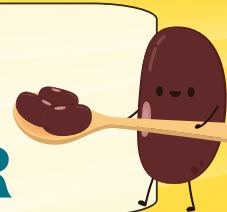


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(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SHOW US YOUR WILMOT FACEBOOK PAGE)

These shaggy beauties are bringing plenty of character to the countryside, as captured by Rita Mallet and shared to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page Aug. 11.

Ontario investing millions to help smaller and rural communities access transit

Wilmot among rural municipalities to receive support

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

The Ontario government is investing nearly \$16 million through the Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF) to help small and remote communities build safe

and reliable transit services.

The OTIF supports the start-up and expansion of transit projects like new bus services, on-demand rideshare services and door-to-door transportation. This year's funding will support new

and expanded transit services across the province, including \$3.4 million for the Region of Waterloo to introduce or expand transit services in Woolwich, Wellesley, Wilmot and North Dumfries.

Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen said

Continued on page 2

Perth County council seeks further changes to stewardship grant program

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Perth County council is considering several administrative changes to its Stewardship Program for 2027, directing staff to return with additional recommendations aimed at making the grant program more equitable and ensuring more of the funding goes toward planting trees rather than labour costs.

Council considered staff's recommendation to limit applicants to one project per grant stream, per property, per year and to create a separate administrative process for lower-tier municipal applications after hearing the program has been oversubscribed in two of its first three years. The changes are intended to spread funding among more landowners while simplifying the application process for municipalities.

According to a report prepared by resiliency and stewardship co-ordinator Hannah Cann and presented by director of public works Bill Wilson, the program has supported 99 stewardship projects since launching in 2024, resulting in the planting of more than 28,000 trees, the establishment of 43 kilometres of windbreaks and the restoration of more than 52 acres of degraded land. The county plans to maintain the program's \$100,000 budget in

Continued on page 3



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Ontario investing millions to help smaller and rural communities access transit

Continued from page 1

the money will eventually allow Grand River Transit to trial pilot programs in the township.

“A huge issue in investing in rural transit right now is the cost and we don’t have the same type of ridership. The government is realizing that having rural services can be very beneficial,” Salonen said.

She added the program will provide five years of declining funding with the intent of getting a program off the ground to build ridership so it can become sustainable.

“There are multiple components to it because there are different services across the four townships, but one thing residents have been asking for Wilmot, and in particular, businesses, is more evening and

weekend service on Route 77. With this funding, that will be coming to fruition.”

The route runs from Mackay’s No Frills in New Hamburg to the Boardwalk Station in Kitchener with stops including Peel/Bleams, Waterloo Street, Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School, Snyder’s/Foundry, Snyder’s/Coachmen’s, Snyder’s/Forler, 560 Snyder’s Rd. E., Snyder’s/Notre Dame, Highland/Trussler and Ira Needles/Highland.

Salonen said she’s particularly excited about an on-demand transit option.

“I am not 100 per cent certain on the details, but it was in the region’s proposal to implement it in the township. Say someone from New Dundee would be able to call the service and be able to be

taken wherever they want to go. This will be great for our local businesses by being able to get employees to and from work.”

There currently is no timeline as to when new services will be implemented.

“The support from the Ontario Transit Investment Fund will help us deliver new and improved transit connections for residents living in and travelling to Waterloo Region’s townships,” said Waterloo Region Chair Karen Redman.

“By supporting new and expanded Grand River Transit service, the province is helping us improve access to jobs, services and community destinations while building a more connected and sustainable region. We are grateful for this partnership and the opportunity to move our Township Transit Strategy forward.”

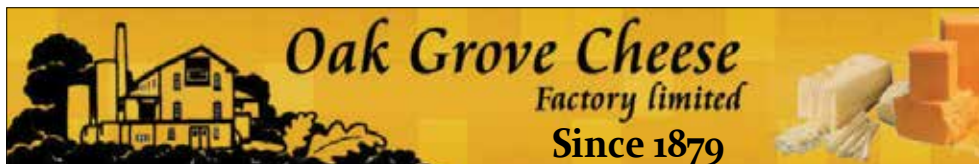
Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Mike Harris said the investment means residents in Woolwich, Wellesley, Wilmot and North Dumfries will have better access to jobs, schools and services in the larger

municipalities.

“By closing the transit gap between our rural townships and urban centres, we’re making it easier for people to stay connected to their community while opening up new opportunities close to home.”

“Through OTIF, our government is providing communities across the province with stable, predictable funding for transit services that will transform how people travel for years to come,” said Ric Bresee, parliamentary assistant to the minister of transportation. “We’re demonstrating our commitment to supporting communities and non-profit organizations across Ontario as they deliver reliable transit services.”

Municipalities, Indigenous communities and non-profit organizations can apply for OTIF funding online. Ontario also provides funding to municipalities for transit and municipal roads through the Gas Tax program and the Connecting Links program.



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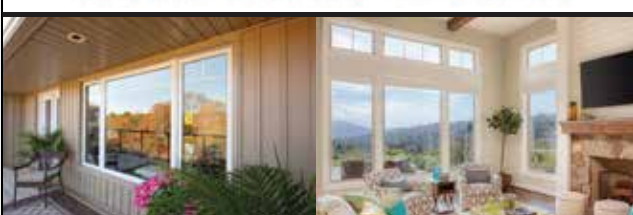


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Perth County council seeks further changes to stewardship grant program

Continued from page 1
2027.

While councillors supported the proposed changes, several argued they do not go far enough.

Coun. Bob Wilhelm pointed out that limiting grants to one project per property still allows landowners with multiple properties to receive funding for each parcel.

"This change does not correct that," Wilhelm said. "If an owner has 10 properties, they can get 10 grants, and I do have a bit of a problem with that."

Staff acknowledged that landowners with multiple properties identified by separate property identification numbers would still be eligible to apply for each property under the proposed rules.

Coun. Matt Duncan questioned whether the evaluation process should instead favour first-time applicants when demand exceeds available funding.

"If we get to the maximum limit and somebody has five projects and somebody has one, does that person with five projects only get four so the one gets included?" Duncan asked.

Warden Dean Trentowsky, who also serves as chair of the county's agricultural advisory committee, which reviews the program applications and makes recommendations to council, agreed the issue deserved another look, noting repeat applicants can consume a significant portion of the available funding while new applicants receive reduced grants because the program budget must be prorated.

"I would prefer to see the newcomer be put to the top of the priority list, receive their full amount, or as close to their full amount as possible," Trentowsky said.

Council ultimately directed staff to review the program's scoring and evaluation system to enhance the prioritization of new applicants over previous recipients

and to examine options such as limiting applicants to one application per property owner each year rather than one per property. Staff are expected to report back as early as September.

The discussion also turned to labour costs eligible under the program.

Deputy Warden Sue Orr questioned whether taxpayer funding should be paying contractors rather than putting more trees in the ground, arguing the county may be duplicating services already offered through local conservation authorities.

"I have no problem planting trees. I want to get more trees in the ground, but people are benefiting their business through this program and I have a real problem (with that)," Orr said.

Orr initially moved to eliminate contractor labour as an eligible expense, but the motion was defeated after staff reminded council that applications declined when labour costs were removed from the program in a previous year before rebounding once they were reinstated.

Instead, Duncan proposed a compromise that received council's support.

Staff will report back on the percentage of program funding spent on labour, labour costs per tree planted, the feasibility of capping labour costs on a per-tree basis and the range of tree prices being charged through the program.

Trentowsky supported further review rather than eliminating labour funding outright, noting many farm operators rely on contractors because tree planting coincides with busy spring and fall farming seasons.

"There needs to be a labour component included in this project," Trentowsky said. "To what extent? Yes, that would be worth the investigation to find out. But at the end of the day, labour is the work. Otherwise, the trees just don't get planted."

Kitchener man dead after motorcycle collision near Shakespeare

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

Gazette Correspondent

A Kitchener man is dead following a three-vehicle collision on Highway 8, east of Shakespeare, in Perth East.

On Tuesday, Aug. 11, at approximately 2:30 p.m., officers from the Perth County detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to reports of a collision involving a motorcycle and two passenger vehicles at the intersection of Highway 8 and Perth Road 104.

The motorcyclist, a 61-year-old man from Kitchener, was pronounced dead at the scene. Three individuals from the passenger vehicles were transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The intersection of Highway 8 and Perth Road 104 was closed for several hours while the on-scene investigation occurred and has since reopened.

Anyone with information or video footage of the incident is asked to contact the Perth County OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

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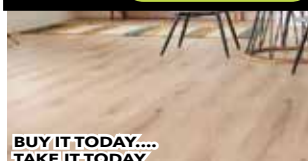


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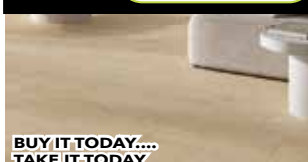


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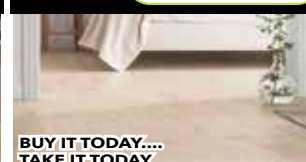


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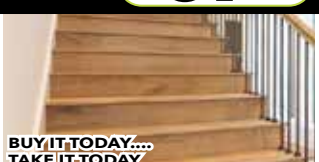


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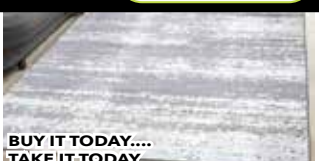


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Another collision on main road in Tavistock

Three cars damaged, two on same property as last week

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

For the second week in a row, there has been a serious collision on Hope Street East in Tavistock. For the second week in a row, the same family has been victimized.

A young driver is facing several charges after colliding with two parked vehicles on Hope Street East at approximately 10:30 p.m. on Monday.

Oxford OPP said they responded to a report of a three-vehicle collision in the town and added a driver collided with two unoccupied parked vehicles, causing significant damage to both. No serious injuries were reported.

As a result of the investigation, a 22-year-old woman from Mono was charged with impaired driving, dangerous driving, failing to comply with a demand and mischief. She has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear in a Woodstock courtroom on Sept. 22.

A transport truck driver was charged with careless driving on the afternoon of Aug. 4 after two parked vehicles at the same address were struck.

Josh Kimpel, whose truck was demolished by the transport truck last week, said he and his brother were sitting in the upstairs back room of their house and heard the latest crash through an open window and ran downstairs.

"I saw my rental in the middle of the road and my dad's Matrix behind it, and the other car at the neighbour's house. I told Mom to call 911 and made my way out to the Tesla," she said, adding the driver was already outside the vehicle apologizing and described herself using profanity as



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Witnesses say the driver of a red Tesla was taken into custody following the second collision at the same stretch of road in Tavistock where two vehicles owned by the affected family from last week were again victimized.

being "super" messed up.

Kimpel said he didn't know if she meant intoxicated or an adrenaline rush at the time, but he was more concerned for the passenger.

"I asked if she was okay or hurt, and she said she didn't know but thought she was injured. I yelled back to the multiple people on the phone with 911 to add an ambulance to that call, and then from there, fire showed up and started doing their thing and everybody else after."

Kimpel said he doesn't have confirmation the rental is totalled, but he assumes it is.

"My dad's car is likely a write-off as well; simply not worth the repair for the

vehicle that it is. After the first time, my girlfriend said something like lightning doesn't strike twice. But I guess it does. Anything's possible. Two entirely different situations in six days. Seems like a fluke, but you've got to be ready for anything."

The family also wants to remind the public of the dangers of drinking and driving.

"There is so much education today and so many options. Stay at a friend's or a hotel or call a cab. All of those options are so much cheaper than what she will pay now."

What the OPP press release did not say is the car wound up on the opposite side of the street, pinned between a tree and a rental property.

Donna Schwass, who owns the rental property but lives on Hope Street West, said trucks should not be allowed on Hope Street.

"Once it was taken over by Oxford County, it showed up on all the digital maps. Here on Hope West, we can't stop it because there is no other way for (the trucks) to go. But Hope East should not have trucks."

Schwass also believes parking should not be allowed on either side of Hope West as the road is simply too narrow for parked vehicles and trucks.

"Number one, get rid of the parking lanes. Number two, we should have bicycle/scooter lanes which are four feet wide. Having wider lanes for traffic, I think, would be by far the best solution. You can't make that road any wider, so you have to reduce the traffic on it. Getting rid of trucks and parking lanes will make a difference."

She added another concern is when people park on the side of the road to visit Ray's Produce.

"People park, jump out of their cars and run across the road. Somebody is going to get killed there."

Schwass said a lack of police presence in the town is also a contributing factor for unsafe driving.

"We see a police officer once every three to six months, and I am home all of the time. We have lived in this home for almost 13 years and have seen one RIDE program. I would like to see this become an election issue."

She added studies on both policing and traffic need to be done in Tavistock and the township.

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Chowan seeking council spot in EZT

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

Don Chowan has spent his career building relationships. As a self-employed retail design professional, he understands the importance of listening to people, finding practical solutions and delivering on commitments. Those are the same values he hopes to bring to East Zorra-Tavistock (EZT) council.

Chowan and his wife, Mary, have been married for 46 years. More than eight years ago, they chose to make Innerkip their home because they were drawn to the warmth and charm of small-town living. Since then, Chowan said he has become an active member of the community, believing that giving back is one of the best ways to strengthen the place you call home.

"If you've spent time around Innerkip, there's a good chance you've seen me walking my two Goldendoodles, Bentley and Willow, through the village. Those daily walks have become more than just exercise – they've provided countless opportunities to stop, chat with neighbours, hear their ideas and listen to what matters

most to the people who call this community home."

Chowan currently serves as chairman of the board of directors for the Innerkip Seniors Apartment and is a board member of two woodturning clubs.

"Through my involvement with the Bravery Bead Bowl Program, I help provide handcrafted wooden bowls to children receiving treatment at Children's Hospital in London and SickKids Hospital in Toronto. The bowls are used to hold the beads children receive after each medical procedure, creating a lasting reminder of their courage throughout their health-care journey."

He added when the couple isn't volunteering, they enjoy travelling and have explored many parts of the world.

"While those experiences have been rewarding, they have also reinforced just how special it is to live in a close-knit community like Innerkip," he said.

Chowan said his decision to run for council comes from a desire to serve his community and help shape its future.

"Our township is growing quickly, and with that growth comes both opportunities

and challenges," he said. "I want to be a voice for everyone – longtime residents who want to preserve the character of our community and new families who have chosen to make East Zorra-Tavistock their home."

If elected, Chowan wants to focus on responsible long-term planning that keeps pace with the community's growth.

"My priorities include improving traffic safety, working toward solutions for ongoing power outages, supporting investments in parks, recreation, libraries and community facilities, and exploring better transportation options for seniors and youth to connect with services in Woodstock."

Above all, he believes a councillor's most important responsibility is to listen.

"Council works best when residents know they're being heard," he said "I want to be approachable, accessible and committed to bringing the concerns and ideas of our residents to the council table."

Chowan believes his years of business experience, volunteer leadership and commitment to the community have prepared him to serve Ward 3 with integrity and common sense.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF DON CHOWAN)

Don Chowan is hoping to be elected as Ward 3 councillor in the Oct. 26 East Zorra-Tavistock municipal election.

"I care deeply about this community and the people who live here. I would be honoured to earn your trust and your support as your next Ward 3 councillor."

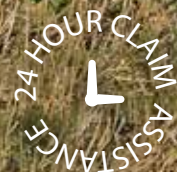
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OPP West Region Civic Holiday Traffic Campaign results

Police lay nearly 2,000 charges

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

West Region members of the Ontario Provincial Police laid 1,815 charges following 2,107 traffic stops across the region during the August long weekend traffic campaign.

The operation, which ran from July 31 to Aug. 3, focused on the negative driving behaviours that contribute to traffic-collision deaths, injuries and property damage on our roadways. They include speeding, failure to wear a seatbelt, distracted driving and impaired driving.

The Oxford OPP detachment has seen the most traffic deaths in the region with 12 to date. While that number may seem high, there were 14 at this point in 2025.

Police also enforced Ontario's Move

Over law, which is designed to provide emergency personnel with the safe space they need to assist motorists and perform other roadside work.

The infractions included 856 for speeding, 178 seatbelt charges, 14 for distracted driving, 45 impaired driving charges and 11 move-over infractions.

"Our officers will continue to educate drivers and make speed enforcement a priority in the communities we serve," said acting traffic inspector Tara Bolstad.

Oxford County OPP media relations officer Randi Crawford said the number of charges laid is very concerning.

"Absolutely, we are worried. We hope to always have low numbers, meaning we increase our patrols but genuinely find few people disobeying the rules of the road. It is always disappointing to see so many

drivers still taking unnecessary risks."

Despite the high number of infractions, Crawford wants to encourage those following the rules to keep it up.

"Our message to good drivers is thank you and please keep up the good work. Please continue to drive alert and be prepared to drive defensively. A driver needs to know what is in front, behind and around them at all times."

Crawford's message for those driving irresponsibly is also right to the point.

"Please stop taking risks. You are not only putting others at risk with your poor driving choices, but you are putting yourself at risk as well. You may have been lucky so far to avoid a collision, but you are not invincible."

She added police want to hear from motorists witnessing bad actors, but not on

every occasion.

"Yes, please report. If it is a dangerous driving behaviour happening at that moment, such as a suspected impaired driver or dangerous driver, please call 911. If it is something that isn't happening at the moment, for example a car that sped past you but you can no longer see where they went; if you were able to get the licence plate, you can call our non-emergency number at 1-888-310-1122 and report a traffic complaint. We record those occurrences and are often able to send a warning letter to the registered owner of the observed offence."

Crawford said motorists need to remember driving is a privilege and not a right.

"Reducing your risk of a collision comes down to three simple behaviours. Drive safe, drive smart and drive sober."

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Breaking Elements looks forward to summer camp and upcoming season

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

Local children don't have to travel far to enjoy the fun of summer camp. Breaking Elements Dance Company in Tavistock is giving young dancers the opportunity to dance, create, play and make new friends during its upcoming Summer Dance Camp.

The K-Pop Demon Hunters-themed camp will run Aug. 17-21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with families able to register for individual days or the full week. The camp is open to children ages five to 12, and no previous dance experience is required.

Throughout the week, campers will take part in dance classes, themed crafts and games, as well as outdoor activities at the park and splash pad. While the K-Pop Demon Hunters theme will provide plenty of fun, organizers Brooklyn Ross and Emma Haggitt say the goal goes beyond that.

"More than anything, we hope the kids leave camp feeling confident, included and excited about dance," said Ross. "We want them to discover that they can be creative, try new things and be themselves."

Ross and Haggitt also hope campers make new friends, create lasting memories and leave the camp excited to dance again.

There are currently eight to 10 campers registered, depending on the day, but there is still room for additional participants.

Families can register online or contact Breaking Elements Dance Company by email at breakingelementsdc@gmail.com.

The studio is also preparing for its 2026-2027 dance season. Classes are available for dancers of all skill levels, including beginners who have never taken dance before. The new season

begins the week of Sept. 21, with registration already open.

Breaking Elements offers jazz, tap, ballet, hip hop, acro, lyrical, contemporary and tumbling at recreational and competitive levels. Classes are available for ages one-and-a-half through adult, with programs for both beginners and experienced dancers. The studio also offers KinderDance and Tumble Tots for its youngest dancers.

Breaking Elements Dance Company is owned and operated by instructors Ross and Haggitt. Since opening its doors in 2024, the studio has experienced significant growth, beginning with just 20 students and now welcoming more than four times that number.

The studio has received a strong response from the local community, with many dancers considering it a second home.

"It means so much to us to provide local children and families with a welcoming place to learn, grow, build confidence and create lasting memories through dance," said Ross.

We're always coming up with new ideas and ways to help our dancers grow and are always learning and growing as dance teachers," shared Ross and Haggitt.

"We're most excited to welcome everyone back, watch our dancers grow, build confidence and create new memories together throughout another amazing season," said Haggitt.

For families considering dance for the first time, Ross and Haggitt encourage them to give it a try.

"Dance is a wonderful way for children to build confidence, make friends, stay active and discover something they truly love," they said. "Our studio is a welcoming place where every dancer can learn, grow and have fun, no matter their experience level."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Breaking Elements Dance Company owners and directors Brooklyn Ross and Emma Haggitt.

Take a walk through the sunflowers



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

A roadside sign welcomes visitors to the sunflower field and invites them to take a stroll, cut sunflowers to take home and make a donation to a charity of their choice.

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

A field just off of Perth Line 29 on Perth Road 109, west of Tavistock, has become a popular stop for sunflower lovers.

Isabelle and Dillon Ossendryver have invited members of the community to

visit their sunflower field. Visitors can cut their own sunflowers, stroll along a path through the field or simply enjoy the colourful blooms and take photographs.

In return, visitors are encouraged to make a donation to either the Kidney Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society, two causes important to the



Grace Locke, Ashley Ropp and Sam Steinman enjoy a sunset picnic together at the local sunflower field.

couple since family members have been impacted by these diseases.

The sunflower project has turned into a family affair. Isabelle Ossendryver's dad, Rob Danen, mowed a path through the field to make it easier for visitors to stroll through the field to enjoy the sunflowers, while her sister-in-law, Alex Danen,

created the signs welcoming visitors and providing information about the project.

The Ossendryvers hope the field will provide an opportunity for people to enjoy the beauty of the sunflowers while helping support two important causes.

Perth County approves asset management plan, identifies \$2.8-million annual infrastructure funding gap

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

After making two minor corrections during discussion, Perth County council unanimously approved the county's 2025 asset management plan Aug. 6, adopting a long-term strategy that identifies a \$2.8-million annual infrastructure funding gap and recommends an average annual tax increase of 1.3 per cent over the next decade to eliminate it.

Prepared by public works director Bill Wilson with assistance from Public Sector Digest Citywide, the plan brings Perth County into full compliance with the province's final phase of municipal asset-management reporting requirements. It covers the county's roads, bridges and culverts, as well as non-core assets including facilities, fleet vehicles, machinery and computer systems.

Wilson told council the updated plan incorporates the county's latest bridge inspection data and recent changes to

municipal drain funding, providing the most accurate picture yet of the county's long-term infrastructure needs.

The plan values the county's infrastructure portfolio at \$328.4 million. Staff have assessed the condition of 91 per cent of those assets, with 76 per cent rated in fair or better condition. To maintain current service levels and prevent infrastructure backlogs, the county estimates it will need to invest an average of \$9.8 million annually in capital infrastructure. With current annual capital funding sitting at roughly \$7 million, leaving an annual funding shortfall of \$2.8 million.

Wilson stressed council's approval of the document does not automatically mean future tax increases.

"Approving this plan does not commit council to any immediate tax change," Wilson said. "This is a high-level, long-range planning tool meant to guide future budgets and financial forecasting."

The plan recommends closing the funding gap through an average annual tax

increase of 1.3 per cent over the next 10 years. Wilson noted the county's proposed 2.6 per-cent infrastructure levy in the draft 2027 budget is intentionally higher because it addresses recent financial pressures.

"The 2027 draft rate is a temporary front-loaded correction required to address recent operational deficits, specifically our winter maintenance and municipal drain deficits from 2024 to 2025," Wilson said, adding the county's goal is to "return to the plan's long-term 1.3 per-cent path in subsequent years."

Chris Vanderheyden, director of asset management with Public Sector Digest Citywide, told council the document should be viewed as an evolving roadmap rather than a one-time exercise.

"This is not a once-and-done report," Vanderheyden said. "It's very dynamic. Data is going to change, costs are going to change, conditions are going to change, and this is a dynamic document that must be married to your data going forward."

He added municipalities are increasingly finding provincial and federal grant applications tied to comprehensive asset-management planning.

"We do know by experience from other clients that grant-funding applications are now being tied to the completion of these asset management plans," Vanderheyden said.

During discussion, Coun. Bob Wilhelm pointed out two issues in the draft plan, noting the replacement value for a grader appeared too low and that references to schools and recreation centres should identify them as lower-tier municipal responsibilities.

"I think a new grader costs around \$800,000," Wilhelm said. "It should indicate that the lower tiers look after schools, rec centres, etc., not county."

Wilson agreed both items should be corrected before the final plan is published, and council approved the document with those amendments.

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Summer camp brings history to life at Fryfogel Tavern

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Laughter and learning filled the grounds of the historic Fryfogel Tavern east of Shakespeare as children took part in another successful summer day camp at the landmark.

If Sebastian Fryfogel were alive today, he would no doubt be pleased to see so many young people enjoying the historic property he established more than a century ago.

This summer marked the fifth year the Fryfogel Tavern board of directors has offered its popular day camp, with the help of dedicated staff, teachers and student volunteers.

Among those helping lead the camp was Rachel Bedic, now a full-time history teacher with the Waterloo Region District School Board. Bedic has been involved with the Fryfogel Tavern since she was a high school student and now serves as a volunteer with the historic site.

She continues to return each year because of her passion for local history and her love of sharing it with younger generations.

The Fryfogel Tavern also has two community events planned later this month.

Its annual book sale will be held Saturday, Aug. 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring more than 1,000 books for sale at \$2 each. Proceeds will support ongoing restoration and preservation work at the historic tavern. Visitors who purchase three or more books will receive a complimentary bookmark designed by a local artist.

The tavern's annual open house will follow on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors can enjoy guided tours of the historic inn, door prizes, outdoor games, snacks and refreshments while learning more about one of the region's best-known heritage sites.

Organizers encourage the public to attend both events and help support the continued preservation of the Fryfogel Tavern.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Camp leader Rachel Bedic (centre, in white) is pictured with children attending the Fryfogel Tavern summer day camp east of Shakespeare. Beside her is an assistant counsellor who first attended one of the camp's earliest sessions as a child and now volunteers to help lead the program after enjoying the experience so much.

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Brocksden School Museum workshop introduces participants to the art of leather crafting

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

A leatherworking workshop drew participants from across the region to the Brocksden School Museum on Aug. 8, giving both experienced crafters and newcomers an opportunity to learn traditional skills inside the historic one-room schoolhouse.

Hosted by Margot White, owner of Squirrel Crafts in Dundas, the workshop featured two hands-on sessions.

During the morning session, four participants crafted leather pouches suitable for carrying credit cards or loose change. White, an experienced leatherworker, offers a variety of Squirrel Crafts kits that include pre-cut materials, step-by-step photo instructions, technique guides and the specialized tools needed to complete each project in less than four hours.

In the afternoon, 14 participants created hand-bound leather journals under White's instruction.

In addition to learning a new craft,

many participants enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Brocksden School Museum, with several seeing the restored one-room schoolhouse for the first time.

More information about White's leatherworking kits is available at www.squirrelcrafts.com.

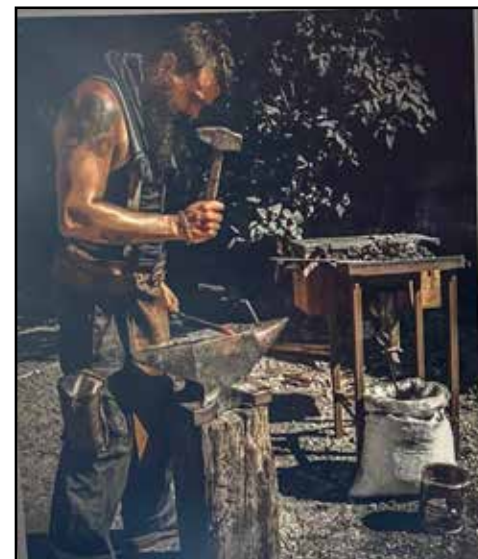
The Brocksden School Museum's next event will be its "Blacksmith on Site" demonstration on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitors will have the opportunity to watch a skilled blacksmith bring history to life through live forge demonstrations, showing how raw metal is heated, hammered and shaped using traditional techniques passed down through generations. Guests will hear the ring of the anvil, feel the warmth of the forge and learn about the essential role blacksmiths once played in supporting farmers, horse owners, merchants and rural families.

The interactive demonstration is suitable for all ages and offers a unique glimpse into one of history's most important trades.



Participants in the morning leatherworking workshop display the completed leather pouches they crafted during the Aug. 8 session at the Brocksden School Museum.



The Brocksden School Museum will host its "Blacksmith on Site" event on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., where visitors can watch a working forge demonstration and learn about the traditional skills and craftsmanship of the blacksmith's trade.



Participants in the afternoon leather journal workshop included (clockwise from left) Brenda Atkin, Judy Johnston, Barb Myers, Taylor Bridhagen, Cindy Stewart, Bonnie Zylstra, Adrian Rhodes, Leela Pereira, Andrew Zylstra, Erica Zylstra, David Crompton, Angela Zola, Cindy Brown and David Campbell.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Morning workshop participants create leather pouches inside the Brocksden School Museum. Pictured are from left are Pat Campbell, Brenda Trowsdale, instructor Margot White of Squirrel Crafts in Dundas, Brenda Aiken and Elaine Cook.

Waterloo regional police investigating residential break-in in Wilmot Township

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

Waterloo regional police are investigating a residential break-in in Wilmot Township.

On Aug. 9 at approximately 9:50 p.m., police responded to a report of a

break-and-enter at a residence in the area of Waterloo Street and Hostetler Road in New Hamburg.

Investigators learned that an unknown individual forced entry into the residence through a rear window while the homeowner was inside. The homeowner

encountered the intruder, who then fled on foot.

Officers attended the area and conducted a search with assistance from the Waterloo regional police canine team. Several items believed to have been taken from the residence were recovered

nearby. The suspect was not located.

The investigation remains ongoing by the Waterloo Regional Police Service's break and enter, auto theft and robbery (BEAR) unit.

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Lorna Gillies celebrates 102nd birthday at the Maples

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

When a birthday marking 102 years of a life well lived rolls around, most people would simply be happy to celebrate the milestone surrounded by friends and family.

For Lorna Gillies, celebrating her 102nd birthday this week at the Maples Home for Seniors in Tavistock was another opportunity to share her trademark smile and sense of humour with those around her.

Those who know Gillies say she certainly doesn't look her age. Caregivers at the Maples marvel at her youthful complexion, while executive director Joan Hergott says Gillies still has the hair of a modern-day model.

Gillies is also known around the Maples for her sharp memory and quick wit.

Whenever this writer stops by for a visit, Gillies greets me by name. When I jokingly ask her for a date, she's always willing – with a smile – though she says she would first have to run it by her son, Tavistock's Larry Brown, to make sure it's okay.

It's that sense of humour, along with her warm personality, that has made Gillies such a special part of the Maples community.

As staff gathered around her this week to celebrate 102 years, Gillies once again demonstrated that age is just a number.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Staff at the Maples Home for Seniors helped Lorna Gillies celebrate her 102nd birthday Tuesday. Gillies says her caregivers treat her like a queen, while staff say she is a very special member of the Maples community. Pictured in front are Gillies and Nada Baumbach. At back, from left, are Eqbal Al-Sagar, Kylie Jackson, Carin Bouwmeester, Tiffany Carruthers, executive director Joan Hergott, Jen McCann, Leanne Doehn and Carren Reyes.



Lorna Gillies, 102, enjoys sitting by the fireplace with her homemade afghan at the Maples Home for Seniors in Tavistock. Gillies was happy to celebrate another milestone birthday this week surrounded by those who know her best.

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Car enthusiasts share their passion with peopleCare residents

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

Beautiful weather provided the perfect backdrop for the car show at peopleCare in Tavistock. Residents gathered to admire the cars, listen to music and visit with one another.

Maurice Sauder recently moved to peopleCare Tavistock and the idea for the car show came soon after. His son, Maury Sauder, would often visit, making the trip from Stratford in his 1929 Model A Ford pickup.

Conversations about Sauder's unique vehicle led to the idea of organizing a car show for peopleCare residents.

Sauder made a few phone calls and

contacted fellow car enthusiast Mark Bryan, who made a few more calls. The effort resulted in 27 cars being brought together for the event.

The car show was held this past Monday and was planned to coincide with the Food Truck Night held at Grace United Church each Monday evening throughout the summer.

Sauder collaborated with peopleCare director of programs Kristen Leenders, who helped promote and coordinate the event.

Sauder has been involved with cars for many years. He took a course on building hot rods with Gerry Nafzinger of Kitchener.

"Five people that I took the course with

are here tonight," said Sauder.

Sauder put the skills he learned in the course to good use after a tree fell on the rear end of his 1930 Ford Model A. He rebuilt the vehicle into a 1929 pickup truck.

Though Sauder doesn't consider it a show car, he does enjoy driving it to Tavistock to visit his father and taking drives with his wife and treating her to ice cream. He also enjoys attending car shows.

Kyle Ford also enjoys attending car shows with his 2015 Toyota GT86. Ford

plans to attend the upcoming car show at Sprucelodge in Stratford on Sept. 9, and on Sept. 16, he will participate in the car show at Hillside Manor, where he works. He is looking forward to sharing his love of cars with the residents there.

The evening was a great success with an excellent turnout. The event gave peopleCare residents a chance to enjoy some beautiful vehicles while spending time with family, friends and members of the local car community.



(DIANE DANEN PHOTOS)

Car enthusiast Kyle Ford stands beside his 2015 Toyota GT86.



Maury Sauder of Stratford sits on the wheel of his 1929 Model A Ford pickup beside his father, Maurice Sauder, a resident at peopleCare.



Gloria Anderson, a resident at peopleCare, is pictured with her favourite car from the show, a 1931 Ford Model A owned by Brad Armstrong of Tavistock. She is joined by Kyle Ford and peopleCare recreationist Jade Jones.

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BY JAKE GRANT

1. Albuquerque is located on the shores of what river?
2. What are baby Koalas called?
3. What is the most spoken language on Earth?
4. The deficiency of which vitamin causes scurvy?
5. What is the term for the maximum amount of oxygen the body can use during exercise?
6. The "Hollywood" sign originally spelled out what word?
7. What's the name of the pig in the book "Charlotte's Web"?
8. How many points does the Star of David have?
9. Which dinosaur is famous for having three horns?
10. What is the term for being romantically or sexually unfaithful to a partner?

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Park worship service brings Tavistock churches together

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Members of congregations from across the Tavistock area gathered at the Queen's Park Pavilion on Sunday for the annual ecumenical worship service hosted by the Tavistock and Area Ministerial Association.

The annual outdoor service brought together residents from a variety of local churches for a morning of worship, music and fellowship, followed by a shared meal.

This year's service was led by Rev. Marilyn Arthur of Grace United Church, Pastor Julie Ellison-White of Tavistock Mennonite Church, Rev. Steve Hoffard of Trinity Lutheran Church, Pastor Ray Martin of East Zorra Mennonite Church, Alexis Leis, summer intern at East Zorra Mennonite Church, and Rev. Heidi Wachowiak of St. Matthew's and Bethany Lutheran churches.

Special music was provided throughout the service by Heidi Wagler, Lindsay Zehr, Linda Schumm, Kim Leis, Kim Gruber and Myron Ruby.

Angela Brenner, executive director of Tavistock Assistance Program (TAP), was invited to speak about the organization's work in the community. She thanked those attending the service for supporting TAP through the morning's offering, with all donations collected going to the organization.

The annual ecumenical service continues to provide an opportunity for area churches to worship together while strengthening relationships across congregations and celebrating their shared commitment to the community.



(REV. JULIE ELLISON-WHITE PHOTOS)

Worshippers filled the Queen's Park Pavilion in Tavistock for the annual ecumenical worship service hosted by the Tavistock and Area Ministerial Association.



Special music during the service was provided by (from left) Heidi Wagler, Lindsay Zehr, Linda Schumm, Kim Leis, Kim Gruber and Myron Ruby.

Zehr Insurance's Helmets For Life campaign helps protect young athletes

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

For the past 11 years, Zehr Insurance has been helping young children across Perth, Huron and Waterloo regions hit the ice with the proper protection while promoting the lifelong importance of preventing brain injuries.

The insurance brokerage's annual Helmets For Life campaign, which starts in September each year, provides free hockey and skating helmets to children ages three to seven while raising awareness about concussion prevention and the work of Brain Injury Canada. Marketing manager Dave Stewart said the program was created in 2015 after brain injuries affected members of the Zehr Insurance family.

"We had a couple staff members that suffered concussions and another one had a family member with an acquired brain injury," Stewart said. "We wanted to create something that gave back in the community."

The company partnered with Brain Injury Canada, a national charity focused on education, awareness and advocacy for people living with acquired brain injuries, and has continued to support the organization through donations and other fundraising efforts.

Helmets For Life itself focuses on prevention.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Zehr Insurance marketing manager Dave Stewart is encouraging locals to visit one of the company's local offices to learn more about brain injuries and pick up a voucher for a free skating helmet for kids aged three to seven.

Parents can pick up a voucher at any Zehr Insurance office, including those in New Hamburg, Tavistock and Milverton, before exchanging it for a professionally fitted hockey or skating helmet at Corley Sports Excellence in Listowel, Dunny's Source for Sports in Stratford or Sportco Source

for Sports in Kitchener. Zehr Insurance pays each retailer directly for the helmets redeemed through the program.

When families collect their voucher, parents also receive information about concussions and Brain Injury Canada, while children receive a Helmets For Life sticker

for their new helmet.

"We give the parents a brochure as well, a concussion card, and the kids get a little Helmets For Life sticker they can stick on their helmet," Stewart said.

The campaign is announced each year through Zehr Insurance's social-media channels and is intended specifically for children between the ages of three and seven.

Stewart said the company typically gives away between 200 and 250 helmets each year, meaning more than 2,000 children have received free helmets since the program began.

"It's specific for kids," he said. "Hockey and skating are expensive. Life's expensive, so we want to target those families ... because those are our young families in our community and we want to help them."

Beyond making helmets more affordable, Stewart said the program is about teaching children from the very beginning that wearing a helmet should simply be part of skating.

The campaign's mission, he added, is threefold: support Brain Injury Canada, promote concussion prevention and brain-injury awareness, and give back to the communities Zehr Insurance serves.

Families can learn when this year's campaign begins by following Zehr Insurance on social media or by visiting their local Zehr Insurance office.

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

OBITUARY

BRODRECHT, Nancy Catharine



It is with profound sadness that the family of Nancy Catharine Brodrecht announces her sudden passing as the result of a motor vehicle accident on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at the age of 70.

Nancy was the cherished mother of Jason Brodrecht and his wife, Stephanie. She was the beloved wife of Glen Brodrecht, who predeceased

her on February 22, 2009.

Born in Sarnia, Ontario, on March 25, 1956, Nancy was the daughter of the late Derwent and Audrey (Hoover) Douey. She was the treasured sister of Jim Douey and his wife Brenda, and Bryan Douey and his wife Donna.

Nancy was a dear sister-in-law to Gerald Brodrecht, Ross and Cathy Brodrecht, Dianne and Geoff Allen, and Mary Anne Brodrecht. She was predeceased by her brother-in-law, Stuart Brodrecht, and sister-in-law Marleen Brodrecht.

She will be deeply missed by her many nieces, nephews, extended family, colleagues, friends, and her church family.

Nancy was a faithful and active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in New Hamburg for over 40 years. She touched the lives of many by visiting homebound members and those in long-term care. Her strong faith was witnessed in her service in Trinity's prayer circle, and in the preparation of Holy Communion on the altar guild. Her lifelong love of music, nurtured by her father, a church organist, was inherent as generous benefactor of Trinity's 2015 organ installation. She will be especially missed by the handbell ensemble where she rang for many years. Her unwavering faith, compassionate spirit, and willingness to serve touched the lives of many.

For many years, Nancy was a valued employee of New Hamburg Office Pro, where she was appreciated not only for her dedication and strong work ethic, but also for her warmth, friendship, and caring nature. She treasured the relationships she built with her colleagues and customers alike.

Nancy was immensely proud of her family, and leaves behind nothing but beautiful memories. She found great joy in spending time with those she loved and was a loyal friend, devoted mother, and faithful Christian whose gentle spirit made everyone feel welcome. Her life was a testament to love, faith, and service, and her memory will be cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Though her passing was sudden and heartbreaking, the legacy of her kindness, compassion, and steadfast faith will continue to live on in the hearts of those she leaves behind.

Relatives and friends are welcome to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, from 2 – 4 & 6 – 8 p.m. Funeral service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 23 Church Street, New Hamburg, on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 11 a.m. A private interment will take place at Riverside Cemetery. For those unable to attend the funeral will be available on livestream and a link will be provided.

As expressions of sympathy and in lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Nancy's honour to Trinity Lutheran Church, Alzheimer Society, or the WRHN Cancer Centre through the funeral home website.

Personal condolences can be posted at www.markjutzi.funeralhomes.ca

OBITUARY

MUTER (Schmidt), Elaine "Liz" Marion (nee. Ruby)



Passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at St. Mary's General Hospital, Kitchener, at the age of 74. Born on June 12, 1952, in Kitchener, Ontario, Liz was the beloved daughter of the late Ralph and Marjorie (Ruby) Forler.

Cherished and loving mother of Lisa Schmidt.

Dear sister of Randy Forler, Kevin Forler, and Paul Forler. Liz will also be lovingly remembered by her nieces, nephews, extended family, friends, and all whose lives she touched.

Liz is now reunited with her beloved husband, Lawrence "Lawrie" Muter, who predeceased her on February 25, 2018.

Liz had a deep appreciation for the outdoors and found great joy in the beauty of nature. She loved spending time tending to her gardens and flowers and could often be found watching the birds visit her backyard feeders. A life long resident of Wilmot Township, she found great pleasure reading a good book. She also enjoyed playing bingo and an occasional trip to a casino. Above all, Liz shared a special bond with her beloved cat, Velvet, whose companionship brought her much happiness.

Liz will be remembered for her kind heart, her quiet appreciation of life's simple moments, and the love she shared with her family and friends. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

In keeping with Liz's wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of her life will be announced at a later date.

As expressions of sympathy, and in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation through the funeral home.

Personal condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.markjutzi.funeralhomes.ca.

IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of

Howard Peter Roth

Dad, your footprints may have faded from the fields you loved, but never from our hearts. Ten years later, we remain grateful for your steady presence and love. Rest in peace.

*Phil & Joyce, Tim & Melody,
Deb & Fred, Wanda & Doug*



by PeterS 2026

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8			1	2	9			3
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Answers found on classified page

IN MEMORIAM

MICHAEL ANTHONY HENDERSON

Son of Diane Henderson and Tony Wilhelm
Born Feb 4, 2000 Died Aug 16, 2018 in Fredericton, New Brunswick
as the result of a construction accident

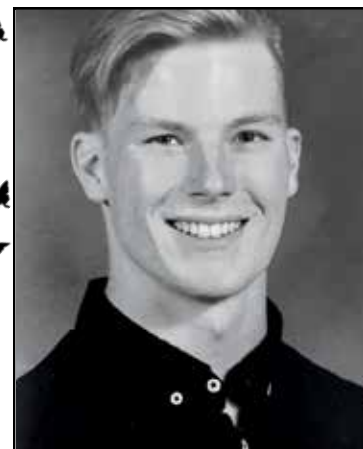
The beauty of a life can not be
extinguished by the tragic
circumstances of death.

There are no tomorrows for us to share,
But yesterday's memories are always there
We cherish the memories, special moments
of love, laughter and kindness.

A soul as bright as yours, will never lose its
light, you have left our lives, but will never
leave our hearts. Life is not always fair, but
life is not measured by years. But the love
you shared in those short 18 years.

Today, as everyday, we fondly remember
our handsome young man, loving son,
precious grandson, fun loving cousin.

Gramma Bessie and family



Tavistock Bible Chapel
invites you to our weekly

**Sunday Drive-In
Gospel Meetings**

in the **Shakespeare
Truck Center** parking lot
(1/4 mile west of Shakespeare on Hwy 7/8)

THIS WEEK...
Sun., Aug 16
7-8 p.m.

Speaker:
Andrew Cockburn
Music:
Dave Randall

Free! No offering taken.
For info visit
www.tavistockbc.org/drivein

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.

August 3 - 10, 2016, Edition (10 years ago)

The 2016 U21 Men's Canadian Fastpitch Championship is here. Tavistock is hosting this national event all this week from Aug. 2-7, 2016. Representatives from almost every province in Canada participated in the opening ceremonies on Tuesday evening, Aug. 2, as Softball Canada Supervisor Lisa Down of Saskatoon, Sask., echoed congratulations to players in the tournament who came together on Canada's junior men's team to earn the bronze medal at the World Championships.

A lightning strike sometime after 5 a.m. on Thursday morning, July 28, caused extensive damage to the home of Dave and Tricia Johnson on King Street in Tavistock. Township Fire Chief Scott Alexander said the pager call came in at 5:27 a.m. from dispatch after someone on Hope Street East reported flames spotted in the area of Westwood Avenue. Nearby firefighter Andrew Raymer first answered the page and alerted the Johnson family to the fire. The couple and their three children got out safely. Because the fire began on the outside of the home, no smoke alarms were triggered in the house.

Both Zehr Home Hardware and Yantzi's Home Building Centre are getting a facelift. Zehr Home Hardware, which is located at the Town Centre in the historic Glasgow Warehouse, is getting new windows on the second floor. Owners Bob and Brett Zehr are installing the windows themselves. Yantzi's Design Smart Home Building Centre, one kilometre east of Tavistock, is getting an entire facelift since changing brands from TimberMart to Home Hardware earlier this year.

August 2 - 9, 2006, Edition (20 years ago)

Mackenzie Kalbfreisch earned his chance at the Drive, Chip and Putt national championships in Orlando, Fla., in September after winning a regional tournament held in Ni-

agara Falls on Tuesday, July 11. A free event for kids ages seven to 14, Mutual of Omaha's Drive, Chip and Putt competition, presented by the Golf Channel, provides boys and girls with an opportunity to compete in a fun series of events that help test and develop their golf skills. Mackenzie, 14, accumulated the most points in each discipline to give him first place. He placed second with two drives, second with three chips and third in putting determined by the least amount of strokes in a five-foot and 15-foot putt situation.

The sign is down and the doors are locked at Tavistock Foodland as of 8 p.m. on Friday, July 28. Sobey's Inc., owners of the food market, made the decision to close the store which opened as an independent store in May of 1979 under the ownership of the late Don and Mary Anne Schwartzentruber. The final week saw groceries on sale for a 20 per-cent discount and frozen food available at 50 per-cent off. Inventory was taken Friday night and the doors closed at 8 p.m.

August 6 - 13, 1986, Edition (40 years ago)

Nicholson Concrete of Stratford began the job of pouring sidewalks along Hope Street in the village on Monday morning. Curbs and gutters were installed the entire length of the project last week. Work began on the south side of the street at the main intersection with forms being laid in the west. Work on the roadway is progressing and the top layer of fill is almost complete. Work on the island (fountain) has also started with a new heart-shaped outline form being fashioned. The water fountain will be restored close to its original condition with the financial assistance of the Tavistock Men's Club and Board of Trade.

Ontario will introduce a resident licence for sport fishing in 1987, Ontario Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio announced recently. Mr. Kerrio said the licence will be required of most Ontario residents aged 18 to 64. Senior citizens and the disabled will be exempt, as will Status Indians fishing on their reserves or treaty areas. The annual licence will cost \$10 while a short-term licence to fish for four consecutive days will cost \$5.

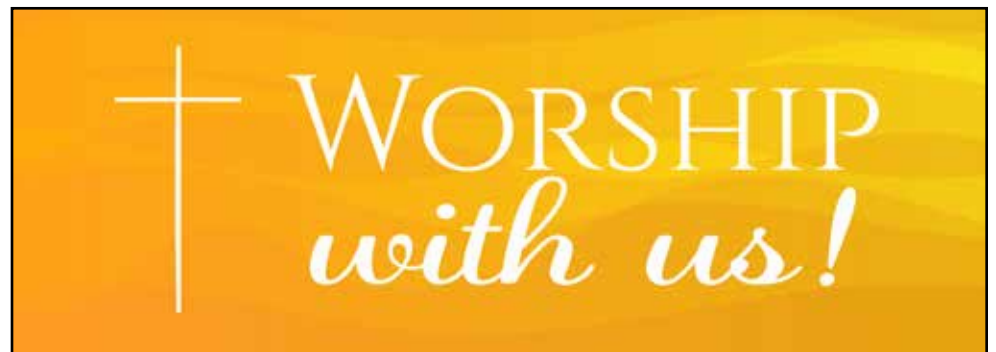


Trinity's Annual
Cemetery Decoration
Worship Service

Sunday August 16th - 2:30 PM

Trinity Lutheran
 2210 Perth Line 29, Tavistock, ON

Weather permitting the service will be outdoors.
 Please bring a lawnchair.



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www.trinitytavistock.com

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 stpaulstavistock@gmail.com
 Pastor Rev Michael Mayer

EAST ZORRA MENNONITE
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<https://ezmennonite.ca/worship/>

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St James Chapel of Ease
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 Contact Carol Massel: 519-502-8648
 carol@masselsmarine.com

ST AGATHA MENNONITE CHURCH
 1967 Erb's Road St Agatha 519-634-8212
 Pastor Jim Brown
 Worship service 10am followed by coffee hour
 and sermon discussion.
 All are welcome

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

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

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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette SPORTS

Tavistock U17 A's take fourth place at nationals in B.C.

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

The Tavistock A's came up just shy of a medal at the Canadian U17 Men's Fast Pitch Championship in Surrey, B.C. The team dropped a 6-5 decision to a team from Quebec in the bronze-medal game.

Head coach Dave Nahrgang said while disappointed with not medalling, the entire team battled to the end.

"Certainly not the result we wanted, but we can hold our heads high. The competition was very strong, and our boys played their hearts out. They've been away from home since July 30, starting with the (Ontario) Summer Games, so I think they've done a great job over the last two weeks.

Twelve teams competed in the tournament with two pools of six teams.

"Our pool play started on Wednesday versus Nova Scotia, who went undefeated and won the gold medal. We lost 3-0, but it was a great game and a real eye-opener for how good the competition was going to be," said Nahrgang.

The A's won a pair of games on Thursday, an 8-5 victory over Saskatchewan and a 6-3 win over Tara.

"Friday, we finished pool play with victories over Yukon and Quebec #2. This put us in second place in our pool and



The U17 A's pose with their team banner. From left to right are Ramsay Ryksen, Evan Nahrgang, James Bourgoin (bat boy), Carson Gilmore, Dylan McCann, Peyton Christie, Jacob Smagliniski, Colin Priestap, Jackson MacMillan, August Morschauser, Marshall McKay, Drew Roth, Jay Alexander, Jordan Zehr and Ryan Davis. The team would like to thank each sponsor for their generous donations.

gave us double life in the playoff round," Nahrgang added.

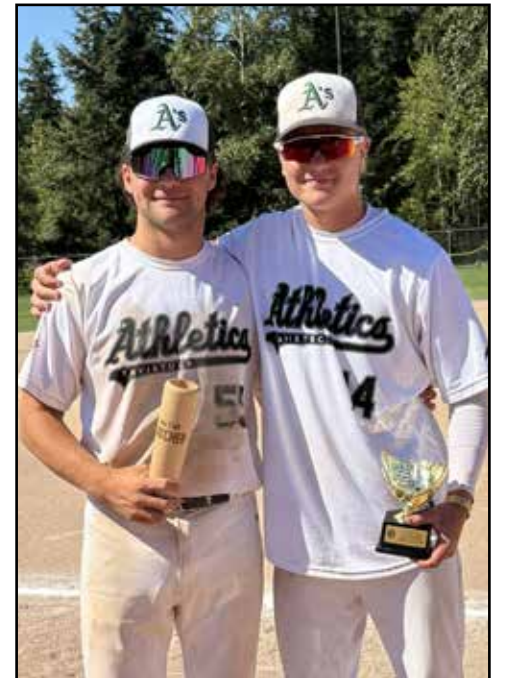
The A's first playoff game was against Elmira, the first-place team in the opposite pool.

"We had a lead early, but ended up losing 7-5. After beating Quebec #2 again, we had a chance to medal Sunday morning vs

Quebec #1. Again, we had a lead early but couldn't hold on. The game went extra innings, but we lost, finishing in fourth."

The team has one game remaining in league play with playoffs beginning next week.

"We'd like to thank everyone at home for the support we've received, and all of



Catcher Peyton Christie, left, was named to the tournament's all-star team, and Marshall McKay was named Top Pitcher.

the companies who chipped in to help us financially," Nahrgang said.

"We'd specifically like to mention the Tavistock Men's Club and GFL Environmental, who sponsored our uniforms this year, and have always supported this team over the years."

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Shakespeare Falcons U9 boys wrap up season with strong tournament showing

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Shakespeare Falcons U9 boys wrapped up their baseball season with a strong performance at their year-end tournament in Tavistock on the weekend.

The Falcons won two of their three games over the two-day tournament, capping off a season that saw the players develop their skills and confidence on the field.

Coaches said they were especially pleased with the team's growth throughout the season, noting the players continued to improve while working together as a team.

The successful tournament finish gave both the players and coaches plenty to celebrate as they closed out another enjoyable baseball season.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Members of the Shakespeare Falcons U9 boys baseball team this season included (front, from left) Elliott Cook; (kneeling), Ryan Eidt, Levi Gautreau, Jed Lebold and Randy Berger; (standing) Carter Kuchma, Bryce Bokkers, Finley McNab, Wyatt Kelterborn, Duncan Lindner and Lucas Bell. Coaches Tyler Kuchma, Brianne Crawford and Tiffany Cook are pictured at the back.

U7 Athletics Four end season on positive note at year-end tournament

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Gazette Sports Reporter

The U7 Tavistock Athletics Team Four wrapped up a year of growth with a strong showing at their year-end tournament July 26, culminating with a win in their final game of the season.

Head coach Abby Yule described what the win in their last game of the year against Fullarton meant to the squad.

"It was so great to see the girls all come together, cheering each other on to pull off the win against a mixed boys and girls team (from Fullarton)," said Yule. "Everyone was hitting and it was a great way to end the season. I am so proud of these girls and how far they have come throughout the season."

Yule added the final game saw the young players display an incredible drive to keep progressing.

"Throughout the season, including our final game, we saw our players consistently push themselves out of their comfort zone," said Yule. "Our players are young, and many positions can be intimidating for them. In the final game, we saw each of our players consistently pushing themselves to

do better, which is something that cannot be taught."

Yule also credited several players for individual showings during the weekend.

"The teammate of the tournament went to Leyton (Yule), who cheered everyone on and was always positive. Emma (Hergel) had a few big hits for the team. Malaya (Aspden) had a great game at first base and catching."

According to Abby Yule, the coaching staff has seen a tremendous amount of development out of their team over the course of this season.

"As coaches, we were able to watch each player flourish in their own way. When we started the season, many of our players had never played baseball before. So many of our players love the game, and many of them took the time to practice on their own time. The time they spent practicing throughout the season really showed.

"They all came together, whether it was a practice or game, lifted each other up and they all want to play again next year. How much their hitting and fielding improved throughout the season has been the most impressive thing about this team."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The U7 Tavistock Athletics Team Four won their final game of the season over Fullarton, punctuating a strong year of development for the team. Pictured in the bottom row, from left to right, are Gracelyn Pearson, Elle O'Hearn, Maeve Meekes, Emma Hergel and Avery Scott. In the middle row, from left, are Macy Witter, Willa Boer, Leyton Yule, Malaya Aspden, and Edith Jantzi. In the back row, from left, are Jackie Meekes, Hayley McKay, Abby Yule, Julia Petrie and Desiree O'Hearn.

Transition Acres offers unique equestrian experiences near Tavistock

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Just south of Tavistock, Transition Acres is offering visitors more than horseback riding. The family-run farm is also helping preserve one of Canada's rarest horse breeds while creating opportunities for people of all ages to connect with horses and Indigenous culture.

Located on Maplewood Side Road, Transition Acres is owned and operated by Alisha and Kevin Wilson, along with their children, Nicholas, 19, and Lindsey, 17, who are both actively involved in the family's equestrian business.

The farm is home to 12 rescue horses, including Quarter Horses, off-track Thoroughbreds and three Ojibwe Spirit ponies.

The Ojibwe Spirit Horse is considered one of Canada's rarest horse breeds, with fewer than 200 believed to remain worldwide.

Alisha Wilson said the breed holds a unique place in Canadian history.

"They are the only horses proven to have been here before the European settlers brought their own horses," she said.

Now in its fifth year of operation, Transition Acres offers riding lessons, summer camps, seniors' programs, team-building activities, date nights and



offer pony rides from 1-5 p.m. Visitors are also invited to meet the ponies

(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Transition Acres owners Alisha Wilson and her family are dedicated to rescuing horses, providing equestrian programs and helping preserve the critically endangered Ojibwe Spirit Horse. The family-run farm, located south of Tavistock, will offer pony rides and demonstrations featuring the rare breed during this year's Tavistock Fall Fair.

its award-winning Cowgirl Kickback evenings for women.

The farm also works closely with local Indigenous knowledge keeper Eric G. Martin, who hosts monthly smudging ceremonies and land-based learning opportunities at the property.

Transition Acres will be part of this year's Tavistock Fall Fair, where it will

on Saturday, Sept. 12, for visitors with fair admission wristbands.

The family will also present three demonstrations featuring its Ojibwe Spirit ponies during the fair. Martin will be on-site Sunday, Sept. 13, at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to share information about the rare breed and Indigenous culture.

between presentations.

Transition Acres is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to education, equine experiences and preserving the critically endangered Ojibwe Spirit Horse.

For more information, contact Wilson at 519-608-4409, text the same number or email alisha@transitionseq.ca.

Steinmann Mennonite Church hosts annual NEAT breakfast

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Despite periods of intermittent rain, members of the North Easthope Antique Tractor (NEAT) Club made their way to Steinmann Mennonite Church near Baden for the club's annual fundraising breakfast. Church volunteers prepared a hearty

breakfast featuring eggs made using a variety of traditional Mennonite recipes, along with fresh fruit and homemade sticky buns. The meal proved to be a hit with the tractor enthusiasts, many of whom happily returned for seconds.

The annual breakfast also provides an opportunity for local farmers, tractor owners and their families to gather for good

food and fellowship in the church's spacious auditorium.

After breakfast, many of the attendees took time to admire the collection of antique tractors parked outside the church. While John Deere models remained favourites for many who grew up farming with the iconic green machines, the vintage Case tractors also attracted plenty of

attention.

Funds raised through this year's breakfast will help Steinmann Mennonite Church replace the aging countertops in its busy kitchen with new stainless-steel surfaces.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Volunteers who prepared this year's NEAT Club breakfast at Steinmann Mennonite Church paused for a photo with a John Deere 2020 tractor. Pictured are (from left) Sharon Wismer, Lara Count, Darlene Gingerich, Norma Jutzi, Shirley Kennel, Susan Seyler, Carol Roth (in the tractor seat), Carol Sararas and Joyce Erb. Missing from the photo is Marilyn Steinmann.



Funds raised through the annual NEAT Club breakfast at Steinmann Mennonite Church will help replace the aging countertops in the church kitchen with new stainless-steel surfaces.

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Horse and buggy remains the preferred mode of transportation for many local Amish families

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

While much of the world relies on motor vehicles, many Amish and Mennonite families in the Milverton area continue to depend on horses and buggies as their primary mode of transportation.

The horse-drawn lifestyle remains an important part of their traditions and values, offering a practical and reliable means of travel while reflecting a way of life centred on simplicity and community.

One example can be found at Parks Livestock, north of Milverton, where many Amish employees travel to work each day by horse and buggy. While they are working, their horses are housed in a purpose-built barn near the main livestock facility.

The 22,000-square-foot swine assembly yard, located on Highway 119 north of Milverton, has been a busy operation since it was built more than two years ago by Fred Groenesteghe and FGC Builders of Mitchell. The facility receives and ships hundreds of pigs from area farms on a regular basis.

For many local Amish families, the horse remains an essential part of everyday life, providing dependable



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

A Standardbred horse waits in the barn at Parks Livestock north of Milverton while its owner is at work. Many Amish employees travel to the facility by horse and buggy, and the horses are housed comfortably in the barn beside the main swine assembly building.

transportation while maintaining traditions that have been passed down through generations.

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News Media Canada
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Classic cars pay tribute to lifelong enthusiast Bruce Kropf

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

A procession of classic cars led family and friends through Tavistock to East Zorra Mennonite Church Cemetery on Saturday as they gathered to honour the life of long-time classic-car enthusiast Bruce Kropf.

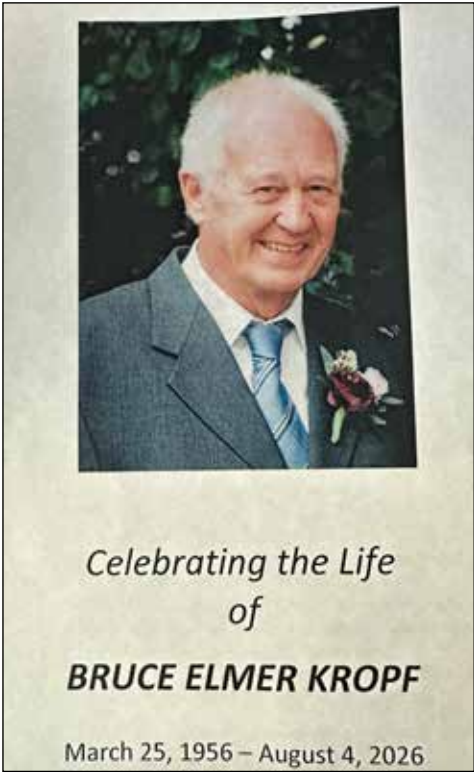
A professional stonemason and long-time bricklayer, Kropf was known not only for his craftsmanship but also for his passion for restoring and caring for classic automobiles.

To celebrate that lifelong interest, fellow classic-car owners joined Kropf's family in a fitting tribute, accompanying the funeral procession to the cemetery.

Family members said Bruce would have been touched to know so many friends and fellow enthusiasts chose to honour him in a way that reflected one of his greatest passions.

Leading the procession was Bruce's cherished 1970 Pontiac LeMans, the first car he purchased at the age of 19. The vehicle remained a prized possession throughout his life and, according to his family, was never driven during the winter months.

Following the interment at East Zorra Mennonite Church Cemetery, a memorial service was held at Tavistock Mennonite Church, officiated by Pastor Julie Ellison-White.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Bruce Kropf's family leads the funeral procession to East Zorra Mennonite Church Cemetery in Bruce's treasured 1970 Pontiac LeMans, the first car he purchased at age 19. The vehicle was never driven during the winter and remained one of his prized possessions.



Bruce Kropf's family arrives at East Zorra Mennonite Church Cemetery in Bruce's beloved 1970 Pontiac LeMans, leading a procession of classic cars assembled in his honour.



A lineup of classic cars fills East Zorra Mennonite Church Cemetery as family, friends and fellow enthusiasts gather to pay their final respects to Bruce Kropf.

Gazette Puzzles

FLOWER FRIENDS

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

Bees	Garden	Petals
Bumblebee	Honeybee	Pollen
Butterflies	Hummingbirds	Pollination
Flowers	Moth	Stamen
Flower Power	Nectar	Sunflower

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Pet of the Week

LOTTIE

Meet Lottie! This beautiful girl has a heart as big as her personality. Sweet, affectionate, and full of life, she brings joy wherever she goes. And people are Lottie's favourite thing! Her enthusiasm for life is contagious, and she's always ready for the next adventure. Lottie will thrive with an active family who can provide plenty of exercise, enrichment, and continued training. She's eager to learn, loves spending time with her people, and is sure to make every outing more fun. If you're searching for a loyal companion who will fill your home with laughter, love, and endless tail wags, Lottie is ready to meet you. Meet Lottie in-person at our Stratford Centre or online at kwsphumane.ca/adopt/dogs/!

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

Boron supplements: What are they good for?

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



Question: My friend started taking a boron supplement. I have never heard of it. How do I know if I should, too?

Answer: Boron is a trace element found in produce. It is a structural component of plant-cell walls and is required for plant growth, pollination and seed formation. Due to over-farming and areas with high rainfall, boron levels are lower. That being said, the trace

mineral is not classified as an essential nutrient for humans.

Boron does not accumulate in tissues, but bones, nails and hair have higher levels than other areas. Fat contains less. Experts believe even with a high dietary intake, the body maintains a state of balance through urine excretion and smaller amounts are lost in feces, sweat, breath and bile.

Boron is tied to bone health.

More studies are needed but there is some evidence showing boron may be helpful in reducing symptoms associated with osteoarthritis. Boron may be important for bone growth and formation, a possible supplement to support bone mineral density. Many magnesium formulas will add boron, vitamin D and K2 to boost bone building strength and address osteoporosis.

There is also some evidence linking lower dietary boron intake to higher risk of prostate cancer.

Looking for thicker, more luxurious hair and stronger nails? Boron is a bounty of beauty benefits. Boron is readily available in lots of foods most people eat daily, and this

certified holistic nutritionist will always advocate for fresh, nutrient-dense whole foods first and foremost. In the summer months, finding fresh garden goodness is a breeze, so wash, chop and freeze. Once the snow falls, purchasing out of season favourites can break the bank, so aim for frozen over canned.

Let's add boatloads of boron to menu planning. Avocado is more than an outrageous omega; just half a cup has 1.07 milligrams of boron. Peaches are in season and contain 0.8 milligrams. An apple a day holds true with boron too, containing 0.66 milligrams followed by pear perfection at 0.5 milligrams. The power of plant-based protein is peanut-butter love, boasting 0.46 milligrams in two tablespoons.

Grapes and oranges are tied with 0.37 milligrams. A banana may be packed with potassium but hello boron at 0.16 milligrams.

Java junkies, there is 0.07 milligrams of boron in every cup. Tea lovers, one cup contains 0.02 milligrams.

Yes, there is an easier way. Local health food stores carry an assortment of boron supplements. The World Health Organization estimates that an acceptable safe range of boron supplement intakes for adults is one to 13 milligrams per day.

Happy healthy lifestyles lead to longevity.

Always consult your doctor before starting any new supplement.

Do yourself a favour and take a moment to look up

DAN ROLPH

Gazette Reporter

Depending on when you find this issue of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette in your hands, you may have a fantastic opportunity to experience the wonders of our universe ahead of you.

This year, we're particularly lucky that two fascinating astronomical events will be happening on the same day.

On Aug. 12 and 13, the Perseid meteor shower will reach its peak and grace the night sky with dozens of meteors each hour. The annual arrival of the Perseids is something many who have an interest in astronomy look forward to as it's easy

to watch and will almost certainly be under better weather conditions than the Geminids in December.

If you're up for a late night (or a very early morning), the best time to take in the Perseids is between midnight and dawn, though you should be able to see meteors by 10 p.m. if you're looking for a more manageable evening.

This year's shower will also be particularly fit for viewing with the new moon, meaning stargazers won't need to worry about moonlight hindering their views.

But this year is also particularly unique as the meteor shower's peak aligned with a solar eclipse, which was set to happen on Aug. 12, after the Gazette went to press.

In our region, this eclipse wasn't the stunning display of the sun's corona that many of us got to see in April 2024. Those looking for another chance to see that natural wonder would have needed to hop on a plane and get across the Atlantic.

Locally, we saw a partial solar eclipse where the moon blocked a small chunk of the solar disk. You probably didn't notice a change in daylight if you weren't expecting the eclipse, but those who still have a pair of solar eclipse glasses handy could gaze at the sun and take in the sight.

The partial eclipse was set to begin just before 1 p.m., reaching its maximum at 1:37 p.m.

Events like the peak of the Perseids or

a partial solar eclipse aren't only rare moments. They are invitations to step outside, look up and remember that sometimes a love for learning about the universe around us isn't just born in a classroom.

So, if the skies are clear and the weather is kind to us, make a plan to take part. Set an alarm, find a dark spot, bring a lawn chair or blanket and get comfortable. For any solar eclipse, always use proper solar eclipse glasses or another safe viewing method, and for the meteor shower, give your eyes time to adjust and let the night sky do the rest.

You don't need to be an expert to enjoy it. You just need to be willing to look up.



Region of Waterloo

The Region of Waterloo is reviewing how it responds to groundwater interference complaints from private well owners. The Region is seeking feedback on the revised draft policy to help shape a process that is fair, transparent, and responsive to the needs of our community.

Join us for an in-person drop in public information and consultation session:

- **Location:** Cafeteria at 150 Frederick St., Kitchener (free parking)
- **Date:** August 20, 2026
- **Time:** 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

And fill out the second survey online at the link below, or by calling us at 519-575-4400.

More details at engagewr.ca/groundwater-interference-complaints-policy-update

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Tri-County Mennonite Homes new long-term care home proposal

I read with interest the article in the Aug. 6 edition of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette about Tri-County Mennonite Homes proposal to build a new 224 bed, eight-story long-term care home in New Hamburg.

I am sure there are many who feel this is wonderful news, as everyone is aware of the long waitlists for long-term care in this province. Personally, I do not view this as good news.

In his book, *Neglected No More*, author Andre Picard states that 80 per cent of elder-care funding goes to institutions and 20 per cent to home care. In many countries, this ratio is reversed.

Long-term care homes are built on a hospital model, and hospitals were built on a prison model. Basically, we are warehousing people.

In a facility this big, with this many floors, how often is a resident who lives on the seventh or eighth floor going to have the opportunity to be taken outside?

We need to demand more for our seniors than being warehoused in a large institution at the end of their lives. More resources need to be put into keeping seniors in their homes where studies show they want to be.

If long-term care homes need to be built, they need to be small group homes on one floor where the residents feel like family.

Kathryn Murrell,

New Hamburg

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Witness to a 50-year-old mystery

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



Laurie Wickens passed away last month.

I know what you are thinking; "That's a very odd opening sentence for a travel feature." I agree.

But the thing is, not many people have used a unique, personal experience to create a travel destination – a museum that has drawn visitors for two decades. But Laurie Wickens, and a few dedicated friends, did exactly that.

And three years ago, I had the chance to visit their museum, officially the Shag Harbour UFO Interpretive Centre founded in 2006 by the Shag Harbour UFO Incident Society, and until his passing in July, usually staffed by Laurie Wickens. And that's where I met him.

But the story goes back decades further to the night of Oct. 4, 1967. On that evening, a number of Shag Harbour, N.S. residents saw something they could not explain and would never forget. One of those witnesses was Laurie Wickens.

What they saw – and this was corroborated by several witnesses – was a flying object about 60 feet in diameter with flashing lights. It was flying above the waters of Shag Harbour, and then crashed into the sea and disappeared.

Wickens, then a 17-year-old kid, had the presence of mind get to a pay phone and call the RCMP to report the incident.

Whoever answered the phone at the local RCMP office was skeptical. Instead of asking for more details, Wickens was asked if he had been drinking! The call ended. But a few minutes later, before he left the area, the phone rang. Turned out, the cops had been getting quite a few calls since Wickens' and they all agreed that something mysterious was happening. Later on, the testimony of Pan Am pilots added to the veracity of the sighting – they had seen an object that matched the description flying over the Gulf of Maine that night.

Wickens' answer to the return call from the RCMP? "I told you I wasn't lying."

In the end, the Shag Harbour UFO became officially noted as "the only government-documented UFO crash in the world." So even the government agreed that something "unidentified" happened that night.

But to this day, no one knows what exactly.

It's probably important to note that Shag Harbour is located close to the southern tip of Nova Scotia. It's 65 kilometres south of Yarmouth, due east of Portland, Maine, and not all that distant from Boston.

Those proximities are probably important because while Laurie Wickens and his colleagues were happy to talk about the Shag Harbour UFO, they didn't insist it was anything other-worldly.

Wickens told me that almost immediately following the crash, a large American navy vessel sailed into Shag Harbour. Townspeople were instantly aware that the place was suddenly teeming with American and Canadian military officers, and a U.S. Navy dive team was also in town.

The kerfuffle lasted for about five days. And just as quickly as the American contingent had arrived, they were gone – the ship sailed away, the uniforms were gone and everything was back to normal, including, it was eventually determined, the sea bed of Shag Harbour.

No evidence was ever found – or at least, ever acknowledged by powers that be – of any crashed flying object, unidentified or not. A spokesperson for Canada's National Defence Headquarters stated, "The Rescue Coordination Centre conducted a preliminary investigation and discounted the possibilities that the sighting was produced by an aircraft, flares, floats, or any other known objects." Thus, by definition, an Unidentified Flying Object.

Local people, including Wickens and occasional visiting UFO enthusiasts, continued to search, but to no avail.

There is a bit of a contradiction between the museum and the actual opinions of Wickens and his colleagues. The museum includes a lot of UFO theory, including figures that look remarkably like E.T., but the witnesses and experts I met hold to one of two other possibilities – either the Americans spirited away a wrecked, experimental craft, or the Shag Harbour UFO was an amphibious vessel that left under its own power.

Either way, those in the know point straight south of the border for their answer, concluding that an American military vessel that had no business entering Canadian airspace or water, did so anyway.

Wickens was a fisherman by profession but spent countless hours at the museum. His obituary, marking his passing in July, stated that he "was a huge part of the Shag Harbour UFO Incident Society and museum."

Another publication, The Canadian Gothic, wrote, "For many Canadians, and for countless people around the world fascinated by the unexplained, Laurie was much more than the primary witness to the Shag Harbour Incident. He was the reason the story endured. Laurie's passing marks the loss of one of the last living connections to one of Canada's greatest mysteries. His story, and the mystery that followed him for nearly six decades, will continue to inspire curiosity for generations to come."

The Shag Harbour museum is one of the quirkiest and most charming small museums I've had the privilege to visit. I hope that it can continue to operate, after having lost one of its most valuable human resources, UFO witness and eager story-teller Laurie Wickens.

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.



Laurie Wickens passed away last month, but until his passing, his phone number was on the museum door. If the place wasn't open, it soon would be.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

UFO witness Laurie Wickens, who helped turn that experience into a quirky tourist destination.



Just the fact, folks.



A painting that reflects the memories of the UFO witnesses.



Even though the Shag Harbour museum organizers don't think the flying object was extraterrestrial, the museum caters to somewhat wilder theories.

Wilmot announces 2026 Citizen of the Year Award recipients

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

A pair of Wilmot Township residents have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community.

Eleven residents were nominated in 2026, eight in the Community Service category and three in the Seniors category. Nearly 800 eligible votes were received for this year's nominees, and two deserving people emerged as the winners.

Community Service: Kristy Chambers
"Kristy's longstanding community involvement spans schools, sports, local events and charitable initiatives," said a township press release.

"She serves on the board for the New Hamburg Fall Fair, has chaired the Grandview Public School Parent Council for several years and volunteers at Forest Glen Public School. She has also supported The Breakfast Club of Wilmot, the New Hamburg Firebirds, 100 Women Who Care, International Women's Day and The Terry Fox Run."

At Grandview, Chambers leads fundraisers and has organized the Fun Fair for more than a decade. Through her business, she creates volunteer opportunities

and provides free personal training, memberships and classes. She also shares her passion for sport as head coach of the U11 Girls Wilmot Blue softball team.

Seniors: Shirley Mennel

"For decades, Shirley has given her time to causes that support health, wellness and community care. Her volunteer work includes serving with the Wilmot and Wellesley Resource Centre food bank and supporting outpatient chemotherapy care at the Grand River Regional Cancer Centre for more than 20 years," said the release.

Mennel has also contributed to the Great Ride and Stride for Cancer and has volunteered with Children's Wish/Make-A-Wish for more than 30 years. More recently, Shirley began helping with the Blood Donor Clinic at Steinmann Mennonite Church in Baden. Her many years of service reflect a steady commitment to improving the lives of others and strengthening the community around her.

"Strong communities are built by people who choose to give their time, talents and compassion in service of others," said Mayor Natasha Salonen in the press release.

"Congratulations to our 2026 Citizen of



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT)

Kristy Chambers has been named Wilmot Township's Citizen of the Year in the Community Service category.

the Year Award recipients and thank you to everyone who submitted nominations and voted. Celebrating these individuals reminds us that the strength of Wilmot has always been its people."



Shirley Mennel has been named Wilmot Township's Citizen of the Year in the Seniors category.

Salonen will present awards during the New Hamburg Fall Fair opening ceremonies on Friday, Sept. 18, at 6:45 p.m. Certificates will also be given to all 2026 Citizen of the Year Award nominees

Stevie B's Ride for Hospice raises thousands in memory of Wellesley cyclist

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Friends, family and fellow cyclists once again came together in memory of Wellesley's Steve Baechler, raising thousands of dollars for the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation through the annual Stevie B's Ride for Hospice.

Baechler was an avid cyclist and a member of the Wellesley cycling group, the Township Flyers. Following his death, his wife, Beth, and sons, Sam and Alex, wanted to create a lasting legacy in his name while giving back to the hospice that cared for Baechler and his family during his final days.

The family has always been grateful for the love, compassion and support shown to Baechler, as well as his family and friends,

by staff at the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth.

That gratitude led to the creation of Stevie B's Ride for Hospice, which brings together members of the Township Flyers, family, friends and other supporters for a fundraising ride along the G2G Rail Trail.

This year's ride once again proved successful, raising \$6,780 for the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation.

Beth, Sam and Alex thanked everyone who participated in the ride and contributed to the fundraiser, helping them continue Baechler's legacy while supporting hospice care in the community.

A large maple tree has also been planted in Baechler's memory in the garden behind the hospice, with a plaque bearing his name serving as a lasting tribute to a man who touched the lives of many.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

A large group of cyclists, along with family and friends, gathered in Linwood recently for the annual Stevie B's Ride for Hospice. Participants cycled along the G2G Rail Trail in memory of Wellesley's Steve Baechler while raising thousands of dollars for the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation.



From left, Sam, Beth and Alex Baechler present a cheque for \$6,780 to Lucie Stuart of the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation in memory of husband and father Steve Baechler. The money was raised through this year's Stevie B's Ride for Hospice.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

Fryfogel Tavern Book Sale **10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Over 1,000 books for sale all for just \$2. They have topics ranging from children's literature to mystery and non-fiction. They are still taking donations at the Tavern, if people wish to donate books.

Fryfogel Tavern

1931 Line 34, Perth East (east of Shakespeare)

Tavistock & District Historical Society Museum

1-4 p.m. (other times by appointment)

Email: info@tavistockhistory.ca or call 519-655-3334. All welcome.

37 Maria Street, Tavistock

Saturday Strolls in Sylvan Splendor

1:30-3 p.m.

Stroll under the giant cottonwoods. Many of the trees we will see have 2-word names. Maybe we will see a beaver or two. Details and registration: letstreewilmot.ca/events/
Morningside Trail, NH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

The Chapelaires in Concert

6:30 p.m.

Freewill Offering will be taken.

Rosebank Church

1434 Huron Rd., Petersburg

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

Food Trucks at Grace United Church Tavistock

4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Siggi's, Pablas Street of India, SWAT
Donations to Tavistock Agricultural Society
Grace United Church
116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

Free Caregiver Connection peer support groups

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) offers free peer support groups for caregivers, in person, virtual, or hybrid. Visit family.cmho.org or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.

Revel Realty Woodstock,

111 Huron Street, Woodstock

Wellesley Council meeting

6:45 p.m.

Council chambers

4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Red Shed Ham and Corn Roast

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Meal at 6:30 p.m.

Ham and Corn Roast, Live Country Music and Summer Fun. Fundraising for Wellesley Food Cupboard, Milverton Food Bank, and Youth attending National Youth Conference in B.C. For tickets call Carol Horst at 519-274- 4494 or email: carolh@cwisp.ca

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

1998 Line 45, Perth East

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Christian Men's Breakfast

9 a.m.

A Call to Action to help those in Need in Our Community. For more information go to: theq1230.github.io/CRLC/mens-group.html
Contact Ken Quiggan at: WCMG@proton.me
Kennedy's Restaurant
1750 Erbs Rd., St. Agatha

Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades Grand Unveiling of 1948 Ford F155 Bickel Seagrave Pumper

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

You're invited to come out and see this beauty and our other antique fire trucks, equipment and artifacts. View our collection, have a hot dog and a pop and enjoy the day!

Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades

10 Bell Drive, Baden

Fryfogel Tavern Annual End of Summer Open House

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

It will include beverages and snacks as well as an opportunity to look at the Fryfogel family tree. This open house is a great way to come and see all the restoration work that has been done at the Tavern over the summer. Additionally, there will be a raffle with door prizes!

More info: noelle.taylor1017@gmail.com

Fryfogel Tavern

1931 Line 34, Perth East (east of Shakespeare)

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

Food Trucks at Grace United Church Tavistock

4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Berlin 95, Ish n Chips, El Milagro

Donations to Camp Bimini

Grace United Church

116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock

Wilmot Council meeting

6-7 p.m.

Council chambers

60 Snyder's Road W., Baden

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

Wednesday Walk in Wilmot's Wonderful Woods **7-8:30 p.m.**

In the northeast corner of Wilmot, this gem is waiting to be explored. You'll want more than one visit for sure: woodland, wetland and tall grass meadow. Details and registration: letstreewilmot.ca/events/
Schneider's Woods Trail, Wilmot

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

Wellesley Township Fall Fair 2nd annual Senior Tea

2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Seniors and almost seniors from Wellesley Township and their surrounding communities are invited to a special afternoon celebrating the people who have helped build and support the rich tradition of the Wellesley Fall Fair. Live entertainment by the "Dynamic Duo". Call Joanne Stewart for details-519-658-0764.
Bill Gies Recreation Centre
1401 Queens Bush Rd, Wellesley

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

Food Trucks at Grace United Church Tavistock **4:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

Born2Eat, Los Rolling Tacos, Fo'Cheezy
Donations to Tavistock Agricultural Society
Grace United Church
116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Ostomy Support Group Meeting

7 p.m.

Speaker – Paul D'Souza from Coloplast
Learn about ostomy products and services from Coloplast. Social time and snacks. Everyone welcome.

(519)273-4327

93 Morgan St., Stratford

Perth East council meeting

7 p.m.

Council chambers

25 Mill Street East, Milverton

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

East Zorra-Tavistock Council meeting

9 a.m.

Council Chambers

89 Loveys Street East, Hickson

Reaching Ontario Sharing Education (ROSE) program

2 p.m.

Learn about the Stratford Mission Depot with founder Jean Aitcheson who will be speaking. Co-hosted by the Braemar W.I. and the ACW of Christ Church. It is wheelchair accessible building and all are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Questions lauracgreen77@gmail.com.

Christ Church

595815 Oxford 59 Huntingford

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship **12 p.m.**

Please register by September 4 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900

Wellesley Recreation Complex,

1401 Queen's Bush Rd., Wellesley

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Optimist Club of Petersburg Picnic in the Park **8:30 - 12 noon**

Petersburg Park

1338 Notre Dame Dr., Petersburg

TAVISTOCK FAIR BOOK SALE

The Second Hand Book Nook Sale

Friday, Sept. 11, 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 13, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Lots of books, magazines and puzzles for sale
For more information, call (519)590-1617

Tavistock Fall Fair in the arena

1 Adam St., Tavistock

EVERY WEDNESDAY

TOPS - Taking off Pounds Sensibly **Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.**

Contact Cathie 519-662-9273

St James Church, Baden

Euchre Night

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

New Hamburg Legion

65 Boulee St., New Hamburg

FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES

Tavistock Seniors Pickleball

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12-4 p.m.

Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052

Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St.

Tavistock Seniors Card Games

Monday drop in 1-4 p.m.

Contact: Bob Routly 519-301-2118

Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St.

FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES CONT

VON Senior Exercise Drop-In Standing Class **Tuesday and Thursday 9-10 a.m.**

To register contact 519-539-1231 ext. 6319

Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St.

VON Senior Exercise Drop-In Sitting Class

Tuesday and Thursday 10:25-11:25 a.m.

To register contact 519-539-1231 ext. 6319

Village Manner, 98 Woodstock St., Tavistock

TAVISTOCK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM DISPLAYS

Museum Display: "The Glasgow Warehouse" **Can be viewed anytime**

Tavistock Home Hardware (Front window),

24 Woodstock Street S., Tavistock

Travelling Museum Display: "Heritage of Hickson's Sports Teams"

Check out the earliest Hickson baseball teams and the display full of vintage equipment.

History and photos of the Hickson Baseball teams dating back to the early 1900's complement the display.

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm
runs until until the end of September 2026.

EZT Township Administration Building (lobby),

89 Loveys Street, Hickson

PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

Plattsville & District Heritage Society exhibit "Holidays & Celebrations That Bring Us Together"

June 6 to September 19 | Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Donations accepted. Refreshments. Contact plattsvilledistrictheritage@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417.

Archive & Museum at Chesterfield,

816661 Oxford Rd 22, Bright

Events submitted for the Community Calendar will be published as space permits. Submission does not guarantee publication, and events may not appear every week prior to the event date. Please submit your events to thewtgazette@gmail.com by Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Four-legged fundraisers ready to make a splash

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth (HSKWSP) has launched fundraising for its annual Dash & Splash event, presented by Clean & Tidy.

The popular dog-friendly event will return to Kiwanis Park (1000 Kiwanis Park Dr., Kitchener) on Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year, dogs are encouraged to "make big splashes and an even bigger impact" by fundraising their way into the event. Before tickets go on sale, supporters can secure their pup's ticket by raising money.

Supporters who raise just \$20 will earn one dog admission to Dash & Splash. The more money raised through their

fundraiser, the more rewards families can unlock, including early access to the event for those who raise at least \$100.

The top 40 fundraisers will also have the chance to compete for a selection of prizes, including a \$2,500 travel voucher from Expedia Cruises on Fairway Road, one year of free food from Labrador Pet and a professional pet photo session with Kinsey Winger Photography.

"Dash & Splash is a unique opportunity for pet lovers, volunteers, local businesses, and even the dogs themselves to come together and make an impact," said Victor Dinh, director of development at the HSKWSP. "By fundraising for Dash & Splash, families are giving their own dogs an unforgettable day while helping keep pets and families together."

The HSKWSP is encouraging

participants to share their fundraising efforts from their dog's perspective on social media.

"This is one event where your dog can be the fundraiser, the participant and the hero. We're hoping this playful approach to fundraising will connect pet lovers with the animals they're supporting and celebrate the bond between people and their pets," added Dinh.

Special features for the event include dedicated swim times for small dogs, local vendor booths, family activities and food trucks.

Money raised through Dash & Splash helps the Humane Society provide care, shelter and support for animals throughout the community.

Supporters are encouraged to start fundraising now and help their dogs make a



(HUMANE SOCIETY OF KITCHENER WATERLOO AND STRATFORD PERTH PHOTO)

This German Shepherd takes a playful leap through the water during Dash & Splash 2025.

splash for a cause. For full details and to start fundraising today, check out kwsphu-mane.ca/events/dash-and-splash.

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Quiz Time Answers

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Rio Grande | 6. HOLLYWOODLAND |
| 2. Joeys | 7. Wilbur |
| 3. English (1.5billion) | 8. Six |
| 4. C | 9. Triceratops |
| 5. VO2 Max | 10. Infidelity |

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

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