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(DIANE DANEN PHOTO)

Tavistock residents say farewell to the Old School House and hello to a new chapter in senior living.

## peopleCare says goodbye to School House and former long-term care home

LEE GRIFFI

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

With the new peopleCare long-term care (LTC) home up and running in Tavistock, the company's attention has turned to tearing down the well-known Old School House and the previous home built in the 1970s.

"The team shared that the demo should take about another two weeks in total. The back half of the old LTC home is already down, and both the schoolhouse

and the rest of the home will be completed in about two weeks," said Sheena Campbell, the company's vice president of communications.

Members of the community gathered last weekend to bid farewell to the Old School House, a structure that had stood since the 1800s and served as the original site of peopleCare, which began over 50 years ago.

In 1967, LeRoy and Ruth Schlegel founded peopleCare on William Street. Their grandson, Brent Gingerich, now

chair and CEO, remembers being there as a child. He spent time tagging along with his parents, grandparents and staff, chatting with residents, and lending a hand with odd jobs around the home. He later worked in the activity and recreation department.

"There's so much history here," said Gingerich. "My grandparents started peopleCare in that old school. It was a single-storey building originally, then a second floor and a box-like addition were

*Continued on page 2*

## Descendant of New Hamburg founder William Scott visits from New Zealand

GALEN SIMMONS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Though there wasn't much fanfare with their visit, a New Zealand couple with a direct ancestral connection to New Hamburg founder William Scott spent several days in the Wilmot town last week, staying in the house Scott built and learning more about his life in Canada prior to his departure in 1867.

Sheryl Patterson, Scott's third great-granddaughter, and her husband, Ross Patterson, stopped in New Hamburg last week to visit local historian Marie Voisin and her husband, Greg Voisin, on their way to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where they were set to embark on a Caribbean cruise. This marked just their second-ever visit to the town. Sheryl Patterson's ancestor helped found before he packed up his family and left Canada forever, vowing to disinherit any family member who returned.

"Scott came over from Scotland in the early 1830s and he bought land in North Dumfries, all around, and didn't settle here until ... right after 1834 when cholera wiped out the population. So, Scott then bought the land, the mill, the river rights and started another mill (in what would become New Hamburg)," said Marie Voisin during a lunch with her husband and the Pattersons at the Scran & Dram Scottish Public House in New Hamburg April 4.

"Every small town had a mill because they had to mill lumber to build houses, and then after that they would have a

*Continued on page 3*

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# Company looking into options for future housing on site

Continued from page 1

added. It had so many purposes over the years, all to benefit the community.”

Gingerich’s parents, O’Derald and Mary, opened a new building in the 1970s. The Old School House provided room for recreational activities as well as office space. Brent eventually took over running the home and growing the company into what it is today.

As for what comes next on the soon-to-be vacant areas of the property, Campbell said that remains to be seen.

“We want to continue delivering quality care and creating exceptional experiences

for seniors and their families in Tavistock. We are going to explore options for the rest of the property with input from our municipal and community partners about the greatest needs in terms of both housing and broader community services,” said Campbell.

She added the company is well aware housing is top of mind in every community.

“We are looking forward to those conversations about how to make the most of the property for continued community benefit, for seniors and for all ages, and to support our goals of transforming experiences and creating vibrant intergenerational communities.”

Campbell said potential uses include seniors’ apartments and other housing, depending on what makes sense based on what the community needs.

peopleCare is also looking to repurpose some materials from the original building such as beams, bricks and fieldstones from the foundation.

The new long-term care home officially opened in October 2024, addressing a significant need for senior care and housing options in Tavistock. It features innovative design elements including sensory scapes, which are enhanced murals integrated with sensory items to enrich the environment. One wall is styled to resemble the Old

School, complete with a vintage school desk. In collaboration with the local heritage society, a gallery wall was created showcasing photos of Gingerich’s grandparents, honouring the legacy they began decades ago. These thoughtful touches help residents feel connected to both the past and the community around them.

“Tavistock is a warm and welcoming place,” added Campbell. “To envision more seniors aging here surrounded by their community in a beautiful and modern home is simply wonderful.”

*With files from Diane Danen*



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# Founder's kin return to New Hamburg

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wool factory, a distillery and other things would flow from that just because of the water from the dam, which would turn the waterwheel and create energy. So, he did all that; he had all kinds of stores and he divided up New Hamburg into lots. He's the one who created New Hamburg."

Scott's involvement with the local community soon extended beyond its borders when he ran in the 1857 election and won a seat as a member of parliament for the government of the Province of Canada representing the Waterloo South riding.

To make a long story short, Scott quickly became disillusioned with the direction Canada was heading in under the leadership of John A. Macdonald in the leadup to Confederation.

"As an elected official, he thought he could make a difference in the federal government, and he just found it very partisan with bickering and there was a lot of underhanded stuff going on," Marie Voisin said. "It was John A. Macdonald who was in charge and he was trying to set up Canada, so he had to do some devious things, and Scott just thought, 'Nah, I'm not into this.'"

Scott returned to New Hamburg from Canada's then capital, Quebec City, in 1861 and virtually disappeared from public life for six years. During that time, Scott departed on two sailing tours of the world, visiting Australia and New Zealand in both 1861 and 1865. While in New Zealand in 1865, which was only just being settled by the British, Scott fell in love with the country and bought 3,000 acres of what became cattle-pasture land in Paterangi, a settlement in the region of Waikato.

"Even today, it is prime dairy farming land in the middle of the Waikato," said Ross Patterson. "In fact, he might have built the first-ever dairy factory there, or he was involved in it."

Whether it was because of his disillusionment with the direction Canada was heading in, or he was following the lead of his brother-in-law and neighbour, James Henderson, who left Canada for New Zealand in 1864, or he wanted to

live in a warmer climate for the sake of the health his ailing daughter, Catherine, Scott opted to pack up his family – including members of the Scott, Germann, Henderson and Ross families – and leave New Hamburg and Canada for a life in New Zealand.

"I think he wanted to keep the family together," Marie Voisin said as to why Scott threatened disinheritance if any of his family members returned to Canada.

"He lost his wife (Marion Henderson) at a young age, too, and he had four surviving children," Ross Patterson added.

While Scott, his immediate and extended family remained in New Zealand for generations, Marie and Greg Voisin, who live in and restored the house Scott built in New Hamburg in 1858, first met the town founder's descendants when Marie Voisin decided to begin researching her book, William Scott and his Extended Family.

After contacting Jack Scott, William Scott's great-grandson early on in her research, Marie Voisin ultimately connected with many descendants of the Scott, Germann, Henderson and Ross families living in New Zealand, including Sheryl and Ross Patterson, who Marie and Greg Voisin met for the first time while visiting New Zealand on a research trip.

The New Zealand couple was later invited to visit New Hamburg and stay with the Voisins in 2009, and have since developed a strong friendship, leading to last week's visit.

"We've learned a lot more about the family and history because obviously Marie is a wonderful historian," Sheryl Patterson said. "It's very special and going back to the house that Marie and Greg own that was the original Scott homestead – we slept in Catherine's room – that's pretty special."

"It's so special," added Ross Patterson, noting nearly everything brought to New Zealand that had connected Scott and his family to New Hamburg had long since been lost to a house fire, making trips like this one among the only connections the Pattersons have to their ancestors' lives in Canada.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Pictured from left are Greg and Marie Voisin and Sheryl and Ross Patterson after a lunch at the Scran & Dram Scottish Public House in New Hamburg April 4. Sheryl Patterson is the third great-granddaughter of New Hamburg founder William Scott, who left Canada and New Hamburg for New Zealand in 1867. The couple was in New Hamburg last week visiting the Voisins.

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# Khanna seeking a second term in Oxford

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Arpan Khanna is seeking his second term as Oxford's member of parliament in the upcoming federal election.

Khanna was born into a working-class family in Canada and he is proud to call East Zorra-Tavistock home, where he lives with his wife, Sim, and their two boys, Arvin and Ayvan.

"Before being elected as the Conservative member of parliament for Oxford in 2023, I worked as a lawyer and small-business owner. Outside of politics, I enjoy spending time at the shooting range and am a proud member of the Oxford Fish and Game Club," he said.

Khanna added volunteering and serving the community are important to him.

"I volunteer with GlobalMedic, a Canadian charity, where I have helped pack and deliver thousands of pounds of food and hygiene kits to local organizations like Operation Sharing, the Helping Hand Food Bank and the Salvation Army right here in Oxford, as well as to other vital organizations across Canada."

Khanna said he entered politics to help restore the Canadian promise his parents believed in.

"A country where, if you work hard, you can build a good life and raise a family with dignity. I also saw the need to unleash Oxford and Canada's full potential. There's too much chaos and not enough focus on

real solutions. I want to be a strong, local voice that stands up for our families, our workers and the next generation.

He added there are three key issues for him in this campaign, the first being affordability.

"Too many seniors are struggling. People are working harder but falling further behind. The dream of owning a home and building a future is slipping away. We must make life more affordable and restore the hope that hard work will pay off."

He also wants to put Oxford and Canada first to protect our sovereignty, support our farmers and auto sector, and stop the decline of Canadian values and opportunities. Having safe communities is top of mind.

"Crime and addiction are rising across our country, including here in Oxford. We need to tackle the root causes of crime, support those battling addiction with treatment and ensure law-abiding citizens feel safe in our streets, schools and community centres. There have been too many heartbreaking stories of finding needles at parks."

Khanna said he wants to help build an Oxford where families can thrive, whether someone is raising kids in Tavistock, commuting from Thamesford, or retiring in Tillsonburg.

"That means making life more affordable, protecting local jobs in our auto and agriculture sectors and ensuring seniors on fixed incomes aren't left behind. I want to

make sure Oxford remains a place where hard work pays off, where you can own a home, feel safe in your community and build a future for the next generation."

If re-elected, Khanna said he will focus on homelessness and crime, along with economic growth.

"The recent instability in the North American auto industry has deeply affected the communities of Ingersoll and Woodstock, and the Oxford economy. It impacts our auto plants and the thousands of spinoff jobs it creates. I am committed to supporting our auto industry by advocating for policies that protect existing jobs, attract new investments and promote economic diversification to strengthen the local economy and spinoff opportunities."

He added Tillsonburg has a diverse job market, but residents have expressed concerns about job availability and economic growth.

"I plan to support initiatives stimulating local businesses, attracting new industries, and creating employment opportunities to ensure a thriving community."

Khanna said agriculture is central to the communities in East Zorra-Tavistock.

"I will advocate for our farmers by working to reduce unnecessary regulations, open new markets and provide the necessary resources and support to ensure their continued success and sustainability. This includes defending supply management to protect our agricultural sector."

He said serving Oxford residents in



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

**Conservative incumbent Arpan Khanna is running for a second term as the Oxford member of parliament in the upcoming federal election.**

Ottawa over the last two years has been "the honour of his lifetime."

"I've always had an open-door policy and have worked hard to help thousands of residents with their federal concerns, from launching a youth council to fixing the Beachville tracks to opening a pop-up office in Tillsonburg."

Khanna says he has worked to expose the failures of Canada's broken immigration system and brought forward ideas and legislation to put Canada first.

"Oxford is my home. I'll never stop working to put our community first."

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## Mountainoak Cheese to shed light on the local cheesemaking process during Oxford's Big Cheese Days

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

From crops to cows to cheese, every step in the cheesemaking process at Mountainoak Cheese is just about as local and sustainable as it gets.

At a time when consumers are looking for that "Made in Canada" label to avoid the impact of tariffs on the food they buy at the grocery store, knowing exactly how and where their food is produced is more important than ever.

That's why Adam and Hannie van Bergeijk, and their family, are committed to giving those who visit their Wilmot Township farm an inside look at how their award-winning gouda is made. Being a stop on the Oxford County Cheese Trail and participating annually in Oxford's Big Cheese Days is just one part of that commitment.

"It's nice to be a part of it and I'm always supporting the Oxford Cheese Trail and what they are doing to promote local cheesemakers," Adam van Bergeijk said. "Especially at this time and in this day and age with all the threats and what's happening in the world, it's important to place a higher value on these local initiatives."

"... We do everything from preparing our land for planting and harvesting, caring for the crops in between to trying to make the best feed for the animals as possible so we can give them the best ration with the energy, protein, vitamins and minerals they need to stay healthy and comfortable. We have a closed herd, which means we don't buy any cows, we only sell cows, so that's how we have good control of our animal health, which is very important to us. If you have healthy animals, you mostly get



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Adam van Bergeijk and his team at Mountainoak Cheese are excited to welcome visitors during Oxford's Big Cheese Days every Saturday in May.

good-quality milk, and that means delicious cheese. We make the cheese only from our own milk, so we're trying to make an honest product."

Running every Saturday in May, Oxford's Big Cheese Days give participating producers and members of the Oxford County Cheese Trail a chance to showcase cheesy offers, allow visitors to taste their product, offer cheese-production and barn tours, and provide hands-on experiences, all in the name connecting locals with the food they eat – especially if that food is cheese.

At Mountainoak Cheese on Saturdays throughout May, the farm will offer special tastings of its different varieties of gouda, milk and quark, and provide an insider's look into the cheesemaking process with a brand-new video presentation and glimpses inside the cheese plant. The van Bergeijks will also be running

barn tours on May 3, 17 and 31 at cost of \$15 per person, the proceeds from which will be donated to the Grand River Hospital Regional Cancer Centre.

"We're trying to show where we make our cheese and also how we make it," Adam van Bergeijk said. "... We want to show where we store the cheese – that is always an impressive view to see all the cheeses lined up on the shelf aging for higher quality."

Big Cheese Days at Mountainoak Cheese, which run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday in May, also includes ice cream and food-truck fare for those who come hungry.

For more information on Mountainoak Cheese, visit [mountainoakcheese.ca](http://mountainoakcheese.ca). For more information on the Oxford County Cheese Trail and Big Cheese Days, visit [tourismoxford.ca](http://tourismoxford.ca).

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# Van Brugge running for United Party of Canada in Oxford

LEE GRIFFI

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The newly formed United Party of Canada has been around since 2024 and is running 16 candidates in the April 28 election – one of them in Oxford.

Melanie van Brugge grew up in Oxford County and went to Beachville Public School and Woodstock Collegiate. After college, she returned to Woodstock and opened a clinic called Body Kinetics with her sister. Back then, she went by the name Melanie Folkema.

"I've always been involved in my community, volunteering as a youth leader at a local church. Our group loved doing mission work both at home and abroad. Many of us are still close friends and continue to make a positive impact in the community."

She said she has always enjoyed listening to others' perspectives and engaging in debates.

"Just ask my English teachers! But I soon realized that life could be more peaceful if

I kept my opinions to myself, as not everyone shared my values. So, I stopped asking why others took the stance they did on important issues."

Van Brugge said in recent years, she started to feel staying silent was seen as agreeing with things she didn't agree with.

"The COVID-19 pandemic showed me how different medical, financial and social ideologies were publicized as normal, yet seemed so different than what many believed. I hoped our government leaders would take a strong stand against the direction our country was heading, toward a post-national state, by providing the decisive leadership we needed at that time. When I met Grant Abraham and the United Party, I found a leader who spoke out against many of the issues Canadians cared about, and that's when I joined the United Party."

She said the main concerns she hears from people in the community are the devaluation of human life from conception to death, which she says is because Canada

does not have laws prohibiting abortion and the use of medical assistance in dying (MAiD), the high cost of housing, and the uncertainty about Canada's future with finances, retirement savings, trade and global influence threatening our sovereignty.

"In a world where we're often silenced if our opinions don't match what we're made to think is the mainstream, I would like to see the social censorship ended, especially with bills like C-18 (An Act respecting online communications platforms that make news content available to persons in Canada) and C-27 (the Digital Charter Implementation Act), which restrict our freedom of speech. Canadians should be free to express their views without fear of being shut down or oppressed, or at the risk of losing their job."

She added one of the biggest issues in Oxford County is housing and homelessness.

"Many people struggle to pay rent or mortgages, sometimes going hungry and sometimes losing their homes. Another



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Melanie van Brugge is running under the United Party of Canada banner for the Oxford riding in the upcoming federal election April 28.

issue that needs attention is the legalization and easy access to hard drugs. Suicide, mental health and addictions are prevalent concerns and need to be tackled."

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# Tavistock native Jenn Killing honoured with King Charles III Coronation Medal

## peopleCare executive recognized for decades of leadership in long-term care

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

There are many deserving recipients of the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal, and one of them has roots right here in Tavistock.

Jenn Killing, vice-president of quality, research and strategic partnerships at peopleCare Communities, was recently honoured for her outstanding contributions to the long-term care (LTC) sector. Her mother, Rev. Mary Boland, former minister at Grace United Church in Tavistock, proudly shared the news with the Gazette.

The award recognizes Killing's three decades of leadership and meaningful impact in clinical and administrative roles across the LTC field. Known for her focus on quality care, innovation and improving outcomes for residents, families and staff, Killing has long been a driving force for positive change in senior living.

In her role, she leads quality improvement and technological initiatives designed to deliver exceptional experiences

in care homes. She is also a sought-after speaker, advisor and advocate for careers in long-term care, and she serves on numerous LTC advisory boards across the province.

"Jenn continues to inspire those around her," said Boland. "She follows in the footsteps of many compassionate leaders and has become one herself."

The King Charles III Coronation Medal was presented to Killing at a recent ceremony held at a Polish church in Mississauga by the Honourable Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, minister of long-term care, and MPP Silvia Gualtieri. She was recognized alongside Dr. J. Fred Mather, president of the Ontario Long Term Care Clinicians.


As the new peopleCare Long-Term Care Centre in Tavistock begins welcoming residents, this recognition highlights the commitment to excellence embedded in the leadership of the organization.

The Gazette extends its congratulations to Killing on receiving this well-deserved honour.




(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Jenn Killing, daughter of Rev. Mary Boland of Tavistock, receives the prestigious King Charles III Medal from Ontario Minister of Long-Term Care Natalia Kusendova-Bashta (right) and MPP Silvia Gualtieri (left) during a recent ceremony in Mississauga.



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- Credit Xtreme (Glyphosate 540g/L, Nufarm)
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- Esplanade (Indaziflam 200g/L Envu)

- Garlon RTU (Triclopyr 144g/L, Corteva)
- Garlon XRT (Triclopyr 755g/L, Corteva)
- Gateway adjuvant (Paraffinic Oil 586g/L, Alkoxylated alcohol 242g/L, Corteva)
- Hasten NT adjuvant (Methyl & ethyl oleate 75.2%, Norac)
- Milestone NXT (Aminopyralid 60%, Florpyrauxifen 4.77%, Corteva)
- Navius Flex (Metsulfuron-methyl 12.6%, Aminocyclopyrachlor 39.5%, Envu)
- Overdrive (Diflufenzopyr 205, Dicamba 50%, BASF)
- Roundup WeatherPro (Glyphosate 540g/L, Bayer)
- Telar XP (Chlorsulfuron 75%, Envu)
- Torpedo EZ (Flumioxazin 160g/L, Pyroxasulfone 203g/L, Valent)
- Vision Max (Glyphosate 540g/L, Bayer)

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CN.CA



# Spring means tree-planting season

MARLENE KNEZEVICH

*Let's Tree Wilmot*

Let's Tree Wilmot (LTW), a project of Garden Wilmot, is excited for its 2025 spring tree-planting projects.

The first one is on Saturday April 26 in the afternoon on Perth Street, New Hamburg. Let's Tree Wilmot and Ducks Unlimited are working with the two farm owners who dredged a pond last year to create a new wetland. This will be a great home for turtles, birds, frogs and other wetland wildlife. Two hundred native trees and shrubs will be planted around the perimeter to provide more habitat, prevent erosion and shelter this area. This planting site is suitable for all ages and ability levels to join in with planting.

Another future wetland, the Nithview Floodplain behind Nithview Homes in New Hamburg, will have its third tree planting on May 3 with morning and afternoon shifts. This tree-mendous project has Let's Tree Wilmot, Ducks Unlimited and Wilmot Township working with the owners Tri-County Mennonite Homes. They won a grant from Earthscapes Catalyst to create a wetland habitat and trails. This floodplain is all non-native grass. Last year, an area was cultivated to make way for a pollinator meadow which is seeded

with native grasses and flowers. The other areas will have native trees planted. We will be planting 407 trees and shrubs such as white pine, red oak, silver maple, tamarack, black cherry, red bud, St. John's wort, nannyberry and bur oak. For the second year, we are harvesting about 300 trees from Let's Tree Wilmot's seedling nursery to plant at this site and others.

On Saturday, May 10, Sir Adam Beck Public School is planting 40 native trees and Let's Tree Wilmot offered expertise for tree selection and planting expertise.

Our final spring tree-planting event is Saturday morning on May 24 at Scott Park, New Hamburg. This was LTW's first native tree-planting site in October 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have planted 17 species of native trees and shrubs. This third planting will be 178 native trees and shrubs along the shores of the Nith River to replace dying, older trees and prevent shoreline erosion. On the west side, habitat restoration will occur adjacent to an existing woodlot. This is a great event for families.

This spring, the common theme is wetlands. All the plantings are creating or enhancing wetland habitat which is important as a small per cent is left in Southern Ontario. Wetlands are crucial in filtering

and cleaning water, flood protection, carbon storage, shoreline stabilization and fish and wildlife habitat, and of course, beautiful and wonderful places for us to walk. It is fun to look out for muskrats, beaver, turtles and the many bird species such as the osprey, ducks, swallows and redwing blackbird. Sometimes the rare bufflehead duck may appear.

New Hamburg is becoming rich in this type of habitat with the Schout Wetlands and the LTW projects. There are many

landowners in Wilmot Township working with Grand River Conservation Authority, sometimes with Ducks Unlimited or on their own restoring wetlands on their properties.

Join us for tree planting to increase Wilmot's tree canopy with your family and friends. Details are at LetsTreeWilmot.ca on the events page. Follow us on Facebook. Garden Wilmot hosts their Garden Talk series, so visit their Facebook page, too! See you soon for a tree-rific time!



Tree planting at Scott Park, New Hamburg.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Perth Street wetland with creation of turtle habitat and native trees and shrubs to be planted.



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# EZT council briefs: Township votes to stick with telephone/internet voting

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

East Zorra-Tavistock (EZT) Township has decided to continue with a hybrid voting method for the 2026 municipal election.

The township used internet and telephone voting in the 2018 and 2022 municipal elections, partnering with the Township of South-West Oxford, Township of Zorra and Town of Tillsonburg. Previously, EZT used a mail-in method for the 2010 and 2014 elections after using traditional paper ballots. In the 2018 and 2022 elections, the township also provided a physical voting location and voter help centre at the administration.

“Voters could attend the physical location and use tablets or computers to electronically cast their ballot. A telephone was also provided should the voter wish to cast their ballot that way. Election staff were available to assist voters as needed. Staff are proposing the same be done for the 2026 election,” said township clerk Meaghan Vader.

The motion passed unanimously and the hybrid model will be used in the Oct. 26, 2026, municipal election.

Coun. Matthew Gillespie asked if staff knew how many telephone votes were cast in 2022.

“I don’t know that. We can certainly poll the percentage reports,” Vader responded. “Typically, the telephone and internet kind of come together. I think largely the majority of our votes would be internet-based.

If I had to ballpark, ... I would guess it’s probably about 10 per cent of people voting by telephone.”

According to statistics Vader later provided to the Gazette, 85.9 per cent of voters cast their ballots online with 14.1 per cent using the telephone system. She added casting ballots in those ways offers a more accessible option for those who aren’t able to vote in person.

For the last few years, the township has contributed about \$7,000 annually into an election reserve to cover costs during a ballot year. The cost of the 2022 election was just under \$20,000.

## Smith applauds township’s virtual meeting option

EZT began livestreaming its meetings in December 2024 and deputy mayor Brad Smith took the time at last week’s council meeting to praise being able to participate despite not being in the township.

“For anyone watching, you may not have realized I was out of the country for the months of February and March and attended council virtually just as I have the past few years since COVID. I would like to take a minute to thank a few people for making my job easier over the last couple of months. It’s great being back in council chambers with my colleagues.”

Smith thanked a pair of staffers for their help on the technical side as well as others for answering his inquiries while away.

“Thanks also to Coun. (Jeremy) Smith for chairing one of the meetings in February when Mayor Schaefer was

unable to attend.”

In the mayor’s absence, the deputy mayor is required to chair meetings but because Smith was not in attendance in person, the township’s procedural bylaw kicked in and someone in the chamber was required to take the chair.

“Being able to attend the council meetings virtually while away is very helpful from my perspective. I am still able to take and receive emails and phone calls and messages. Nothing has changed in the way I approach this position.”

Smith admitted some constituents may disagree with the option, but he defended using it.

“The ability to use all the technology available will keep this township running smoothly. God forbid we ever have another pandemic, but we would be well-prepared. Virtual ability opens many more doors for people that either want to attend the council meeting live or watch the recording.”

East Zorra-Tavistock’s current livestreaming system is not able to record how many people are watching live, nor the number of residents who view on demand. Township CAO Karen DePrest said they have asked the vendor about providing numbers.

“We did reach out to eScribe to ask about metrics for livestreaming and recording viewings. They have indicated

that they do have a tool they could share with us that would allow us to measure the online activity for our meeting. This is not something that is part of the regular installation of the software, so we are working with them to assess the cost along with the options available for use going forward.”

DePrest said the township would be pleased to share any metrics obtained when they are able to install the upgrade.

Brad Smith explained livestreaming gives opportunities to future members of council in cases of illness, injury or having to attend to a family member in need of help.

“For me, it’s just a chance to reset, recharge and regroup. I’m looking forward to another great spring and summer working for the township and the Hickson Lions, serving my community,” he added.

Coun. Scott Rudy has also attended several meetings virtually in 2025. Both Brad Smith and Rudy asked council for an exemption to the township’s procedural bylaw to participate electronically for a period longer than thirty days and/or more than five meetings in 12 months. Smith was at last week’s meeting in person while Rudy attended virtually.

Currently, EZT council minutes do not specify if a member is present or attends virtually.

## CORRECTION:

An error was printed in the story, Stratford-Perth Heritage Foundation elects new executive at annual meeting in Shakespeare, on page 10 of the April 3 Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. While the

story stated a Fryfogel Tavern summer youth camp this year is intended for youths aged 12-20, it is in fact for children aged six to 12. We regret any confusion this may have caused.

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# Tavistock Agricultural Society honours longtime treasurer with Meritorious Service Award

## Keith Heinbuch recognized for 15 years of dedicated volunteer service

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Tavistock Agricultural Society, in partnership with the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS), has honoured one of its most dedicated volunteers with a Meritorious Service Award for his years of behind-the-scenes commitment to the annual fall fair and the local farming community.

Keith Heinbuch, a lifelong resident of South Easthope Township just outside Tavistock, was recently presented with the award by society secretary-treasurer Chris Wiffen, who visited Heinbuch to deliver both the plaque and the society's heartfelt thanks.

Heinbuch has served as treasurer of the Tavistock Agricultural Society since 2009, and though he admitted some initial reluctance when it came to adapting to new financial software and computer systems, he quickly rose to the challenge.

"Keith has always been meticulous in providing detailed monthly reports," the board noted in a statement read by Wiffen. "He ensured the fall fair's finances were carefully managed from start to finish, often starting work in late summer to prepare the floats needed for gate admissions, vendors, judges and entertainers."

Over the fair weekend, Heinbuch could always be counted on to put in long hours

handling payments, overseeing revenue and ensuring every dollar coming in and going out was accounted for.

After 15 years in the role, Heinbuch officially stepped down as treasurer on Dec. 31, 2024 but not before he prepared the 2024 books for audit and presented the final financial statements to the board.

"Keith's attention to detail, quiet dedication and steadfast support have made him an invaluable part of the Tavistock Agricultural Society," said Wiffen. "We are proud to present him with this Meritorious Service Award and thank him for a job very well done."



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

The Meritorious Service Award, presented by the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies, was awarded to Keith Heinbuch in recognition of his 15 years of dedicated service.

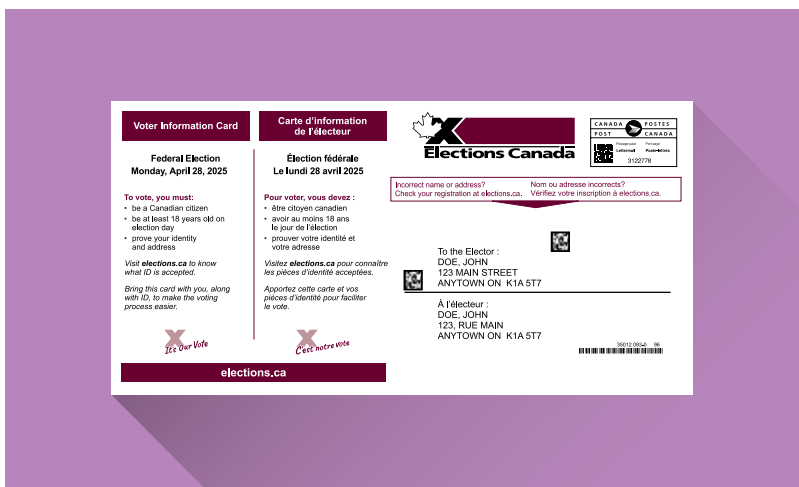


Keith Heinbuch accepts the Meritorious Service Award from Chris Wiffen, presented on behalf of the Tavistock Agricultural Society's board of directors.

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# Theatre Wellesley to stage *Blood Relations*, the Lizzie Borden story

## Community theatre company unveils new logo celebrating local roots

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

“Lizzie Borden took an axe;  
Gave her mother forty whacks;  
And when the job was nicely done;  
She gave her father forty-one ...”

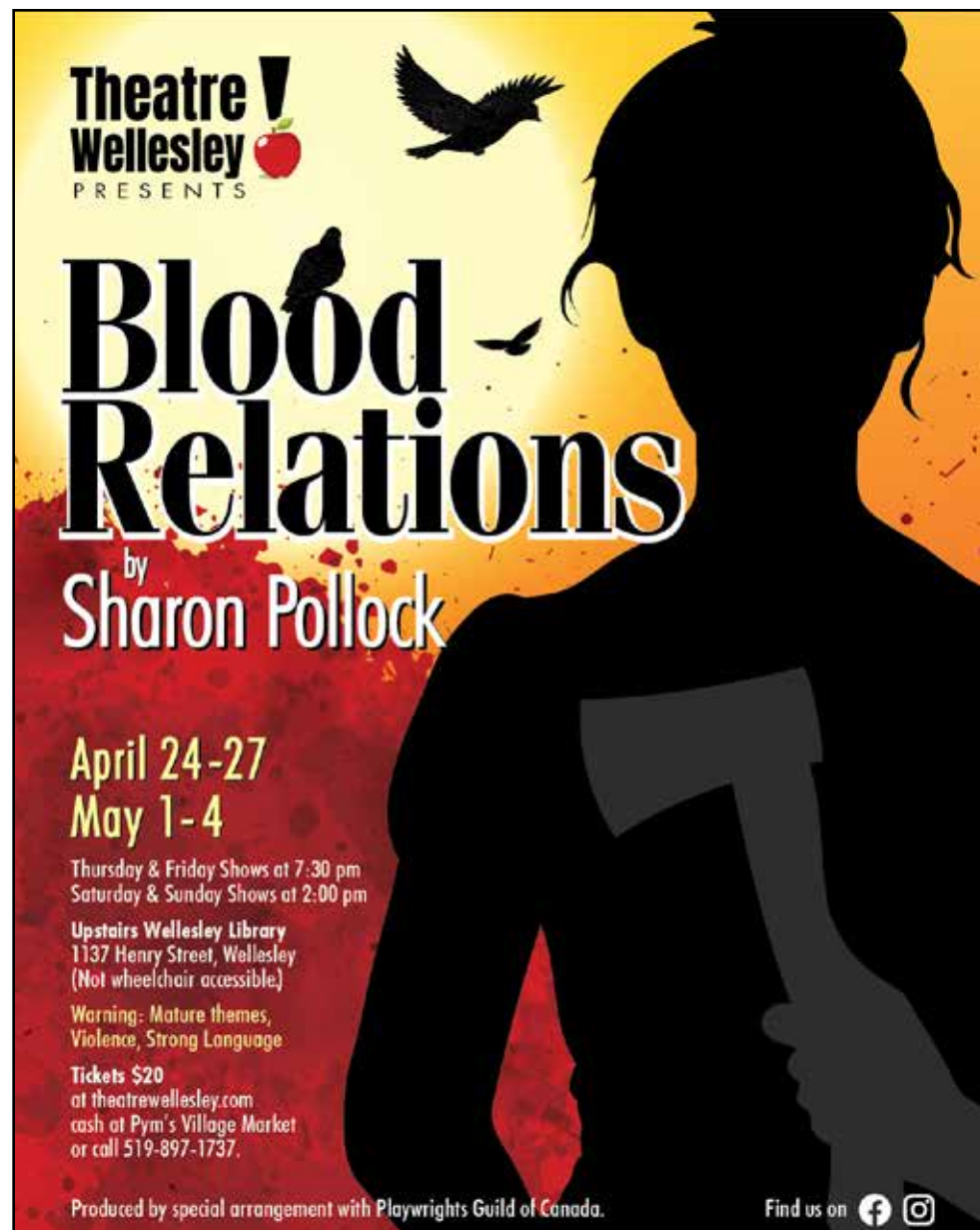
Audiences who come out to see Theatre Wellesley’s 2025 spring production will likely come away with a new perspective on the story behind the 130-year-old playground rhyme and on the dark history of the Borden family of Fall River, Mass., where on a sweltering August day in 1892, Lizzie Borden’s parents were murdered with a hatchet.

Theatre Wellesley will present playwright Sharon Pollock’s *Blood Relations* on stage at the Studio Theatre space above the Wellesley Library from April 24 to May 4.

“It’s quite different from things we’ve done in the past,” director Mary Beth Jantzi said. “... It’s upstairs at the library, which only seats 30 people, so it’s very intimate. We think of this as our studio space and we focus on plays that are going to really stretch the actors. We look for scripts that are going to be challenging and this one is.”

Lizzie Borden was a 32-year-old spinster who lived with her father and stepmother, along with her sister, Emma, and their Irish maid, Bridget. Lizzie’s open animosity toward her stepmother and her distrust of her uncle’s meddling in her wealthy father’s affairs, along with her unconventional behaviour within the tightly structured society of the day, made her the prime suspect in a murder case and trial that captured the imagination of the entire nation.

Thrust into the media spotlight in one of the first American show trials, Lizzie was eventually acquitted and lived on her family’s wealth as a quasi-celebrity in the years after, despite the lingering public consensus that she was the murderer.



(THEATRE WELLESLEY IMAGE)

Theatre Wellesley is staging Sharon Pollock’s *Blood Relations* upstairs at the Wellesley Library April 24 to May 4. The poster features Theatre Wellesley’s new logo in the top left.

*Blood Relations* opens in 1902 with Lizzie entertaining a visit from a prominent Boston actress who uses their special

friendship to convince Lizzie to tell her the story of what might have happened that fateful day. What unfolds is not so much a possible recounting of a murder as it is an exposé of the expectations, constraints and burdens placed on women in 19th-century Bostonian society and the life Lizzie lashed out at to escape.

“The sequence of events doesn’t necessarily move in a linear fashion,” Jantzi said. “We’ve got two time periods – 1892 and 1902 – and in 1902, Lizzie has been acquitted of all charges, she is living with her sister in Fall River still and, when the play opens, she is being visited by an actress who is pumping her for information about the murders and the trial. Did she do it or didn’t she? The rest of the play is Lizzie telling the story so the actress can understand, and then she invites the actress to play her so, for the rest of the play, we flash back to 1892 and we revisit some very significant days in Lizzie’s life that may or may not have led up to the murders.”

Jantzi said this production’s actors, who have come to the theatre company from

all over the region, have the chance to explore, through the perspectives of the show’s different characters, the family challenges Lizzie was living with in the leadup to the murders and the societal expectations women in that time period lived under. Throughout the play, audiences are left with two interesting questions: Did she do it, and, if she did, was there a good reason?

“All the way through the play, you do get the strong idea that Lizzie certainly is motivated for the crime. She has what we would call from our modern-day perspective quite a difficult life with very few choices,” Jantzi said. “Modern women looking at this would go, ‘What!?’ Lizzie is a sympathetic character, and yet there’s pretty good odds that she did it.”

“It’s one of those stories that kind of plays with your sensibilities.”

Shows are Thursday and Friday evenings, April 24 and 25 and May 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m., with matinees Saturday and Sunday afternoons, April 26 and 27 and May 3 and 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20, available in Wellesley at Pym’s market and online at theatrewellesley.com.

In addition to staging *Blood Relations*, Theatre Wellesley has also recently unveiled a new logo celebrating its roots in Wellesley.

“The design was done by Mary Anne Perry, who has been a huge supporter of Theatre Wellesley since well before my time and she does a fantastic job with the design for our posters, our tickets, our banners, our road signs. She does everything and she’s wonderful,” Jantzi said.

Thought the theatre company has been around since 1997, in recent years, Theatre Wellesley has struggled to find venues to stage their productions. When the new Wellesley Recreation Complex opened last year, the company learned it didn’t have a space suitable for theatre since the entire complex has windows that would have been prohibitively expensive to darken appropriately for theatre.

“We’re really a tiny company, so we’ve had to think outside the box. Our last fall show we performed at Steinmann Mennonite Church and we’ll be doing that again for our fall show this year. But it made us sort of think about who we are, what do we mean to the community, what’s our role, are we still viable? We decided that we mean a lot to the community, we bring a lot and we needed to refresh our brand and express that to the community.”

“We’re here, we’re committed and we’re moving forward, and that’s where the apple in our logo comes from.”

Theatre Wellesley continues to look for new volunteers, community partners and new spaces in which to perform. Anyone interested in supporting Theatre Wellesley can contact the company by emailing [contact@theatrewellesley.com](mailto:contact@theatrewellesley.com) or calling 519-897-1737.



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# Canine Community Corner is a labour of love

STEWART GRANT

Gazette Publisher

Something that we like to do in the Gazette is profile startup businesses within the community. One such venture which we are pleased to introduce, nestled in the lower level at 96 Huron St. (Unit 3) in New Hamburg, is Canine Community Corner, which opened for business on Dec. 1, 2024.

Olivia Corbett is the proprietor of Canine Community Corner and says her new store is the result of two things – a desire to follow her dreams, and a passion for serving the community.

“If you ask any of my family members, one of the first things they will tell you is that I have been absolutely obsessed with animals since the moment I was born,” said Corbett. “With both sets of grandparents being farmers, I was spoiled with life-long opportunities to engage with and take care of a variety of different animals.”

Of all animals, dogs were always her favourite. Within Olivia’s new store, she’s found a way to bridge her previous career in education with her love of canines. Along with stocking a variety of pet supplies that are hard to find elsewhere, she offers personalized dog-training services.

“Before building my business, I was a teacher in both the private- and public-school systems for eight years, with a passion for learning theories and educational psychology. During that time, I have taught everything from infants to third-year university students and eventually transferred that love of learning and teaching to dog training.”



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

**Olivia Corbett, owner of Canine Community Corner in New Hamburg, shares a moment with her dog Poppy — the inspiration behind her passion for dog training and community care.**

Corbett explained that through working with her own dog, Poppy, she learned how humans and dogs really aren’t that different when it comes to learning and emotions.

“Often when I list my Masters degree in educational psychology as my primary qualification for dog training, I get asked, ‘How does a degree in teaching kids qualify you as a trainer?’” Corbett said.

Her answer to that question comes in two-part. First, dogs and humans have the same emotional-processing and learning systems, so the majority of the information and methods that apply to humans also applies to dogs. Second, she’s not just working with the canine, but the human at the other end of the leash as well.

“I was very fortunate to have others also recognize my passions and talents around dog training, and before long, people were asking me for advice with their own dogs. Soon after, I was asked to do an apprenticeship with a local dog-training facility and was responsible for planning and teaching my own classes and private sessions. From there, my experience and passion continued to blossom, and I eventually stepped out on my own to start my training business.”

Along with selling pet supplies and providing canine training services for families in the New Hamburg area, Canine Community Corner also strives to support several Canadian pet rescue initiatives.

“We currently carry a variety of products that provide donations to different organizations – including Canfix Ontario Canine Spay Neuter Task Force, the Kitchener Stray Cat Rescue and Pawsitively Forever – as well as the option to drop off donations for these organizations in store,” said Corbett. “My primary goal is to serve others and to help create a community of care within the dog world.”

Corbett can be reached at 519-662-1036 or caninecorner.nh@gmail.com. For more information, please visit the store’s website at <https://canine-community-corner.square.site/>.

## IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of

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BAECHLER**

A dear husband, father and papa who passed away 9 years ago April 4, 2016

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Of the one we loved so much.  
Your memory is our keepsake  
with which we will never part  
God has you in His keeping  
We have you in our hearts.*

*It is sad to walk the road alone,  
Instead of side by side.  
But to all, there comes a moment  
When the ways of life divide.  
You gave us years of happiness  
Then came sorrow and tears  
But you left us beautiful memories  
We will treasure through the years.*

Always and forever, your loving wife  
Linda, children and grandchildren

## IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our father and grandfather Ralph Nelson Forler who passed away April 15, 2000, 25 years ago. Always remembered, never forgotten. Love your family.

## The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

*By Jake Grant*

1. What year did the Toronto Maple Leafs last win the Stanley Cup?
2. What country is Easter island located in?
3. NASA’s third mission to the moon was called what?
4. What does DM mean on social media?
5. What part of the cell contains genetic material?
6. What do Pandas primarily eat?
7. What temperature scale is based on absolute zero?
8. What’s the name of the current that pulls swimmers away from the shore?
9. What is the largest muscle in the human body?
10. What day is Queen Elizabeth II birthday?

**Answers found on the classified page**

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# The Old Gazettes

By Sydney Grant

*Slowly but surely, I'm reading through the past pages of the Tavistock Gazette (est. 1895). Within this weekly column I'd like to share with you some of my findings.*

**April 1-8, 2015, Edition (10 years ago)**

In the past, the Tavistock Gazette has been taken to the Great Wall of China and an issue was photographed in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. This time, we find it on the Hawaiian Islands courtesy of Murray and Heather Schlotzhauer of RR 4, Stratford. The area couple was on a cruise vacation from Los Angeles taking four days to cruise to Hawaii, four days around the various islands, and four and a half days back to California after first stopping in Mexico.

The Oxford County Federation of Agriculture (OCFA) presented the 15th annual Agricultural Awards of Excellence at the Oxford Auditorium in Woodstock on April 1, 2015. Krug's Meat Market of Tavistock was the recipient of the Small Agribusiness Award, one of nine awards handed out during the event which recognizes businesses and individuals for their outstanding contributions to agriculture in the county. Owners Sherri and Bob Jantzi supply customers across southwestern Ontario with pork, beef and cured meats, specializing in smoked sausage, pork chops and bacon from their old-fashioned smoke-house on their premises.

March for Meals is a North American event which takes place every year during the month of March and promotes the challenge of seniors' nutrition and the role that Meals on Wheels plays in Oxford County to address this challenge. VON Oxford's Meals on Wheels program offers seniors in our community homestyle cooked meals using traditional recipes and accommodating dietary requirements. Hot meals are delivered in Woodstock Monday to Friday and in Tavistock Tuesday and Thursday, while frozen meal orders can also be placed for biweekly delivery throughout Woodstock and the surrounding area. In addition to meal delivery, Meals on Wheels volunteers also provide regular social contact and check-ins on the health and safety of each of their

clients.

**April 3-10, 1985, Edition (40 years ago)**

The last trace of the 97-year-old barn destroyed in the fire on Oct. 21, 1984, in Sebastopol came down on Friday, March 22 when the cement silo was felled by the equipment of Delmar Bender of Wellesley. Barry Bender dug out as much earth as possible from around the base of the structure before giving it a push with the end of the shovel. The silo fought to the last inch to keep from going over but gave in to progress. A new barn will be constructed at the Francis Dietrich farm in Sebastopol. A new silo will be built beside it next year.

A faulty circulating fan in the basement was the cause of a fire at Harry Ten Shilling in Shakespeare on Monday morning. Roxanne and Michael Jervis, owners of the building who live in the upstairs of the former hotel, said while no other fire damage resulted, smoke and soot caused considerable concern in the main floor gifts and ladies-wear departments. Shakespeare volunteer firefighters responded to the call at about 9:15 a.m. after Jervis's 11-year-old son Colin detected smoke coming from the basement. Mrs. Jervis opened the basement door to find flames and dense smoke. She shut the door immediately and alerted the fire department. She then quickly led her three children out of the building.

**March 19-26, 1975, Edition (50 years ago)**

The Tavistock Junior Jets, sponsored by the Shakespeare Optimist Club, have won the London and District Girls Hockey League Championship for two years in a row. The Juniors defeated London Wee Lassies 4-3 in the fifth and final game. The game was a seesaw battle all the way, with Gail Ramseyer picking up the first goal. Sandy Armstrong tied the game for London two minutes later. Karen Hohner put Tavistock ahead again with Ramseyer assisting, but not a minute later, Armstrong put London back in the game, tying it 2-2. Early in the third period, Karen Hohner got her second goal of the night from Julie Matthies, but again London tied it to 3-3. With one minute and 19 seconds remaining, Julie Matthies scored the game/championship winning goal.

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# The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette SPORTS

## New Hamburg ready to host minor-hockey showcase

### Some of the top U18 players in the province participating

LEE GRIFFI

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

New Hamburg Minor Hockey will hold the Ontario Hockey Federation's (OHF) prestigious U18A Championship Tournament from April 18-20, the first time the organization has hosted the event.

The event will bring together the top U18A hockey teams from across Ontario to compete against the local U18A Junior Firebirds for the coveted title of being the number one team in the province. The tournament will take place at the Wilmot Recreation Complex.

This tournament represents a major milestone for the New Hamburg community, as it's the first time the region has hosted such a high-profile event on the ice. It's also the first time a New Hamburg Hockey Association team has participated in this annual tournament.

"New Hamburg has a great hockey community," said Scott Stevens, manager of programs and events at the OHF. "The proximity to Stratford and

Kitchener-Waterloo played into our decision and they also have a great team, which is a part of our criteria."

Stevens explained there is a tremendous amount of preparation that goes into holding this type of tournament, including interactions between the OHF and the qualifying teams.

"As teams start to qualify, there are a number of things they need to give us. We go through their rosters to make sure the players are eligible and suspensions come up. Due to the lateness of some teams qualifying, it gets rather hectic as we need a lot of information in a short period of time."

New Hamburg has qualified as the host team and will be joined by the Stratford Warriors (Alliance Hockey), the St. Thomas Junior Stars (Ontario Minor Hockey Association), and the Porcupine Gold Kings and Hearst HLK, both representing the Northern Ontario Hockey Association.

Referees are selected on merit to officiate in the tournament and only the top officials will be on the ice. The quality of

play is exceptional, and Stevens said the players take it very seriously.

"When the players get to this age, this might be the last opportunity some of these kids have to play in a meaningful championship. In speaking with the host committee (from New Hamburg) over the last six months, they are going to put on a great show for these players. They are going to treat them like they are professional hockey players to make the experience as positive as they can."

He added the goal is to create great memories for those participating, but at the same time, everyone is expected to be professional, including the referee-in-chief.

"They are held to a high standard. The officials are the best in the area and have been supervised throughout the season, and it all culminates in this. It is a huge accomplishment for the referees who are selected as well as the teams who earned their way to this point."

Admission for the event is free, and all games will be livestreamed.

In addition to the exciting games, the

tournament will feature a 50/50 draw providing fans a chance to win big while supporting the event and the U18A Junior Firebirds. Proceeds from the weekend activities will benefit the Hockey Diversity Alliance, an organization dedicated to promoting inclusivity, combatting discrimination and advancing diversity within hockey.

The OHF is also encouraging local businesses to become tournament sponsors.

"This is an excellent chance to gain exposure and show support for the local hockey community," added Stevens.

Here is the schedule for the Junior Firebirds:

- Friday, April 18 vs. Porcupine Gold Kings @ 12:15 p.m.
- Friday, April 18 vs. Stratford Warriors @ 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 19 vs. Hearts HLK @ 11:15 a.m.

The full schedule is available at [www.ohf.on.ca/events/ohf-championships/u18a/](http://www.ohf.on.ca/events/ohf-championships/u18a/).

## Tavistock Minor hockey honours two volunteers

LEE GRIFFI

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The Tavistock and District Minor Hockey Association has honoured two longtime volunteers.

Chad Ziegler and Andrew Raymer were given Dedication Awards at last week's Coach and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Memorial Hall.

"The executive wanted to recognize these two individuals for their many years of great service. We feel it is very important to recognize those who have been instrumental in our organization's success for many years," said minor hockey president Brad Witzel.

"In the case of Chad, we wanted to recognize him for his exceptional service while he is still actively coaching. Far too often, organizations wait to say thank you until the individual has moved on. Here, we wanted to thank a dedicated volunteer who is still actively coaching for what we hope are many years to come."

Raymer was recognized for his 10-plus years of dedication to minor hockey both behind the bench and as an executive member.

"Many of Andrew's contributions are done behind the scenes, and we wanted to thank him and acknowledge him for those that are also extremely important to a well-run organization," said Witzel.

Ziegler has coached minor hockey for over 20 years. He has also served on the executive and has been the lead instructor



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

**Andrew Raymer and Chad Ziegler were given Dedication Awards by Tavistock and District Minor Hockey president Brad Witzel recently.**

for the First Shift program, and is currently the head coach of the U13 Rep team.

"Chad can connect on a personal level with players at both ages and the feedback received from parents and players alike is extremely positive," said Witzel.

Raymer also received the Dedication Award. He was an executive member for over 10 years and has also been seen on the bench as a coach for a few teams.

"Andrew has worked hard behind the scenes and has dedicated many hours to make this organization run smoothly," Witzel said. "We are extremely thankful that Andrew has been a part of Tavistock

in front of my peers made it particularly special."

Raymer is leaving the association after a decade of volunteering and has nothing but fond memories.

"This was a truly valuable experience that gave me a deeper appreciation for the significant work the executive undertakes to ensure a successful season. Hockey is undoubtedly a team sport, and I came to see that the executive operates just like a hockey team."

Raymer added that over his 10 years volunteering with the organization, he worked with some great people who made substantial contributions to local hockey.

"While there were certainly challenges along the way, I believe we achieved a great deal and successfully navigated numerous changes. It was particularly rewarding to have been involved in key decisions that shaped the organization's direction."

He added his fondest memories were of being with his family, particularly his three sons, who were a part of the program.

"The boys went all the way from U7 to U18, and it was an incredible and fun-filled time. We're so grateful for the many great people we met and the wonderful friendships we created."

Ziegler said he also had no clue the award was coming.

"I was very surprised and even somewhat emotional to the point I could not even say thank you to the executive at the

Continued on page 15



# Rain can't dampen spirits at Tavistock Kids Road Hockey Tournament

DIANE DANEN

*Gazette Correspondent*

Despite the wet and chilly weather, enthusiasm was high at the annual Tavistock Kids Road Hockey Tournament held Saturday, April 5 at Queen's Park Pavilion in Tavistock.

Now in its 11th year, the free tournament welcomed 26 teams, with players ranging in age from 10-14. Most teams came from Tavistock and nearby communities, with the exception of three teams that travelled all the way from Barrie to participate simply because they love playing hockey.

What began in 2014 with just three participants has grown into a much-anticipated local event. This year's tournament saw the use of both the pavilion and an adjacent shed, with tarps installed by Tavistock recreation staff to help shelter players and spectators from the elements.

Volunteers from the Tavistock Bible

Chapel, the community and St. John Ambulance's - Stratford were also on hand to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Each player received a free lunch, a tournament hat and a chance to win hockey jerseys and equipment in a raffle.

The Tavistock Kids Road Hockey Tournament is organized by the Tavistock Bible Chapel and aims to combine sport and faith in a fun, welcoming atmosphere.

"The tournament provides a safe and exciting place for kids to enjoy hockey," said organizer Matt Williams, "while also sharing the good news of the gospel."

To wrap up the tournament, David Williams, a tournament referee and member of Tavistock Bible Chapel, shared a message of Christian faith.

Rain or shine, the spirit of community and joy of the game continue to make this tournament a local highlight and something to look forward to each year.



(DIANE DANEN PHOTOS)

The winning junior team, Who Needs Teeth, with members Jaxson Schmidt, Matthew Adair, Bentley Rekker and Harper Bickell.



The winning senior team, Redneck Rangers, with members Sawyer Gerber, Tom Metzger, Levi Pol and Ben DeWeerd.

## Hockey volunteers honoured during Appreciation Dinner

*Continued from page 14*

time. I have been coaching in the organization for over 20 years and it is awesome to be recognized."

He added for him, it's all about the kids.

"I do it because I have such a blast with all of these young players. The goal for our coaching staff is to have fun, teach them to compete, improve their skills and hopefully they will fall in love with the game of hockey like we did."

Minor hockey in Ontario is making a push towards a more competitive hockey model and players are now allowed to play in any centre they wish, which could

have a negative effect on smaller centres like Tavistock. Ziegler said he is well aware the landscape could be different going forward.

"There will no doubt be changes for Tavistock in the upcoming season and going forward, but I feel there will always be hockey here for us to play. We will just keep being the great hockey organization we have always been and see what that brings."

Ziegler plans to coach as long as he can, or as he joked, as long as the association will have him.

"I am always proud to say I coach the Tavistock Titans."



Dibora Roth and Molly Gunn volunteered at the target practice.

## Tavistock youth curling wraps up season



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

On March 22, Tavistock held its final day of youth curling for the season. 15 players competed for the season, and the final day had fun curling drills and ended with the season award winners being announced. The winning four to have their names forever etched on the 2024-25 club plaque were first-place Alyssa Matthews, second-place Elliott Peters, third-place Regan Oesch, and fourth-place Simon Ruby. Pictured from left to right are Cole Lichti, Cole Beggs, CJ Campbell, Alex Chiles, Nathan Taylor, Elliott Peters, Keegan Schallhorn, Alyssa Matthews, and Levi Wiegand. Not pictured were Jake Lichti, Regan Oesch, Logan Nahrgang, Keaton Roes, Simon Ruby, and Emmett Weigand. Coaches Bill Green, Sharyn Campbell, Kris Matthews, and Dwayne Taylor would like to thank the kids and their parents for their support.



# PJHL Playoffs Roundup: Firebirds take series lead on Peach Kings in PJHL quarter-final

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

A hockey team can live or die by its special teams, and on Monday night, New Hamburg lived. The Firebirds went three for eight on the powerplay and downed Grimsby 5-2 to take a 2-1 lead in the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) quarter-final series.

In terms of dying, the Peach Kings were zero for nine with the man advantage.

Firebirds head coach Shane Gerber said he's pleased with his powerplay but not thrilled with giving up so many on the other side. He is also surprised at the number of penalties called.

"It's kind of odd to have 17 combined powerplays in a game when you get to this stage (in the playoffs), but that's out of our control."

Gerber added the Peach Kings are a team that plays in a strict system and skates well.

"They are structured well, a little different than we are used to. They move through the neutral zone well and it's quick."

Owen Bruder gave the home team a 1-0 lead with the only goal of the first period and Matt Domm's first of the game gave New Hamburg a 2-0 lead before Grimsby roared back to tie it with two goals in a minute just past the halfway mark of the second. Domm's second, a minute and two

seconds later, would be the game winner.

Aydan Burns and Jack MacDonald, while shorthanded, scored insurance markers during a chippy third period that saw 28 penalty minutes including a gross misconduct on MacDonald for voluntarily removing his helmet with just over a minute remaining in the game.

Gerber said his team played like Grimsby did in Game 2, which is to protect the

house.

"You don't want to give up home ice at this point. We were at the level closer to where we needed to be, and it was just a good hockey game. The score doesn't really reflect how the game went."

Game 1

New Hamburg won a thrilling 3-2, double-overtime, come-from-behind win on home ice thanks to Antonio Pasqualino's

12th goal of the playoffs on a feed from Domm and Owen Sculthorp. Grimsby jumped out to a 2-0 lead by the five-minute mark of the second period, but Owen Fischer's 10th of the season led to a game-tying goal by Domm early in the third to force overtime. The Firebirds outshot the Peach Kings 51-34.

Game 2

The Firebirds were trounced 6-1 on the road. Sculthorp scored New Hamburg's only goal late in the second period to make it a 2-1 deficit. Grimsby went two for four with the man advantage while New Hamburg was zero for five.

"We were beating up the puck," said Gerber. "We couldn't get anything going at all. Our legs weren't going. Our goaltender was really good in the first or it might have been worse. We played a good second and third, but they're pretty good defensively. It wasn't our best game by any means."

Game 4 April 10 in Grimsby and Game 5 is back in New Hamburg Saturday. Gerber said the next one won't be easy.

"They'll have the same pushback that we had in Game 3. We need to be ready and we will go over a few things (April 9) at practice and hopefully it goes in our favour."



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# Area camp takes unique approach to hiring summer staff

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Camp Alliwannado has expanded from Tavistock to the communities of Ayr and now Wellesley, and the organization has moved away from a typical job interview to hire staff.

The company recently held a recruiting event at the Wellesley Recreation Centre to fill up to 60 job openings, and nearly 100 young people participated.

"We were reflecting on our previous hiring processes," said camp director of operations Ash Baer. "In working with youth, we really wanted to meet them in person instead of just doing an online interview. Instead of sitting down with someone in person and asking what their strengths and weaknesses were, we wanted to see them in action."

Baer said the camp decided to put the potential recruits through exercises to see if they have what it takes to be a counsellor.

"It takes a lot of different skills, and for a lot of them, it's their first job. We decided to bring them all together for four hours of what would be a typical camp day. Everything from cheers to 30 different scenarios where they had to act out and solve problems."

She added the recruits were tasked with several team-building activities to see how well they worked with each other, find out their strengths and put the right puzzle together for the summer so campers can benefit.

"The reality is the job is very engaging and every day is a new adventure, and we wanted the interviews to reflect that."

Baer admitted there was a bit of hesitation from the applicants who had never been in a group-interview situation before, but the jobseekers were given a heads-up for what to expect.

"In the information that went out to them beforehand, I told them to bring energy, an open mind and comfortable clothing. I said we were going to have some fun and they didn't need to prep anything. We just



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

**Camp Alliwannado recently held a recruiting event in Wellesley where summer-job hopefuls were put through on-the-job type exercises.**

wanted them to show up as their authentic selves."

When Baer and her team opened the doors for registration, they could feel a bit of tension and hesitation, just like before any other job interview, but within 10 minutes, everyone had loosened up and were getting to know each other. She added in 2026, they plan on having smaller groups instead of one big one.

"For next year, we will look at holding a few sessions just because there was an overwhelming number of people who signed up. I think for logistics, we'll probably divide and conquer with smaller events."

Despite the large number of hopefuls, Baer said it was difficult to decide who among the many worthy candidates would ultimately be successful.

"It was a good problem to have and we had a lot of reflecting to do. After the event, we sent out a communication asking them for feedback and if they were still interested, something that will help us move forward," Baer said.

She added some of the youth admitted the camp scene wasn't for them.

"That's exactly why we did it. We didn't want them to find that out with the actual campers. Now, we are in the process of letting them know who we are hiring. It is a tough spot to be in because it was so competitive."

Camp Alliwannado founder Annie Rowland said the exercise made it easier to decide who would fit in.

"My biggest takeaway? We learned so much more about potential staff by watching them in action – leading, listening, laughing – than we ever could from

scripted answers across a table. It became clear who truly understands what it means to work with kids and be part of a team."

She added not only was the process more engaging for the applicants, but it also gave managers a much clearer picture of who would thrive in a camp environment. Rowland also offered some advice for people in HR positions.

"If you're hiring for a role that depends on teamwork, energy and adaptability, I highly recommend rethinking what your interview looks like. Sometimes the best way to assess fit is to create the environment you're hiring for."

Camp Alliwannado's Tavistock location is fully booked for the summer but there are some spots available in Ayr and Wellesley.

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# Hickson Lions Club hosts successful annual Effective Speaking Contest

Students from Hickson and Oxford schools impress with poise, passion and powerful topics

GARY WEST  
*Gazette Correspondent*

If anyone had doubts about the speaking skills of today’s students, they would have been quickly put to rest Tuesday evening at The Oxford School, north of Woodstock.

The Hickson Lions Club hosted its annual Effective Speaking Contest and 16 grades 7 and 8 students from Hickson Public School and The Oxford School delivered well-researched, passionate speeches on a wide variety of topics from professions like doctors and firefighters to timely issues like artificial intelligence.

Hickson Public School was represented by Lea Allegranza, Saihaz Kaur, Tyler Gravis, Samara Sandhu, Aumrit Hehar, Henry Vosters, Bridget Martin and Naleigha Zehr.

The Oxford School speakers included Everett Jukema, Annabelle Arthur, Keaton Van Dyke, Indie VanHaeren, Davanee Caldwell, Avreet Sandhu, Anisha Goraya and Kylie Thomas.

All students received prizes provided by the Hickson Lions Club, and each received a warm ovation from the audience in the packed school auditorium after presenting their speeches.

In the end, three students were recognized for their outstanding presentations:

- First place: Indie VanHaeren (The Oxford School) with her powerful speech titled “Following Your Dreams is Hard.”
- Second place: Saihaz Kaur (Hickson Public School) delivered an informative speech on becoming a doctor.
- Third place: Annabelle Arthur (The Oxford School) spoke on the potential impacts of artificial intelligence on future jobs.

Lion Heather Lovey, a 30-year member



(ERIN SHRIGLEY PHOTOS)

This year’s top three speakers, from left, were Annabelle Arthur (third), Saihaz Kaur (second) and Indie VanHaeren (first). They were all recognized at the Hickson Lions Club’s annual Effective Speaking Contest.

of the Hickson Lions Club, served as master of ceremonies and encouraged the students to “learn from the past and look to the future.” The evening was smoothly coordinated by event chair Diane Clark.

To celebrate the students’ hard work, everyone in attendance was treated to pizza and desserts, generously provided by the Hickson Lions and local sponsors.

The club hopes to continue this meaningful tradition for years to come and encourages teachers and parents to support student participation in the contest to build skills in public speaking and speech writing.



All 16 grades 7 and 8 students from Hickson Public School and The Oxford School are pictured following their participation in this year’s Hickson Lions Club Effective Speaking Contest.

## Gazette Puzzles

APRIL

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April  
Bloom  
Blossoms  
Bud  
Easter

Earth Day  
Gardening  
Nesting  
Raindrops  
Renewal

Showers  
Spring  
Sunshine  
Tulips  
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# Walnut Hill Butcher Shop still thriving after 156 years in North Easthope

## Seven generations of Koch family continue proud tradition in Perth County

GARY WEST

*Gazette Correspondent*

At a time when traditional butcher shops have become increasingly rare across southern Ontario, Walnut Hill Farm in North Easthope Township remains a proud exception – continuing a family legacy that began more than 150 years ago.

Located on Concession 8, northeast of Shakespeare and not far from Amulree, Walnut Hill Butcher Shop is operated today by John and Julie Koch along with their family and a dedicated team of employees. The business has roots going back to 1869 when George K. Koch moved from Wilmot Township and settled on Lot 10.

George's son, George A. Koch, took over the farm in 1872 and began offering butchering services to area farmers, travelling farm to farm to slaughter pigs and cattle. The business was passed down through the generations – from John S. Koch, who assumed ownership in 1906, to Milt Koch who took over in 1942 and constructed the first onsite slaughterhouse in 1949.

What began as a small-scale operation attached to the farm's drive shed eventually grew into a fully

compliant facility, relocated half-way down the lane to meet government regulations. That building still houses Walnut Hill's core operations today.

In 1971, Earl and Irmgard Koch took over from Milt and Louise Koch. By 1984, the business was incorporated as Walnut Hill Farm, as their son, John, began showing interest in carrying on the family tradition.

Since then, the shop has expanded its offerings to include pork, poultry, sausage and cold cuts. Today, the business focuses primarily on custom pork and beef cutting, with slaughtering done offsite at a partnering facility.

Now in its seventh generation, the Koch legacy continues with John and Julie's son, Dalton, who has joined the business. Together, the family is celebrating 156 years of continuous operation, making Walnut Hill one of the longest-standing family-run businesses in Perth County.

While the retail counter has been phased out, Walnut Hill continues to thrive by processing large-volume, pre-arranged orders for organizations and clients, including the Perth County Pork Producers. Retail sales are now left to local outlets such as The Best Little Pork Shoppe in Shakespeare.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

John Koch, owner of Walnut Hill Butcher Shop in North Easthope, stands among a selection of pork side ribs and bacon. He and his team of nine employees also process hams, sausages, beef roasts, loins and steaks.



Each morning, John Koch fields large orders from companies and organizations such as the Perth County Pork Producers. Walnut Hill no longer offers in-store retail sales, instead focusing on bulk orders by phone or email.

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**COLOURING CONTEST**  
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 PROUDLY PRESENTS  
**IN MY SKATING ERA**  
**2025 SKATING CARNIVAL**  
**APRIL 13, 2025**  
**SHOWTIMES: 1:00 PM & 4:30 PM**  
**BOX OFFICE DATES AT TAVISTOCK ARENA**  
 April 12: 10:30am - 12:00pm  
 April 13: 12:30 - 1:00pm  
 4:00 - 4:30pm  
 \$20 Reserved Seating - red seats; age 3+ require their own seat  
 \$10 General Admission - benches, standing areas, accessible seating  
 Free - Children under 10 (general admission areas only)



# The Garden Stand offers plenty to serve guests this Easter weekend

## HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



Exceptional events begin with Wilmot's very own Chef Adam Brenner and his catering team. Adam has been running a kitchen and his own store since 2016.

The Garden Stand is a local catering company that offers something for everyone. From prepared meals on the go, private dinner parties, weddings, baby showers and even wholesaling options, Brenner brings creativity to culinary delights. Whether guests have plant- or meat-based diets, there is a wide variety of mouthwatering options to impress the most discerning diner.

The Easter Bunny hops into town the weekend of April 18, and this fantastic family-and-friend-filled weekend should be dedicated to creating magical memories.

Good Friday is fish and chips and, yes, it is the classic dish of the British Isles. While the traditional battered and deep-fried cod or haddock is a favourite, Chef Brenner has added boujee. The whipped-egg beer batter and fresh citrus squeeze brings a twist to the timeless English fish classic.

This nutritionist loves haddock

for its high protein and low calories, making it a must for those watching their waistlines. This fish is low in mercury, so enjoy often and reap the rewards. Haddock is high in Omega-3 fatty acids, a super source of selenium and contains boatloads of several B vitamins.

The Garden Stand serves their sweet and sour coleslaw alongside their fish. Cabbage is local hometown goodness lovingly sourced from Eva Wagler. Tartar sauce is a must, as is Chef Brenner's crunchy yet tangy, top-notch-tasting dill pickle. The power of potassium in potatoes is real, so indulge this Good Friday in some fabulous fries. Don't delay; grab-and-go for noon-2:30 p.m. pick up will soon be gone.

Hosting family gatherings is exhausting from planning to clean up, so take a deep breath and let go. Pick up flowers, drinks, set the table and serve guests lamb shank braised in homemade broth with roasted heirloom carrots, rutabaga and two specialty beets from local organic growers Pfenning's Organic Farms. Root vegetables are infused with Canada's

favorite sugar, maple syrup and the fabulous fresh herb, thyme. Dessert is dreamy; a light and lemony cake with buttercream layers plus cinnamon buns, a true comfort food.

In a pinch for ideas for people dropping in for drinks? The Garden Stand has an array of appetizers from the Greek sensation, spanakopita, to beet hummus, vegetarian spring rolls and charred pineapple and mango salsa.

Hostess gifts are a must! Chef Brenner has an awesome assortment of mason jars containing beets, carrots, pickles, zucchini relish and jams. Support local favourites like apple-butter honey by Nith Valley Apiaries and Baden coffee.

The Garden Stand has phenomenal food fare, great service and their team is warm and welcoming, helping customers plan their perfect occasion. It's no wonder why Brenner is expanding into a bigger, brand-new location this summer. There will be a bigger storefront, kitchen and there will be some hot takeout options.

It's exciting to think of all the private events that will be at the new site. Tying the knot this summer? Wedding season is almost full, so don't delay.

For more information, stop by The Garden Stand at 90 Peel St. in New Hamburg or surf their site and shop online at [chefbrenner.ca](http://chefbrenner.ca) or on their socials, [@thegardenstand.ab](https://www.instagram.com/thegardenstand.ab).



(TAYLOR DACOSTA PHOTOS)

Vegetarian spring rolls from The Garden Stand.



Spanakopita from The Garden Stand.



Dill pickles and tartar sauce from The Garden Stand.



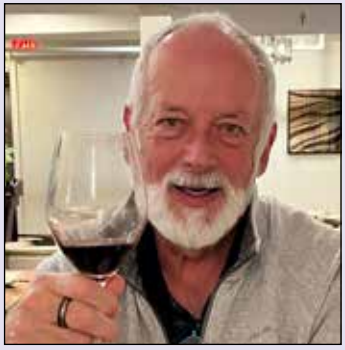
Lemon Layer Cake from The Garden Stand.



# More than just a bucket list destination

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



This article is about St. John's, Nfld., but let's start in downtown Toronto, specifically, at the fascinating attraction called Little Canada.

During my visit to Little Canada, I was "littlized." Sadly, this does not indicate an effective diet plan. Instead, a miniature of me – three quarters of an inch in height – was produced through a 3D photography and subsequent molding process. I was asked where I would like my mini-me to be placed in Little Canada. And about three weeks later, I received a photo of the tiny Paul loitering just outside the YellowBelly Brewery in St. John's, Nfld.

Why there? Two reasons – because St. John's is an amazing place to visit, and because the YellowBelly tavern is a terrific source of excellent beer, good food and great stories.

It probably says everything you need to know that when registration opened for our 2024 Travel Media Association of Canada conference in St. John's, the 250 available spots were filled in two hours, and a waiting list was growing by the minute. St. John's is clearly one of Canada's bucket-list destinations, and deservedly so. I suspect it will become even more popular as more Canadians opt to explore Canada.

I loved a lot of things about St. John's. There is, of course, Signal Hill, the iconic location at which Guglielmo Marconi received the first-ever transatlantic wireless signal in 1901.

Oddly, that's not where the name originated. Signal Hill was a key post used for military signaling (initially by flags) as early as 1704. As communication became more modern, Signal Hill became the terminus of eight telegraph cables connecting Newfoundland (and points south and east) to Ireland.

Signal Hill boasts an historic tower and amazing views, but this being Newfoundland, home of the friendliest folks you'll meet, one of the biggest attractions is a man and his dog – Ed Jackman and his 140-pound Newfoundland named Sable Chief. They come to the hill almost every day, and Sable Chief happily poses for photos – no

charge – with visitors.

Of course, visitors to St. John's also have to capture photos of the colourful houses in Jelly Bean Row – although I find this rather amusing, since it would seem that at least half the homes in the older sections of St. John's are equally brightly hued.

Every attraction in St. John's comes with a story or three. The home of the governor general, in the midst of a beautiful park, has a rather quixotic feature – a moat! Our guide, Jeff Howard, told us when the stately home was constructed, the governor of the time held that office both in Newfoundland and in Bermuda. He ordered the construction of an official residence in each place and wanted a moat around the Bermuda building. But the plans got switched, and here, on high ground in peaceful Newfoundland, the official residence of the King's representative is protected by an entirely unnecessary moat.

One of the most popular districts in St. John's is Quidi Vidi, home to the amazing craftspeople housed in the Quidi Vidi Artisan Studios, as well as a terrific brewery named for the village. That's just one of the unique small communities within easy distance of downtown St. John's, all worth a visit!

Of course, most visitors to St. John's – and thousands of locals – spend a lot of time in the pubs and clubs of George Street. Heck, the Great Big Sea song, "The Night Pat Murphy Died," pays homage to this party central.

"They stopped the hearse on George Street outside Sundance Saloon; They all went in at half past eight and staggered out at noon."

And that brings us back to the YellowBelly Brewery. It's ideally located; its front door is on Water Street, its rear entrance on George.

And don't get the impression it is named for cowards; YellowBelly is the name of hurling teams from Wexford, Ireland – and they don't come tougher than Irish hurlers.

Brenda O'Rielly owns the place. She told me it has stood on Yellowbelly Corner since before the 1700s and has been occupied by a lot of different businesses. She bought the building 22 years ago and, before opening, spent five years doing renovations and turning it into the thriving enterprise it is today.

YellowBelly's beers are unique creations, brewed onsite. But there is still room for a total of 700 patrons – not counting the patio, open in warmer weather. The beer labels reflect the Irish/Newfoundland connections of the place: Wexford Wheat, Come From Away, Fighting Irish Red Ale and, my favourite, YellowBelly Confederation Ale with a can featuring a wildly colourful portrait of the first premier of Newfoundland, Joey Smallwood.

St. John's may be a bucket-list destination, but for me, it certainly isn't one I would check off as been there, done that. This hospitable, unique community is a place you will want to spend time in, again and again. And when I do, you'll be able to find me right there at the YellowBelly Brewery. Although unlike mini-me at Little Canada, I will probably be inside with a pint close at hand.

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



The famed Jelly Bean Row in St. John's.



(PHOTO COURTESY LITTLE CANADA)

The "littlized" Paul Knowles outside the scale model of the YellowBelly Brewery at Little Canada.



(PHOTOS BY PAUL KNOWLES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

YellowBelly Brewery owner Brenda O'Rielly spent five years renovating the historic St. John's building before opening.



The author with Sable Chief on Signal Hill.



# Green looks good on you!

## CLIMATE CORNER

By Ashley Ropp  
Nith Valley EcoBoosters



With the beauty of spring comes spring cleaning; and with spring cleaning, comes not just tedious scrubbing, but also the fun of a closet cleanout. It seems only natural for us to change our wardrobes with the seasons, but some parts of it aren't so natural – the waste, the purchase of unnecessary new products, the pressure to be up to date with current trends.

So, what can be done to make our wardrobes more sustainable?

### 1. Know when to buy, and when to not

The fashion industry has a much bigger impact than you would expect. According to Business Insider, "Fashion production makes up 10 per cent of humanity's carbon emissions." And that's just the production! The impact also includes the microplastics from synthetic cloth-

ing, the resources used to market, sell and ship, and the fact that "85 per cent of all textiles go to the dump each year." When we look at the big picture, it's safe to say the fashion industry is a huge problem. And when we continue to fund and support this industry, we not only become part of the problem, but we also become responsible for doing something about it.

One way to minimize our support for this harmful industry is to stop buying clothes we don't need. That may seem daunting, so let's break it down. First, understand your personal style. Why spend your hard-earned money on clothing that's trendy but not something you actually like? If you can't see yourself wearing the garment after it stops being trendy, it's probably best

to pass on this one. Second, now that you're only looking at clothing that is your personal style, ask yourself, "is this item filling a gap in my wardrobe?" An example of this; I love knit cardigans. However, as much as it pains me to admit, there's no reason for me to have 10 knit cardigans. Any outfit I could make one with, could easily be made with another. There's no cardigan-shaped gap in my wardrobe.

### 2. Buy less, then buy best

This one's simple; let's stop giving our money to unethical companies. If you're against child labour, inhumane working conditions, or wasting our planet's valuable resources, why would you give money to the companies doing these things? You may say, "I'm just one person. How much of a difference will my \$10 make?" But if 100 people say that, then \$1,000 goes to these companies, and is used to overproduce low-quality clothing that will eventually pile up in landfills. That's also 100 people telling these companies there is a demand for their clothing, giving them the incentive to continue to supply said clothing.

If that's not enough, mass-produced clothing is low quality. You get what you pay for, and

there's a reason you're only paying \$10 at Amazon and H&M. So, when you're buying clothes, try shopping local, small businesses, or from a company that is transparent and dedicated to their ethical practices.

### 3. How to say goodbye

So, we've built a sustainable wardrobe made up of staples that will last you years. Unfortunately, clothing wears down, styles change and sizes change. So, when it's time to say goodbye, how can we do it in a way that keeps our clothing out of landfills?

If the clothing is still in decent condition, donate it somewhere where it's likely to get used and loved. This could be a women's shelter, homeless shelter, or even a friend or family member. Alternatively, you can list the clothing on a second-hand website such as Facebook Marketplace, so instead of getting lost in the sea of rejected clothing, it has the chance to be individually picked by someone.

If the condition of clothing is less than ideal, there are many innovative ways to upcycle textiles. For example, you could cut up a shirt to use as kitchen rags. If you're handy with a sewing

machine, use the scraps to mend other items, such as using a shirt to patch a rip in a pair of pants. If you're handy with a sewing machine and ambitious, you could use the scraps to make a whole new item! A patchwork project is great for items such as quilts, pillowcases, tablecloths, curtains, or bags!

My last tip; go to a clothing swap! A clothing swap is an event where people bring clothing they no longer want and can browse others' collections and pick out anything they'd like. Yes, for free! Not only is this a sustainable way to switch out your wardrobe, it's also a place to mingle and meet your community!

If that sounds appealing, I'm happy to tell you about Nith Valley Eco Boosters' upcoming event, Youth Advocates Clothing Swap! This event will take place on April 26 at Zion United Church, New Hamburg, and will run from 1-4 p.m., so you're welcome to drop in and leave as you please. There will be refreshments, snacks and more resources on sustainable fashion!

To learn more about Youth Advocates, our clothing swap, or to read the full version of this article, visit [nvecoboosters.com](http://nvecoboosters.com).

# All things outside your home

## EXPERT REAL ESTATE ADVICE

By Isabel Livingston



Let's take a break from talking about the interior of your home and switch gears to the exterior. There are many considerations a buyer will take into account when buying a home. As your trust expert, it is my job to advise you on things you can do to increase the value of your home and create more desire for it!

Oftentimes, people tend to forget about the exterior of their home, focusing all of their attention on what's happening inside the home. But what is the first thing that a buyer sees? The exterior. Today we are going to touch on maximizing exterior curb appeal and creating a perfect canvas for your home.

With spring under our toes, everyone is in the same boat; nothing

is looking the way it does in the middle of July. To get ahead and stand out, consider planting some vibrant new blooms and patching any spots in your lawn. The question is always when to do this. When sod is being cut and dropped off at stores, the time is right. We are approximately two to three weeks away from this.

Have a look at your decks or patios. Look for any damage to wood or stones and consider replacing any damaged parts or maybe even re-staining your deck to bring it back to life. Use exterior furniture to create an inviting and warm feeling to the space. Give these pieces a good wash after being in storage and consider tackling your windows' exterior while you are at it. Fix or replace any worn features

like lights or mailboxes. Test your exterior light bulbs and ensure they are still working. Frequently, I notice exterior light bulbs are burnt out. Though it's a simple fix, it is always something a buyer will notice and bring attention to.

Winter can be hard on your home, especially if it is anything like the winter we just had. Take a couple of minutes to do an exterior check on your home. Look at things like seals on windows, eaves-troughing and downspouts, and exterior walls and foundation. Consider applying a fresh coat of paint on the front door, re-caulking windows and fixing cracked siding. These are all things that will create the image of a move-in ready home. Over the course of time, houses prices increase. How much can depend on a handful of factors, one of which is how a home is maintained and cared for. Keeping up with these tasks will increase your return when looking to sell.

Much like the skin on our bodies, the exterior of our home takes on all of the elements and is the first exposure to anything and everything. By keeping it strong, vibrant and in good condition, we

set ourselves up for success.

For questions or article inquiries, reach out any time at 226-232-4236 or by email at [ilivingstonsells@gmail.com](mailto:ilivingstonsells@gmail.com).

*Isabel Livingston is a sales representative with Gale Group Realty Brokerage Ltd. and the Jennifer Gale Real Estate Team.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Polycrisis 2 - Wilmot Farmland Expropriation

Dear Editor,

I would like to amplify Anne Loeffler's letter of March 27.

Indeed, the attempted expropriation of the 770 acres in Wilmot is a multifaceted crisis, termed a polycrisis in her letter.

She covered many practical, damaging effects that would result from the expropriation and industrial development of the 770 acres to create a crisis.

I would like to add the following to her list of items that are contributing to the polycrisis:

1. Questionable business practices in the way that the landowners were presented with lowball offers, were subject to extreme time pressure and were threatened with expropriation.

2. Disrespect for regional planning processes and disregard for due diligence.
3. Complete disregard for the democratic rights of the homeowners and landowners near the 770 acres.
4. Unbelievable lack of transparency regarding many aspects of the land assembly.
5. Disrespect for the experience, knowledge and wisdom of the constituents, demonstrated by the repetition of nonsensical statements made in various attempts to justify the land assembly.

*Regards  
Paul Sedran,  
New Hamburg*



# Gracious living of days gone by

## VINTAGE VIEWS

By Tim Mosher

*Tavistock and District Historical Society*

This is the third in this series of Vintage Views of photos in the Lemp Studio Collection at the Tavistock and District Historical Society (TDHS).

Although John “Jack” Lemp took the vast majority of photos in the TDHS collection – almost 4,000 – between 1905 and 1950, itinerant photographers set up shop once a week in Tavistock advertising their services for at least 20 years before him.

They were J. McEwen, J. Sutherland, A. Murry and W. Becker. It’s not known which of them took this photo in 1893. Clearly, the photographer was hired to set up his big tripod and camera with a large wooden negative holder that had two light-sensitive glass plates in it to take two pictures. He was likely thankful for what photographers call a “soft day” because it was cloudy. The clouds disperse the light so there are no hard shadows which can make it difficult to clearly see details in the brightest areas or the shadows of a photo. Sunny days do not always create the best pictures. The photographer also like-

ly asked them not to wear hats because, again, the shadows they create can obscure the faces.

The house is located at 9 Decew St. in Tavistock. Mr. Adam E. Ratz (pronounced ROT-ss) was the owner. Here, he poses with family and friends on what was likely a Sunday afternoon. The home is still there today. Mr. Ratz was the proprietor of the Tavistock Milling Company.

This week’s History Mystery is intended for readers up to the age of 16: What is the object on the grass silhouetted against the sidewalk in front of the group? The object usually doesn’t move so it’s there year-round. Email your answer stating your first and last names, age, the name of your community or rural route number to tim\_mosher@hotmail.com. The person who sends the correct answer will have this information published in the next edition.

Last week’s History Mystery was: What is the connection between the mason’s trade and what’s in the photo? The picture was of two well-dressed children, posing in a photo studio, surrounded by cedar boughs and logs. No one had the correct response. The answer is the type of hat the boy is wearing is called a mortar board, so called because it’s flat on top with four corners, similar to what a mason holds in one hand to carry mortar on and a trowel in the other hand to apply it to the brick or stones that he’s working with. These traditional caps are often worn in graduation portraits.



(LEMP STUDIO COLLECTION IMAGE #0099)

The family, friends and home of Adam E. Ratz, Decew Street, Tavistock, circa 1893. Mr. Ratz is on the left.

## Tick talk and all things Lemp

PAUL BARTLETT

*Tavistock and District Historical Society*

The 21st annual general meeting of the Tavistock and District Historical Society (TDHS) was held at Grace United Church in Tavistock on Saturday, April 5 with over 50 people in attendance.

The guest speaker for the event was Donna Dickson of Tavistock. She and her husband, Mike, are interested in clocks and have over 400 of them in their home. They were instrumental in bringing one of the five Lemp grandfather clocks back to Tavistock.

Dickson started her presentation with a

brief biography of John K. Lemp who was a master carpenter and mechanic in Tavistock in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Lemp became caretaker of the large clock in the Trinity Lutheran Church steeple and was intrigued by how it functioned. He made a scaled-down version of the clock using gears, wheels and bushings he fashioned in his machine shop. After four years of work, he was successful in producing a working grandfather clock.

Over the years, Lemp produced five grandfather clocks in total. He was helped by his nephew, Ernie Piehl. The clocks stood up to nine feet tall and each weighed

over two hundred pounds. One pendulum was actually made from the wheel plate of a Model-T Ford. The clocks were initially given as gifts to members of his family.

Dickson endeavoured to find out where the Lemp clocks are today. She discovered two remain in the possession of Lemp relatives, one is in storage at the Canadian Museum of Natural History, and one owned by the Queens Hotel in Stratford is currently in storage. And, of course, the fifth clock is now proudly displayed by TDHS and is working again, thanks to the care of Dickson’s husband, Mike.

While tracking down the Lemp clocks, Dickson was delighted to meet and get to know a number of Lemp relatives. Many of them were able to make it to the annual meeting.

John K. Lemp was not the only prominent Lemp businessman in Tavistock. His son, John, graduated with a degree in pharmacy

and in optometry, and ran the drug store in town where he also sold spectacles. He is best known perhaps for his photography – over 2,000 of his photographs can be viewed on the tavistockhistory.ca website. And John K. Lemp’s grandson, Leonard, was also a pharmacist.

Following Dickson’s presentation, the TDHS board of directors for the next year was introduced. This includes Brian Bennett, Paul Bartlett, Bob Rudy, Donna Dickson, Tom Zimmerman, Walter Kurzat, Joan Bartlett, Susan Pellow and Denise McLachlin. In preparation for the AGM, the front room of the museum was reorganized by Sherrill Calder and Donna Wilson, and the back room was filled with displays of “All Things Lemp” courtesy of Marilyn Pearson, Tom, Susan and Donna.

Those attending the AGM were invited back to see the new Lemp clock acquisition and the Lemp displays.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM MOSHER)

Lemp family relatives who attended the TDHS annual general meeting. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Kathy Rosenberg, Sharon Tychoniak, Mary Lou Miller and Margaret Rose Cooper. In the back row, from left, are Michael Miller, Jessica Farr and Nancy Farr.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF MARILYN PEARSON)

The interior of the TDHS museum showing the “All Things Lemp” display.



# Wellesley youth singing competition returns for ABC Festival's 50th anniversary

## Local talent invited to compete for prizes in revived ABC Idol

GARY WEST

*Gazette Correspondent*

After a brief hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Apple Butter and Cheese (ABC) Idol youth singing competition is back, and just in time to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wellesley Apple Butter and Cheese Festival.

Local singer-songwriter Allister Bradley is once again leading the

organizing committee and is inviting young vocalists aged 10-18 to step into the spotlight.

Eligible participants must live in or attend school in the townships of Wellesley, Wilmot, Woolwich or Perth East.

Here are the key dates for this year's competition:

- Registration deadline: Sunday, May 18

- Open auditions: Sunday, May 25
- Semi-finals: Friday, Aug. 22
- Finals: Saturday, Sept. 22

The competition comes with cash prizes, including a top prize of \$500. Prizes are generously donated by the Wellesley Township Fall Fair, the Wellesley ABC Festival, St. Jacobs Printery and Wellesley Apple Products.

For more information or to register, email [wellesleyABCIdol@gmail.com](mailto:wellesleyABCIdol@gmail.com).



**Wellesley ABC Idol**  
Youth Singing Competition

For singers aged 10-18 who live or attend school in the townships of Wellesley, Wilmot, Woolwich or Perth East.

**OPEN TRYOUTS**  
Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>

**SEMI-FINALS**  
Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>

**FINALS**  
Saturday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>

**PRIZES**  
1<sup>st</sup> prize: \$500  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize: \$300  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize: \$200  
People's Choice: \$125

Semi-finalists will be coached by our professional mentors!

Prizes Donated by:  
Wellesley ABC Festival  
Wellesley Township Fall Fair

Additional Sponsors:  
St. Jacob's Printery  
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Registration closes Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>!

To learn more, visit [facebook.com/wellesleyidol](https://facebook.com/wellesleyidol) or contact us at: [wellesleyABCIdol@gmail.com](mailto:wellesleyABCIdol@gmail.com)

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR - APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2025

### MONDAY, APRIL 14

#### Garden Wilmot Garden Talk

**7:00 p.m.**  
Planting and Starting Plants with Pat Tucker from Sheridan Nurseries.  
Free event  
Wilmot Rec Complex  
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

#### Community Dining for Seniors in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships

**12:00 p.m.**  
Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please register by April 11 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.  
Wilmot Rec Complex  
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden

#### East Zorra-Tavistock Council meeting

**7:00 p.m.**  
Council chambers  
89 Loveys Street East, Hickson

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

#### Community Dining for Seniors in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships

**12:00 p.m.**  
Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please register by April 18 by calling 519-664-1900 or toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.  
Linwood Community Centre,  
5279 Ament Line, Linwood

### SATURDAY, APRIL 26

#### Tree Planting

**1:00 pm**  
Help create sustainable habitat. All ages. Join us! Details at [letstreewilmot.ca/events](https://letstreewilmot.ca/events)  
Perth St. Wellands, New Hamburg

### MONDAY, APRIL 28

#### Wilmot Council meeting

**7:00 - 11:00 p.m.**  
Council chambers  
60 Snyder's Road West Baden

### SATURDAY, MAY 3

#### Tree planting

**9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.**  
Join Let's Tree Wilmot for tree planting for habitat restoration. Details at [letstreewilmot.ca/events](https://letstreewilmot.ca/events)  
Nithview Floodplain, New Hamburg

### TUESDAY, MAY 13

#### Wellesley Council meeting

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

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

#### Community Dining for Seniors in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships

**12:00 p.m.**  
Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please register by May 9 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.  
Wellesley Recreation Complex,  
1401 Queen's Bush Rd., Wellesley

### THURSDAY, MAY 15

#### Nith Valley EcoBoosters will be hosting a free webinar

**7:00-9:00 p.m. EDT**  
"Why Hope Matters: The Practice of Evidence-Based Hope in a World of Climate Doom" For more information check out the upcoming events page at <https://nvecoboosters.com/> or contact [nvecoboosters@gmail.com](mailto:nvecoboosters@gmail.com)

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

#### Community Dining for Seniors in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships

**12:00 p.m.**  
Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please register by May 16 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.  
Wilmot Rec Complex  
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden

### SATURDAY, MAY 24

#### Tree Planting

**9:00 p.m.**  
Join Let's Tree Wilmot to plant trees for habitat restoration and increase tree canopy. All ages. Details at [letstreewilmot.ca/events](https://letstreewilmot.ca/events)  
Scott Park, New Hamburg

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

#### Community Dining for Seniors in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships

**12:00 p.m.**  
Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please register by May 23 by calling 519-664-1900 or toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.  
Linwood Community Centre,  
5279 Ament Line, Linwood

### SUNDAY, JUNE 1

#### "Y" Knot Quilt Show and Sale

**10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**  
Many beautiful new and antique quilts will be for sale with all proceeds going to help support the Stratford Family Y and Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth. For more information please visit [yknotquiltsshowandsale.com](https://yknotquiltsshowandsale.com).  
Falstaff Family Centre  
35 Waterloo St. Stratford

### THURSDAY, JUNE 19

#### Fundraising Golf Tournament

Tavistock Community Health Inc. is hosting a fundraising golf tournament. All the money goes to the renovations at the Tavistock medical health building in Tavistock. Information is available at: [info@tchi.ca](mailto:info@tchi.ca)  
River Valley golf club  
4725 1 Line, St. Marys

### FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES

#### Tavistock Seniors Activities

Pickleball Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon, 12-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052  
Cards Monday, Wednesday afternoon 1-4, euchre, crib (bring board), etc. Just drop in to play, good to bring someone. Contact: Bob Routly 519-301-2118  
Shuffleboard @ arena, Wednesday 12:30-4 and Thursday 10-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052.  
VON Smart Seniors Exercise, Tuesday and Thursday morning 9 - 10; Village Manor 10:25 - 11:25. Contact: 519-539-1231 x 6285  
Tavistock Memorial Hall  
1 Adam St. Tavistock ON





## CLASSIFIED ADS —

### FOR SALE

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for windbreak and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm  
Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc. North of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

### GRASS CUTTING

Grass Cutting..call or text 226-921-9287...Brad Lichti Landscaping

### PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

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

### WANTED

Local elderly Tavistock couple in search of someone to drive them to new Hamburg at least twice a month and sometimes to Kitchener. Willing to pay a reasonable amount. Please contact Janice at 519-412-0461

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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

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

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## COMING EVENTS

### FUNDRAISER SPAGHETTI DINNER

Friday, April 25 th serving from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at New Hamburg Legion. Adults \$25.00/Children 10 and under \$5.00. Includes Spaghetti Dinner, Salad, Dessert & Glass of Wine. ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY. Email: paulmackie@rogers.com or call 519-498-9302. Sponsored by Wilmot Lions/Lioness.

## HELP WANTED



**SOUTH EASTHOPE**  
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South Easthope Mutual is a regional mutual insurance company with our head office in Tavistock, Ontario. Operating as a true, member-owned mutual insurance provider, we have been providing insurance to farms and rural homes and businesses for over 150 years. We are dedicated to providing member-first service, as a company that values Respect, Honesty, Reliability, Loyalty and Community.

An opening in our underwriting department has created a career opportunity for an enthusiastic individual who is a team player and demonstrates good judgement and attention to detail. The successful candidate will ensure accurate and efficient processing of insurance applications, endorsements and renewals as well as provide administrative support.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Primary focus will be automobile underwriting while providing general support for other lines of business
- Review & accurately process insurance applications, endorsements and renewals within service standards
- Collaborate with agents, brokers, and other stakeholders to gather necessary information
- Maintain organized and up-to-date records of underwriting files and documents
- Assist in the preparation and distribution of underwriting reports and documentation
- Support continuous improvement initiatives within the underwriting department
- Provide administrative support

#### Experience & Skills Required:

- Underwriting knowledge preferred
- Previous experience in an administrative or support role
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment
- Proactive and positive approach to customer service
- Superior verbal and written communication skills

Preference may be given to candidates currently enrolled in the Chartered Insurance Professional designation program, or have other experience or training relevant to this position. A valid driver's license and reliable transportation are necessary. The successful candidate should be willing to pursue further insurance related courses when opportunities are offered.

If this position is of interest to you, and you feel you have the attributes we are looking for, please submit your resume and cover letter by April 25, 2025 to info@southeasthope.com

More information about our Company can be viewed at [www.southeasthope.com](http://www.southeasthope.com)

*We thank all applicants for their interest. Only persons selected for an interview will be contacted.  
Appropriate accommodations will be provided upon request during the recruitment process.*

## Weekly Quiz Answers

- |                   |                        |                |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. 1967           | 5. Nucleus             | 9. Gluteus     |
| 2. Chile          | 6. Bamboo              | Maximus        |
| 3. Apollo 13      | 7. Kelvin Scale        | 10. April 21st |
| 4. Direct message | 8. Riptide/rip current |                |

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Coffee Table	42.5" x 32.5" x 17.5"	4447-121	\$449
End Table	21.5" x 21.5" x 21.5"	4447-120	\$149
Wall Mirror	18" x 36.5"	4447-119	\$124
Artwork	30" x 42"	4447-118	\$119
Area Rug	8' x 11'	4447-117	\$259
Set of 2 Table Lamps	24.5" x 14"	4447-116	\$249

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Spring 2025

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Lift-top Coffee Table	42" x 24" x 19"	4447-123	\$499
End Table	22" x 22" x 22"	4447-122	\$329
Wall Mirror	30" x 30"	4447-121	\$154
Area Rug	8' x 11'	4447-120	\$259
Set of 2 Table Lamps	24.5" x 14"	4447-119	\$249

**NEW**

Spring 2025

**SAVE \$830**  
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Power Recliner	36" x 40" x 42.5"	4447-127	\$1149
Coffee Table	42" x 24" x 19"	4447-128	\$499
End Table	24" x 24" x 20.5"	4447-129	\$399
Artwork	30" x 42"	4447-130	\$179
Area Rug	8' x 11'	4447-131	\$259
Set of 2 Table Lamps	24.5" x 14"	4447-132	\$249

**NEW**

Spring 2025

**NEW**

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