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(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

The New Hamburg Legion Colour Party leads the Remembrance Day Parade from the New Hamburg Cenotaph towards the New Hamburg Community Centre for the annual Remembrance Day ceremony. Full story and more photos on page 5.

Wilmot council remuneration policy outlines process for regular review of council pay

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After direction was brought forward by Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen earlier this year to have staff bring forward a policy outlining the process for a regular

review of council pay, staff recently presented that policy to township council for feedback before it is officially approved.

At the Nov. 4 Wilmot committee of the whole meeting, township CAO Jeff Willmer presented the proposed council remuneration policy for feedback and

consideration. If approved, the proposed policy would see a regular review of council pay conducted once during every four-year term of council.

"I want to be clear that this is about the process, not about the outcomes of those

Continued on page 2

Oxford County releases 2026 draft budget

Residents looking at proposed five per-cent tax hike

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Members of Oxford County council had their first look at next year's document, which comes with an operating budget of \$227.8 million and a capital budget of \$127.9 million.

The largest portion of county expenditures is water and wastewater, at 28 per cent of the operating budget, followed by 19 per cent spent on roads, and the three Woodingford Lodge sites account for 11 per cent of the total budget.

If approved in its current form, residents of the lower-tier municipalities – such as East Zorra-Tavistock – would see a 5.1 per-cent increase, equivalent to a \$75 rise in the average tax bill. City of Woodstock residents would see a 5 per-cent increase, or about \$66 more.

"(A levy of) \$96.3 million is what we are requesting for the budget, which is a \$6.5 million increase or a 7.2 per cent increase required to be raised from taxation," said manager of finance Carolyn King, who presented to council.

"It is important to note there is supplementary growth within the property taxes, resulting in about a five per-cent increase to the average residential property bill."

The budget began back in June with the

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Wilmot council weighs new policy on pay review process

Continued from page 1

reviews,” Willmer said. “In that process, there would be a review cycle set so it’s once per council term and that would be required to happen during the fourth year with any changes that council approves taking effect at the beginning of the next term of council.

“So, in the third year of council’s term, you would determine the review method – the three different options are set out in the (policy) – and there would be benchmarking from at least five comparable municipalities, and then there are guiding principles for the review, which are also set out in the policy, and any changes that are decided on should take place prior to the beginning of the nomination period for the next election.”

According to the proposed policy, reviews could either be conducted by a citizen review committee, an independent review consultant or by township administration staff. Each review will include information on council pay from five similarly sized and structured municipalities, and the reviews will assess base salary, allowances, benefits and relevant policies to ensure remuneration remains fair and competitive.

The guiding principles for remuneration reviews are as follows:

- A review is fair and reasonable and will attract a diverse and representative pool of candidates wishing to seek election to council, but also be seen as fair by taxpayers;
- It recognizes the work of the mayor and council is demanding and important and, as such, they should be appropriately compensated;
- It recognizes the complexity,

responsibilities, time commitments and accountabilities associated with the role of mayor and council; and,

- It demonstrates fiscal responsibility and aligns to the strategic priorities for the Township of Wilmot.

“Overall, I agree with the policy,” Coun. Kris Wilkinson. “I think it’s interesting, the suggestions in terms of the bodies for review. Particularly what stands out is potentially having an independent citizens group make the recommendations, which I think makes a lot of sense.

“The one point I was sort of thinking out loud about and will sort of make a case for right now; is once per term sufficient? I’m wondering if this should be a biennial process where every two years, you’re seeing a review, and perhaps not always by the same body. It might be an independent study or staff review, and then two years later, a citizen review, so on and so forth.”

By way of response, Willmer told councillors remuneration reviews of council conducted in the middle of a council term often do not result in any changes to council pay, primarily because of the potential negative perception by the public that council is approving a pay raise for itself. The CAO also noted that council has the opportunity to consider and approve cost of living increases for itself annually, giving councillors and the mayor some wiggle room to increase their pay if deemed necessary.

Salonen, meanwhile, pointed out that conducting a review of council pay every two years could become expensive and time consuming for staff.

The mayor also suggested adjusting the policy to have a review of council pay

conducted in the third year of a council term instead of the fourth year so any changes in remuneration could be included in the next year’s draft budget. Since the swearing in of a new council happens in the November after an October municipal election, Salonen said the new pay rate should be included in that year’s budget.

However, Coun. Stewart Cressman pointed out that, based on his recollection,

council isn’t paid until January of the following year after a municipal election, which would mean the new pay rate wouldn’t need to be included in the budget for the final year of the previous term of council.

Salonen asked staff to confirm if that is the case when the policy is brought forward for final approval at the next council meeting.

SHOW US YOUR WILMOT



(PHOTO COURTESY OF SHOW US YOUR WILMOT FACEBOOK PAGE)

Cassidy Wagler shared these adorable images of livestock feasting on donated pumpkins following another successful community pumpkin drop. Wagler expressed her appreciation to residents for their contributions in a Nov. 8 post on the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page.

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Oxford County's 2025 budget calls for 5% tax hike, \$355M in spending

Continued from page 1

launch of a community budget survey. Those results were presented to council in September. County staff started their work on building the document in June, including five meetings with the senior leadership team to debate the budget behind the scenes.

"All of the new business plans, initiatives and new (full-time equivalent) positions were reviewed in full among the team. We have two special budget meetings coming up; the first one is tomorrow when departments will be presenting their budgets in front of you, as well as Nov. 24," added King.

The operating budget supports key county services that residents rely on every day – from affordable housing and support for vulnerable people to clean drinking water, safe roads, paramedic services, long-term care, community planning and libraries.

The capital plan for municipal infrastructure includes \$75.3 million in capital reserve transfers for future funding of roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure, facilities, information technology, and more, as outlined in Oxford County's asset management plan.

A third part of the budget is \$61,266 for court security and prisoner transportation paid to the City of Woodstock, a decrease

of 50.4 per cent, resulting in a residential property tax bill decrease of \$1 over 2025.

The budget introduces several new initiatives, including the creation of a Homelessness Support Services Fund, a review of paramedic services deployment and facilities, and the development of a new official plan to guide future community growth and development.

Twenty-five and a half new full-time equivalent (FTE) staff positions are also proposed, including 5.6 at Woodingford Lodge, five in paramedic services, 2.8 in facilities and 2.5 for the public library system. The Gazette was unable to find out if any of the new FTEs are funded from outside of the tax levy.

Next year's municipal property taxes would fund just under a quarter of the budget at 23.4 per cent. Other funding sources include provincial and federal funding, reserves (funds earmarked for future expenses), user fees and charges, and other charges and debentures.

Special budget meetings are streamed live at www.oxfordcounty.ca/livestream. The final document, including any changes resulting from the special budget meetings, will come before county council for final review and approval on Dec. 10.



Santa Claus Parade

Saturday, November 29, 2025 at 1 pm

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Theme- Decorating for the holidays

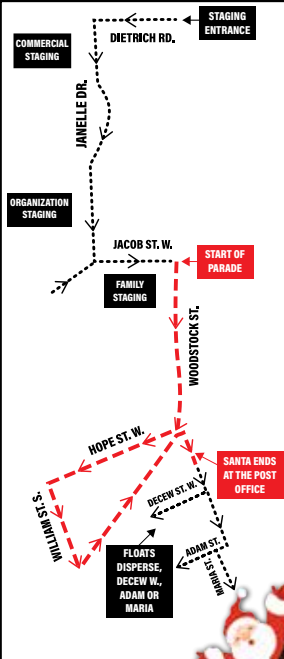
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or online: tavistockmensclub.ca for entry and details

Monetary donations collected for TAP along route.



The map shows the parade route starting at the Staging Entrance on Dietrich Rd., passing through Commercial Staging, Organization Staging, and Family Staging on Jacob St. W. The route then turns onto Woodstock St. and ends at the Post Office. Key streets shown include Dietrich Rd., Javelle Dr., Jacob St. W., Woodstock St., Hope St. W., Green St. W., and Main St. W. Floats for Dispersal, Green W., Adam or Maria, and others are indicated along the route.



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Explore Waterloo Region's Mistletoe Trail wins tourism award

Wilmot a part of the marketing campaign

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Explore Waterloo Region is celebrating a big win at last week's Ontario Tourism Awards of Excellence Gala in Ottawa.

The organization received the Tourism Marketing Campaign Award (under \$50,000) for its 2024 Mistletoe Trail campaign – a festive, art-meets-holiday experience that invited visitors to explore the region through seven unique mistletoe installations. Each piece was created in partnership with local artists and Button Factory Arts, transforming Waterloo Region's most iconic locations into must-visit Instagrammable moments, combining creativity, community and holiday cheer.

"We call it an art meets holiday experience," said Ashley Lansink, director of marketing at Explore Waterloo Region.

"We have worked with local artists to create and hang seven different mistletoe installations in the region. There is one of them in each of our municipalities and townships. The trail encourages travel to experience them all."

The Wilmot Township stop on the trail is located at Castle Kilbride, and this year's event will feature all-new exhibits.

"I encourage folks to check out the Explore Waterloo Region socials and website on Nov. 17 to get a first-hand look at



(PHOTO COURTESY OF EXPLORE WATERLOO)

Pictured is the 2024 mistletoe located at Castle Kilbride in Baden. There will be a new version as of Nov. 17.

what the mistletoes look like this year and, of course, head out on the trail to not just take in one, but all seven of them."

Lansink added, as always, kissing is encouraged on the trail.

"Last year, we saw a ton of different groups go out, from couples to friends to dogs, and we had lots of kisses. The trail is for everyone and the more kisses the better."

Explore Waterloo Region is able to gauge how well the trail is doing by

examining the numbers from its interactive online map.

"Those analytics give us a hint at who's interested and who's engaging with the digital map. At each location, we will have signage that will talk a bit about the artist, the art piece and we have trackable QR codes that give us another hint to how many scans we are getting."

She added word of mouth has also been successful in spreading the word. More than 46 local businesses and attractions were also featured on an interactive

Mistletoe Trail map in 2024, encouraging visitors to explore further, shop local and stay longer.

"We're thrilled to be recognized for this campaign," added Lansink.

"The Mistletoe Trail was designed to spark curiosity and connection across our seven municipalities. Seeing visitors and residents embrace it so wholeheartedly was incredible! This award is really a win for our entire community."

She added the trail has been a team effort between municipal employees, artists and volunteers. Lansink also hinted there might be more stops for people to enjoy and more information will be available at www.staycurious.ca come Nov. 17.

"Based on the success last year, we are going to keep trail running into the new year, hopefully until Valentine's Day."

The Ontario Tourism Awards of Excellence celebrate outstanding achievements and innovation across the province's tourism sector, recognizing individuals and organizations who elevate Ontario as a destination through exceptional marketing, partnerships and visitor experiences. Winners are selected by an independent committee of industry professionals.

The awards were presented at the 2025 Ontario Tourism Summit in Ottawa and were hosted by the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO) in partnership with the Culinary Tourism Alliance and Attractions Ontario.

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New Hamburg remembers: 'For your tomorrow, we gave our today'

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Residents of New Hamburg and the surrounding Wilmot Township gathered first at the New Hamburg Cenotaph and then at the New Hamburg Community Centre Nov. 11 to pay tribute and show their respect to those who have lost their lives in service to our country.

The New Hamburg Remembrance Day ceremony began at the town cenotaph where the New Hamburg Legion Branch 532 Colour Party was joined by members of the New Hamburg concert band, local politicians and dignitaries, the Royal Canadian Air Cadets 822 Tudor Squadron and members of the public to pay tribute to the names of the township's war dead from the first and second world wars and the Korean Conflict.

The Remembrance Day parade then marched through downtown toward the town's community centre, where a full Remembrance Day ceremony took place. The ceremony featured performances of "O' Canada" and traditional hymns by the New Hamburg Concert Band, the singing of anthems including "In Flanders' Fields" and "How Can I Keep From Singing" by Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School's Appassionata choir, the reading of scripture and the names of the township's war dead, and greetings from township Mayor Natasha Salonen.

"Each year on Nov. 11, we come together, not merely to remember but to bear witness to courage, to sacrifice and to the enduring spirit of those who gave all to our country," Salonen said. "Yet remembrance is not bound by a single day; it lives in our daily surroundings, from our cenotaphs to our remembrance gardens and the streets that we walk."

Salonen spoke about two local veterans, for which two local streets are named – McFadyen Street in Baden and Bier Crescent in New Hamburg. Salonen told the stories of Cpl. Henry Lorne McFadyen, who served as a stretcher bearer with the 18th Battalion in France during the First World War and was killed in action at the Battle of Passchendaele on Nov. 10, 1917, as well as Capt. Nile Bier, who served with the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps in Sicily, Italy during the Second World War as a lieutenant, and was also killed in action in the summer of 1944.

"These men and countless others were ordinary Canadians called to extraordinary acts of service," Salonen said. "Their names live on in our streets, but more importantly, their legacies live in the spirit of duty, courage and selflessness that binds our community together."

As is tradition, Chaplain Rev. Bob Thaler also spoke at this year's Remembrance Day ceremony, reflecting on the quote by English classicist and poet John Maxwell Edmonds, "When you go home, tell them of us and say, 'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'"

"June 6, 1944, D-Day, the Allies broke through the Atlantic Wall; 150,000 Allied troops landed on the Normandy



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTOS)

Chaplain Rev. Bob Thaler reflects on the quote, "When you go home, tell them of us and say, 'For your tomorrow, we gave our today,'" by English classicist and poet John Maxwell Edmonds during the Remembrance Day ceremony in New Hamburg Nov. 11.

beaches," Thaler said. "Fourteen-thousand Canadians landed on Juno Beach. From offshore, the guns of ships pounded the enemy. From overhead, planes dropped their bombs and paratroopers. On the beaches, the landing crafts came ashore, the doors opened, the men scrambled out in the crosshairs of machine guns and barraging bombers. Some drowned in the water, weighed down by their equipment; some died even before leaving their landing craft. But those men slowly made their way up those beaches past the seawall and the gun emplacements, past the machine guns and the mortars, on into the town and out into the countryside.

"... This was their today they lived through. This was their today they gave to you; that day of bloody water and sands, machine guns and mortars, the fear and the courage, the drowning and the dying. This was the day they gave you for your tomorrows. Be grateful. We are grateful."

And while we are grateful for the sacrifices made by those who fought on Juno Beach and those who fight on our behalf in all conflicts past and present, Thaler said the men and women who made those sacrifices do so to protect our way of life.

"Life is about laundry and the first day of school, going to the doctor and a second crop of hay. They went up those beaches to breach the Atlantic Wall, to breach the wall of tyranny and the terror, the threat that had befallen on them and the ones they loved. They went up those beaches to push back the darkness that had covered the small things, the day-to-day things, the things that matter. They went up that beach because fascism threatened to extinguish peace and freedom.

"On Remembrance Day, we talk about that peace and freedom they secured for us. It's because we are free, because we're at peace, we can live these everyday things that matter: walking the dog, welcoming that new neighbour from India who moved in next door, going to the food bank, giving to the food bank. More than that, it is in these small things (the soldiers) wrote about (in letters to home), in the day-to-day of their lives, that peace and freedom



Wilmot Township Mayor Natasha Salonen lays a wreath on behalf of the township during the New Hamburg Remembrance Day ceremony at the New Hamburg Community Centre Nov. 11.



Conductor Simone Beaucage leads the New Hamburg Concert Band in the playing of "O' Canada" during the New Hamburg Remembrance Day ceremony Nov. 11.



Bugler Andrew Bauer plays "The Last Post" as a piper Chad Gravill awaits his cue to play "Lament."



Director Sue Millar-Insinga leads the Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School Appassionata choir in singing the anthem, "In Flanders' Fields."

well up."

The New Hamburg Remembrance Day ceremony concluded with the laying of wreaths by local politicians, Legion members, the cadets, representatives from

Waterloo Region emergency services, service clubs, local businesses and more. The New Hamburg Legion hosted a luncheon next door afterwards.

Mornington Optimist Club hosts quarter board meeting at Gravelridge Hall

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Youth programs continue to play a vital role in keeping young people active, engaged and supported whether they live in rural areas, small towns, or city centres.

The Optimist Clubs of Perth County (Zone 1) are dedicated to that mission, and their recent Quarter Board meeting, held at Gravelridge Hall near Milverton, highlighted just how committed these volunteers are to their communities.

Zone 1 includes eight Optimist Clubs: Downie, Mornington, Shakespeare, Ellice, Mitchell, Stratford, Tavistock and the

Festival City club. These groups raise funds year-round through barbecues, raffles and community events to support a wide range of youth programs, activities and leadership opportunities.

The meeting was hosted by the Mornington Optimist Club, with lieutenant governor Greg Storey welcoming members and introducing guest speaker Lorrie Plein of Milverton, a passionate mental-health advocate with the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Plein shared her personal story of burnout and recovery after managing three departments in a long-term care home.

“Mental health in the workplace

continues to be a very big problem,” she said. “It’s time to end the stigma and recognize that many people struggle – often silently.”

She spoke candidly about the signs of burnout, including extreme fatigue, loss of focus and depression, explaining that recovery can take months or even years. Plein credited her doctor, prescribed medication and major lifestyle changes – including outdoor activity, spiritual connection and time with her family dog, Hogan – for helping her regain balance.

“Fresh air does wonders,” she said. “Social connections and rest are key to building back confidence.”

She also emphasized the importance of community support, faith and kindness from others in her healing journey.

Plein encouraged attendees to make use of mental-health programs such as Employee Assistance Plans (EAP) and the Farmer Wellness Initiative, which provide free, confidential support 24 hours a day. Those in need can call 1-866-267-6255 for assistance at any time.

Her closing message echoed the Optimist Creed, encouraging members to “promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind,” and “to look at the sunny side of everything, and make your optimism come true.”



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Zone lieutenant governor Greg Storey thanks guest speaker Lorrie Plein of Milverton for her inspiring and deeply personal talk on mental health and recovery during the Optimist Quarter Board meeting at Gravelridge Hall. Plein reminded attendees that “fresh air, social connection and faith” are key parts of healing, while quoting the Optimist Creed as a daily source of strength.



At last week’s Zone 1 meeting near Milverton, Ellice Optimist Club president Colleen Mathieson presents zone lieutenant governor Greg Storey with a cheque for \$1,000 to support the Milverton “Red Seal” Youth Band, a partnership between the Mornington Optimists, the Milverton Legion Band and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch in Milverton.



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Tavistock remembers: Honouring veterans and sacrifice

MARY BOLAND

Royal Canadian Legion Memorial Branch 518

Remembrance Day weekend was a time of reflection and gratitude in Tavistock as members of the Royal Canadian Legion Memorial Branch 518 took part in a series of community observances honouring those who served and sacrificed for Canada.

On Sunday morning, Nov. 9, Legion members joined the congregation at Grace United Church for a special Remembrance service. The Legion Colour Party presented the flags as the congregation sang "O' Canada," followed by "The Last Post," a moment of silence, "The Rouse," and the "Act of Remembrance."

Children in attendance watched an educational video prepared by Veterans

Affairs Canada, learning about the symbols of remembrance and their meanings. The service concluded with the reading of names from six Rolls of Honour, representing the soldiers from six local congregations that have since amalgamated with or joined Grace United Church.

Reading each name aloud served as a moving reminder of the individual lives behind the sacrifice, ensuring their courage

and humanity are never forgotten.

That afternoon, the Tavistock Legion hosted its annual wreath-laying ceremony inside the Legion Hall. Eighteen wreaths were presented by local officials, community organizations and families in memory of fallen soldiers. Attendees gathered afterward to share refreshments and fellowship on what proved to be a cold but meaningful day of remembrance.



Guest speakers Mary Ann Klein (at microphone) and Anne Gregory presented "Women at War: Roll Up Your Sleeves for Victory," highlighting the vital contributions of women to the Second World War effort beyond the battlefield.



(MARY BOLAND PHOTOS)

After the Remembrance Day assembly at Tavistock Public School, Legion members and community representatives posed for a photo. Front, from left: Ed Pellow, Susan Pellow, Nancy Kropf, Jane McKay (president), Mary Boland (chaplain) and Phil Schaefer (mayor of East Zorra-Tavistock). Back: students Emma Keats, Rory McBride and Jorja Shantz with poppy wreaths made by their classes, along with EZT Fire Chief Scott Alexander and provincial Const. James Golden.



Participants gather following the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tavistock Legion Hall on Sunday afternoon.

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"I know, right? And I don't need farmers; 'cause I get my food at the supermarket."



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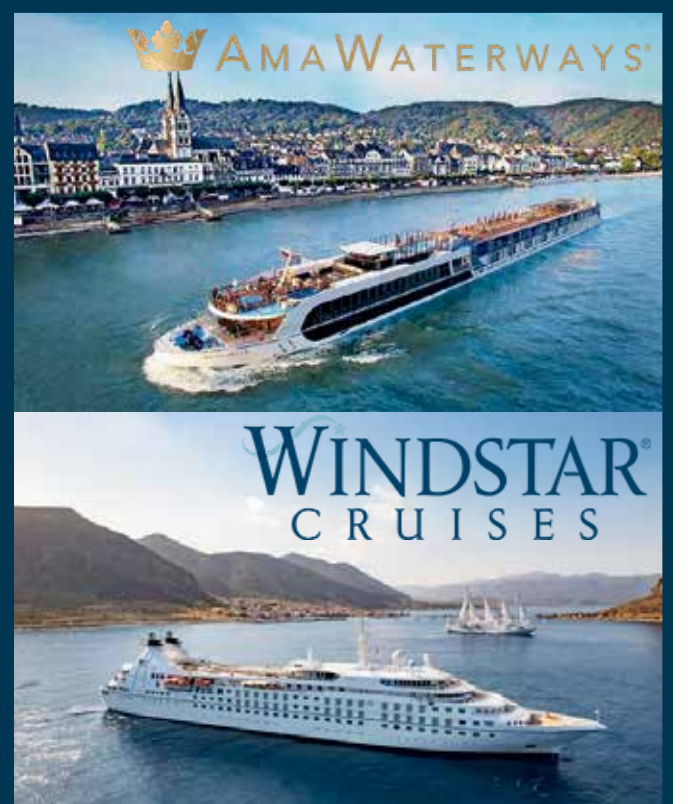
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Cadets stand vigil through the night in honour of veterans ahead of Remembrance Day

JULIA PAUL

Gazette Correspondent

As the cold settled over the cenotaph in downtown New Hamburg on Monday night, local air cadets stood in silent rotation, keeping watch in honour of those who served.

The overnight Cenotaph Vigil, held by the 822 Tutor Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets, began at 8 p.m. on Nov. 10 and continued through the night, ahead of the community's Remembrance Day ceremony. It marked the squadron's second year conducting the vigil in New Hamburg after several years of doing so at the Central Park-Preston Cenotaph in Cambridge.

"This was our second year here after many years in Preston," said Capt. Douglas Gibbons, the squadron's commanding officer. "We were honoured to bring the vigil to New Hamburg and to support the local Legion and veterans."

The youth participants, aged 12-18, took turns standing guard in 15-minute shifts beside the cenotaph. Gibbons said the experience is meant to give cadets a sense of connection to the veterans they are commemorating.

"Basically, we are honouring our veterans and currently serving members," he said. "It was symbolic of the sacrifices they made for family, friends and for the rule of law. Standing there in the cold and the wet gives our cadets a small sense of



(JULIA PAUL PHOTO)

Cadets exchanged positions at the New Hamburg Cenotaph on Nov. 10, rotating every 15 minutes to maintain the overnight vigil in honour of Canada's fallen soldiers.

what those men and women endured."

While the vigil took place in New Hamburg, about 70-80 cadets stayed overnight at another location, resting between their shifts. Gibbons said the cadets would also participate in the Remembrance Day

service and parade the following morning.

For the cadets, the vigil represented both discipline and gratitude. Warrant Officer First Class Moore, one of the senior cadets overseeing the watch, said the experience was deeply meaningful.

"With cadets specifically, it's a huge pride thing," Moore said. "We are proud of Canada, proud of our veterans and proud to be part of an organization that works so closely with the Canadian Armed Forces. Having the opportunity to stand at the cenotaph all night and pay our respects is such an honour."

Moore said the event offered a rare opportunity for youth to participate in remembrance in a tangible way.

"Not many people got to do this," Moore said. "It felt like we were making an impact in Canada's remembrance celebrations."

Gibbons said the community response had been positive and that he hopes the vigil will continue to grow in coming years.

"We are just privileged to have the opportunity to support the New Hamburg Legion and the veterans and serving members of this community," he said.

Moore added that awareness was also part of the goal.

"I hope that by standing at the cenotaph, people would see what we were doing and ask questions about why we were there," Moore said. "I just want more people to know what we are about and why we remember."

As midnight approached, the cadets continued to stand at their post – quiet silhouettes under the streetlights – keeping faith with the generations who stood before them.



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Tavistock Ag. Society to hold Festival of Lights

Funds will be used for improved midway at 2026 fall fair

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Tavistock Agricultural Society has heard what the public wants and is working hard to give it to them.

“The fair board has decided the community wants a bigger midway,” said ag. society board member Val Jones. “We heard what people said, so we have committed to going bigger than what we did this year and with that comes a huge price tag.”

The ag. society runs the Tavistock Fall Fair and the biggest complaint following this year’s event was a midway that didn’t attract enough traffic. Jones said 14 local organizations have committed to putting up light displays at the first ever Festival of Lights at Queens Park.

“We are working on having the pavilion open each night of the displays and having some sort of entertainment. On Friday nights, there will be pony rides, we are working on an open mic night, an urn building one night with outdoor greens, anything to bring the community out to see the lights. We are working so hard to put

it together.”

The event is free for the public to attend but donations are welcome. Each light participant is paying for a spot in the festival and Jones added they are also looking for vendors for a Christmas market. The lights will be on from Nov. 22 to Dec. 14 on Friday and Saturday nights from 6-9:30 p.m.

“We aren’t having a great commitment from vendors, so I’m not sure where we are going to end up with that. It’s all brand new at this point, but in the next week we will have more details.”

Jones said they are trying to hold a special holiday event for the community at Christmas that has worked well in other areas and something she said Tavistock needs.

“We are setting up the displays along the walking path by the pavilion in Queen’s Park and we will figure out the electrical needs. This will be the first annual event and I hope everyone is patient.”

Jones is encouraging residents to follow the Tavistock Fall Fair social media pages for updates on the

Festival of Lights as well as other fundraisers.

The fair board is also looking for new volunteers, preferably younger and newer citizens.

“Absolutely. We need three directors, and the way our constitution reads, we will be looking for two or three new directors each year.”

Jones added the fair board, for many members, is a family tradition, but new blood is the best way to come up with new ideas.

“We want to know what the new people in Tavistock want to see in a fair. For some of us, we go because we have done it every year of our lives, and the weekend after Labour Day is the Tavistock Fall Fair. But what do those people want and how do we engage them?”

Jones explained running the fair takes an incredible amount of work and the more help and new ideas they receive, the better.

The ag. society has two other fundraisers on the go, one a wine order from Konzelmann Estate Winery in Niagara and a Let’s Get Plastered art workshop on Nov. 29.

Surprise snowfall comes too early for area residents



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Heavy, wet snow blanketed South Easthope Township on Sunday morning, weighing down trees along Perth Road 106 and catching many residents off guard. Snow shovels, scrapers and winter tires were suddenly in high demand across southwestern Ontario.

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Questions arise about Wilmot budget during initial meeting

Senior staff member said “tough decisions” could be coming

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The township held its first 2026 pre-budget meeting on Monday evening, and unlike last year, there are more questions than answers at this stage in the process.

Mayor Natasha Salonen announced that KPMG would be developing Wilmot's budget and long-term financial plan on Oct. 27. The 2025 budget was announced with a starting point of more than a 50 per cent increase in the tax levy for residents, but it was whittled down to 18.22 per cent.

“Tonight is something we haven't seen done, at least not recently, in Wilmot's history,” the mayor said.

“We are trying to get information from residents about what they would like to prioritize and hopefully see impact the budget before (it) is actually tabled.”

Council was provided with a staff report with a dozen themes to guide discussion at the meeting, most of which came out of staff meetings with elected officials.

Among them was to maintain overall budget increases in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) level of 1.65 per cent and preserve a nine per-cent increase in the annual capital program, consistent with council's 2025 direction, to move toward sustaining infrastructure and asset management needs.

Also included is a desire to increase installation of flashing speed signage across key locations township-wide, expand and realign the township's economic development to enhance local business attraction, retention and downtown vitality, and enhance aesthetic appeal and accessibility in downtown cores, including signage, maintenance and streetscape improvements.

The next step in the budget process will see KPMG, township staff and the mayor review and incorporate feedback from the meeting to help develop the 2026 budget. Councillors will receive draft documents before the final version is tabled by the end of December.

“Would that include the 10-year capital plan and the prioritization of the capital items in that plan or is it going to be the start of that, and it will have to be fully developed at some later date?” asked Coun. Stewart Cressman, who was concerned the cart is coming before the horse.

KPMG partner Ash Garg, in attendance at the meeting, said the priority is to complete the capital and operating budget.

“My colleague has been engaged to complete the 10-year plan and it is being considered in tandem with the 2026 numbers for now. The (long-range) plan will be completed following the tabling of the

budget.”

Coun. Kris Wilkinson asked Garg what KPMG is using to figure out the ranking of assets that need to be replaced sooner than later.

“The question I have is what's being used from your end to drive the prioritization? Is it based on what's in the worst condition, what's affordable based on the funding envelope, or is it based on our asset management plan?”

Garg said they will take all of Wilkinson's points into consideration in consultation with township department heads and other senior staff to understand where the top capital essentials are.

“To understand where the capital needs are a priority and obviously understanding what can be deferred responsibly in the future to meet the funding needs. We are just starting to have those discussions,” he said.

Harold O'Krafka, the township's director of development services, said each department head will work closely with KPMG to identify their priorities.

“Combining all of that together is going to obviously have some conflict between community priorities and, I think, ultimately the mayor and council need to make some probably tough decisions as to what is prioritized when.”

Salonen said she is relying on staff's expertise to drive spending priorities, realizing the current situation in Wilmot.

“I am leaving that to staff to decide what that looks like coming forward but then having the support of information and even in some of the documents I have already seen (KPMG) already has, I think you guys are going to be very pleased with the detail to explain each assumption made.”

The public was offered the opportunity at the meeting to speak to council, and two residents offered their thoughts, including Barry Wolfe and Richard Pfeifle. He said his hope is cost-cutting will be a priority.

“I am finding these requests for tax increases greater than the rate of inflation, and last year when staff suggested ... property taxes increasing by greater than 50 per cent, this was ludicrous to me.”

Pfeifle admitted he wasn't fully prepared to speak at the meeting and didn't know the precise process, but Coun. Lilliane Dunstall said he is welcome to offer further input to councillors. Wilkinson added Pfeifle didn't need to feel bad about a lack of knowledge on the process since very little information is available to residents.

“The only document available is a draft 10-year capital plan from last year. I think

a lot of the commentary and what you are hearing this evening is we are sitting here wondering the same things citizens are wondering.”

Pfeifle suggested the township look at implementing a zero-based budgeting approach, a method of budgeting that means no department or program automatically receives funding based on the previous

year's budget.

Wilkinson said while he'd love to see that come to fruition, it simply isn't the reality at the moment.

“I agree with you 100 per cent and if KPMG is taking note, cost-cutting is absolutely essential. It's a drum I have been beating for the last three years and I would like to see that taken into account.”



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Minimal damage following Tavistock long-term-care home fire

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A heavy emergency crew presence at peopleCare in Tavistock on Sunday led to widespread community concern, but a small fire was quickly extinguished.

The long-term-care home officially welcomed residents and staff to the new facility on Oct. 28, 2024.

The formal grand opening celebration was held on June 25, 2025.

"The call came in at 1:42 Sunday afternoon," said EZT Fire Chief Scott Alexander.

"Both Tavistock and Hickson stations immediately responded, as well as Innerkip's tanker, as per our protocol for any structure fire. Upon arrival, firefighters entered the building and discovered a small fire on a desk in a locked office."

The sprinkler system worked perfectly and the fire was out when the firefighters gained access to the room. There were no injuries to either the residents or the firefighters. The fire marshal's office was consulted and is not investigating the incident any further.

PeopleCare's vice president of communications, Sheena Campbell, told the Gazette the small fire was located in one of the ground-floor offices and appeared to have been started by a

laptop.

"Our team is following up with the supplier regarding any known issues with the make and model," Campbell said.

"Thankfully, no residents or resident home areas were affected, and everyone is safe. Families were informed."

Campbell praised staff members for following the home's emergency preparedness plan and added the fire-suppression system worked exactly as designed, quickly extinguishing the fire.

"We had contractors inspect the elevators and fire systems, and they confirmed that all of them are functioning normally. The sprinkler system did activate, resulting in water on the main floor in the front reception area, and we had a restoration company come onsite to ensure everything is properly dried."

In Ontario, the regulation requiring automatic sprinkler systems in long-term-care homes was announced in May 2013.

Campbell added peopleCare is grateful to the East-Zorra Tavistock fire chief and his team, as well as its community partners and contractors for their rapid and professional response.

"Huge thanks as well to our staff and families for their support and for always prioritizing the safety and well-being of everyone in the home."



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTOS)

Fire crews from Tavistock, Hickson and a tanker truck from Innerkip were called to a small fire in an office at peopleCare in Tavistock on Sunday afternoon. The home's sprinkler system was able to put the fire out.

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New Dundee woman shares experience during Nazi occupation of Holland

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

The following is the story of New Dundee resident Gerry Toman's first-hand experience during the Nazi occupation of Holland in the Second World War as told by Toman during the New Dundee Remembrance ceremony on Nov. 8.

My name is Gerry Toman. I was living in the Netherlands during World War II.

Most of what I remember must have happened during the last year of the war as I was too young earlier.

We lived on a farm and had a shelter behind the house where we sometimes had to go because the house could have been bombed. Close to where we lived, the Nazis had set up a place to send V1 rockets to send off to London, but they didn't always make it there, so (it was) very dangerous as they could have come down on us.

So, for quite a while, our mom and us younger ones went and lived with my brother's fiancé's family some distance away.

City people would come to the farms looking for food and were always given something.

I started school in September 1944.

It was not safe to be in the school, so we met in a restaurant across the street. Walking home from school, if you had a bike when a plane came over, you had to get off the bike and lie on top of it to cover it.

I remember my dad bringing a Nazi officer into our bedroom one night, I suppose to see if we were hiding anyone.

The last few weeks before the end, (there were) fighter planes in the air, bombers flying over. Then, one day, a Nazi officer came and told my dad you have to leave your house, we are moving in. We were on a farm, so my dad had a wagon with sides, so whatever they could take – blankets, food and so on – was put in there; my sister and I sat on top. Our older siblings brought whatever cattle they could manage, and we set off down the road.

I remember the fighting overhead. We didn't go very far and pulled into another farm. We stayed there along with some other neighbours. The planes overhead and the fighting was so terrible, there was no quiet – the sky looking very red.

I was too young to remember how long we were there; it couldn't have been more than a day or two.

I remember being outside one morning, so things must have quieted down.

A young lad came from the village and he said, "The Canadians are here! The Canadians are here!"

We were free. My older siblings took off for the village and the highway to see the Canadians coming in; I wasn't allowed to go with them. That was April 6, 1945. I remember the Canadian trucks coming to our school in the days afterwards with chocolate bars, and they also had beautiful white bread.

I remember being at our neighbours', it must have been a day or so after liberation, and there were Canadian soldiers there. One must have been a doctor, and he noticed a problem with my ear, and I had a terrible earache. He gave me some medicine and asked the neighbour lady to give him an egg, which she did. I went home and told my mother, and she sent me back with an egg. The soldiers had not had anything except powdered eggs, so he wanted a fresh egg.

Children in Holland are taught in school how we were liberated and, every Christmas Eve, school children place a lighted candle at each Canadian grave.

Burkle Toman from New Dundee, my husband's cousin, is buried in Holland. He was only 21; he died alongside a lot of young men from the Plattsville area and surrounding district. Another cousin from the New Hamburg area, Charles Hostetler, was in the air force and lost his life over Germany and is buried in Germany.

Today, on Remembrance Day 80 years later as a proud Canadian, I've been given the opportunity to find the words to say, "Thank you, Canada!"



(NANCY BIRSS PHOTO)

New Dundee resident Gerry Toman, standing with her daughter, Dianne Forbes, shares what she remembers from the Nazi occupation and Canadian liberation of The Netherlands during the Second World War.

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Sprucedale students honour Canada's fallen on Remembrance Day

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Remembrance Day is a time for reflection and gratitude – and at Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare, students, staff and families came together this week to honour those who served and sacrificed for Canada.

On Monday, Nov. 10, the day before Remembrance Day, students gathered in the school gymnasium to welcome Cpl. Mitchell Hart of the 4th Infantry, Royal Canadian Regiment, based in London. Hart spoke to the students about the role of the Canadian Armed Forces both at home and abroad, helping to protect Canada's allies and support peacekeeping efforts around the world.

He fielded many thoughtful questions from students, including one Grade 3 student who proudly shared that her great-grandfather had fought in both World War I and World War II. Other questions – such as “Why do we have wars?” and “Why do we wear a poppy?” – gave Hart the chance to explain the importance of remembrance in words the children could understand.

Hart also shared the story of Lt.-Col. John McCrae from Guelph, author of “In



Junior students at Sprucedale Public School shared their reflections on Remembrance Day. Grade 3 student Lila wrote, “We will remember soldiers because they saved our world.”

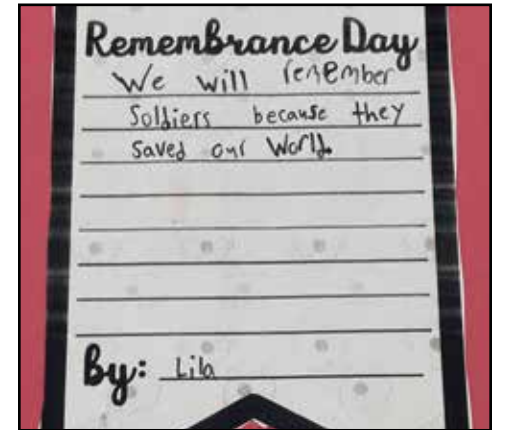
Flanders Fields,” and spoke about the ongoing symbolism of the poppy as a tribute to those who gave their lives.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, Sprucedale welcomed parents and grandparents to join the students for a moving Remembrance Day service. The assembly featured student readings of “In Flanders Fields,” a wreath-laying ceremony and the playing

of “The Last Post,” followed by two minutes of silence and “Reveille.”

As the ceremony concluded, teacher Mrs. Brisbois performed a heartfelt violin solo, her music providing a fitting close to the solemn event.

The poppies worn by students and guests were generously provided by Tavistock's Royal Canadian Legion Branch 518.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Junior students at Sprucedale Public School shared their reflections on Remembrance Day. Grade 3 student Lila wrote, “We will remember soldiers because they saved our world.”



Cpl. Mitchell Hart of the 4th Royal Canadian Regiment, London, visited Sprucedale Public School on Nov. 10 to speak with students about remembrance and the role of Canada's military.

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North Easthope Antique Tractor Club celebrates another successful year in Shakespeare

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

After another busy season on the back roads and in local parades, the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club (NEAT) gathered for its annual banquet at the Shakespeare Optimist Hall, celebrating a year of community involvement, fellowship and charitable giving.

Each summer, NEAT members take to

the roads of Perth, Waterloo and Oxford counties, driving their restored 1950s, '60s and '70s-era tractors. Along the way, they help raise money for local restaurants, church groups and community causes through their weekly club rides.

Membership continues to grow as more agricultural enthusiasts join the club, proud to show off their antique tractors and keep rural history alive across the region.

A highlight of the evening was a

fundraising auction led by David Jacob of Mitchell, which raised money to support tractor-restoration projects. The funds will go toward parts and professional painting for the club's annual MCC Sale donation tractor. This year, NEAT members plan to donate the proceeds from two refurbished tractors to the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Sale in New Hamburg in May.

Among the top-selling auction items was

a homemade raisin pie baked by Brenda Mohr, which sold for \$200 to longtime supporter Bob Schlotzhauer.

The evening also featured live country entertainment from Randy Satchell and his band, whose upbeat set had the crowd singing along and tapping their toes.

Those interested in joining the NEAT Club can contact any of the group's 70-plus members for more information.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Auctioneer David Jacob of Mitchell keeps the crowd engaged during the NEAT Club's annual fundraising auction in Shakespeare. Past president John Schyff holds up items as bids come in fast and furious. The highest-selling item – a homemade raisin pie baked by Brenda Mohr – sold to club supporter Bob Schlotzhauer for \$200.



The North Easthope Antique Tractor Club wrapped up another successful year of community events and fundraising rides. Pictured in front are vice president Murray Gingerich and Gid Jantzi. In the back, from left, are president John Mohr, Kevin Winhold, Wayne Gerber, treasurer Ron Neeb and past president John Schyff. Absent is Henry Dietrich.



The evening's entertainment was provided by Randy Satchell and his band, whose lively country music set the tone for a fun night. From left are Mike Weber of New Hamburg (steel guitar), Ashley Giles of Kirkton (fiddle), Randy Satchell (acoustic guitar and vocals) and Rick Loucks of Tillsonburg (bass guitar).



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Remembering a fallen Tavistock soldier: Cpl. Francis Roy Weitzel

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Across the region, Remembrance Day services on Nov. 11 once again brought communities together to honour those who gave their lives in service to Canada.

In Legions, churches and small-town cenotaphs, the names of local soldiers were spoken, remembered and revered – each representing courage, sacrifice and love of country.

One of those names is Cpl. Francis Roy Weitzel, a young soldier from near Tavistock who never returned home from the battlefields of France during the Second World War.

Though more than 80 years have passed since the war's end, the Weitzel family's love and pride have not faded. His memory endures in family stories, cherished keepsakes and in the gratitude of a nation that continues to honour its fallen.

A grave marker for Weitzel and two other area soldiers – Clarence Kalbfleisch and

Alfred Kingsley – stands in the cemetery of Trinity Lutheran Church in Sebastopol, where Weitzel once attended Sunday school as a boy.

Weitzel was killed on July 8, 1944, during the battle to liberate the French village of Buron. In the fierce fighting, he single-handedly neutralized two German machine gun posts while firing a Bren gun from his hip – an act of bravery that made him a Canadian war hero both in Buron and back home in Tavistock.

Over the years, members of the Weitzel family have travelled to Buron, France, to visit his grave in the Commonwealth War Cemetery and to meet local residents who still honour the Canadians who liberated their village. They also continue to visit the memorial stone at Trinity Lutheran Church, ensuring their uncle's sacrifice is never forgotten.

Weitzel's legacy lives on – not only in stone and soil, but in the hearts of those who gather each November to remember.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

The family of Cpl. Francis Roy Weitzel, killed in action near Buron and Gruchy, France, on July 8, 1944, gather in remembrance ahead of Remembrance Day. From left, are Glen Weitzel (kneeling), Francis Weitzel, Sharon and Ken Weitzel, Shirley and Linda Weitzel. Kneeling in front is Amy Weitzel.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

The crest worn by Ken Weitzel, nephew of Cpl. Francis Roy Weitzel, bears the words "Defence Not Defiance," a motto that continues to resonate today as Canadian troops serve in peacekeeping and humanitarian roles around the world.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The grave of Cpl. F.R. Weitzel, Highland Light Infantry of Canada, lies among hundreds of Canadian soldiers buried near Buron, France. Many visitors from Tavistock and Stratford have stood here, softly singing "O' Canada" through tears of remembrance.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Four direct descendants of Cpl. Francis Roy Weitzel – Glen, Ken, Shirley and Francis Weitzel – stand beside their uncle's memorial marker at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Sebastopol.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A young Cpl. Francis Roy Weitzel is seen in uniform before heading overseas to fight in France. He would never return home.

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Perth-Wellington MP encourages local employers to apply for Canada Summer Jobs 2026 funding

JULIA PAUL

Gazette Correspondent

The employer application process for the Canada Summer Jobs 2026 program is now open, Perth-Wellington MP John Nater announced recently, encouraging local organizations and businesses to apply for funding that helps connect young people with valuable summer work experience.

“Through Canada Summer Jobs, young Canadians have an opportunity to gain the skills and experience they need to get jobs now and in the future,” said Nater. “I encourage employers to apply for funding to create jobs that will help students, employers and our local economies.”

Last summer, the program helped create 190 jobs across Perth-Wellington, supporting a mix of not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses.

The Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program provides wage subsidies to help

employers create meaningful summer employment opportunities for youth aged 15-30. Nater said the program benefits both students and employers by providing young workers with practical experience while addressing local labour shortages and skill-development needs.

“It’s about giving youth a chance to learn, contribute and stay connected to the communities that raised them,” he said.

This year’s application period runs from Nov. 4 to Dec. 11, closing one week earlier than in previous years. Nater said the earlier deadline is intended to allow employers to be notified of their funding sooner, though he added more improvement is still needed.

“While the application period will close slightly earlier this year, it is anticipated that notifications will still begin around the beginning of April,” Nater said. “Not only is the April notification date much too late for most students to find out if they have a summer job, but employers also must

budget and therefore need confirmation of whether or not they will receive funding well in advance of this date.”

He noted university and college students often need to finalize their summer-employment plans by mid-February, which can make the current timeline challenging.

“When students finish exams in April, they’re ready to begin their summer jobs,” he said. “By that time, many have already accepted other positions.”

Nater said improving the timing of employer notifications could help match more students with local opportunities earlier in the year and ensure nonprofit agencies can plan and train staff ahead of their busy summer season.

Funding through the program will once again be available to not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Successful applicants will receive wage subsidies to hire young people for full-time summer jobs that align with community

priorities and local economic needs.

“Creating summer jobs for students benefits not only youth and employers, but also the local economies in Perth-Wellington and across the country,” Nater said. “It’s a win for everyone – young workers gain experience and employers can train potential long-term employees they might not otherwise have been able to hire.”

Employers interested in applying for Canada Summer Jobs 2026 funding are encouraged to submit their applications electronically through the Grants and Contributions Online Services (GCOS) portal. Creating a GCOS account is a one-time process that allows organizations to securely apply for various Employment and Social Development Canada funding opportunities.

More information is available at www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html



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New ownership pours into Shakespeare Brewing Co.

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

There's new energy brewing at one of Perth County's favourite craft beer destinations.

After nearly nine years of creating small-batch ales and lagers, Ayden and Katie Gautreaux have passed the taps – and the stainless-steel kettles – to John and Tracey Segeren, the new owners of the

Shakespeare Brewing Company on Perth Line 34, Shakespeare's main street.

The Gautreaux family, who founded the brewery in 2016, built a loyal following with their dedication to using Ontario-grown ingredients and producing true, local craft beers such as Grumpy Goat IPA, Shakespeare 75 and Coffee Pale Ale.

The Segerens, who have lived just north of Shakespeare since 2005, are excited to continue that tradition while adding their

own twist to the lineup.

"I've been making wine and beer at home since I was 18," said John Segeren, who will lead brewing operations with his wife, Tracey, a lifelong Shakespeare resident. "We're looking forward to keeping the classics our customers love, while also experimenting with some new brews that showcase what Ontario craft beer can be."

The couple has three children, with one still at home, and say they are eager

to immerse themselves in the village's friendly, small-town atmosphere.

The Gautreaux family expressed gratitude to the community and their longtime patrons for years of support.

"We've been so thankful for everyone who's supported us on this journey," said Katie Gautreaux. "We know John and Tracey will receive the same warm welcome we did when we first opened our doors nearly nine years ago."



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

The Segeren and Gautreaux families mark the first day of new ownership at the Shakespeare Brewing Co., celebrating the next chapter for the popular village brewery.

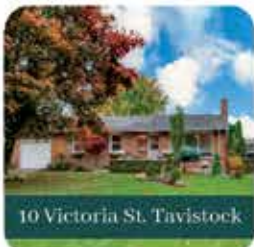


Inside the brewhouse at the Shakespeare Brewing Co., from left, are John, Tracey and Kirsten Segeren with family pet, Harley, and outgoing owners Katie, Levi, Blair and Ayden Gautreaux alongside longtime employee Gary Collins.



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Wilmot Township Quilters and Knotters stitch for a cause at Steinmann Mennonite Church

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Wilmot Township Quilters and Knotters are once again hard at work at Steinmann Mennonite Church near Baden, using their skills with thread and needle to help people in need around the world.

Each month, a dedicated group of women from various churches across Waterloo Region's Wilmot Township gathers at Steinmann's to quilt, knot and share fellowship – combining conversation and craftsmanship in the spirit of compassion.

Before the pandemic, several men also participated in the group, and members say they continue to welcome anyone willing to lend a hand.

"We meet on the first Wednesday of every month," one quilter said, "and there's always work – and friendship – to go around."

Over the years, their quilts have been sent to refugee camps and communities in need across the globe, including in Ukraine and Gaza, where handmade blankets bring both warmth and comfort.

The group also contributes to the annual New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale, creating beautifully hand-stitched quilts that are auctioned each May, with 100 per cent of proceeds donated to the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

Through their work, the Wilmot Quilters and Knotters continue a decades-long tradition of service, offering tangible support to underprivileged communities worldwide.

"We'll always be here to help where we can," one member said. "There's no better feeling than knowing something you made by hand is helping someone in need."



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

These four dedicated volunteers call themselves "knotters, not quilters" – a craft many readers may know the difference between. From left are Shirley Dunford, Ruth Steinman, Yvonne Sawatzky and Irene Jutzi.



With their quilt frame set up and humming along last week are Ardys Brenneman, Ruth Wagner and Ruth Snyder adding the finishing touches to another project destined for someone in need.

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Many hands and fellowship made the project fun!

LAURA GREEN

Submitted to the Gazette

Braemar and Lakeside Women's Institute (WI) members were seven busy bees working in the beehive (basement) at Christ Church Huntingford, out of the rain and windstorm that was brewing outside Nov. 5.

The beehive had five stations set up – three sewing machines, a cutting table, a pressing table and one person turning the items inside out and sewing the buttons – to make jar grippers and pocket prayer squares. By the end of the afternoon and just in time for tea, 14 jar grippers and 13 pocket prayer squares were completed.

The items were donated to the Home & Heart Community: Cancer Care Bags care of Holly Bucholtz. For more information about the Cancer Care Bags, which are free of charge for Oxford and Brant residents of all ages who are going through cancer treatment, call or text Bucholtz at 226-922-9429 or email hollybucholtz@live.com.



Pictured right, two bees at the sewing station were Robyn Boulton of the Lakeside Women's Institute and Jane Adams of the Braemar Women's Institute.

(LAURA GREEN PHOTO)

OBITUARY

KILLING: Wynne Lacey

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing Wynne Lacey Killing, who passed away peacefully in her sleep Sunday October 26th, 2025 in her 29th year. She is survived by her husband Harpreet Singh her Father William (Bill) Killing and his wife Alicia, her Mother Wenday Lemanski Killing, her brother Wesley Killing and his wife Mickayla, Richard Dojosefski and his wife Karla and their son, her Grandmother Gerry Lemanski, her mother In-law Manpreet Kaur, Harpreets extended family as well as many Aunts, Uncles and Cousins. She was predeceased by her Grandfather Douglas (Ted) Killing in 2003, her Grandmother Barbara Killing in 2014, her Grandfather Bryan Lemanski in 2023 and Harpreets father in 2024.

A celebration of Wynne's life will be held on Sunday November 16th, 2025 from 11:30am -4:00pm at the Woodstock Fairground, Oxford Auditorium, 875 Nellis St, Woodstock, ON. We kindly invite all those who knew and loved Wynne, her family and her friends to join us in celebrating the life she lived and the memories she shares with us.

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.



Sorry For Your Loss

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. According to the Bible, which Apostle was a tentmaker?
2. What city is home to the Spanish Steps?
3. "Heaven is a Place on Earth" by Belinda Carlisle was released in what year?
4. What do you call a word that sounds like what it describes?
5. What is the sum of angles in a quadrilateral?
6. At what time of day did guns fall silent on November 11, 1918?
7. Who is the main character in The Lego Movie?
8. What kind of species can live on both water and land?
9. World War One officially ended with the signing of which treaty?
10. Which company introduced "Comet" cleanser back in 1956?

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by PeterS 2025

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The Old Gazettes

By Sydney Grant

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

November 11-18, 2020, Edition (5 years ago)

Members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Tavistock Branch 518, welcomed a select number of community representatives to lay wreaths at a physically distanced Remembrance Sunday Service on Nov. 8, 2020, at the Legion Cenotaph. Poppy chair comrade Susan Pellos welcomed everyone to the service at 1 p.m. under beautiful clear skies and 20-degree temperatures. "This is a new experience," she noted. This is the first time in many years that the service was held outside at the cenotaph in an effort to keep those in attendance at the right spacing and to keep them safe during this world-wide pandemic.

Members of some of the original Tavistock Ball teams from the 1960s are gathering together to socialize and reminisce about the early days of minor ball in the community. The year was 1958 and the Waterloo-Oxford Softball League was being reorganized. Teams were included from Tavistock, New Hamburg, Baden, Wellesley, St. Agatha and Rostock. Named to the executive was Pat Cassidy of Tavistock. That first year, Tavistock lost out to Rostock in the playoffs. Former members of some of the original Tavistock Merchants ball teams who are meeting monthly at Quehl's Restaurant include Keith Wagler, Roger Weicker, Jim Kaufman, Joe Steinman, Duane Roi, Tom Pearson, Wayne Faulhafer, Harry Baechler and Bill Currah.

Different generations have different memories of Howie Meeker, the Canadian hockey icon who grew up in New Hamburg and who passed away on Sunday, Nov. 8, at the age of 97. But almost all of those memories involved hockey. He played it, he talked about it and he taught it. During his National Hockey League career, Howie's days on the right wing spanned 346 games, 83 goals, 102 assists and lots of hockey records. In 1947, he came home from serving in World War II with a shrapnel damaged leg. Howie tied the record for the most goals scored in a game by a rookie. He won the Calder Trophy as the top rookie that year and went on to play in three all-star games and hoist four Stanley Cups in eight seasons with the Maple Leafs.

November 10- 17, 2010, Edition (15 years ago)

The Saputo Atom Reps clenched the A championship this past weekend in Paris, going 3-0. The Titans got off to a solid start, winning 8-0 against Owen Sound. The shutout was earned by Colton Kropf. The next game, they faced a strong team from Port Colborne, stealing a 3-1 win. Sunday, they faced Paris, who was determined to win their hometown tourney. Despite some challenging circumstances, the Titans proved to be stronger competitors, finishing 4-2. Players include Braedon Roth, Colton Kropf, Aidan Wilhelm, Jack Holdsworth, Spencer Roth, Mitchell McKay, Jay Schruink, Jon Francis, Sam Barker, Tye Boyd, Ethan Kirkbride, Cody Haight, Conner McIntosh, Ben Smith and Ben Wiffen, with coaches Jim Wilhelm, Steve Hohl, Brett Rudy and Reis Bender.

Numbers are up from last year and the Tavistock Men's Club was pleased with the turnout at this year's 52nd annual Roast Pork and Sauerkraut Supper held at the Tavistock Memorial Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010. Chairman Bill Wettlaufer said the event "went off really smooth." The sauerkraut was "excellent" and patrons cleaned up most of the prepared food supplies. Attendance numbers are going back up since a lull the past few years after a high in 2006 of 1,615. This year's paid meals totalled 1,354 with 770 served in the hall, 115 at Quehl's, 373 pick-ups, 96 deliveries, plus 150 volunteers.

Chad Brown accepted a cheque for free hockey registration as the winner at Minor Hockey Night sponsored by the Tavistock Royals and Tavistock Optimist Club on Friday, Nov. 12. Chad is a member of the Tavistock Titans' Novice Reps team. Other winners for the night included Thomas Darlington of the Bantam LL#2 team and Jack Holdsworth of the Atom Reps who both won London Knights Jr. A hockey tickets. Winner of the evening's 50/50 draw was Bruce Heinbuch who took home \$177.

November 15 - 22, 1995, Edition (30 years ago)

Students and teachers of Tavistock Public School held a special service on Friday, Nov. 10 with guests from the Royal Canadian Legion, Tavistock Legion Branch 518, Township of East Zorra-Tavistock Mayor David Oliphant, Oxford County board of education trustee Joan Bartlett, block parents teacher representative Mrs. Ruth Ann Gregory and PTA representative Brenda Bowman.



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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette SPORTS

PJHL Roundup: Firebirds down first-place Applejacks as local teams combine for seven weekend games

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

Don't look now, but New Hamburg is creeping up the Provincial Junior Hockey League's (PJHL) Doherty Division standings after a pair of weekend wins.

The Firebirds started the weekend with an 8-6 home-ice win over now second-place Wellesley. Owen Sculthorp scored twice and added a pair of helpers to lead the offence with Aydan Burns adding two goals. Ben Oliver and Keegan Metcalf added two assists apiece. New Hamburg led 4-1 after 20 minutes and 7-3 after two periods. Ian Speiran led the Applejacks with two goals, his 11th and 12th of the season, and added an assist. Lincoln Walsh and Tyler Chadwick had a pair of assists each.

Owen Bruder netted the overtime winner on Sunday in Paris as the Firebirds downed the Titans 5-4. New Hamburg trailed 3-1 at the six-minute mark of the second period, but goals by Oliver and Rhett Calder tied it up after 40 minutes. Jordan Jacobs gave the Firebirds a one-goal lead, but Paris forced the extra period, setting the stage for Bruder's heroics.

New Hamburg did get off to a slow start this season, losing six of their first eight games before turning things around and winning six of the next seven. Captain Andrew Gear said he's pleased with the turnaround.

"I think early on it came with trying to get to know each other and how we played. We've won four in a row, we've become more consistent and know what to expect from each other. We're definitely moving in the right direction."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Andrew Gear (wearing the C) said he's pleased at the team's consistent play following a slow start to the 2025-2026 season.

Gear, an Elmira native, is in his fourth and final season with the team and said being a Firebird has been a perfect fit for him.

"Our coaching staff has been very understanding with school and the entire community, the executive, everyone else off the ice are always supportive. It's a great atmosphere and we are so lucky to have so many people behind us."

He added a big part of the team's success is a positive locker room where teammates get along, something former captain Owen Fischer praised during his tenure with the team.

"That's been one of our best attributes. We are family, we all care for one another and we can joke around. We like to have fun off the ice and hang out with each other outside the rink. That translates back out into the ice with our performance."

The captain is in his final year of Kinesiology at Wilfred Laurier University and he is currently in the process of applying to teacher's college, something more stressful than playing hockey.

"Hockey is something I have played my entire life. The game is the same for a lot of people. It's an escape from work or school, your personal life or whatever you're going through. For me, it's something I look forward to each and every week and get away from the books for a few hours."

Braves take four out of six points

It wasn't exactly a balanced attack, but Tavistock downed Hespeler 6-2 on Friday with only two players finding the back of the net. Yann Raskin and Keaton Bartlett each had three-goal efforts to lead the attack. Raskin leads the team with 12 goals, but Bartlett scored his first markers of the season. Evan Palubeski, the team's

second-leading scorer behind Raskin, chipped in with three assists.

The Braves came up empty in Woodstock on Saturday as they were blanked 5-0 by the Navy Vets. Woodstock broke open a close game with four third-period goals and they now top the Doherty Division.

Tavistock completed a home-and-home series in Hespeler on Sunday with a 4-2 victory. Raskin, Ryan McKellar, Carter Arseneau and Palubeski scored for the Braves. Rookie goalie Andrew Torchia earned his second victory of the weekend and fourth of the season. The Baden native has a 3.01 goals against average and a .906 save percentage.

The Braves acquired defenceman Henry Kotyk from the Schomberg Cougars in exchange for a player development fee. The Newmarket native joins the Braves after a solid rookie season in Schomberg, tallying 20 points in 42 games.

Applejacks fall out of first after second loss

Wellesley lost 3-2 in Dorchester on Saturday. At the time, the Applejacks were in first while the Dolphins remained in the basement of the division. Speiran and Ben Morton scored in a losing effort.

Notes:

- Just 10 points separate first from last in the Doherty, easily the tightest division in the PJHL
- Woodstock's Owen Ireton leads the division in scoring with 13 goals and 18 assists. Teammate Cooper Vickerman sits second with 30 points. Kobe Nadalin, another Navy Vet, is the Doherty's top netminder with a 2.26 goals against average and a .943 save percentage.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTOS)

New Hamburg Firebirds forward Owen Bruder fires a shot onto goaltender Logan MacMillan during the Firebirds' 8-6 win over the Wellesley Applejacks on Nov. 7. Bruder scored one goal in the third period.



Wellesley Applejacks forward Rhyse McCloskey takes a shot during the Applejacks' 8-6 loss to the New Hamburg Firebirds on Nov. 7. McCloskey had a goal and an assist for the Applejacks and was one of 10 players between both teams to have a multi-point game.

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MINOR SPORTS **SCRAPBOOK**



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Kohen Lyon drives the puck towards the net during the U10 Minor A New Hamburg Huskies game last Tuesday.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Sierra Harvey hunts down a loose puck in the offensive zone during last Saturday's U11 C Wilmot Wolverines game.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Blair Bohnert unleashes a shot from the point during the U15 B Wilmot Wolverines game last Saturday.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Norah Boertien releases a backhand shot during last Saturday's U18 C Wilmot Wolverines game.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Adam Lueck launches a shot from the blueline during the U18 LL 1 New Hamburg Huskies game this past Sunday.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Brayden Hohl finds the slot and snaps the puck on goal during this past Sunday U18 LL 2 New Hamburg Huskies game.

‘Taste the Culture - Bite and Delight’ brings diversity to the table in Wellesley

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The second annual “Taste the Culture - Bite and Delight” event was a sold-out celebration of community, diversity and culinary exploration, drawing nearly 240 attendees to the Bill Gies Recreation Complex in Wellesley.

Building on the success of its inaugural year, the evening once again invited residents to experience the richness of Wellesley Township’s growing cultural landscape. Guests sampled traditional foods, learned about different customs and

enjoyed vibrant displays of fashion, music and storytelling.

Event organizer Wendy Richardson said the evening was “about celebrating and learning about our neighbours from diverse cultures who now call Wellesley Township home.”

This year’s cultural ambassadors represented South Africa, Low German-speaking Mennonites from Mexico, Jamaica, First Nations Anishinaabe and Antigua and Barbuda. Each group shared food, traditions and personal stories, fostering understanding and connection

among participants.

The event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Wellesley Agricultural Society and community partners. Committee members included Mary Lichty-Neeb, Barb Nowak, Bea Borsato, Manni Hayer, Chloe Scott Abrar Alaskani and Wendy Richardson. Other key contributors were Nazia Khan, Puneet Hayer, Fiona Gilbert, Kristene Allison (Engage Rural), Brooke Giles (Waterloo Regional Library) and cultural ambassadors Connie Cunningham, Anna Wall, Kelly Welch and Tracelyn Cornelius.

Special thanks were extended to Theresa and Ron Bisch for their dedication in managing kitchen operations throughout the evening.

The event was established by the Wellesley Agricultural Society and supported by Engage Rural, the Waterloo Regional Library, the Waterloo Region Upstream Fund, the Waterloo Region Community Foundation and the Rural Equity Fund, with additional support from Community Care Concepts of Wilmot, Wellesley and Woolwich.



Local youth proudly showcased traditional clothing from the cultures featured at the Nov. 6 “Taste the Culture - Bite and Delight” event in Wellesley.

(PHOTOS COURTESY OF WENDY RICHARDSON)

This trio shared the significance of their Indigenous heritage during the cultural celebration.



The colourful cultural display tables highlighted the diverse nations represented this year, offering guests a chance to “taste and learn” from around the world – all without leaving Wellesley.

Remembrance Day Nov. 7. What!?

VINTAGE VIEWS

By Tim Mosher
Tavistock and District
Historical Society

As a former photojournalist, it's easy to see this picture is a gem. My geography teacher at Waterloo-Oxford DSS in the mid-1970s taught me well, both about landforms and how to take photos for the yearbook, which is nascent photojournalism (thank you Mr. John Buchanan). I studied photography after high school, worked as a photojournalist and became a high school teacher myself of – what else? – photography.

This photo is packed with so many interesting details, it's difficult to know where to start.

The picture was taken in November 1918 and it's very likely a few days before the 11th. One would automatically think it's Nov. 11 but there were reports of World War I ending days earlier. The front page of the London Free Press declared in its special edition with oversized letters, "World War Is Now Ended," on Nov. 7, 1918, among many other news sources across North America.

In Kitchener, a scarecrow was given the pejorative nickname, Fritz, and burned in front of city hall. A few days later came the accurate announcement that the war had ended, prompting the London Free Press to issue a second special edition at 3 a.m., Nov. 11 to correct itself. The Armistice agreement to stop fighting was signed in a dining car in France at the 11th hour, on the 11th day,

of the 11th month. It was then official; the war was over and celebration was in order.

It's difficult to imagine the local emotions of the time, especially among the German-descended people in this part of Ontario. The irony of sending daughters to the front to care for the wounded and sons to fight against the country of their family's origin is palpable. German culture and language took a sharp turn in the district.

The original name of Tavistock is Freiburg, a small city in southern Germany. Berlin, Ont., was re-named Kitchener midway through the First World War as public sentiments had shifted dramatically. Oh, wie sich die Zeiten doch geändert hatten! (Oh, how the tides had turned!)

The location of this celebration was the centre of Tavistock, often called "The Five Corners" where three streets converge: Woodstock, Hope and Maria. The grand structure on the left is the Commercial Hotel (later a private residence and service station that's now three shops and a gas bar), the two-storey building almost in the centre was Staebler's Jewellery and other businesses (the only building still standing) and the board-and-batten structure on the right was Siegner's Harness Shop. The well-known fountain at these crossroads was installed five years later.

Reeve Baechler, smiling to the right of the centre, spoke to the crowd that had gathered. A public holiday in the village was declared; all businesses would close for the day and grand celebrations ensued. The men and women in uniform were coming home – or, most of them. Some from Tavistock and the district had fallen and would remain, with ceremonies and monuments dedicated to their

service and sacrifice yet to be organized.

To liven the calithumpian scene, an impromptu Maypole was erected and horseless carriages formed a circle blocking traffic along with the crowd gathered there. This is where the picture merits close examination, as the details reveal the sentiments and lifestyle of the day.

The photographer, John Lemp, took this picture on a very large, glass negative measuring eight by 10 inches (20 x 25 centimetres). Generally, the larger the negative, the finer the detail, and this was a big one (akin to today's CD sensors in digital cameras, though this was analogue photography). Mr. Lemp no doubt shouted something to the crowd to look at the camera, as many faces turned towards him and his ungainly, big, three-legged photo apparatus with a good view above the crowd from the front steps of the Glasgow Warehouse (today's Home Hardware).

One thing that's not turned towards the camera and has a human form is the hard-to-see effigy of Kaiser Wilhelm II, leader of the defeated armies. A rough representation of him was made by stitching pants, a shirt and a head together and stuffing it all with rags or straw. It was hung overhead in the distance between the two ribbons on the right, one arm outstretched. A second one was made and burned. Effigies of the Kaiser were common in the allied countries at the time to condemn it as symbolic punishment of the offender.

In the opposite corner are two young men in uniform, likely in training, waiting for deployment or on harvest leave. Above them among the pines is the day's washing hanging out to dry, likely from the Commercial Hotel. Farther right is a group of males mostly standing on the back of a car. Close examination reveals one fellow blowing a large horn, a young man dressed as a clown astride the car's hood and, on either side of him, are two men wearing odd masks and holding pairs of pot lids likely used as symbols. Two other men stand arm-in-arm with blackened faces and two more in top hats. A motley bunch giddy with the good news!

No doubt a glass or two were raised in the community and well beyond on this very special occasion.

In all, 20 million lives were lost during World War One. It makes me wonder what happens in Germany on Nov. 11 every year.



(JOHN LEMP; LSC SCAN #1334)

After four long years of fighting on a scale never seen before, the European conflict that as yet hadn't been named World War I had ended. Grand celebrations in the allied winners' countries were in order, but rumours persisted as to when the Central Powers surrendered.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF TAVISTOCK AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

This is page three of the Tavistock Gazette, Nov. 14, 1918 (the front page was always local news). The main store in town, the Glasgow Warehouse, was advertising socks, underwear and trench candles "... for the boys over there" for Christmas, in ads purchased prior to the war's end.

The history mystery of Oct. 30: "What was Fred Hotson's prize when he won the Canadian national oratorical competition in 1927, in addition to the trophy that he posed with?" Marilyn Pearson of Tavistock was first to answer correctly: A trip to Europe.

This week's history mystery: What clue in this article is a strong

hint as to what day of the week it was when the photo was taken? The question is open to all ages. The first reader to send the correct answer to me at tim_mosher@hotmail.com will have their name, the name of their community or rural route number published in the next Vintage Views article.

This is Doug.

Doug is an active member of his community.

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Innerkip Central School students participate in first-ever Socktober campaign

LYNNE ROSS

Innerkip Central School

The Grade 6/7 class at Innerkip Central School proudly led the school's first-ever Socktober campaign, a new initiative to support people in need within Oxford County.

The project was spearheaded by student leader Madelyn Schneider, with guidance from her teacher, Mrs. Johnson. Every student in the class contributed to the campaign's success – whether by designing and hanging posters around the school, writing and recording daily announcements, collecting and counting donations, graphing the results, or preparing a slideshow to share at the October school assembly.

Throughout the month, the school collected socks, mittens, warm hats and toiletry items, all of which were donated to Operation Sharing in Woodstock. These donations will help provide comfort and care to unhoused people and families across Oxford County as the cold weather approaches.

As part of the campaign, the Grade 6/7 class also took time to teach students and staff that the proper and more respectful term is “unhoused” rather than “homeless.” This language emphasizes that housing is a basic human need and right, something a person may not currently have, rather than defining someone by their situation.

The school's original goal was to collect 250 items, but thanks to the incredible enthusiasm and generosity of students and families, a total of 1,195 items were gathered. The top collecting class, Ms. Parr's and Mrs. Reeve's Kindergarten class, will celebrate their achievement with an extra recess.

The Grade 6/7 students had a blast on Halloween as they counted and sorted hundreds of donated items while dressed in their creative costumes – a perfect mix of fun and community spirit.

Innerkip Central's first Socktober campaign was a meaningful way for students to show kindness, leadership, inclusion and empathy, and a wonderful reminder of the difference that teamwork can make.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
Innerkip Central School's Grade 6/7 class led the school's first-ever Socktober campaign.

East Zorra-Tavistock collision leads to charges

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

A Norfolk County man is facing multiple charges following a collision in East Zorra-Tavistock (Ezt) last week.

On Nov. 7 at approximately 11:30 a.m., Oxford OPP, paramedic and fire services responded to a report of a collision on Highway 59 in Ezt. It was reported that a SUV and a commercial van had collided.

The lone occupant of the van was uninjured, while the lone occupant of the SUV was transported to hospital with minor injuries, police say.

Through investigation, the 31-year-old driver of the SUV was charged with dangerous operation, possession of cocaine and driving while under suspension.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Dec. 16.

This investigation is ongoing. The Oxford OPP is requesting anyone who may have witnessed this collision or has dashcam footage to call 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or visit ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Gazette Puzzles

THE SNOW HAS ARRIVED

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Adding more iron to your diet could be key to curing the blahs

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



Question: I am so pale and sickly looking. I have no energy to do anything but I'm not sick. Any suggestions?

Weather changes impact our health and mood in many ways from low vitamin D levels to a case of seasonal blues. Feeling pale and sickly is this holistic nutritionist's red flag, indicating the possibility of anemia or potential low iron.

oxygen throughout the body while removing carbon dioxide. Iron is predominately stored in the hemoglobin and the rest, approximately one-third, is stored as ferritin in the spleen, bone marrow and the liver. Keep in mind, a liver working overtime detoxifying bad habits, medications and a processed diet have trouble storing iron.

Are you at risk for iron

deficiency?

- Do you enjoy iron-rich foods daily? Only one milligram of iron is absorbed for every 10-20 milligrams you eat!
- Have you had gastrointestinal surgery lately?
- Do you take medications that interfere with the production of stomach acid?
- Have you lost blood from GI bleeding, injury, surgery or heavy monthly menstrual bleeding?

Have you experienced any of the following symptoms?

- Abnormal paleness?
- Lack of energy?
- Enlarged spleen?
- Irritability?
- Swollen tongue?
- Increased heart rate?

- Do you have a desire to chew ice or the odd craving to eat dirt? Yes, that's real and called pica.

An iron-rich diet can help. Meat, whether lamb, beef chicken, or pork and especially their organ meat is key to obtaining adequate iron. I am a massive fan of pan-fried liver in tallow or olive oil with onions. This menu planner eats four to six ounces of chicken liver a few times a week. I am organ-meat obsessed, serving it solo, but rice or potatoes are a sensational sidekick. Fish such as sardines and anchovies as well as shellfish are all super sources.

Plant-based eaters should look to legumes, leafy greens and yeast-leavened wholewheat breads or iron-enriched cereals and rice. Raisins contain iron but also hormone-disrupting sugar and seed oils, so limit your

intake. Yes, popeye ate spinach for strength but life is not a movie. We know spinach, Swiss chard and kale, for example, require steaming plus a squeeze of fresh citrus. Vitamin C helps absorb iron, the perfect duo.

Supplementing with over-the-counter vitamins is possible and without a prescription. There are many brands at the health food store that are plant-based if constipation is an issue.

It's always a good idea to have your iron tested, and while you are there, check to see if vitamin D stores are low. Since sunshine on bare skin produces the crucial hormone, vitamin D, and we are currently bundled up, supplementing may be required.

Always consult your MD, ND or health practitioner before making changes to your daily protocol.

The truth about the current market

EXPERT REAL ESTATE ADVICE

By Isabel Livingston



The question every realtor gets asked daily is, "How's the market?" Well, the short answer is, it's a buyer's market.

This means the housing supply exceeds demand, giving buyers negotiating advantage. Prices typically fall during this market, and properties often have longer listing times. This gives buyers more time to compare properties, have multiple viewings and feel confident about including conditions without risking rejection.

But the real question everyone wants to know is why did the market shift? Is it normal and will it return to a more balanced market, and when?

Economic decrease (trade disruptions/tariff unknowns, inflation, tighter credit, job losses and, of course, higher interest rates) is causing buyers to be

more cautious. People are uncertain and hesitant to make a large purchase such as a home, or increased rates make it financially out of reach. The federal government also passed The Prohibition of Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act effective Jan. 1, 2023, to Jan. 1, 2027, to curb increasing home prices.

One of the most fundamental patterns in real estate history is that the housing market naturally cycles between buyers' and sellers' conditions. In 1989, a boom collapsed after rate hikes, then it was a long buyers' market through the early 1990s. It was relatively balanced until the 2000s. The years 2015-2017 was a strong sellers' market with low inventory, and 2018-2019 became balanced again followed

by an extreme sellers' market in 2020-2021 before once again becoming balanced and now a buyers' market.

Real estate typically follows the stock market, which is increasing, and interest rates are decreasing to help stimulate the economy. The provincial government just passed the removal of the eight per-cent provincial

portion of the HST for first-time homebuyers on newly built homes valued up to \$1 million, meaning up to a \$80,000 saving. All signs are pointing to a more balanced market coming but, having said that, nobody has a crystal ball or knows what can happen or when.

Starter homes and first-time homebuyers have historically

been the driver of the housing market; they represent the entry point to the property ladder.

Looking to buy or sell in this market? I would love to help! Reach out at 226-232-4236 or ilivingstonsells@gmail.com.

Isabel Livingston is a sales representative at Gale Group Realty Brokerage Ltd.

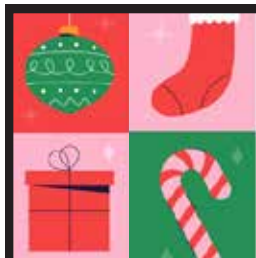
OCTOBER REAL ESTATE STATS

	AVERAGE SALE PRICE	NUMBER OF SALES	NUMBER OF NEW LISTING	AVERAGE DAYS TO SELL
WILMOT TOWNSHIP	\$804,429	14	21	42
EAST ZORRA TAVISTOCK	\$834,983	6	11	57
WELLESLEY/ WOOLWICH	\$873,935	32	48	29
PERTH EAST/ SHAKESPERE	\$693,909	11	9	32
OXFORD COUNTY	\$689,257	122	312	45

INFORMATION GATHERED FROM HABISTAT

(GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ISABEL LIVINGSTON)

Local real estate numbers from October 2025.



Your Holiday Message Can Make a Difference

Advertise in the upcoming Christmas Greetings edition — a portion of the proceeds support the Wilmot Family Resource Centre & Tavistock Assistance Program

Don't wait — reserve your greeting today!

CONTACT US

You can visit The Roaring Lion any time you like

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



Everyone has been following the story of the huge jewel heist at the Louvre Museum in Paris. I have watched with special interest, relieved that the name, "Knowles," has not appeared among the suspects because we were at the Louvre only a few days before the theft took place. But I'm innocent, I tell you, innocent!

There is something a bit surreal about having been on the spot shortly before such a major crime occurred. As you may know, the authorities have arrested and charged a number of people, but as I write this, they have not recovered any of the missing jewels.

I thought about this a couple of weeks after we were at the Louvre because we were in another great city – this one in Canada – and were enjoying a visit to a significant Canadian work of art, one that was also stolen in recent years (actually, not long after we visited the site) which was found, returned and restored to the spot from which it vanished. And it's an iconic artifact that you can visit, free of charge!

The piece of art? Yousuf Karsh's famous photographic portrait of Winston Churchill, signed by Karsh, which hangs in Zoe's Lounge in the Chateau Laurier hotel in Ottawa. It's there because Karsh lived and worked at the hotel for 19 years.

The story of this photo is fascinating. In Karsh's own words, "My portrait of Winston Churchill changed my life. I knew after I had taken it that it was an important picture, but I could hardly have dreamed that it would become one of the most widely reproduced images in the history of photography. In 1941, Churchill visited first Washington and then Ottawa. The prime minister, Mackenzie King, invited me to be present. After the electrifying speech, I waited in the Speaker's Chamber where, the evening before, I had set up my lights and camera. The prime minister, arm-in-arm with Churchill and followed by his entourage, started to lead him into the room. I switched on my floodlights; a surprised Churchill growled, 'What's this, what's this?' No one had the courage to explain. I

timorously stepped forward and said, 'Sir, I hope I will be fortunate enough to make a portrait worthy of this historic occasion.' He glanced at me and demanded, 'Why was I not told?' When his entourage began to laugh, this hardly helped matters for me. Churchill lit a fresh cigar, puffed at it with a mischievous air, and then magnanimously relented. 'You may take one.' Churchill's cigar was ever present. I held out an ashtray, but he would not dispose of it. I went back to my camera and made sure that everything was all right technically. I waited; he continued to chomp vigorously at his cigar. I waited. Then I stepped toward him and, without premeditation, but ever so respectfully, I said, 'Forgive me, sir,' and plucked the cigar out of his mouth. By the time I got back to my camera, he looked so belligerent he could have devoured me. It was at that instant that I took the photograph."

It was Churchill's stern facial expression that caused the portrait to be named "The Roaring Lion." It became an instant symbol of wartime resistance. The autographed photograph – taken in 1941 – was donated to the hotel by Karsh and his wife in 1998, four years before Karsh's death. It hung in the lounge – alongside several other wonderful Karsh portraits, including one of Albert Einstein – until sometime be-

tween Dec. 25, 2021, and Jan. 6, 2022.

That's when a thief removed the photo from the wall on which it hung, replaced it with a reproduction and fled. Remarkably, even though the phony photo was in an entirely different frame, no one noticed the substitution for about eight months! Then, the hunt was on. Eventually, the stolen, signed Karsh found its way into an auction; it was purchased by a collector in Italy, who had no idea it was a hot item. When the story of the theft unfolded, the purchaser returned the photo. It was turned over to Canadian authorities in September 2024. It was back on display at Chateau Laurier in December of last year. The crook was caught, by the way.

It's reported that security has been greatly increased around the photograph. In small measure, when we were there in October, that was obvious because several entrances to the lounge are blocked by planters and furniture, and you can only get in past the greeters' desk. I'm sure there is other, more sophisticated security in place as well.

But the thing I like about all this is, anyone can visit the repatriated Karsh portrait. Just tell the staff member at the host desk you want to see the piece, and you will be welcomed in. And there you will find the Roaring Lion, Winston Churchill, with his personality on full display!

I recommend this short stop as part of any visit to our nation's capital. And it's a lot handier – and less expensive – that going to the Louvre.

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.



(PHOTO BY CHELSEA BELIVEAU)

A sculpture of Yousuf Karsh stands beside the Chateau Laurier.



(PHOTO COURTESY PAUL KNOWLES)

Your faithful reporter, entirely innocent at the Louvre.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Appropriately, the Parliament Hill statue of Sir Wilfrid Laurier overlooks the famous hotel that bears his name.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Visitors to the Winston Churchill portrait will inevitably see themselves along with Churchill.

Community Theatre Review: A standing ovation for The Community Players' *A Christmas Carol*

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Gazette Reporter

The Community Players of New Hamburg delivered a flawless performance of *A Christmas Carol* last week, earning a standing ovation from the audience.

Artistic director Brook Gamble, director Ryan Dunham and assistant director Rachel Conway led a cast of stellar performers who brought new life to the holiday classic. Based on Charles Dickens' 1843 novella and adapted by John Mortimer, the production struck a perfect balance between the timeless story and the modern world.

"This production is the result of so many generous hearts — onstage, backstage and in our wider community," wrote Gamble. "I am deeply grateful to our incredible cast and crew, whose talent and dedication brought this world to life."

Mark Starratt, who played Scrooge, shone on stage, drawing laughter and empathy as the audience followed his transformation throughout the performance.

Young actors also impressed. Jack Giusti-Ouimet (young Scrooge), Noah Kropf (Peter Cratchit) and Adaline Woodworth



(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

The Community Players of New Hamburg had audience members laughing and crying during the recent performance of *A Christmas Carol*.

(child Scrooge and young Cratchit) each delivered standout performances. Elanor Woodworth, who played Tiny Tim, moved the audience to tears with her heartfelt

portrayal.

"While building this show over the past two months, we've had the opportunity to explore the meaning of Christmas,

family and community," wrote Dunham. "Sometimes it takes the story of a man who hates Christmas to remind us what it's really about and to focus our attention on the things that truly matter."

A Christmas Carol is one of the most frequently performed plays worldwide during the holiday season, staged by both professional theatres and community groups. Each year, hundreds of volunteers of all ages work side by side to produce musicals and plays with The Community Players of New Hamburg, and this year was no different.

"In a world where division and distraction often take centre stage, its themes feel more vital than ever," wrote Aaron Blazer, president. "May we all be reminded, like Scrooge, that it's never too late to open our hearts to love, kindness, compassion, joy and hope."

For more than four decades, The Community Players of New Hamburg have brought people together to create live, high-quality, family-friendly theatre.

Keep an eye on their website for upcoming shows and information, including their 2026 spring performance of *Into the Woods*: www.thecommunityplayers.com.

Theatre Wellesley to bring heart and humour with *The Curious Savage*

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Gazette Reporter

Theatre Wellesley's 27th fall show, *The Curious Savage*, a 1950 classic by John Patrick, is coming to the Steinmann Mennonite Church stage on Nov. 27 and 28 at 8 p.m., with matinee performances on Nov. 29 and 30 at 2 p.m.

The comedy promises to bring laughs and warm hearts while taking a look at how our dreams and desires shape how others see us — and how we see ourselves.

"At its core, it's a story about how one's worth isn't tied to their identity," said director Aidan Tessier. "It's about those with the most social influence who ultimately worsen society; about people who can operate in normal society, but can live peacefully in each other's society. And about those caught in the middle, trying to bridge the gap between these different worlds."

In the play, the recently widowed Ethel Savage has decided to use her husband's fortune to spend her golden years living her dreams and helping others live theirs. Unfortunately, her three stepchildren want every penny for themselves.

Fearing Ethel's philanthropy (and other unacceptable behaviour) will cost them their inheritance and sully the Savage family name, they have her committed.

She soon finds herself in The Cloisters, a mid-20th-century-style home for the mentally unwell. There she meets a delightful



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The cast of Theatre Wellesley's fall production of *The Curious Savage* by John Patrick. Back row, from left, are Nathan Martin, Mary Beth Jantzi, Lori Hoelscher, Jamie Russell, Ian Hopkins and Al Cook. Front row, from left, are Josie Willett, Karen Reger, Olivia Cook, Ingrid Fast and Renee Murray.

band of misfits who she discovers have much warmer hearts — and are of much sounder minds — than her own children.

Just as the play centres on family, so too does the cast and crew. Many members

joined the theatre group alongside relatives, creating a close-knit, community feel both on and off the stage, according to stage manager Rhonda Caldwell.

"We've got a lot of family relationships

on and off the stage," she said. "On stage, we have a father-daughter, an aunt-nephew, and behind the scenes, our director and assistant director are a mother-son team. We've got a husband-wife team doing set decoration, and our assistant stage manager and photographer are a father-daughter pair."

The cast and crew are looking forward to not only giving a belly-laugh performance but are also hopeful that attendees walk away with a sense of hope and camaraderie.

"There's hope in terms of Mrs. Savage wanting to help people have their dreams come true," said Caldwell. "And a lot of them are crazy dreams, and there's hope with the people who are in the sanatorium — hope that they can still have a good life."

"I think that people will walk away and think, 'Maybe some people got what they deserved. But really, you know what? I feel hopeful about relationships — that if people can be kind to each other, it can be a good world after all.'"

The Curious Savage will be Theatre Wellesley's second fall show at Steinmann Mennonite's hall following the closure of their longtime venue at the old Wellesley Community Centre.

Tickets are available at www.theatrewellesley.com and at Pym's Market in Wellesley (cash only).

W-ODSS students bring suspense to the stage with *Silver Dagger*

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Gazette Reporter

Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School (W-ODSS) invites community members to its fall production of *Silver Dagger* by David French.

The mystery thriller hits the stage Friday, Nov. 28, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 29, at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. *Silver Dagger* tells the story of Steve Marsh, a mystery writer whose life unravels after his third novel is published. His wife, Pam, begins receiving a series of phone calls and letters that threaten to destroy their marriage.

The play incorporates all the classic elements of a thriller – lies, blackmail and suspicious deaths – as Steve's life begins to mirror the plots of his novels. Soon, the characters realize no one can be trusted.

"The show is very unpredictable and the plot twists keep people on the edge of their seats," said Alecia Sparks, director and W-ODSS drama teacher.

Students from grades nine to 12 are involved in all aspects of the production, acting, directing and managing behind the scenes.

"I've always wanted to be in more of a leadership position where I can help people and lead," said student director Huxley Morton, a Grade 12 student at W-ODSS. "This way, I can input my own ideas, where my word means more."

Morton said he hopes the audience experiences the same tension and thrill that the cast has worked to create.

"My goal is to keep people on the edge

of their seats and questioning what's going to happen next," he said. "I really want to get people's adrenaline pumping."

Actor Alex Ottoson, the Grade 11 student who plays Steve Marsh, said the collaboration between younger and older students has strengthened the sense of community within the group.

"It's nice to have that balance between older and younger students because this is the Grade 9s' first play," said Ottoson. "Having people who are experienced and have done plays at the school before really helps balance that out. The younger students also bring so much energy because they're new and just so full of it compared to us Grade 11 and 12 students."

Sparks said she's proud of how the students have embraced the challenge of such a complex story.

"The show allows for in-depth conversations about character growth while dissecting dialogue to search for the answer of what is truth and what is fiction," she said. "It's a challenging piece that our students at W-O have met head-on. I'm proud of all our cast, crew and behind-the-scenes members who have helped make this production a success – especially our student director, Huxley Morton."

The production contains mature content, including swearing, references to self-harm and onstage deaths, and is recommended for ages 13 and up.

Tickets are \$10 and available for purchase at the door. For more information, visit silverdaggerplay.ca or contact Sparks at alecia_sparks@wrdsb.ca.



(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

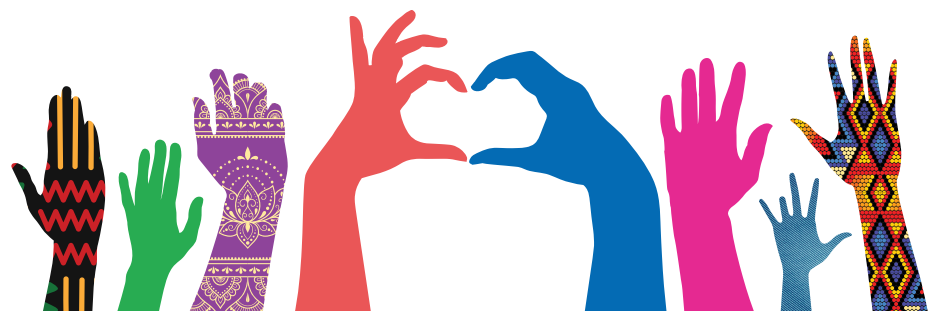
Cast and crew of Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School's fall production of *Silver Dagger* rehearse ahead of opening night. The mystery thriller runs Nov. 28 and 29 at the W-ODSS auditorium. From back, left, are Annika Renkema, Sofia Sferranna, Huxley Morton and Brennan Goldrick. In front from left are Alex Ottoson, Liv Logan, Sophie Ernewein, Jon Roussel, Phoenix Charland and Camille Cressman.

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Lamprey control program a part of saving Great Lakes fishery

Lamprey was the catalyst for the formation of Great Lakes Fishery Commission 70 years ago

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Sea lamprey have been called the vampires of the Great Lakes.

This invasive eel-like species' purpose in life is literally to suck the lifeblood out of fish to sustain itself. Since Great Lakes fish haven't evolved to cope with this invasive species, it has caused enormous havoc before control programs began decades ago.

Astute observers of the Otter Creek noticed it flowed bright green for a few days last month. Bright green isn't typically thought of as a healthy colour for Ontario rivers, but in this case, it was part of the lamprey control program run by the bi-national Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada lamprey control crews started treatment of the Big Otter Creek on Oct. 17. The initial application of 3-trifluoromethyl-4-nitrophenol (TFM) was on the Otter Creek where it crosses Cornell Road near Otterville. Also known as lampricide, TFM concentrations are boosted where the Otter crosses Middletown Road and County Road 13, in Tillsonburg, near Coronation Park, and at the Eden Line.

"As it moves downriver, it loses concentration, so we have to boost it, said

Shawn Robertson, treatment biologist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

A week later, crews were nearing completion of their work but were still testing the Otter's TFM concentrations in Vienna. The goal is to have TFM concentrations at a level to kill larval sea lamprey. The crews tested the pH of the water, as lamprey are more sensitive to the acidity of the water than native fish. The other goal is not to kill non-target species.

Aquatic technician Kevin Sullivan's job was to travel down the river in a kayak, observe for kill of non-target species and ensure there were no backwater areas or inlets where the larval lamprey can escape.

"Just to make sure they don't have fresh water to go into," he said.

Lamprey larvae live three to four years as larvae in rivers, feeding on algae and dead plant material. Then, as they transform into adults, they move towards the mouth of the river and spend 1.5 years feeding on fish as adults. Having a lamprey attached often kills fish, and one adult can kill up to 40 pounds of fish in its life. The adults return to the river, making a horseshoe-shaped depression in the gravel substrate, spawn and die.

Typically, the Big Otter is treated in the

spring, but water levels were too high this year.

"The snow melt had gone and we got a bunch of rain, so it was too high," Robertson said. "And it was too cold. If it's too cold, it affects the way the lampricide works."

The Big Creek treatment did proceed in the spring.

One of the first invasive species

The buzz around Great Lakes invasive species grew when zebra and quagga mussels colonized the lake starting in the late 1980s, but the sea lamprey has been around much longer than that.

Sea lamprey reached Lake Ontario via the Hudson River and Erie Canal in the 1800s, contributing to the demise of Atlantic salmon in the lake.

However, Niagara Falls stood in the way of sea lamprey reaching further into the Great Lakes for decades. Then, the commercial fishery for lake trout and whitefish in Lake Erie mysteriously began declining in the 1920s and 1930s. The decline coincided with the expansion of the Welland Canal, which started in 1919 and was completed in 1932. The commercial fishermen of the day were perplexed, and the scientists didn't have any answers.

The first recorded lamprey found in Lake Erie was in 1921, when a commercial fisherman pulled his nets and found one attached to a whitefish. Six years later, another was reported on the American side of the lake. Then, in 1937, several youths exploring a river in Lake Michigan found it swarming with lampreys and reported the discovery. Lamprey populations in the lower four Great Lakes exploded from there.

As a result, the commercial catch of lake trout dropped from 2.2 million pounds in 1940 to 760,000 pounds in 1946.

Fisheries scientists and politicians started to take notice. Research began at the Ann Arbor, Mich., U.S. Bureau of Fisheries lab in the late 1940s to find a solution. The first challenge was identifying the life cycle of the sea lamprey, which little was known about at the time.

Barriers and dams were experimented with, but these also stopped the passage of spawning fish. Research then focused on identifying a chemical that would kill lampreys without harming native fish.

"Killing fish is not that difficult," said Dr. Marc Gaden, executive secretary of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. "There are chemicals out there that will kill fish effectively. What is difficult is killing exactly the fish that you want to kill and not harming the fish you want to leave in the river or lake."

After five years of looking for such a chemical, TFM was found in 1957.

Another mystery was solved in the 1950s – why lamprey took a century to pass through the Welland Canal, which opened in 1829. The early canal was not much more than a ditch and was fed from water that came from the middle of the

Niagara Peninsula. There was no flow from one lake to the other. When the canal was upgraded in the 1920s, it used water from Lake Erie, and lampreys look for current. Essentially, the upgrade transformed the canal into a river.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission

With the demise of the Great Lakes fishery, political pressure grew for a solution involving both Canada and the United States. The formation of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in 1955 served as a catalyst for advancing fisheries science and implementing the sea lamprey control program.

Efforts for international cooperation date back to shortly after it was recognized there was a sea lamprey problem in Lake Ontario in the 1890s. A treaty was proposed in 1908 that established a bi-national committee to address lamprey and fisheries issues. Canada implemented the treaty's recommendations, but the U.S. didn't, causing Canada to cease following them. The treaty was dead by 1911.

By 1954, the decimation of fish by lamprey was dire enough in the Great Lakes that Canadian and American politicians came together again with the intent of intensifying work on the Great Lakes fisheries and lamprey control. After trying more than 40 times over the last six decades for international cooperation on fisheries, the United States and Canada signed the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries. The following year, the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission (GLFC) was established.

Since that time, the GLFC has evolved to assist with other scientific endeavors to protect fisheries, such as research on invasive quagga and zebra mussels, and a risk assessment of the Asian carp invasion.

Other control methods for lamprey have also advanced since the 1950s. An inflatable dam on Big Creek is timed to block the passage of lamprey but is deflated to allow spawning fish to pass. Other dams have been installed on smaller tributaries, such as Little Otter Creek, which fish can jump over but lampreys cannot.

Today, the Great Lakes fishery has rebounded and combined commercial and recreational fisheries are worth \$7 billion to the economies of the Great Lakes states and Ontario.

"We brought lamprey under control, probably beyond the wildest dreams of the people who set up the commission," Gaden said. "The sea lamprey population was reduced 95 per cent."

As for eradication, Gaden said that with each female lamprey laying 100,000 eggs, it's nearly impossible to eliminate the last mating pair using current technology. The commission and other researchers are looking at genetic manipulation to have lamprey produce all offspring of one gender, thereby thwarting reproduction.

"Eventually, you could use genetics as a control technique," Gaden said, estimating it would take 60 years for eradication.

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Highland patrol – Permanent full-time | \$31.10/hour

This role includes maintaining culverts, roads, roadsides and safety devices, and performing winter control activities, including snow plow operation. Valid Class D license with Z endorsement is required.

Apply by November 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Resumes are only accepted via email at hr@oxfordcounty.ca.

Please include the competition number in the subject line.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Christmas Bazaar
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Bake Tables, Penny Sale, Raffle with top prize of \$700.00, Lunch Tables.
Holy Family Church
329 Huron St, New Hamburg

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Special Council Meeting - Official Plan Review Public Information Session
7-9 p.m.
Council chambers
60 Snyder's Road W., Baden

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Christmas Bazaar
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Crafts, Baking, greenery pots, Raffle, White Elephant Tables. Hwy 7 behind McDonalds. Proceeds for Wilmot xmas hampers
Morningside Adult Community
New Hamburg

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Rosebank Church Gospel Music Concert
6:30 p.m.
Torchmen Quartet Gospel Concert. Free Will Offering.
Rosebank Church,
1434 Huron Rd. Petersburg

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Wilmot Council meeting
7-11 p.m.
Council chambers
60 Snyder's Road W., Baden

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 noon
Cost: \$14.00. Please register by Nov 21 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.
Linwood Community Centre, 5279 Ament Line, Linwood

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Experience Fanshawe at Open House
All locations are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Meet faculty and current students from all areas of Fanshawe. Drop-in and ask about your program interests, career options and becoming a Fanshawe student. Hear from college experts on student life, admissions, financial aid, and more!
Explore our campuses at London, Woodstock, Simcoe, St. Thomas, Clinton and Tiverton

Tavistock Men's Club Santa Claus Parade
1 p.m.
Meet Santa at Post Office for milk, cheese and candy. Theme- Decorating for the holidays
Float Registry - Family, Organizations, Commercial. Judged at 12:30 p.m.
Email: info@tavistockmensclub.ca or call 519-655-3573 or online: tavistockmensclub.ca for entry and details. Monetary donations collected for TAP along route.
Downtown Tavistock

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

42nd Annual Wilmot Lions / Lioness Club Tree of Light Ceremony
6:30 p.m.
Complimentary hot dogs and apple cider are being served, and we invite everyone to join us in singing carols and lighting our tree. A \$5 donation is always appreciated, and it lights a bulb on our tree. Funds raised go directly back into our community as always. We invite all children to enter our Snow Angel colouring draw.
Centennial Fountain by the Post Office, New Hamburg
Community Movie Night
7 p.m.
Zion United presents a community movie night featuring a favourite Christmas film. All are welcome. Doors open at 6:30 pm.
Zion United Church,
215 Peel Street, New Hamburg

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

The Maples Home for Seniors Christmas Bazaar
11-4 p.m.
Handcrafted treasures, baked goods, and unique gift ideas. The money all goes to support the Resident's Council to fund essential programs and activities. For more info call Joan of Marcie at the Maples.
The Maples Home for Seniors
94 William St S, Tavistock

MUSEUM/ARCHIVES EXHIBITS

The Plattsville & District Heritage Society Museum/Archives will be open for viewing of **Remembrance Displays and Memorabilia** on the following **Saturdays of November 8th, and 15th, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** All are welcome
816661 Oxford Road 22, Bright

The Chesterfield Museum & Archive will be open from **11 am to 3 pm on Saturdays, November 8 and 15** or by appointment to visit our **Remembrance Display**.

MORNING & EVENING BIBLE READING

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

STAMP CLUB

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

FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES

Tavistock Seniors Activities @ Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St. Tavistock ON, except Shuffleboard
Pickleball Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon, 12-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052
Cards Monday, Wednesday afternoon 1-4, euchre, crib (bring board), etc. Just drop in to play, good to bring someone. Contact: Bob Routly 519-301-2118
Inside walking Monday & Wednesday morning 8.30-12. Contact: Larry Brown 519-240-6715
Crokinole Monday, Wednesday morning 8.30-12, Just drop in to play, good to bring someone. Contact: John Schultz 519-655-2346
Shuffleboard @ arena, Wednesday 12:30-4 and Thursday 10-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052.
VON Smart Seniors Exercise, Tuesday and Thursday morning 9 - 10; Village Manor 10:25 - 11:25. Contact: 519-539-1231 x 6285



The
Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette

Deadline: Tuesday prior at 3 p.m.
Contact: thewtgazette@gmail.com

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

- The Community Calendar allows non-profit organizations to promote their free admission community events at no charge. Event listings can include your event name, date, time and location as well as contact information (ie phone number, email address or website).
- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette offers the following options for promoting your community events:
 - Coming Events Word Ad (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
 - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
 - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a Small Classified Display ad (3.3" x 2.5") - \$35 + hst

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Health equipment for sale. Hospital bed \$2450, Wheelchair \$240, Walker \$200, Toilet Chair \$25, Bathtub board \$20. All purchased new in September 2024, Call Shaun 519-716-1583

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Please send resumé by January 10, 2026 to:

musicandopera15@gmail.com

Attention: Karen Mychayluk

For more details visit: www.musicandopera.weebly.com

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

Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Paul | 7. Emmet |
| 2. Rome, Italy | 8. Amphibians |
| 3. 1987 | 9. The Treaty of Versailles |
| 4. Onomatopoeia | 10. Procter & Gamble (P&G) |
| 5. 360° | |
| 6. 11:00 a.m. | |

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