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AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE
Gazette Reporter

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

Jennie Burns created this heart of red autumn leaves while walking along Schmidt Woods Trail and shared a photo of it to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page. It's the perfect way to show just how much we've all been loving the beautiful fall weather we've been having.

Wilmot looking for public input on new official plan

Local activist encouraging resident involvement

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wilmot Township is preparing a new official plan and the public has an opportunity to get educated and provide input.

The township said the new plan will build on a long-term vision for growth with

a renewed focus on complete communities.

"This will include a range and mix of housing, employment opportunities, schools, recreational amenities, options for servicing, roads and active transportation while protecting natural heritage features and farmland," a post on the township's website states.

A public workshop is being held on Oct. 22 on the second floor of the Wilmot Recreation Complex, and it will kick off with a presentation to summarize several key areas of focus.

Andrew Martin is the township's manager of planning and economic development,

Continued on page 2

Wilmot council turns down offer to buy discounted new 100-foot aerial fire truck

Wilmot Fire Department's current ladder truck needs to be replaced soon, fire chief says

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Though Wilmot Fire Chief Rod Leeson spoke about the urgent need to replace the Wilmot Fire Department's 75-foot aerial ladder truck, township councillors have opted not to proceed with the sudden opportunity to purchase a 100-foot ladder truck at a reduced price.

At Wilmot's Oct. 6 committee of the whole meeting, Leeson presented the opportunity to purchase a KME 100-foot aerial apparatus from Dependable Truck-Tank & Emergency Vehicles at a cost of \$2.08 million. According to the fire chief, the opportunity represented a discount of roughly \$300,000 from the normal price of one of these trucks, however councillors would have needed to immediately approve the expenditure as part of the township's 2026 budget and provide a deposit within 24 hours of the meeting.

"We're looking at replacing a fire truck that is, right now, a 26-year-old aerial ladder truck," CAO Jeff Willmer told

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Public invited to help shape Wilmot's new official plan

Continued from page 1

and explained there have been multiple opportunities for early engagement and there will continue to be opportunities as Wilmot moves through the phases of developing the plan.

"Engagement opportunities include open public engagement, specific engagement with Indigenous communities, specific sector and local group/organization engagement, and council engagement. Council is involved in all stages of the development of the plan and is responsible for adopting the plan before its delivery to the province for final approval. The target for council adoption is June of 2026."

The Region of Waterloo and each lower-tier municipality had their own official plan that was required to comply with provincial law. As of Jan. 1 of this year, the region became an upper-tier municipality without planning authority. As a result, Wilmot was forced to develop a new plan.

One local activist planning on making his views known is Kevin Thomason.

"The Wilmot official plan is the most important document that most citizens will never read. It determines everything about the future of our communities – where we

will grow, how we will grow, what we will protect, what we will destroy, what sort of homes people will have to choose from, how we will travel, what the priorities are for our community and so many other things that will determine our quality of life for decades to come."

Thomason's biggest concern with the plan being downloaded onto the township is a lack of expertise among employees.

"Wilmot has an incredible challenge ahead of it. The Region of Waterloo had dozens of planning staff, demographers, population experts, cartographers and others focused on planning. Wilmot is now responsible for all this work ... and all sorts of long-term planning, but it has none of the staff, none of the expertise and was given no additional funding from the province when all of this was downloaded on Wilmot."

He added council foolishly asked for the responsibility and is now wondering how to pay for it.

"Part of our massive tax increase this year was to pay for another full-time planner, but that still doesn't come anywhere close to the skillsets and manpower needed. A consultant was hired to help with the

Wilmot official plan, and that is costing over \$400,000 for just a few months of work."

Thomason has been one of the most outspoken critics of the region's plan to acquire over 700 acres of prime farmland to be ready for a potential development. He explained preserving the township's agricultural land is one of his top priorities as the official plan is developed.

"We have one chance to come up with the plan for the next 30 years. Every developer and land speculator wants as much farmland development as they can get, yet our farmland destruction of 319 acres per day is unsustainable. People don't want distant, urban-sprawl homes. They want complete, walkable communities and to live close to all the amenities needed."

He added good planning looks like Baden, having a main street like St. Jacobs with thriving shops on the ground level and apartments above, a park, a town square, a seniors' home and a community centre residents could walk to.

"We already had the visionary plan that we needed for the future in the 2022 regional official plan that was unanimously approved here by Wilmot council and

overwhelmingly approved by regional council. It focused on complete, compact, walkable communities with housing choice and housing affordability, public transportation, active transportation/trails, farmland protection and greenspace preservation. We have to make sure that everything that was in that regional official plan is in the new Wilmot official plan."

Thomason explained Wilmot is at a crossroads, with the majority of citizens wanting it to remain a small community with modest growth.

"Remaining a rural, agricultural community or becoming the fourth major urban city in Waterloo Region are dramatically different plans for the future with far-reaching consequences for water, traffic, land-use and environmental degradation. Now is the time for people to demand the future they want."

Registration and more information are available at www.engagewr.ca/new-wilmot-official-plan/background-studies-public-workshop. Two sessions are available, one from 3-5 p.m. and the other from 6:30-8:30 p.m.



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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

With the ongoing Canada Post strike, delivery of subscriptions has unfortunately had to pause. As we did last time, we will be adding one week to your subscription expiry date for every week that the strike continues.

We apologize for the inconvenience and truly appreciate your understanding. Scan the QR code to find pick-up locations near you and stay connected with the good news!

Thank you for your continued support.

Wilmot council turns down offer to replace aging ladder truck at reduced cost

Continued from page 1

councillors. “A normal life expectancy for a vehicle like this would be 15-20 years, so if we assume 20, it is already well past its service life. If we don’t take this opportunity right at this moment, we will be looking to replace it almost immediately. So, within the next year or two, you are going to be buying a replacement truck.

“The replacement of our 26-year-old aerial apparatus at Station 3 (in New Hamburg) is now; it’s already overdue,” Leeson added. “This unit has served our community well, but it has exceeded its recommended service life, and it is no longer meeting the operational demands or safety standards required for modern fire response. We have a unique chance – a very unique chance – to secure a stock-built, 100-foot aerial apparatus that aligns with our fire masterplan, fits within our current station and comes at a significantly reduced cost.”

Leeson later noted that the current ladder truck was out of service for repairs earlier this year, which took longer than expected as the fire department searched for a replacement part. He said the truck is out of service more frequently as it continues to age.

While the opportunity was presented as too good to pass up and the chance to upgrade the truck from one with a 75-foot ladder to one with a 100-foot ladder would have allowed the township to put \$500,000 from the township’s development charges reserve toward the purchase, councillors were wary about committing to a purchase this size without understanding how it would impact the township’s 10-year capital plan or if it would mean the township would need to levy even more money from taxpayers down the road to continue building up its capital reserves.

“I appreciate the urgency of the situation and that this is a unique opportunity. My concern is we have a budget process right now that is not as clear as it once was,” Coun. Kris Wilkinson said. “We have a

new budget process that, still, I don’t think is 100 per-cent clear to the general public. We’ve committed to a nine per-cent capital-funding increase, which means we can expect, at a minimum, a nine per-cent starting point (for the 2026 levy increase).

“This is a concern for me because what I don’t have in front of me is a capital budget or a 10-year capital plan. I don’t know what other projects this is potentially going to impact. I understand it’s a priority ... but I can’t in good faith go forward with a purchase like this not knowing, really, truly, what other projects we may be deferring, we may have a direct effect on. I need to know if it’s going to get to the point where all of the sudden ... because we bought this truck, we also have to increase taxes X amount of dollars to fund this capital purchase because all these other items simply can’t be deferred.”

Without a township treasurer on staff, Wilmot councillors were initially left with very few answers as to how the purchase of this ladder truck would impact the township’s 10-year capital plan. Ultimately, council agreed to take a brief recess from the meeting to allow Willmer to bring the township’s 10-year capital plan to the council table.

Upon doing so, Willmer discovered that township staff and the previous council had intended to replace the aging ladder truck through long-term debt in the amount of \$1.35 million. While that would cover the majority of the remaining cost after using \$500,000 from the development charges reserve, Willmer could not tell councillors what the impact of that debt’s repayment would have on the township’s annual operating budget.

Though Leeson argued the cost of the same truck in two to three years time could be as high as \$2.6 million, potentially using up whatever additional capital funding the township will have set aside over that time, councillors ultimately voted 3-2 against the purchase.

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Oxford County warden lobbying for municipal governments to take on some school-board responsibilities

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan recently took to social media to share an idea proposing that municipal governments take on some of the responsibilities currently managed by school boards.

The county’s top elected official is a long-time critic of how boards are governed.

“It’s no secret that I think changes are needed to our school governance system, but a loss of local democracy by a transfer of decision-making to Toronto is not the answer,” he said in the video. “The good news is we can both change the governance system and keep a local democratic voice.”

Ryan admitted the local decision-making performance by the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) has been consistently flawed, but he is concerned about Toronto bureaucrats stepping in.

“If it is replaced with someone at Queen’s Park deciding where a school goes in Oxford County, that’s not better,” he said.

In April 2025, Ontario’s Education Minister Paul Calandra announced the government would place the TVDSB under supervision due to what was described as financial mismanagement and misalignment of priorities. The move followed provincial investigations into TVDSB’s

finances, including criticisms of spending on retreats for board officials and other discretionary expenses while facing budget shortfalls. The province has reduced the power of elected trustees and shifted authority over many day-to-day decisions to an appointed supervisor.

Ryan said he would have no interest in getting involved with curriculum decisions or labour negotiations, but he added schools are part of community planning, something local governments do every day.

“If we want to have a local democratic voice for our school boards, we already have local democratically elected councils. Oxford County administers a \$400-million budget and the school board’s budget is over \$900 million. The county portion is probably \$100-200 million. We could add that on to an Oxford County budget.”

He added that one of the province’s main concerns is fiscal responsibility, noting that many school boards are currently running deficits, while municipalities have maintained a strong track record of managing funds prudently and spending taxpayer dollars wisely.

“Oxford County, for example, has a AAA credit rating for a third year in a row. We manage physical assets like buildings and properties very well. The province of Ontario does not have a AAA credit rating. If you are looking for financially safe

hands and local democratically elected people who are accountable, I think we already have an answer to those things.”

Changes would need to be made to Ontario’s Education and Municipal Acts for Ryan’s idea to come to fruition, something he doesn’t take lightly. He added his lobbying has already begun and is gaining some traction.

“I have talked to mayors and wardens in the Thames Valley area and so far, every one of them is at least open to the idea. They see the value in gymnasiums that are only utilized during school hours for part of the year. There are soccer fields we duplicate. A lot of them share the same frustrations towards building schools in the wrong places, closing a school and then five years later, they come back and say enrolment is up and they buy land to build a new school.”

Ryan added if the province decided to embrace his idea, taxpayers would pay less in property and education taxes, and other shared spaces, such as parking lots and classrooms, could be better utilized by the entire community, not just students.

“In 30 or 40 years, the amount of duplication of physical assets would be dramatically reduced and the amount of access for residents for similar tax dollars would be dramatically higher. I have talked to people about this for so long, I just think it’s a no-brainer.”



(PHOTO COURTESY OF OXFORDCOUNTY.CA)
Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan

Ryan said his next steps are to keep talking to other councillors, mayors, wardens, MPPs and ministers.

“I have been having those conversations, and I will continue to have them.”

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Empty Bowls for Haiti returns

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

Empty Bowls for Haiti is back again this year, giving people in our community a way to help others.

Empty Bowls for Haiti takes place on Saturday, Oct. 18, at Steinmann Mennonite Church at 1316 Snyder's Rd. W, Baden. Guests are invited to enjoy delicious soup, live music and good company, all while supporting important work in Haiti. There are two sittings to choose from: 5-6:30 p.m. or 7-8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each and space is limited. Donations will also be accepted at the event, and tax receipts are available.

Empty Bowls for Haiti began in 2006 when Rosemary Arthurs teamed up with Lois and Lee Steckley to raise funds for Haiti. Their connection to the country was personal. At the time, their children lived and worked in Port-au-Prince, supporting local food systems and community development. Instability in Haiti's food supply is the result of many factors including deforestation.

Deforestation has been happening in Haiti for hundreds of years and continues to be a serious issue. Over the years, land has been cleared to make room for sugar, coffee and cotton plantations and to supply wood for cooking and refining sugar. Logging has also been an important source of revenue to help pay down government debt. In Haiti, much of the land is on steep slopes. As the topsoil erodes and dries out, it becomes harder to grow crops.

To find new farmland today, people cut down more forests, which leads to even more erosion. This cycle has hurt the land and the people who rely on farming, which

includes nearly half of Haiti's workers. To help understand the struggles faced in Haiti, Arthurs recommends reading the book, *The Uses of Haiti* by Paul Farmer.

All proceeds from Empty Bowls will go toward the work of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Haiti, particularly its reforestation and climate resilience projects in rural communities. Tree planting helps to prevent soil erosion, improve crop yields and provide sustainable sources of wood for charcoal, an important source of income for many families.

Empty Bowls for Haiti was first held in Carol Cressman's barn, but more recently, the event has taken place at Steinmann Mennonite Church. The event is entirely volunteer run with strong support from members of the Steinmann Mennonite Church and the broader community.

"Anyone who knows me gets dragged into it!" Arthurs jokes, highlighting the community spirit that drives the event year after year.

New volunteers are always welcome. Those interested can reach out to Arthurs by email at rsarthurs@icloud.com.

The concept is simple but powerful. Each guest selects a handcrafted pottery bowl donated by Dundee Pottery. Bowls are created by pottery friends and students of the studio. This year, over 600 bowls have been made for the event. Guests will have an opportunity to use their bowl to sample a variety of soups generously prepared and donated by area restaurants and organizations.

It's a great chance to enjoy a delicious meal, take home a beautiful bowl, and support a great cause. To register or learn more, visit <https://mcc.org/events/empty-bowls-haiti>.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ester Albrecht of Dundee Pottery sands the bottom of handcrafted bowls being prepared for the upcoming Empty Bowls for Haiti fundraiser.



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Wilmot council to approve commemorative/decorative crosswalk policy

Legion agrees to have township paint Veterans Crosswalk in time for Remembrance Day 2026

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Though the intent was to develop a policy that would allow for the painting of a commemorative crosswalk in New Hamburg to honour local veterans ahead of Remembrance Day this year, the establishment of such a crosswalk has been pushed to next year, but a township commemorative/decorative crosswalk policy is still moving toward approval.

At Wilmot's Oct. 6 committee of the whole meeting, councillors approved in principle a policy that would, once it's officially approved by council, create a framework for the establishment of commemorative/decorative crosswalks in the township. The impetus for the development of this policy came after council

asked township staff to work with the New Hamburg Legion Branch 532 on the installation of a Veterans Crosswalk on Huron Street near the New Hamburg Cenotaph this year.

The more-than \$18,000 cost of the original, Thermoplastic crosswalk design provided by Gentem Inc. was deemed too expensive by the Legion and the development of a simpler, less costly, stenciled design provided by the Legion was selected for a crosswalk installation in 2026 instead of this year. At the Oct. 6 meeting, councillors gave staff and the CAO approval to enter into a funding agreement with the Legion, as well as an agreement with the Region of Waterloo for the installation of the crosswalk on Huron Street, a regional road, next year.

Meanwhile, staff presented what was

originally called a decorative crosswalk policy to councillors for consideration at their Oct. 6 meeting.

"I was disappointed that they weren't able to do (the crosswalk) for this year, but I do understand," Coun. Lillianne Dunstall said. "Here's my issue; this is not a decorative crosswalk or sidewalk, and I just have a real issue with a veterans' crosswalk being included in that description. There are wars all over the world and I guarantee you that the people from Ukraine who left their countries and left their soldiers behind to fight and die would not consider a veterans' crosswalk to be a decorative crosswalk."

After a brief back and forth with Mayor Natasha Salonen, it was determined Dunstall was in support of the policy framework, but not its name or exact

wording, so councillors amended the policy to include both commemorative and decorative crosswalks in the policy.

In accordance with the new policy, all decorative or commemorative designs for crosswalks will be subject to council approval, and council reserves the right to approve or deny any application and may modify or remove any existing crosswalk treatments at any time without reimbursement to the applicant for fees associated with the application.

All costs associated with decorative or commemorative crosswalks will be the responsibility of the interested Individuals, community groups, or organizations, including a 50 per-cent security for repair or removal.

CORRECTION:

In the September 25 edition of The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette on our Bridal pages, the advertisement for

Tanorama Photo Booth Service included an incorrect phone number. The phone number should have been 365-994-5394. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

New Hamburg utility bills delayed due to postal strike

Payment due date to be extended

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thetwgazette@gmail.com

The Township of Wilmot is delaying delivery of utility bills to New Hamburg residents due to the ongoing Canada Post strike.

Bills that are typically delivered in mid-October are being held until further information is available regarding the duration of the labour disruption. The Nov. 10 due date will be extended to account for the delay.

Residents will be notified once bills have been issued and will receive an updated due date at that time. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to sign up for e-billing to receive future bills by email.

The township said it appreciates the community's understanding and patience during this temporary delay.

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Reep Green Solutions to plant 5,000 trees along Wellesley roadsides by 2027

Reep Green Solutions presents 25th-anniversary impact report to Wellesley council

By 2027, there could be as many as 5,000 new trees planted along roadsides in Wellesley Township, and another 4,000 trees planted along roadsides in Wilmot Township.

While presenting the 2024-2025 annual impact report for environmental charity Reep Green Solutions – the 25th annual report drafted by the organization – executive director Patrick Gilbride told Wellesley council at its Sept. 30 meeting that, as part of its efforts to enhance tree canopy in the region, the organization will begin planting a total of 9,000 native trees along roadsides in both townships this week.

“Starting this fall, inspired by Trees for Woolwich – you might have seen the tubes if you’re driving through Woolwich – we are teaming up with the Region of Waterloo and the Townships of Wellesley and Wilmot to expand this tree-planting program to roadsides in these townships,” Gilbride said.

“We secured some funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to do this, and we know this will help bring more trees and biodiversity to our rural roadsides.”

Funded in partnership with FCM, both townships, the region and Reep Green



Solutions, the 5,000 trees earmarked for Wellesley Township will be planted along roads including Moser-Young Road, Weimar Line, Kressler Road, Lobsinger Line, Hutchison Road, Ament Line, William Hastings Line and Manser Road.

When contacted for locations of the Wilmot trees, Reep Green Solutions did not provide specific locations, only indicating they would be planted along roadsides in Wilmot.

Gilbride said roughly 2,000 trees will

go into the ground by November and then planting will continue next year.

“We know there’s opportunity to plant more as well,” Gilbride said. “We’re hoping that this is sort of the start. Really, we want to make this a proof of concept so that we can pursue additional funding to plant more.”

“... In addition, the planning for this project has helped to facilitate the development of a shared platform for the tracking of tree inventory and asset management

for roadside trees in the right-of-way, which, to be honest, there has been a lack and there hasn’t been that information sharing across different municipalities in the region. So, we’re really excited that there’s some side benefits to this work.”

In addition to the new Roadside Tree Planting program, Gilbride also shared information on Reep Green Solutions’ other programs, including the native tree nursery, which produced 10,000 saplings in its first year; the Energuide Home Energy Evaluation; the Heat Pump Right-Sizing program; the Healthy Yards and Neighbourhoods program; the Community Canopy project; and Climate Action WR among others.

Over the course of its 25-year history, Reep Green Solutions has helped or encouraged the communities it serves to invest \$79 million in local renovations and retrofits, helped homeowners save a combined \$8 million through its energy programs and helped homeowners reduce a combined 30,000 tonnes of emissions through its Homeowner Energy Efficiency Consultations.

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Oxford MP's attempt to fast-track bail bill voted down

JEFF HELSDON
Gazette Correspondent

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna says people are dying on Canada's streets while the government delays working on fixing the nation's bail problems. Khanna's private member's bill, the Jail Not Bail Act, is intended to address the problem of repeat offenders being granted bail. He said with 1,600 violent crimes per day, many of these by repeat offenders and one-third of murders in the country committed by repeat offenders, there is no time to delay. Khanna's bill is number 10 on the list when the government starts

to debate private members' business. A date for that to start hasn't been set but will occur this fall. The Conservatives believe the bail problem is large enough that the Oct. 6 Opposition Day Motion was meant to speed up passage of the bill and not wait for the private member's bill process. "The Liberals and the other parties voted against fast-tracking the bill," Khanna said of the result of the lost vote. "They want it go through the normal channels." He believes the decision was made because of politics. He maintains it's not a political issue but one that

crosses party lines, with surveys showing 80 per cent of people want the issue fixed. Khanna pointed to calls for immediate action from B.C. NDP Premier David Eby and Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow. Khanna said he saw "zero cooperation" with an offer that would allow Liberals to pass the bill as their own, saying he doesn't have to take credit for it as long as there is action. "They want to continue business as it's supposed to be; they want to continue through normal channels," he said. The vote to move up debate of the bill was lost 196-142.

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Garden Wilmot members honoured for years of volunteer service

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

Members of Garden Wilmot were recently recognized for their outstanding dedication and years of volunteer service at a special Ontario Volunteer Service Awards ceremony held at Bingemans in Kitchener on Wednesday, Oct. 1.

The ceremony, one of 40 held across the province each year, celebrates volunteers who have made long-term commitments to organizations that strengthen their communities.

Representing Garden Wilmot, six members were recognized for their years of service: Shirley Becker (10 years), Sandra Cressman (35 years), Judy Rivers (20 years), Sharon Ross (10 years), Marilyn Sararus (30 years) and Janice Wagler (15 years).

Kitchener Centre MPP Aislinn Clancy and Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae attended the ceremony to offer their congratulations and present the recipients with commemorative lapel pins in honour of their service.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF JANICE WAGLER)

Pictured are Garden Wilmot volunteers honoured for their years of service at a ceremony in Kitchener on Oct. 1. From left are Sandra Cressman, 35 years; Judy Rivers, 20 years; Janice Wagler, 15 years; and Shirley Becker, 10 years. Absent: Sharon Ross and Marilyn Sararus.

Happy Thanksgiving



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THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Monday November 17, 2025 at 7:00pm

**Council Chambers,
Township Administration Complex
60 Snyder's Road West, Baden**

You are invited to attend a Special Meeting of Council on Monday November 17, 2025 at 7:00pm. This Special Meeting is being held at the early stages of preparation of a new Official Plan for the Township of Wilmot in accordance with Section 26 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended. Public input is being sought to inform Council and the Project Team of community priorities that should be considered through the development of Wilmot's new Official Plan.

WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL PLAN?

An Official Plan is a document that guides and shapes the future of a community by identifying where, and under what circumstances, specific types of land uses can be located within the Township's Municipal Boundary. An Official Plan applies to all lands within the Township. The purpose of the Official Plan is to direct development in a way that makes efficient use of land and infrastructure, creates attractive and livable communities with a variety of housing options, and protects the Township's cultural and natural heritage and agricultural lands.

WHY DOES WILMOT NEED A NEW OFFICIAL PLAN?

Township's current Official Plan was approved in 2004. It was updated in 2017 with approval in 2019. The new Official Plan will build on the Township's long-term vision for growth in the community to the year 2051.

As of January 1, 2025, the Region of Waterloo is an upper-tier municipality without planning responsibilities. The Region's Official Plan has become the responsibility of the Township as it applies to lands in Wilmot. Wilmot's new Official Plan will replace the existing Township and Regional Official Plans with one document and align with the new 2024 Provincial Planning Statement.

HAVE YOUR SAY

You are invited to provide input and participate in this Public Meeting, either in person or online. The meeting will be streamed live at www.wilmot.ca/YouTube. To participate in the Public Meeting virtually, please visit www.wilmot.ca/delegations as pre-registration is required before 12:00pm on November 17, 2025. Attendance in person does not require pre-registration. You may also:

- Provide written comment through mail to 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden ON N3A 1A1 or send an email to WilmotOP@wilmot.ca.
- Complete our surveys, polls and/or comments section throughout the duration of the project on the Township of Wilmot New Official Plan engage page at engagewr.ca/new-wilmot-official-plan.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, and for ongoing opportunities to offer your comments during the project, please visit the Township of Wilmot New Official Plan's engage page at engagewr.ca/new-wilmot-official-plan, or contact the project team to ask questions or learn more about the new Official Plan.

Contact Information

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

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

Email: WilmotOP@wilmot.ca

Wilmot township accepting applications for Prime Ministers Path committee

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Township of Wilmot is accepting applications for participation in a community steering committee that will guide the next phase of the controversial Prime Ministers Path project.

The project is being relaunched following a unanimous council vote in July, the result of an extensive community engagement campaign and recommendations from a working group. One of the group's key recommendations was to establish a committee made up of volunteers to oversee the reinstallation of the statues and develop inclusive, historically grounded educational materials to accompany them.

"We are seeking around 10 members for the committee," said township communications specialist Brett O'Reilly. "Applicants need to show a clear understanding of the project's objectives, bring subject matter expertise in one or more of the project pillars (funding, inclusion, education, location/site design and Truth and Reconciliation), demonstrate a collaborative approach and a willingness to consider a wide range of perspectives and appreciate the balance between celebrating the prime

ministers' successes and making the most of the educational opportunities arising from other aspects of their legacies."

Committee members will be required to establish terms of reference and begin exploratory outreach on funding since council agreed no more tax dollars should be used for the project.

"They will also be developing an educational framework to accompany the statues and create a thoughtful plan for the reinstallation," she added.

O'Reilly added the township is confident that there will be sufficiently qualified applicants based on the significant attention around this project and the interest generated through the last two rounds of public engagement.

"If we don't receive enough applicants in our first round, we will enhance our engagement efforts to ensure we gather a diverse group of individuals to help guide the next phase of the project."

Interested parties are encouraged to apply by completing the online application, available at www.wilmot.ca/pmp. Applications are being accepted until Oct. 31.

The names of the successful applicants will be announced at the Nov. 24 council meeting.



(FILE PHOTO)

Pictured is one of the statues from the Prime Ministers Path project, which will soon enter a new phase guided by a community steering committee. Wilmot Township is seeking volunteers to help oversee the reinstallation of the statues and develop inclusive, educational materials that reflect all aspects of Canada's history.

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Tavistock couple keeps their fall flowers blooming bright

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Bill and Janice McIntosh of Tavistock aren't letting fall slow them down when it comes to keeping their gardens looking their best.

The longtime farming couple, who spent their working years on Maplewood Sideroad in East Zorra Township, were spotted last week tending to the colourful flower beds surrounding their Woodstock Street South home — weeding, trimming and making sure everything stayed in top shape while the sun still shines.

In 2001, Bill and Janice McIntosh swapped homes with their son, Brad, and his wife, Tara, moving from the family dairy farm into town. They've enjoyed every minute of their retirement ever since.

"Milking cows was a way of life for us," Bill McIntosh said, "but we always had a big garden and plenty of flowers around the house, too."

Over the years, Bill McIntosh has been a familiar face in the Tavistock agricultural community. A former director with the Tavistock Agricultural Society, he was presented with an award of merit for his dedication to organizing the popular

horse show at the annual Tavistock Fall Fair.

Janice McIntosh shares that same spirit of hard work and pride in her surroundings.

"With all the good weather we've been having, that's what gets me up in the morning," she said with a smile.

Their son, Brad, and his family continue to run the McIntosh dairy operation, now using a robotic milking system in a modern, free-stall barn built in 2017. Brad and Tara's sons, Brandon and Evan, both work off the farm — Brandon as a junior engineer at Nuhn Industries in Sebringville, and Evan in sales at Ziebart-Uniglass.

Bill McIntosh still enjoys following horse shows, a passion he developed in his younger years showing commercial horses.

"It's nice to watch from the stands now," he said with a laugh.

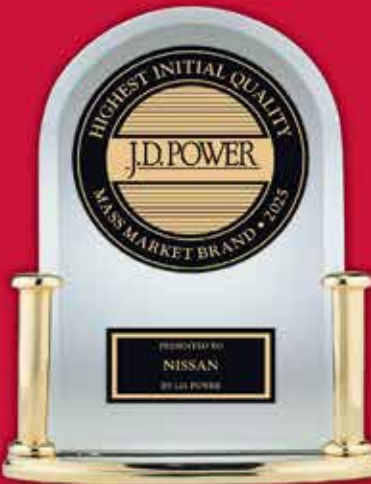
Married 63 years, the McIntoshes haven't let health challenges slow them down. They remain grateful for the visits from friends, neighbours and family that brighten their days.

"We've been blessed," Bill McIntosh said. "We're thankful for everything the good Lord has given us."



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Janice and Bill McIntosh stand beside the front flower bed of their Tavistock home last week, taking advantage of the sunny weather. We congratulated Janice for doing most of the weeding, but Bill added with a grin, "I'm here for moral support — and advice when needed."

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The Region advertises for applications from the public and appoints residents to various Boards, Commissions, Advisory Committees and other Special Purpose Bodies needed for a particular year(s) or Council term of office. These appointments give residents of this Region, from a variety of backgrounds, a chance to volunteer and become actively engaged as a member of a Board, Commission, Advisory Committee or other Special Purpose Body.

If you have any questions or would like to submit your application using an alternative format, please contact the Regional Clerks Office (regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca).

Interested residents and incumbent members are invited to apply for appointment to any of the following:

a) Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC)

Up to **nine persons** are required for a term of up to two years. ATAC will serve as a forum for the public to raise their viewpoints on particular active transportation issues and to advise Regional Council and staff on cycling and pedestrian issues. Residents from all areas of the Region are encouraged to apply to provide a balanced regional perspective on cycling and pedestrian issues.

Persons interested in serving on the boards listed above must file an application with the Regional Clerk before **4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2025**. Application forms are available on the Region's website:

- Go to www.regionofwaterloo.ca
- Select the "Regional Government" pull-down menu
- Select "Council"
- Scroll down the page for "Appointments" and then select the Advisory Committee/Special Purpose Body Applications Page

For more information contact the Office of the Regional Clerk at 519-575-4400 or regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca

Advertised positions on a particular Board may be filled by current members whose terms have expired and/or Regional Councillors, and therefore, the number of actual positions may be different from the number of advertised positions. All applicants will receive written notification about the result of their application.

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used to determine suitability for appointment. Questions regarding the collection of personal information should be referred to the Office of the Regional Clerk at 519-575-4400 or regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca

Trinity Anglican Church south of Tavistock receives long-awaited repairs

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The historic Trinity Anglican Church, located on Highway 59 just south of Tavistock, was getting some much-needed attention last week from one of the area's most dedicated caretakers.

Many of the region's older church buildings have closed over the years due to declining congregations, leaving few members to maintain weekly services and building repairs. Though regular services are no longer held at Trinity Anglican, the

church and its adjoining cemetery continue to see care and maintenance ahead of two annual services and the occasional family wedding for descendants of former parishioners.

That ongoing upkeep is thanks to 72-year-old caretaker Carl Clayton, who continues to repair and preserve the small church much as it was during its decades of active worship. When we stopped by, Clayton was busy repairing windows and applying fresh coats of paint under the late-summer sun.

His connection to the church runs deep. Clayton's wife, Sharon, is the daughter of longtime local resident Clifford Irwin, a skilled carpenter and lifelong church member who worked hard to keep the historic building in good shape over the years — from repairing the roof and installing new eavestroughs to maintaining the foundation.

A retired industrial designer, Clayton spent his career working for companies such as Timberjack in Woodstock, Dominion Chain in Stratford and Union

Gas in Chatham. His attention to detail and craftsmanship are clearly visible in the care he's given this church, which was built in 1847 and now nears its 200th anniversary.

With a family wedding scheduled in the near future, Clayton said his focus is on finishing last-minute details and "sprucing up" the building to ensure it looks its best for the special occasion. Judging by his steady pace and clear pride in the project, Trinity Anglican Church remains in good hands.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)
Carl Clayton repairs windows and frames on the south side of Trinity Anglican Church, two miles south of Tavistock, last week in the warm sunshine.



Carl Clayton pauses to share some of the church's history, noting it is approaching its 200th anniversary since construction in 1847.



Inside the historic church, the sanctuary remains much as it was for generations, with caretakers like Clayton preserving its original condition. Two services are still held each year for families returning to reminisce about the past.

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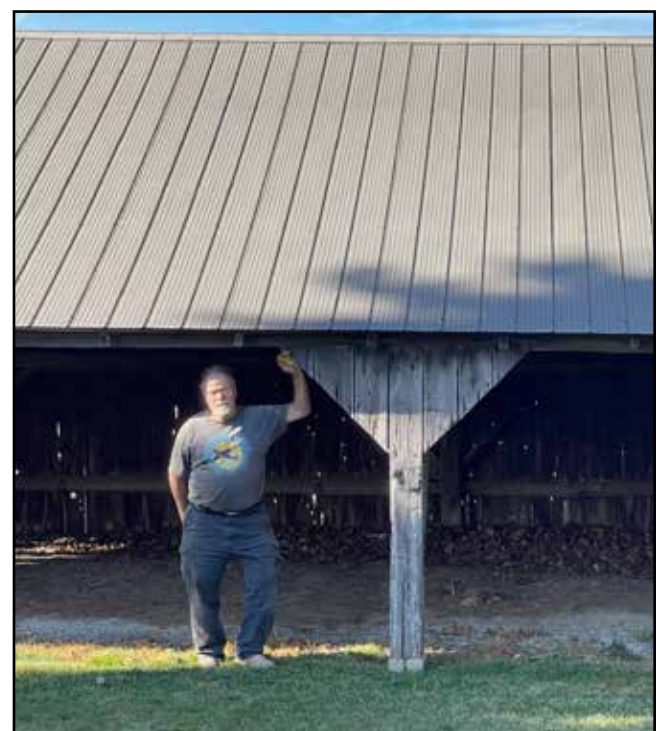
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The shed north of the church has also been carefully maintained. Clayton notes the original rings once used to tie up horses remain attached to a beam inside, and the building recently received a new roof.

Volunteer pilots take part in Air Bridge 2025 emergency response exercise at Stratford Municipal Airport

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

There was plenty of activity at the Stratford Municipal Airport on Saturday, Sept. 25, as Volunteer Emergency Air Corps (VEAC) pilots gathered for Air Bridge 2025, Ontario's first-ever general aviation emergency response exercise.

The one-day, live simulation was designed to test how small aircraft and volunteer pilots could support emergency management agencies during a large-scale disaster. Throughout the day, pilots used their skills to deliver supplies, transport responders and connect communities — just as they would in a real crisis.

With sunshine and clear skies overhead, the Stratford Airport — located north of the city in North Easthope Township — became the central hub for simulated emergency flights to several other municipal airports across Ontario.

"This event was Canada's largest general aviation-based emergency response exercise," Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma said during the day's proceedings. "It included participation from the Salvation Army, the CDRO Emergency Response Team, Feed Ontario, Radio Amateurs of Canada, the York University Emergency Drone Team and Queen's University's medical team."

The purpose of Air Bridge 2025 was to test and refine the Ontario General Aviation Emergency Response Plan, the first of its kind in Canada. Under the plan, volunteer pilots from VEAC are trained and ready to respond quickly when traditional emergency services need support.

As part of the exercise, pilots received mock emergency alerts, coordinated with other response agencies and flew simulated missions to deliver critical goods and

personnel. Their aircraft — which ranged from single-engine and multi-engine planes to helicopters and amphibious aircraft — were treated as vital assets in the province's disaster-response network.

VEAC volunteer pilots are asked to join a roster of trained responders who can be called upon in real emergencies. They work alongside K-9 units, medical and drone teams, and other specialized groups to provide rapid logistical support.

"It really shows how general aviation can make a difference when disaster strikes," said Tavistock pilot Peter Stolk, who flies his own plane out of the Stratford airport. "At the end of the day, the Stratford airport remains essential. General aviation is a very important community resource — especially with what the future could hold."

Ritsma echoed that sentiment, emphasizing the airport's strategic importance to Stratford and Perth County.

"Today's exercise reinforced how critical this facility is to our community," he said. "In an emergency, having a nearby airport with trained pilots and partners could make all the difference."

By the end of the day, the consensus among participants and observers alike was clear — Stratford and Perth County are better prepared for emergencies thanks to the training and dedication of the VEAC pilots who volunteered their time for Air Bridge 2025.



(PETER STOLK PHOTOS)

Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma speaks with a member of the United Nations training and research team on Saturday, reviewing the various organizations and partners that helped make the Air Bridge 2025 program possible.



Mayor Martin Ritsma, who has long emphasized the importance of Stratford's airport to the city and Perth County, takes part in the live emergency-response simulation.

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International Day of Rural Women set for Oct. 15

NANCY BIRSS

Association of Country Women of the World

Members of the Southern Ontario Support (SOS) ACWW Society are looking forward to joining women around the world in celebrating the International Day of Rural Women.

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is presenting a series of activities and events globally. Everyone is welcome to join ACWW online for two events during the day (or catch up with the recordings when you are ready). Visit acww.org.uk for more information.

This is a day where celebrating the voices of women is more important than ever, and ACWW is pleased to be hosting events which respond to calls for action and impact from our ACWW members, as well as launching the world president's new global appeal.

- Rural women's health: This informative session will be facilitated

by two health experts and aims to raise awareness about heart wellness, mental health and women's wellbeing. The session seeks to support rural women in addressing health issues which they may wish to follow up locally, and to promote healthier, happier living. Join online at 8:30 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 15. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZb4OL7Rbucj5n-M9EHhg# registration.

- Projects and advocacy: Learn about the work of ACWW's projects, community advocacy, the launch of the world president's new global appeal and to hear about exciting new initiatives (ACWW cooking packs and global updates from members). Join online at 10 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 15. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZb4OL7Rbucj5n-M9EHhg# registration.

registration.

ACWW has partnership status at the United Nations with UNESCO. We have members in over 80 countries with over nine million members around the world. We are incredibly proud of our diverse global network of women's organisations, and the women-led development projects we have supported over the past 50 years.

Rural women produce up to 80 per cent of food in developing countries, yet they are among the least likely to own land, access credit, or receive farming support.

ACWW supports women-led grassroots organisations to transform the lives of rural women. We believe that rural women are best placed to understand the challenges and identify solutions experienced in their communities.

ACWW's work is rooted in the fundamental principles of human rights, and we work on behalf of those left furthest behind. ACWW stands against discrimination in all its forms and works towards

gender equality, accessibility, global citizenship, solidarity with those facing discrimination and sustainable development.

If you care to support rural women internationally, do consider donating to ACWW. Your donation will help fund community-driven solutions that improve health, education and livelihoods for rural women. Funds for Rural Women in Action at ACWW can make a difference to the impact we make globally from local projects and activities to international efforts to safeguard the rights of rural women. Your support is very much appreciated. Visit <https://acww.org.uk/donate-to-acww> to donate.

For more information about the Southern Ontario Support Society and the Associated Country Women of the World, contact Nancy Birss at nbirss@uwaterloo.ca or visit acww.org.uk.

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LOW KMS - 37,645 KM + HST & lic

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Local 4-H winners from Tavistock, South Easthope and North Easthope with the Perth South-East 4-H Dairy Calf Club



(JENNY WEITZEL PHOTOS)

Novice Showmanship first-place winner Alex Neeb of Gadshill with Neebview Zippy Cookie Cream (left) and second-place winner Corbin Lindner of Gadshill with Shylane Patrick Jammie (right) are pictured at the Perth South-East 4-H Dairy Calf Club's recent achievement day show in Stratford.



Junior Showmanship: From right, first-place winner Gracie Weitzel of Tavistock with Carldot Leyhigh Lottery, and second-place winner Brooklyn Hyatt of Milverton with Spring View Victorious Fudge.



Intermediate Showmanship: First-place winner Addison Hyatt of Milverton (right) with Spring View Video Skibidi, and Deanna Halls of Stratford (left) placed second with Athlone Breakshot Jena.



Grand Champion Showperson: From right, Addison Hyatt of Milverton, Grand Champion; and Gracie Weitzel of Tavistock, Reserve Grand Champion. Honourable mention went to Brooklyn Hyatt of Milverton (not pictured).



Grand Champion Calf: From right, Spring View Video Skibidi for Addison Hyatt of Milverton, Grand Champion Calf; Carldot Leyhigh Lottery for Gracie Weitzel of Tavistock, Reserve Grand Champion Calf; and Spring View Victorious Fudge for Brooklyn Hyatt of Milverton, Honourable Mention (not pictured).

Waterloo County 4-H Sheep Show celebrates young handlers and farm traditions

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The next generation of sheep farmers in Waterloo Region had their chance to shine recently at the annual 4-H Sheep Achievement Day, held at the farm of

Susan and James Martin near Floradale.

Each year, the event gives young agricultural enthusiasts the opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with their animals and showing them before an experienced judge.

The Martins, who raise a large flock

of sheep on their farm, also hosted most of this year's 4-H meetings for the club, offering a perfect setting for members to learn and grow throughout the season.

It's worth noting that the Region of Waterloo is home to the first 4-H club ever established in Ontario, a proud distinction

that highlights the county's deep agricultural roots. Since that first club was formed, the 4-H program has expanded across the province, inspiring generations of young people to explore farming, leadership and community service.



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHARON GROSE)

Esther Koch was named champion with her ewe at this year's annual Waterloo County 4-H Sheep Show, held at the Martin farm near Floradale. From left are Waterloo County 4-H volunteer Lloyd Diehl, judge Allan Ribbink and the 4-H Sheep Club winner, Koch.



Young sheep enthusiasts learn quickly how to properly show their ewes at the 4-H Sheep Achievement Day, held at the Floradale-area farm of Susan and James Martin.

ANNIVERSARY



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October 12, 2025

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OBITUARY

Lorene (Martin) Bean



Passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at her residence at Nithview Community.

Lorene was a devoted and loving mother to Brenda (Horst) Ziemann and Gary (Nancy) Horst. She was a cherished grandmother to Rowan, Holland, and Carina Ziemann, and Kristine and

Ashley Horst. Lorene's legacy continues through her great-granddaughters, Hazel and Ivy Ryersee.

She will be fondly remembered by her siblings: Laverne (Elizabeth) Martin, Edmund Martin, Howard Martin, Ellen Dettweiler, Maurice (Phyllis) Martin, and James (Ruth) Martin, as well as her many nieces and nephews.

Lorene was predeceased by her beloved husband, Norman "Earle" Bean (December 18, 2024); her parents, Abraham S. and Ellen (Bauman) Martin; her sister Martha and brother-in-law Lawrence Martin; her brother Elmer (in infancy); sisters-in-law Joyce Martin, Esther Martin, and Doris Martin; and her brother-in-law Carl Dettweiler.

Lorene was a woman of quiet strength, deep compassion, and unwavering generosity. She lovingly knit hats, mitts, scarves, and other warm items for the Wilmot Family Resource Centre, always thinking of others in need. She was a dedicated volunteer with MCC New Hamburg and found great joy in reading, completing jigsaw puzzles, and solving word searches.

One of Lorene's proudest accomplishments was going back to school in her 40s and obtaining her diploma as a Registered Nursing Assistant. She greatly enjoyed her work with VON and Comcare Health Services, enriching the lives of seniors and others requiring in-home care."

Her kindness, warmth, and gentle spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Relatives and friends are invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, from 2 – 4 & 7 – 9 p.m. A graveside interment will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 10:00 at Union Cemetery, New Dundee. A Celebration of Lorene's life will be held in the chapel of the funeral home at 11:00 a.m.

As expressions of sympathy, and in lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to MCC New Hamburg, or if you wish the family asks that you donated any knitted items to the Wilmot Family Resource Centre in Lorene's honor as she took great pride in doing that.

Personal condolences can be posted for the family on the funeral home website at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

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



SUDOKU

by PeterS 2025

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

ANSWERS FOUND ON
THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette
Weekly Quiz
By Jake Grant

1. Where was Marco Polo born?
2. What is the name of Taylor Swift's newest album?
3. What is the maximum number of bitcoins that can exist?
4. How many US voting members of congress are there?
5. Who directed Casablanca(1942)?
6. Who is the Greek God of food?
7. What brightly colored monkey is the world's largest?
8. On what island was Jurassic Park located?
9. The Amazon river dolphins are what colour?
10. How many years did the "Great Plague of Milan" last?

Answers found on the classified page

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The Old Gazettes

By Sydney Grant

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

October 7-14, 2015, Edition (10 years ago)

Most young girls are happy to make colourful bracelets and charms with their "Rainbow Loom." However, 11-year-old Kayla Gushue is fascinated with what is called "Happy Foods" made from these colourful bands. Instead of making simple food shapes, she adds faces to make them come alive. "They look so cute," Kayla said. And because they all look so cute, she's given them all names – all 135 creations so far.

The Tavistock Braves and Woodstock Navy Vets started Friday night's warm-up with a sea of pink jerseys as the two teams met for a special Breast Cancer Awareness fundraising game. A special ceremony was held before the game as breast cancer survivors Ana Ritsma and Doreen Grasby came together to perform the official puck drop. The special game-worn pink jerseys were auctioned off after the game. There were also a number of other events and promotions geared toward Breast Cancer Awareness such as the sale of pink cupcakes, a 50/50 draw and a chuck-a-puck. A total of about \$700 was earned for the cause on the night.

The Annual Kitchener/Waterloo Area Ride for Refuge was held on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015. The ride (and walk) raised \$339,312.45, 113 per cent of the \$300,000 goal set for the 12th annual event. This year, there were 960 riders registered on 125 teams raising funds for 53 charities. Another 93 volunteers helped with the event held at Koinonia Christian Fellowship in Bloomingdale.

October 9-16, 1985, Edition (40 years ago)

The first meeting of the 1985-1986 Baby Band was held on Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. with 40 children and 27 mothers present. The children were delighted as they piled into cars with the mothers and made their way out to Orchard Park Farms, RR 6, Woodstock, where they were met by Kaye and Kathy Bickle. Kaye Bickle explained to the children and mothers how an apple tree grows and needs pruning and spraying while Tom Bickle demonstrated the different

tools used to prune and machinery to spray for insects.

The third meeting of the Tavistock Knifty Knits was held on Monday, Oct. 7, at the home of Christine Riede. The meeting opened with the 4-H pledge and minutes of the last meeting were read by Marsha Mohr. The roll call, "Show the pattern and fabric that you have brought and tell how your fabric should be cared for," was answered by the members. A discussion and book work on altering patterns and preparing fabric for cutting was completed. After the home assignments were handed out, the meeting was adjourned.

The Township of East Zorra-Tavistock council has instructed road superintendent John Appleton to investigate the cost of snow removal on the heavily travelled arteries in Tavistock by school children. The discussion followed a presentation to council by concerned parents of the village asking that snow be removed from the sidewalks in the winter on Hope Street East and Maria Streets as these are heavy traffic routes with a great danger to the children as well as elderly people.

October 8-15, 1975, Edition (50 years ago)

The Tavistock Midgets pose with their North Waterloo Rural Softball League Championship trophy. Players include Wayne Stock, Tim Roth, Dean Swartzentruber, Bill Middleton, Jim Ramseyer, David Bleay, Ron Heinbuch, Ross Yantzi, Brian Mogk, Pat Brenneman, Bradley Gimbel, Randy Lange, Bill Zehr, Kevin Ramseyer, Joe Yausie and Mark Fuller, with coaches Orval Bast and Duane Roi. The Midgets won their Softball League championship when they defeated New Dundee 6-0 in Tavistock on Sept. 26. Ross Yantzi was the winning pitcher, allowing only three hits and striking out eight batters. The Midgets ended their year with 27 wins in 44 games, losing 17.

The East Zorra-Tavistock council received a letter at their meeting last Monday saying the council will not receive a grant for \$10,200 expected from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. In fact, the letter said the township was overpaid \$3,900 in past years and the ministry is asking repayment to the province. The figure is calculated at \$50 per student that attends Fanshawe College in the township on the outskirts of Woodstock.

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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette SPORTS

PJHL roundup: Applejacks win seventh straight to take division lead – battle with Braves looms

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

Wellesley is sitting three points clear of second-place Tavistock in the Provincial Junior Hockey League’s (PJHL) Doherty Division standings after a pair of weekend victories.

Five of the Applejacks’ seven wins this season have come by a single goal, including a 5-4 home-ice decision against Norwich on Saturday. Wellesley roared out to a 5-1 lead by the 80-second mark of the third period before the Merchants poured in four straight goals to make it a game. Boden White’s first goal of the season early in the third period stood up as the game-winner. Nolan Carriere faced a barrage of Norwich shots in the third but managed to kick out 16 of 19 and 25 of 29 for the game.

“We are really happy with the record; it goes without saying,” said head coach Derek Lebold. “We have a lot of new bodies, but they have come together quickly. A lot of the games have been tight, but I think

that’s important early in the year. Grinding wins out leaves a little scar tissue which isn’t a bad thing come playoff time.”

The Applejacks won the Schmaltz Cup in 2023 but haven’t been able to make a playoff run since. Lebold said now that they are on top of the division, he knows teams are out to get them.

“Eventually, they are going to start gunning for us; I think we felt that in Paris this weekend. We stemmed the tide of their aggressiveness for the first 15 minutes of that game. I just like the way we are winning right now. Those tight games are character-building.”

The most anticipated game of the young season is booked for Saturday night in Wellesley when the Applejacks take on the Braves. Lebold said it’ll be an awesome night.

“Thanksgiving weekend; I imagine a lot of families will be back in town and the crowd will be rocking. We’re excited. It’s always a good rivalry. They’re an impressive outfit and their offense is really

strong. We’re looking forward to the challenge and our guys are super pumped, and we will be well-prepared.”

The PJHL offers video access to every game, something Lebold said they have taken advantage of to prepare for Tavistock.

“We don’t necessarily get to many games because of our work and hockey schedules, but the league video allowed us to watch film from their last few games. Our staff does a great job of that and brings it into our practices.”

On Sunday, the Applejacks downed the Titans in Paris by a 5-1 count. Ian Speiran scored once and added three assists. Riley Noble, Luke Schofield and Ben Morton all added a goal and a helper each. Speiran is among the league leaders in points with five goals and 11 assists, just three points back of Hanover’s Elliot McCarey.

Wellesley goalie Logan MacMillan is among the league’s top netminders with a 1.72 goals-against average and a .934 save percentage. The 17-year-old Gadshill

native played in the Huron-Perth AAA Lakers U18 program last season. He is undefeated in four starts.

Braves win, Firebirds continue to struggle

Tavistock took two points out of its lone weekend game, a 6-2 win on home ice Friday night. Ryan McKellar and Yann Raskin each scored twice to lead the attack. Even Palubeski assisted on three Braves goals while Carson Bernhardt added a goal and an assist. Tavistock scored three times on the powerplay while Blake Richard stopped 24 shots to earn the win. Palubeski and Raskin are in the top 20 in PJHL scoring with 13 points apiece.

New Hamburg split a pair of games but did move into sole possession of sixth place in the Doherty Division. The Firebirds lost 6-5 in Paris on Saturday despite a three-assist performance from Keegan Metcalf and two goals from Aydan Burns. The team bounced back with a 4-0 win in Hespeler on Sunday, thanks in part to Deklan Jermol’s shutout performance.



Tavistock Braves’ forward Evan Palubeski carried the puck by Dorchester Dolphins’ defence-man Wyatt Adkins. Palubeski had three assists in the Braves 6-2 win on Oct. 3, and with the win, as of press time, the Braves sit second in the South Doherty Division, three points behind the high-flying Wellesley Applejacks, who sit atop the division with 14 points and a 7-1-0-0 record, and who the Braves meet on Oct. 11. Before that, the Braves visit the New Hamburg Huskies on Oct. 10, who are in seventh place as of press time with a 2-2-3-0 record.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTOS)

Tavistock Braves’ forward Yann Raskin fires a penalty shot at Dorchester Dolphins goalie Brandon Mancari. Raskin scored a pair of goals in the Braves’ 6-2 win over Dorchester on Oct. 3, one of which was the eventual game-winning goal. Ryan McKellar also had a two-goal game for the Braves, with single goals also coming from Carson Bernhardt and Jacob Reid-Brant.

PJHL CURRENT STANDINGS																					
South Doherty Division									GP	W	L	OTL	T	SOW	SOL	PTS	OTW	GF	GA	DIFF	PCT
1	Wellesley Applejacks	8	7	1	0	0	0	0	14	3	32	23	9	0.875	0.000	149	4	7	7-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.582
2	Tavistock Braves	6	5	0	1	0	0	0	11	0	31	14	17	0.917	0.000	122	5	5	5-0-1-0	0-0-0-0	0.689
3	Norwich Merchants	8	4	3	0	0	0	1	9	2	29	31	-2	0.563	0.000	130	2	4	0-1-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.483
4	Woodstock Navy Vets	8	4	3	1	0	0	0	9	0	40	30	10	0.563	0.000	120	4	4	3-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.571
5	Paris Titans	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	8	1	27	35	-8	0.500	0.000	117	3	4	0-1-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.435
6	New Hamburg Firebirds	7	2	2	3	0	0	0	7	0	26	22	4	0.500	0.000	114	2	2	1-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.542
7	Dorchester Dolphins	7	2	4	0	0	1	1	5	0	21	24	-3	0.357	0.000	113	1	1	0-3-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.467
8	Hespeler Shamrocks	8	2	5	1	0	1	0	5	0	12	39	-27	0.313	0.000	212	1	1	0-5-1-0	0-0-0-0	0.235

Tri-County Mennonite Homes hosting Wendel Clark fundraiser

Progress being made on New Hamburg long-term care home

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It might be difficult to draw a similarity between one of the toughest hockey players to ever lace up in the National Hockey League (NHL) with the building of a long-term care home, but for Dr. Steven Harrison, it makes perfect sense.

Tri-County Mennonite Homes (TCMH), a non-profit organization, is in the process of building and fundraising for its new home in New Hamburg, and Wendel Clark will be in town in November to raise money for the cause. Last year, the organization held a successful event with former Leaf legend Darryl Sittler.

"If you have something that works, why mess with it?" said Harrison, the executive director of Tri-County Mennonite Homes. "We had great success the last time, and we had people who said we should keep bringing people from the sports world. It's a big hockey community."

Harrison added New Hamburg has its Junior C team, along with huge boys and girls minor hockey organizations.

"There are a lot of hockey parents and it's the right age bracket. We are bringing folks in and drumming up that nostalgia from what the Leafs were a few decades ago."

Clark is among the most beloved alumni of the Maple Leafs, and it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that interest in the evening is palpable.

"We've already sold a few tables and other folks are buying tickets, so we are in a good spot. It's about bringing people together to celebrate and enjoy an evening out and listen to some hockey stories," said Harrison. "We are getting people in a room who are supporters of our organization."

Harrison explained events such as the Clark fundraiser are an opportunity to celebrate with the community and the people who have supported TCMH historically and throughout the new build.

"Now we can actually give them some timelines on when this project is going to be done, when it will open and how they can continue to participate and contribute, if possible. We are going to be one of the largest employers in Wilmot Township going forward."

He explained he isn't ready to provide a precise update on the fundraising efforts and construction project, but he is confident he will be able to divulge more information at the Clark event. Harrison did say the project is going well.

"The construction itself has been going

quite smoothly. You never know what you don't know when you are about to dig into a greenfield where no one's really done work before. We had good prep work and some commitment up front led to us not having any remarkable surprises to derail us or slow things up."

Final inspections for the new home are anticipated for June or July 2027. Harrison said he couldn't be more pleased with the community's support for the project, beginning with Wilmot Township's decision to waive development charges, a move made before the province implemented its ban on municipalities charging development fees for long-term care projects.

"It was a statement of commitment from the township about how important it was to develop elder care for our community. From there, we've only picked up momentum. As soon as we had shovels in the ground, we had lots of foot traffic, car traffic, telephone traffic and emails. People started to connect and said this is fabulous."

Harrison explained that from a timing perspective, they were able to overcome the Ford government's election call early in the year.

"The province really wanted to participate in communications around this project, so we got quiet and the work started without a formal announcement of what was going on. Once the election was over, the government was reinstated and cabinet was selected, we were able to release our broad communications out to the community. It was at that point people started to rally behind us."

He added the residents at the current long-term care home have a front-row view of the new build.

"They sit in the dining room and can watch what's happening all day or sit on the outdoor patio. We've had to encourage them to sit back from the fence a little bit because they like to have a real close-up view. It is an incredible thing to watch people's faces as they see the construction coming together."

Harrison said TCMH is proud of the first 50 years of its existence and is looking forward to the next 50 with a new long-term care home.

The fundraiser event is being held at Puddicombe House on Saturday, Nov. 15, and features a three-course dinner. Doors open at 5 p.m. when Clark will hold an autograph session. Tickets can be purchased at <https://tcmhomes.com/donate> and there will also be a live and silent auction.

with the most sportsmanlike award for his play this year, while Nora Moloney was presented with the most improved award. We regret any confusion or disappointment this may have caused.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Work on the new Nithview Long-Term Care Home in New Hamburg started in February. Tri-County Mennonite Homes executive director Dr. Steven Harrison said construction is on schedule and the home is on pace to open on schedule.

TCMH PRESENTS...

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CORRECTION:

An omission was published in the story, "Shakespeare sports banquet celebrates youth athletes," on page 26 of the Oct. 2 Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. Two players on the Shakespeare U7 1 ball team were missed. Lennix Graham was presented

MINOR SPORTS **SCRAPBOOK**



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Jack McNeil releases a shot off the rush during the U11 B Boys New Hamburg Huskies game last Saturday.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Andrew Roy hunts down a loose puck during last Thursday's U12 Minor A New Hamburg Huskies game.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Cayden Bourassa fires a shot on a breakaway during the U18 A Boys New Hamburg Jr. Firebirds game last Thursday.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Maya Rempel launches a shot from the point during last Saturday's U18 C Girls Wilmot Wolverines game.

Royals take OEHL opener over Aeros

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

The Tavistock Royals outshot Dunnville 45-27 on the way to a resounding 7-4 victory in the opening game of the Ontario Elite Hockey League (OEHL) season.

The Royals are playing in the OEHL's south division after the league experienced unprecedented growth during the off-season thanks to the demise of the Ontario Super Hockey League.

Drew Gerth and Patrick Vulcan had three points each to lead the offence, while

newcomers Mitch Atkins and Kyle Soper added a goal and assist each. Another rookie, Joseph Clark, stopped 23 of the 27 shots he faced to earn the win. The 23-year-old played for the Elora Rocks last season.

Head coach Tyson Zehr said it was a solid start to the regular season.

"I was happy with how the guys came out and played with energy right from the start. We stuck to the game plan and supported each other well. That said, we gave up a few sloppy chances that we need to clean up, but overall, it was good."

Gerth and Vulcan have years of experience in senior hockey and have been consistent, offensive performers for the Royals. Their importance isn't lost on Zehr.

"They're huge for us. Their experience and leadership really set the tone, and they know how to step up when it matters."

As for Soper and Atkins, Zehr said the pair of newcomers adds some explosiveness to an already deep offensive lineup.

"Those two are exciting to watch. They bring speed, skill and energy, and they aren't afraid to compete. They've already

made an impact, and it's great to have that kind of depth this year."

He added Clark will be an important part of the Royals but goaltending will likely be completed by community.

"He has been solid so far. We're expecting him to play a big role this season, but we have three good goalies who will give us a chance to win every weekend."

Next action for Tavistock is Friday night as they host another new OEHL team, the Delhi Flames. Game time is 8:30 p.m.

Tavistock's curling season ready to start rockin'

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Calling all curling enthusiasts in the Tavistock area; the local curling season is just about to begin, and organizers are encouraging both seasoned players and newcomers to get involved.

According to longtime curler Glen Weitzel, registration for the Tavistock Curling Club has been extended to Oct. 15 due to the postal strike, giving residents a bit more time to sign up. The club is also seeking participants for its popular Learn to Curl program, designed for those interested in trying the sport for the first time.

Anyone interested can visit tavistockcurlingclub.ca for more information or to register.

Weitzel says the club is deeply

grateful to its many sponsors whose continued support makes it possible to maintain the ice and offer programs for the community year after year.

Ice logo sponsors include Dairy Farmers (Danen/Brenneman), B-W Feed and Supply, D&D Electric Ltd., Denise Drinkwalter, Five Star Custom Concrete, Premier Equipment Ltd., Quehl's Restaurant and Catering, Tavistock IDA Pharmacy, the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette, Yantzi's Home Building Centre and Zehr Automotive.

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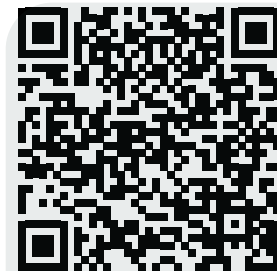
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How my grandsons turned a fashion miracle into roadkill

DRESS SHARP.
SPEND SMART.



By Scott Dunstall

So, I'm starting to write this with no clear idea of what I'm going to talk about because I've been completely immersed in a new client who's taking me in marketing directions I never thought I'd be in five years ago. And I'm thankful for every minute of it, even at two in the morning. Still, I feel like I'm doing everything else half-baked. Anyhow, I feel better for venting, and now I know exactly what I'm going to talk about:

My friggin' Michael Kors blue leather bomber jacket.

It was one of my favourites. It went perfectly with jeans and just about anything else. I even wore it in the summer with shorts at night. Dress shirt? A crisp, white button-down looked sharp. Polo? Pretty much any colour worked, and you could get away with a size smaller if you really liked the shade because the jacket had enough give to cover those imperfections around the equator.

It's tough to find a good spring/fall/summer piece that works with everything. It had chrome zippers on the side and chest; flashy, but not in an Elton John kind of way. I thought it was a stunning, elegant piece. You notice I'm using the word "was" a lot?

So, I was wearing it at a dinner meeting Lil and I attended, and I kept it on. When we turned to look at the speaker, she caught sight of my back and said, "Oh my god, what happened to your jacket?" I said, "What are you talking about?" And she said, "You've got two big slash marks in the back of it."

The blood rushed from my face. I tried to jump to my feet, but my legs were wobbly. I steadied myself by grabbing somebody's head and then I yanked it off. There they were. Like two portals to hell. I thought, how could this happen and me not know it? It looked like I'd lost a knife fight. Then, I thought maybe somebody didn't like me, like that Carrie Underwood song about keying some guy's truck.

I asked my buddy, Lou Divita, if he could think of anyone. Nope. Then it hit me. I'd had it in the back seat when I drove my two grandsons to mini golf. Of course, it was the usual MMA showdown in the backseat, and my jacket was caught right in the middle.

And then the memories came flooding back. I remember the day we met. It was magic right from the start. Hard to believe I found it at the end-of-summer clearance rack at Winners five seasons ago for 59 bucks. Then I brought it home to meet the family, and they loved it too – so much that a few of them nearly "borrowed" it permanently. We went through a lot together.

My first instinct was to rush it to the nearest emergency tailor department. I couldn't wait for the clothesbalance, so I threw it in the back seat and drove to Rosie's on the Boardwalk. Sorry, Shop Local fans, but that was the only place I could think of; we'd driven by it that morning and I was in full panic mode. What was I thinking? It was late and everything was closed.

I kept vigil that night as that jacket drifted in and out of consciousness, screaming in pain. Well, sort of. At least it felt that way. Long story short, Rosie said there was nothing more that could be done, and that was that.

This has all been tongue-in-cheek, of course, but the incident did pull me out of my "Oh my God, The Bay is gone" funk since April. It gave me a reason to start scouring for a replacement, both online and in the few stores still standing – Stars, Gadsby's and, of course, Winners. And just like a kid taken to the pet store to replace Fido or Boots, now resting under the tulips in the back garden, I found my new puppy.

Not blue this time, but brown distressed leather with a funky finish. Bomber style, blingy zippers and buckles, goes with anything, medium fit, and the designer is XRay.

If you haven't been out to a Marshall's or Winners lately, give them another look. I am, especially now that the heat's gone and the first wave of sweater-and-jacket hunters is about to hit.

Scott Dunstall has been on a stylistic journey for over 10 years. His belief is that every guy has a style of their own. When it's discovered, it empowers and builds confidence. Scott has appeared several times on Rogers TV Kitchener as a guest on DAYTIME. His writing has been republished by LinkedIn Top Influencer and INC. Magazine contributing editor, Jeff Haden. He has also written several pieces for the Baden Outlook. You can follow Scott on Instagram @everydaystylebyscott or on LinkedIn @scottdunstall or Life & Style Wilmot on Facebook. Feel free to ask questions or propose collaborations: everydaystylebyscott1@gmail.com.

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Gazette Puzzles

2025 BLUE JAYS PLAYOFF ROSTER

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Shining light on the liver

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



This week, the spotlight is on liver health. After sharing an article in September, the number of readers who reached out regarding visceral fat was astonishing.

A quick recap from my article, “Is walking enough exercise for losing fat?” Visceral fat is the fat that wraps around your organs. It’s normal to have a minimal amount to cushion and protect organs but too much leads to heaps of health concerns from diabetes to heart disease and even a stroke.

Do you have high visceral fat? Waist size is a good place to start. Wrap a tape measure around your waist over the belly button and take notice. Women over 35 inches and men over 40 inches are candidates for a fatty liver. Is your body mass index (BMI) 30 or higher? Do you know your hip-to-waist ratio? A ratio over 0.85 in women and 0.90 in men puts you in the danger zone. What’s your body type? Do you resemble an

apple or pear? In this case, fruit is not fabulous! Answering any of these questions with a yes is a red flag. This is your sign to run not walk for an Inbody scan or bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) at a nearby gym or reach out to a doctor for a CT scan, DEXA scan or MRI.

Visceral fat can be reduced.

Exercise is essential and subcutaneous fat, the pinchable fat, will start to disappear as well as visceral. More muscle equals more fat burning. Aim to exercise five days a week for at least 30 minutes. Walking counts as exercise, but strength and high-intensity interval training (HIIT) is the fast track to the desired outcome. Farewell fatty liver forever.

Sleep is key to controlling cortisol, enemy number one. The average adult requires seven or more hours of sleep nightly. Following the body’s natural circadian rhythm is crucial, as we are regulated by the light-dark

cycle Mother Nature designed. Life’s chaotic pace makes the need for a sleep protocol paramount. Wind down the day with a mug of calming chamomile tea. Soak in a warm Epsom salt bath. Eliminate blue light. Drop the household temperature. Wear a sleep mask, earplugs and, if necessary, look into taking the supplement melatonin. Resting repairs the body.

Stress is enemy number one, putting us into flight-or-flight mode, and unfortunately storing more fat. Everyone has their own way to deal with life from snuggling a fur baby to a run to knitting. Just make sure yours is a healthy option.

Avoid alcohol at all costs. Fatty liver was once thought of as something heavy drinkers and alcoholics suffered from exclusively. Today, children are being diagnosed with a fatty liver thanks to the Standard American Diet. The bulk of the population is eating an array of overprocessed packaged foods. Seed oils and trans fats are toxic to the body, and sugar is not only toxic but highly addictive. Kicking sugar would be the best way to show self-love today and forever. Please don’t start a trendy diet. The word has D-I-E is even in the word diet. Simply eat whole foods without ingredients, and say so long to the socially accepted drug, sugar.

The liver is a busy organ with



(VECTEEZY PHOTO)

The liver is one of the body’s hardest-working organs, performing more than 500 vital functions — but excess visceral fat can put it under serious strain. Supporting liver health through proper nutrition, regular exercise, and stress management can help prevent fatty liver disease and promote overall well-being.

over 500 jobs. Supporting this overworked organ will improve detoxification, digestion, boost immunity and store fat-soluble vitamins. To help the organ thrive, it’s vital to keep visceral fat low. Show the liver love with a myriad of minerals, antioxidants and vitamins for maximum maintenance. Meal planning should include boatloads of beets, dandelion-root tea, gads of garlic, green tea, cruciferous veggies,

gorgeous greens and a bounty of berries. Milk thistle is a super supplement and can be taken as a liquid or a tea. Stay hydrated.

The good news is visceral fat is easier to lose than subcutaneous, so even though you can’t see the progress, keep going and retest in a couple of months. Leading a happy, healthy life leads to longevity.

There’s no quick fix, my friends.

I share this advice with every home seller I work with

EXPERT REAL ESTATE ADVICE

By Isabel Livingston



Selling your home is a huge decision. You want to do it right. I tell every seller I work with these few tips to help them get the most out of their experience.

Pricing is one of the most important aspects of listing your home, and it’s crucial that it is positioned just right. Today’s buyers have access to a multitude of information that allows them to access comparable listings as

well as the selling prices of other homes. If priced even a little bit too high, the consequences can be detrimental; no showings, little action and becoming stale. After 30-60 days on the market, buyers may begin to wonder why the home isn’t selling and that can lead to the false belief that there may be something wrong with the home when, in fact, nothing is wrong at all. This is especially

important in today’s market!

Presentation is extremely important; a home is bought with emotion and backed by logic. What this means from a buyer’s perspective is they are going to want to be able to walk through your home and envision themselves living in it. How you are currently living in your home may be perfect for you, but it isn’t necessarily perfect for every single buyer. That’s why sometimes a team of stagers or doing some simple decluttering can be helpful. When a buyer feels emotionally attached to a home, they are likely to bring their strongest offer as quickly as possible in fear of missing out.

Before listing, make sure all of the tiny touch-ups and fixes that need to be made are taken care of. Things such as loose doorknobs or squeaky floors, a missing

cabinet handle or old furnace filters all need to be addressed. Try to think “move-in ready.” One of the biggest values we see is a fresh coat of paint. The cost of paint is invaluable with the boost in condition/value it provides.

Find the best realtor for you. The importance of this cannot be stressed enough. You need to find someone who works well with you and your family. So how do you find the right agent? Here are a few pointers to help you.

- You want someone who knows the local area and market inside and out.
- Choose someone who has a broad network and will be able to market your home to other agents that may have potential buyers.
- And lastly, you want someone who has a strong history of getting homes sold

and purchased quickly.

You need a specific, tailor-made marketing plan just for you. No two homes are the same and therefore, each approach should be taken differently to best showcase the unique qualities of the individual home. Your home deserves to be marketed aggressively. The more people who see your home, the more prospective buyers there will be. A curated marketing plan that targets social-media platforms, print media, neighbourhood targets, open houses, email blasts and much more is what you need.

For questions or future article suggestions, feel free to reach out anytime to connect at ilivingstonsells@gmail.com or 226-232-4236.

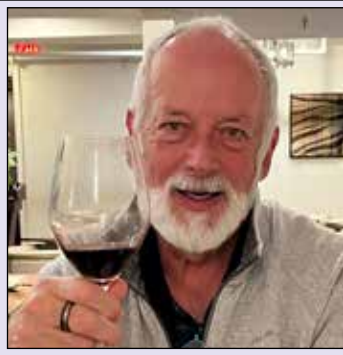
Isabel Livingston is a sales representative at Gale Group Realty Brokerage Ltd.

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CONTACT EDITOR GALEN SIMMONS AT GALEN@GRANTHAVEN.COM**

Taste sensations in the south of Spain

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



I came home from Spain determined to replicate at least two of the amazing taste treats we had enjoyed there: paella and sangria. I didn't know what I was setting myself up for.

It goes well beyond paella and sangria; the south of Spain is a cornucopia of flavours, and we had the chance to sample many of them. The sundry small dishes, both hot and cold, served as tapas, either as appetizers or gathered on a larger plate to make up a delicious meal; the fruit and vegetables, especially the citrus fruit; the fresh fish of all kinds; meats, cheeses and olives, olives, olives.

And, of course, wine, especially the very good, very cheap Rioja wine.

But let's start with paella. Paella is a very common Spanish rice dish. You start with rice and add stuff. Okay, perhaps the recipe is a bit more complicated than that, as ably demonstrated by the chef in Torremolinos who gave us a lesson in making paella.

First point – this ain't any ordinary rice. This is round rice, or bomba rice.

In our particular case, the chef must have had some of his budget left over from the previous fiscal year, because he splurged. The ingredients of this particular paella included astonishingly big (and, it turned out, over-the-top delicious) prawns that cost 200 euros, just for this paella. He then added two other kinds of shrimp, mus-

sels, clams, three or four kinds of fish, calamari, onions, red peppers, garlic, saffron – probably more expensive than the prawns – olive oil (of course) and broth, each added at just the right time.

And then – this is one of the tricks of paella – it sits and simmers in the shallow frying pan for a long time without burning.

It was amazing.

And then the sangria. I have always enjoyed sangria, or at least I thought I did, but what I have enjoyed here has been a concoction of red wine, some kind of juice and chopped fruit. Our Spanish hosts would use this to water grape vines, maybe.

Our young, jovial sangria mentors broke out bottle after bottle, in the end producing utterly delicious and significantly powerful sangria. They use red wine, of course – Rioja, in fact, specifically Anciano Old Oak Tempranillo – Fanta orange, of all things, and then the alcoholic dynamite: generous, 10-second pours of Triple Sec, another of Sweet Vermouth, and perhaps a bit longer pour of a Spanish liqueur called Licor 43. Add four spoons of sugar for each jug and sundry fruits – we had apple, oranges and perhaps some other unidentified species. All we knew, after generous tastings, was that this was sangria to die for and our home-grown, simple recipes would never again suffice!

We brought these recipes home with us, but one highlight of the

trip – a lunchtime repast served in the home of Maria, our Spanish hostess – brought us no new recipes.

That doesn't mean we didn't want them, but friendly, jolly, lovely Maria absolutely refused to share her secrets with us. The meal began with a board of cold meats, cheeses, bread, olives and a salad. Second course, an egg soup. The main included pork and scalloped potatoes. Dessert, we called Custard de Maria, because it was wonderful and unidentifiable. And Maria was no help – just as she wasn't when we asked for the recipe for her amazing cookies, served with coffee.

By the time she had smiled and refused to divulge secrets through several courses, we gave up and enjoyed the post-meal liqueur, a homemade tasty treat made from locally grown quinces. To get to Maria's dining room, we had climbed long, cobbled streets in a downpour. We all agreed it was more than worth the effort.

The adventures in cuisine never stopped. We sampled about every citrus fruit known to humanity at the Finca Juanito orchard. We wandered through a market in Ojen stocked with every kind of fresh fruit and vegetable. We tasted olive oil at the Mon Dron Co-op. There are 350 million olive trees in the country. In fact, Spain exports olive oil to, of all places, Italy. And at the Hotel-Restaurant Balcón de los Montes, we started the day with churros, a fried dough pastry which may not sound too exciting, but when coupled with coffee well laced with brandy, are a great treat. Or it may have been the brandy.

As I said, I came home determined to create some of these great tastes in my own kitchen. I started with paella and quickly discovered that virtually no grocery store in this area sells round rice – many, many, many other kinds of rice, but no bomba round rice.

I even made several excursions to stores where the internet affirmed the presence of round rice. Nope.

Finally, I found it in a little Portuguese grocery store in Kitchen. I launched the experiment. I did not buy million-dollar prawns, but that didn't seem to matter, because my paella worked, much to my surprise – and that of my partner.

But for the real stuff, skip my kitchen and go straight to Spain.

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Our chef in Torremolinos with spectacular paella.



A typical tapas lunch, this one served in Malaga.



Carolina, our exuberant sangria mentor.



Churros served with coffee and brandy.

Moose Basin Vacations offers a unique experience

SOUTHWEST OUTDOORS

By Jeff Tribe



Catching a 40-plus-inch pike on the first night is a good indicator of a good fishing spot.

This was a surprise beginning to a trip to Moose Basin Vacations. I won the trip at the Ruffed Grouse Society dinner in Courtland the year prior and was looking forward to it for a year. Renovations on the cabin on Allan Lake, west of Kapuskasing, were recently completed.

Prior to settling in, owner Jim Donaldson took fishing companions Marian Chelu and Angelo Dumitru, and I for a tour of Allan Lake, the Opasatika River and Zadi Lake. This river eventually empties into the Moose River and Hudson Bay. We were shown the best spots for fishing in Allan

Lake in early July but told the Opasatika and Zadi Lake may be better spots.

"That lake is very productive fishing in the spring when the water temperatures are low," Donaldson said. "When the water temperatures go up, the fish seem to flood into the river."

He said Allan Lake is ideal for hunting, with moose, bear and grouse mentioned.

Dumitru and I couldn't wait to hit the water the first night while Chelu elected to stay back. We fished the river and tied into some walleye. The action wasn't fast and furious like I have seen in the past in the north but was steady. There was an occasional smaller pike mixed in to make

things interesting.

Though there are some cottages on Allan Lake, we didn't see another boat on the water, but did see a bald eagle. We were drifting along the shore of Zadi Lake and Dumitru seemed to catch on bottom, but then it moved.

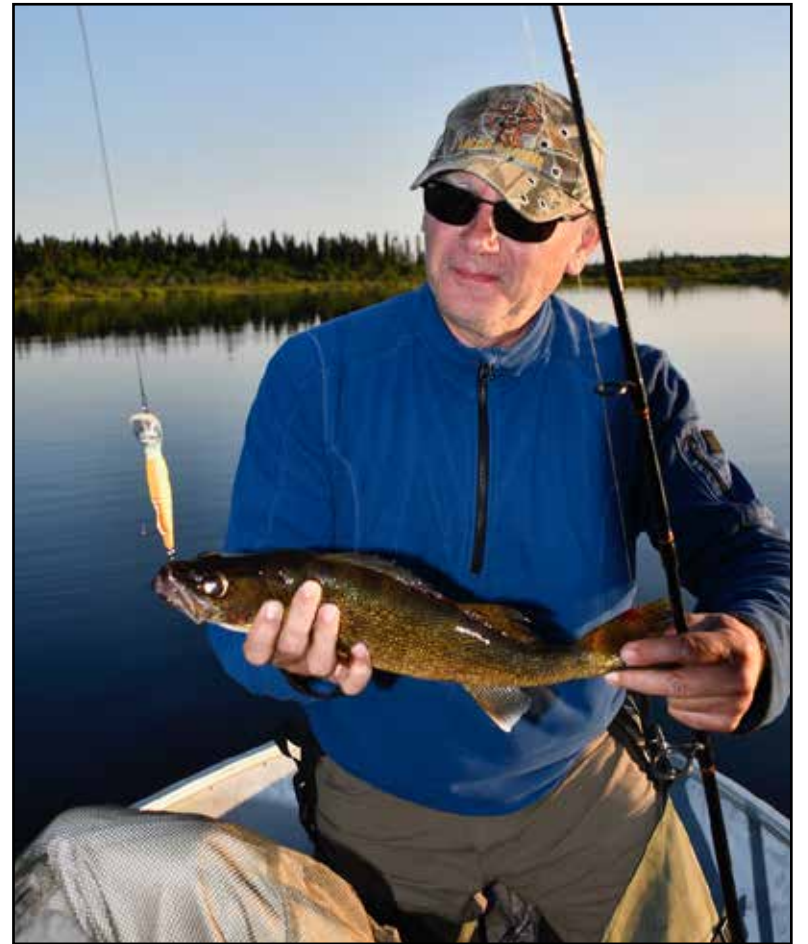
"I've got a big one," he said.

I scrambled for the net and quickly discovered we had forgotten to grab it on our way out in haste. I offered to help, but Dumitru said he had it. Watching him land a 43-inch pike with his bare hands was a site to behold. An amateur taxidermist, he opted to keep the fish to mount it.

The cabin on Allan Lake is one of three that Donaldson owns. He has been gradually renovating them and starting to rent them out. His plans are to open the cabin on Kapuskasing Lake in 2027 and the one on Saginash Lake in 2028.

The renovation job on the Allan Lake cabin was impressive. The cabin is finished with pine boards on the interior, has electricity, indoor running water and a porch overlooking the lake. An outhouse/shower building is a

Continued on page 29



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)

Marian Chelu shows a walleye caught in Zadi Lake on the Berkley Flicker Shad in fire tiger that proved to be the colour the fish preferred.

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Ability to manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced, global environment.

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For more information, contact:

Brad Wittig, Managing Partner, Canada

bwittig@fnfingredients.com | 1.519.274.2365

Continued from page 28

few steps away, and although it's an outhouse, it's nicer than most.

Besides the cabins, Donaldson offers day fishing trips from his home base in Kapuskasing. Prices range from \$350-\$800 and vary from kayak tours to small boats and larger 18-foot boats. The Allan Lake cabin is \$300 a night.

An ardent angler, Donaldson started weekly walleye fishing tournaments in Kapuskasing. He has a store attached to his house and bases the tournaments from there.

The three of us went back

to the spot the next day. We caught a few walleye for supper, and some smaller pike. Zadi Lake was a target that evening and we found a ridge that seemed to hold walleye both that evening and the next morning. Chelu discovered the hot lure was a Berkley Flicker Shad in fire tiger colour. It showed up well in the stained water.

On our last night, we went back near the spot where Dmitru caught the monster pike. We were catching fish to take home and had a couple of walleye and two smaller pike on the stringer. We heard a

little splashing on that side of the boat and chalked it up to the pike splashing around on the stringer. Hearing it again, Chelu looked over the side.

"Look at that pike," he said excitedly.

I looked and saw a pike as large as the one he caught previously, or larger. It was chasing after the fish on the stringer. I happened to have my line in the boat and cast out quickly. The monster pike wasn't interested in my offerings, or what Dmitru or Chelu threw.

Contact Donaldson at 613-362-2943 to book, or for more information on his offerings.



Moose Basin Vacations cabin on Allan Lake is a great base for fishing and hunting adventures in the wilderness outside Kapuskasing. It is one of only about a dozen cottages on the remote lake.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

High Noon Community Lunch sponsored by Tavistock and Area Ministerial 12 noon
Goodwill Donations
Speaker: Holly Bucholtz - Heart to Home: Cancer Care Bags
Grace United Church
116 Woodstock St. S Tavistock

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Optimist Club of Petersburg Bottle Drive 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Your empty bottles and cans allow us to raise funds to help organizations and youth in the community. Fo'Cheezy Food Truck will be here with proceeds from every grilled cheese going directly to the Bottle Drive.
Bechthold Home Improvements
1239 Notre Dame Drive, Petersburg

Tavistock Fall Expo 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
20 vendors and lunch booth, free admission with lots of parking
Handicap accessible building
marjoriehwilson@gmail.com
Tavistock Missionary Church
77 Mogk Street, Tavistock

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Stratford 62th Annual Coin Show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Admission \$3.00 (under 16 free). 65th Anniversary Cake Celebration at 2 pm.
Best Western Arden Park Hotel
552 Ontario St. Stratford

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Oxford Philatelic Society Circuit Book Fair 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Free Admission & Parking
Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs. Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com
Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>
Church of the Epiphany,
560 Dundas Street, Woodstock

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Free Repair Cafe hosted by Nith Valley EcoBoosters 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Get help with fixing items that are broken or need mending. For more details contact nvecoboosters@gmail.com
Zion United Church
215 Peel Street, New Hamburg

STAMP CLUB

Oxford Philatelic Society Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4pm) and 4th Tuesday (7-9pm) 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>
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St James Church, Baden

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Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
65 Boulee St., New Hamburg

FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES

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

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

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Nine local 4-H members heading to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Nine young dairy enthusiasts from Perth County have earned the honour of representing their local 4-H clubs at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto this November.

Each year, counties across Ontario select their top 4-H dairy members – those who have excelled in care, showmanship and presentation of their calves – to compete in the prestigious T.D. Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic. The two-day event, held at the start of the Royal, brings together more than 350 4-H members from across Canada for competitions in both showmanship and calf conformation.

The nine members selected for this year's Perth County T.D. Classic Team have each spent countless hours training, grooming and showing their calves throughout the season. For some, this marks their first trip to the Royal, while others are returning to compete again on one of the biggest agricultural stages in the country.

Local sponsors play an important role in helping these young competitors make the trip to Toronto. The Perth County Holstein Club extends its thanks to all who have supported the team in the past and welcomes anyone interested in contributing this year. Those wishing to offer financial assistance can email infopchc@gmail.com.



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

Top row from left: Mark Knill of Bornholm (Mitchell 4-H Club), Rhett Terpstra of Bornholm (Mitchell Club), Jace Noom of Millbank (Perth South-East Club), Jackson Kaufman of Bornholm (Mitchell Club) and Annika Terpstra of Bornholm (Mitchell Club). Bottom row from left: Ella Cnossen of Brunner (Perth South-East Club), Addison Hyatt of Milverton (Perth South-East Club), Gracie Weitzel of Tavistock (Perth South-East Club), and Deanna Halls of Tavistock (Perth South-East Club).

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HELP WANTED



Township of Perth South

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

The Township of Perth South Public Works Department is seeking a qualified **Equipment Operator**. Reporting to the Operations Manager, applicants will be experienced with the ability to operate and maintain various pieces of equipment, such as road graders, wheel loaders and tandem dump trucks. The candidate will also be required to complete roadside maintenance activities including, trees, signage, potholes, and debris clean up.

Applicants should have road maintenance and construction knowledge, experience in equipment operation and maintenance and a valid "DZ" license. This position is subject to weekend and winter scheduling and some emergency call-out.

The 2025 salary range for this position is **\$27.19 – \$33.99 per hour** based on a 40-hour work week.

The Township of Perth South offers excellent benefits and a competitive compensation package. For a detailed job description of this position, please visit www.perthsouth.ca

We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume expressing their interest to the undersigned clearly marked as "Equipment Operator" by **Wednesday October 15th 2025**.

Ken Bettles, Director of Public Works

Township of Perth South

3191 Road 122, St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0

Email - kbettles@perthsouth.ca

Information gathered is under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and shall only be used for candidate selection purposes.

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

Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Venice, Italy | 6. Demeter |
| 2. The Life of a Show Girl | 7. The mandrill |
| 3. 21 million | 8. Isla Nublar, Costa Rica |
| 4. 535 voting members | 9. Pink |
| 5. Michael Curtiz | 10. Two |

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