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(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Members of the Tavistock Braves skate by the bench in celebration after scoring a goal during their 6-3 win over the Lakeshore Canadians in Game Four on April 26. After being up 2-0 and 3-1, the Canadians tied the game with a two-goal second period, but the Braves erupted for three unanswered goals in the third to secure the victory and give the Braves a 3-1 lead in the series.

## Braves drop game five in Essex County

### Opportunity to clinch PJHL series at home

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

Tavistock will have to wait at least one more game to clinch a berth in the Provincial Junior Hockey League's Schmaltz Cup championship series.

Tavistock travelled to Lakeshore

Tuesday night with a chance to join Fergus in the final, but was on the receiving end of a 5-2 Canadiens victory. The Braves never led in the game, but Ryan McKellar's ninth of the playoffs early in the second period tied the game at one. The Canadiens scored the game's next

four goals over 23 minutes of the second and third periods to seal the win. Jackson Andrews chipped in with a late power-play goal for Tavistock, his second of the playoffs.

For the second straight game,

Continued on page 12

## Wilmot mayor appears on TVO to talk Bill 100 and strong mayor powers

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

The Ford government recently introduced legislation that, if passed, would see the Region of Waterloo's Regional Chair appointed by the province – not elected.

The Better Regional Governance Act, tabled by Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack a few weeks ago, would allow him to appoint regional chairs and give them additional powers.

"Eight of the province's biggest regional governments in Ontario could soon have their leaders directly appointed by the province. It is designed to ensure more efficient, streamlined regional decision making," explained Flack.

Those appointees would be granted what the province is calling "strong chair" powers, similar to existing strong mayor powers currently held by Natasha Salonen. Salonen, appearing on TVO's The Rundown, hosted by Jeyan Jeganathan, said Bill 100 is attempting to solve multiple problems across different regions.

Continued on page 3

*EJ's Band Night Featuring*

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# Tavistock Optimist Club expands park pavilion

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Visitors to the Tavistock Optimist Park pavilion may notice a new addition on the west side of town, offering expanded space for community events.

During a recent visit, Optimist Club members Ken Meadows and Tyler Roth — joined by Roth’s black Labrador, Lucy — said they were pleased with the progress completed so far.

With a busy schedule of events, the added space will help accommodate larger crowds under one roof. The pavilion regularly hosts popular fundraisers such as steak stags and the club’s well-attended “wing ding,” along with other activities supporting local youth.

The next phase of improvements will include installing an upgraded lighting system at the ball park to better support evening games.

Club members are encouraging community support for ongoing fundraising efforts to help maintain and enhance the park for youth of all ages.

Upcoming events include a bike rodeo on Friday, June 12, followed by Friday Night Fries. The Optimist Club’s steak stag is scheduled for Thursday, June 18 at the pavilion.

The Optimist Club reports it has reached about half of its \$200,000 fundraising goal. For information or to donate, contact Jeff Schwarzentruher at 519-608-1503 or jeff.schwarzentruher@gmail.com



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Tyler Roth, left, of Tavistock, with his black Labrador Lucy, and Ken Meadows of Harmony view recent upgrades to the Optimist pavilion at the park west of the village. Landscaping is still to be completed, but the expanded space is expected to better accommodate events.



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WILMOT-TAVISTOCK-GAZETTE

## A squad of New Hamburg overseas men

Although Remembrance Day is still months away, this photo, taken during a recent visit to the New Hamburg Legion, highlights local men who served overseas. The caption on the image reads, “A squad of New Hamburg overseas men.” Readers who recognize any of the 10 individuals, or have additional information, are encouraged to contact Gary West at: [westg1952@gmail.com](mailto:westg1952@gmail.com)



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

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Continued from page 1

“It could bring in tools that are well-utilized, or they could also cause problems. I think we will see how that plays out post-election.”

She added the one thing she is hoping for is transparency before October’s municipal election.

“I would love to see clarity on the ballot if (the position) is actually going to be elected or appointed because I don’t think the electorate is necessarily paying much attention on a day-to-day basis. I think there are some engaged folks and some who might be caught off guard if the province decides to appoint after the community already elects someone.”

The executive director of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario also appeared on the TVO program and said while her organization is in favour of a review of how local governments operate, she is concerned about how an appointed chair could use strong chair powers.

“Not only is this person not directly accountable to the electorate, but I also think you could, in fact, have situations where they could be overruling members of their regional council who are (elected),” explained Lindsay Jones.

“This is fundamentally undemocratic, and we have called on the province to remove those elements from the bill,” she added.

As for her overall thoughts on the legislation, Salonen said Ontario has the legislative authority to determine regional governance structures.

“We’ve seen signals almost all this term that changes were being considered. My focus is less on the structure and more on whether it delivers better outcomes for regional residents.”

She added that Waterloo Region is facing complex, system-level challenges, the most critical likely being long-term water capacity, so it is valid to consider if a locally appointed chair with additional powers may help move critical files forward.

“At the same time, those decisions must remain grounded in local realities and have ample community input, to maintain good governance.”

Salonen explained that, like with any use of governance authority, whether appointed or elected, it really matters how power is applied and implemented. Any governance needs to preserve transparency, accountability, and a strong connection to the community it serves.

“There are situations where some issues that have been stalled too long could proceed in the interest of residents, but that should never come at the expense of local voices or thoughtful decisions. The goal should be better outcomes, not just a different structure.”

When asked if she would be open to becoming the region’s first appointed chair, she made it quite clear what her priority is.

“I’m fully focused on my role as mayor of Wilmot and am seeking re-election to continue the work we’ve started here. That’s where my priority remains.”

Salonen explained municipalities are creatures of the province, so there’s always going to be a role for provincial direction in how systems are structured.



(WILMOT.CA PHOTO)

Township of Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen

“That said, local governments are the closest to the communities they serve, and that perspective is critical. The most effective approach is one where the province sets the framework, but municipalities retain a meaningful role in decision-making and implementation. That’s essential for both accountability and public trust.”

She added those two pillars would mirror existing strong mayor powers – allowing the province’s selected candidates to appoint or fire senior staff, direct staff, veto bylaws and propose the annual budget.

The bill was introduced on April 2 and has completed First Reading, which is the earliest stage in the legislative process. It is still moving through debate (Second Reading and beyond) and has not received Royal Assent, but it is expected to pass easily thanks to the Ford government’s majority.

Strong mayor powers were first introduced for Toronto and Ottawa in 2022, intending to ensure provincial priorities around housing were fast-tracked. However, a recent survey of civil servants in towns and cities across the province found strong mayor powers had had little or no impact on housing starts. Those numbers have fallen every year since 2022.

“Publicly, a lot of the (strong mayor powers) had to do with housing, but if you actually read the legislation, it gives a lot of other tools for decision making to be sped up. I’ve used them to help provide more information for my council’s decision-making.”

Salonen pointed to hiring KPMG to help develop Wilmot’s 2026 budget.

“It really gave my community the ability to better understand our finances. I’d say the tool isn’t only for housing when you read the legislation.”

She also used strong mayor powers to assist with leadership instability when Wilmot had an acting CAO due to a stalemate with councillors on how to proceed forward.

“We are an even-numbered council, so the vote was 3-3. I did use them to hire some support and headhunters to help us get that process moving, which resulted in my council unanimously deciding to bring on our current CEO.”

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# Erb delivers 430,000 pounds of ice overnight for singer Drake's album promotion

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

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When Toronto-based marketing agency MAWG requested support to move and maintain large volumes of ice for a time-sensitive build promoting Drake's highly anticipated Iceman album release, The Erb Group mobilized quickly.

The ice installation was developed as a visually impactful public display, using ice blocks to reveal the album's release date and engage fans in Toronto and beyond.

The project involved transporting more than 430,000 pounds of ice, with individual blocks weighing 285 pounds and each

skid totaling 2,280 pounds. In total, 12 loads were coordinated using six trucks and a team of six drivers, each completing multiple runs to meet tight timelines.

Operations began overnight April 19, with product moving from Ice Culture in Huron County to Toronto under challenging spring conditions. Rain and fluctuating temperatures — from 7 C to -2 C — added complexity and required precise temperature control and timing throughout the move. Tight timelines meant shipments had to arrive in sequence, with no delays or idle time on site.

To ensure seamless execution,

business development manager Barb Lis and Toronto terminal manager Tom Hill were on site, working closely with dispatch to coordinate transportation and stagger arrivals, enabling rapid offloading and allowing the production team to begin building immediately.

As a Canadian company, Erb was pleased to support a project tied to Drake and help bring a creative vision to life in Toronto. With an established presence in the Greater Toronto Area, the team's local expertise supported both planning and execution.

"People see the final result, but not the

logistics behind it," said Barbara Lis, business development manager at Erb. "Moving more than 430,000 pounds of ice overnight required precise coordination across our transportation, cross-docking and cold storage operations. Everything had to arrive on time and in sequence. Projects like this show how logistics works behind the scenes to support cultural moments."

The project also reflects growing demand for non-traditional cold-chain logistics and Erb's ability to deliver tailored support for innovative, time-sensitive builds and large-scale installations.



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Workers unload ice blocks in Toronto as part of a large-scale installation supporting a recent album promotion, with more than 430,000 pounds transported overnight.



A massive ice installation promoting Drake's upcoming Iceman album took shape in Toronto with logistical support from The Erb Group, which transported the ice overnight under tight timelines and challenging spring weather conditions.

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# Optimist Club of Downie has had a busy few weeks

MANNY PEUTZ

*Submitted to the Gazette*

The Optimist Club of Downie has had a busy few weeks.

On March 29, the club hosted its local spelling bee for Grade 5 students in the area. There were many strong spellers in attendance. The club thanks all parents who took time to bring their children to the event, as well as organizer Optimist Dave Horenburg.

On April 17, the club held Pearls and

Prohibition, an evening for women in the surrounding community. Guests were served a meal by Athens Greek from Stratford, followed by desserts from Country Roots Fresh Country Market. Throughout the 1920s speakeasy-themed evening, attendees had the chance to win door prizes donated by local businesses and individuals.

Those donors included Purpour Refillery and Boutique, The Floral Cup, Lauren Whitney Lifestyles, Sue Orr, Acre75, Daisies and Doilies, Betty's Bookshelf,

Hearn's Ice Cream, Sinvention Boutique, Klomp's Home and Garden, Junction 56, Nail Effects, The Flower Shop, Bentley's Bar, St. Marys Golf and Country Club, Swanson's Jewellers and Jacob's Liquidation. One participant described the event as "a night to remember — a really loud, sparkling night."

On April 22, the club welcomed back charter member Glen Shackleton. Shackleton was one of the founding members of the club 50 years ago, and was recognized for his role in establishing the

organization, which continues to focus on serving youth in the community.

Upcoming events for the Optimist Club of Downie include free bowling in Stratford and St. Marys on May 6 at Mike's Bowling Lanes in Stratford and May 13 at St. Marys Bowling Lanes. More information is available on the club's Facebook page.

On June 6, the club will host its annual bike rodeo at the Pyramid Centre in St. Marys, offering children a refresher on road safety rules.



(MANNY PEUTZ PHOTO)

Participants take part in the Optimist Club of Downie spelling bee for Grade 5 students, held March 29, 2026.

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# SWPH asking the public to protect themselves from ticks

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

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With warmer weather comes an increase in tick activity. As a result, Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) is reminding residents of simple steps they can take to reduce the risk of tick bites and tick-borne illnesses, like Lyme Disease.

“We are seeing more ticks in our communities and more reports of tick bites, often right at home,” says Kitty Chan, Manager of Environmental Health. “As our climate continues to warm, ticks are active for longer periods each year, which means people need to think about tick protection any time they are outdoors.”

Blacklegged ticks can cause infections such as Lyme disease, as well as other illnesses, including anaplasmosis and babesiosis. SWPH reported 32 Lyme disease cases in 2023, 36 in 2024, and 45 cases in 2025, a sharp increase compared with four reported in 2020.

“One of the biggest misconceptions is that ticks are only a concern in deep woods,” says Chan. “For nearly half of the Lyme disease cases we saw in 2025, the suspected exposure happened in their own backyard. That’s why daily prevention and tick checks are so important.”

Ticks are most often found in shady, damp, and grassy areas such as wooded

spaces, tall grasses, shrubs, and leaf litter. Blacklegged ticks are continuing to move into new areas across Ontario and within the SWPH region. In 2025, Pinafore Park in St. Thomas was newly identified as a blacklegged tick risk area.

“Preventing tick bites starts before you even step outside,” says Chan. “Wear long sleeves, long pants, closed-toe shoes, and tuck your pants into socks to help keep ticks off your skin. Use insect repellent with DEET and choose light-coloured clothing when going outdoors.”

SWPH also encourages residents to check their bodies for ticks every time they come indoors, especially around the neck, ears, underarms, and groin. Showering and towel drying after outdoor activities can help remove ticks before they attach.

“If you do find a tick, remove it promptly and safely with a tick removal device, while making sure to also remove its head,” says Chan. “The online tool, [www.eTick.ca](http://www.eTick.ca), can help identify the tick species to determine whether medical follow-up is needed.”

SWPH is also reminding residents to monitor symptoms and seek medical advice if they feel unwell after a potential tick exposure. Find more information about ticks, Lyme disease, and prevention tips at [southwesternpublichealth.ca/ticks](http://southwesternpublichealth.ca/ticks).



(VECTEEZY PHOTO)

With tick activity on the rise across Southwestern Ontario, health officials are reminding residents to check for ticks after spending time outdoors and to take precautions to help prevent Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses.

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# Grant Haven Media newspapers win big at OCNA

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

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Grant Haven Media saw some big winners in the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (“OCNA”) awards.

Held in Collingwood on April 24, the awards are an annual competition that pits community newspapers against each other in a wide variety of categories.

Designer Erin Parsons took first in Local Retail Outlet for an ad in the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. Gazette Editor Galen Simmons was third in the Health and Wellness story category.

Tillsonburg Post editor Jeff Helsdon was the winner of the prestigious Reporter of the Year Stephen Shaw Award. Helsdon also placed third for Best Business Feature for the story on Shaw’s Ice Cream. Post contributor Jeff Tribe won that category with a story in the Simcoe Advocate profiling Norfolk’s wineries and micro-breweries. In addition, Tribe placed second in the Best Guest/Freelance Column category.

Tillsonburg Post designer Stacie Eden received an honourable mention for Best Use of Colour. Long-time Tillsonburg resident, newspaper editor and former OCNA president, the late Bill Pratt was inducted into the OCNA Hall of Fame during the evening.

Simcoe Advocate Editor Chris Abbott captured first in the Best Sports Pages division.

Michelle Malvaso of The Paris Independent took the other big award of the evening, Photographer of the Year. The Independent took a pair of thirds, with Edward Lander in the Arts and Entertainment category and Chris Whelan for Best Editorial Column.

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo’s farm edition



(KAREN HELSDON PHOTO)

Grant Haven Media publications were the winners of several awards at the recent Ontario Community Newspaper Association convention. On hand for the awards ceremony were, left to right: Regional Editor Galen Simmons, Publisher Stewart Grant, Director of Business Development Heather Dunbar, Tillsonburg Post Editor Jeff Helsdon, Reporter Amanda Nelson, Reporter Jeff Tribe, and Simcoe Advocate Editor Chris Abbott.

for 2025 was the second-place winner for Best Special Section.

Connor Luczka, editor of the Stratford Times, was second for Best Editorial, circulation 8,000 and under. The Times’ Amanda Nelson was second in the Most Creative Grip and Grin Photo category and received an honourable mention in Best Guest/Freelance Column category

for a piece written by Canadian musician Loreena McKennitt.

On the advertising front, Grant Haven publications were awarded honourable mentions for Best Creative Ad. Recognized were: Parsons for a St. Marys Independent ad, Michelle Foster for the Simcoe Advocate, and Sarah Cairns for the Stratford Times.

“Given that we were a small one-newspaper operation just a few years ago, it was pretty surreal to attend the gala with so many talented team members, and I was thrilled to see them recognized by their peers,” said Grant Haven publisher Stewart Grant, who was installed this weekend as the new President of the OCNA.



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# Sabre Cat spirit shines on Sprucedale P.A. Day

DIANE DANEN,

Gazette Correspondent

A group of young “kidpreneurs” made good use of their P.A. Day on April 24, setting up a drive-thru lemonade and bracelet stand on Miller Ave. in Shakespeare. Their efforts paid off, raising close to \$100, which the entrepreneurial group chose to donate to Sprucedale Public School. Customer Julie Wynette gave the venture a perfect 10 out of 10.

Meanwhile at Sprucedale Public School, an impromptu team effort brought parents and students together to address a playground safety concern. A significant amount of sand, used over the winter to help manage icy conditions, had accumulated on the blacktop and was creating slippery conditions during recess. To address the issue, Sprucedale parent and school council member Julie Wynette organized a group of volunteers who arrived equipped with leaf blowers, shovels and brooms. Working together, they cleared the area and restored it to a safe space for play.

Overall, the P.A. Day was a strong example of community spirit in action. From young entrepreneurs running a successful lemonade and bracelet stand to parents and students working together to improve playground safety, the day highlighted teamwork, initiative and a shared commitment to Sprucedale Public School.



(JULIE WYNETTE PHOTO)

Sprucedale Public School students show their entrepreneurial spirit with a P.A. Day lemonade and bracelet stand on Miller Ave. in Shakespeare. Back row, from left: Greyson Reis, 6; Lennix Graham, 7; Jovi Graham, 4; Blair Gautreau, 9; Fiona Moloney, 9; and Nora Moloney, 6. Front row, from left: Grade 6-8 students Quin Hodgson, Nash Wynette, Miller Follings, Blaine Follings and Keagan Hodgson.

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# W-O Drama brings dystopian thriller *Awoken: Rise of the Supers* to the stage

AMANDA NELSON

Gazette Reporter

Waterloo-Oxford (W-O) District Secondary School's drama program is set to take audiences into a dystopian world this weekend with its spring production, *Awoken: Rise of the Supers*.

The student-led production hits the stage Friday, May 8 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 9 at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and available at the door.

The play follows a society where humans with superpowers are feared and controlled. When one superhuman, Sable Blackwood, regains her powers, a rebellion begins against the oppressive Superhuman Prevention Unit.

The production is also headed to Ottawa later this month, where it will be performed at the Starfest Nationals competition.

Students have taken the lead both on stage and behind the scenes, with Grade 12 student Huxley Morton serving as student director.

"It's been a challenge but also really great to work with everyone this year," said Morton.

For Grade 12 student Josie Willett, who plays lead character Sable Blackwood, the role has been a refreshing change.

"By far one of the coolest plays I've ever been in," said Willett. "It's so different from the usual roles I end up getting, and definitely really different from the characters I typically play. I'm usually cast as more of a mother figure or a kind of naïve character, and this one is the complete opposite. It's such a welcome change — I'm having a blast exploring it in new ways."

Willett said stepping into a strong leadership role on stage has also been empowering.

"It's really empowering to see how this play has come together around this character, and how quickly she steps into a leadership role," she said. "It's so cool watching her just jump right in and take charge



(AMANDA NELSON PHOTO)

Students rehearse a scene from *Awoken: Rise of the Supers*, W-O Secondary School's spring production, ahead of performances May 8 and 9.

— like, 'Okay, this is what we're doing.' She's just so strong."

In addition to the performances, students are using lighting and sound design to heighten the intensity of the production and fully immerse audiences in the story.

Another unique aspect of this year's spring performance is that the original script was written by a former student, Kyara Schmitz, who initially had to write a short script for class and ended up

developing an entire performance.

"We initially had to write a one-act play, but I remember asking my teacher what the maximum is, what's the most I can do?" said Schmitz. "I already had this idea that I had been working on since 2023, and I decided I wanted to write that into a play, so that's what I ended up doing."

She said she's excited to see this come to life on stage and is looking forward to seeing how the students put their own unique

spin on the performance.

"It's incredible. I've been visiting during the practices, and every time I see them practicing my characters and my story, I get so excited," she said. "I love seeing different interpretations of my work."

With a mix of action, emotion and student-driven creativity, *Awoken: Rise of the Supers* promises to be a standout production — both on the W-O stage and beyond.

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# OBITUARY

## BRENNEMAN: Ray Clare



Passed away peacefully on April 24, 2026, at the Waterloo Regional Health Network (WHRN) – Midtown, at the age of 89.

Born in Baden, Ontario, on October 5, 1936, Ray was the son of the late Christian S. Brenneman and Edna (Lichti) Brenneman, and his stepmother Rita Gingerich.

Ray was a cherished and devoted father to Douglas Brenneman and his wife Valerie, Dwight Brenneman and his wife Paulette West, and Michael Brenneman and his wife Kathy Maucec. He was a loving grandfather to Tyler Mayo, Shea Brenneman (Brittany), and Taite Brenneman, all of whom brought him immense pride and joy.

He will be dearly missed by his brother Walter Brenneman and his wife Arlene, as well as by his nieces and nephews: Kathy Nafziger, Jim Bowman (Sue), David Brenneman, and Dawn Brenneman. Ray is also fondly remembered by his brothers- and sisters-in-law Ken (Joan) Jutzi, Mark (Karen) Jutzi, John (Juanita) Jutzi, Irene Jutzi, Bill Jantzi, and Louise

Jutzi, along with many extended family members, friends, and colleagues.

Ray was predeceased by his beloved wife, Nelda Brenneman (May 23, 2023) with whom he celebrated 62 years of marriage. Ray and Nelda lived their lives to the fullest. Raising three sons, welcoming three daughter in laws into the clan, and shamelessly ‘spoiling’ their grandchildren. Ray and Nelda loved socializing...with friends, relatives, neighbours and complete strangers who became friends.

Ray was also predeceased by his sisters Helen Brenneman, Jean (Delton) Bowman, and Lois Ann in infancy; and by his brothers- and sisters-in-law Elaine (Walter) Fretz, Robert Jutzi, Lucille Jantzi, and Grant Jutzi.

The epitome of hard work and dedication, no matter what the task. His passion for classic cars and great satisfaction of working with his hands led him to become the Founder of Expressway Ford Lincoln in New Hamburg and Stratford. A business that is truly ‘family’. Ray’s motto was to treat everyone who walks in the door as he would want to be treated. Ray, Doug, Dwight and Michael have been in business for 43 years. While building the business Ray did a little bit of everything. He began as an Apprentice; advancing through to Licensed Technician, Service Advisor, and Service Manager, ultimately becoming Dealer Principal of Expressway Ford Lincoln. He took great pride in sharing that the dealership stands on land once owned and farmed by his great-grandfather.

Ray had a passion for classic cars and treasured his travels with his beloved wife Nelda. He was a lifelong member of Wilmot Mennonite Church and an active participant in his community. Ray was a member of the Twin City Harmonizers, and enjoyed a remarkable 59-year involvement in barbershop groups. His therapy was singing; he sang barbershop with the Bare Necessities and the Classic Chordsmen quartets.

Known for his warm and sociable nature, Ray was a loyal, respected, and trusted businessman who was truly loved by all who knew him. He enjoyed boating, dining out, entertaining family and friends, and especially sharing appetizers and good conversation. A skilled woodworker and tinkerer, he found great satisfaction in working with his hands.

Above all, Ray treasured time spent with his family, grandchildren, and friends, creating lasting memories that will be cherished forever.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the doctors, nurses, staff, and students on the 5th Floor South at WRHN – Midtown for their compassionate and attentive care shown to Ray and his family.

Relatives and friends are welcome to call at the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, for visitation on Thursday, April 30, 2026, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Funeral service will be held at Steinmann Mennonite Church, 1316 Snyders Road West, Baden, Ontario on Friday, May 1, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. with Pastor Susan Alison Jones to officiate. Interment will follow at Wilmot Mennonite Church, 2995 Bleams Road, New Hamburg, ON.

As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations can be made to Mennonite Central Committee or Harmonize for Speech and can be done through the funeral home.

Personal condolences can be posted for the family on the funeral home website at [www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca](http://www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca)

# THANK YOU

*Thank you*

The family of Shirley Wagler would like to thank everyone for their love and support over the last number of months and since her passing on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you for the prayers, sympathy, cards, calls, visits, flowers, gifts of food, and donations made in her memory.

We are grateful for the care that she received from her palliative care team coordinator, the personal support workers, nurses and doctors at home, and at Stratford General Hospital. A special thank you to the staff and volunteers at the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth for their kind, compassionate care for her and also for us as a family in her final days.

Thank you to Pastor Ray Martin and Pastor Mike Williamson at East Zorra Mennonite Church for their support. We deeply appreciate everyone who took part in her Celebration of Life service on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to EZMC's Care Team, and Food committee for all their work organizing and serving meals during visitation and the day of the service. Thanks also to Quehl's for preparing the service lunch.

Thank you to the Glendinning Funeral Home – Francis Chapel for their assistance and kindness during this difficult time.

We are fortunate to be part of such a caring community.

*Herb Wagler and family*



by PeterS 2026

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**ANSWERS FOUND ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE**

# QUIZ TIME

BY JAKE GRANT

1. What is the largest living species of lizard?
2. What fashion brand is known for the double “G” logo?
3. How many championships do the Toronto Raptors have?
4. What baby animal is called a puggle?
5. The gong belongs to which section of the orchestra?
6. Who wrote The Jungle Book?
7. Captain Kirk was the captain of what Star Trek starship?
8. The term Grand Prix was first used in a motor race in which country?
9. Who was the first Marvel villain to appear in Fortnite?
10. What is the name of Bluey's little sister?

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 28 - May 5, 2021, Edition (5 years ago)**

Thanks to the families of three Tavistock Men's Club members, the highway roadsides south of Tavistock have been cleaned of litter. The Brenneman brother's families, Ron and Donna, Keith and Marilyn, and Ken and Karen, all took time during the warm weather in the first two weeks of April to volunteer and clean up certain sections of the ditches of debris and garbage. Each family picked a time that suited them and walked along Oxford Road 59 south to the Maplewood Sideroad and Oxford Road 34, north to the Perth-Oxford boundary road. When it was all finished, the Brennemens had collected 30 bags of garbage, separating the recycled materials into containers.

Chuckee Zehr has been nominated in the "Blues" category for the Forest City London Music Awards (FCLMA) for 2020. The Tavistock musician and singer released a new album in 2020 entitled "Laugh Lines and Crows Feet" and was pleased at the nomination. "I know all the other nominees, and they are awesome, so I'm quite honoured to be nominated alongside them," she said. Zehr's album contains 14 tracks including two cover songs, the Patsy Cline tune, "Walking after Midnight," and "Hunter Gets Captured by the Game" written by Smokey Robinson.

**April 27 - May, 2011, Edition (15 years ago)**

It has come to the attention of Oxford County OPP that there are concerns surrounding the use of golf carts on highways within the county. This was brought forward by citizens who are alarmed about the growing number of golf carts being operated on our highways by both young and older residents of the community. A golf cart cannot legally be operated on any highway in Oxford County. Their use is limited to private property where the landowner has consented for the golf cart to be operated. This includes driving on the shoulders and ditch areas of provincial highways, township and county roads and municipal streets.

After a school friend lost her mom to cancer, five industrious girls from Hickson Central School organized two fundraisers in support of VON Sakura House and raised a total of \$2,314.50. The first fundraiser was a bake sale held at Hickson School that earned \$299.50. After getting the green light from the principal, the girls took charge of creating the poster, flyers, the PA announcement and creating excitement around the school for the bake sale. The second fundraiser was participating in the ninth annual Hike for Hospice, held in Roth Park, Woodstock, on May 1, for which the girls formed a team called "Kick Sports."


**April 24 - May 1, 1996, Edition (30 years ago)**

Since the delivery of tons of steel girders last week to the new arena site, work has progressed noticeably with the erection of the shell of our new facility. Frey Bros. employees will be kept busy for at least two weeks assembling the impressive steel superstructure. Visitors to the site can see a daily progression of work. Work was halted briefly last week due to a thunderstorm, however, Monday, workers continued through a steady shower of rain and cooler temperatures.

Nearly 70 riders and walkers from throughout East Zorra-Tavistock township could be found on the 16th Line of East Zorra this past Sunday afternoon raising funds for cancer research. The 25th anniversary "Great Ride to Beat Cancer" took place in spite of cooler temperatures as supporters earned their pledges by travelling either from the townline to Hebron church and vice versa, or from Innerkip to Hebron and back. Thirty-four Tavistock riders registered for the event while seven walkers went a distance to collect their pledges. In total, \$3759.00 was pledged, nearly \$1,000 more than last year.

**April 27 - May 4, 1966, Edition (60 years ago)**

The first and second Brownie packs of Tavistock were sponsors of a most successful sale of baked goods and geranium plants, and also a tea, held at the library hall Saturday afternoon. The venture was the first such sponsored by the groups and opened at 2 p.m. By 3 p.m., all the baked goods were sold, and during the afternoon, 58 geranium plants had been purchased.



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# The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette **SPORTS**

## Braves denied sweep, return home with finals berth within reach

Continued from page 1

Lakeshore outshot Tavistock, this time by a 30-26 margin.

“We are fine and will bounce back on Wednesday,” said Braves general manager Brent Lange. “We didn’t play well is all.”

Game six was set for Wednesday evening at the Tavistock and District Recreation Centre, several hours after the Gazette’s deadline. Game seven, if necessary, is back in Lakeshore on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday’s game four in Tavistock saw the Braves come up with a 6-3 win after letting a 3-1 lead slip away after 40 minutes. Felix Isert-Bender and Yann Raskin gave the home team a 2-0 lead halfway through the first period before Lakeshore’s Brandon Leblanc cut the lead in half. Marc Dionne restored the two-goal buffer at the 17-minute mark, his first of the playoffs.

The tide turned in the second, with the Canadiens outshooting the Braves 13-7 and battling back to tie the game 3-3 heading into the final frame. Tavistock was again outshot but managed to score three times on just four attempts. Yann Raskin earned the game-winning goal just 49 seconds into the period, with Keegan Metcalf adding a pair of shorthanded insurance markers.

Metcalf, never considered a big scorer throughout his junior career, now has 16 goals and 10 assists in 25 postseason games.

“On the first goal, their defenceman turned it over, I had a wide open lane to the net and shot it up top. On the second one, Palubeski did some great work behind the net and threw it out front. I wasn’t intending to score, but good things happen when you put it on net.”

After dominating the first, the Braves were flat in the second, but Metcalf said the team regrouped during the second-period intermission and came out ready for the third.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

**Tavistock Braves' forward Keegan Metcalf puts his ear to the crowd after scoring one of his two goals during Game Four on April 26, which the Braves won 6-3.**

“Coach Zac Berg came in and had some words of wisdom, and we had all cylinders firing. That’s exactly what we need to win.”

Captain Marc Dionne, while admitting to struggling offensively, said his priority is defence.

“There’s only one goal I have while on

the ice, and that’s keeping the puck out of our net and doing the little things right. It has been tough for me to score goals, but it felt really good to get on the scoresheet.”

Tavistock took game four in Lakeshore by a score of 3-0 as Blake Richard earned the shutout while the Braves were outshot 25-16, a rarity during the team’s historical playoff run. Tyler Brezynskie scored in the first, Evan Palubeski in the second, and Jacob Reid-Grant in the third.

### Other PJHL news

The Doherty Division’s Paris Titans are no more. The team will be sticking around but has decided to go back to its roots and, going forward, will be known again as the Mounties. The team released a statement on its social media channels.

“Some names are more than just words. They carry memories, pride, and generations of history. Today, we’re proud to announce that our organization is returning to its roots and embracing a name that means so much to this community — the Paris Mounties.”

The statement added the change is about honouring the past, celebrating the people who built the team’s legacy, and creating an even stronger future for the next generation of players and fans.

“While our name evolves, our commitment remains the same: to represent Paris with passion, pride, and heart every single night. To everyone who supported us through every chapter, thank you. This story continues because of you. The crest returns. The tradition lives on. The future starts now. Welcome back, Mounties.”

The Lucan Irish recently released a statement saying a new board of directors has been established to lead the future of the struggling organization.

“The newly formed leadership group is committed to restoring stability, strengthening governance, and rebuilding a sustainable path forward for junior hockey in our community. Our focus is clear: to create a community-focused, transparent, and competitive program that prioritizes player development and long-term success.”

The team has also announced Glen Marshall as its new general manager.

“Glen is a proud Irish alumnus who played from 1985 to 1990 and was a part of the all-Ontario team in 1987. Glen also coached the Irish from 2018 to 2020.”

The team is asking interested players to reach out to Glen at [irishsixgm@gmail.com](mailto:irishsixgm@gmail.com) or at 519-495-1504.

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# Hammerlock Wrestling bringing high-energy fundraiser to Waterloo-Oxford DSS

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

A night of high-flying, hard-hitting entertainment is coming to Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School (W-ODSS) in Baden, all in support of local students.

On May 8, Hammerlock Professional Wrestling will take over the school's gymnasium for a live show organized by teacher Alec Moore, with all proceeds going back to support student programs. Moore, who has been teaching at the school for seven years and also works as a photographer for Hammerlock Wrestling, said the idea came from a desire to bring something new and exciting to the school community while raising money for a good cause.

"I'm a big pro-wrestling fan and I thought, well, I'm trying to find something to bring excitement to the school," Moore said. "We're doing it as a fundraiser. All of the profits that we're making are being donated back to the school."

Funds raised from the event

will support a range of student activities, including athletics and the drama department.

"It's track-and-field season right now, so there's a lot of athletes that are going to OFSAA and WCSSAA," Moore said. "We're trying to raise some money to support the athletics department, but also the drama department. Wrestling is kind of sports and drama rolled into one."

Moore said the goal is to help create more opportunities for students.

"We're just trying to kick some money back to the coffers to help even more cool stuff happen," he said.

The show will be open to both students and the wider community, with organizers hoping to draw a strong crowd for what promises to be a lively and interactive event.

Hammerlock Wrestling owner Shawn Bates said fans can expect a family-friendly show that blends athleticism with storytelling.

"A Hammerlock wrestling show is family-friendly

entertainment," Bates said. "It's old-school wrestling. We tell a story during the matches – you've got your good versus evil going on. It's something all ages can enjoy."

Hammerlock has built a following across southwestern Ontario, regularly selling out shows in Stratford and other nearby communities. Bates said the Baden event is a great opportunity for fans to catch the action closer to home while supporting a local school.

"We're always trying to find a way of giving back," he said. "It's not just us coming in, putting on a show and leaving town. This time, we're supporting the students at the school."

The card for the May 8 show will feature a mix of established performers and rising talent from across the region, including a championship match between JAX Williams and Pretty Ricky Wildly. Other matchups include The Honourable One Brian White teaming with Lucian Leblanc to face Chilly Brown and Humble Jack, as well as appearances by



(BELINDA J. CLEMENTS PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

**Hammerlock Professional Wrestling is coming to Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School on May in support of the school athletics and drama programs.**

Vikram Prashar, Jon Jon Tavious, Vanna Black and Panama.

Moore said part of what makes live wrestling so appealing is the energy in the room.

"It's one thing to watch it on TV, but it's a whole other thing to be in a big room full of people all watching it go down," he said. "They get the crowd involved, and it's just a really fun experience."

The event will take place in the school's main gym, with seating available both on the floor and in

the bleachers.

"It's live, exciting entertainment right here in Baden," Moore said. "It supports programs at the school, and it's just going to be a fun time."

Tickets are available online at [events.frontdoorplus.com/event/2035](https://events.frontdoorplus.com/event/2035), with additional tickets available at the door. Organizers say the event is suitable for all ages and offers a unique way to spend a Friday night while supporting local students.

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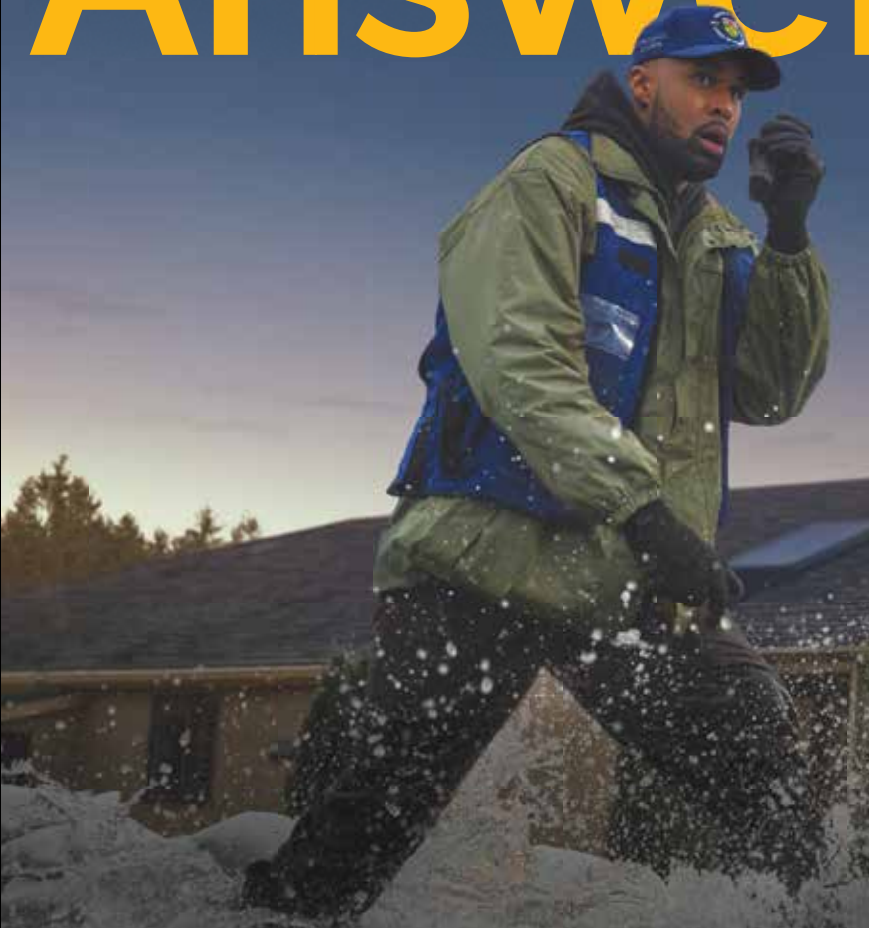


(MIKE GRUMMETT PHOTOS)

These two striking local scenes were captured by Mike Grummett of New Hamburg: a graceful swan gliding across a pond, its reflection mirrored perfectly in the still water, and the cascading waters of the Nith River flowing through the heart of New Hamburg.

# Answer the call.

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# Tavistock-area tree service spans three generations

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

A Tavistock-area company with deep roots in tree care is marking more than 70 years in business.

Lange Bros. Ltd., based on Road 2 in South Easthope Township, east of Harmony, was founded in 1951 by brothers Frank and Ellard Lange. Today, the company includes three generations of the family.

Frank's son, Rae Lange, later took over the business, continuing the family's work in tree trimming and removal.

In addition to trimming and removing trees, the company provides stump removal and uses a wood chipper to process branches into mulch.

The company says its longevity reflects a commitment to quality service and long-standing relationships with customers who return year after year.

With three boom trucks capable of reaching more than 90 feet, the team handles jobs of varying sizes across the region.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Workers with Lange Bros. Ltd. trim tall trees north of Shakespeare Public School in Stratford, while crew members on the ground feed branches into a wood chipper to produce mulch.

# Happy birthday Reverend Rob Congram



(DIANE DANEN PHOTOS)

Reverend Rob Congram marked his 60th birthday during Sunday service at Shakespeare Presbyterian Church, where his wife, Karen, surprised him with a cake shared by the congregation. Young Teddy Lapointe, 2-year-old son of Mackenzie and Travis Lapointe, decided that when cake is involved, manners can wait.

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

# Gazette Puzzles

## SPRING FLOWERS

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 D I G A P I S F N N P A A F Y L N T L Q  
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# Pet of the Week

## MABLE

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# NEAT Club elects new executive at annual meeting

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Members of the NEAT (North Easthope Antique Tractor) Club met for their annual meeting at the New Hamburg Legion last week.

Of the club's 72 members, a vote was held to elect a new executive. Longtime

member Murray Gingerich of Baden was elected president, while John Schyff, of the Almulree area, was named vice-president for 2026.

Ron Neeb continues as secretary-treasurer, and Wayne Gerber will again serve as program co-ordinator.

Outgoing president John Mohr said he "really enjoyed his time in the chair" and

noted the club will once again donate two restored tractors to the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) sale in New Hamburg next month.

The tractors will be sold at auction during the relief sale, with 100 per cent of proceeds donated by the club. Over the past 10 years, the club has contributed more than \$85,000 to MCC to support those in

need in Canada and around the world.

This year's donations include an Allis-Chalmers D-15 Series 2 and a Ford 961 with a narrow front end. Both have been fully restored and reflect tractors commonly used on local farms in the past.

Details about the sale will be included in upcoming MCC advertisements.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Members of the 2026 executive of the N.E.A.T. (North Easthope Antique Tractor) Club are shown. From left: John Mohr (past president), Murray Gingerich (president), Ron Neeb (secretary-treasurer), Wayne Gerber (program co-ordinator) and John Schyff (vice-president). New members are welcome to participate in club activities held throughout the spring and summer across Perth, Waterloo and Oxford counties.



John Mohr, longtime president of the N.E.A.T. (North Easthope Antique Tractor) Club, thanks volunteers at the New Hamburg Legion for serving the club's annual egg, sausage and pancake breakfast featuring local maple syrup. From left: John Mohr, Brian Roth, Ron Kauth, Helen Rempel, Ross Eichler and Bill Pearn. Absent: Gail McMullen and Diane Anger.

## STONETOWN TRAVEL



# SHAMROCK ROYAL IRELAND

### GROUP TRIP INFORMATION NIGHT

TRIP DATES: JUNE 25 - JULY 10, 2027

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Wilmot Recreation Centre  
Wayne Roth Meeting Room

**JUNE 11, 2026 | 6PM**  
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# Which exercise is best as a standalone?

## HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



**Question:** *If I could do only one exercise, what would be best?*

The best, whole-body, all-in-one exercise this certified personal trainer recommends is the burpee. Ironically, it's my nemesis.

Of course, exercises are specifically chosen based on goals or avoided due to injuries, but to answer this specific question, burpees are a bonanza of body-boosting benefits. Burpees are unbelievable, so much in fact military forces around the world use them to assess recruits and train units.

Let's get started.

**Why?**

This no-excuse exercise needs just one-of-a-kind you, no special equipment, and can be done in the smallest of spaces. Burpees are a four-in-one exercise essentially. This old-school love or hate movement combines

a plank, push-up, squat and a jump. It is an extremely efficient exercise, strengthening muscles and building bone density. Keep in mind the heart is a smooth muscle, and burpees are cardiovascular fitness at its finest.

**Who?**

The burpee can be performed at any age and almost every level because modifications eliminate potential causes of concern.

**How?**

To perform a standard burpee:

- Stand feet shoulder-width apart with shoulders back and looking straight ahead.
- Drop into a squat, keeping chest open and proud, placing your hands on the floor in front of you. Keep your feet flat; avoid being on the toes.
- Kick feet back. You should now be in the high plant position. Lower yourself to the floor in an army style

push-up.

- After raising up from the ground, jump both feet towards your hands, returning to the squat.
- Jump into the air with explosive energy while reaching both arms overhead.

Don't be discouraged. The standard burpee is not for everyone. Here's a few tips and tricks for beginners.

Right off the bat, let's talk about the back. According to the Canadian Chiropractic Association, almost 11 million Canadians suffer from an injury or disorder that affects their movement. The spine is a critical part of the body also affected by a sedentary lifestyle. To protect your lower spine, don't bring your hands so close to your feet in the squat. Make sure to maintain a flat back in the plank position. For more balance, widen the stance from start to finish.

To dial back the intensity of the exercise, skip the push-up. Rather than jumping back step one foot at a time back. Last modification, eliminate the high-to-the-sky jump and reach up instead.

**When?**

Burpees are a stand-alone exercise. New to exercise? Set a timer and do the modified version for five minutes. Increase the time



(VECTEEZY PHOTO)

**A mother and daughter demonstrate the push-up phase of a burpee, a challenging full-body exercise that builds strength, endurance and cardiovascular fitness with no equipment required.**

slowly by a minute every few days, then try the original version or keep increasing the time.

Burpees are a warm-up for some fitness freaks or used as part of a circuit. For travellers and busy bees, start modified, warm up the body and proceed to full-out intensity for as long as possible. The harder you go, the higher the heart rate. One minute hardcore and one minute rest is another option until the body tells you enough.

For advanced fitness fun, this personal trainer loves adding ankle weights and/or a weighted vest. Now, if this is new to you,

start with walking the feet in, then progress to the weighted jump and then up the ante with a vest as well or vice versa.

When wearing a vest, maintaining the plank with a flat back is crucial. No sway at all. Think of pulling your belly button into the spine, supporting the back and core. For a change, instead of a boring jump, make it a jumping jack!

Remember to always consult your physician and fitness practitioner before adding anything new to your exercise regime.

## Facing our fears

### INTERFAITH COUNSELLING CENTRE

By John Dinner

Fear has a way of quietly taking up residence in our lives. It often settles in softly, disguising itself as caution, practicality, or common sense. Left unexamined, it can begin to shape our decisions in ways we barely notice.

Over time, however, what is really fear can start to feel like an unchangeable truth about who we are. We start telling ourselves things like, "I'm not built for that. It's too risky. What if I fail? What will people think?" Most of us are all too familiar

with these voices.

The trouble with fear is, when left alone too long, it tends to shrink our world. It nudges us toward the familiar, the safe, the known. There is comfort in the familiar and the known, to be sure, but they can foster stagnation. We can end up mistaking the status quo for peace when, in fact, it may simply be avoidance.

I believe fear is not always something to run from. Sometimes, it is pointing us toward the very places where life is asking us to grow.

That doesn't mean taking reckless leaps or embracing danger for its own sake. I am speaking instead about quieter acts of courage – acting on a long-held interest, taking on a new challenge, beginning a difficult conversation, or saying yes to an experience that feels meaningful but uncertain.

Some of the most rewarding decisions I've made were preceded or deferred by fear. Venturing into self-employment brought no shortage of anxiety. So did re-

turning to school later in life. Sailing the Atlantic was not free of apprehension, nor was setting out on one of Spain's Caminos after years of merely reading about it. I mention these only to show proof I've had and confronted some of my own fears. Each decision required me to step beyond what was comfortable and familiar.

Looking back, I realize what held me back for many years was not a lack of opportunity but fear itself – fear of failure, fear of embarrassment, fear of financial mistakes and perhaps most powerfully, fear of the unknown.

Most of these decisions were not made until well into middle age. That realization is sobering and also encouraging. There is no age beyond which courage is no longer possible or reinvention no longer worthwhile. In fact, some of our most meaningful chapters may begin later than we expected.

Fear still visits, of course. The difference now is I no longer see fear only as a warning sign. More often, I see it as telling me

something. Is this fear protecting me from real harm, or is it simply protecting me from discomfort?

Some fears do deserve respect. Others, however, deserve to be challenged. The ones rooted in discomfort, uncertainty, or self-doubt often point toward the very places where life can become richer and more meaningful. On the other side of them is often not disaster, but growth.

Is there a fear you'd like to overcome? It may be that fear is not telling you where to stop. Sometimes fear is inviting us to a richer, more rewarding life.

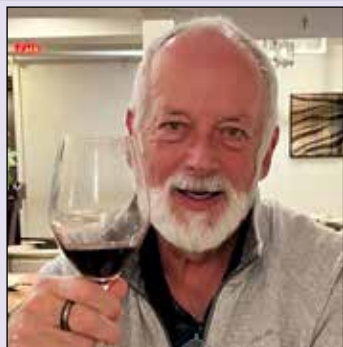
John Dinner is a registered psychotherapist who works as a counsellor at Interfaith Counselling Centre in New Hamburg. He has enrolled in a writing course this summer during which he will have to share his own work every afternoon with his course companions. What if they think his writing is awful? Maybe it will be the start of a best seller.

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

# Thoughtful walking in Ottawa

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



There are thousands of destinations we can visit that offer lovely places to stroll. Beaches, boardwalks, elegant main streets, the works. But there is something unique and special about walking in our nation's capital because in Ottawa, while there is certainly lots to be seen, there is even more to be thought about.

On our recent visit to Ottawa, we walked the route from the National War Museum to the National Gallery of Canada (that's mostly along Wellington Street) and found many reasons to pause and ponder.

I wrote, a few months ago, about the war museum, so I won't go there again this time, but just across the street from the war museum is a thoughtful and sobering monument – the National Holocaust Monument, which is entitled “Landscape of Loss, Memory and Survival.”

The monument is relatively new, designed by a team led by architect Daniel Libeskind and inaugurated in 2017 to mark one of the most horrific chapters in human history, the mass extermination of six million Jews and many, many others. When we visited, we were the only people in the place, which seems a shame and, yet, felt like an honour. It's a powerful place that tells its somber story in art, word and images. The experience of visiting the space reminded me of my visits to Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, where everyone leaves in contemplative silence.

As you walk from there up Wellington, toward the Parliament buildings, you pass the Supreme Court of Canada. Frankly, that might have not meant a lot to me in past years, but in these days, when we hear far too much about the blatant politicization and manipulation of the U.S. Supreme Court, it was worth a moment or two to stand and think about our much more objectively fair and just system, and to feel thankful for the sane and equitable way our country is run.

There is a plaque mounted near the street that points out “The Supreme Court is independent and impartial ... and makes sure laws are applied clearly and fairly across the country. Also, it is the

only supreme court in the world that is both bilingual ... and bi-jural (hears and decides on cases from two legal traditions, common law and civil law).” As you read that plaque, you are standing in Ontario, with a primarily English and common law tradition, but just behind the Supreme Court building, across the Ottawa River, is Québec, with its primarily French and civil law tradition. The twin foundations of our nation.

The other thing you will notice on the plaque is that among the nine Supreme Court judges are five women, a proportion you are unlikely to find in most countries in the world. And one of them, the Honourable Michelle O'Bonsawin, is also co-president of the World Assembly of Indigenous Judges. All of this should leave thoughtful Canadians feeling proud.

From the Supreme Court, let's take a two-minute detour onto Sparks Street to honour a true Canadian hero. In a rather unlikely retail-oriented spot, considering all of the statuary that dots the Parliament Hill region, is a fine sculpture of Terry Fox honouring the heroism and sacrifice of that great Canadian.

And speaking of statues and Parliament Hill, visitors can spend hours contemplating all of the history commemorated in the statues around our still-shrouded, under-continual-renovations Parliament buildings. There are many inspiring sculptures here – I particularly like the statue of Sir Wilfrid Laurier gazing at the iconic hotel that bears his name!

But a more recent addition caught our attention – the War of 1812 Monument entitled “Triumph Through Diversity.” Designed by Adrienne Alison, it was created and installed in 2014, marking the 200th anniversary of the end of the War of 1812-1814. That war took place because the United States launched an expansionist effort to take over what is now Canada, but the American effort was rebuffed. Just this morning, I read that Prime Minister Mark Carney has a small figure of War of 1812 hero Sir Isaac Brock on his desk as a constant reminder that Canada can and

must stand strong in the face of threats from south of the border.

The War of 1812 Monument bears these words on a bronze plaque: “Fought on land and water, the War of 1812 helped shape the future of Canada. To defeat the American invasion, people from various walks of life came together – men and women; military personnel and civilians; English, French and Aboriginal peoples.” The impressive monument reflects that Canadian diversity.

That's just a few of the thoughtful pauses available on an Ottawa stroll. There is much more – the eternal flame on the grounds of Parliament and the temporary home of the Canadian Senate that was once an opulent railway station (and the Famous Five “Women Are Persons” monument that is now located there). There's also the historic Rideau Canal, with its system of locks, and at the far end of this walk, the National Gallery of Canada, our finest repository of great art.

My online map says the walk from the war museum to the National Gallery takes 40 minutes. Actually, it can take you through centuries, and into multiple worlds of contemplation and gratitude.

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



The Terry Fox statue on Sparks Street.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Ottawa's memorial to the Holocaust.



The stark images in the heart of the Holocaust demand thoughtful attention.



The home of Canada's Supreme Court.



The temporary home of Canada's Senate was once an opulent railway station.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR - APRIL/MAY 2026

### SATURDAY, MAY 2

**Let's Tree Wilmot Tree Planting**  
9 a.m. - 12 noon  
Join us to establish a new wetland by planting about 225 trees. Details and to register: <https://letstreewilmot.ca/events/>  
*South of Haysville on Bridge St beside the Nith River*

**Twin City Harmonizers presents Celebrating 80 Years of Harmony**  
2:30 p.m.  
For tickets, visit [www.twincityharmonizers.com](http://www.twincityharmonizers.com), email [tickets@twincityharmonizers.com](mailto:tickets@twincityharmonizers.com) or talk to a member.  
*Community Christian Reformed Church*  
1275 Bleams Rd, Kitchener

### TUESDAY, MAY 5

**Ostomy Support Group Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.  
Speaker - Kathy and Bonnie from Wellspring, Stratford. Learn about the support and services for Cancer patients and loved ones. Social time and snacks. Everyone welcome. For more information, call (519)273-4327  
93 Morgan St., Stratford

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

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

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

### FRIDAY, MAY 8

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

### MONDAY, MAY 11

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

### TUESDAY, MAY 12

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

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

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

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

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

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

### THURSDAY, MAY 21

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

### SATURDAY, MAY 23

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

### MONDAY, MAY 25

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

### TUESDAY, MAY 26

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

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

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

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

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

### 3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

### STAMP CLUB

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

### FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES

**Tavistock Seniors Activities @ Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St. Tavistock ON, except Shuffleboard**  
Inside walking Monday & Wednesday morning 8:30-12. Contact: Larry Brown 519-240-6715 (October to March)  
Pickleball Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon, 12-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052  
Cards Monday, afternoon 1-4, euchre, crib (bring board), etc. Just drop in to play, good to bring someone. Contact: Bob Routly 519-301-2118

### FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES CONT

Shuffleboard @ arena, Wednesday 12.30-4 and Thursday 10-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052. (October to April)  
VON Smart Seniors Exercise, Tuesday and Thursday morning 9-10; Village Manor 10:25-11:25. Contact: 519-539-1231 x 6285

### TAVISTOCK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Museum Hours: Third Saturday of each Month**  
May Date: Saturday, May 16  
1-4 p.m. (other times by appointment)  
Email: [info@tavistockhistory.ca](mailto:info@tavistockhistory.ca) or call 519-655-3334. All welcome.  
*37 Maria Street, Tavistock*

**Travelling Museum Display: "25<sup>th</sup> Tournament of the Tavistock World Crokinole Championship"**  
The display features a very early handcrafted crokinole board, buttons, history on the cancelled Tavistock World crokinole postage stamp, newspaper articles, and logoed clothing prizes. This display runs until June 22, 2026.  
**Hours: Open 7 days a week**  
*Location: Tavistock & District Recreation Centre (arena lobby), 2 Adam Street, Tavistock*

**Travelling Museum Display: "The Glasgow Warehouse"**  
Resembles a Lemp Studio Photo of the original storefront at the center of Tavistock in 1874. The storefront is filled with oil lamps, chinaware, gramophone, and the history of a raisin & currant cleaning machine. The owner Fred Krug, owner and operator from 1874-1917 is prominently displayed. This display runs for a month or two.  
**Hours: Can be viewed anytime**  
*Location: Front window of Tavistock Home Hardware, 24 Woodstock Street S., Tavistock*

**Travelling Museum Display: "The theme is "Heritage of Hickson Public Central School"**  
- history of School from 1885 to present along with photos, artifacts, school and art work. TDHS partnered with the Hickson 4-H Club for this display that runs until April 27, 2026.  
**Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm**  
*Location: EZT Township Administration Building (lobby), 89 Loveys Street, Hickson*

### CAREGIVER CONNECTION

**Free Caregiver Connection peer support groups**  
Date: Third Tuesday of each month  
Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Are you worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) is here to listen, support, and walk alongside you on this journey. Our free Caregiver Connection peer support groups offer parents and caregivers a community of support. Can't make it in person? Join one of our virtual or hybrid groups! Visit [family.cmho.org](http://family.cmho.org) or email [oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca](mailto:oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca) for more information.  
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9	1	6	2	7	3	5	4	8
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6	2	1	5	8	4	3	7	9
5	4	3	6	9	7	8	1	2
8	9	7	1	3	2	4	5	6
7	6	8	4	1	9	2	3	5
1	5	9	3	2	8	7	6	4
2	3	4	7	6	5	9	8	1

## Quiz Time Answers

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Komodo Dragon         | 6. Rudyard Kipling |
| 2. Gucci                 | 7. USS Enterprise  |
| 3. One                   | 8. France          |
| 4. Platypuses & echidnas | 9. Thanos          |
| 5. Percussion            | 10. Bingo          |

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