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(NANCY DALE PHOTO)

Inspired by Métis artist Jaime Black's REDress Project and led by the Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships, New Hamburg and area residents and businesses displayed red dresses on May 5 alongside photos and information on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples to bring wider attention to the issue.

Wilmot Township leases Prime Ministers Path statues to local non-profit

Reinstallation of statues will come at a cost to taxpayers

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

Nine bronze statues depicting former Canadian prime ministers have a new lease on life in Baden.

Wilmot Township council recently voted in favour of renting the Prime Ministers Path (PMP) statues to Createscape Waterloo Region for 20 years, for \$2 per year.

At that same meeting, council granted Createscape legal permission to place the statues in the park behind the township administration complex. The estimated cost of \$78,000 will be covered by the township but will be offset by \$12,800 in donations to the project to date.

The organization is a registered charitable organization based in Kitchener, focusing on arts, culture and community engagement.

"We look forward to re-establishing the Prime Ministers Path in a way that honestly and accurately represents our shared history," said Don Bourgeois, the group's president. "We hope Wilmot residents will continue to

Continued on page 3

Braves tie PJHL final with gutsy road win

Second straight game decided in overtime

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

If the first two games of the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) final series are any indication of what will happen moving forward, fans are in for a heck of a ride.

Tavistock skated into Fergus on Sunday afternoon and came away with a thrilling, 3-2 overtime victory after Yann Raskin buried a shot over the shoulder of Whalers' goalie Noah Lundgren, a powerplay snipe that knocked the netminder's water bottle off the top of the net. The

goal came while Fergus' Liam Eveleigh was in the box serving a four-minute spearing penalty.

"It's huge. We didn't have our best game, but good teams find a way, and we did, and we want to keep this going,"

Continued on page 22

TIM LOUIS
Member of Parliament for Kitchener-Conestoga

☎ 519-578-3777 ✉ Tim.Louis@parl.gc.ca 🌐 TimLouisMP.ca @TimLouisKitCon

Building a New Nithview project reaches a milestone

New long-term care home reaches halfway point

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

The Tri-County Mennonite Homes' (TCMH) "Building a New Nithview" construction development has reached its halfway point.

Completion of the 28-month project is scheduled to open in the summer of 2027, and the organization expects the home to house 160 residents by the fall.

"Construction began in February 2025, and it hasn't stopped since. Despite the long, snowy winter this year, the project continues on time without any delays," said a TCMH press release. "Over the winter months, structural steel framing was finished, the roof was installed and interior steel framing was started. Currently, interior steel framing is completed up to the fifth floor."

"I'm very excited to see the project's progress and to watch the building take shape. It's hard to believe that 14 months ago, we were clearing the snow off the site and watching the first pieces of equipment arrive," said TCMH CEO Steven Harrison. "Now, at the halfway point in the project, the building is standing tall and we are starting to see what the final product is going to look like."

Director of communications Emily Shannon said the current residents are excited to see the new building take shape.

"Many will sit in the windows and the lounges to watch the construction work. Others walk or take their scooters out to the front of the construction site for an



(PHOTO COURTESY OF TRI-COUNTY MENNONITE HOMES)

The new Nithview long-term care home in New Hamburg is taking shape and the development has reached its halfway point. It is expected to open next summer.

even closer vantage. There is lots of buzz about the project and people are eager to see it completed."

She added TCMH is receiving quite a few questions about the project from the general public, including when it will be open for business.

"People want to know when the building will be completed and how the construction phases are going. Most of them

are very supportive of the project and are happy to hear about the progress."

Once opened, the long-term care home will grow from 97 to 160 beds, and all residents in the former home will be transferred over.

"Behind the scenes is still very much focused on construction. The senior director for facilities management and team is just starting to look for the furnishings and

pieces that will fill the building, and we expect that phase of work to begin in earnest in the coming months," said Shannon.

"We'll need to purchase everything from beds to dishware to the artwork that goes on the walls, basically everything that will make the building into a home for the residents when we open."

Internal discussions about staffing needs and operational requirements in the new building are beginning.

"Generally, recruitment will increase over the next 12 months to have people ready to work when the home opens in 2027," Shannon said.

Concrete pouring for floors was completed in late March, and work on the waterproof membranes has begun around windows and roof parapets. Window installation will begin soon and should be completed in July.

"Melloul Blamey (Construction), the general contractor, continues to be exemplary to work with. They are managing the construction schedule and adjusting the schedule where needed to ensure the project remains on track," said the release.

The Township of Wilmot's upcoming road work on Victoria and Boullee streets is not expected to cause any delays or access issues for the construction site.

"Coordination with the township is ongoing to ensure access to both the construction site and the current home. Staff, families and all emergency services will be able to access the front door of Nithview during the roadwork," added Shannon.



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Statues get new home in Baden under 20-year deal

Continued from page 1

share feedback throughout the process to ensure this project remains community focused."

Wilmot CAO Jeff Wilmer said there could be an extension of a further 20 years. He added the cost of reinstalling the statues falls on the township.

"The recommendation tonight is council confirm its commitment and the availability of that funding so when the foundations are being poured to reinstall the statues, the township is prepared to pay up to \$78,000 towards that cost," Wilmer said.

The township is also on the hook to pay the insurance costs for the statues, which will likely come in at around \$1,000 per year for each. Coun. Kris Wilkinson said while he is in favour of the initiative, the goal was not to spend any more tax dollars on it.

"I understand we would have an overarching liability policy associated with the park ... but I am curious why this specific premium is associated per statue and if that is truly necessary."

Wilmer said the township owns the nine statues and that won't change going forward.

"It really is our responsibility to insure them, and I think that's really what the driver was here behind us, paying insurance, because we continue to be the owner."

Coun. Harvir Sidhu made it abundantly clear he is not in favour of spending any more tax dollars on the PMP, something his constituents have expressed to him.

"I am very firmly against spending any more township dollars to reinstall. That should be up to Createscape and those organizers to fundraise the money and do so. General maintenance, in terms of mowing the lawn and upkeep, that is what I would be comfortable with."

Sidhu made a motion to do just that, which was seconded by Wilkinson to facilitate a discussion.

"I am somewhat torn on this," Wilkinsons said. "... The township removed these at a cost and essentially took away the work

that was already done and paid for. From that perspective, I think we bear responsibility to cover the reinstallation costs."

He added the nearly \$13,000 raised so far should be put towards the statue's reinstallation. Coun. Lilliane Dunstall agreed with Wilkinson and said the township took down the statues and should pay for putting them back up.

"And I have no issue with that \$12,800 being used. I know some of the people who have contributed, and they're just excited to get them back up."

Wilmer stated council committed in July to pay for the reinstallation costs and advised against reconsidering it. Sidhu's motion was voted down, meaning the township will pay for all reinstallation costs.

These decisions follow a resolution made by council in July 2025, and reflect the vision set out by a local working group that was established during the PMP public engagement process.

Part of that vision included the creation of the Prime Ministers Path community steering committee. This volunteer-led group worked as an advisory body to council over the last several months and will now be disbanded as Createscape takes custody of the statues and responsibility for re-establishing the path.

The township said no further tax dollars will be committed to the project, beyond the installation and insurance costs. Createscape will now develop plans to re-establish the path, along with an educational program about the history, role and impact of the prime ministers that it depicts.

Createscape is accepting donations to support its ongoing work on the project. Members of the public can donate online through Canada Helps (www.canada-helps.org/en/charities/createscape-waterloo-region/) or by cheque made out to Createscape Waterloo Region, mailed to 94 Windrush Trail, Kitchener, ON, N2P 2B3.

For more information about the Prime Ministers Path project, visit www.engage-wr.ca/prime-ministers-path.



(FILE PHOTO)

A bronze statue of former Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King is among the nine figures set to be reinstalled in Baden as part of the renewed Prime Ministers Path project.

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Local artisans featured at Mother's Day Market

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

A Mother's Day Market was held at The Waterlot, a well-known and historic spot in New Hamburg, on Sunday, May 3.

The event brought together many local vendors and gave residents a chance to find a special gift for mom. The market was spearheaded by Sarah Tieleman, owner of Sew Rustic Candle and Gift Company, a homebased business in nearby New Dundee.

"It is so exciting to showcase an amazing group of talented local artisans," Tieleman said.

Shoppers could choose from a wide range of items, including candles, pottery, beauty products, watercolour art and other handmade gifts. Visitors were encouraged to shop local and support small businesses while picking out the perfect Mother's Day gift.

Instead of an admission fee, guests were invited to make a cash donation at the door. All donations went to support the Wilmot and Wellesley Resource Centre.



(DIANE DANEN PHOTOS)

Vanessa Crawford of Bright, owner of The Bright Garden, displays her locally grown flower bouquets at the Mother's Day Market in New Hamburg. Crawford, who started her flower farm in 2023, grows, harvests and arranges all of her floral creations by hand. Crawford will be at the Spring Ayr Market in Ayr on May 10.



Vanessa Simpson, owner of The Side Yard, serves a specialty coffee to Shelley Hayes, owner of Electric Lemonade Beauty, during the Mother's Day Market in New Hamburg. Simpson will officially launch her new business, The Side Yard, at Shakespeare Brewing Company on May 7 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.



Ainsley Rester of Cambridge, owner of Moore Prints, displays custom-designed crewnecks and T-shirts at the Mother's Day Market in New Hamburg. What began as a creative hobby quickly grew into a passion, leading her to start her business and share her unique designs with others.

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Apr. 20 Edna Black, St. Marys	\$50.00
Apr. 21 John Wilkinson, Stratford	\$50.00
Apr. 22 Finley Koert, Mitchell	\$50.00
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Apr. 26 Lleyton Clark, Woodlawn	\$50.00
Apr. 27 Krista Price, Woodham	\$50.00
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KIDS

Cut and Colour This Picture to Wish Mom a Happy Mother's Day!

Connection at centre of Mental Health Week events in Wilmot area

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

As Mental Health Week is marked across Canada May 4-10, the Interfaith Counselling Centre in New Hamburg is encouraging residents to think about the role connection plays in supporting mental health.

This year's Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) theme is Come Together, Canada. Stronger connections. Better mental health. The message focuses on strengthening belonging, reducing isolation and recognizing the small, everyday ways people can support one another.

For Interfaith Counselling Centre executive director Rev. Matthew Isert Bender, the theme lines up closely with the work the centre does every day.

"That is our core message, so it really resonated," he said.

Throughout the week, the centre has organized events aimed at seniors, youth, families and the broader community. Some events are focused on intentional conversation and wellness education, while others are simply about giving people a chance to get out, gather and enjoy time together.

Earlier in the week, the centre hosted a seniors wellness talk at the Wellesley Township Recreation Complex, a Great Divide Trail travelogue at The Waterlot in New Hamburg and a seniors wellness session and youth wellness night at the Wilmot Recreation Centre (WRC). On Friday, May 8, a youth event will be held at the WRC from 4:30-7 p.m. featuring karaoke, music bingo and more. On Saturday, May 9, residents are invited to the WRC from 2-4 p.m. for an open swim, walk and popcorn.

Bender said the week is intended to help destigmatize conversations about mental health while reminding people that support can take many forms.

"It's not weakness," he said of reaching out for support. "It's not carrying it alone."

According to CMHA resources for Mental Health Week, social connection is tied to higher rates of wellbeing,

greater resilience and longer life expectancy, while isolation and loneliness can contribute to both mental and physical health challenges.

The effects of loneliness are not limited to feeling sad or disconnected. CMHA notes loneliness and prolonged social isolation can trigger stress responses in the body and are associated with depression, high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke.

Bender says that makes connection a community health issue, not simply an individual one.

"Chronic loneliness impacts our overall wellness in very tangible ways," he said.

While counselling remains an important and specialized form of support, he said good mental health is also built through the everyday fabric of community life – visiting someone recovering from surgery, checking in on a neighbour, attending a local event, volunteering, joining a club or simply calling a friend.

"Those are actually the bedrock of good mental health, good community," he said.

That message is especially important in rural communities, where transportation, income, mobility and access to services can all affect whether people are able to stay connected. CMHA notes people with disabilities and those living on low incomes are often more vulnerable to loneliness because barriers can reduce opportunities for social contact.

Bender said everyone has a role to play in noticing who may be isolated and taking the time to reach out.

"If everyone in the community is mindful of who might be someone right now who isn't able to engage, 'How do I reach out?' And if each of us has a person or two that we are reaching out to, then that's huge," he said.

The Interfaith Counselling Centre is also using Mental Health Week as part of a broader shift away from its long-running auction fundraiser, which moved online during the pandemic but lost much of its community connection in the process.

"What was lost in the virtual was that opportunity for connection," Bender said.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF INTERFAITH COUNSELLING CENTRE)

Executive director Rev. Matthew Isert Bender and the Interfaith Counselling Centre in New Hamburg are hosting and organizing several events this week, Mental Health Week across Canada, aimed at fostering and promoting better community connection as part of overall mental-health support.

Now, the centre is looking to build more in-person outreach, education and community events while continuing to raise funds to subsidize counselling services. He said roughly 60 per cent of the counselling provided by the centre receives some form of subsidy.

"We need a percentage to come from donations, individuals and business so we can continue to make sure everyone gets counselling," he said.

For Bender, the takeaway from Mental Health Week is simple; stronger communities help build stronger mental health.

"We all are involved in working for better mental health," he said. "Everyone has a role to play."

For more information on the services offered by the Interfaith Counselling Centre, visit www.interfaithcounselling.ca. For more information on Mental Health Week 2026 and online resources, visit cmha.ca/mental-health-week.

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Salonen seeking re-election in Wilmot

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

“I’m seeking re-election because the work underway in Wilmot needs steady, experienced leadership to carry it forward.”

Those were the first words from current Wilmot Township Mayor Natasha Salonen on why she wants a second term as head of council.

“When I first ran in 2022, I was clear that the community needed change. Over this past term, we’ve done that work, resetting and stabilizing the township in many important ways. Now, the next phase is about follow-through, finishing what we started and making sure Wilmot is prepared for the growth we know is coming in a way that is responsible and sustainable,” she said.

Salonen added she also would like to continue building on the foundation of the township’s financial reset, creating a more stable financial future with greater predictability in township budgets and more manageable tax impacts over time.

“At this moment, Wilmot benefits from experienced, disciplined leadership and that’s what I’m committed to continuing. The biggest issues facing Wilmot are how we manage our finances, growth, infrastructure and long-term sustainability.”

She said growth is coming to the region, but the question is how it will be shaped.

“Our responsibility is to ensure it happens in a way that protects what people value about this community, our character, our quality of life and the things that make Wilmot feel like home. At the same time, we’re dealing with real infrastructure pressures, particularly around water. That’s not just a township issue; it’s a regional one. Part of my role as mayor is making sure Wilmot is effectively represented in those decisions so our community is both protected and treated fairly.”

Salonen said the township continues making thoughtful financial decisions, maintaining infrastructure, delivering reliable services and building greater predictability into taxes over time so residents can plan and feel more secure.

“That work is underway and needs to be carried into the next term. There are also real opportunities ahead for Wilmot, including employment growth and expanded access to services,” she said. “The next term will be critical in ensuring we are an active partner in shaping that growth so it brings long-term prosperity to our community, rather than something that simply happens to us.”

She added affordability for residents will continue to be a cornerstone of council decisions.

“Financial pressures are real, and they must remain at the forefront of every decision we make moving forward.”

When asked why residents should tick the box beside her name on election day on Monday, Oct. 26, Salonen said over the past three-plus years, her focus has been on bringing structure, accountability and long-term thinking to township operations.



(WILMOT.CA PHOTO)

Township of Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen

“That has included strengthening our financial practices, rebuilding a more stable foundation and improving how decisions are communicated and understood, ensuring they are clearly presented and accessible to residents.”

She added the current term has required navigating several complex and evolving challenges, some of which were not anticipated at the outset.

“My focus throughout has been on addressing those issues thoughtfully and responsibly, while continuing to move the township forward. We’ve also addressed internal challenges that were affecting how effectively the township could deliver for residents, while ensuring Wilmot has a strong and credible voice at the regional table, where many of the decisions shaping our future are made.”

Salonen explained municipal government is complex, and progress doesn’t always happen as quickly as people would like. She said her approach has been to focus on getting things right, so bigger problems aren’t created down the road.

“The next step is stabilizing and building on the changes we’ve made so they are lasting and deliver consistent results for residents. Residents can continue to expect consistency, follow-through and decisions grounded in the long-term interests of the community.”

The incumbent mayor said she understands people can feel frustrated with the pace of change in government.

“The issues of the day like growth, infrastructure, financial sustainability and organizational cultural change are complex and interconnected. They require decisions that are thoughtful and coordinated, not just quick.”

She added the next term will be an important one for Wilmot and will be about building on the progress that has been made and ensuring that work continues with focus and consistency.

“My approach has been to make sure we’re building something that will last, leaving the township in a stronger, more stable position than we found it, and one that best serves our community. That’s what continues to guide my work and what I’ll continue to bring to the role. I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve this community, and I would be honoured to continue that work.”

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Wilmot approves new communications strategy, but questions raised about public input

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Wilmot council has approved a new corporate communications strategy intended to guide how the township shares information and engages with residents through 2030, though not without some concerns about how the plan was developed and what it prioritizes.

Presented by Redbrick Communications vice president Andrea Montgomery at the April 27 council meeting, the 2026-2030 corporate communications strategy aims to stabilize and strengthen a department that has seen significant turnover and growing demands in recent years.

“This was really about reviewing and kind of getting a sense of the current setting and the current environment from your communications perspective as well as from the community and things that are happening around the organization itself, and evaluating the relevancy of the past communications strategy we had developed, which was left in a draft form,” Montgomery said.

“And then of course, the deliverable at the end of the day is to develop a refreshed communications strategy and provide recommendations for improvement and to elevate your communications function as you move forward. These are things for consideration and ... there is not an implementation plan at this stage. These are the recommended actions and a strategy to give you some direction and focus as you move forward, and the next step would be how do we actually implement this and what would that plan look like?”

The strategy, which council approved in principle along with its priority actions, focuses on three key areas: stabilizing the communications function, building on recent improvements and strengthening storytelling to better share the township’s work with the public.

At its core, the plan calls for increased investment in communications capacity, including hiring a manager of

communications and government relations and establishing backup support for the township’s current one-person communications operation.

The need for additional resources is a central theme throughout the strategy. The township’s sole communications specialist, Brett O’Reilly, is currently responsible for supporting all departments, managing media relations, handling social media and responding to emerging issues – a workload Montgomery described as exceeding a manageable level during regular business hours.

“Demand has consistently outweighed capacity for many years,” the strategy notes, adding there is little to no backup when the specialist is unavailable.

Montgomery told council communications as a critical tool for building trust with residents, particularly in a climate of increasing misinformation, declining trust in government and rapidly evolving digital platforms.

Research informing the strategy found residents want more and better communication from the township. In a recent community questionnaire, increasing spending and service levels for communications ranked as the second-highest priority, while satisfaction with communication about programs, services and events ranked lowest.

Despite that feedback, the strategy places relatively less emphasis on public engagement as a primary focus area.

While the plan includes some actions aimed at improving engagement – such as developing templates, creating an organization-wide engagement calendar and promoting the township’s online engagement hub – these items are identified as lower priority compared to stabilizing the communications function and enhancing storytelling.

In fact, the strategy explicitly notes that improving public engagement is not currently a key priority for the township, with related actions assigned lower priority levels as a result.

Appearing as a delegation before council on this topic, Barry Wolfe questioned why enhancing public-engagement efforts, one of the six priorities included in Redbrick’s original draft communications strategy developed in 2022 and presented to council in 2023, was not included in the new strategy.

That original strategy, Wolfe said, came as a response to public outcry against the controversial development of the Prime Minister’s Path project without adequate public consultation back in 2016.

“The scope was reduced from six (priorities) to three, and it’s all, basically, maintain the current, maintain the current, make the current better,” Wolfe said. “I want you to take a look at history and the reason why this whole process go started in the first place. Redbrick did a super job on the first one – you almost got there with six priorities. The scope has been defined differently for them for this one; it’s not their fault that input is not there.

“... If you’re going to try to address issues of distrust, you’ve got to give people a chance, with process, to give input before the decision is made, and seven minutes (as a delegation appearing before council) 10 days before does not do it.”

Wolfe recommended council receive the strategy for information and direct staff to expand the scope of the communications strategy to develop an enhanced public-engagement process as part of the strategy.

After Wolfe finished speaking, Coun. Kris Wilkinson said he agreed with the points raised and questioned both the level of public input used to shape the strategy and the limited focus on enhancing engagement with residents moving forward.

Though Wilkinson introduced an amended motion that would have done just that, the majority of council voted against the motion. Members raised concerns about the potential lack of clarity around what the township would be asking the public for feedback on and the need to strengthen township communications capacity immediately, the fact there are currently

numerous opportunities for residents to engage with the municipality on projects and initiatives led by each of the township departments, and the opportunity for council and staff to enhance the public-engagement process as part of the strategy’s implantation plan.

The strategy is a refresh of the draft communications plan presented to council in 2023 but never formally approved. The updated version draws on research conducted for that earlier effort, along with internal interviews, document reviews and survey data collected through other township initiatives.

According to the report, the refresh was intended to ensure the strategy reflects the township’s current realities, including leadership changes, organizational restructuring and increased service pressures.

The strategy also evaluates Wilmot’s current communications approach using Redbrick’s municipal communications maturity index, placing the township at a “doer” level – characterized by a largely reactive, operational focus with limited strategic-planning and capacity.

To move toward a more strategic model, the plan recommends formalizing communications processes, improving coordination across departments and integrating communications planning into project development.

It also emphasizes the importance of proactive storytelling – highlighting township projects, staff work and community impact – as a way to build trust, reduce misinformation and demonstrate value to taxpayers.

Implementation of the strategy is expected to roll out gradually beginning in mid-2026, with timing dependent on council decisions around staffing and resources.

Township staff will return to council with a future report outlining implementation options, including details related to the proposed communications manager position and associated costs.

QUIZ TIME

BY JAKE GRANT

1. What term describes a period of temporary economic decline?
2. What planet in our solar system has a longer day than it does a year?
3. How many minutes in a professional football/soccer match?
4. What city is known as the eternal city?
5. What company is the largest self driving taxi fleet in the world?
6. What land mammal has the strongest bite force?
7. What is the largest internal organ in the human body?
8. How many Stanley Cups do the Montreal Canadiens have?
9. Who carved Pinocchio?
10. What is a microscopic bear called?

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Wilmot council compensation dips slightly in 2025

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Wilmot council members received slightly less in total pay and benefits in 2025 compared to the previous year, according to the township's annual remuneration report.

Presented by director of financial services and treasurer Harjot Grewal at the April 27 council meeting, the report shows total compensation for council members was \$181,030.15 in 2025, down from \$185,023.25 in 2024 – a decrease of about 2.16 per cent.

"This report provides the annual disclosure of remuneration and expenses for council and committee members as required under the Municipal Act," Grewal said. "For 2025, we made a couple of updates to improve clarity and consistency, including capturing remuneration receiving by virtue of holding office such as

Enova-related remuneration, and removing administrative cellphone costs from the statement.

"These changes have also been applied to 2024 for comparability."

Mayor Natasha Salonen received the highest total compensation at \$58,128.21, a modest increase of 0.56 per cent from the previous year. Councillors' compensation ranged from \$23,392 to \$26,116.73, with most seeing small decreases compared to 2024.

Coun. Steven Martin earned \$26,116.73, up slightly from 2024, while Coun. Lillianne Dunstall saw her compensation drop to \$25,111.57 from \$26,220.28 the year prior. Coun. Harvir Sidhu experienced the largest decrease, with total compensation falling more than 10 per cent to \$23,392.

Base pay for councillors remained largely consistent, with differences driven by

variations in benefits and other payments, according to the report.

In addition to council pay, the township reported \$2,700 in honoraria for members of the committee of adjustment, an increase from \$2,200 in 2024. The dangerous dog committee did not meet in 2025 and therefore incurred no costs.

The report also includes, for the first time, remuneration and expenses paid through Enova that are attributable to council members. Mayor Salonen received a total of \$10,263.32 for her roles with Enova Energy Corp. and Enova Power Corp., down from \$11,375.02 in 2024.

"I'm just wondering if it could be noted on the public part on the website that (pay related to Enova) does not cost taxpayers because that's coming directly from Enova and their profits," Salonen said. "I just don't want it to look like it's hitting our books when it's not actually."

Other expenses claimed by council members dropped significantly to \$250 in 2025, compared to \$614.52 the previous year. Meanwhile, council members collectively spent \$12,318.43 on conferences and professional development, with the mayor accounting for more than \$5,200 of that total – the combined cost for her attendance at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference in Toronto and the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) conference in Ottawa.

The annual report is required under the Municipal Act and provides a detailed breakdown of salaries, benefits and reimbursed expenses paid to members of council and local committees.

Council received the report for information, with staff recommending it be published on the township's website as part of its commitment to transparency and accountability.

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Local couple launches Insight Autoglass, bringing exceptional and affordable service to the community

AMANDA NELSON

Gazette Reporter

What started as a mobile autoglass service has now found a permanent home in New Hamburg.

Brandon and Natasha King, owners of Insight Autoglass, have officially opened their shop at 95 Hamilton Rd., Unit 8 – a move that reflects both business growth and a bigger goal, keeping services local.

For Natasha King, the shift into entrepreneurship meant stepping away from her career in hairdressing to build something alongside her husband.

“We’ve always been entrepreneurial,” she said. “After having our daughter, it just felt like the right time to go all-in.”

Brandon King brings more than 10 years of experience in the autoglass industry, but said working for larger companies helped shape what he didn’t want his own business to become.

“Our main goal is to not only keep the money in the community, but also to keep money in our customers pockets,” he said. “We believe small, service-based companies should be local. They shouldn’t be owned by conglomerates taking money out of the community.”

The couple says New Hamburg has been exactly what they were looking for.

“New Hamburg is so great. Everyone is so supportive and we have everything we need right here,” said Natasha King.

Insight Autoglass offers a wide range of services, including stone-chip repair, windshield recalibration, back glass and mirror repairs, along with both in-shop and mobile-service options.

While the business started on the road, opening a physical location was always

part of the plan, giving customers a place they can go and adding more visibility in the community.

The decision to take the leap into business ownership happened quickly.

“Brandon came home early one night, and I said, maybe now's the time, and then we just jumped into it,” said Natasha King. “He put in his two weeks’ notice and then we started Insight, pretty much right away.”

The couple had been searching for a shop when a local real estate representative spotted Brandon King’s truck and flagged him down.

“He called us because our number was on the truck and said he might have the perfect space,” said Natasha King. “We saw it on a Saturday and signed the lease right away.”

Now settled into their new location, the Kings say their focus is simple: provide honest, affordable service without losing sight of what matters.

“I’ve worked for shops that were bought out by corporate owners,” said Brandon King. “Prices went up, wages went down and techs with 30 years of experience were let go. It was hard to watch.”

Brandon King says his advice to others looking to start a service-based business is to go for it.

“I love the saying, ‘If you build it, they will come,’ but it’s up to you to make the best of it,” he said. “And I truly believe that if someone wanted to start a small service or trades-based business, I don’t think there would be any downside to it, especially being in a smaller town. You already have so much community support.”

Insight Autoglass can be reached at 519-998-7758 or info@insightautoglass.ca.



(AMANDA NELSON PHOTO)

Brandon and Natasha King stand outside their new Insight Autoglass shop in New Hamburg.

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Second Cup now brewing inside Pita Pit in New Hamburg

AMANDA NELSON

Gazette Reporter

Second Cup, a proudly Canadian coffee company, is now available inside a familiar local spot in New Hamburg.

Owners Sanjay and Kiran Biswal have operated the Pita Pit at 12-338 Waterloo St. for more than five years. After hearing repeated feedback from customers about the lack of quality coffee options nearby, they decided to expand, bringing a Second Cup café into the same space.

Now offering a range of drinks including lattes, mochas, smoothies and blended beverages, Sanjay Biswal said regular customers are already taking notice.

“This is a good location for the community because there isn’t anywhere close to get speciality coffee,” he said. “The nearest place is about two kilometres away, and we were getting complaints from customers that they couldn’t get coffee here. This plaza is quite busy, so we thought we’d bring coffee to them.”

Founded in 1975, Second Cup has long positioned itself as a Canadian brand – something that factored into the Biswals’ decision.

“We chose Second Cup because it’s a Canadian company,” said Sanjay Biswal. “Supporting Canada was important to us, and we wanted to bring that value to the community. It’s also a premium brand known for high-quality

coffee beans.”

An entrepreneur at heart, Sanjay Biswal said his passion lies in running a business that connects him with the community.

“We also have had an IT company in Mississauga doing software development, but my passion is in the restaurant business,” he said. “Interacting with customers every day is something I really enjoy. Being able to say, ‘Hi, good morning. How are you?’ That’s a great feeling.”

Adding a full coffee menu required a significant shift for both the business and its staff.

“It’s been a big transition for us,” said Sanjay Biswal. “Before, our employees were focused on making pitas, and now we’ve trained them to make lattes and other specialty drinks. They went through about three months of barista training, so it’s really taken us to the next level.”

Despite the challenges of managing two distinct brands with different requirements, Sanjay Biswal said the response so far has been positive, with more customers discovering the new offering.

He said he’s optimistic business will continue to grow in the coming months as awareness spreads, adding that a focus on quality and attention to detail will keep customers coming back.



(AMANDA NELSON PHOTO)

Sanjay and Kiran Biswal prepare coffee inside their New Hamburg business, where they have expanded their offerings to include a Second Cup café within their existing Pita Pit location.

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Crokinole players from Europe, Asia, Oceania prepare for Tavistock

WORLD CROKINOLE CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted to the Gazette

Some players can walk to the competition while some drive for 15 minutes, and for others, the drive is several hours.

But for a few, their journey will start with an overseas flight as competitors from Germany, Australia, Japan and Hungary will travel to the 2026 World Crokinole Championship in Tavistock.

"We are very happy to be participating. We are looking forward to competing against the best!"

Those words from Peter Gerst of Kirrweiler, Germany, speak to the excitement many competitors, domestic or international, have for the Tavistock event, which is celebrating its 25th edition on June 6.

Andreas Schmitz, from Karben, Germany, echoes the statement.

"I'm really excited to see what awaits us."

Such excitement has resulted in over 400 people signed up for the championship, still with several weeks left. The German duo of Gerst and Schmitz are just two of the nine individuals who will be making the long journey from outside of the continent.

While crokinole has always been most popular in Canada, the game has established roots in many countries over the past 15 years. Where previously the only clubs and tournaments for crokinole could be found in Canada, now many countries have at least one club where crokinole enthusiasts can share their passion.

Dennis Graham, from North Sydney, Australia, was one of the first people to sign up for the 2026 tournament. He learned of the game from a co-worker and now plays daily against other staff members at the office. He's proved his skills at the Crokinole Bottom Half of the World Cup, an annual event in Melbourne, which he won in 2025.

"Appropriately enough, the winner's trophy is an engraved flask with Canadian whiskey," said Graham.

In Japan, there aren't many crokinole players, and the game is still small. Motoaki Takenouchi of Akita, Japan, is one person trying to change that. He runs Clockwise, a boardgame café in Japan that organizes some crokinole events. Takenouchi will be attending the world championships for the second time this year.

Germany also doesn't have too many players yet, but the German Crokinole Association was established last year and is having success.

"The trend is growing and a community is slowly starting to form," said Schmitz.

"Perhaps we can find a way to promote the sport together so that everyone will



(WORLD CROKINOLE.COM PHOTO)

Competitive singles winners from the 2025 World Crokinole Championship included from left 3rd Andrew Hutchinson, 1st Shawn Hagarty, 2nd Devon Fortino, 4th Justin Slater.

eventually know about crokinole," Gerst added.

While the travellers from afar are always welcomed warmly, most tend to have a hard time playing up to their potential. The crokinole boards, discs and even wax used at most tournaments in Canada differ in small but sometimes crucial ways from other parts of the world. That combined with jet lag from a long journey can be very difficult to overcome.

Árpád Lonsták of Budapest, Hungary, can speak to that. When he first attended in 2023, he faced a very strong set of opponents in the preliminary round that hampered his chances of advancing to the playoffs.

"Qualifying to the playoff round is the target in both doubles and singles this time," he said.

He plays a big part in organizing some of the crokinole events in Hungary, and he's been in good form recently as he is currently the top-ranked player in the country.

Out of all of the overseas players to travel to the world championships over the years, Ryotaro Fukuda of Saitama, Japan, has been the most successful. He finished 11th when he first competed in 2024, and he returned again last year to finish to 14th.

Despite his success, Fukuda maintains a great deal of humility in advance of his third appearance this year.

"I'm looking forward to playing with people who share the same passion," he

said. "I'd like to do better than last time, but the overall level keeps getting higher, so it will be a challenge."

A big difference over the last 15 years as well is crokinole's online presence. In the past, very little about crokinole could be found online. Takenouchi was aware of the game of crokinole back in 2000, but for a while, he couldn't find a website explaining the rules in Japanese. Today, a simple search reveals plethora content, and most of the new crokinole enthusiasts, like Árpád Lonsták, even discovered the game of crokinole by pure chance thanks to a random suggestion from the YouTube algorithm.

Nowadays, world-championship matches are available on YouTube, and are frequently studied by international players. Gábor Kiss of Hungary can attest to that.

"I'm really excited about seeing in-person and playing against the guys I only saw on Youtube, and it is also the biggest challenge for me, but just to be at the same event as these legends will be a memory for life, I guess."

While some players are coming to Canada just for the crokinole tournament and then returning home, others are taking the opportunity to explore more of the country. Schmitz and Gerst have mapped out plans to see Toronto, Niagara Falls and the Stratford theatre. Graham will be travelling to watch FIFA World Cup games and will be finishing his vacation in Vancouver

on Canada Day. Meanwhile, Fukuda is more looking forward to experiencing the quieter side of Canada.

"Instead of famous tourist spots, I'd like to visit a few local towns and experience the atmosphere," he said.

With a few weeks still to go, the 25th World Crokinole Championship is on track for a year of record attendance, with more than 400 people already signed up. From Canada, there are registrants from seven provinces, stretching from British Columbia to Prince Edward Island, while from the U.S.A, there are players signed up from 17 different states, including Texas, Florida, the Carolinas and Washington.

The organizing committee for the tournament is also hard at work, planning a showcase worthy of a 25-year anniversary celebration and will be announcing some of the attractions in the coming weeks.

Until then, the excitement for 2026 World Crokinole Championship builds every day. As Gábor Kiss says, "I have no idea how well I can do against the best, but I'll enjoy it and I'll try to do my best, that is for sure."

The tournament takes place Saturday, June 6, along with a social night on Friday, June 5. Spectators are welcome, completely free of charge, to experience the event, and registration is still available on the World Crokinole website at worldcrokinole.com.

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GALEN SIMMONS AT GALEN@GRANTHAVEN.COM**

Syrian meal fundraiser brings community together in Tavistock

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

A recent fundraising dinner at Tavistock Mennonite Church brought together local residents for an evening of Syrian cuisine and community support, raising funds to assist Syrian refugees settling in Canada.

Prepared by members of the Al Younes family, the meal offered attendees an opportunity to enjoy traditional Syrian dishes while learning more about the experiences of families displaced by the ongoing conflict in Syria.

Rick Cober-Bauman, a longtime church member and Mennonite Central Committee representative, spoke during the event about the congregation's ongoing commitment to supporting refugees.

"The fundraising dinner was a small but important part of the multi-year commitment to welcome and support refugees fleeing the violent conflict in Syria over the last decade," he said. "Many people from the Tavistock Mennonite congregation continue to donate funds directly."

Cober-Bauman said inviting the family to prepare and share their food, as well as their story, helps build understanding within the community.

"Having the family come and share their country's amazing food and tell stories is a helpful way for more people in the congregation and community to feel connected," he said. "They also identify with the

situation that caused the families to come here in the first place."

During the event, Khaled Al Younes shared his personal story, including injuries he suffered from an unexploded grenade during the war in Syria.

"We decided to ask Khaled Al Younes to tell his story because it is a very real and chilling example of how war victimizes children," Cober-Bauman said. "His injuries were a powerful part of motivating the Tavistock church and area to sponsor his family."

The dinner raised more than \$4,500, which will go toward supporting newly arrived families over the course of their first year in Canada.

Cober-Bauman, who also farms in the Shakespeare area, thanked those who attended and contributed to the fundraiser.

"I want to thank not only the people of our own congregation for taking part in the Syrian meal and donating generously, but also friends and neighbours from the wider community who came out to show their support," he said.

He also expressed appreciation to the Al Younes family for preparing the meal.

"They allowed those in attendance to enjoy the very finest of Syrian dining," he said.

Donations to support the initiative are ongoing. Those interested in contributing can contact Cober-Bauman or email louisecb3@hotmail.com.



A large crowd gathers at Tavistock Mennonite Church to enjoy a Syrian meal prepared by the Al Younes family as part of a fundraising effort to support refugees.



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROY AND MARDI LICHTI)

From left, Rick Cober-Bauman introduces Khaled Al Younes, centre, and his brother, Mustafa Al Younes, during a Syrian meal fundraiser at Tavistock Mennonite Church. The event raised more than \$4,500 in support of Syrian refugees. Their father, Mohammed Al Younes, not pictured, is known locally for his work as a stone mason.

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NOTICE OF STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT OFFICIAL PLAN

Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6:00pm
Council Chambers, Township Administration Complex
60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden Ontario N3A 1A1

You are invited to attend a public meeting for the purpose of providing feedback on the **DRAFT** new Official Plan for the Township of Wilmot, held pursuant to Section 17(15)(d) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, as amended.

The Official Plan is a roadmap that will guide growth within the Township to the year 2051. It applies to all lands within the municipal boundary of Wilmot and sets out where and how different land uses may occur. The purpose of the Official Plan is to focus new growth to ensure efficient use of land and infrastructure, support livable communities with a range of housing options and protect the Township's cultural and natural heritage and farmland.



A copy of the proposed Official Plan is available digitally on the Township of Wilmot's New Official Plan Engage Page or in person at the Township of Wilmot municipal offices at 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden Ontario N3A 1A1.
<https://www.engagewr.ca/new-wilmot-official-plan>.

Visit the Township of Wilmot's YouTube Channel to watch the Council Meeting. The meeting will be archived on the same webpage for viewing after the event:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcA8fcRx03H8zYkFLIQMjow>.

HAVE YOUR SAY

You are invited to provide input and participate in the Statutory Public Meeting on May 21, 2026, either in person or online. To participate in the Statutory Public Meeting virtually, please pre-register with the Township Clerk by submitting a delegation request online at forms.wilmot.ca/Clerks/Delegation-Request-Form or emailing the Township Clerk at clerks@wilmot.ca before noon on May 21, 2026. Attendance in person does not require pre-registration. You may also provide written comment through mail to 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden, ON N3A 1A1 or send an email to WilmotOP@wilmot.ca.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of the Township of Wilmot on the proposed Official Plan, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Corporation of the Township of Wilmot at 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden, Ontario N3A 1A1 or by emailing clerks@wilmot.ca.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Township of Wilmot to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Wilmot before the proposed Official Plan is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Wilmot before the proposed official plan is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact the Township of Wilmot Planning Division at 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden, ON N3A 1A1, T: 519-634-8444, or email WilmotOP@wilmot.ca.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please visit the Township of Wilmot's New Official Plan Engage Page at [engagewr.ca/new-wilmot-official-plan](https://www.engagewr.ca/new-wilmot-official-plan), or contact the project team with any questions at WilmotOP@wilmot.ca or by reaching out to the staff listed below.

Andrew Martin, MCIP, MPP
Director of Development Services
519-634-8519 ext. 9245

Rachel Greene,
Senior Policy Planner
519-634-8519 ext. 9237

Milverton mourns loss of local teen



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Colourful ribbons tied to posts throughout Milverton honour the life and memory of Karlie Snyder, who passed away April 4. She would have turned 14 on Nov. 15.

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Milverton community is mourning the loss of one of its own, remembering 13-year-old Karlie Nicole Snyder, who passed away April 4.

In the days following her passing, residents have tied colourful ribbons to posts throughout the town as a tribute to Karlie and a show of support for her family, friends and classmates.

Karlie's parents, Ben and Alison Snyder, along with her sister, Rory, say she was a young person who set an example for others and refused to let cancer define her or how she lived her life.

They describe her as caring and sensitive, with a remarkable outlook despite the challenges she faced.

Her sense of humour and ability to bring light and laughter to those around her are among the many qualities that will be deeply missed by those who knew her.

SHOW US YOUR WILMOT



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHOW US YOUR WILMOT)

Melanie Parkinson recently shared this series of photos of heavy rain clouds, just as rain was beginning to fall, over Wilmot Township to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page.

Oxford County woman elected the new ACWW Canada area president

LAURA GREEN

Submitted to the Gazette

The Associated Country Women of the World's (ACWW) 31st Triennial World Conference (TWC) was held in Ottawa from April 26 to May 1.

The TWC is a global gathering of ACWW members who meet every three years to discuss key policy documents and resolutions of ACWW. Delegates also learn about projects undertaken by the 226 active member societies in 53 countries. The theme for the past three years was "Sustainable Growth for the Future."

Among the 350 attendees, there were four New Dundee Women's Institute (WI), five Oxford District WI, four Elgin District WI and two Middlesex WI members.

Progress reports were also presented on the projects that received funding from the Rural Women in Action Fund over the past three years. The ACWW website will be posting videos of the conference through which those who watch them can meet the new board members and learn more about the work of ACWW.

Women Walk the World Tours gave the city of Ottawa the opportunity to showcase Canada and their city. Tours included a maple farm, textile museum, the Canadian Agriculture & Food Museum, the RCMP Musical Ride Stables, a winery, a blueberry farm, the Just Food Farm Forest and a city tour. It was a mid-session event and a break from the intense business meetings. Choosing a tour was difficult for first-time visitors to Canada or Ottawa because they wanted to visit all sites offered that day.

ACWW member societies are divided



(LAURA GREEN PHOTO)

The newly elected Canada area president, Anne Innes (left) of Embro, congratulates the newly elected ACWW world president, Marie Kenny, from the Federated Women's Institute of Prince Edward Island. Canada area members during the conference secretly wrote remarks in Kenny's keepsake book. Kenny was Canada area president for the past three years and Innes has "large footsteps to follow."

into nine areas and the Canada area has 17 member societies. The newly elected president for Canada area for a three-year term is Anne Innes from Embro in Oxford County. At the ACWW level, she was lead for knowledge sharing and local activities

for the board working group, 2023-2026.

Innes was nominated by the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario (FWIO) and at the grass-roots level, she is member of the Lakeside Women's Institute branch and Southern Ontario Support Society.

She has taken on many leadership roles in community organizations to develop her knowledge and skills in leadership.

She wants to keep ACWW Canada area a strong organization to continue the work of ACWW.

Canadian Fiddle Champion

SCOTT WOODS

Presents

Fiddle Country

Featuring his multi-talented band

Champion Fiddler
Kendra Norris

Guitar Virtuoso
Steve Piticco

Champion Stepdancer
Leo Stock

The band stops in

St. Marys, ON

St. Marys United Church, 85 Church St. S., St. Marys

Thu. May 21, 2026, 7pm

Proceeds support Camp Bimini. Thank you to Trina Meek, Sutton Group and Blake Wood Bridlewood Financial Group for sponsoring the ad.

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SPRING ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE AND STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY OFFICIAL PLAN

The Township of Wellesley is creating a new Official Plan - a roadmap that will guide land use planning in the Township to the year 2051.

TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Wellesley invites all interested persons to attend a Public Engagement Session, Public Open House and Public Meeting of Council for the purpose of providing feedback on the new draft Official Plan for the Township of Wellesley, held pursuant to Section 17(16) and Section 17(15)(d) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13, as amended.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
6:30-8:30pm (presentation at 6:45pm)
Crosshill Mennonite Church
2537 Hutchison Road, Crosshill, ON

STATUTORY PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, May 27, 2026
Drop in between 6:30-8:30pm
Crosshill Mennonite Church
2537 Hutchison Road, Crosshill, ON

STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING
Thursday, June 18, 2026
5:45-7:15pm
Council Chambers
4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill, ON

The Township of Wellesley has released its Draft Official Plan for review. A copy of Draft Official Plan is available digitally at <https://www.engagewr.ca/official-plan>, or in person at the Township of Wellesley municipal office at 4639 Lobsinger Line, St. Clements ON N0B 2M0.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Attend the public meeting virtually or in person. To participate virtually, please pre-register with the Township Clerk by sending an email to aharron@wellesley.ca before 12:00pm on June 18, 2026. All registrants will receive instructions on how to participate using the electronic platform. The Statutory Public meeting can be streamed live or after the meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/@TownshipofWellesley>.

Send written comment by mail to 4639 Lobsinger Line St. Clements ON N0B 2M0 or email to tvanhinte@wellesley.ca.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of the Township of Wellesley on the proposed Official Plan, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Corporation of the Township of Wellesley at 4639 Lobsinger Line St. Clements ON N0B 2M0 or by emailing aharron@wellesley.ca.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Township of Wellesley to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Wellesley before the proposed Official Plan is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

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WELLESLEY ARENA LANDS - WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

GSP Group has developed concept options for the future of the arena lands, and they will be presented to Council on May 12, 2026. The Township will be seeking public input on these ideas. Read more about the Arena Lands Project by scanning the QR code, or visiting: <https://www.engagewr.ca/reimaging-wellesley-arena-and-community-centre-lands>

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT OPENS
May 13, 2026
Engage Wellesley (link above)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPEN HOUSE
May 19, 2026 - 6:30-8:30pm
Bill Gies Recreation Centre

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPEN HOUSE
May 21, 2026 - 6:30-8:30pm
St. Clements Community Centre

Waterloo Regional Police investigating break and enter at Wellesley fire station

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) is continuing to investigate a break and enter at the Linwood fire station in the Township of Wellesley.

In a press release issued last week by WRPS, police said on April 30 at approximately 6:45 a.m., they received reports of a break and enter at a fire station on Adelaide Street in Linwood.

Through investigation, police determined unknown suspect(s) gained entry to the building during the overnight hours and stole property. Neither police or the Wellesley Fire Department would comment on how the suspect(s) broke into the fire station.

In an update issued May 4, police said the unknown suspect(s) stole a Hurst Combi tool (jaws of life) and a Halligan tool.

The investigation is ongoing by members of WRPS' break and enter, auto theft and robbery (BEAR) unit.

Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact police at 519-570-9777 ext. 8255.

Anonymous tips can be provided to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.waterloocrimestoppers.com.

Community invited to Spring Concert at Shakespeare church



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Curbstone, an a cappella quintet based in London, will bring rich four- and five-part harmony to Shakespeare Presbyterian Church on May 24 at 2:30 p.m.

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

Shakespeare Presbyterian Church is opening its doors once again and inviting the community to enjoy an afternoon of music.

As part of the Shakespeare Concert Series, the church will host Curbstone, an a cappella quintet performing songs from a variety of

genres and decades. The group features Mark Stevens (baritone), Aiden Scott (beat boxer, vocal percussionist and vocals), Phil Rance (bass), Ian Scott (lead) and Will Makra (tenor/arranger).

Concert organizer and church organist Paul Hyatt says the quintet is "incredibly talented," adding it promises to be an entertaining afternoon.

The concert will also highlight talented young local musicians, including solo singers, a pianist and a violinist.

The event takes place on Sunday, May 24, at 2:30 p.m. Admission is by donation at the door, with proceeds supporting music programs in local schools.

Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy an afternoon of live music.

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Town Square Pharmacy

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Tractors roll into Sunday service at Grace United Church

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Area farm tractors became part of the message at Grace United Church in Tavistock during a recent Sunday service celebrating the arrival of spring and the start of planting season.

Rev. Marilyn Arthur, drawing on her rural background, led both the children's story and the message to the congregation, focusing on the themes of growth, renewal and appreciation for the natural world.

Images of cardinals in flight, captured by congregation member Jim Hollinger and displayed on the church's screens, helped set the tone, while children shared seeds of hope alongside symbols of soil and water. Together, the elements underscored a message about recognizing and valuing the gifts of nature during the spring season.

Music also played a central role in the service. Jillian Chesney performed a solo accompanied by guitar, while the church choir, led by director Marilyne Nystrom, contributed throughout. Nystrom, known for her flute performances, added to the morning's musical offerings.

Outside, tractors parked in the church lot – representing John Deere, Ford and New Holland – served as a visual reminder of the farming community's connection to the season and the themes explored inside.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Local farmers and their tractors – including John Deere, Ford and New Holland models – were part of a spring-themed service at Grace United Church in Tavistock. From left are Bill Brown, Dale Ruby, Brian Cook, Randy Harris and Jacob Cook, seated in the tractor.

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SATURDAY, MAY 9 • 1:00-3:00 PM

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Milverton women's celebration nears 20th anniversary

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Milverton Women's Initiative committee hosted another sold-out Evening to Celebrate Women recently at the Perth East Recreation Complex in Milverton.

This year's event, held under the country-inspired theme, Back Roads and Besties, sold out six weeks in advance. More than 240 guests embraced the theme with country attire for an evening of food, fundraising and recognition.

The evening began with a buffet dinner prepared by Milverton's Custom Catering by Brenda, with table service provided by members of the Perth East Fire

Department.

The event first began in 2007 as an evening to celebrate women, with proceeds directed toward the Helen Barker Scholarship, named in memory of the Milverton-area columnist, poet and author.

After nearly 20 years, organizers announced the annual scholarships will now be renamed the Literacy and Leadership Scholarships as a new generation takes the helm.

Since the inaugural event, the committee has awarded 57 scholarships worth a collective \$31,800. The funds are held in trust by the Avon Maitland District School Board until recipients pursue post-secondary education and collect their \$700

awards.

This year's audience was introduced to the 2025 scholarship recipients, Brooke Crapper, Kinsley McIntosh and Ben Spicer. Each was asked a few questions, giving guests a chance to learn more about the Grade 9 students and their goals.

The evening also included the announcement of the 2026 Women to Watch honourees. Mandy Cameron, Dr. Kara Carter, Dr. Kirsten Carter, Janna Leduc and Cynthia Livingston were recognized as ordinary women doing extraordinary things to help others in the community.

Their recognition brings the total number of Women to Watch honourees to 83 since that portion of the program was

added in 2008.

Organizers say more than 40 local businesses support the event each year through financial donations and auction or raffle items. The committee has also purchased \$183,298 from local businesses over the years to help bring the event to Milverton.

Committee chair Helen Dowd said the event remains a community highlight.

"It is a highlight event in the community which touches the lives of so many, and we are thrilled that our scholarship winners have gone on to careers in engineering, nursing, pharmacy and journalism to name only a few," Dowd said.



(PHOTOS BY BRITTNEY PHOTOGRAPHY)

Members of the Milverton Women's Initiative committee gather during the recent Evening to Celebrate Women. Seated on the floor, from left, are Sandra Kuepfer, Virginia Ehlich, Madison Debus and Shirley Hutton. Seated on the bale is Bev Brenneman. Standing, from left, are Helen Dowd, Ann Marie Ryter, Becky Steckly and Tammy Weber.



Milverton Women's Initiative committee member Becky Steckly, left, presents scholarships to Grade 9 students Ben Spicer, Brooke Crapper and Kinsley McIntosh.



Milverton's 2025 Fair Ambassador Elisha MacGregor emceed the sold-out Evening to Celebrate Women, themed, Back Roads and Besties, at the Perth East Recreation Complex.



by PeterS 2026

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ANSWERS FOUND ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

CARD OF THANKS

Thank You

The family of the late Carol Dorothy Mogk wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to relatives, friends and neighbours for their many acts of kindness, floral arrangements, memorial donations and food.

Thank you to Quehls and staff for the wonderful luncheon following the service. Special thanks to Jeff Glendinning and Tammy Krys for their assistance and kindness during the passing of our wife and mother.

Ken Mogk and family

CARD OF THANKS

Thank You

The family of John Fuhr wish to thank all first responders, the Tavistock Fire Department, Perth County EMS and the Oxford OPP for their dedicated service.

Special thanks to our friends and neighbours for their overwhelming support during this difficult time and kind words have helped make a difficult time much easier to get through.

Barbara Ann Fuhr and Family

CARD OF THANKS

thank you

The family of Dianne Herold would like to thank everyone for their support and kind words since her passing. Thank you for your donations made in her memory.

Thank you to Rev. Marilyn Arthur and Grace United Church UCW for the lovely lunch and Glendinning Funeral Home for their assistance and kindness during this difficult time.

The Herold Family

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.

April 27 - May 4, 2016, Edition (10 years ago)

The 2026 Adult Figure Skating Championships took place in Oakville. The event saw hundreds of adult skaters from across the country competing in four disciplines: free skate, interpretive, ice dance and synchronized skating. Tavistock Team Unity Adult 3 Team won gold in the Adult 3 category, competing against 19 other teams. The gold-medal team coached by Tara Wilkins includes Debora Montgomery, Heidi Zeigler, Valerie MacDonald, Lisa Bartlett, Lynn Koot, Christy Coghill, Michelle Klein-Gletink, Tricia Hendry, Mary Rea Brennan, Sheri Bell-Witt, Teresa Weicker, Jennifer McArthur, Mary Evelyn Lather, Charlene Radler, Katie McArthur, Krista DeWetering, Kylie Poole, Cheryl Dotzert, Lynsey McIntyre and Jennifer Lubbers.

Hickson Central School's Annual Talent Show was held last Friday, April 29. It was presented in two acts with Act 1 in the morning and Act 2 at the close of the school day. Students worked hard to hone their talents and were very excited to share them with fellow classmates. The show began with an in-car, lip-sync video recorded by teachers Ms. Hunter and Mr. Rigby to Adele's "Hello," "Sorry" by Justin Bieber and a pop version of the Mary Poppins song, "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." The school bands and the guitar club also entertained. There was lots of other talent during the day with singing, dancing, piano and musical presentations. Mr. Houston even added some comic relief with a cross-stage saxophone solo.

April 26 - May 3, 2006, Edition (20 years ago)

When Moses investigated the burning bush, God asked him to remove his sandals for he was standing on Holy ground. MCC board member Glen Schumm stopped short of asking participants from removing their shoes on this rainy Sunday at the sod-turning ceremony for New Hamburg's new Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Thrift Centre, but he said, "This is a precious piece of property." Construction will begin in about three weeks at the 3.08-acre site and will incorporate both the Clothing and More and Furniture and More branches of the business into a 15,600 square-foot building located right next to the present clothing store and 10,000 Villages offices.

Bart and Gerry Danen have built a com-

fortable home for their family over the past 30 years and have had at least three dreams come true. The first was coming to Canada, the second was buying a family farm they could call their own and the third was moving into a retirement home property in Sebastopol, just seven years ago. The Danens were honoured at the sixth Agricultural Awards of Excellence banquet and awards night held on Thursday evening, April 6, at the Oxford Auditorium. They were presented with the Family Farm Award, sponsored by Vanprays, Micacchi, Shippey & Warnick.

Eight Beavers and six Cubs moved up the ranks on Tuesday evening, April 25, when the 1st Tavistock Beavers, Cubs and Scouts held their annual year-end program in the Tavistock Public School. Beaver leaders Linda Rudnick, Kirk Wittig and Brad Stock sent eight Beavers to the Cub Pack of Marilyn Litchi and Val Jones. Michael Marshall, Jenna Litchi and Mary Loggan all received their six-star plaques as they moved up to Scouts with leader Karen Klein and Eric Litchi. The group finished the night with a pizza party. The Cubs will enjoy a sleepover and visit the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton while the Scouts will participate in the International Brotherhood Camp in Dorchester on Mothers's Day weekend.

April 30 - May 7, 1986, Edition (40 years ago)

The 12th Annual Youth Bowling Banquet for the Shakespeare League was held on Sunday, April 13, at the Shakespeare Optimist Hall. Winners for the year in the PeeWee Division were Sarah Harron and Jason Litchi for high average. Leanne Huber and Trevor Smith had the high double and Michelle Baechler and Nathan Weicker the high singles. Trevor Smith and Debbie Wagler were the most improved players and Sarah Harron won the Big Brothers Award. Kara Lalond was voted bowler of the year. Coaches of this team were Marianne Popp and Lynda Huber.

It was 25 years ago last Friday, April 25, 1986, that Ken Litchi opened the doors to his new barber shop at 12 Hope St. W in Tavistock in the former Bell Canada switching office. Then, as today, one of his steadiest customers was Mr. Wes Sommers whom he began trimming when he first worked for Mr. Ralph Graviston's shop, now Town n' Country Beauty Bar, in 1960 after graduating from Bondy Barber School in Toronto. Ken says it was Preston Holmes, a barber in Shakespeare, who encouraged him to go out on his own and establish a shop. At that time, Mr. Graviston and Clayton Petrie at Joe's Place were the only barbers in town.



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carol@masselsmarine.com

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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

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

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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette **SPORTS**

Braves tie PJHL final with gutsy road win

Continued from page 1

head coach Zac Berg said.

Berg added the team continues to get solid efforts from everyone on the ice.

"It's really been the story of this playoff run. The consistency isn't coming from the same one or two guys every night. It comes from the fact that anyone in the lineup can step up when the moment calls for it. That kind of balance is hard to defend against because opponents can't key in on just one threat."

Nicholas Hambly opened the scoring with a screenshot from the point that somehow made its way through four bodies in front of the net, with Tucker Otto and Nathan Siebert assisting. The only goal of the second period came from the Whalers before Tyler Brezynskie, with his first goal in eight games, gave the Braves a 2-1 lead on a feed from Keaton Bartlett at the 14:55 mark of the third period. League MVP Joey Martin tied it up three and a half minutes later to force the extra period.

Martin appeared to run Braves' goalie Blake Richard in his crease early in overtime, but no penalty was called. Despite Tavistock outshooting Fergus 39-23, Richard made several highlight saves to keep his team in the game.

"Richy has also been a rock for us back there. He has held us in all the playoffs and the first two games of the finals here. He is a gamer and answers the bell when called upon," said Braves general manager Brent Lange.

He added Fergus is a very talented team, they have a lot of firepower and have also shown some pretty stellar goaltending so far.

"I believe our teams are very evenly matched, which is why it will be a great series. We have been next man up most of the year, and it works. The guys in that room are so close and all care for one another. It is a fun group to be part of, and

we look forward to the next however many games we have to go yet here in the finals."

Lange said the on-ice officials are letting both teams play, which has amped up the series. He added Raskin's winning goal came as no surprise.

"When he is left open in the slot like that, it usually means good things for us. He is an amazing young man and a great talent with an unreal shot. We have a great group of young men that has a whole town and community supporting them."

Berg said Raskin won't miss very often when given a clear opportunity.

"He's a guy who consistently comes through with big goals at big moments for us. The work he puts into his craft every day is as strong as anyone I've seen, and it's no surprise it's paying off this season. I'm really proud of the way he's earned it.

The Whalers earned a 2-1 overtime victory in Game 1. Martin picked up a loose puck and fired it home behind Richard, his 14th of the playoffs. Fergus scored the game's first goal just past the halfway mark of the first as Liam Eveleigh earned his ninth marker.

Nolan Miller tied the game at one with a wicked shot high over the glove of Fergus goalie Noah Lundgren just over one minute into the second frame. Miller is the son of former NHL linesman and Stratford native Steve Miller.

Bryzenskie had an opportunity to win the game in regulation with a partial breakaway but was thwarted by Lundgren, an Owen Sound native in his final season of junior hockey.

Martin was complimentary of the Braves after the game but also made a bold prediction.

"They are a really skilled team and very patient with the puck. They're well coached with good systems, but I think with our speed and depth we should be able to handle them pretty easily."



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTOS)

Carson Bernhardt salutes the Tavistock Braves' fans after the team won Game 6 of the Schmalz Cup semi-finals against the Lakeshore Canadiens 7-1 to advance to the Schmalz Cup Final.



Yann Raskin fires a shot on goal during Game 2 of the Schmalz Cup Final between the Tavistock Braves and Fergus Whalers. Raskin scored the overtime winner in Game 2 of the series.

Game 3 in the series was back in Tavistock on Wednesday night, with games four and five set for Fergus with game times at 8:30 p.m. Friday and 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

A bet is a bet: Lakeshore mayor dons Braves jersey

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

Lakeshore Mayor Tracey Bailey "proudly" wore the Tavistock Braves jersey to honour a friendly wager with Tavistock Mayor Phil Schaefer following the Lakeshore Canadiens Hockey Club series.

"While it may not have been the jersey I was hoping to wear, it was all in good fun and a great reminder of what makes hockey season so special in our communities; rivalries, community pride and a little humility along the way," said Bailey.

"Congratulations again to Tavistock on the series win. To our home team, thank you for an incredible season and for giving Lakeshore so much to cheer for."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Lakeshore Mayor Tracey Bailey (centre) posed for a photo with her fellow Lakeshore council members after losing a bet with Tavistock Mayor Phil Schaefer over the Schmalz Cup semi-final series between the Tavistock Braves and the Lakeshore Canadiens, which the Braves won in six games.



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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette



Good Luck
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Braves playoff run gets unexpected plug from former NHLer

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

The Tavistock Braves have a new fan in their run to Junior C hockey supremacy.

The team received a shoutout on OverDrive last week, a popular Canadian sports talk show produced by TSN and one of the network's flagship daily programs.

OverDrive is a weekday drive-time sports show that airs live on radio (TSN 1050 in Toronto) and simulcast on TSN, streaming platforms and as a podcast. The show is anchored by three well-known personalities – host Bryan Hayes and former NHL players Jeff O'Neill, or O-Dog, and Jamie McLennan, also known as Noodles.

"Hayes, one more team we gotta give credit to; my dad's always been a big fan of Junior C hockey. He loves it," said O'Neill.

"The Tavistock Braves are heading to the Schmaltz Cup. Captain Marc Dionne; they beat the Lakeshore Canadiens and they are headed to the Schmaltz Cup. Marc Dionne, good luck to the boys, the Tavistock Braves. Go get 'em at the Schmaltz Cup."

"Shoutout. Go get 'em. That's great," added Hayes.

The trio is well known for their unfiltered discussions and lively debates about major sports stories and regularly features guests like athletes, insiders and analysts.

O'Neill, a King City, Ont., native, spent 11 seasons in the NHL after being the fifth overall pick in the 1994 NHL Entry Draft. His last two seasons were with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The show is a fan-favourite and long-running staple in Canadian sports media. It celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.



(TSN SCREENSHOT)

The Tavistock Braves have a new fan as they compete for the Schmaltz Cup. Former NHL player and now sports commentator Jeff O'Neill (right) gave the team a shoutout on the April 30 episode of TSN's OverDrive while talking with co-host Bryan Hayes (left) and Jamie McLennan (centre).

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Tavistock pitcher gains global experience at world fastball championship



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Tavistock's Will Schlotzhauer, No. 22, competes at the World Fastball Championships in Colombia. Large crowds and a strong security presence, including armed personnel, were a common sight at the international event.

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Tavistock's Will Schlotzhauer recently tested his skills against some of the best fastball players in the world at the World Fastball Championships in Colombia.

A power pitcher since his youth, Schlotzhauer has taken his game far beyond Perth and Oxford counties, building a reputation as a strong and reliable presence on the mound. Raised on a dairy farm west of Sebastopol on Line 29, he developed his work ethic early – something that has carried through his athletic career.

Competing with the Canadian champion under-23 fastball team in Colombia, Schlotzhauer said the experience was one he won't soon forget.

"It was an experience not soon to be forgotten," he said.

Schlotzhauer was the only player from Tavistock at the international tournament, where his team finished eighth among

dozens of teams from around the world.

The youngest of three sons of Trevor and Colleen Schlotzhauer, he has long been recognized by coaches as a skilled, team-first player known for his positive attitude and sportsmanship. His grandparents, Heather and Murray Schlotzhauer, have also been among his biggest supporters.

In addition to his success in fastball, Schlotzhauer was a standout hockey player during his junior years with the Tavistock Braves.

The under-23 tournament in Colombia brought together elite teams and players from across the globe, offering a high level of competition and a valuable learning experience.

Now back home, Schlotzhauer has returned to work as an HVAC technician with a Stratford-based heating and cooling company, while also helping on his family's dairy farm when his schedule allows. He is expected to suit up again this summer with the Tavistock Merchants.

Gazette Puzzles

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Spring arrives early in B.C.'s Fraser Valley

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

While farmers in southern Ontario are still waiting for consistent warm weather, spring is already in full swing in British Columbia's Fraser River Valley.

Photos taken in early May show fields well underway, with many dairy farmers already cutting and harvesting their first crop of hay. With family in the region, a spring visit offers a glimpse into a growing season that is several weeks ahead of what is typical in Ontario.

The Fraser Valley experienced no snow this past winter, though rainfall was plentiful. As a result, flowers and shrubs were in full bloom by early May – a sight Ontario residents can expect later in the season.

Once the first cut of hay is complete, farmers begin spreading both liquid and dry manure before moving on to corn planting, much of it destined for silage and sweet corn production, often grown under plastic.

Haylage in the region is made up primarily of rye grasses, and thanks to consistent moisture, up to five cuttings per season are common in areas such as Chilliwack and Abbotsford, where fertile farmland is framed by surrounding mountains.

Farmers in the area report land prices ranging between \$70,000 and \$80,000 per acre.

The Fraser Valley supplies much of British Columbia with milk and dairy products, as well as eggs and broiler chickens. Unlike Perth, Waterloo and Oxford counties, however, hog production is limited. Instead, the region is home to a large number of berry farms producing raspberries, blueberries and strawberries, earning it a reputation as Canada's berry capital.

Located about 30 minutes north of the U.S. border, the region shares agricultural similarities with neighbouring Washington state. Travelling along the border highway, farmland stretches on both sides, with border patrols a visible presence along the route.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)
A dairy farmer near Chilliwack harvests hay in warm, sunny conditions for a herd of approximately 800 milking cows. Dairy operations in British Columbia tend to be larger than those in central Canada but operate under the same supply management system.



Trees, shrubs and flowers in southern British Columbia are well ahead of those in Ontario, offering an early glimpse of spring in the Fraser Valley.



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Farmers gather for spring barbecue near New Hamburg amid planting delays

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Cool temperatures and intermittent rain have slowed the start of the spring planting season across the New Hamburg area, but that didn't stop local farmers from coming together to mark the season with a neighbourly barbecue.

Local farmer and South Easthope Pioneer seed dealer Matt Drummond hosted a noontime barbecue at his farm shop, located between Shakespeare and New Hamburg, inviting area farmers, friends and neighbours to take a break while waiting for field conditions to improve.

More than 100 people attended the gathering, enjoying food

and conversation as they compared notes on a spring that has yet to fully cooperate.

While corn and soybean planting has largely been delayed due to the weather, many farmers have been able to get alfalfa, grass seed and mixed grains such as oats, barley and wheat into the ground.

Drummond said corn seed sales are up compared to last year, but the cold, unsettled weather has kept most planters parked for now.

He added there is some uncertainty about how many acres will be planted in soybeans this year, noting higher fertilizer costs and the availability of nitrogen – which corn requires in greater amounts – could influence planting decisions in favour of beans,

which are less input-intensive.

Livestock producers in the area are in a different position, with access to manure helping to reduce their reliance on commercial fertilizers, which remain in high demand.

Rising diesel fuel prices are also a concern for farmers heading into the growing season. Like many in the industry, Drummond said producers will look to manage costs where they can and hope for stronger commodity prices later in the year to help offset expenses.

For now, the focus remains on waiting for warmer, drier weather and taking advantage of opportunities like the barbecue to connect with neighbours before the busy season begins.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Local crop and chicken farmer Matt Drummond grills Perth County sausage during a spring barbecue at his farm near New Hamburg as area farmers wait for improved weather to begin planting.



Farmers from the New Hamburg, Shakespeare, Tavistock and Stratford areas gather at a free community barbecue hosted by Matt and Emma Drummond west of New Hamburg.

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NEAT Club donates restored tractor to MCC sale

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The North Easthope Antique Tractor Club (NEAT) is once again showcasing a year of hard work with a major donation to the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Relief Sale in New Hamburg on Saturday, May 30.

This year, the club is donating a fully restored 1963 Allis-Chalmers D-15 Series II tractor – a draw for antique tractor enthusiasts, especially fans of the Allis-Chalmers brand.

The 46-horsepower gas tractor features a high-low power shift and live PTO, and has been completely refurbished, repainted and fitted with excellent tires. Club members say it now runs like new.

The tractor was donated to the club by Lyle Stokes of the Milton area and was stripped down and rebuilt over the past year by NEAT members, who volunteer countless hours on the project.

This marks the 15th tractor the club has restored and donated to the MCC sale. With the addition of two antique tractors in this year's auction, the club's total contribution to the fundraiser is expected to surpass \$100,000 over the years. Proceeds

from the sale support MCC's humanitarian work locally and internationally.

Restoration work takes place annually at the shop of Calvin and Darlene Schmidt near Wellesley, where a dedicated group of volunteers meets regularly to bring the tractors back to life.

Club members involved in this year's project include John Schyff, Murray Gingerich, Wayne Gerber, Henry Dietrich, Bob Schlotzauer, Gid Jantzi, Joe Detzler, John Mohr and Bill McMillan.



Photos show the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club's 1963 Allis-Chalmers D-15 Series II tractor at the start of its restoration and the finished product, ready for auction at the MCC Relief Sale in New Hamburg.

The tractor's professional paint job was completed by Keith Schmidt of Amulree, who has a personal connection to the brand, having grown up with Allis-Chalmers equipment on the family farm.

As in previous years, online bidding will

also be available through HiBid, allowing more buyers to take part in the auction.

Looking ahead, the club has already selected its next project – a Massey Ferguson 165 – which will be restored over the coming year for a future MCC sale.



(CALVIN SCHMIDT PHOTOS)


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Ontario 

Snowmobile club members give back through blood donation, local fundraising

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Members of the North Easthope Drifters snowmobile club traded their sleds for sleeves recently, taking part in their second annual group blood donation at the Rotary Complex in Stratford.

The local club organized the outing as a way to help address ongoing blood shortages, bringing members together to give what organizer Ron Horst called the “gift of life.”

“This is the second year that the group has organized giving blood,” said Horst, a North Easthope farmer and longtime snowmobile enthusiast. “Everyone is glad to do their share to help.”

The Drifters date back to the early 1970s, when members first came together to stake and groom trails, as well as install signage and maps throughout North Easthope and surrounding townships. Around the same time, similar clubs were forming across the province, eventually becoming part of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs.

Today, through annual memberships,



Two members of the North Easthope Drifters snowmobile club enjoy local trails maintained by the club during the winter season.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Members of the North Easthope Drifters snowmobile club take part in a group blood donation at the Rotary Complex in Stratford. From left are Andrew Bell, Tim Roth, Wayne Gerber, Ron Horst, Connor Hachborn, Brad Van Nes, Ron Baker, Chris Postma, Will Sebben, Jacob Robertson and Owen Hachborn. Absent from the photo are Matt Neeb, James Neeb, Dave Mohr, Devon Kipfer and Chad Hachborn.

snowmobilers can access a network of maintained and groomed trails across Ontario, allowing for safe and organized riding throughout the winter months.

While trail maintenance remains a core focus, Drifters members say giving back to the community has become just as important.

In addition to their blood-donation efforts, the club recently contributed \$1,000 each to two local boys – Carter Kuchma of Shakespeare, who is undergoing cancer treatment, and Liam Wagler of the Poole area, who is living with mobility challenges – to support their families during difficult times.

The club currently has 33 members and welcomes new participants each fall.

Members also expressed their appreciation to local landowners and farmers across Perth County who allow snowmobile trails to run through their properties each winter.

“We couldn’t do it without their ongoing support,” Horst said.

For the Drifters, the combination of outdoor recreation and community involvement continues to define the club.

“It makes for an enjoyable winter and helps make everything we do possible year after year,” Horst said.

Spring grazing in Perth County



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

A flock of sheep grazes on lush pastureland along the River Flats east of Milverton in Mornington Township. While Perth County has long been known for dairy, beef and pork production, sheep farming has grown in recent years as stronger lamb prices help offset a weaker wool market.

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Friday, May 8 & Saturday, May 9

Cash or Cheque

Hanging Baskets, Bedding Plants, Produce & More	<p>Philip & Mary Wideman 4155 Ament Line, Wallenstein, ON. 519-698-9828</p>	<p>Mon.-Thurs. 9am-6pm Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-4:30 Closed Sundays</p>
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Celebrate Perth County pork this spring

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



Spring is on the horizon, but comfort-food fare is still on my radar.

Nothing beats hot-and-ready, bone-nourishing meal magic on damp and dreary days. I am obsessed with one-pot holistic happiness. Nutrient-dense meal prep that's budget friendly and a taste sensation is the key. Let's make sausages, sauerkraut and potatoes – hearty, homecooked food fabulousness.

Taking centerstage are sausages. Protein is vital for building and maintaining muscle. It also helps with water balance and hormones. How much protein is a popular question. Most health experts will agree eating between

0.8 to one gram of protein per pound of body weight daily is optimal. To combat muscle atrophy as we age, make one gram of protein the ideal target.

Plant-based proteins are less digestible and not as easily absorbed. Make sure you eat a wide range of plant-based options to ensure you are feeding the body all the amino acids it needs. Meat already includes the gamut, whereas virtually all non-meat options are incomplete. Being diligent with routine bloodwork appointments is essential. Many vegans are deficient in iron, B12, D, iodine, zinc, calcium and omega-3 fatty acids.

This holistic nutritionist is

a meat lover, and my recipe uses pork sausages from The Best Little Pork Shoppe in Shakespeare. Pork is paired perfectly with cabbage. Of course, beef, chicken, turkey or plant-based sausages work too.

Next up is sauerkraut, a traditional fermented side to pierogis or a hot dog and Reuben sandwich topper. Made from cabbage, it has holy heaps of health benefits from fibre to iron and even vitamin C, B6 and K. Thanks to the fermentation process, sauerkraut is gut goodness. Home chefs looking for their next DIY should consider the homemade tangy taste sensation. Fall in love with sour cabbage. Fermentation is simple, inexpensive and great for long-term pantry storage.

Finally, potatoes are one big family of underrated, nutrient-dense carbohydrate options. They are locally grown, making them an affordable add-on to recipes. Potatoes provide magnesium and potassium, key to supporting healthy blood pressure. They contain

immune-boosting Vitamin C and even B vitamins for energy. Potatoes are always gluten-free. No peeling please. The jacket boosts the fabulous fibre content for dreamy digestion. Potatoes also contain glycine, an awesome amino acid helping to heal leaky gut syndrome.

Mother Nature offers herbal helpers for enhancing flavour and a few all-natural benefits. Bay leaves contain small amounts of immune-boosting vitamin A and C as well as a tad of iron, calcium, potassium and magnesium. It is one herb to keep in mind when planting the 2026 garden or patio pots. It's not uncommon to see people around the world chewing caraway seeds as they naturally banish bloot.

Let's make a one-pot wonder!

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds of sausages cut into chunks
- 6 medium potatoes cut into chunks
- 25 oz or 739 ml of unpasteurized sauerkraut
- ½ cup of chicken, beef, vegetable or bone broth

- 2 tsp of caraway seeds
- 2 dried or fresh bay leaves
- Sea salt and ground black pepper to taste

The recipe is meant for the crock pot.

Method:

1. Spread the sauerkraut evenly on the bottom.
2. Spread the potato chunks on top of the sauerkraut.
3. Spread the sausage pieces evenly on top of the cabbage.
4. Whisk the broth and herbs in a small bowl and pour over.
5. Cover the crockpot and cook on high for four hours or set in the morning on low until dinner.
6. One big stir and enjoy!

*I love using just four potatoes with one large carrot and one parsnip for an all-star array of antioxidants.

This recipe checks all the boxes. Whether you eat plethora plants or you're carnivore crazy, this one-pot wonder is satisfying, healthy and the sauerkraut adds a tanginess to tickle the tastebuds.

How to have a difficult conversation with someone you love

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Galen Simmons



Though I've been putting it off for a while now, it has recently become quite clear that the time is fast approaching to have a difficult conversation with someone I love.

It's a conversation that plays out in homes across the country and around the world when the health and wellness of an aging family member reaches the point where it is no longer safe for them to live independently, and their level of care needs to increase – whether that's homecare or a move to an assisted-living facility.

How do we have that conversation when this particular family member has made it clear they have no intention of relinquishing their independence, even a little bit, despite our mounting concerns over their ability to manage their medications, keep appointments, cook and clean for themselves, manage their finances, and get regular sleep.

After looking into this topic in some depth and discussing it amongst ourselves, I'd like to share a few helpful tips I've come across that may or may not work

for others in the same position.

First, it's important to start with curiosity, not conclusions or demands (a mistake I've made in the past). It can be helpful to lead with questions instead of decisions.

"How are you managing day to day?"

"What's getting harder than it used to be?"

"Are there things you wish were easier?"

Framing it this way can demonstrate a level of respect and offer your loved one an opportunity to lay out the problems they're experiencing instead of you making assumptions about their health and quality of life.

And remember to listen to what they say. They may not say outright what they're struggling with – perhaps downplaying falls, forgetfulness and loneliness – but hesitation, subject changes and making light of something with a joke can be indicators of those struggles.

There will come a time in the

conversation when you have to lay out your concerns. It's important to do so gently while avoiding vague worries. Be specific without being accusatory.

"I've noticed you've had a couple of falls lately."

"I'm worried about you keeping up with meals."

"It seems like getting to appointments has been harder."

At this point, frame the issues as a shared problem to solve. It isn't about taking something away; it's about finding a way to make life safer, easier and more connected.

"What would help?"

"What would feel comfortable?"

"What matters most to you?"

Remember to acknowledge the loss of independence. Home isn't just a place; it's identity, routine and memory. Lay out the wide spectrum of options, from in-home supports for meals, cleaning and personal care to assisted living or nursing-home care if medical needs are more demanding.

Once the best option is agreed on, involve your loved one in the search for the best possible place to call home in an environment where all their needs can be met.

As we've learned, this conversation likely won't take place all at once. It will happen in bits and pieces over weeks or months. Expect hesitation and even resistance. If it helps, bring someone from outside the family like a trusted doctor, homecare worker or close friend into the conversation to help reinforce your concerns in a way that feels less emotional or confrontational.

At the end of the day, the focus of the conversation should be on quality of life, not just safety. Safety is often the trigger for these conversations, but quality of life is what sustains the decision.

Less stress. More social connection. Better access to care.

Those are the outcomes to keep returning to.



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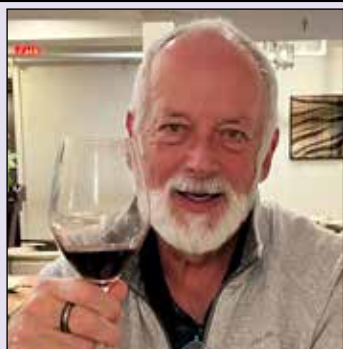
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Great art in Paris – not in the Louvre

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



There is no question that the Louvre in Paris, France, is one of the world's greatest repositories of art. This iconic destination has managed to get into the news a couple of times in recent months, more for the art pieces they were losing than for the art they have.

I have visited the Louvre and done the ridiculous tourist jog past hundreds of pieces of priceless art to gaze over the heads of hundreds of other tourists, all gawping at a small painting called the Mona Lisa. So, this time in Paris, though we strolled around the grounds of the Louvre, we gave the interior a miss, and opted to visit two other art galleries also situated along the Seine River.

We were not sorry in the least that we made that choice.

Our initial stop on our very first afternoon in Paris was the Musée d'Orsay. The museum holds the largest collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art anywhere in the world – and yes, much more than in the Louvre.

If you don't happen to be an art expert, here's a quick Knowles' note. Impressionism was an art movement that began in Paris in the late 1800s and continued for several decades. Key figures included Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro and Paul Cézanne. Post-Impressionism was an artistic movement in direct and almost immediate response to Impressionism. It too had its roots in France and included such well-known artists as Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Gauguin.

While the Impressionists painted natural scenes with a whimsical, misty perspective, the Post-Impressionists moved slightly more toward the abstract, in my less-than-expert opinion. Let's be clear about that.

There is a Canadian connection here in that the members of the Group of Seven were profoundly influenced by both these movements.

So, the work of these famous artists, most but not all French, was what we wanted to see when we entered the elegant former railway station that is now the Musée d'Orsay. Our wishes were granted, one hundred-fold.

If you love art, or you simply want to experience great art to see

if you like it, this is the place to be.

We strolled through the galleries, replete with works by all the artists mentioned above, and many, many more.

And not only did we see paintings by these talented creators, but we also saw many of their very best pieces like "Water Lily Pond" and "Blue Water Lilies" by Claude Monet, and "Dance at the Moulin de la Galette" by Renoir.

The museum is a relatively new attraction in Paris, considering the millennia-long history of this "City of Light." Conversion from its original purpose as a railway station to an outstanding art gallery was completed only by 1986, when the works of art (2,000 or so paintings and about 600 sculptures) were installed.

Today there are over 3,000 works at the museum, and they are seen by more than three million visitors each year. That sounds like a lot, but the Louvre sees three times that many and has instigated higher pricing and other measures to actually discourage visitors!

The Musée d'Orsay is located on the Left Bank of the Seine, about a 15-minute walk from the Louvre, which is on the Right Bank. It's a lovely stroll, as it is to the Orangerie, also on the Right Bank but only a 10-minute walk from the Musée d'Orsay.

The Orangerie is also home to significant Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art, and other important pieces as well. The building itself (like the Musée d'Orsay) was never intended to be an art gallery – it was built in 1852

by Napoleon III as winter storage for the citrus trees that were placed in the Tuileries Gardens in the warmer months, thus the name "Orangerie."

The gardens, by the way, stretch from the Orangerie to the grounds of the Louvre – in my opinion, one of the most pleasant walks anywhere.

Horticulture gave way to art in 1921 when the Orangerie was designated as a place where then-living artists could display their work. The good news is Claude Monet was very much alive and productive at that time and, in the end, two amazing, oval rooms were created to house Monet's extensive murals known as "Nymphéas" or, yet again, "Water Lilies."

Visiting those rooms is a unique experience, even for the most veteran art connoisseur. You are literally surrounded by the art, drawn into the tranquility of Monet's water gardens.

In 1966, the era represented by the Orangerie collection was expanded by several decades, as the Jean Walter and Paul Guillaume Collection of modern art was donated to the museum and is now displayed on the lower floor. That gives visitors the opportunity to get up close and personal with paintings by famous artists like Pablo Picasso and Chaim Soutine. Full disclosure; Soutine's rather tortured "Portrait of a Man" has become one of my favourite pieces of art. I don't know what this says about my personal taste.

There is no question; Paris is the place to go to see great art, but if works by Monet or Van Gogh are your favourites, skip the Louvre and spend your time at these other two amazing galleries.

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

"Water Lily Pond," one of several great paintings by Claude Monet in the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.



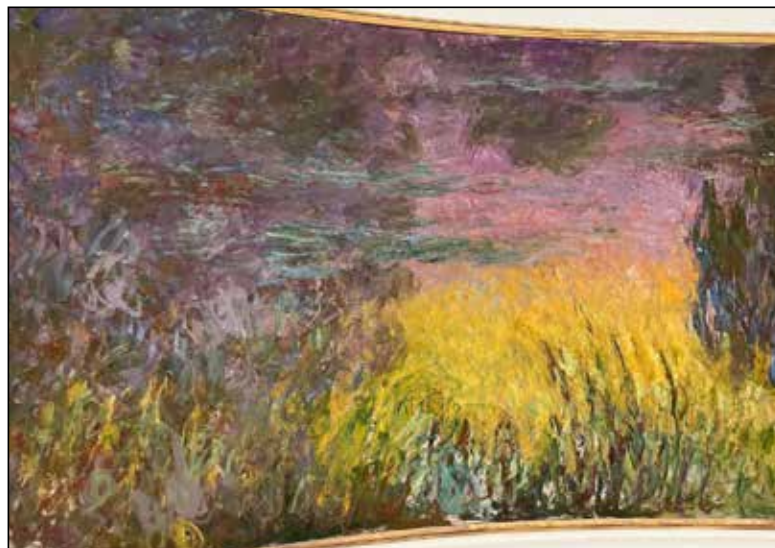
The exterior of the Musée d'Orsay with its unique rhinoceros sculpture by Henri Alfred Jacquemart.



Renoir's iconic "Dance at the Moulin de la Galette."



The Orangerie, originally a storage house for Napoleon III's citrus trees in winter.



Just a detail from one of the rooms of Water Lilies at the Orangerie.

Tavistock's centre, in four stages



VINTAGE VIEWS

By Tim Mosher

Tavistock and District Historical Society



(PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN)

This is the original Commercial Hotel. Its Georgian-style facade is reminiscent of the Fryfogel Inn east of Shakespeare but larger. The proprietor, Otto Jung, is thought to be the man on the left with his apron askew. Circa 1914.



(PHOTO FROM THE FACT & FANTASY BOOK, PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN)

Wally Schaefer stands ready at the pump long before self-serve gasoline. The distinctive angled corner and brackets under the eaves of the old Commercial Hotel are easy to spot. This version of the building is missing the entire third storey and much of the first and second floors. It served as the business and residence of the Schaefer family and John Meisner before them, who renovated the Commercial in 1934 into a service station and lunchroom. Circa 1967.

The northwest corner of Woodstock and Hope streets in Tavistock has always been a lively location.

In the last Vintage Views article two weeks ago, photographer John "Jack" Lemp climbed the new water tower and took a bird's-eye view photo looking in this direction and naturally, the Commercial Hotel is easy to spot. It was a grand structure on a prominent corner of the growing community.

Even today, there aren't a lot of three-storey structures in the village, so in 1918 when the above photo was taken, the Commercial presented a handsome face to locals and visitors alike. Immediately north was the train station, which



(PHOTO BY JOHN "JACK" LEMP)

This is the second version of the Commercial Hotel, on the same corner of Woodstock and Hope streets as the original. Three full storeys, a slate mansard roof, distinctive angled front corner with painted quoin (artificial corner blocks) and the iron roof cresting along the top edge create an impressive structure. "Commercial Hotel" lettering is on the cresting on the right. The German flag flies atop. Circa 1918.

drew thirsty visitors and offered rooms to rent.

The Last History Mystery: The question was "What important thing was missing from one of these buildings that a short time later had a direct impact on this series of Vintage Views articles?" This was first answered correctly by Phil Schaefer of Tavistock. He wrote "Lemp's studio is missing from the Lemp building." Lemp's Drug Store is clearly visible on the left in the photo but the second-floor studio with its large, east-facing, angled skylight wasn't built yet. Sunlight was the main method of illuminating photo subjects at this time, so a very large window was required. This leads me to believe that Mr. Lemp likely used one of his predecessor's studios a short walk away on Woodstock Street until he had his own studio constructed at the back, upstairs from his drug store.

This week's History Mystery: Why is there a pince-nez in one of these photos? The first reader to forward the correct answer to me at tim_mosher@hotmail.com will have their name and their community name or rural route number published in the next Vintage Views in two weeks.



(PHOTO BY TIM MOSHER)

This is the same corner in Tavistock, from about the same angle as the main photo. Note the original Lemp's Drug Store on the far left. Mr. Lemp's former studio skylight is the angled red roof with white lettering, left of centre. Photo taken April 11, 2026.



Shared Places: From Infrastructure to Interactions

Places shape how people meet, interact, and feel a sense of belonging. Well-designed places invite participation, spark chance encounters, and give communities room to grow together.

Join Waterloo Region Community Foundation for an in-person Do More Good Dialogue on June 4, 2026 from 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

📍 Embassy Room, Bingemans

We have invited *Daily tous les jours*, an award-winning art and design studio, to talk about some of the creative ways places can inspire connection.

RSVP: [WRCF-Dialogue-June42026.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/WRCF-Dialogue-June42026)

or call us at 519-725-1806 to let us know you are planning to attend. We hope to see you there!



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - MAY/JUNE 2026

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Hammerlock Wrestling Charity Show
Doors open at 7, show starts at 7:30
Professional wrestling comes to Waterloo-Oxford D.S.S. with an evening of high flying action for a good cause! To buy tickets, visit: events.frontdoor.plus/event/2035. For more information contact: contact@hammerlockpurewrestling.com or alec@amoorephoto.ca (kids under 12 free) All proceeds will be donated to W-O to support athletics and other programs!
Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School, 1206 Snyder's Rd W, Baden

MONDAY, MAY 11

Garden Wilmot presents Garden Design and Plant Selection that's for the Birds!
7-9 p.m.
With Kevin Kavanagh from South Coast Gardens. Lug a mug. Free event.
*Wilmot Rec Complex
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden*

TUESDAY, MAY 12

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Please register by May 8 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900
*Wellesley Recreation Complex,
1401 Queen's Bush Rd., Wellesley*

YOUR VOICE FOR NATURE

1:30 p.m.
Brian Craig will examine the ways you can influence and ensure the conservation of nature in The long Point Biosphere Region which is essential for the quality of life on our planet. To confirm attendance email libwiz@hotmail.com
*Ingersoll Centre for Seniors,
250 Ingersoll St S, Ingersoll*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Please register by May 15 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900
*Wilmot Rec Complex,
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden*

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

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

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Wilmot Special Council meeting
6-8 p.m.
*Council chambers
60 Snyder's Road W, Baden*

SATURDAY, MAY 23

Let's Tree Wilmot Tree Planting
9 a.m. - 12 noon
Let's Tree Wilmot is partnering with Wilmot Township in a new special project, Mannheim Carolinian Corner. We are planting the second phase of the two hectare site at the NW edge of Mannheim which will become a wooded area with a trail system. <https://letstree-wilmot.ca/events/Milne-Drive-Mannheim>

Taste the Culture: Spring Around the World
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Join us for a special event with entertainers, food trucks, local vendors, crafts for children and culture and educational tables. All ages welcome. Free admission.
*Bill Gies Recreation Centre
1401 Queens Bush Rd, Wellesley*

SUNDAY, MAY 24

Faith Builders Chorale
7:00 p.m.
Free concert hosted by Oasis Mennonite Church. For more info contact Richard Bean 226-339-0781
*Presented at Steinmann Mennonite Church
1316 Snyder's Road W, Baden*

MONDAY, MAY 25

Wilmot Council meeting
7-10 p.m.
*Council chambers
60 Snyder's Road W, Baden*

TUESDAY, MAY 26

Get Pumped!
7:00 p.m.
The Nith Valley EcoBoosters are hosting a free information session about heat pumps with local experts. More information at nvecoboosters.com
*Wilmot Rec Complex
1291 Nafziger Road, Baden*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Please register by May 22 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900
*Linwood Community Centre,
5279 Ament Line, Linwood*

SATURDAY, MAY 30

The Nith Valley EcoBoosters Repair Café
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Skilled volunteer fixers will be on hand for mechanical, woodworking, sewing, mending, knitting, crocheting, jewelry and book repairs. Contact us at: nvecobrepaircafe@gmail.com or check out www.nvecoboosters.com
*Zion United Church,
215 Peel St., New Hamburg*

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

World Crokinole Championship
All day
Competitors will compete for the prestigious title of greatest crokinole player on the planet, at the 25th edition of the World Crokinole Championship. Website: worldcrokinole.com Spectators are welcome and can watch for free.
*Tavistock & District Recreation Centre
1 Adam St, Tavistock*

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Shakespeare's 79th Annual Field Day and Fish Fry
Festivities begin at 8 a.m.
Parade theme is "Life's a Beach". Shakespeare Firefighters Breakfast, Mini Kids Midway, and Fish Fry and lots more. More info and tickets for Fish Fry - call Deb at 519-276-8109.
*SCAA Park and Optimist Hall
Shakespeare, ON*

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

5 Corners Summer Sips - Tavistock Fall Fair Fundraiser
2 p.m. to Midnight
Get ready for a full-blown summer party with craft brews, food trucks and live music. Family-friendly event. Kids 12 and under free. Visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/5-corners-summer-sips> for tickets. Early bird ticket special until June 1.
*Tavistock & District Recreation Centre
1 Adam St, Tavistock*

MORNING & EVENING BIBLE READING

Read the Bible in a Year in Community
Morning meeting 6:00 a.m. daily
Evening meeting 6:00 p.m. daily
Contact Arthur Rosh if interested.
Phone number: 226-899-1551
Email address: arthur.rosh@gmail.com
*Location to be determined in New Hamburg,
Tavistock, Baden, Wellesley, New Dundee, St. Agatha, Shakespeare, Petersburg, Hickson,
Punkeydoodle's Corner and area*

EVERY WEDNESDAY

TOPS - Taking off Pounds Sensibly
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
TOPS is a non-judgmental weight loss support group. Need help on your weight loss journey. For info call Cathie 519-662-9273.
St James Church, Baden

Wednesday Night Euchre at the New Hamburg Legion
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
65 Boulee St., New Hamburg

3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

TAVISTOCK MENS CLUB MEETINGS
Dinner at 6.15 p.m.
No meetings in July and August
Welcome to attend. Phone: 519-655-3573
Website: tavistockmensclub.ca
78 Woodstock St N

STAMP CLUB

Oxford Philatelic Society
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4 p.m.) and 4th Tuesday (7 to 9 p.m.)
September to May
If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection.
Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com
Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>
*Church of the Epiphany
560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7*

FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES

Tavistock Seniors Activities @ Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St. Tavistock ON, except Shuffleboard
Inside walking Monday & Wednesday morning 8:30-12. Contact: Larry Brown 519-240-6715 (October to March)

FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES CONT

Pickleball Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon, 12-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052
Cards Monday, afternoon 1-4, euchre, crib (bring board), etc. Just drop in to play, good to bring someone. Contact: Bob Routly 519-301-2118
Shuffleboard @ arena, Wednesday 12.30-4 and Thursday 10-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052. (October to April)
VON Smart Seniors Exercise, Tuesday and Thursday morning 9-10; Village Manor 10:25-11:25. Contact: 519-539-1231 x 6285

TAVISTOCK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum Hours: Third Saturday of each Month
May Date: Saturday, May 16 1-4 p.m. (other times by appointment)
Email: info@tavistockhistory.ca or call 519-655-3334. All welcome.
37 Maria Street, Tavistock
Travelling Museum Display: "25th Tournament of the Tavistock World Crokinole Championship". The display features a very early handcrafted crokinole board, buttons, history on the cancelled Tavistock World crokinole postage stamp, newspaper articles, and logoed clothing prizes. This display runs until June 22, 2026.

Hours: Open 7 days a week
Location: Tavistock & District Recreation Centre (arena lobby), 2 Adam Street, Tavistock
Travelling Museum Display: "The Glasgow Warehouse". Resembles a Lemp Studio Photo of the original storefront at the center of Tavistock in 1874. The storefront is filled with oil lamps, chinaware, gramophone, and the history of a raisin & currant cleaning machine. The owner Fred Krug, owner and operator from 1874-1917 is prominently displayed. This display runs for a month or two.

Hours: Can be viewed anytime
Location: Front window of Tavistock Home Hardware, 24 Woodstock Street S., Tavistock
Travelling Museum Display: The theme is "Heritage of Hickson Post Office" - history of the Hickson post office that opened in 1883. Names of Postmasters, and a showcase full of vintage cards, magazines, newspapers processed through the mail service before the world of computers, internet and social media. Pictorial Stamps of Canada from 1851-1972 and area cancelled stamps are part of the display. TDHS partnered with the Hickson 4-H Club for this display that runs until July 13, 2026.
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm
Location: EZT Township Administration Building (lobby), 89 Loveys Street, Hickson

CAREGIVER CONNECTION

Free Caregiver Connection peer support groups
Date: Third Tuesday of each month
Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Are you worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) is here to listen, support, and walk alongside you on this journey. Our free Caregiver Connection peer support groups offer parents and caregivers a community of support. Can't make it in person? Join one of our virtual or hybrid groups! Visit family.cmho.org or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.
*Revel Realty Woodstock,
111 Huron Street, Woodstock*

CLASSIFIED ADS

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Located in Tavistock, lower duplex, 2-bedroom apartment, \$1600 per month plus utilities. Available May 1. For more information, please call Debbie at 519-272-6751 or 519-662-4780.

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\$ 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

Garage Sales

MULTI – FAMILY GARAGE SALE SATURDAY MAY 16TH - 8:00 AM

985470 Perth Oxford Rd Tavistock
11K window A/C 2 years old. 7K floor model A/C 1 year old. Many miscellaneous items. Antiques and Collectibles. Rain or Shine.

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

Quiz Time Answers

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Recession | 6. Hippopotamus |
| 2. Venus | 7. Liver |
| 3. 90mins | 8. 24 |
| 4. Rome | 9. Geppetto |
| 5. Waymo | 10. Tarigrade or water bear |



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