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(PHOTO COURTESY OF SHAFTESBURY INC.)

Members of the community of New Hamburg turn out to catch a glimpse of the stars of Murdoch Mysteries during an episode shoot downtown July 29 and 30.

Murdoch Mysteries transforms New Hamburg into 1912 for Christmas episode

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Downtown New Hamburg stepped back in time last week as the cast and crew of Murdoch Mysteries transformed the community into 1912 for the hit CBC series' upcoming Christmas special.

The production, filmed over two days on July 29 and 30, used New Hamburg's historic downtown streets and architecture as the backdrop for the holiday episode, "On a Cold Winter's Night," which is scheduled to air this December.

Producer Jeremy Hood said the production team knew they had found the

right location as soon as they arrived.

"It was just a great look for our period," Hood said. "Not too busy because we had to do some street stuff. As soon as we got there, it was like, 'Yeah, it's just a great look, great feeling.'"

The community's heritage buildings

Continued on page 2

TCMH eyes another new long-term care build

Proposal for a 224-bed home on Neville Street greeted with mixed reaction

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

Another new long-term care home could be coming to New Hamburg.

Tri-County Mennonite Homes (TCMH) has been awarded 224 beds from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The bed allotment is in addition to the 160-bed home the non-profit is currently constructing. The new development would be located nearby on Neville Street and connect to the Nithview Home redevelopment, expected to open in 2027.

The non-profit care provider said it is required to meet ministry timelines for the project, which, if approved, would break ground next year and be completed in 2030. Wilmot Township council debated a zone change application for the property, something needed for it to move forward. It is currently zoned Zone 4 Residential but needs to be Zone 12 Institutional to allow for a long-term care home.

Council approved the current zoning in

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Murdoch Mysteries transforms New Hamburg into 1912 for Christmas episode

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and picturesque streets required relatively few changes to recreate the early 20th century.

"We said, 'No, we've got to come back here. It's perfect,'" Hood said. "There's very little that we had to take away and mask."

While viewers may notice the fake snow covering parts of downtown when the episode airs, Hood said much of the work involved removing modern elements rather than adding period decorations.

"You go into towns and it's a quaint, old-looking town, but you wouldn't imagine how many modern elements there are," he said. "For the most part, it's store signs and road signs – no parking signs or stop signs or yield signs. Some of the store signs that are there, it's like, 'No, that's fine. That works for us.'"

Because the Christmas episode takes place largely at night and focuses on only a handful of characters, the

production did not require local background performers. Hood noted that Murdoch Mysteries often hires local actors when filming daytime scenes, particularly in communities such as nearby St. Marys and Stratford.

The production team also praised the support they received from the community throughout the shoot.

"The town made it easy," Hood said.

One familiar local face will even make a brief appearance in the episode.

"The mayor actually requested and will be an extra in the episode," Hood said with a laugh.

Location filming is a regular part of producing the long-running detective drama, with Hood estimating about 80 per cent of episodes include scenes filmed away from the studio.

"It depends on the scripts, but for the most part, (we shoot on location)," he said.

For New Hamburg, the visit from one of Canada's longest-running television series offered another opportunity to showcase the charm and historic character of its downtown to audiences across the country.

When the Christmas episode airs on CBC in December, viewers may recognize many of the iconic streets and buildings that helped transport Murdoch Mysteries back more than a century.



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHAFTESBURY INC.)

The crew from Murdoch Mysteries move a crane into position for an evening shoot.



The production crew set up outside a historic home in New Hamburg.



A crane shot of an automobile accident for Murdoch Mysteries' Christmas episode, "On a Cold Winter's Night."



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Pictured from left to right are Constable Henry Higgins-Newsome (Lachlan Murdoch) and Augustus Jackson (Kristian Brun) in a scene from "On a Cold Winter's Night," the Murdoch Mysteries Christmas episode airing on CBC in December.



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TCMH eyes another new long-term care build

Continued from page 1

2020 to allow a residential apartment building with 97 units, a project that was never built. TCMH has owned the land for years but shifted its focus from seniors' apartments to long-term care in response to demand as wait lists continue to grow.

Reaction to the proposal was mixed from members of council. Coun. Kris Wilkinson, while supportive overall, has concerns about its height.

"I am strongly opposed to the height of eight stories or effectively nine stories when it's viewed to the south. It's simply too tall for the location and, in my opinion, out of character and scale with the surrounding community."

He added he would like to see it reduced to a maximum of six stories.

"I would ask the applicant to examine if this could potentially be accomplished through different designs."

Coun. Steven Martin said he is well aware of how lengthy the long-term care bed waitlist is and is ready to support the TCMH proposal.

"I know there are people who have to leave our community for long-term care and I think that's sad. My own parents were on a list for two years ... and my father subsequently died and my mother is in long-term care."

Planner Brian Shantz spoke at the meeting on behalf of TCMH and explained the need for long-term care beds continues to rise.

"A significant percentage of the population continues to move into the latter stages of life. Tri-County recognized their current facilities will not meet the demand, and this is a wonderful opportunity for Wilmot to add to facilities to allow more seniors to stay within their own community."

He added TCMH and Wilmot are fortunate to have been awarded 224 additional beds.

"It doesn't happen everywhere. Please note a neighbourhood meeting has been held with the adjacent residents prior to the submission of this application to better explain the concept to them."

52 households adjacent to the land were invited to the meeting, with about 10 residents showing up.

"One of the elements that is an improvement in this scenario is the building itself is further away from the nearby residences," added Shantz.

Coun. Lillianne Dunstall said the job creation numbers and more long-term care beds would be welcome additions to Wilmot but questioned the need for such a tall building.

"Why eight to nine stories? We already have an issue with five to six stories, and my understanding is the piece of land you have could actually go out a little more so we could reduce the height. Is that something you would be willing to consider?"

Shantz explained the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has strict rules when it comes to building design, and TCMH doesn't have a choice.

"The ministry has what's called residential home areas (RHA's), each of which is ultimately a maximum of 32 beds. To try and put a footprint with 32 beds per RHA on the site, and that is what we are proposing now stacked above each other, if they were to go side by side, it wouldn't be able to be developed on this site."

If approved, the new home is expected to create 600 full-time jobs in the township, in addition to the hundreds of positions expected once the current Nithview redevelopment is complete.

"This is considerable in a community of this size, along with other economic benefits," added Shantz.

A staff recommendation and final council decision will be made at a later date.

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

A vibrant monarch butterfly pauses atop a blooming Queen Anne's Lace, creating a picture-perfect summer moment. The striking image was shared by Jennie Burns to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page on Aug. 1, celebrating the beauty that can be found in nature close to home.

New Hamburg Cenotaph and bridge vandalized by graffiti

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

"A sad day in New Hamburg."

That was a consistent message on social media following an act of vandalism in New Hamburg which has officials at the Royal Canadian Legion's Branch 532 outraged.

"Sometime between Monday evening and early Tuesday morning, someone damaged our cenotaph by using black markers to spread graffiti all over the front and sides," read a social media post from the Legion.

Names of left-wing figures and organizations were written on the landmark and the Huron Street bridge, including federal NDP Leader Avi Lewis and "DSA,"

an apparent reference to the Democratic Socialists of America, the largest socialist organization in the United States.

Bob Neubauer is a veteran and the Legion's Veterans Service Officer. He said the person or people responsible need to be held accountable.

"This is heartbreaking to see such damage to such a significant memorial in a town like New Hamburg. Parents should be checking the pockets of their kids and asking some serious questions if they find markers or spray cans – if they are ever found."

Neubauer added he can't say enough about how quickly Wilmot Township staff reacted to clean up the graffiti.

"I had just heard about it, hopped in my

van and they were there working on it. They were two young guys, Jake and Cody, and they were distraught someone would do something like this to a cenotaph. They're young fellas, and it was heartening to hear their dismay. They worked hard at it and got it all cleaned up as best they could."

He added despite the senseless act of vandalism, New Hamburg is an incredible community showing its love and support for the Legion.

"I have lived in a lot of towns and have seen how they react to things like this and the reaction here is pretty positive to me. It's a downright shame some moron stooped to this level. You just don't do this stuff in Canada. It's just not right."

He added since moving to the community 25 years ago, he's never seen anything like this happen.

"I really never thought I would. But it's maybe one or two individuals responsible for it and don't know any better."

Wilmot mayor Natasha Salonen provided a statement to the Gazette and said the incident is completely unacceptable.

"This monument exists to honour the men and women who served and sacrificed for our country and to ensure their service is never forgotten. Defacing it is not simply damage to public property; it is damage to a place of remembrance that holds deep significance for many in our community."

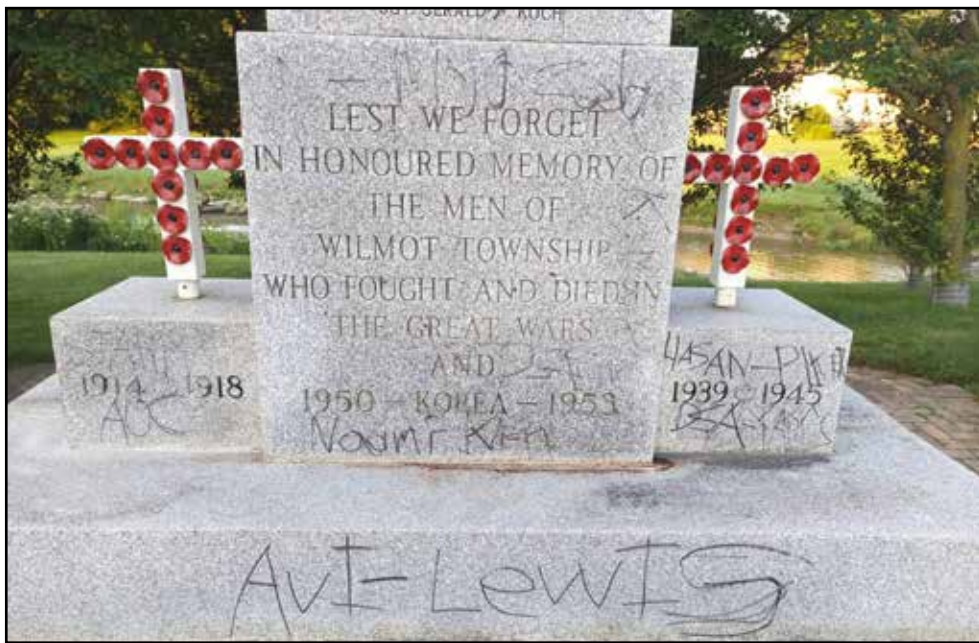
She also thanked township staff who responded quickly and have been working diligently to restore the site, as well as the Waterloo Regional Police Service, which has been notified and is investigating.

"If anyone has information that could assist the investigation, I encourage them to contact Waterloo Regional Police. Even the smallest detail could make a difference," said Salonen. "The freedoms we enjoy today were secured through the sacrifices of those whose names are remembered at this monument. We all share a responsibility to care for the places that preserve our community's history and honour those who came before us."

Coun. Lillianne Dunstall took to Facebook to voice her displeasure.

"I received an email from a concerned citizen early this morning with pictures of our cenotaph in New Hamburg being defaced. I immediately contacted the township, and before I had even hung up the phone, someone was in their vehicle on their way there. Township of Wilmot, thank you for such a quick response. To the cowards that decided to do such a despicable thing, get help. You need it."

The New Hamburg Legion is extremely active in the community and currently has a roster of 300 members, up from 240 just a few years ago.



(FACEBOOK PHOTOS)

The New Hamburg Cenotaph was victimized by graffiti earlier this week as the names of left-wing leaders and groups were written on it with marker. Township staff removed the graffiti using a solution designed to protect the stonework.



Not only was the cenotaph vandalized, but so was the Huron Street bridge over the Nith River. DSA stands for Democratic Socialists of America, the largest socialist political organization in the United States.

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CAA survey shows dangerous driving common on provincial roads

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

Nearly every Ontario driver has witnessed dangerous driving in the past year, but many do not believe they contribute to the problem, according to a new survey from CAA South Central Ontario (CAA SCO).

The survey found 96 per cent of Ontario drivers have observed dangerous driving behaviours, including speeding (78 per cent), aggressive driving (69 per cent), unsafe lane changes (68 per cent) and distracted driving (67 per cent).

However, only 57 per cent admit to engaging in at least one dangerous driving behaviour, revealing a disconnect between what drivers see on the road and how they assess their own actions. This number rises to 62 per cent among drivers aged 18 to 34.

"Most Ontario drivers can identify dangerous behaviours when they see them, but many don't realize they may be contributing to the problem themselves," said Michael Stewart, a community relations consultant from the CAA SCO. "The good news is that small changes in driver behaviour can make a big difference. By slowing down, staying focused and making safe choices behind the wheel, we can help create safer roads for everyone."

The Gazette reached out to the Oxford

detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police for its thoughts on the survey. Const. Randi Crawford said local driving behaviour has become a growing concern, with police laying a high number of careless and dangerous driving charges. She said the trend reflects increasingly unsafe driving habits on local roads.

"Careless is the Highway Traffic Act high charge, with dangerous being an actual Criminal Code offence. We are getting to the point where people aren't deterred by getting a ticket. When they continue to be disrespectful and disregard the rules of the road, they are acting in the criminal element."

Crawford added the number of fatalities and injuries in the county can be attributed to a lack of responsibility.

"A vehicle is a weapon and some drivers are hurting and even killing people. People need to realize how much of a privilege it is to drive – it isn't a right. Vehicles are killing more people than guns. Drivers need to be mindful that when they get into a vehicle it is their responsibility to keep themselves and everyone around them safe."

The threshold to move from a careless charge to a dangerous one depends on the situation, but Crawford said it isn't difficult to distinguish the two.

"Careless could be when you are driving

too close to the shoulder and catch the edge of a wheel and wind up in the ditch. Dangerous could be when you are speeding, passing a bunch of vehicles and driving recklessly and endangering those around you. It usually has a higher opportunity to cause bodily harm or death."

In Ontario, using a handheld cellphone while driving is considered distracted driving under the Highway Traffic Act. For drivers with a full licence, the penalty is a \$615 fine if paid out of court. Crawford said the behaviour has become a habit for many drivers.

"I think people have almost become addicted. It's almost like it's second nature and it's a behaviour we all have to break. People are also distracted by a big meeting at work or the events of the weekend they need to prepare for. Drivers need to make sure that when they are driving, they are focused on where they are going and what they are doing."

Crawford is also encouraging drivers to utilize hands-free options in their vehicles by installing a phone holder and using options like Android Auto by Google and Apple CarPlay.

Speeding remains the most common dangerous driving behaviour among Ontario drivers. More than one-third (38 per cent) admit to speeding, and more than half of those say they typically drive 10

to 19 km/hr over the posted speed limit. Even relatively small speed increases can significantly raise both the risk and severity of collisions. Many drivers may also be unaware that speeding fines increase with the severity of the offence and can be doubled in designated community safety zones.

On the positive side, most Ontarians say they slow down when they realize they are speeding, suggesting awareness and education can play an important role in changing behaviour. According to the survey, 87 per cent of drivers support fines and penalties for speeding, while 37 per cent said those penalties influenced their driving behaviour over the past year.

A separate survey conducted by CAA SCO found 16 per cent of Ontario drivers have been involved in a collision caused by distracted driving, a number that has gradually increased in recent years. Rear-end collisions remain the most common type of crash associated with distraction, according to the study.

"Distracted driving is preventable, yet it continues to put lives at risk every day," said Stewart. "Whether it's checking a notification, interacting with in-vehicle technology or taking your eyes off the road for a few seconds, the consequences can be devastating. The safest choice is to stay focused on driving."

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Tavistock's Punjabi King celebrates 10 million YouTube views for 'Love You Canada'

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

What began as a heartfelt musical tribute to the country he now calls home has become the biggest success of Tavistock singer Hira Dhariwal's career.

Two years after releasing his music video for "Love You Canada," Dhariwal – better known to fans as the Punjabi King – has surpassed 10 million views on YouTube, a milestone he says has given him renewed confidence as both a songwriter and performer.

"It felt like going up," Dhariwal said. "I feel better."

Written, composed and performed entirely by Dhariwal, "Love You Canada" is a love letter to Canada celebrating the country's multiculturalism, safety and welcoming communities. Rather than focusing solely on his own experience as an immigrant, he said he wanted the song to resonate with newcomers from around the world.

"I wrote about Canadian multiculturalism – all kinds of people, all colours, all languages, everything," he said. "That's

why I wrote this song."

Scenes from the music video were filmed locally, featuring recognizable locations in Stratford and Tavistock, including appearances by the Stratford Police Service, members of the Multicultural Association of Perth Huron, where Dhariwal volunteers helping newcomers settle in the region, and landmarks around Tavistock. He said local support was instrumental in making the production possible.

The video has steadily gained viewers since its release two years ago, eventually surpassing the 10-million-view mark last month.

For Dhariwal, the milestone represents far more than a number.

"I feel more comfortable and more confident," he said.

The song has also taken him to some unexpected places. Love You Canada was featured on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and Dhariwal has performed it at multicultural celebrations across Ontario, including a festival in Mississauga, where he said he received special recognition.

He hopes people beyond the

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(YOUTUBE SCREENSHOTS)

Tavistock's Punjabi King, Hira Dhariwal, is seen here in his music video for "Love You Canada" with members of the Stratford Police Service and Multicultural Association of Perth Huron founder Geza Wordofa. Since being posted two years ago, the video has garnered over 10 million views.



Local singer Hira Dhariwal is seen here with members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sebastopol in his music video for "Love You Canada."

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Continued from page 6

Punjabi-speaking community continue discovering the song by using YouTube's translation and caption features.

"It's a Punjabi song, but on-line there are lots of options," he said. "People can translate it."

Dhariwal, who first found success with his debut song Punjabi King and has since become a familiar face at multicultural festivals throughout Ontario, has no plans to slow down.

Next year will mark the 10th anniversary of his music career, and he plans to celebrate with new releases and concerts. He is also working on his first English-language song, a tribute to mothers and fathers that he wrote himself.

In the meantime, Dhariwal will continue performing across Ontario this summer while encouraging listeners to discover the song that has become his biggest hit.

Love You Canada can be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTgM-3pos5bs. Dhariwal's upcoming shows include a performance at an Indian Independence Day festival in Burlington on Aug. 15 and one at Oxford MP Arpan Khanna's Free Family BBQ at the Outdoor Farm Show Grounds in Woodstock on Aug. 22.

Nith Valley Ecoboosters host All Things Green trivia night



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF NITH VALLEY ECOBOOSTERS)

The Nith Valley EcoBoosters' Youth Advocates group hosted their first trivia night July 23 at the Wilmot Recreation Complex. With Ashley Ropp leading the contest, 16 participants in four teams laughed, learned and enjoyed snacks as they competed to answer "All Things Green" trivia questions, covering several subject areas including plants, birds, insects and the environment. The program concluded with a lightning round followed by a presentation of edible prizes to members of the winning team. Both the organizers and participants look forward to a second trivia night sometime soon.

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Waterloo regional police charge driver involved in fatal collision in Wilmot Township

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF
thewtgazette@gmail.com

Waterloo regional police have charged a 24-year-old Kitchener man in connection with fatal collision in Wilmot Township last week.

On Aug. 1 at approximately 4:55 p.m., emergency services responded to reports of a collision at the intersection of Bridge Street and Diamond Road, east of Tavistock, just beyond the border with Oxford County.

Through the initial investigation, police say two vehicles, a grey Toyota and a white Honda, were involved in a collision at the intersection.

The driver of the Toyota, a 70-year-old female from Wilmot Township, was

pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the Honda, a 24-year-old Kitchener man, and two passengers were transported to local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. A third passenger in the Honda was transported to an out-of-region hospital with life-threatening injuries.

The 24-year-old driver was arrested by police on Aug. 4 charged with dangerous operation causing death and three counts of dangerous operation causing bodily harm.

The investigation remains ongoing by the Waterloo Regional Police Service's traffic services unit.

Anyone with information or dash camera footage related to the incident is asked to contact police at 519-570-9777 ext. 8856.

CLARIFICATION:

An error was printed in the story, "EZT to look at allowing food trucks on township recreation properties" on pages 1 and 2 in the July 30 edition of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. The Hickson snack bar is not staffed regularly by the Hickson Lions Club. It is run by volunteers of the Hickson Sports and Recreation. We regret any confusion this may have caused.

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Ninth annual New Hamburg Art Tour set for September

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

Don't miss the ninth annual New Hamburg Art Tour set to take place over two days in September.

The tour will run Saturday, Sept. 26, and Sunday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days at the New Hamburg Community Centre, 251 Jacob St.

Meet and enjoy the creative works of 24 local artisans showcasing their talents in painting, paper art, weaving, photography, illustration, fashion art, textiles, encaustic wax and stained glass. These artists will welcome visitors and gladly chat about their work.

This year's lineup of artists includes

Michele Brenneman, Linda Chamberland, Dyane Eugenio, Judy Gascho-Jutzi, Ann Gordon, Janice Gray, Brigitte Huber, Greg Kimmett, Lisa Lambourne, Cornelia LeRoux, Amanda Lundrigan, Viktoriia Makarova, Tami Martin, Barbara McLeod, Greg Pautler, Linda Sanderson, Jonathan Sau, Donna Schyff, Nancy Taves, Donna Voisin, John Werlich, Anne Williamson, Simona Zak and Adrienne Zoe.

Again, this year the tour will include emerging and inspirational art students from Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School who will be displaying their art during the event.

The art tour organizers are very appreciative to have received a community grant from The Township of Wilmot. The grant

allows for the organization and promotion of the art tour.

The organizers are so grateful to have the support of local businesses. They would like to extend their thanks to Cloverleaf Farms Food Outlet, Cook's Pharmacy, Expressway Ford, Home Hardware, is this chair taken Gift Boutique, Josslin Insurance, Kathie Jordan Design, Meadow Acres, My Place Restaurant, Panache, Quilting By Design, Riverside Flowers, Scran & Dram, TCP, Tidy Memories, The Garden Stand – Chef Adam Brenner, The Old Country Restaurant, TLC Pet Food and Twice The Deal Pizza for their contributions to the Tour. Door prizes are available to be won by lucky visitors to the tour.

The art tour is a way to connect with the

artisans, learn how they create their work and enjoy the community and all it has to offer. Round out the day by exploring local restaurants and shops, and getting to know beautiful, historic New Hamburg at its finest. Informational brochures are available at numerous businesses in and around New Hamburg, throughout Wilmot Township and surrounding areas.

This popular event has grown to 500 plus in attendance for the previous three years. Organizers look forward to another well-attended event.

Follow the New Hamburg Art Tour on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NHarttour or on Instagram @NHarttour. For further information, call 519-577-8523 or email newhamburgarttour@gmail.com.

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Waterloo regional police investigating series of restaurant thefts in Kitchener and Wilmot Township

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

Waterloo regional police are investigating a series of thefts from restaurants across Kitchener and Wilmot Township.

Between July 5 and July 28, the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) said in a press release that officers responded to five reports of thefts from restaurants in the following areas:

- Westmount Road East and Ottawa Street South in Kitchener
- Courtland Avenue East and Shelley Drive in Kitchener
- Fischer-Hallman Road and Bleams

Road in Wilmot

- Bleams Road and Highway 7 in Wilmot

In each incident, an unknown male stole cash from a till and then fled in a motor vehicle.

The male suspect is described as approximately six feet tall, wearing a scarf or bandana and a hat. He may be operating a grey 2017-2019 Ford Escape.

Investigators would like to identify and speak to the individual pictured below in connection to these incidents.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Waterloo Regional Police Service at 519-570-9777.



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF WRPS)

Police are looking to speak with a suspect, pictured, who was allegedly involved in a series of thefts from restaurants in Kitchener and Wilmot Township. Police say the suspect may have been driving a 2017-2019 Ford Escape (pictured).

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Transport truck crashes into two parked vehicles in Tavistock

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

A transport truck driver has been charged with careless driving after two parked vehicles were struck on Tuesday in Tavistock.

A white pickup truck and green Jeep were parked in front of a residence on Hope Street East early afternoon when the collision occurred.

"My mom, my fiancé, Jenna, and I were in the house. I heard a loud bang that kind of shook the house a bit. It sounded like a dump truck dumping its load, which wouldn't have been entirely unusual as Fuhr Street has been under construction, except that they had already paved, so I

thought it would be weird a dump truck was right there," said Josh Kimpel, owner of the white truck. "I proceeded to look out the window of my bedroom and saw the transport truck in our front yard and my white pickup truck was in front of it in the neighbour's yard.

Kimpel said his fiancé works nights and woke up to the sound of the impact.

"We all came outside to see this transport truck in our front yard and in the neighbour's front yard. My truck is totalled for sure. The vehicles were parked on the side of the road, and from what I can tell, the truck smashed into the back of my truck, which smashed into the back of Jenna's Jeep."

Kimpel believed the truck spun sideways

and slammed into the hydro pole before being carried into the neighbour's yard.

"The Jeep was spun around and facing the opposite direction as it was and on the driver's side of the transport. The truck driver was fine with minimal damage to the truck and eventually drove away. He claimed to have swiped the back of my truck first, and he tried to steer away from it but lost control and ended up taking the truck out entirely."

He added his truck is likely a write-off and isn't sure about the Jeep's future.

"The pickup is done. The Jeep was able to be moved, but I'm not willing to drive it anywhere. It will be getting appraised on (Tuesday night)."

Kimpel's mother, Julie, said they don't

know exactly what caused the collision but suspects it could have been speed or distracted driving. She also had a message for motorists.

"I want to remind everyone this is why we slow down and be attentive on the road," Julie Kimpel said. "Everything will be fine for us, but this could have been so much worse. Thankfully, no homes were hit, and there was no pedestrian on the sidewalk."

To make matters worse, another driver slowed traffic while recording the scene on a handheld device. An Oxford OPP officer temporarily paused the collision investigation to issue the driver a ticket for operating a handheld device while driving.



(ROSEMARY LICHTI PHOTO)

There were no injuries after a transport truck collided with two parked vehicles in Tavistock on Tuesday.



(JOSH KIMPEL PHOTO)

The collision pushed the white pick-up from Hope Street East up onto a neighbour's front lawn.

Woodstock resident wins July fire brigade raffle

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Woodstock resident Tammy Taves is the July winner of the Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigade's monthly 50/50 raffle fundraiser.

Taves took home a prize of \$327.50 after her name was drawn in the July raffle. Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigade president Peter Gingerich notified her of the win.

The monthly raffle helps support the brigade's ongoing efforts to restore and preserve antique firefighting equipment from Baden and the surrounding area.

The August raffle is now underway

and closes Aug. 25. Those interested in supporting the fundraiser can purchase tickets online through Rafflebox or contact Peter Gingerich by email at peter.gingerich@rogers.com.

Members of the Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigade thanked supporters from across Ontario who continue to participate in the monthly draws and help preserve the community's firefighting history.

The brigade also plans to announce details of a future open house in Baden, where the public will have the opportunity to view its collection of restored antique firefighting equipment.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GINGERICH)

David Taves accepts a cheque for \$327.50 on behalf of his daughter, Tammy Taves of Woodstock, the July winner of the Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigade's monthly 50/50 raffle. The August raffle is now underway, with proceeds supporting the restoration and preservation of the brigade's collection of antique firefighting equipment.

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Stone Pillar Farmstead's first pop-up market a blooming success

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

The Stone Pillar Farmstead held its first every Pop-Up Market on Wednesday, July 29, from 4:30-8:30 p.m., bringing families and shoppers from across the Perth and Waterloo regions together for an evening of local shopping, farm experiences and community connection.

Held at the Lapointe family farm, just east of Sebastapol, the event attracted a steady stream of visitors from Stratford, Shakespeare, New Hamburg, Plattsville and Tavistock.

"We didn't know what to expect for our first market, but the turnout was amazing," said Mackenzie Lapointe. "The vendors were all asking when the next pop-up market would be."

The idea for the event came together when friend Aleigha Ehgoetz suggested hosting a pop-up market. Since the farm's sunflowers were in bloom, Lapointe saw it as the perfect opportunity to invite people to enjoy the property while supporting local businesses.

Ten vendors participated, showcasing a variety of locally made products. Vendors included The Creative Touch of Stratford with apparel and accessories, The Wandering Soul of Stratford featuring gemstone jewellery, Harmony Rooted of Harrington with baked goods and preserves, Daisy Bee Naturals of Shakespeare offering locally produced flavoured honey, Koert's Corner Roadside Stand and Puddle & Play Co.

Other vendors included Courtney Zoeller featuring her handmade clothing alongside Henrik of Fabled Millwork Inc., Stone House Embroidery of Embro with custom embroidered items, Stone Pillar Farmstead selling farm-fresh eggs and sunflowers, and The Sideyard mobile café from Shakespeare.

Visitors had an opportunity to discover unique products, meet the makers and



The Klooster sisters, Aria, eight, and Rylee, six, pose for mom Tonile Klooster to take a photo at the sunflower stand.

place orders for custom items.

Families spent time exploring the farm, where children played in a backyard forest play area, visited the ducks and chickens, climbed aboard an antique tractor for photos and created crafts at kid-sized picnic tables. Visitors also wandered through the sunflower patch, taking photographs and cutting their own bouquets to bring home.

Stone Pillar Farmstead began as a roadside farm stand in 2024, offering fresh eggs, firewood, pumpkins, sweet corn and flowers. The name was inspired by the stone pillar that stands at the entrance to

the property.

Originally, two stone pillars stood on either side of the driveway. One pillar was removed in 2020 to allow larger farm equipment to access the property, but the remaining pillar continues to serve as a reminder of the farm's history.

Stone Pillar Farmstead has a long history as a family farm. Travis and Mackenzie Lapointe moved to the property in 2019 and today live there with their three sons, Jameson, Brooks and Teddy. Before becoming home to the Lapointe family, the farm was owned by Bernice (Yausie) and Donald Ramseyer, who raised their three sons on the farm.

The Ramseyers purchased the farm in 1967 from Bernice's family, allowing the century farm to remain part of the Yausie family legacy for 158 years.

Neighbours remember Mrs. Ramseyer



The Dietrich brothers, Rence, three, and Kasey, one, enjoy exploring the sunflower field.

repainting the white lines on the stone pillars each spring, helping preserve their distinctive appearance and maintain an important piece of the farm's history.

Mackenzie Lapointe hopes to make community events a regular part of life at Stone Pillar Farmstead. Plans include additional seasonal markets, a possible Christmas market and opening the property to photographers looking for a picturesque rural setting for photo sessions.

"Our goal was to create a fun atmosphere where families could enjoy the farm while supporting small local businesses," said Lapointe. "After seeing how much everyone enjoyed it, we're definitely looking forward to hosting more events in the future."

Stone Pillar Farmstead is located at 1946 Perth Line 29, Perth East, Tavistock. Visit www.instagram.com/stonepillar_farmstead/ for more information.



Sunflowers and a beautiful sunset created the perfect backdrop for a community gathering at Stone Pillar Farmstead during its first pop-up market.



Nine-year-old Lila Bettencourt enjoys a dirty soda from The Sideyard Mobile Café, a popular vendor at the Stone Pillar Farmstead pop-up market.



Seven-year-old Eleanor Bettencourt smiles among the sunflowers at Stone Pillar Farmstead during the farm's first pop-up market.

From books to puzzles: Tavistock Fair sale has something for everyone

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

The Tavistock Fair's popular Second Hand Book Nook Sale returns Sept. 11-13, giving visitors the opportunity to find affordable books and, new this year, puzzles.

Since beginning in 2022, the sale has continued to grow and become a highlight

of the fair. Donations of gently used hardcover and paperback books, as well as puzzles, are now being accepted. The committee welcomes children's books, fiction and non-fiction, craft and hobby books, magazines, talking books, sheet music, comic books and graphic novels.

Items that cannot be accepted include encyclopedias, textbooks, business or

computer manuals, tax guides, VHS tapes, CDs and DVDs.

Janet Heinbuch said the committee is especially hoping for donations of books about antique and vintage cars, as they are always popular with visitors from the car show. Other requested topics include sports, farming, birdwatching, nature and photography.

Affordable pricing remains one of the sale's biggest attractions. Children's books are \$1, softcover books are \$2 and hardcover books are \$3. A mystery special will also be offered on Sunday, featuring special bargains for book lovers.

The sale relies on community support and volunteers. Anyone interested in helping can contact Julie Kimple at 519-590-1617.

Books and puzzles can be dropped off before Sept. 10 at the Tavistock Public Library or Southeasthope Mutual Insurance. Donations can also be brought to the arena on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 6-8 p.m., or Friday, Sept. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The committee encourages residents to donate and help give books and puzzles a second life while supporting the Tavistock Fair.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

The organizing committee for The Second Hand Book Nook, a fundraiser for the Tavistock Fair, includes, from left to right, Kim Hill, Janet Heinbuch, Julie Kimple and Kathy Rosenberg. Absent is Heidi Lamb.



Fairgoers browse through the huge selection of books at the Tavistock Fair's popular Second Hand Book Nook Sale in 2025. A wide variety of books will be available again this year, with puzzles added to the selection for the first time.





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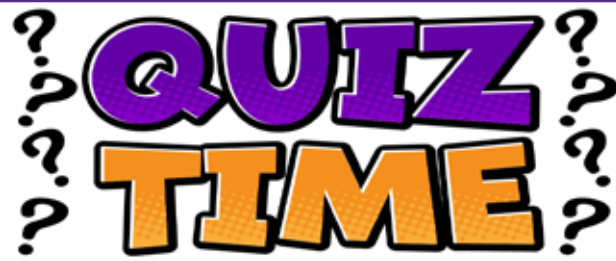
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by PeterS 2026

9				1	6			
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			8	5				2

Answers found on page 28



BY JAKE GRANT

1. Who played Allie Hamilton in The Notebook (2004)?
2. Two lines that never intersect are said to be what?
3. What year was WestJet founded?
4. What crop was known as maize?
5. Heidelberg is a city in what country?
6. Name the big three parent grocery companies in Canada?
7. What sensory organ do starfish have at the end of each arm?
8. How many musical families are there in a standard orchestra?
9. What is Africa's oldest continuous democracy?
10. What kind of fruit juice is used to mix a Tom Collins?

Answers found on 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.

July 29 - August 5, 2021, Edition (5 years ago)

The New Dundee Emporium's restaurant, one of Wilmot's most popular gourmet destinations, has served its last meal. Co-owner Mark Harrison made the announcement on Facebook on July 17, following the recent easing of COVID lockdown restrictions. "It's with a heavy heart that we can announce after 18 years we just can't carry on with our restaurant," he said. "The grocery store and boutique will remain open."

After more than a year of restoration work, the bronze bell of the historic St. James Wilmot Anglican Chapel of Ease rang for the first time since 2019 last week. "It's so exciting. I was out here when they originally did the bell repair, and I just wanted to jump for joy. It's such a beautiful sounding bell," said Carol Massel, curator of St. James. The restoration journey began after Massel found the bell rope in a pile on the floor back in December 2019 during a routine visit to the cemetery and chapel located on Huron Road near Punkydoodles Corners.

Despite 45 minutes of downpour and some COVID-19 restrictions, event organizers for the Applejacks Golf Tournament considered the event a success. About 160 people attended the outdoor event at Conestoga Golf Course on Saturday, July 24. All players began with a shotgun start at noon. "The event filled up really fast," said Nicole Gerber, Wellesley Applejacks executive. "As soon as I was at my limit, I started the waiting list and got everyone on the waiting list on." Overall winners of the day with a -9 score include Lee Zacharczuk, Guy Zacharczuk, Kylee Zacharczuk and Lee Seabrook.

August 3 - 10, 2011, Edition (15 years ago)

Oxford County OPP is currently investigating the destruction of a field of industrial hemp on Oxford Road 59, south of Tavistock. The hemp was being grown by G&GS Agricultural Services Consulting and Research for the Ontario Hemp Alliance and

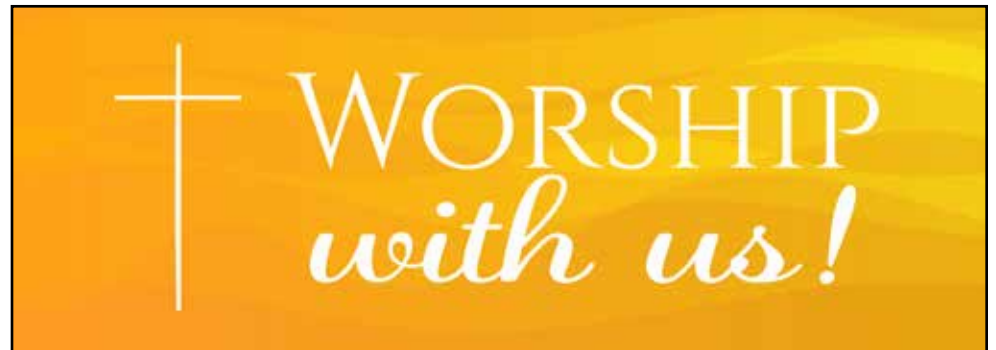
is licensed by Health Canada. Between 1 and 6 a.m. on Thursday, July 28, 2011, investigation reveals that vandals entered the half-acre field of hemp and proceeded to destroy the plants by pulling them out by the roots, shearing the stalks off or stomping on them. The damage is estimated at between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

The Tavistock Tornados U15 soccer team won their annual tournament in Kintore last week as they topped Kinkora in a dramatic finish that needed to be decided on penalty kicks. The championship game was a close one as Kinkora took an early lead in the first half, lobbing a shot from just within the 18-yard box that beat keeper Shawn Schultz. Shawn buckled down after that, making a number of important saves to keep Tavistock within one. About 10 minutes into the second half, Jamie Brown followed up a rebound to put the Tornados back in the match. Tavistock won the match in a shootout. Members of the team include Shawn Schultz, Jenn Stevely, Mitch Griffi, Jay Churchward, Jamie Kalbfleisch, Gavin Klatchek, Jason Kirkbride, Tyler Kirkbride, Eric Gimbel, Allan Smith, Dave Kerfoot, Jennifer Newcombe, Lauren Witmer, Ashley Schwartzentruber, Alyssa Habel, Brooklyn McNab, Matt Ramseyer, Justin Erb, Mitch Gingerich, Mitchell Schurink, Jamie Brown, Jessica Ropp, Marin Goodwin and Rachel Knechtel.

July 31 - August 7, 1996, Edition (30 years ago)

They walked, ran and guided their wheelchairs through the streets of Tavistock on Thursday, July 11, in support of the Paralympics and raised \$2,837. The WhyNot Marathon successfully completed its tour through the village with 25 residents signing up to carry the torch. It ended up in Toronto on Wednesday, July 24, after 59 days on the road from coast to coast. Money raised is helping build a \$25 million Legacy Fund set up by the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled.

With the curling club addition slab already poured and curing, workers for Bell-cliff Refrigeration were busy on the holiday installing the one-inch piping on the main arena floor. Each 200-foot piece of rolled pipe has to be connected at each end and laid in special metal dividing grids held in place by lengths of rebar.



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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette SPORTS

U17 Athletics washed out of Ontario Summer Games but ready for nationals

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

The playoff round of the softball competition at the 2026 Ontario Summer Games in the Region of Waterloo was washed out by rain on Sunday, shifting Tavistock's focus to its next challenge at the Canadian U17 Men's Fast Pitch Championship in Surrey, B.C.

The A's are joining 11 other teams, including Ontario squads from Napanee, Tara and Elmira. Pool play started on Wednesday and runs through Friday, with playoffs kicking off Saturday. The Gazette will have full coverage in next week's paper.

The team's first game was Wednesday night against Nova Scotia's Brookfield Oaks, followed by games on Thursday against Saskatchewan's Valley Blue Jays and the Tara Twins.

"We viewed the Summer Games as an opportunity to get all the players some quality innings and keep them healthy and rested for the upcoming week at Canadians," said head coach Dave Nahrgang. "We ended up playing five games on Friday and Saturday before Sunday was rained out."

The A's downed Wilmot 6-2 and Kawartha 13-3 on Friday. On Saturday morning, the final game of pool play, Tavistock dropped a 4-1 decision to Napanee. They lost their first playoff game 6-1 to Elmira but bounced back with a 7-0 victory over Norwich.

"This puts us into the top four whenever they decide to resume the tournament," added Nahrgang.

No decision has been made as of press time.

As for the team's chance of success in Surrey, Nahrgang said they are playing solidly, but it's hard to predict.

"I think we're playing well heading into Canadians, but it's a long week. You just can't predict everything that can happen. Some of our information on these teams is based on second-hand scouting, and what we can remember from seeing some of these teams at previous national championships. What we can control is our preparation and play, so that's what we try to focus on."

He added the team's chemistry is one of its biggest strengths, something obvious both on and off the field.

The boys are such a great group. We have

strong pitching and great athletes. We're mostly a first-year team at this age group, so we naturally have less experience and a little less size than most of the second-year teams."

He added most of the team has played together for many years and always competes with a team-first approach.

"Most of these boys have been playing together since they were learning the game, and they all support each other and have each other's back. The team's success is far more important than any individual success."

Competing in a tournament all the way across the country comes with challenges, including the obvious one – money. Nahrgang explained Tavistock and area businesses and others have come through again.

"Our parent group has worked hard to raise money for this trip. The boys worked as the diamond crew for the entire Cephias Roth tournament, and they're really understanding the value of hard work and community service. I'd like to thank everyone for their support for our team so far, and I know everyone back home will be proud of us."

WestJet's recent labour dispute thankfully didn't disrupt the team's travel plans as they had booked with a different airline, something Nahrgang was thankful for.

"We were not on WestJet, but yes, a couple of Ontario teams were and had to scramble last minute to find alternative flights."

Anyone interested in following the team at the tournament can download the GameChanger app on Apple and Android platforms.

Bear Creek captures Cephias Roth tournament title

The Bear Creek Gremlins earned gold at the annual Cephias Roth Memorial Tournament held recently in Tavistock. After going 4-0 in round-robin play, they downed Hill United Chiefs, the top-ranked team in the world, 7-1 in a semi-final matchup and followed that up with a 6-3 victory over the Northeast Drillers in the final.

Tavistock Minor Ball would like to extend its gratitude to all of the teams, volunteers and fans for another great weekend.



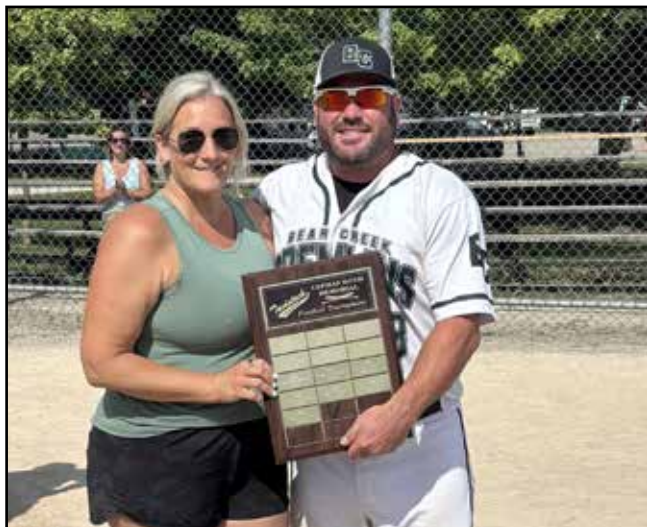
(ANGIE HALLMAN PHOTO)

Players from Wilmot and Tavistock pose for a photo before the Ontario Summer Games. Most of the competitors attend Waterloo-Oxford District High School together.



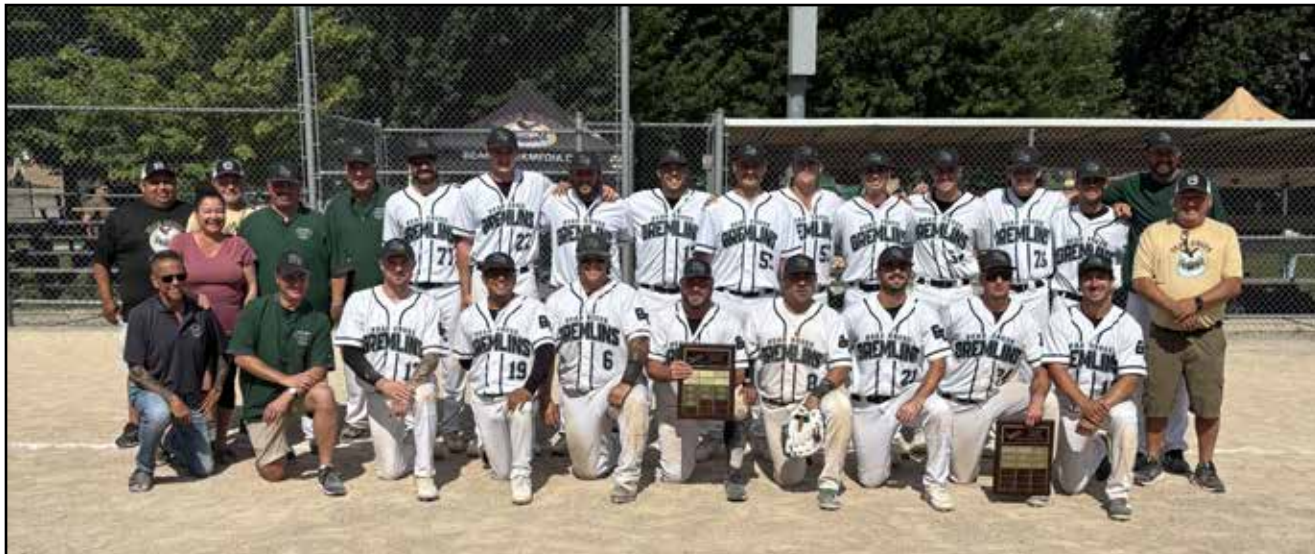
(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Tavistock pitcher Even Nahrgang delivers a pitch during preliminary play at the Ontario Summer Games.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ben Enoka receives the tournament's Most Valuable Player award from Roth family member Jessica Harvey.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Team photo of the Bear Creek Gremlins.

Shakespeare youngsters learn the fundamentals of baseball

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

More than 100 young players took to the diamonds in Shakespeare this summer as part of the Shakespeare Community Athletic Association's (SCAA) Learn to Play baseball program.

The program gives children their first introduction to baseball, helping them develop basic skills, teamwork and a love of the game in a fun and supportive environment.

For decades, volunteers with the SCAA

have organized baseball and soccer programs for young athletes in the village during the summer months. The Learn to Play program continues that tradition by providing an opportunity for the community's youngest players to learn the fundamentals of the sport.

The program featured five colour-coded teams this season, with players proudly wearing jerseys made possible through the continued support of the Shakespeare Men's Club, which provides the shirts each year.



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHAKESPEARE COMMUNITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION)

Team Pink members are Brooklyn Brown, Sydney Poole, Sullivan Poole, Madelyn Speiran, Deacon Buchenauer, Vanna Buchenauer, Stella Gerbinski, Lane Eby, Jace Wagler, Ella McPherson and Bentley Witter. Coaches and helpers are Steph Baril, Courtney Bisch and Jesse Buchenauer.



Team Orange includes players (front, from left) Liam Halvorsen, Charlotte Bisak, Delilah McDermid-Blakely, Grace Soetemans, Jack Soetemans, Zack Yantzi and Hadley Negrasis. At back is Jake Yantzi. Missing from the photo are Levi Robertson, Avery Hansson and Nick Gauler. Coaches and helpers are Derek Wagler, Grayson and Chantal Negrazis.



Members of the Red team are Henry Jutzi, Scarlott, Audrey Franken, Ezra Clarke, Adaline Clarke, James Reed, Rylee Patterson, Cohen Balfour, Sadie Evans and Theo James Sinclair. Coaches and helpers are Kayla Skabowius and Shelby Carson.



Members of the Royal Blue team are Darcy Martin Meadows, Maeve Ehgoetz Martins, Isla Dickson, Lachlan Dickson, Austin Williamson, Elizabeth Stankiewicz, Lydia Stankiewicz, Abigail Olbach, Liam De Weerd, Simone Shanahan and Lyla Jackson. Coaches and helpers are Kaylena Ehgoetz and Leahm Ehgoetz.



Members of Shakespeare's Green Learn to Play team are (from left) Scarlet Marsh, coach Billy, Bowman Sceviour, Gunner Riehl, Sully Spinks, Mae McNaughton, Kylie Vervaeke, Parker McFalls, coach Larissa and Lyra Marsh. Missing from the photo are Winnie McNeill and Esmae Kruger.



Members of the Yellow Learn to Play team are (from left) Hudson Oleniuk, Dominic Brown, Galen Perchaluk, Silas Mosterd, Peyton Murray-Mundy, Olivia Mosterd, Cory Toole, Paisley Bingell, Abel Leathwood and Ayden Leathwood. Missing from the photo are Asher Barry and Maya Doherty. Coach is Elissa Toole.



Members of the Grey Learn to Play team are (from left) Noble Phinney, Maple Phinney, Hudson Van Dyk, Ronan Stremmler, Georgia Stremmler, Margot Fulton, Lennon Kalbfleisch, Teddie Fulton, Summer Wilhelm and Jovi Graham. Coaches Nicola and Chris are also pictured.



Team Navy Blue members are (front, from left) Emmy Hvidsten, Ruby Tortyna and Brooklyn Whittaker. Back row, William Rector, Sophie Rector, Nolan Kramer, Max Haritakis, Hazel Robertson and Archer Kollman. Missing from the photo are Judah Onyeoguzoro and Riley Wilhelm. Coaches and helpers are Brandon Whittal and Jacob Robertson.

U12 Wilmot Royal Blue captures league title

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Sports Reporter

The U12 Wilmot Royal Blue minor soccer team won the Twin Rivers U12 League Championship July 30 with a 5-1 win over Ayr Black.

Head coach Jeff Nyenhuis raved about his team's effort all season, punctuated by one final fantastic performance in the league final.

"I couldn't be prouder of this group," said Nyenhuis. "Throughout the season and final game, they showed everything we've been working toward all season — teamwork, resilience and a real commitment to playing for each other. What stood out most was their composure in big moments and their willingness to trust one another. Our defensive organization, communication and transition play were the best they've been all year, and the players made smart decisions under pressure."

Nyenhuis explained how the championship game was "exactly what (they) expected" — a hard-fought match between two very good teams.

"Both sides competed from the opening whistle and our players stayed focused, disciplined and committed to our gameplan throughout," Nyenhuis said. "To see them put everything together in the final playoff game and finish the season by winning the league was incredibly rewarding. They earned every bit of their success, and I hope they're as proud of what they've accomplished as coach Rick (Walker) and I am."

That gameplan the team stuck to, according to Nyenhuis, was a result of every player executing their role.

"We were able to capitalize on our chances, with Roman (Nagy) scoring two goals and Levi (Stacey) adding a goal in the first half. In the second half, Kiann (Kipfer) and Andy (Roy) each added a goal. While the goals were important, the result was built on a complete team performance. Every player contributed by defending together, supporting one another and working hard from the first minute to the last."

"Ayr Black made us earn the victory, but



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The U12 Wilmot Royal Blue minor soccer team won their league championship with a 5-1 win over Ayr Black July 30. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Ben Van Zwol, Levi Stacey, Lucas Manning, Konrad Wittie, Dawson Walker, Andy Roy, Sheamus Steward-Davies and Kiann Kipfer. In the back row, from left, are assistant coach Rick Walker, Nolan Homes, Max Kelly, Roman Nagy, Jacob Wittie, Alex Gutscher, Alex Nyenhuis, Lincoln Clark, Ayden Daviau and head coach Jeff Nyenhuis.

our players showed great composure under pressure and never stopped believing in each other," continued Nyenhuis. "That teamwork and resilience were the reasons we came away with the win. It was a fitting end to a season where the players continued to grow and improve together."

Wilmot Royal Blue ended the season with a 9-1-0 record, with their only loss coming to their eventual finals opponent, Ayr Black. A win earlier in the season against St. George Sky Blue was the deciding factor in Wilmot Royal Blue making the championship game, with St. George Sky Blue finishing narrowly behind the Wilmot squad in the standings with a record of 8-2-0. Ayr Black finished the year 9-0-1.

In a game full of strong performances, Nyenhuis mentioned their goalkeeper as delivering his best performance of the entire year when it mattered most.

"While the entire team played a fantastic match, our goalkeeper, Dawson (Walker), had the best game of his season," Nyenhuis said. "He made several outstanding saves at key moments that kept us in control of the match and gave the rest of the team confidence to keep pushing forward."

"When you have a goalkeeper making

big saves in important moments, it lifts everyone on the field. The players defended with confidence, knowing Dawson was there behind them, and that allowed us to stay organized and focused on our game plan. His performance was a huge factor in the result of the game."

Nyenhuis also credited several individuals in front of Walker for their play in the back and midfield in helping their keeper and helping to facilitate the strong offensive output the team's goal-scorers enjoyed during the final.

"In the midfield, Nolan (Holmes) and Alex (Nyenhuis) were outstanding. They provided a great balance of composure, creativity and work ethic, helping us control the tempo of games, win important battles and create opportunities going forward. Their ability to read the game and make smart decisions under pressure was a big part of our success."

"Defensively, Max (Kelly) and Ben (Van Zwol) were a fortress and really locked things down. They were consistent, disciplined and reliable in some very important moments. Their ability to defend one-on-one, communicate with their teammates and make key plays when we needed them helped give the team a strong foundation."

Nyenhuis detailed what winning the league trophy meant to his group.

"Winning the league means a great deal to this team because it represents all of the hard work, commitment and growth the players have shown throughout the season. The trophy is a reward for the time they have put in at practice, the way they have supported each other and their willingness to keep improving every week."

"What makes this achievement special is how the team learned how to compete as a group and developed the confidence to handle pressure in important moments," Nyenhuis added. "They showed resilience when things didn't always go their way and continued to believe in each other."

Nyenhuis explained exactly how he has seen growth out of his squad over the course of the season.

"I knew early in the season we had talented players from individual efforts in gameplay. As they played more together, there came to be more ball movement by passing and seeking teammates who were open and able to advance the play. They also made great improvements with communication on the field to identify who would take the ball so others could spread out and prepare for a pass."

U15 Shakespeare Falcons win second straight ORSA gold

KALE CRISP

Contributed to the Gazette

The U15 Shakespeare Falcons won the gold medal at the U15 ORSA Championship July 17-19 in New Hamburg in dominant fashion.

Shakespeare was successful in their title defense, as this age group also won the ORSA Championship in 2025. The Falcons went unbeaten over three days with a record of four wins and zero losses, with the closest deficit being seven runs.

"We had contributions from everyone in the lineup, played aggressively on the bases and got solid pitching," coach Trevor Glaab told the Gazette. "The girls played together and stayed focused all weekend."

Speaking of solid pitching, in Game

1 against the Douro Diamonds, Emma McCauley pitched three innings, giving up zero runs and only one hit in a 15-0 victory for the Falcons. Usually in tournaments, pitching ends up being massive because players are limited to throwing a certain amount per day to be deemed eligible. To start off with a performance like that is huge going into the rest of the tournament.

However, it wasn't all pitching; it helps on the mound when the offense puts up 15, with coach Glaab noting they got contributions up and down the lineup. Sophia Hall and Lyric Brighton each drove in three runs in Game 1, leading the Falcons offense to a win in the tournament opener.

Game 2 was the closest game score-wise the group had all weekend, with the Falcons winning by a score of 9-2 against

Norwich-Otterville. It was the bottom of the order coming up big for the team offensively. Neely Lange, Leah Weicker and Aline Smith collected five of the team's nine hits, with Teagan Glaab on the mound pitching five innings, tallying seven strikeouts, helping the Falcons earn a spot in the semi-finals.

The semi-final was a rematch against Norwich-Otterville. The Falcons exploded for 11 runs with a clutch grand slam coming from Maisy Moore to help blow the game open. Then, McCauley took it from there on the mound with another outstanding performance, going four innings with only one run against in an 11-1 victory. Shakespeare had made it back to the championship game and was one win away from defending their title as ORSA

champions.

In the championship game, the Falcons took on Wyoming. Shakespeare scored 16 runs, which was the most they scored all weekend and it may have been their best offensive game. The girls tallied 16 hits throughout the game. Cora Hall had a big game when it mattered most with three hits and four RBIs in the championship contest. Lange, Brighton, Weickler and Emma Diehl all had multiple hits.

The Falcons beat Wyoming 16-6 to win the gold medal and capture their second consecutive ORSA championship.

"Different players stepped up in every game, which says a lot about our team," said Glaab. "Everyone contributed, supported each other and competed hard from start to finish."

U17 Select Thunder qualify for provincial championships

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Sports Reporter

Competing in an age group higher than their actual ages, the U17 Select Wilmot Thunder have punched their ticket for the Ontario Select Softball Tournament Association (OSSTA) Provincial Championship, to be held Aug. 21-23 in North Bay.

The squad, which is actually a U15 team playing up at the U17 level, finished fourth at the Barrie Smash tournament July 24-26 to earn their trip to North Bay. According to head coach Shawn Bonnick, the players' desire to develop was the driving force behind the group's decision to play up an age level after finishing as provincial silver medalists of the U15 division one year ago.

"They did exceptional last year," Bonnick said. "They had a fantastic season and just from coaching these girls over the last six years, I was fortunate enough to have the majority of them back again. So, this year, they chose that, instead of staying at the U15 level where they came in silver last year at provincials, they wanted to get better and push harder. So, we decided to go to the U17 level and see what happens."

Bonnick called the group's collective desire to play against teams several years older than them "endearing."

"It shows that everything we've been teaching them for the past four or five years with these girls – the life skills, the constant push for more and push to get better – when you put your head down and work, you can reap the rewards," Bonnick said. "It's just endearing to see that they've taken that to its fullest depth. You've got to get a good set of kids at that point that you can push because that's what they're asking for. They want to learn. They want to be sponges. They want to get better. They want to have those goals met at the end of the day. It's a really special group of girls that I've got here."

Bonnick noted, despite the team's strong play last season, they didn't enter this year expecting the success they have found given the higher age group and calibre of play.

"We set the expectations at the start of the season that we may be just middle of the pack, said Bonnick. "We may not excel the way we did last year, but in terms of development, they'll get significantly better, and they all said, 'Yes, we want to be better. Let's focus on getting better, so that, when we are a U17 team, we can kill it.' Little did I know that they would put their money where their mouth is and kill it now."

The team's successful season at the U17



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured are the U17 Select Wilmot Thunder, a team of U15-aged players playing up an age group in the U17 division who have earned a spot at the OSSTA Provincial Championship Aug. 21-23 in North Bay. Pictured in the first row, from left to right, are Miranda Whiting, Kendal Schmidt, Zoe Sanche, Lily Lloyd-Klooster, Kinsley Bonnick and Morgan Kraemer. In the second row, from left, are coach Shawn Bonnick, coach Chad Koehler, Alexis Hergott, Emma Vale, Karlie McCullum, Dibora Roth, Alison Bardwell, Bella Ruth, Myla Lewis, and coach Denelle Sanche.

level was punctuated by their fourth-place finish in Barrie at the end of July where they earned a berth in the provincial championship, with a highlight coming when the Thunder took down their rivals from Waterloo to earn a place in the medal round, and, in doing so, provincials as well.

"We ended up having to play seven games throughout the weekend. At the end of the round-robin, it put us into the semi-finals and put us against one of our very close rivals, Waterloo. So, at that point that morning, that was a do-or-die game to get into the medal round, which is a big deal at this age level. Just getting into the medal round is something significant. We tied Waterloo in the round-robin, and we beat them to get into the medal round."

"It was huge for the girls," Bonnick continued. "It solidified for them at that point that going up to the U17 and putting all that hard work and effort that they've put into it, that it actually means something, that they've earned it, they deserve it and they're exactly where they should be for their development."

The team also delivered some of the most memorable moments and individual plays of the season during the Barrie tournament.

"We actually had our first-ever home run

at the U17 level. Kinsley (Bonnick) hit the home run, so that was a fantastic accomplishment that we had in our final game. And then we also had a triple play made by Lilly (Lloyd Klooster), which was incredible to watch."

As Bonnick reflected on the team's success at the U17 level, he cited their camaraderie as a major element to their ability to withstand adversity and eventually blossom into a provincial-calibre power.

"The biggest thing that I would say with this team that they've been doing for a while now is the support of one another. They are a fantastic team for sportsmanship, for supporting one another, bringing that bond of friendship, and I dare say being sisters on and off the field. They can go into a game and get mercied in the first inning, and it doesn't faze them. Every single girl is trying to pick up the next girl to

get back out there and do what they need to do. And nine times out of 10, if they go out there and they just have fun, they come away with the win, so it's very difficult to play against them when you might beat them in an inning, and you look at them, and they look like they just don't care. They're still having fun."

Looking ahead to provincials, Bonnick doesn't want the group having any doubt or fears.

"My focus for the group is just to go in there with the mindset of having fun," Bonnick said. "The fact that they've even made provincials is already way above where we thought we would be this year, and that itself is the accomplishment. We're going into that tournament understanding that we're now playing the best of the best in the province."

"They've earned that right to be among the best of the best in the province and to go in understanding that no singular play at any point in the game defines yourself. If you go in and you put 100 per-cent effort into it and you make an error, it doesn't matter. You'll never win or lose a game off of a single play. Everything that happens in the game happens as a team."

Bonnick further emphasized how deserving his team is of the success they have managed to find.

"I think it's just the fact that these girls have truly earned it. We look at these teams that we play against, and some of these other teams, they look at us and go like, 'How did you do this?' That was something that I had to reflect on and go, 'As much as I can teach these girls what to do, they have to want it. They have to do it. They have to practice it.' This year alone, they'll have been on the diamond for over 144 hours, which is crazy, but it's because they've asked for it."

"Their perseverance, their desire to play the game, their desire to come together as a group, it's been incredible to watch and it's crazy because we're playing teams where every girl on the team has a driver's license, and we have girls on our team who just graduated Grade 8. So, when you put it in perspective like that, it really is magical what this team has done."

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NEAT tractor club enjoys farm breakfast near Poole

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Members of the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club (NEAT) travelled to a dairy farm south of Poole last week, where they were treated to a hearty homemade breakfast and warm hospitality from the Zehr family.

Gerald and Alice Zehr welcomed the club to their farm, which has been in the family since Gerald Zehr's parents, Emmanuel and Clara Zehr, established the operation in 1941.

A total of 34 antique tractors made the trip from communities including New Hamburg, Baden, Tavistock, Wellesley, Shakespeare, Amulree and surrounding rural areas.

The Zehr family served a traditional breakfast of eggs, ham and potatoes,

along with homemade Chelsea buns, while guests gathered around tables set up on the back lawn. Sunny skies and warm temperatures made for an ideal morning of food, conversation and fellowship.

The farm also stands as an example of a successful multi-generational farming operation. Gerald and Alice Zehr's five children have all continued in agriculture. Brian and Heidi, Terry and Susan, Rodney and Yvonne, Tim and Lillian, and Julianne and Darren Eby all farm today. With the exception of Julianne and Darren, who farm northwest of the home farm, the families remain close to where they were raised.

The weekly NEAT breakfasts continue to bring together antique tractor enthusiasts while supporting local farms, businesses and community organizations throughout the region.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

The Zehr family members who prepared breakfast for the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club included (from left) Esther Good, Julianne Eby, Brielle Eby, Lillian Zehr, Tim Zehr, Alice Zehr and Gerald Zehr.



Thirty-four antique tractors surrounded the Gerald and Alice Zehr dairy farm south of Poole as members of the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club gathered for a homemade breakfast of eggs, ham, potatoes and Chelsea buns prepared by the Zehr family and friends.



While most NEAT members arrived on antique tractors, Roy Berfelz of New Hamburg drove his yellow, four-cylinder Volkswagen convertible to the breakfast. Berfelz, who grew up on a farm in central Perth County, joked that driving the convertible makes him "feel 30 years younger" and called it his "chick magnet" for the summertime.

Grant Haven Media adds Eastern division with weekly newspaper serving Cobourg and Port Hope

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

By Stewart Grant



Things start simply with an idea, and thanks to the outreach from a Cobourg citizen, we have just launched a weekly newspaper serving the communities of Cobourg and Port Hope. It's called the West Northumberland Independent and it is our 13th print publication.

One day, I received an email from Brenda Ferris that read as follows: "I have been reading the Goderich Sun as I attended high school there. The newspaper is quite informative. I am now living in Cobourg. Would you

consider establishing a newspaper here? Let me know how we could do this in our town. We are sorely lacking in a good newspaper!"

Cobourg and Port Hope are in the western portion of the vast Northumberland County that sits east of Oshawa and Clarington and west of Quinte West and Belleville. From Wilmot, it's about three hours away depending on traffic.

These communities had lost their local papers in the same way other local newspapers

have all but disappeared in our region – not due to a lack of interest in local news, but rather by decisions made by the media conglomerates.

During my visits this year to the region, I found the interest in a new publication was overwhelming. In meeting with people, including the mayors of both Cobourg (population 22,000) and Port Hope (population 18,000), I always brought a copy of the 32-page St. Marys Independent or Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette and told the story of how our relatively small community supports our paper for the benefit of all. It was quickly apparent that there was a true need for a print newspaper in this area east of Toronto.

For the core of our team, we hired two full-time local reporters and a full-time sales representative, all well-seasoned from their previous careers in print journalism. The first issue came out last week and exceeded all



(ROBERT PICARD PHOTO)

Cobourg resident Brenda Ferris and Grant Haven Media publisher Stewart Grant posed on Friday, July 31, with a carload of the first edition of the West Northumberland Independent.

expectations in terms of community response and week-one advertising support.

Among the many messages we received on Facebook or email last week were those from neighbouring communities

like Brighton to the east and Bowmanville to the west, asking "are there plans for any other newspapers in the area?"

As St. Marys Independent founder Frank Doyle used to say, "Something to think about."

Findaway Equestrian hosts Jane Casselman Memorial Trillium Show

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

More than 100 horses and riders gathered near Baden at the end of July for the annual Jane Casselman Memorial Trillium Show, hosted by Findaway Equestrian Services.

Held at Findaway Equestrian Services, 560 Snyder's Rd. E., the competition attracted riders from across the region for a weekend of hunter and jumper events.

The annual show honours the memory of Jane Casselman, one of Ontario's most influential figures in the hunter/jumper community. Casselman was widely respected as a horsewoman, coach, competition organizer and longtime owner of Touch N' Go Farms in Campbellville.

Over several decades, she introduced thousands of riders to equestrian sport and mentored many who went on to successful careers in the industry.

The Jane Casselman Memorial Trillium Show is one of several competitions hosted by Findaway Equestrian Services throughout the summer, providing opportunities for riders of all ages and experience levels to compete and develop their skills.

The next competition at Findaway



Young rider Tenley Kuhl is congratulated by Kate McArthur after successfully completing her first jumping round at the Jane Casselman Memorial Trillium Show.

Equestrian Services is scheduled for Aug. 22 and will feature dressage and hunter classes.

For more information about upcoming events, visit findawayequestrian.com.



(ALEXIA CINA PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTOS)

Leah Bucko clears a jump during the Derby course at the Jane Casselman Memorial Trillium Show, held at Findaway Equestrian Services near Baden.



Terra MacArthur, daughter of the late Jane Casselman, celebrates with her horse, Page Turner GS, after winning the championship in her division at the Jane Casselman Memorial Trillium Show.

Gazette Puzzles

JULY 2026 NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Q	M	Y	R	T	H	N	P	Y	N	G	S	V	T	K	O	M	D	J	S
V	J	C	X	W	H	N	W	A	S	K	X	I	F	N	D	A	Y	S	A
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X	K	X	Y	M	S	A	T	D	F	O	R	L	H	D	Z	R	P	A	J
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Air Quality	Lindsey Graham	Tariff Threats
Andy Burnham	McConnell Mystery	The Odyssey
Commonwealth Games	NATO Summit	WestJet Talks
Gordie Howe Bridge	Ontario Wildfires	World Cup
	Spain Victory	

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Pet of the Week

WEIWEI

Meet Weiwei, a one-year-old guinea pig with a gentle heart and a quiet, curious nature. He can be a bit nervous at first, but with time he settles in and starts to share more of his personality. Once he feels safe, Weiwei shows off his curious side and becomes a lovely little companion to have nearby.

He's looking for a patient home that will give him the time he needs to feel comfortable and confident. If you're looking for a gentle small friend to grow with, Weiwei may be your perfect match! Come meet WeiWei at our Kitchener Centre or learn more about him online at kwsphumane.ca/adopt/small-animals



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Football for the win

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



Fifa cup was exciting worldwide. Did you know football or soccer is the most popular sport in the world? There are 3.5 billion football fans globally. Keep the summertime sunshine, fresh-air energy alive. A small investment in a soccer ball is a huge investment in fun and fitness for the whole family. Just find a field and get your own football fantasy started.

No more cheering from the couch or stands because soccer is an all-ages, all-levels, indoor and outdoor activity. Organized soccer starts with preschoolers and the advantages are astounding. From friendship and team building to cognitive support to coordination and constructing confidence, football is fabulous.

Physical activity is paramount

and the body-boosting benefits are bountiful, but heart health is the first thing that may come to mind. Football is a fantastic mix of walking, running and sprinting

As players grow up, the games become more grueling. A 90-minute game requires stamina as the average player runs at least five miles. This constant on the go, up and down the field leads to crazy cardiovascular benefits. The heart rate is challenged from an aerobic to anaerobic state and then to recovery time countless times throughout a match. This is interval training at its finest, increasing aerobic capacity.

All that moving and grooving lowers body fat and supports a healthy weight helping prevent blood-sugar issues. Type-2

diabetes was once a condition only seen in adults, but it has increased around the world dramatically in the last 20 years. In Canada, we have seen a spike by over 60 per cent over the last decade. Scary statistics make exercise even more essential.

Football builds muscle strength. From kicking to jumping to twisting and even throw-ins from the sidelines, soccer strengthens head to toe. More muscle equals a higher metabolism and burns more calories at rest. Bone density decreases with age and building bone strength from our first step to our last is possible with physical activity. Let's not forget balance also diminishes with age. Kicking a ball while on the move acts as an effective dynamic balance exercise. Every running stride builds strength in ankles, feet and calves. Running on the uneven surface of an outdoor field will improve balance even more than turf playing.

Working together as a team is a useful skill to learn in the formative years.



(VECTEEZY PHOTO)

All it takes is a ball, an open field and a little teamwork to stay active, build skills and have fun together this summer.

Soccer is fast-paced and has kids thinking on the go, making quick decisions, and in aging populations, that is key to boosting cognitive function.

Playing sports can build confidence, positive body image and reduce anxiety.

Like any sport, warming up with dynamic stretching helps prepare the full body for action. Incorporating sport specific movements and increasing intensity preps the body. From slow jogging to butt kicks

to shuffling, high knees and lunges, there are tons of options. The goal is to increase blood flow and heart rate, ensuring maximum mobility and flexibility to minimize muscle soreness and prevent injuries. Keep in mind, warming up the body is essential for all ages and levels.

Have fun. Hydrate before you play and stop to sip throughout fun on the field. Thirst indicates dehydration. Happy football fun!

The quiet significance of ordinary lives

INTERFAITH COUNSELLING CENTRE

By John Dinner

Since joining Interfaith Counselling Centre as a counsellor almost three years ago, I've given a number of presentations on "Living Like You Mean It." The title reflects both an aspiration and a concern: I want my life to be meaningful and I know that simply wanting that doesn't make it so. I've often observed that understanding an idea is usually the easy part. Living it out is something else entirely.

Earlier in my career, I spent a couple of decades helping boards of directors become more effective. I could explain the principles of good governance in a single presentation. But anyone who has ever served on a board knows that understanding the theory is no guarantee of putting it effectively into practice. The same is true of living a meaningful life. We instinctively know what matters most, yet we can struggle aligning our lives with our convictions.

Part of the challenge is that our culture sends mixed messages. We say we value

purpose, service and relationships. Yet we are constantly encouraged to measure success by what we own, what we achieve, or how happy we feel. Advertising tells us that fulfilment is only one purchase, promotion, or vacation away. Social media's purpose is often to encourage us to compare our lives with everyone else's.

Despite an inner voice that tells us there must be more, the pursuit of comfort and consumption can, quite understandably, become our default setting.

Writer Leo Rosten offers a different perspective: "The purpose of life is not to be happy at all. It is to be useful, to be honorable. It is to be compassionate. It is to matter, to have it make some difference that you lived."

This doesn't mean everyone must devote their lives to grand humanitarian causes. More often, it means bringing integrity, kindness and purpose to ordinary work and everyday relationships. Meaning is found less in what we do than in how we do it. And happiness is often a byproduct of meaning.

An acquaintance of mine drives a city bus. He tends to downplay the importance of his work. But after recently spending some time on public transit, I saw his job differently. His passengers depend on that bus to get to work, medical appointments, school and grocery stores. For some, it is their primary connection to the wider community. His role extends beyond driving a route safely. A warm greeting, a patient response, or simply creating a wel-

coming environment can shape someone's day in ways he may never fully appreciate. He is not just transporting passengers; he is serving people.

Perhaps that's the lesson for all of us. A meaningful life isn't reserved for the famous, the wealthy, or those with extraordinary careers. It is available to anyone who chooses to serve others with compassion, integrity and purpose, whatever their role may be.

Sometimes the greatest obstacle to living like we mean it is not our circumstanc-

es. It's our perspective. When we stop comparing ourselves with others and begin recognizing the quiet significance of our own lives, we may discover that we've been making or have had opportunities to make a difference all along.

John Dinner is a registered psychotherapist who works as a counsellor at Interfaith Counselling Centre in New Hamburg. He'll be speaking on the topic of "Living Like You Mean It, Wednesday, Nov. 25, from 2-3 p.m. at the New Dundee Community Centre.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: A new model for rural mail delivery

The federal Canada Post is trying to provide a service which we have probably had for more than 150 years.

They are making changes to help cut costs as every business is trying to do. The community mailboxes in urban areas have done a good job with probably only a few complaints when it started. Rural areas are a different matter though. It would be a serious safety issue if group boxes were to set-up at intersections or mid-concession of country roads.

Parking at these areas for drop-off or pick-up could also be dangerous, especially during winter months with

snowbanks and narrowing of roadways. I support rural mailbox delivery with an idea of perhaps it doesn't need to be five days a week but maybe three days a week.

This could be an alternative cost-saving compromise if they are looking for changing rural mail delivery.

*For Home and Country,
Anya Donaldson,
Hickson,
Oxford District Women's Institute*

Discovering Greek civilization in Italy

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



Let's be honest. It is not unexpected when, during your travels in Italy, you stumble upon yet another Roman ruin. After all, this is the country whose capital is Rome, and most of whose most famous sites are remnants of the Roman Empire. The Colosseum is just one of thousands of buildings left us by the Romans.

What you might not expect is to find a lot of physical evidence of Greek civilization here in Italy. Especially in the south of Italy, in Calabria and Sicily, Greek civilization was the dominant culture in the centuries before the ascendancy of Rome.

And today, visitors will find a number of destinations in Calabria offering ample evidence of the centuries when this part of Italy was known as Magna Graecia. And even today, there are remote villages high in the hills of Calabria where a variety of Greek – called Calabrian Greek or Griko – is the common language in daily use.

So, it is not surprising there has been a concerted effort here to protect the remaining evidence of that period, which started in the eighth century B.C. and lasted for about five centuries.

Our time in Calabria saw us visiting several of the sites connected to Magna Graecia. Chief among them is the National Museum and Archeological Park of Locri. Locri is a town on the eastern or Ionian coast of Calabria. The name Locri dates back to the Greek era; the town was founded by Greek newcomers about 680 B.C., and a century later, had a population of 40,000. The good news is the modern town of Locri is located slightly north of the Greek era settlement, which means a wealth of archaeological ruins are still there to be found.

And today, a modern museum – and an archaeological site – can tell visitors almost all they would want to know about those ancient times. The archaeological ruins are exactly that – ruined. Like many sites that were abandoned for centuries, most of the walls of the temples and other buildings are missing.

Well, they are not precisely missing because everyone knows where they are. In the 19th century, a lot of the stone blocks were plundered

and used in building projects elsewhere in the area. There are plenty of Locri buildings that have a touch of Greek history in their foundations and walls.

But what remains is fascinating – clear remains of a Greek temple and associated buildings, including the impressive carved base of one enormous column.

The site has some helpful interpretive plaques, but the thoroughly modern museum, opened in 2022, offers a treasure trove of information. One of the most intriguing features of the still-being-discovered site is the temple of Persephone. It is apparent that a very significant cult devoted to Persephone, Queen of the Underworld, flourished here, and a complex ritual involving brides-to-be was carried out here.

In the museum, visitors can see hundreds of artifacts from the Greek era, including many bits of evidence of the Persephone cult.

What you can't see here are two sculptures that are two of the most important finds in Locri. They are life-size statues of mythological heroes Castor and Pollux. They were the twin sons of the Greek goddess Leda, but oddly, Pollux was considered divine while Castor was mortal. That's because Zeus was the father of Pollux, but a human, King Tyndareus, fathered Castor.

At any rate, both were venerated at Locri, but modern-day powers that be decided to move these important sculptures to another – and frankly, pretty darn impressive

– museum, the National Museum in Reggio Calabria. That city is an hour and a half away on Calabria's west or Tyrrhenian Sea coast.

And there is no doubt that Reggio's museum is also a must see for anyone exploring Calabria's Greek connections.

But let me suggest that after you have sated your intellectual hunger with all this historical knowledge, you give a thought to your physical appetites. Especially (this won't surprise regular readers) for wine because a wine-making tradition that dates back to Magna Graecia is alive and delicious in modern-day Calabria. We were introduced to this unique wine by winemaker and vineyard owner Flavio Latella.

His small winery – 3.2 hectares of vines, all harvested by hand – produces 20,000 to 25,000 bottles annually. And in pride of place is his award-winning Greco di Bianco wine, a dessert beverage made from grapes grown on vines that may date back millennia. Wine makers have been reproducing the same variety of plants using slips to create new vines for time immemorial.

The wine is made using the "passito" method in which the grapes are dried before they are made into wine. During our Senior Discovery Tours visit to the winery, we enjoyed a tasting – which included sampling some unique, homemade pastries as well as the excellent wine.

One warning: Greco di Bianco has a minimum alcohol content of 17 per cent, which is significantly higher than most wines we buy here in Canada. However, you can't actually buy this unique wine in Canada, so you'll just have to go to Calabria and drop in on Flavio.

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.



Winemaker Flavio Latella and our guide, Allesandra, prepare a scrumptious tasting.



The dessert wine comes in at 17 per cent!



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Ruins of a Greek temple and other buildings in Locri, dating from the eighth century B.C.



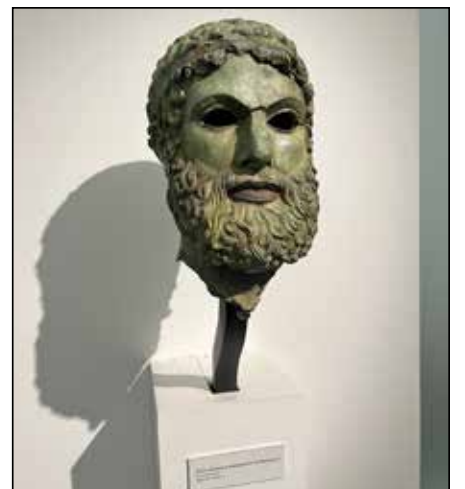
Exhibits in the Locri Museum tell of ancient rituals, including wedding rites connected to the goddess Persephone.



This statue of the Greek hero Castor (with one of his brother Pollux) were found in Locri but moved to Reggio Calabria.



Winemaker Flavio Latella with his award-winning Greco di Bianco wine.



A head of the Greek god, Zeus, at the Reggio Museum.

One shirt. Two shoes. Four shorts. Four looks.

DRESS SHARP. SPEND SMART.

By Scott Dunstall



One of the biggest misconceptions in men's fashion is that you need a closet full of clothes to look well dressed. You don't. In fact, one of the smartest wardrobe investments you can make is finding a few quality pieces that fit exceptionally well and then learning how to build different outfits around them. This week, I decided to prove that point using just one shirt, one pair of shoes and four different pairs of shorts.

The foundation of all four outfits is a royal blue Penguin polo with white trim on the sleeves and collar. While I generally advocate wearing a polo made from a heavier, more structured material to help hold in my gut, the dark colour and lightweight, "hang-free" design of this shirt are very slimming. The sleeves taper nicely around the arms and the fit is flattering without being tight.

I paired the polo with my Sperry Docksider Unimold boat shoes in almost the identical shade of blue. The top and bottom of each outfit remain exactly the same, yet every look develops its own personality simply by changing the colour of the shorts.

The first combination uses crisp white Tommy Hilfiger shorts. White immediately gives the outfit a fresh, clean appearance that is perfect for summer dinners, patios or a casual afternoon downtown.

Blue and white have always been one of the safest combinations in men's fashion because they look polished without appearing as though you tried too hard. It is simple, classic and almost impossible to get wrong.

The second look swaps in bright-yellow shorts, again from Tommy Hilfiger. In fact, about 99 per cent of my shorts are Hilfiger because they are made from a substantial material, are available in an endless selection of colours and sit just above the knee with a nine-and-a-half-inch inseam.

Getting back to the yellow shorts, this colour instantly changes the mood of the outfit. It becomes more relaxed, energetic and vacation inspired. It is an ideal look for weekends, beach towns, festivals or simply enjoying a warm summer day. Many men shy away from colour, but when it is balanced by a classic polo and understated shoes, it feels confident rather than flashy.

The third combination introduces pink shorts. Pink and blue work exceptionally well together because the softness of the pink balances the strength of the royal blue. The result is colourful and confident but still polished. Pink shorts also add a slightly preppy quality to the outfit, making them a great choice for a summer lunch, a garden party, an afternoon patio

visit or any occasion where you want to look a little more distinctive. Some men still hesitate to wear pink, but there is nothing timid about it. Worn properly, pink communicates confidence and shows that you are comfortable making colour part of your personal style.

Finally, the red shorts create a completely different impression again. Red has a nautical quality that works especially well with blue, giving the outfit a timeless coastal feel. It is bold enough to attract attention without becoming overpowering because the shirt and shoes remain consistent and grounded. Of the four combinations, the red may be the strongest visually but the familiar blue foundation keeps everything under control.

There is another lesson hidden in these four outfits. Notice what isn't there. The shorts all sit just above the knee with roughly a nine-inch inseam. They have a clean, tailored profile with no oversized cargo pockets, hanging straps or excess fabric. Today's shorts should complement your build, not overwhelm it. A slimmer silhouette almost always looks sharper and more contemporary than long, baggy shorts that swallow your legs.

The next time you are tempted to buy another shirt because you are tired of your wardrobe, try a different approach. Start with one quality polo that fits you well. Add a versatile pair of shoes that can anchor multiple outfits. Then introduce different colours through your shorts.

White keeps things crisp and classic. Yellow makes the outfit cheerful and relaxed. Pink adds confidence and a polished, preppy quality. Red creates a stronger, nautical look. The shirt and shoes



(PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT DUNSTALL)

Sometimes a simple change can make all the difference. Four different pairs of shorts can create four different looks.

never change, but the personality of the outfit changes completely.

You will spend less, pack lighter when travelling and create far more variety than most people expect. Sometimes the smartest style upgrade isn't buying more clothes at all. It is learning how to get more from the ones you already own.

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.

This is Doug.

Doug is an active member of his community.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 Optimist Club of Tavistock Friday Night Fries 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Optimist Food Trailer Tavistock Optimist Park SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 Optimist Club of Petersburg Picnic in the Park 8:30 - 12 noon Petersburg Park 1338 Notre Dame Dr., Petersburg MONDAY, AUGUST 10 Food Trucks at Grace United Church Tavistock 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Born2Eat, Fo'Cheezy, Beavertails Donations to Grace United Church Grace United Church 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 Perth East council meeting 7 p.m. Council chambers 25 Mill Street East, Milverton SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 Fryfogel Tavern Book Sale 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Over 1,000 books for sale all for just \$2. They have topics ranging from children's literature to mystery and non-fiction. They are still taking donations at the Tavern, if people wish to donate books. Fryfogel Tavern 1931 Line 34, Perth East (east of Shakespeare) Tavistock & District Historical Society Museum 1-4 p.m. (other times by appointment) Email: info@tavistockhistory.ca or call 519-655-3334. All welcome. 37 Maria Street, Tavistock MONDAY, AUGUST 17 Food Trucks at Grace United Church Tavistock 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Siggi's, Pablas Street of India, SWAT Donations to Tavistock Agricultural Society Grace United Church 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock TUESDAY, AUGUST 18 Free Caregiver Connection peer support groups 6:30-8:30 p.m. Worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) offers free peer support groups for caregivers, in person, virtual, or hybrid. Visit family.cmho.org or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information. Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street, Woodstock	Wellesley Council meeting 6:45 p.m. Council chambers 4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Red Shed Ham and Corn Roast Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Meal at 6:30 p.m. Ham and Corn Roast, Live Country Music and Summer Fun. Fundraising for Wellesley Food Cupboard, Milverton Food Bank, and Youth attending National Youth Conference in B.C. For tickets call Carol Horst at 519-274- 4494 or email: carolh@cwisp.ca St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church 1998 Line 45, Perth East SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 Christian Men's Breakfast 9 a.m. A Call to Action to help those in Need in Our Community. For more information go to: theq1230.github.io/CRLC/mens-group.html Contact Ken Quiggan at: WCMG@proton.me Kennedy's Restaurant 1750 Erbs Rd., St. Agatha Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades Grand Unveiling of 1948 Ford F155 Bickel Seagrave Pumper 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. You're invited to come out and see this beauty and our other antique fire trucks, equipment and artifacts. View our collection, have a hot dog and a pop and enjoy the day! Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades 10 Bell Drive, Baden Fryfogel Tavern Annual End of Summer Open House 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. It will include beverages and snacks as well as an opportunity to look at the Fryfogel family tree. This open house is a great way to come and see all the restoration work that has been done at the Tavern over the summer. Additionally, there will be a raffle with door prizes! More info: noelle.taylor1017@gmail.com Fryfogel Tavern 1931 Line 34, Perth East (east of Shakespeare) MONDAY, AUGUST 24 Food Trucks at Grace United Church Tavistock 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Berlin 95, Ish n Chips, El Milagro Donations to Camp Bimini Grace United Church 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock Wilmot Council meeting 6-7 p.m. Council chambers	60 Snyder's Road W., Baden FRIDAY, AUGUST 28 Wellesley Township Fall Fair 2nd annual Senior Tea 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Seniors and almost seniors from Wellesley Township and their surrounding communities are invited to a special afternoon celebrating the people who have helped build and support the rich tradition of the Wellesley Fall Fair. Live entertainment by the "Dynamic Duo". Call Joanne Stewart for details-519-658-0764. Bill Gies Recreation Centre 1401 Queens Bush Rd, Wellesley MONDAY, AUGUST 31 Food Trucks at Grace United Church Tavistock 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Born2Eat, Los Rolling Tacos, Fo'Cheezy Donations to Tavistock Agricultural Society Grace United Church 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 Ostomy Support Group Meeting 7 p.m. Speaker – Paul D'Souza from Coloplast Learn about ostomy products and services from Coloplast. Social time and snacks. Everyone welcome. (519)273-4327 93 Morgan St., Stratford WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 Reaching Ontario Sharing Education (ROSE) program 2 p.m. Learn about the Stratford Mission Depot with founder Jean Aitcheson who will be speaking. Co-hosted by the Braemar W.I. and the ACW of Christ Church. It is wheelchair accessible building and all are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Questions lauracgreen77@gmail.com. Christ Church 595815 Oxford 59 Huntingford SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 Optimist Club of Petersburg Picnic in the Park 8:30 - 12 noon Petersburg Park 1338 Notre Dame Dr., Petersburg TAVISTOCK FAIR BOOK SALE The Second Hand Book Nook Sale Friday, Sept. 11, 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lots of books, magazines and puzzles for sale For more information, call (519)590-1617 Tavistock Fall Fair in the arena	1 Adam St., Tavistock EVERY WEDNESDAY TOPS - Taking off Pounds Sensibly Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Contact Cathie 519-662-9273 St James Church, Baden Euchre Night Wednesdays at 7 p.m. New Hamburg Legion 65 Boulee St., New Hamburg FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES Tavistock Seniors Pickleball Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12-4 p.m. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052 Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St. Tavistock Seniors Card Games Monday drop in 1-4 p.m. Contact: Bob Routly 519-301-2118 Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St. FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES CONT VON Senior Exercise Drop-In Standing Class Tuesday and Thursday 9-10 a.m. To register contact 519-539-1231 ext. 6319 Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St. VON Senior Exercise Drop-In Sitting Class Tuesday and Thursday 10:25-11:25 a.m. To register contact 519-539-1231 ext. 6319 Village Manner, 98 Woodstock St., Tavistock TAVISTOCK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM DISPLAYS Museum Display: "The Glasgow Warehouse" Can be viewed anytime Tavistock Home Hardware (Front window), 24 Woodstock Street S., Tavistock Travelling Museum Display: "Heritage of Hickson's Sports Teams" Check out the earliest Hickson baseball teams and the display full of vintage equipment. History and photos of the Hickson Baseball teams dating back to the early 1900's complement the display. Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm runs until until the end of September 2026. Ezt Township Administration Building (lobby), 89 Loveys Street, Hickson PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY Plattsville & District Heritage Society exhibit "Holidays & Celebrations That Bring Us Together" June 6 to September 19 Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Donations accepted. Refreshments. Contact plattsvillehistoricheritage@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417. Archive & Museum at Chesterfield, 816661 Oxford Rd 22, Bright
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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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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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Quiz Time Answers

1. Rachel McAdams
2. Parallel
3. 1994
4. Corn
5. Germany
6. Loblaws, Empire Company Limited(Sobeys), & Metro Inc.
7. An eye
8. Four
9. Botswana
10. Lemon

COMING EVENTS

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for more information go to"

theq1230.github.io/CRLC/mens-group.html

Contact Ken Quiggan

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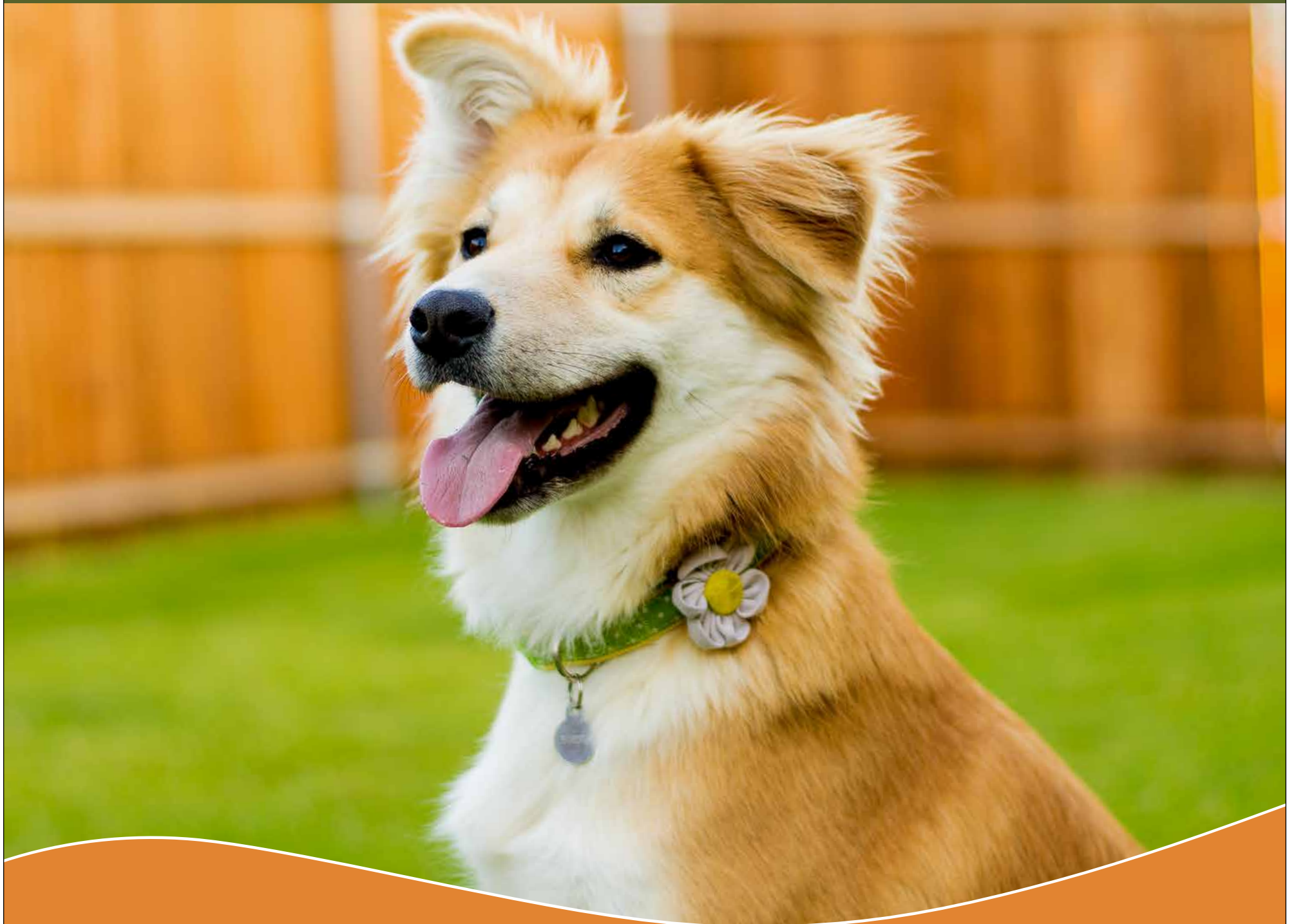
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