com

MECHANICAL

**MACKER
MECHANICAL**

• Installation & Service

• Oil Gas Furnaces • Boilers

• Water Heaters • Air Handlers

• Air Conditioners • Hydronics

BRAD MACDONALD

519-591-3871 | New Hamburg

mackermecanical@gmail.com

PLUMBING

McKay Plumbing

Commercial - Residential - Agricultural

Mark McKay

Owner/Operator

519-301-1097

63 Hope St. W.

Box 899, Tavistock

N0B 2R0

markmckay@rogers.com

STORAGE

STORE YOUR STUFF!

MINI STORAGE: 8x13/8x16/10x11

INTERIOR MINI STORAGE

Call for Pricing!

MOHR STORAGE

114 John St. Box 250, Tavistock

Tel: 519-655-2355 • Fax 655-2715

RENT A BOX

Portable Storage Containers

Sizes 8'x12' to 8'x24'

Store at your place or ours.

Phone 519-625-8510

REAL ESTATE



NEW and RESALE HOMES

CUSTOM HOMES AND RENOVATIONS

Let's turn your dream into reality!

Visit us at: www.brianwilhelm.com

RE/MAX a-b realty **BROKERAGE**

88 Wellington Street, Stratford, ON

Brian: 519-272-3465 • brian@brianwilhelm.com

Kyle: 519-574-7244 • kyle@brianwilhelm.com



Brian Wilhelm, Broker
Kyle Wilhelm, Sales Rep.

Meeting Real Estate Needs with PROFESSIONALISM, HONESTY & EXPERIENCE since 2005

ALISON WILLSEY
Real Estate Broker

www.willseyrealestate.com

519.275.4900 | willseyalison@gmail.com | **PEAK REALTY LTD.** | 519.747.0231 | www.peakrealtyltd.com

RE/MAX a-b REALTY LTD. **BROKERAGE**
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED

DEDICATED TO MEETING ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!
Serving Tavistock, Stratford & Area since 1994
88 Wellington Street, Stratford, ON, N5A 2L2
SANDRA EBY, Sales Representative
mseby@rogers.com • www.remmaxabrealty.ca

Cell: 519-272-7676
Res: 519-655-2548
Office: 519-273-2821

**THINKING OF
MAKING A
MOVE?**

KATE GINGERICH
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

kate@paulandkatekw.com
226-789-3846

PAUL & KATE
GOING THE DISTANCE FOR YOU

640 Riverbend Dr.
Kitchener, ON, N2H 3S2

TRAVEL

**STONETOWN
TRAVEL**

Main office: 150 Queen St E,
St. Marys • 519-284-2332
210 Mill St, New Hamburg • 226-333-9939
www.stonetowntravel.com

To book this space call
Sharon Leis at
519-580-5418 or email
sharonbleis@gmail.com

A TASTE THEY'LL LOVE, INGREDIENTS YOU CAN TRUST!
Delivering Locally Made Pet Food Since 1994.



ORDER ONLINE TODAY!

TLCPETFOOD.COM | 519-662-9500

DELIVERED FRESH. DELIVERED FREE.