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New Dundee resident, Chief Petty Officer, 2nd Class (retired) Donald Eenkooren, a Canadian Armed Forces veteran, alongside Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis during the first-ever Poppy Flag raising on Parliament Hill in Ottawa Oct. 31. For more Remembrance stories and photos, see pages 14-23.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF MP TIM LOUIS)

New dispatch system to modernize paramedic response in Waterloo Region

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Gazette Reporter

Starting Dec. 4, calls for paramedic services in Waterloo Region will be triaged and dispatched using a new Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS).

The system, already implemented by the ministry of health in several Ontario municipalities including Ottawa and Mississauga, is designed to ensure paramedics are dispatched more quickly to urgent, life-threatening emergencies.

"The implementation of the Medical

Priority Dispatch System will equip our paramedic services to continue to modernize the exceptional care they provide to our community, day in and day out," said Regional Chair Karen Redman.

The change is part of Ontario's Your

Continued on page 2

Liberals unveil federal budget with a deficit of over \$70 billion

Local MPs on opposite sides of the document

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The first budget handed down by the federal government in 18 months included a deficit of \$78.3 billion with no sign of a balanced budget.

As expected, the two local members of parliament are divided on the effectiveness of the more than 400-page document and its impact on Canadians. Oxford Conservative MP Arpan Khanna said he hoped to see some pocketbook issues to make life more affordable for Canadians.

"A lot of folks are struggling to get by. My office gets flooded with emails and phone calls from people trying to get help. People are working two jobs, doing everything right, yet they are barely making ends meet. I don't see anything to help in the budget."

Khanna also expressed his frustration at the size of the deficit, which is expected to drop to \$56.6 billion by the 2029/30 fiscal year and laid the blame solely on Prime Minister Mark Carney.

"He promised to be that expert banker who would be fiscally responsible, but he's brought forward a budget worse than Trudeau's in terms of spending. When you run major deficits, it fuels inflation, leads to higher taxes

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TIM LOUIS

Member of Parliament for Kitchener-Conestoga



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Waterloo Region introduces system to ensure “Right care at the right time”

Continued from page 1

Health plan, which aims to ensure people get the right care at the right time and to reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments.

Jason Dippel, public relations and communications specialist with Region of Waterloo Paramedic Services, said the new system will help optimize emergency resources and save lives.

“The nice part with MPDS is that it has international reach, so it’s not just used in one location or one province. It’s used around the world as a dispatch standard,” said Dippel. “One of the main benefits of MPDS is that it has medical oversight, and with this oversight, we’re able to triage higher-priority calls.”

Ambulance communications officers will use the MPDS software-based system to triage 911 calls based on the severity of the medical condition. They have already begun extensive training on the new software.

“Along with training, they’re also being certified as emergency medical dispatchers,” said Dippel. “The extensive training is to bring them up to that standard in preparation for rolling out MPDS in December.”

The system is backed by decades of medical research and evidence, helping dispatchers make accurate and informed decisions.

“There’s going to be a lot more



(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

The Region of Waterloo Paramedic Services will launch a new dispatch system Dec. 4 to improve emergency response times.

instructions when you call 911,” said Dippel. “Dispatchers will now be able to guide you through first aid and extended CPR steps while we’re responding.”

While patients with non-life-threatening conditions may experience longer wait times when paramedic resources are in

high demand, dispatchers will remain in contact to monitor their condition and ensure they can safely wait for care.

“With MPDS, it has built-in limitations that, once we get down to a certain resource count, will hold low-priority calls and keep resources available in case a

critical call comes in,” said Dippel. “That way, we can make sure we have the right resources responding to the right call at the right time.”

The implementation follows months of planning, training and coordination with the ministry of health, the Cambridge Central Ambulance Communications Centre and emergency response partners.

Though callers may be asked more questions, Dippel said emergency services will already be dispatched before follow-up questions are asked.

“The main thing we want the public to know is to be patient with the new system,” he said. “Dispatchers will be asking more questions to gain a better understanding of the emergency, so we can prioritize the proper paramedic resource to respond to that call.”

Three public information sessions are scheduled this month:

- Wednesday, Nov. 12, 7-8 p.m. at the Southwest Community Library (Kitchener Public Library) meeting room
- Monday, Nov. 24, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Breslau Community Centre, Empire Room
- Tuesday, Nov. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Centre for the Arts, Toyota Room

For more information, visit www.engagewr.ca/mpds.

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Federal budget prompts debate among local representatives

Continued from page 1

and at the end of the day, it's Canadians who end up paying the price."

Kitchener-Conestoga Liberal MP Tim Louis said the budget presented is the right one for the times we find ourselves in.

"This response to the global economic shifts, like tariffs from the US, is something we have to fight. At the same time, we have to protect our sovereignty, build infrastructure and housing, and support Canadians through these challenges."

He added maintaining current social safety nets will play a role in the affordability of living in Canada today.

"The national school food program, dental care, affordable child care, those things will be untouched. We made sure those supports are there and they put more money in the pockets of Canadians."

Louis also lauded the budget's business incentives to spur private-sector growth in the country.

"Those things are going to grow the economy which means more jobs and greater affordability."

As for the deficit, Louis said the budget found a way to make the necessary investments in the economy and protect Canadians. He also spoke highly of the way the budget was split into operational and capital sides.

"We are going to reduce our operational spending in three years to be balanced. That means any borrowing we do after that will go towards investments in infrastructure, housing and defence. We did an expenditure review over the summer and identified \$60 billion in savings."

The federal government is projected to spend \$55.6 billion on interest payments in 2026 to service the national debt – an amount that surpasses the annual health-care transfer payments made to provinces and territories.

The government has pledged to greatly reduce the size of the federal public service by 40,000 jobs through job cuts, attrition and early retirements from its peak of 367,772 employees in March 2024, to

330,000 by 2028-2029, Louis said.

"We have to do this responsibly and a big part of that is going to be through attrition and efficiencies. It has been growing too fast, so we have to pull back on it. That's part of the \$60 billion in savings."

Khanna agreed the public sector has grown significantly without delivering improved services for Canadians and expressed support for efforts to reduce its size – though he remains skeptical that meaningful action will follow.

"Any time we can have a smaller government that cuts out the fat, we have more efficiencies, so that's something I do agree with and it had to be done. But I don't think it will actually lead to anything and we will be watching very closely."

Nova Scotia MP Chris d'Entremont resigned from the Conservative caucus on budget day to join the Liberals, the first floor crossing since 2018 when Leona Alleslev left the Liberals to join the Conservatives. She was re-elected in 2019 under the new party but then lost her seat in the 2021 election.

Khanna said he saw d'Entremont regularly as their offices are side-by-side. He believes his former colleague's motivation is nothing more than sour grapes.

"This was a case of him not getting what he wanted. He wanted to be a deputy speaker as he was in the past, but he was not chosen by his colleagues. He blamed the Conservative team for that and this is him taking personal vengeance on the party."

Louis said he's been focused on the budget and didn't see the move coming but appreciates his new caucus partner.

"We welcome anybody who wants to be part of the conversation. It shows our government has moved towards the centre and is appealing to more people."

The House of Commons is off next week for Remembrance Day, but the work behind the scenes will involve opposition parties putting forward amendments. A vote on the budget is expected to occur the following week.

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Map showing the route of the Santa Claus Parade in Tavistock. The route starts at the Post Office, goes through Hope St. W., Jacob St. W., and Dietrich Rd., ending at the Staging Entrance. Key locations marked include Commercial Staging, Organization Staging, Family Staging, and Santa's Office. Floats are listed as Disperse, Decem W., Adam, and Maria.

Chess club builds connection and community at local libraries

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE
Gazette Reporter

When Baden resident José Riveros couldn't find a local spot to play chess, he decided to establish one himself. What began as a simple idea has grown into a welcoming community event, with weekly chess meetups at both the Baden and New Hamburg branches of the Region of Waterloo Library. Players gather twice a week in New Hamburg and once a week in Baden to sharpen their skills, learn the game or simply enjoy the challenge of a good match.

Though Riveros loves the game of chess for the strategy, he also says there is an aspect of community and connection that brings people together when they play.

"When you sit in front of another person to play chess, you greet people, talk to them and introduce yourself," said Riveros. "You get to meet people you may have never met otherwise, all because you have one aspect in common – you love the game."

The club is open to all ages and skill levels, and Riveros said the goal is to make chess accessible and fun for everyone – from seasoned players to complete beginners.

"I have parents who come to play, and they bring their kids and then go home and teach them because now those kids are interested in the game," he said. "It's great to see everyone coming together who likes to play chess."

After researching potential locations, Riveros connected with the New Hamburg library, which supervisor of programs and outreach Brooke Giles thought would be the perfect space to invite locals to play.

"The chess club exemplifies the Region of Waterloo Library's mission to connect residents to each other and to the world of ideas by fostering intergenerational engagement and community interaction," said Giles. "As a drop-in program, it allows for spontaneous participation



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Nick and Skyler face off during a chess club meetup at the local library on Saturday, Nov. 1. The weekly sessions, led by Baden resident José Riveros, welcome players of all ages and skill levels.

and encourages attendees to explore other services and programs happening at the library. This blend of recreation and learning enhances our role as a community hub where diverse age groups converge and discover shared interests"

Giles went on to agree that the club has growing momentum throughout the community, and she too is excited to see what's next for the local chess club.

"From beginners to those who have been playing for years, all are welcome to participate, learn new skills and challenge new opponents," she said. "Nearly 300 people have attended chess club this year, and momentum continues to grow."

Riveros has long been involved in community volunteering – serving as a local crossing guard, driving for the Red Cross in Burlington and coaching soccer in Waterloo. His involvement and dedication to the new chess club blend his passion for volunteering with his love of the game.

"It's not my full-time job, but I like to give to the community when I can," said Riveros. "Seeing people like chess as much as I do and seeing people committed to coming every session is great."

Children under nine are welcome to participate with a parent or caregiver present during the program.

Boards are provided on a first-come, first-served basis, though participants are encouraged to bring their own sets if they have them.

To learn more or view upcoming dates, visit the Region of Waterloo Library's New Hamburg and Baden branch events page at rwlibrary.libnet.info/events or call 519-662-1112.

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The local Breakfast Club keeps New Hamburg students fed and focused

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Three dedicated local women are making a big difference in the lives of public-school students in New Hamburg, one breakfast at a time.

Each week, Paulette West, Kathy Bender and Dianne Satchell volunteer their time to prepare hot breakfasts every Wednesday for students at Forest Glen Public School, while also providing nutritious snacks throughout the week.

Their snack program includes egg salad sandwiches, cheese strings, yogurt tubes, fresh fruit and vegetables, crackers, and muffins – healthy options that help students stay energized and ready to learn. The same program also supports students

at Grandview Public School in New Hamburg.

All meals and snacks are prepared in the certified kitchen at Steinmann Mennonite Church near Baden, with strong community backing from local churches, businesses and growers who regularly donate food and funds.

In 2023, the volunteer group received a major boost from 100 Men of New Hamburg Who Really Give a Damn, which recognized the value of the breakfast program and contributed \$10,000 to help keep students eating well.

Thanks to the dedication of these three women and the generosity of the community, hundreds of students start their school days nourished and ready to succeed.

Waterloo regional police investigating targeted break-in in Wilmot Township

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) is investigating a break-and-enter at a home in Wilmot Township police say was targeted.

On Oct. 31 at approximately 8:30 p.m., police say four suspects entered a home on Bethel Road and stole property from the residence. A resident who was home at the time attempted to intervene and was

assaulted by one of the suspects. The suspects then fled the residence.

Minor physical injuries were sustained by the victim and police say investigators believe this was a targeted incident.

The investigation by the WRPS robbery team is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 519-570-9777 ext. 8255. Anonymous tips can be provided to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.waterloocrimes-toppers.com.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

From left, Paulette West, Kathy Bender and Dianne Satchell – the trio of tireless volunteers behind New Hamburg's school breakfast and snack program – dressed as three kittens for Halloween to bring smiles to the students they serve.



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Let's Tree Wilmot's Fall Celebration to include presentation from Tree Canada

CHRISTINA MCNEIL

Let's Tree Wilmot

There's something special about the sight of new trees taking root in our community – a reminder that small actions today can grow into lasting legacies.

Let's Tree Wilmot (LTW) is celebrating another successful season with 1,122 new trees planted at six sites throughout 2025. This brings the total number of trees planted in our communities by LTW to 5,862 since 2020.

We'd like to invite you to join LTW on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at the Wilmot Recreation Complex at 7 p.m. for a free evening event to celebrate the year's accomplishments, our volunteers and to enjoy a presentation by Christine Earnshaw from Tree Canada entitled "Growing Greener Communities: Perspectives from Tree Canada."

Across Canada, towns big and small are joining the effort to restore and expand local tree canopies, often with funding and help from Tree Canada's Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) initiative. To learn more about the initiative and what it could mean for our town,

we spoke with Earnshaw about the initiative, her own experiences and why planting trees in urban areas is so important.

Why are community canopies so important for our towns and cities?

"Tree canopies are important to towns and cities because they provide a myriad of environmental, health, social and ecological benefits. Trees and other vegetation are essential to make our towns and cities livable, by improving the air quality, cooling and shading, providing habitat, beauty, as well as so much more. A healthy and robust urban forest helps cities and towns adapt to climate change and combat biodiversity loss."

Tree planting sounds simple, but it takes a lot of community spirit. How does Tree Canada work with local volunteers, schools, or groups to make these projects happen?

"Tree Canada designs and delivers a number of programs that support volunteers, schools, municipal governments and non-governmental organizations to plant trees in their communities. Volunteers who plant trees, as well as those who

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(PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINE EARNSHAW)

Christine Earnshaw of Tree Canada will make a presentation at Let's Tree Wilmot's Fall Celebration entitled, "Growing Greener Communities: Perspectives from Tree Canada." Photo courtesy of Christine Earnshaw

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Continued from page 6

are involved in stewardship and protection, are critical for the sustainability of a healthy urban forest."

What's something about trees or urban canopies that most people don't know, but you wish they did?

"Everyone has a role to play in growing and protecting our urban forests. Whether you're a resident, elected official, business

owner, or a member of a community organization, your actions matter. Urban forests thrive when communities come together and contribute to care for them."

In your opinion, what is the most rewarding part of watching a tree canopy grow over time?

"Knowing that larger, mature trees provide exponentially more benefits than young ones. When planting trees, it's

important to select the right trees for the right places, and to ensure those planted have the space, conditions and the ongoing care they need to flourish."

Let's Tree Wilmot's efforts and the Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative is about much more than trees – it's about growing community roots. Every sapling planted brings people together, provides shade for future generations and

strengthens our local resilience in the face of climate change.

Residents who want to get involved can visit www.letstreewilmot.ca to learn about upcoming planting events, volunteer opportunities, or ways to support projects in our region because when we plant trees together, we're not just adding green to our streets, we're helping our town grow stronger, one tree at a time



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Let's Tree Wilmot volunteers at a recent planting event.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Township of Wellesley Official Plan and Transportation & Mobility Master Plan

Posted on October 20, 2025

The Township of Wellesley is creating a new **Official Plan (OP)** – a roadmap that will guide growth and development to the year 2051. A series of background reports are being prepared on key topics, such as housing, commercial and employment needs, agriculture, settlement area boundary expansions, stormwater management, and servicing.

The Township of Wellesley is developing a **Transportation & Mobility Master Plan (TMMP)** to guide policies and projects that will address community transportation needs over the next 25 years. Key objectives include delivering a safe, efficient, and environmentally sustainable multimodal transportation system that preserves the Township's authentic rural character and promotes equitable access to active transportation.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK ON THESE TOPICS

When: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Where: Crosshill Mennonite Church - 2537 Hutchison Rd.

Your input matters. This public session is an opportunity to share feedback and help shape the future of Wellesley Township.



Learn more about these projects at:
<https://www.engagewr.ca/engage-wellesley>



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Costumes in the area were better than ever this year



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)
Callahan Ball, whose grandmother works as a registered nurse at The Maples Home for Seniors in Tavistock, proudly shows off her Halloween spirit in a festive corn-on-the-cob costume.



Residents at The Maples enjoyed plenty of treats – and a few tricks – during a fun-filled Halloween party organized by staff on Friday afternoon.



Tavistock's Connie Junker, a loyal Toronto Blue Jays fan, dressed up in team colours hoping to cheer the Jays to victory on Halloween weekend, even though the win just slipped away.



Dressed as princesses, Scarlet (three) and Lyra (two), daughters of Alicia and Jonathan Marsh, were all smiles collecting candy on Halloween at their family's farm east of Shakespeare. Even mom and dad joined the fun. Pictured from left are Alicia Marsh holding Lyra, and Jonathan Marsh as Mr. Incredible, swooping in to "save the day" with Scarlet.

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Perth County Federation of Agriculture holds fall regional meeting in Mitchell

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Perth County Federation of Agriculture (PCFA) held its fall regional meeting recently in Mitchell, bringing together local producers and agricultural leaders to discuss current issues, programs

and opportunities in the sector.

The meeting included the election of the 2024-2025 board of directors, as well as an informative presentation by guest speaker Lois Sinclair of Belgrave, representing the Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Sinclair provided an update on the Environmental Farm Plan and outlined

available and upcoming grant programs through OMAFRA, as well as practical information on how farmers can apply. She also highlighted a range of workshops and online resources available to support producers in sustainable and environmentally responsible farming practices.

Derek Van De Walle, president of the

PCFA, thanked Sinclair for her presentation and her ongoing work in helping local farmers access important agricultural support programs.

For more information or assistance with farm programs and resources, Sinclair can be reached at 519-803-0419 or by email at loni.elliott@ofa.on.ca.



The newly elected Perth County Federation of Agriculture board of directors for 2024-2025 includes, from left, Tim Halliday, Laura Barker, Laura Good, Derek Van De Walle, Sara Wood (first vice-president, Ontario Federation of Agriculture), Inge Koskamp, Eric McLagan, Jayden Terpstra, Julie McIntosh and Julie Danen.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

PCFA President Derek Van De Walle presents guest speaker Lois Sinclair of Belgrave with a gift of thanks following her presentation on farm programs, grants and the Environmental Farm Plan at the federation's fall meeting in Mitchell.

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SCAN ME

Repair Café brings new life to broken treasures

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

On Saturday, Nov. 1, the Nith Valley EcoBoosters hosted a Repair Café at Zion United Church in New Hamburg.

The event ran from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and offered community members a chance to bring in broken items for free repairs. Repair Cafés are community events where volunteers help people fix their broken belongings for free while teaching repair skills and promoting sustainability. The goal is to reduce waste, share knowledge and strengthen community connections.

Organizer and EcoBoosters member Kathy Mostardi played a key role in coordinating the event. Fellow member Patty Clarke welcomed guests and directed them to the appropriate repair stations. Volunteers from the EcoBoosters, joined by Murray Zink of 4RepairK-W, were on hand to help visitors mend everything from small, household items to treasured keepsakes.

The café featured several repair stations, including sewing and crochet, jewelry, book repair, and general household or mechanical fixes. Volunteers repaired ripped seams, replaced earring hooks, fixed torn book pages and even restored wooden items. One highlight of the day was the repair of an ornate table base that had been broken for 17 years.



(DIANE DANEN PHOTOS)

Grace Locke repairs an infant's hat at the clothing, textile and jewelry repair station.

Ashley Ropp, a member of the Nith Valley EcoBoosters, carefully repaired an antique crocheted window dressing brought in by Denise Gingerich of New Hamburg. The piece had been handmade by Gingerich's grandmother, Emma Doering of North Easthope. Gingerich had kept it tucked away for 10 years and was thrilled to finally have it repaired.



Ashley Ropp carefully repairs an antique crocheted window dressing handcrafted by Denise Gingerich's grandmother.

"My goal by coming here is to support other communities and encourage people to help others," Zink said. "It makes the world more sustainable, one repair at a time."

More Repair Cafés are coming in the new year, so start gathering household items that need a little TLC and keep an eye out for the next event!

Right, Tom Knezevich of the Nith Valley EcoBoosters and Murray Zink from 4RepairK-W chat between repair jobs.



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Local fair ambassadors take part in District 7 Leadership Program in Paris

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Local fair ambassadors from across Zone 7 gathered at the Paris Fairgrounds over the weekend to take part in the annual Christopher Leadership Program, a public

speaking and leadership development workshop hosted by the Paris Agricultural Society and District 7 Convention organizers.

Held on Saturday, Nov. 2, the day-long event brought together ambassadors from fairs across Waterloo, Oxford, Wellington and Six Nations, including representatives

from Tavistock, Wellesley, Woodstock Embro and Drumbo.

Participants were honoured to be joined by Lexi Johnston of Listowel, this year's Ambassador of the Fairs for Ontario, who earned the provincial title at the CNE Ambassador Competition earlier this year

in Toronto.

The Christopher Leadership Program provided ambassadors with practical skills and confidence for their roles, particularly in public speaking – a key part of representing their agricultural societies and communities at events throughout the year.



Local ambassadors who attended the District 7 Fair Convention on Nov. 2 at the Paris Fairgrounds included, from left, Hailey Lupton (Embro and Zorra ambassador); Brooklyn Ross (Tavistock ambassador); Erin Jackson (New Hamburg-Wilmot ambassador); Claire Koch (Wellesley-North Easthope senior ambassador); and Chloe Scott (Wellesley-North Easthope junior ambassador). The group took part in sessions designed to help them prepare for their ambassador duties in the year ahead.



(WENDY RICHARDSON PHOTOS)

District 7 fair ambassadors who participated in the leadership program included, from left, Kimberly Farmer (Miss Six Nations); Charlotte Gordon (Erin); Hailey Lupton (Embro and Zorra); Grace Akulsebrook (Smith-Paris); Sarah Shawn (Fergus); Brooklyn Ross (Tavistock); Lexi Johnston (CNE ambassador of the fairs); Erin Jackson (New Hamburg-Wilmot); Claire Koch (Wellesley-North Easthope senior); Chloe Scott (Wellesley-North Easthope junior); Brennan Quackenbush (Erin, first runner-up); and Kylie Reid (Erin junior ambassador).

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Opinion: Reflecting on time as honorary colonel with RCAF

LOREENA MCKENNITT

Submitted to the Gazette

It's been just over a year since I departed the realms of the Royal Canadian Air Force as their honorary colonel. Like any member of a family, I think of them often and especially in these unpredictable and turbulent times.

I accepted the role, largely inspired by the sentiment that democracy does not thrive as a spectator sport – that if we care about the democracy we live in, we must all do our part to preserve it.

Canadian Armed Forces do many things far beyond a battlefield. Their mandate includes search and rescue, international and domestic humanitarian aid, disaster relief, sovereignty patrol, re-supply missions, international peacekeeping, peace-making, in addition to combat.

It was important for me to get to know our men and women in uniform, where they came from, why they joined and how they undertake their responsibilities. It was equally important to understand how their career path has affected their ability to have and maintain a family, children, husbands, wives and parents who, behind the scenes, stoically support them.

In Canada, we are fortunate to count our



(LOREENA MCKENNITT FACEBOOK PHOTO)

Loreena McKennitt, former honorary colonel of the Royal Canadian Air Force, speaks to service members.

military as a relatively neutral instrument, instructed by the government of the day on behalf of Canadians. As well we know, this is not, nor has always been the case elsewhere in the world.

Our present Canadian Forces are the extension of the history and traditions of the very brave men and women who, from across our land, fought and died in vast numbers in two great wars and more. It

is they who have afforded us this life of liberty, freedom and privilege. We, as citizens, owe it to them to be informed about the work they do, and the challenges and risks they face. For in their neutrality lies a vulnerability, for which each citizen holds a duty of care.

I know I am not alone in my uneasiness in observing current world affairs and the stress put on the institutional framework

which has held us together in relative peace for many decades. In World War II, the challenge was easily understood. It was an attack on our way of life by an identifiable opponent with a name, uniform, location, even a face. This made it easy to visualize who we were up against. But is our way of life under attack today and if so, by whom?

Are we, the public citizens, ready and willing to take up the challenges that the future could bring us like our forbearers. If so, what is needed of us?

We cannot be complacent or live in denial. This was simply not an option for those living in 1939. We must return to and embrace the study of history and civics. Youth can be encouraged to enroll in the CAF and reserves. Above all, we mustn't regard our fragile democracies as a spectator's sport, but instead step up, speak up and be proud to be of service to others, defending the values which Canadians hold dear.

On this coming Remembrance Day, these will be at least some of my thoughts alongside an abundance of gratitude.

Loreena McKennitt is an international, multi-platinum recording artist, a member of The Order of Canada, the former honorary colonel of the Royal Canadian Air Force and founder of Wise Communities.

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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Royal Canadian Legion encouraged by membership growth as Remembrance Day approaches

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The national office of the Royal Canadian Legion has introduced several changes to its operations, and so far, the new initiatives are showing positive results.

"There are close to 20,000 traditional locations across the country where poppies are offered for donations. This year, we have also doubled the number of Pay Tribute Boxes – our tap-to-donate boxes," said Nujma Bond, the Legion's manager of communications.

"We now have about 2,300 of them across Canada, giving people the option to donate electronically. Even if they don't have cash or change, they can still collect a poppy and support the Legion."

Bond noted there was strong interest in the new donation method during the 2024 campaign, when just over 1,000 of the new boxes brought in more than \$700,000 in contributions.

"Canadians are always incredibly generous, and we're very thankful for that support," she said. "All funds collected during this period go directly to the Poppy Trust Fund, which assists veterans and their families."

In addition to the tribute boxes, the Legion has modernized further by

partnering with one of the world's largest online retailers.

"Last year, we launched an Amazon online storefront as a new way to reach Canadians who may live in rural areas or regions without a local Legion branch," Bond said. "They can now obtain a lapel poppy for a donation online."

The storefront also offers other Remembrance Day items such as hats, scarves and mittens, and so far, it has been a success.

"Last year, we reached over 7,000 different villages, towns and communities across Canada, many of them in rural areas without a Legion branch," said Bond.

All poppy donations collected in a community stay local, ensuring direct support for nearby veterans. Nationally, the organization's membership is healthy, though Bond acknowledged some branches occasionally struggle to find volunteers.

"We've seen year-over-year growth and now have 170,000 members nationwide," she said. "With 1,350 branches, local challenges can arise from time to time. Finding enough volunteers is something we hear about regularly."

Bond added new volunteers often bring fresh ideas, innovative programs and new energy to local branches.

"We hope people will consider joining

the Legion. Through their membership, they directly support our veterans and all the work we do. They can also help with the poppy campaign by being active in their communities."

This year, Canada will mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the liberation of the Netherlands, a campaign in which Canadian forces played a crucial role. These anniversaries hold deep meaning for Canadians, especially veterans and their families, and the 2025 National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa will place special emphasis on these milestones.

"That will include re-enactments of the period with participants in authentic uniforms," Bond said.

"We'll also have a tribute flyover by CF-18 fighter jets and an appearance by an RCMP Black Hawk helicopter."

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa. The remains in the tomb are those of an unidentified Canadian soldier who died in France during the First World War, near Vimy Ridge – one of Canada's most significant battlefields. The tomb stands as a symbol of all Canadian service members who have no known grave.

"It has become a sacred and important site during the national service in Ottawa,"

said Bond. "When the ceremony concludes, thousands of people come forward to place their lapel poppies on the tomb."

Across the country, many Legion branches have launched Remembrance banner programs, including those in New Hamburg and Beachville. Some communities, such as Woodstock, have also installed Remembrance-themed crosswalks.

"It's another way to visually honour our veterans and thank them throughout the year," Bond said. "That's been a goal of the Legion for several years – encouraging Canadians to reflect on the sacrifices that made our freedoms possible. Seeing that remembrance expressed year-round through crosswalks, banners and local initiatives is very meaningful."

The Legion has also created a Remembrance Day ceremony resource for teachers, which can be adapted for schools or workplaces.

"If people can't attend a ceremony at a cenotaph on November 11, they can hold one at another time, perhaps the following week," said Bond. "That way, students and employees can still take part in honouring our veterans."

More information is available at www.legion.ca.

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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

Our staff would like to take this opportunity to honour Canada's Veterans and to remember all those who sacrificed so that we may enjoy the freedoms we cherish today. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the many community-minded businesses whose support made this special feature possible.

Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Tavistock and District Historical Society present Veterans Remembrance display

MARILYN PEARSON

Tavistock and District Historical Society

The Tavistock and District Historical Society (TDHS) have set up a Veterans Remembrance Day Display in the Tavistock arena for young and old to view artifacts, photos and to learn why Nov. 11 is recognized across the Country.

Of interest to hockey players, the Tavistock Braves wore a special Jersey in their home game on Nov. 16, 2016, to remember and honour our veterans. That jersey is part of the display.

What is Remembrance Day?

- Remembrance Day is a day to remember and honour the men and women who have died while serving in their country's armed forces.
- It began after World War I and is observed in many Commonwealth countries.
- The day's name comes from the signing of the armistice, or peace agreement, which took place on Nov. 11, 1918.

Key symbols and figures

- The poppy: The poppy is a symbol of remembrance because it grew in the fields of Flanders during World War I. It represents the blood spilled in the wars and is worn to honour those who served.
- John McCrae: A Canadian physician and lieutenant-colonel, John McCrae wrote the famous poem "In Flanders Fields" during the war. The poem is often read on Remembrance Day.
- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: This monument in Ottawa

contains the remains of an unidentified Canadian soldier who died in World War I. It represents all Canadian soldiers who have died in unmarked graves overseas.

Why is it important for young people?

- Honouring sacrifice: It's important for students to learn about the courage and sacrifices made by service members to preserve peace and freedom.
- Understanding history: Remembrance Day provides a way to learn about important events in Canadian history, such as World War I and World War II.
- Promoting peace: By remembering the past, students can learn the importance of working towards a peaceful future.

How can you participate?

- Attend a ceremony: Many communities hold ceremonies at local cenotaphs or war memorials. This year, the Remembrance Day service is being held at Grace United Church on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 10:30 a.m. At 1 p.m., the wreath laying ceremony will take place at the Tavistock Memorial Legion, 223 Hope St. W, hosted by Tavistock Legion Branch 218. The public is welcome to attend.
- Observe two minutes of silence: A moment of silence is often observed at 11 a.m. to remember the fallen.
- Wear a poppy: Wearing a poppy is a powerful way to show your support and remembrance.
- Learn more: Become familiar with



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF TDHS)

The Tavistock and District Historical Society has set up a Veterans Remembrance Day Display at the Tavistock Arena.

the Tavistock and District Historical Society's website that contains over 500 area veterans that preserves historical information on which war they served in, photo, birth date, school they attended, date they enlisted, training, medals they received, what they did after war, details about their family and any other personalized information that has been compiled. Check out the TDHS Website at www.tavistockhistory.ca.

The veteran database is also printed

alphabetically in volumes by war and contains additional information on some veterans including pictures, newspaper clippings, letters, articles and family. These records are found at the Tavistock and District Historical Society located at 37 Maria St., Tavistock. The museum is open the third Saturday of the month from 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. For more information, email TDHS at: info@tavistockhistory.ca.

The Veterans Remembrance Day display will be available for viewing at the arena until Nov. 24.

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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

New Hamburg Legion members raise the Poppy Flag at home and on Parliament Hill

Local Legion members hoping to take the Poppy Flag across the country

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A tradition started in Wilmot Township a few years ago has now spread to Canada's capital, and local Royal Canadian Legion members are hoping to take it even further next year.

To officially kick off this year's Poppy Campaign, New Hamburg Legion members joined Mayor Natasha Salonen, township councillors and staff at the township office and Castle Kilbride in Baden Oct. 31 to raise the "Lest We Forget" Poppy Flag – a tradition started by 33-year Canadian Armed Forces veteran Chief Petty Officer, 2nd Class (retired) Donald Eenkooren in Wilmot back in 2022.

"As we head into November and Remembrance week, it is a time of year to remember and honour all of our veterans who have fought for our freedom and allow us to live in this amazing country," Salonen said after New Hamburg Legion president Brian Miller presented her with the first official poppy of the 2025 campaign and the Poppy Flag was raised to half mast on the township flagpole. "I'd also like to remind everyone it's not the only time of the year we should be remembering our veterans; we should be doing that all year. Please be sure to wear a poppy and donate to the New Hamburg Legion, especially during the poppy campaign."

"This started here approximately three

years ago by veteran Donald Eenkooren asking to the Legion to have the Poppy Flag flown in the township, and the township was very receptive and supportive," Miller added. "That has now gone to Parliament Hill. We have a delegation there today actually doing this same thing we're doing here for the first time, and it's really important."

While the Poppy Flag was being raised in Wilmot, Eenkooren and New Hamburg Legion members Gerry and Kathy Eichler, and Ian and Connie McKie had made the eight-hour trip to Ottawa, where they raised the Poppy Flag – the same flag raised in Wilmot in 2022 – in a first-of-its-kind ceremony on Parliament Hill attended by Legion Command officials and government representatives.

"(Donald) just felt that we needed to do more for veterans in terms of flying flags," said Connie McKie, who serves as the New Hamburg Legion's secretary. "He approached (Kitchener-Conestoga MP) Tim Louis' office, and they were helpful, and then he approached our president, who I believe was Ross Eichler back then, and had the flag flown at Castle Kilbride (for the first time in 2022), and so that would become a yearly event."

"He was still adamant he wanted more, so he pursued flying it at Queen's Park. For that, he was referred to MPP Catherine Fife, who had put a motion on the floor to



(PHOTO COURTESY OF MP TIM LOUIS)

Minister of Veterans Affairs Jill McKnight alongside Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis during the Poppy Flag raising ceremony on Parliament Hill Oct. 31.

have that happen."

In the meantime, as the local Legion members prepared petitions that would allow the Poppy Flag to be flown at Queen's Park, Eenkooren and Connie McKie also applied to have the flag flown on Parliament Hill after being told by Louis that the request had to be made by an organization like the New Hamburg Legion.

"We were really surprised that Parliament Hill responded almost immediately and said, 'Sure, let's do that,'" Connie McKie said. "We weren't really ready, but that's okay because that's where Tim Louis' office came in, and I can't tell you enough good things about what their office did to make this happen."

According to the local Legion secretary, Louis' office paid the \$600 to have a temporary flagpole installed on Parliament Hill so the New Hamburg Poppy Flag could be flown. Louis' office also rented a couple canopies to protect those who attended the flag raising from the rain, and the MP's staff sent invitations to important guests, including federal Minister of Veterans Affairs Jill McKnight, who spoke at the ceremony.

Connie McKie said she also invited representatives from Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command, Provincial Command and anyone else from Legion leadership she could think of. As a result of her efforts, Royal Canadian Legion national executive director Randy Hayley

attended to watch the flag raising and officially kick off Canada's national Poppy Campaign.

Louis, himself, hosted the ceremony, calling the moment "a powerful tribute to those who served. It reminds us that national traditions often begin with a single, determined voice."

Eenkooren, who had the honour of raising the Poppy Flag, also spoke at the ceremony.

"When a veteran sees that flag, they know what it means," Eenkooren said. "It's recognition. It's remembrance. Once it flies on Parliament Hill, there's no reason it can't fly elsewhere."

"It's important that we take the lead federally and invite provincial and municipal governments to join us next year in raising the Poppy Flag, recognizing the invaluable contributions of our veterans to our great country," Louis added.

While the Poppy Flag was only flown for an hour on Parliament Hill this year, Connie McKie said there is every intention from both the Royal Canadian Legion and the federal government to have it flown for a full week next year.

Eenkooren said he plans to continue advocating for the flag to be flown at Queen's Park and other provincial legislatures across the country.

"Every flagpole is an opportunity to remember," he said.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

New Hamburg Royal Canadian Legion president Brian Miller raises the "Lest We Forget" Poppy Flag at the Wilmot Township office and Castle Kilbride Oct. 31.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

New Hamburg Legion president Brian Miller and Wilmot Township Mayor Natasha Salonen speak during the Poppy Flag raising ceremony at the township office and Castle Kilbride Oct. 31.

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The Poppy Campaign

Until November 11th, 2025

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1:00 pm: Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony will take place at the Tavistock Memorial Legion, 223 Hope Street West. Hosted by Tavistock Legion Branch 518. Public is welcome.



Royal Canadian Legion
 Tavistock Memorial Branch #518



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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Plattsville and District Heritage Society marks Remembrance Week with museum exhibit, poppy displays and veterans' banners

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

There is plenty of opportunity to honour our veterans and those actively serving in the military across Blandford-Blenheim Township this week thanks to the efforts of volunteers with the Plattsville and District Heritage Society.

In addition to the annual Remembrance service hosted at the Chesterfield Museum, Archive and Cenotaph Nov. 9 beginning at 11:30 a.m., the society that operates the museum and archive has curated a museum exhibit aimed at helping locals put the call to military service answered by generations past and present into context.

"This is the first time we've opened for Remembrance Week; usually (the museum) is just open the day of our Chesterfield service," said Plattsville and District Heritage Society president Denise Tew. "But we thought maybe not everyone can make it to that service, and they would like to have a chance to remember.

"We have photos of World War I and World War II veterans, and we have some mannequins dressed up. Tyler Todd, who passed away in Afghanistan (in April 2010); we have his blanket and his picture. ... We just have some old clippings people can go through, uniforms to see."

This year, Tew said the exhibit also features the uniforms of RCMP officer Stewart Shearer, born and raised in Chesterfield, who died last fall.

"His family gave us his uniforms. You'll see there's three uniforms on mannequins because we not only want to remember our veterans, but we want to remember the people who keep us safe all year long. Those are our police officers, so it was a real honour to be given those uniforms, and Stewart is actually buried in the Chesterfield Cemetery (next door)."

With plenty of memorabilia and artifacts on display donated by the families of local veterans, the Remembrance Week exhibit at the Chesterfield Museum is open

Continued on page 19



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PLATTSVILLE AND DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY)

A portion of the Plattsville and District Heritage Society's Remembrance exhibit at the Chesterfield Museum and Archive.

LEST WE FORGET

Honouring those who gave so much for our freedom.



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LEST WE FORGET



**FREE COFFEE FOR VETERANS THIS
REMEMBRANCE DAY WITH GRATITUDE**

Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Continued from page 18

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 8 and 15, as well as before and after the Chesterfield Remembrance service.

In addition to the exhibit, the heritage society is also hoping to inspire remembrance through 21 handknitted and crocheted poppy installations that can now be seen across the township.

"We hit all the fire stations and the township office, and the school, the cenotaphs, and libraries," Tew said. "I would hate to guess how many poppies we have, but it's in the thousands. We did not count them. I know our friends over in Wellesley counted their poppies, but I got overwhelmed. I can't count that high, but we had one poppy member who probably made 1,000 poppies herself."

Similar to poppy installations that have sprung up throughout the region and beyond, these art pieces comprise hundreds of handmade poppies, if not more, that are attached to netting and secured to public bridges, railings, monuments and other places where passersby can see and appreciate them, all in the name of Remembrance.

Those driving around Blannford-Blenheim Township will notice even more veterans' banners hung from light



The Plattsville and District Heritage Society's poppy installation at the Plattsville gates.

standards than in years past, all honouring individual veterans who served in past wars. Each banner includes a veteran's name, their military branch and unit, and years served. In total, there are 91 veterans' banners on display this year – 32 in Bright and 59 in Plattsville.

"The young people, I don't think they're aware the way they need to be aware, and I don't think (our veterans) are talked about enough," Tew said. "... This is a way to start that conversation. ... Everywhere you

go in Blannford-Blenheim, you're going to run into a poppy banner or a veteran's banner.

"... This is all about reflecting and remembering. I think that's the most important thing people need to do. ... It's pretty cool to look at those people. They belong to somebody's family and some didn't come home. Even the one's who came home; I don't know if they got a proper thank-you."

And as if all of this wasn't enough, Tew

said the heritage society recently donated \$1,100 raised from the sale of poppy quilts through a silent auction earlier this year to the New Hamburg Legion Poppy Fund. One of those quilts was given to the society by Donna Moss. It was stitched by Moss' Great Aunt Fleda in 1962 to commemorate the military service of her son, Howard Cephus Sleep, who served in the air force during the Second World War. He was reported missing in action in March 1943 and never made it home.

• LEST WE FORGET •

REMEMBRANCE Day

NOVEMBER 11
— THE —
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LEST WE FORGET
IN HONoured MEMORY OF
THE MEN OF
WILMOT TOWNSHIP
WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN
THE GREAT WARS 1914-1918

Township of Wilmot Council & Staff

Remember

Lest We Forget

1939-1945

Wilmot



Remembrance Day

NOVEMBER 11, 2025

Legion 2025 VETERAN BA

NEW HAMBURG

Ackersviller, Fred - 319 Wilmot
 Armstrong, Joseph - 288 Peel
 Armstrong, Leslie - 272 Peel
 Armstrong [Klassen], Margaret - beside the Cenotaph
 Armstrong, Robin - Board of Trade on Huron
 Armstrong, Walter - Beside the Cenotaph
 Armstrong, Winnifred - 288 Peel
 Arnold Brothers - Post Office on Huron
 Ayling, Fred - In Front of 290 Huron
 Bailey, John - 56 Burns
 Baird, John - on Wilmot & Church corner
 Becker, Roy - 39 Bleams West
 Bier, Nile Maxie - in front of Jerry Pfeil Motors on Huron
 Bingeman, Lawrence - in front of A Portuguesa Bakery on Huron
 Boshart, Ken - St. Peter's Church on Huron
 Bowman, Claude - side yard of 285 Peel on Church
 Bradshaw, William - 32 Church
 Brenneman, Erwin - beside 16 & 22 Bleams West
 Brenner, Jack - 231 Wilmot
 Brenner, Ollie - 231 Wilmot
 Brenner, Robert - Riverside Florist
 Broda, Fred - in front of Physiotherapy Alliance on Huron
 Brydon, Robert - 51 Bleams W.
 Cairns, David - beside the cannabis store on Burns
 Canadian Armed Forces - 412 Peel
 Cheeseman, Sid - West side of The Legion on Boullee
 Cleary, Francis - 182 Union
 Cockerton, Ward - corner of Huron & Hunter
 Colasimone, Henry - 213 Wilmot
 Connolly, Joseph - 302 Wilmot
 Cook, Norman - 347 Huron, corner of Huron & Huron Pl.
 Cook, Roy - 347 Huron, corner of Huron & Huron Pl.
 Coxson, Donald - 3 Bleams East at Peel
 Cressman, Allan Ezra - 354 Huron

Cressman, James Oliver - between 386 - 394 Peel
 Cullaton, Patrick - 354 Huron
 Daniels, Charles - 254 Peel
 Daniels, Fred - 244 Peel
 Deckert, Kenneth - on corner of Huron & Hunter
 Ditner, Hubert - 318 Peel Street [Bell Canada Building]
 Doerr, Woody - 319 Wilmot
 Duncan, Jack - 213 Wilmot
 Durrer, Alfred - across from Waterlot on Wilmot
 Durrer, Eugene - across from Waterlot on Wilmot
 Durrer, Frank - 97 Wilmot
 Dusome, George - beside 16 & 22 Bleams West
 Ebert, John - 183 Wilmot
 Eby, Elgin - in front of Jerry Pfeil Motors on Huron
 Edgell, John - on Wilmot on the corner of Church
 Eichler, Douglas - 313 Peel
 Eichler, Ernie - 18 Bleams East
 Eichler, Nora Mae - 295 Peel
 Eichler, Paul - 295 Peel
 Eidt, Lloyd - 291 Huron - funeral home
 Emslie, George - 62 Boullee
 Erbach, Herbert - beside 237 Peel on Boullee
 Everts, Albert - beside the cannabis store on Burns
 Faulhafer, Gord - 32 Church
 Feick, Thomas Dr. - 253 Peel
 Fewkes, William - in front of the Puddicombe Restaurant - south side
 Fink, Aussie - 195 Peel
 Fink, Walter - 195 Peel
 Fischer, Henry - across from 22 Church
 Forler, Alvin - 216 Pee
 Forler, Claude - 196 Peel
 Forler, Edward - 196 Peel
 Foster, Samuel - south end of Peel Street West Plaza
 Fried, Kenneth - 35 Peel

Fritz, Robert - side yard of 285 Peel on Church
 Frizell, Raymond - 43 Bleams West
 Gallant, John - 276 Wilmot
 Glab, Jozef - 27 Peel
 Glendinning, William - 334 Peel
 Goebel, Glennie - 176 Huron
 Goebel, Ward - in front of A Portuguesa Bakery on Huron
 Goodwyn, Arthur - 290 Huron
 Grundenberger, Harry - 35 Peel
 Guy, Donald - 316 Wilmot
 Hallman, Ervin - 169 Mill Street [Peel continued]
 Hammer, Maurice - 115A Peel
 Harris, Gordon - 258 Peel
 Hartman, Howard - 233 Huron
 Hartwig, Arno - 316 Wilmot
 Hill, George M. Jr. - in front of Puddicombe Restaurant - north side
 Hill, George M. Sr. - in front of Puddicombe Restaurant - north side
 Hinz, Carl - 58 Boullee
 Holtzworth, Carl - 299 Wilmot
 Honderich, Robert - 19 Boullee
 Hostetler, Charles - 88 Burns
 Hulzebos, Jacob - in front of the Murray's Building
 Ingold, Irvin - 19 Boullee
 James, Albert - 394 Peel
 Jansen, Orval - 393 Huron
 Jantzi, Earl - Holy Family School on Huron
 Jones, Herbert - 25 Boullee
 Junker, Gordon - 231 Jacob - on the corner of Boullee & Jacob
 Kaster, John - 176 Huron
 Klassen, David - west side of library
 Kilgour, Lloyd - 231 Jacob & 58 Boullee on Boullee
 Koch, Gerald - 165 Peel
 Koenig, Dr. Melvin E. - In front of Holy Family Parking Lot
 Koenig, Vernon - In front of Holy Family Parking lot

Krampien, Irvine - 318 Peel Street
 Kropf, Emmett - corner of Peel &
 Kropf, Lavina - 346 Peel
 Kropf, Lloyd - 18 Bleams East
 Kropf, Lorne - corner of Peel & 1
 Kruspe, Robert - in front of the M
 Kurt, Walter - 25 Boullee
 Langford, John - 334 Peel
 Laschinger, Wilfred - 183 Wilmo
 Lautenschlager, Harold - CIBC o
 Linton, James - in front of Trinity
 Lotz, John - 279 Peel
 Lotz, Lloyd - 279 Peel
 Maher, Edmund - 251 Huron
 Marty, Ivan Bernard - 394 Peel
 Massel, Bud - 245 Peel
 Massel, Byron - 245 Peel
 Marston, William - 265 Peel
 McEllistrum, Gord - 230 Peel
 McFayden, Henry - Home Harv
 McKie, Carlie - 328 Huron
 McKie, Michael - 328 Huron
 McNichol, Douglas - 31 Bleams V
 McNeil, Michael - 304 Peel
 Mead, William - 285 Wilmot
 Meeker, Howie - 115A Peel
 Menard, Albert - 7 Bleams West
 Menard, Ira - 23 Bleams West
 Menard, Marcella - 7 Bleams We
 Merner, Albert - 380 Peel
 Merner, Ross - 380 Peel
 Migliarini, Oliver - 272 Wilmot
 Miller, Clare - Post Office on Hur
 Miller, Sonny - 412 Peel



REMEMBRANCE DAY AGENDA 2025

NEW HAMBURG SERVICE

- 10:55 a.m. -

10:59 a.m. -

11:00-11:15 a.m. -

11:15 - 11:30 a.m. -

11:30 - 11:35 a.m. -

11:35 -

11:45 a.m. -

Parade arrives at the New Hamburg Arena

O CANADA

 1. Last Post (Colours are dipped)
 2. The Silence
 3. Lament
 4. Reveille (Colours are Raised)
 5. The Act of Remembrance
 6. Prayers

Wreath Laying Ceremony (Choir or Band performs)

God Save The King

Colour Party Dismissed. Ceremony Ends.

Fellowship & Refreshments New Hamburg Legion

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION NEW HAMBURG

REMEMBRANCE DAY DETAILS



10:05 Colour Party Steps Off

10:15 Laying of wreaths and dedication

10:40 Colour Party Arrives New Hamburg Arena

11:00 A Moment of silence begins, Last Post, Lament & Reveille (Rouse)

SEND US YOUR PICTURE!

COLOUR PARTY PARADE ROUTE

IF YOUR LOVED ONES BANNER IS ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE WE ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY TO STAND BELOW AND HAVE SOMEONE TAKE A PICTURE AS THE COLOUR PARTY PASSES BY. PLEASE SEND THOSE INTO US! WE ARE CREATING A VIDEO!



THESE PAGES WERE GEN



NEW HAMBURG

Branch 532, New Hamburg

www.newhamburglegion.ca



On Remembrance Day, we remember all those who have served Canada in times of war, conflict and peace

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Let's We Forget

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Lest We Forget

NOVEMBER 11, 2025

ANNER LOCATIONS

- t [Bell Canada Building]
1 Bleams West

Bleams West
Murray's Building

t
n Huron
Lutheran Church on Church Street

are

V. but on Joseph

st

on Street
- Milne, Donald** - 97 Wilmot
Mitchell, George - parking lot for Pfeil Motors on north sid
Nairn, John - parking lot for Pfeil Motors on north side
Nauman, Clayton - Holy Family School
Neath, William Jr. - 312 Peel
Neath, William Sr. - 312 Peel
Neubauer, Joe - Josslin Insurance
Nielson, John - 96 Huron
Norton, Scott - Riverside Florist
Oesch, Clayton - beside Mill parking lot on Mill
Omand, Bruce - 291 Huron - Funeral Home
Orobko, Steve - 393 Huron
Paciello, Pasquale - West side of CIBC on Mill Street
Panchen, William - parking lot beside fire hall
Parker, Roy - between 253 Wilmot & corner house on Church
Pearson, Jack - 244 Wilmot
Perry, Walter - between 231 Jacob & 58 Boullee on Boullee
Pfaff, Orville - 43 Bleams West
Poirier, Al - West side of The Legion on Boullee
Poll, Elmer - 11 Bleams West
Priest, John - Josslin Insurance
Racho, Wallace - 285 Wilmot
Rahn, Arthur - Holy Family Church
Reiner, Lloyd - 331 Wilmot
Reinhart, Albert - Beside B&W Feed on Peel
Richards, Alfred - 144 Huron
Rickert, Ross - 299 Wilmot
Riediger, Eric - 373 Huron
Riedl, Paul - corner of Wilmot and Huron on Wilmot
Riedl, Vendel - corner of Wilmot and Huron on Wilmot
Riehl, Jack - 3 Bleams East
Riehl, Gerald - 3 Bleams East
Rielly, Arnold - 265 Peel
Ritz, Ernie - 27 Peel
- Robertson, Henry** - 244 Wilmot
Ross, Jack - 233 Huron
Roth, Harold - Holy Family Church
Roth, Harold - corner of N. Peel & Bleams E.
Roth, Lyle - Home Hardware
Routly, William - left side of 31 Bleams W. on Joseph
Ruthig, Alfred - 308 Huron
Salonen, Dr. Otto - 272 Peel
Salzberry, Russell - Beside B&W Mill
Schaefer, Lorne - 17 Bleams East
Schaefer, Walter - 17 Bleams East
Schmidt, Eric - 23 Bleams West
Schmitt, George - 253 Peel
Schofield, Douglas - 269 Huron
Schuler, Theodore - Garden Stand at 90 Peel
Schwing, William - 313 Peel
Scott, John R.A. - 62 Boullee
Shantz, Cameron - corner of Peel & Huron on Huron
Shantz, Daniel - 269 Huron
Shantz, Stuart - 311 Wilmot
Sheppard, Leslie - North end of Peel West parking lot
Sheppard, Kenneth - North end of Peel West parking lot
Shilling, Percy - corner of Peel & Huron on Huron
Simpson, Reginald - across from Bailey house on the corner
Sivyer, Jean - 178 Peel
Sivyer, Teddy - 178 Peel
Slota, Frank M. - In front of Bar Burrito
Spahr, John - 39 Bleams W.
Steiner, Carl - St. Peter's Church on Huron
Stiefelmeyer, John - North of Felt Boots on Peel
Stier, Nathaniel - 245 Wilmot
Strauch, John - across from Bailey house on Burns
Strickland, Lyle - 373 Huron
Summers, Leonard - on Church & side yard of rectory [on Peel]
- Taylor, Thomas** - on Church & side yard of rectory [on Peel]
Thalen, Jacob Harm - 3 Bleams East on the corner of Peel
Thomas, George - Parking lot beside firehall
Thomas, Herbert - 331 Wilmot
Thomas, Margaret - west side of library
Thomas, Newton A. - Cook's Pharmacy
Thomas, Newton O. - Cook's Pharmacy
Todd, Tyler - corner of Peel & Huron
Toman, Burkle - between 253 Wilmot & corner house on Church
Torrie, Duncan - Garden Stand on Peel
Uptgrove, Helen - RBC on Huron
Uptgrove, John - RBC on Huron
Voisin, Louis - by the bandstand on Wilmo
Voisin, Urban - by the bandstand on Wilmot
Wagner, Erhardt - 311 Wilmot
Walker, Clinton - 73 Peel
Wallbank, William - 251 Huron
Walsh, Mary Margaret - 31 Bleams W
Walsh, Walter - 31 Bleams W
Walter, Eric - 216 Peel
Weber, Norm - 96 Huron
Whitman, Donald - 258 Peel
Wildfang, Gerald - Union beside the red church
Wildfang, Roy - Union beside the red church
Wilhelm, Carl - 302 Wilmot
Wilhelm Dell - in front of CIBC on Huron
Williams, Russell - 245 Wilmot
Wolfe, Kenneth - 272 Wilmot
Work, Howard T. - In front of 182 Union; NH Lanes
Yearwood, Manley - 276 Wilmot
Yonge, Charles - 73 Peel
Zehr, Donald - corner of Peel & Huron Streets
Zoeller, Henry - 11 Bleams West

SUPPORT OUR HEROS



The New Hamburg Legion is always accepting donations of personal hygiene products for our veterens.

ITEMS NEEDED INCLUDE:

- Kleenex · Toothpaste & Brushes
- Mouthwash · Diabetic Stockings
- Low Fragrance Deodorant, Soap & Shampoo
- Socks with Non Slip Soles · Jogging Suits
- Moisturizer for Skin · Disposable Razors
- Polident Denture Cleaner · T-shirts
- Men's and Ladies Underwear

Items can be dropped off at the Branch during open hours (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m.)



Stop by and join the
TUDOR SQUADRON
822 CADETS
while they stand vigil at the
NEW HAMBURG
CENOTAPH

from 8:00 p.m. on November 10th
until 10:00 a.m. on November 11th
The New Hamburg Legion would like to thank Tim Hortons for supplying hot beverages for the Cadets and Domino's Pizza for supplying pizza for the Cadets. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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Remembrance Day

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The Act of Remembrance

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
We will remember them.*

*~ The Imperial in
New Hamburg*



Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Four generations gather to honour Major Manley Yearwood

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

Four generations of a local family gathered recently to celebrate and honour their ancestor, Maj. Manley Yearwood, under his memorial veterans' banner in downtown New Hamburg.

The New Hamburg Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532 once again invited families to sponsor memorial banners in honour of local veterans this year. The initiative aims to bring the community together to remember and pay tribute to those who served for Canada, the U.K. and their allies. Each banner features a veteran's name and photo and is proudly displayed on light standards throughout the downtown areas of Wilmot.

On Saturday, Nov. 1, four generations of the Yearwood family gathered at the corner of Wilmot and Weber Streets in New Hamburg, where Maj. Manley Yearwood's banner hangs, to honour their father,

grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather.

Before the Second World War, Yearwood was married with two children. Sadly, his wife passed away. In 1939, Yearwood enlisted at the age of 27 in Madoc, Ont., serving in the war from 1939-1945.

Yearwood served with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment as a demolition expert. During the war, while marching with his platoon, he caught the eye of a young woman named Maggie Mair, who was doing her part for the war effort working in ammunitions. Mair told her friends that he was the man she was going to marry. Yearwood and Mair were married six weeks later.

The couple married in Scotland where they welcomed their first daughter, Margaret. After the war ended in 1945, Mair came to Canada as a war bride. The family eventually settled in Gananoque, later moving to Kingston, Fenelon Falls, Waterloo

and later Doon, and had seven more children together.

On Saturday, family members travelled from Listowel, Woodstock, Kitchener, Shakespeare and New Hamburg to pose for a family photo in front of Maj. Yearwood's memorial banner, a touching tribute to a proud Canadian veteran and the legacy he left behind.



Community memorial banners pay tribute to a deceased veterans.



(DIANE DANEN PHOTOS)

The family of Maj. Manley Yearwood stands in front of the commemorative banner at the corner of Wilmot and Weber streets in New Hamburg. Children in the front row: Adalynn Rohm, Bentley Rohm, Madison Helm, Paige Helm and Jackson Helm. Middle: Katie Rohm, Victoria Frey, Carra Helm, Margaret Rohm, Jaymee Witzel, Judy Yearwood, Alyssa Helm and Dave Helm. Back: Andrew Rohm, Rob Milligan, Stephanie Milligan and Tara Witzel.

Remembrance Day

We will remember them

Extendicare

Helping people live better



Foxboro Green residents install poppy display



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)
The extended Remembrance Day poppy banner has been installed on the bridge at Foxboro Green. The banner, made of hundreds of individual, handcrafted poppies, was created by residents of Foxboro Green.

ON NOVEMBER 11 WE REMEMBER

GREATER LOVE HAS NO
ONE THAN THIS,
THAT SOMEONE
LAY DOWN HIS
LIFE FOR HIS
FRIENDS

JOHN 15:13



LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBRANCE Day

NOVEMBER 11



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Lest We Forget

REMEMBRANCE DAY

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IN MEMORIAM



Bernice Ramseyer
1934-2020

Five years have passed
Since your smile was seen here last.
Five years without the **light you gave**
The biggest hearts are often brave.

My **wife**, my love, my steady guide
I feel you walking by my side.
Though your hand's touch is just a dream
I see your love in every sunbeam.

Our **mother**, your wisdom stays
In all our choices, all our ways.
We hear your laugh in the gentle breeze,
And feel your strength among the trees.

Our **grandma**, with eyes so kind
A precious memory in our minds.
The stories told, the songs you sung
Live on in the hearts of the young.

We smell the smoke and hear the crackle, too
Of the fires we built for **roasting weiners with you**.
In the farm **bush**, where memories run deep,
They're some of the simple joys we try to keep.

So say, you'll remember me
And all our lovely memories
Of years and years, you loved to teach
Your tips and tricks and secrets to keep.

Say you'll remember me.

Your Loving Family,
Don
Randy, Derek
Jim, Jan, Kelsey & Jacob, Keenan, Karli
Murray, Cindy, Cole & Ciera, Lucas

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz By Jake Grant

1. What is a group of bears called?
2. What silent film star was "The Tramp"?
3. What is the name given to people who make arrows?
4. What is Canada's National bird?
5. What are the birthstones for November?
6. Who was the lead singer of the Tragically Hip?
7. What Toronto Blue Jay hit a 3-run, walk-off home run to win the world series in 1993?
8. What Star Wars show follows rebel Cassian from Rogue One?
9. Who is the president of China?
10. What is the tallest mountain in Canada?

Answers found on the page 36



NEWS

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HAVEN
MEDIA

RESTORING SMALL-TOWN
JOURNALISM, ONE COMMUNITY
AT A TIME.

Stratford and District Saddle Club celebrates a successful season at annual awards banquet

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Stratford and District Saddle Club capped off another successful year on the weekend with its annual awards banquet, recognizing the dedication and accomplishments of young riders who competed throughout the summer.

Club president Martin Ritsma opened the evening by commending the youth involved in the

organization, noting how programs like this help build valuable life skills.

"As an educator, I've seen firsthand how clubs like this can shape young people and give them experiences that last a lifetime," Ritsma said.

Throughout the summer, riders took part in multiple competitions at the Schlotzhauer Riding Facility east of Stratford on Line 37 in North Easthope Township, showcasing their horsemanship and teamwork in

a variety of classes.

Trophies and awards were presented to riders of all ages, recognizing excellence in showmanship, games and western riding categories.

The Stratford and District Saddle Club would like to thank its generous sponsors: Ellice Optimist Club, Shakespeare Optimist Club, Stratford Optimist Club, Bill's Quality Flooring, Berger Plumbing, A&A Auto, Colton Darling Family and the Mary Murphy Family.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Smiles all around for this year's award winners. From left are Carley Berger, Hailey Bell, Colton Darling, Ben Bell (front), Luke Bell (lying on stage), Averie Jacobs, Lennon Jacobs and Savannah Jacobs. Standing, from left, are Natalie Woods, Charlotte Fisher, Pearl Fawcett, Annan Murphy, Kayla Topan, Megan Hachborn and Martin Switzer.



by PeterS 2025

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

ANSWERS FOUND ON
THE CLASSIFIED PAGE



Ben Bell of North Easthope Township rode his horse, Holly, to become the Overall Champion Western Rider and top points getter for the 2024 season. Richard Murphy presented the Mary Murphy Champion Belt Buckle in memory of his late mother, who loved watching the shows from her favourite shaded spot near the western ring. Mary's granddaughter, Annan Murphy, continues the family tradition as one of the top riders in the club, competing on her horse, Cleopatra.



Saddle club president Martin Ritsma presents Martin Switzer with first place overall in the Pleasure and Games class for riders aged 18 and over. Switzer, who also helps organize the shows, competes on his horse, Rocket.



Everyone enjoyed a hearty meal thanks to Chris's BBQ and Countryside Catering, which served pulled pork, chicken and homemade fries. From left are Taylor and Chris Haynes, saddle club president Martin Ritsma, Shantel Haynes and Zach Holden, all of Stratford.

The Old Gazettes

By Sydney Grant

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

November 4-11, 2015, Edition (10 years ago)

The unique structure at the end of William Street North is a first in the Township. The stormwater management retention system is actually built on a closed portion of the road allowance and is part of the Ponds subdivision stormwater management plan. According to township director of public works and development Dennis O'Neil, the structure is called a "Cupolex Rialto tank" system. "The interior system is like a large, Lego-type system which supports the top of the structure and creates the water-storage capacity. The tank is designed such that if a roadway were to ever continue to the north, it would support traffic and could stay in place," he said.

The fundraising total for new playground equipment at Tavistock Public School was doubled last week when members of the Oxford County Junior Farmers made a \$5,000 donation to Tavistock Public School. Junior Farmers' 100th Anniversary committee member Jane Danen was on hand with members of the Oxford County Club who donated funds to local causes through their own fundraising efforts with their annual Embro Truck and Tractor Pull.

For the second year in a row, Jordan Bartlett has earned the Laura Hansuld Memorial Trophy for top points in the Tavistock Fall Fair. The 12-year-old Grade 7 student at Tavistock Public School is the daughter of Mark and Laurie Bartlett. The trophy is awarded to the exhibitor with the highest points in the junior department aged 10-18 years; Jordan finished with 10 first-place prizes, five seconds, three thirds and one fourth-place prize.

November 6-13, 1985, Edition (40 years ago)

Three Tavistock musicians received plaques on Sunday, Nov. 3, in appreciation of their membership in the American Federation of Musicians. Larry Hohner, Otto Wilker and Spencer Weston were among 16 members of the Stratford Musicians' Association, Local 418, who were honoured at the annual

meeting and ladies' night held at the Victorian Inn, Stratford. Larry and Mr. Elroy Desjardines of Stratford received their honours having been members of the association for over 10 years before losing their ability to continue performing.

On Tuesday, Oct. 29, the Atoms, Pee-Wees and Bantams hosted Woodstock and all came up with wins. The Atoms scored four times in the third period to win 5-1. Jim Junker had a hat trick while Brad Hammer had two goals. The Pee-Wees won 7-0 on a shutout by Jeff Roth. Danny Burton and Jensen Rudy each scored two goals with Mark McKay, Mike Haase and Chad Zeigler getting singles. The Bantams won 9-1; Paul Bellamy led the scoring with a hat trick while Kris Zehr, Darryl McIntosh, Scott Lorentz, Chris McNeil, Steve Zilke and Bob Kalbfleisch each had one.

Students and teachers of Tavistock Public School, along with parents and Legion members, gathered for a Remembrance Day assembly on Monday, Nov. 11, to pay tribute to those who served and died to assure our freedom. During the program, the presentation of new ceremonial flags must be borrowed from the Legion branch; but Monday, the school's own flags were dedicated with the assistance of Legion first vice president Robert Fryfogel and poppy chairman Duncan McDermid. Grade 8 students Steve Schwartzentuber and Mark McKay carried the flags.

November 5-12, 1975, Edition (50 years ago)

Mrs. Alice Garner, Embro, past president of the Oxford Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society, and Mrs. Bobbie Sommers, Tavistock, president of the Tavistock branch, shared a friendly hug with their guest speaker, Bill Brady of CFPL London, at the annual dinner meeting of the Oxford County Cancer Society. Mr. Brady has spent a lifetime in the broadcasting business and gave a humorous account of the difference between an expert and a consultant, preferring himself to be considered a consultant.

As of Oct. 30, 1975, the Meals on Wheels organization has delivered 625 meals to residents of Tavistock with a value of \$781.25 being collected at \$1.25 per plate. Mileage for the 105 trips to New Hamburg by C.J. Seltzer to pick up the meals was paid by the New Horizons Account at 10 cents per mile for a total of \$192.

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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette SPORTS

PJHL Roundup: Tavistock's losing skid hits three games as Wellesley continues to lead division

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

It wasn't for a lack of effort, but Tavistock dropped its third game in a row and now sits in third place in the Provincial Junior Hockey League's (PJHL) Doherty Division.

The Braves dropped a 4-3 decision in Wellesley on Saturday despite outshooting the Applejacks 49-32, which included a 22-6 edge in the third period.

Ryan McKellar put Tavistock up 1-0 just over one minute into the game, but Wellesley roared back with four consecutive goals before the end of the first period. Jacob Reid-Brant and Evan Palubeski scored for the Braves in the second period to set up a wild third, but Wellesley goalie Xavier Bussiere was able to hold off Tavistock. The Quebec native earned his second win in as many starts this season, and he has a goals-against average of 2.50 and a save percentage of .932.

Hudson Parker and Luke Schofield each scored twice to lead the Applejacks, which leads second-place Woodstock by a single point.

Wellesley downed Woodstock in dramatic fashion on Sunday night, coming up with a 4-3 overtime victory. Hudson Parker redirected a pass from Riley Noble at the 1:53 mark of the extra period. Parker added another goal and assist while Schofield scored twice to lead the Applejacks. Bussiere was again sold in goal, stopping

31 of 34 shots.

Wellesley head coach Derek Lebold said bringing home four points on the weekend was big.

"Those are two of the top teams in our division and we wanted to show we could perform to our standard, and we came out with the results we wanted. There are some areas we can definitely clean up, like with multiple goal leads, but we let our foot off the gas."

He added he was proud of his team's effort against a pair of top Doherty teams.

"Tavistock and Woodstock; those are phenomenal hockey teams with a lot of depth and they are never going to be easy outs."

Bussiere, a former late-round draft choice of the Saginaw Spirit, was acquired recently from the Komoka Kings of the Greater Ontario Hockey League (GOHL) after playing three games last season for the Applejacks. Lebold said he is expected to be the team's number one going forward.

"He gives us a tonne of confidence back there and when things weren't out for us from a five-on-five standpoint, he is the reason we won that game on Saturday night."

Lebold is confident the Doherty Division is the toughest one in the entire PJHL.

"You look at the standings and how tight it is, there is never an easy night, regardless of who you are playing and what their record is, but that's a good thing. There are

some teams in other conferences with no or one win in 15 games."

There are currently seven teams with three wins or fewer out of the league's 62 teams. Just 11 points separates first from last in the Doherty, something no other division can boast.

Lebold added he's having a ball coaching this year's team.

"It's been a blast. They are all such fantastic young men and I think the staff would echo that. Our record, being what it is, makes it a lot easier to come to the rink, but the record is indicative of the effort they've put in and their willingness to dig into the details."

Tavistock dropped a 4-1 decision on home ice Friday to Norwich. Yann Raskin scored the only goal for the Braves, his 10th of the season.

New Hamburg's scheduled home game on Saturday night was postponed, allowing fans to watch Game 7 of the World Series, but the Firebirds did put an end to Hespeler's four-game winning streak on Sunday with a 2-1 victory. New Hamburg led 1-0 after 40 minutes on Ben Oliver's goal, but the Shamrocks tied it up early in the third before Bobby Tsilogianis scored the game-winner, his second of the season, on a pass from Justin McManus.

Navy Vets clean house

Despite being tied for the division at the time, Woodstock fired all but one of its coaching staff last week and quickly replaced them. Head coach Justin Elms, who

has been with the team for over a decade, and assistants Chris Thompson, Chris Nauts and Chris Jensen were all let go, but goalie coach Keaghan Brett was spared the chopping block. Adam Wallace has been named the new head coach and is joined by his brother, Brent, and Jeff Reid.

The Wallace's have played and coached in Woodstock previously and also won a Cherry Cup behind the bench with the Cambridge RedHawks of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League (now the Greater Ontario Hockey League) in 2022.

The Gazette reached out to the team for comment but did not receive one by press time. Several rumours are circulating about the team's future, including speculation the club could make the jump to the GOHL as its 24th franchise next season.

Former Firebirds general manager passes away

New Hamburg has released a statement following the death of former general manager Joe Scherer.

"Joe's dedication and love for the game left a mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him. His impact on the players, staff and community will never be forgotten. Our hearts go out to the Scherer and Baechler families during this difficult time."

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Grand River Regional Cancer Centre or the New Hamburg Minor Hockey Association would be appreciated by his family.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTOS)

Tavistock Braves' defenceman Ryan McKellar scores a goal during the Braves' game on Nov. 1 against the Wellesley Applejacks. McKellar has four goals this season.



Wellesley Applejacks' forward Luke Schofield battles with Tavistock Braves' defender Keaton Bartlett for the puck during the Applejacks' 4-3 win over Tavistock on Nov. 1. Schofield scored two goals in the first to help lift Wellesley past the Braves.

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Royals win a pair and hang on to first place

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

Tavistock earned four important points over the weekend and, in doing so, kept a share of first place in the Ontario Elite Hockey League's (OEHL) South Division.

The Royals travelled to Tillsonburg on Saturday and came away with a 3-2 victory. Drew Gerth scored the game-winning goal with 5:39 left in the third period, an unassisted marker. Devan Kropf added a goal and an assist, and Mitch Atkins also found the back of the net for Tavistock. The Royals outshot the Thunder 49-26.

Tavistock had an easier time picking up a win on Sunday in Delhi as they trounced the Flames by a 10-2 count. Embro native Issac Westlake scored his first goal of the season and added a pair of assists for the Royals who had 13 of 17 skaters find the scoresheet. Lucas Bast led the offense with four points while Callan Christner added three assists. Six Royals chipped in with two points each as 13 of 17 skaters hit the scoresheet.

Westlake spent two seasons with three different Greater Ontario Hockey League (GOHL) teams before ending his junior career in Wellesley with the Applejacks in 2024.

"It felt great to finally get one. It's always nice to contribute, but more than anything, I'm just excited about the group we have. We have great guys, a deep lineup, and everyone's buying in. (That) makes it fun to come to the rink every weekend," said Westlake.

Head Coach Tyson Zehr said the team put in a great two-way effort on the weekend.

"We picked up four big points and I thought we did a lot of things well. Our puck possession really stood out, outshooting the other guys 114-38. The guys were moving the puck with confidence, supporting each other and playing with good structure in all three zones."

He added seeing Westlake get his first goal as a Royal was a big moment.

"He's fit in really well, brings a lot of energy, plays a heavy game and does a lot of the little things right. He's had plenty of good looks over our first five games, so the group was happy to see him get rewarded."

As for the Delhi game, Zehr explained his intention wasn't to run the score up, and he did take away some positives.

"It's nice when everyone gets involved. It gives guys confidence, lets us work on some different looks and helps build chemistry throughout the lineup. You want to see good habits and unselfish play, no matter what the score is, and I thought we handled that the right way."

Next action for the Royals is Saturday night for a first-place battle at the Tavistock and District Recreation Centre against the Seaforth Centenaires. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

"Any time we play Seaforth, it's a big game," said captain Tristan Hohl. "They're one of the top teams in our conference, so it's a good measuring stick for us as to where we stand. With Minor Hockey Night on Saturday, the energy at the rink will be even more intense."

The Royals are offering one lucky minor hockey player free registration for the 2026-2027 season. Players also get into the game for free.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROYALS)

Embro's Issac Westlake scored his first goal as a member of the Royals in a 10-2 win over Delhi on Sunday.

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MINOR SPORTS **SCRAPBOOK**



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Chloe Gillespie backhands the puck by the opposing goaltender during this past Monday's U11 LL 2 Tavistock Titans game.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Nico Gabriel launches a shot towards the goal from the point during the U13 LL 2 Tavistock Titans game this past Monday.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Brandon Bast launches a shot from the blueline during this past Sunday's U14 Minor A New Hamburg Huskies game.



(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Zach Nicholls flies up the wing with the puck during the U15 A New Hamburg Huskies game this past Sunday.

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(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Naomi Shantz shuts the door with a pad save on an incoming shot during last Tuesday's U18 BB Wilmot Wolverines game.



CURRENT STANDINGS

South Doherty Division									GP	W	L	OTL	I	SOW	SOL	PTS	OTW	GF	GA	DIFF	PCT	PCT	PIM	RW	ROW	STK	IN-DIV	GPCT
1	Wellesley Applejacks								14	11	3	0	0	0	0	22	4	58	43	15	0.786	0.000	247	7	11	2-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.574
2	Woodstock Navy Vets								15	8	4	3	0	0	0	19	1	64	47	17	0.633	0.000	264	7	8	2-0-1-0	0-0-0-0	0.577
3	Tavistock Braves								13	8	4	1	0	0	0	17	1	53	42	11	0.654	0.000	291	7	8	0-3-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.558
4	Norwich Merchants								15	7	6	1	0	0	1	16	2	47	50	-3	0.533	0.000	226	5	7	1-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.485
5	New Hamburg Firebirds								13	6	4	3	0	0	0	15	0	43	37	6	0.577	0.000	270	6	6	2-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.538
6	Hespeler Shamrocks								14	6	7	1	0	1	0	13	2	27	51	-24	0.464	0.000	312	3	5	0-1-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.346
7	Paris Titans								14	6	8	0	0	0	0	12	1	51	68	-17	0.429	0.000	219	5	6	2-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.429
8	Dorchester Dolphins								14	4	7	2	0	1	1	11	0	53	58	-5	0.393	0.000	219	3	3	0-2-1-0	0-0-0-0	0.477



CURRENT ONTARIO ELITE HOCKEY LEAGUE SOUTH CONFERENCE STANDINGS



RK	TEAM	GP	W	L	I	OTW	OTL	SOW	SOL	PTS	P%	RW	ROW	GF	GA	DIFF	STK	PIM	PPG	PPG	SHGA	PP%	TS%	SH%	PPGA	PK%
1	 Seaford Centenaires	7	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	10	.714	4	5	38	19	19	Lost 1	86	29	2	2	0.069	20	0	2	0.9
2	 Tavistock Royals	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	.833	5	5	33	16	17	Won 3	87	22	6	0	0.273	23	1	3	0.87
3	 Petrolia Squires	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1.00	4	4	19	5	14	Won 4	72	18	6	0	0.333	21	1	0	1
4	 Tillsonburg Thunder	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	.400	2	2	15	15	0	Lost 3	147	20	4	0	0.2	27	1	1	0.963
5	 Elora Rocks	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	.500	2	2	15	16	-1	Won 1	32	17	2	0	0.118	9	0	1	0.889
6	 Dunnville Aeros	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	.333	2	2	25	29	-4	Lost 2	123	24	3	0	0.125	25	2	6	0.76
7	 Milverton Four Wheel Drives	5	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	3	.300	1	1	15	23	-8	Lost 3	87	25	6	2	0.24	19	0	3	0.842
8	 Erin Outlaws	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	.500	1	1	8	8	0	Won 1	44	8	2	0	0.25	13	0	3	0.769
9	 Delhi Flames	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	7	44	-37	Lost 5	134	20	1	1	0.05	26	0	13	0.5

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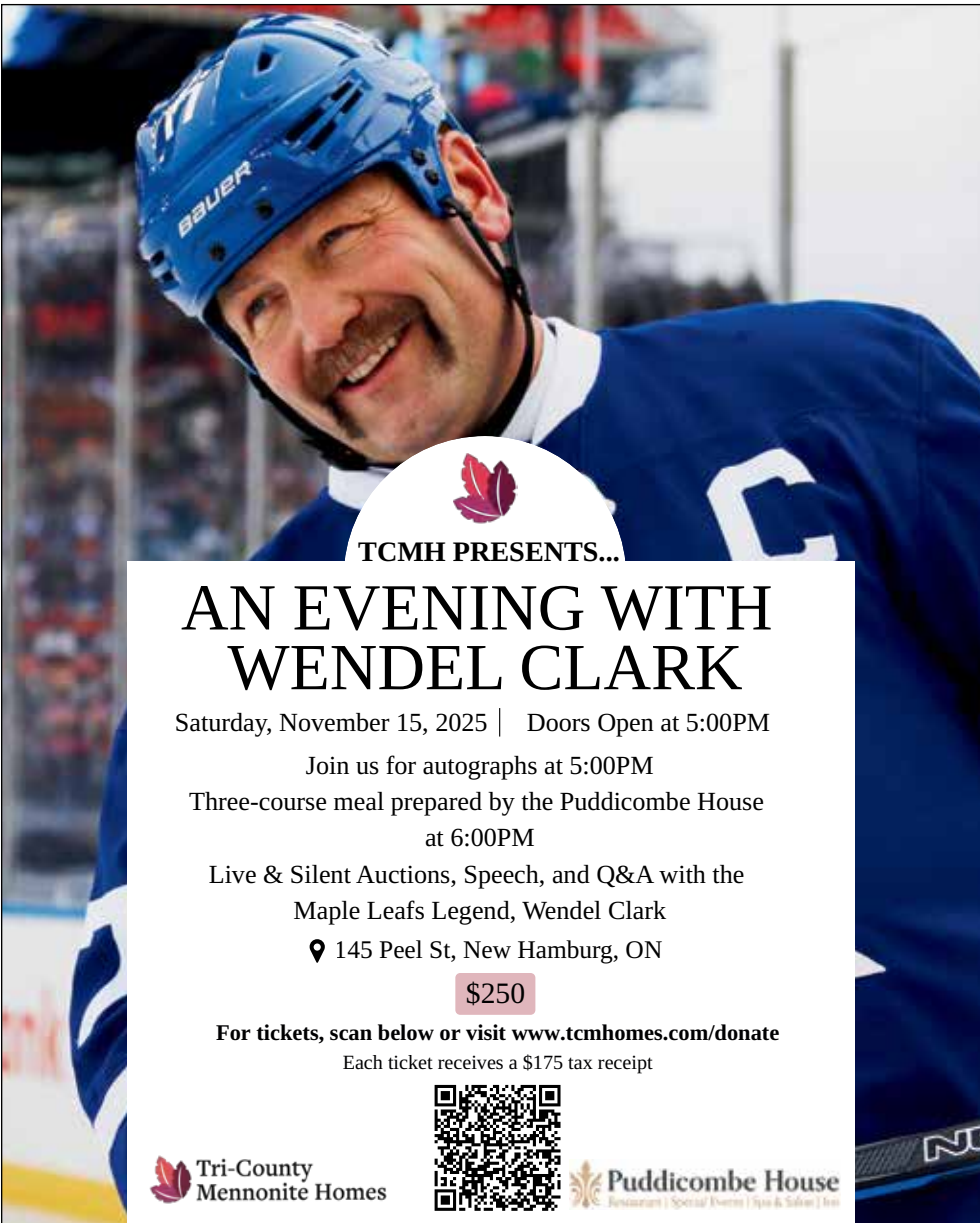
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Locals earn honourable mentions at Rockton's 'Countdown to the Classic'

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Rockton World's Fair once again showcased some of Ontario's top 4-H dairy talent during its annual "Countdown to the Classic" show — one of the final opportunities for young competitors to prepare

for the TD 4-H Royal Dairy Classic at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

This high-calibre event drew more than 125 top dairy heifers from across the province, giving 4-H members the chance to fine-tune their showmanship and confirmation skills ahead of the Royal's 103rd

edition in November.

Among the standout participants were Grace Weitzel of Tavistock and Beth Cleave of New Dundee, who represented Perth and Waterloo counties with pride. Grace earned Honourable Mention Champion Holstein Heifer, a notable

achievement in a highly competitive field.

Now in its second year, the Countdown to the Classic continues to grow in popularity and prestige, helping young dairy leaders gain valuable experience and recognition before competing on the national stage.



(CHELSEY STEPHENS PHOTO)

Judge Tyler Reynolds presents the top awards at Rockton's "Countdown to the Classic." From left: Riley Eby of Hamilton-Wentworth with her Grand Champion Jersey Heifer; Meredith Anderson of Chatham-Kent with her Reserve Champion Holstein Heifer; and Grace Weitzel of Perth County with her Honourable Mention Champion Holstein Heifer.



Showmanship winners at the Rockton "Countdown to the Classic" included, from right: Terry Betzner of H.D. Mutual Insurance (sponsor), Judge Kelly Reynolds, Kelsey Charlton of Brant County (Champion), Devin Coleman of Brant County (Reserve Champion), and Beth Cleave of Waterloo County (Honourable Mention).

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Reclaiming history: Old brick gets new life near Tavistock-Sebastopol border

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

It's always good to see recycling in action, especially when it involves preserving pieces of local history.

Near the Tavistock-Sebastopol border, a century-old brick farmhouse recently came down to make way for new housing, but its story doesn't end there. Rather than being discarded, the old bricks are being carefully cleaned and saved for reuse. Bart Lumley and Bill Anderson of Sarnia have spent the past several weeks at the site, using chipping hammers to remove old mortar and stacking hundreds of reclaimed bricks neatly onto wooden skids.

"These old bricks are incredibly well made," Lumley said. "Not every one will make it onto a skid, but most of them are still in great shape – a real testament to the craftsmanship from back then."

Once cleaned, the bricks will be delivered to CAN-TARIO Brick and Stone on Juliana Drive in Woodstock, where they'll find new life in fireplaces, landscaping, steps and railings.

Unlike modern, machine-made materials, these reclaimed bricks have a distinct character – each one slightly different in colour and texture, offering a timeless look that appeals to homeowners with an eye for history.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Bill Anderson and Bart Lumley, both from Sarnia, chip mortar from the bricks of a 100-year-old farmhouse near the Tavistock-Sebastopol border. Once cleaned and stacked, the reclaimed bricks are ready to be reused in new projects, preserving the character and craftsmanship of the past. Lumley also offers brick salvage services for farmhouses over 100 years old. He can be reached at 519-383-2024.

Gazette Puzzles

REMEMBRANCE DAY

S	N	V	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	O	J	M	B	Q	Z	L	K
J	L	E	C	T	I	Y	R	S	Q	F	E	K	O	O	H	Z	F	E	U
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With Christmas approaching, the scourge of fraud, in person and online, is growing. Common targets are the elderly and those with little or no understanding of the sophisticated threats used by the perpetrators that target these vulnerable groups.

Our Legion is getting together with the Waterloo Regional Police to host an Awareness Seminar to teach basic skills and spotlight current and common scams being used in this region. If we can help even a few and have them pass along that knowledge it will be worth it.

Some topics that will be discussed are:

- Common scams seen in our region ranging from emergency scams to bank account takeovers and unauthorized credit card use.
- Computer safety for banking, shopping, personal information along with general safety tips for computer users.
- Identity Theft: how it happens and how your personal information is used.
- Phishing – Mass Marketing Fraud and socially engineered fraud.
- A question and answer period will be allotted.

This seminar is free to all. Complimentary coffee, tea and water will be provided.

Thursday, November 20 at 1 p.m.
New Hamburg Legion
65 Boullee St., New Hamburg

Food for thought

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



Food is by far the most underutilized answer to an array of issues revolving around the aging brain. Though experts may not agree on which foods and herbal supplements are healthiest – and yes, the science is forever changing – holistic practitioners do agree Mother Nature leads to body-boosting brain benefits.

Aging has a total body effect starting with molecules, cells, vasculature, genetics, hormones, neurotransmitters and gross morphology. Brain function declines gradually and the magical number appears to start between the ages of 30 and 40, accelerating after 60. Yes, there is good news. Higher education, occupational attainment, low alcohol, regular exercise, heaps

of great habits and the all-important healthy diet can all slow the process.

Biological aging is not chronological aging. Read that again. It's possible to slow biological aging. Let's start with something you have some control over; not total control given the state of modern-day farming and pricing, but enough control to start nourishing each cell with the best options available.

To emphasize the importance of the fuel, here's a fast fact; the brain uses approximately 20 per cent of our body's total daily energy. What does that mean? Food is energy and therefore, the fuel is vital. Say no to pro-inflammatory processed foods,

focusing on those that repair and maintain brain tissue.

Fatty fish: trout, sardines, anchovies, mackerel, cod and wild salmon are abundant sources of two types of omega-3 fatty acids – EPA and DHA. These are all valuable, healthy, unsaturated fats helping lower blood levels of a protein called beta-amyloid which forms clumps in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease. In older adults, lower levels of DHA in the blood have been linked to accelerated brain aging. Omega-3s increase learning, memory, cognitive wellbeing and blood flow to the brain.

Unfortunately, most people don't consume enough to reap the rewards, and many place fish on the yuck list. It may be time to look for a high-quality over-the-counter supplement, preferably one that is from wild fish, comes in a dark glass bottle and must be kept in the fridge after opening.

Walnuts and Chia: Plant-based foodies can make EPA and DHA out of another omega-3 called alpha linolenic acid (ALA). However, it's important to note that less than 10 per cent of the

ALA is converted. Chia overnight pudding is a fabulous prep-ahead breakfast for the week. To my bakers, one tablespoon of chia and three tablespoons of water stirred thickens in just five minutes to replace one egg in any recipe. Aside from the good fats, protein is a powerhouse here and a multitude of minerals and vitamins.

Blueberries are a bonanza of health benefits for the brain but the key is wild blueberries over cultivated. Canada is home to the more flavourful, higher-antioxidant, smaller sapphire berry. Buy in bulk frozen and add the superfruit to smoothies for boatloads of brain-healthy anthocyanins.

Eggs are exceptional for memory and brain-cell communication thanks to the choline found in the egg yolks.

Gads of greens are goodness from spinach to kale to collard greens and leafy lettuce. Folic acid, lutein, vitamin K and beta-carotene spinach, kale and collards help curb cognitive decline.

Coffee and tea are vilified often but caffeine contains antioxidants

and boosts information-processing. Go for green tea, rich in L-theanine and linked to brain function. Drinking black is a natural perk-up.

Dark chocolate is dreamy due to an array of antioxidants. Fantastic flavanols may help improve blood flow and, in turn, age-related memory decline. Polyphenols are a powerhouse for protecting the body from oxidative stress and inflammation, helping offset the aging brain. The caffeine appears to improve brain function in the short term. There's hope it may be helpful to prevent both Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, but more research is needed.

Mother Nature has provided a long list of brain-boosting menu options, and these are just a few to add to menu planning today. Support the three-pound brain; every choice is crucial. This happy holistic advocate urges you to whip up a spinach omelet followed by a bowl of wild blueberries. Sprinkle chia topped with a handful of raw walnuts. Treat yourself to 30-60 grams of 85 per-cent dark chocolate and a mug of black coffee or green tea.

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History, horror and heroism on display

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



History, horror and heroism; you will find all three on display at the exceptional Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. And if you manage to visit before Jan. 6, 2026, you can also experience a very poignant and powerful temporary exhibit called “Last Voices of the Second World War,” which captures the memories and stories of the last living Canadian Second World War veterans.

In truth, there is no practical way to take in everything this national museum has to offer in just one visit, but a few hours’ visit will give you a lot of insight into the reality of Canada’s participation in national and international conflicts – and the impact of this history on our fellow Canadians.

We started by touring the Last Voices galleries. Here, the focus is on individuals and their stories, and those stories vary wildly. There are some for whom their time in the Canadian Armed Forces is something they look back on with fondness, but for many who saw service in battle, it’s a very different story. Veteran George Morasch is quoted: “I don’t talk about it. They are secrets in my heart.” And veteran George MacDonell, held as a prisoner of war in horrendous conditions in Hong Kong, admits, “I had heavy guilt because so many of my comrades had died and I had lived.”

The story is told honestly with no holds barred. You learn that while there were benefits for armed forces personnel when they returned home, those benefits were limited to white people – black vets could not access the same assistance. And there is a lot of emphasis on the mental health and economic struggles faced by the vets. Veteran Alex Polowin is quoted: “The thought of ‘Where now? What are you going to do for the rest of your life?’ That’s very, very frightening.”

Not surprisingly, the exhibition underscores the significance of Remembrance Day. Veteran Arthur Dingle says, “I think Remembrance Day is very important and it’s absolutely essential for people to understand the reason for it.”

You cannot visit this “Last Voices” exhibition without being deeply touched. There were

heroes, yes, caught in a global catastrophe, and yet, as veteran Frank Moritsugu is quoted in a caption, when he tells young people his story, “I tell them how old I was when this happened, so that they would understand that I was really an ordinary Canadian kid like they are.”

That’s a theme that recurs throughout your visit to the Canadian War Museum; the story of war is really the story of ordinary people who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances and responded with a level of courage and resilience I cannot even imagine.

The museum carries you chronologically through Canadian history, started with the First Peoples and their conflict with Vikings, and with each other, and continuing through the coming of the French and then the British. There is plenty to think about as you continue through the War of 1812, Canada’s involvement in the war in South Africa, and then the world wars and the cold war.

And these clashes and their consequences continue to reverberate right into this present day.

To my surprise, one of the most effective displays at the museum is an amusing video of three young Canadian men. The video starts with two of them in the frame, one wearing a Toronto Maple Leafs sweater, the other, a Montréal Canadiens jersey. We see the conflict between British and French, and the ongoing issues of French Canada and En-

glish Canada through their eyes.

But eventually, the camera pans back and there is a third guy on the couch – a Native Canadian. The other two are surprised: “When did you get here?” they ask. The new guy frowns. “I’ve been here all the time.” And therein lies a fundamental truth about Canada, one we mostly ignore.

There is more big picture in the permanent exhibits at the war museum, but there are thought-provoking individual moments here, as well. I was intrigued by the reconstruction of First World War ace Billy Bishop’s aircraft, accompanied by photos of and information panels about Canada’s flying war hero.

Or by what happens when you walk into the Second World War gallery and are confronted with Adolph Hitler’s limousine, a merely mechanical artifact that nonetheless reeks of evil.

The designers at the museum have done a very fine job of creating interactive scenes which place visitors in the very heart of war. You pause in a battlefield at Passchendaele, which includes discarded weapons and half-buried bodies. You edge your way through a trench where a very realistic manakin of a frightened soldier is the only other “person” sharing your space. You stand in a landing vessel behind soldiers about to storm the beaches of Normandy.

And you leave the museum well informed, heavy laden with thoughts about the horrible reality of war, but filled with admiration for the courage of those people who fought for our country – 66,000 of whom died in World War I, another 45,000 in World War II. Lest we forget.

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.



A three-dimensional creation of a detail from Passchendaele.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Veteran Alex Polowin, quoted in 2022, said figuring out the future after returning home from World War II was “very, very frightening.”



Three Canadian guys with very different perspectives!



World War I Canadian flying ace Billy Bishop.



Adolph Hitler’s “parade car.” According to the war museum information, it was “captured by American troops in 1945 and brought to Canada a few years later. This car recalls one of history’s most brutal and murderous dictatorships.”

From the dugout to the dome: How I became a baseball fan (again)

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Gazette Reporter

I started playing baseball this summer. Well, technically, three-pitch — not that I knew the difference at first. I didn't join because I loved the game; in fact, I hardly knew any of the rules. I joined because my boyfriend, Charles, loves baseball and was pretty convinced I would too.

It turned out to be a great way to fill my evenings and meet new people, so I joined the Tuesday night team in Guelph with the modest goal of simply getting through the season. After a few games (during which I learned I was definitely not good), I figured I should probably get my own glove. Then came proper shoes. Then, after watching everyone hit better with batting gloves, I added those to my Amazon cart too. I even got the team jersey and before I knew it, I was actually looking forward to Tuesday nights.

When the summer season wrapped up, I found myself asking Charles when registration opened for the fall team. By then, the Blue Jays were deep into their own season, and not only was I playing ball, but I was watching it too. I started tuning into Jay's games, then went to one in person, and even began checking Ticketmaster to see if prices were low enough for another later in the season (spoiler: they weren't).

On nights I couldn't watch live, I'd refresh Google constantly for updates. During that marathon 18-inning game, I asked Charles to text me when it was over so I'd know the final score before I even got out of bed.

Somewhere along the way, I became a baseball fan.

It's funny; my dad would be thrilled. Growing up, he used to drag my sisters and me to games, where we'd spend three long hours asking when it would end. I'd watch him cheer, shout at the umpire and throw

his hands in the air in disbelief, completely absorbed in it all. The best part, at least for us kids, was always the hotdog. I still remember his joy in 1993 when the Jays won — I didn't care much then, but now? Now I find myself tearing up over their recent loss.

My daughter, Hailey, also played softball for years. She could hit a ball farther than you'd expect from her tiny frame, and we'd travel all over — from Mitchell to Shakespeare to Goderich — for tournaments. When she eventually switched to volleyball, I did too, in spirit. Baseball just drifted out of my life for a while.

And then, this summer, I picked up a bat for the first time — right as the Jays started heating up. I watched that last game on the edge of my seat, heartbroken right along with them and the rest of Canada when they lost. Seeing Vladimir Guerrero Jr. fight back tears, or Addison Barger struggle to get words out in his interview — it

was emotional. Watching Max Scherzer's pride in Trey Yesavage, and then seeing the rookie absolutely shine; it reminded me why people love this sport so much.

This year, it felt like the Blue Jays gave Canada exactly what we needed: grit, heart and hope. They fought hard, made their mark and reminded fans — new and old — why we care so much.

I think it's safe to say I'm officially a baseball fan now. Sure, I still barely know the rules. Once, during a summer game, I stepped off third base and lost the game for my team. Another time, everyone congratulated me on my RBI, and I had to secretly Google what that meant while sitting on the bench. But I love it anyway.

This season, both on the field and watching the Jays, reminded me that baseball isn't just about winning — it's about connection, teamwork and the joy of being part of something bigger.

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The gift of boredom

INTERFAITH COUNSELLING CENTRE

By John Dinner

One thing you would never say in my home growing up was that you were bored. "I'm bored" was the phrase guaranteed to trigger my mother's wrath. To her, boredom was just another word for laziness. If I wasn't getting off the couch to explore the endless possibilities that even just my neighbourhood offered, then that was my problem.

Yet I've come to believe a bit of boredom may be exactly what many of us

need. Especially now, when the fall calendar heats up and stays at full throttle until the day after New Year's. By then, when the festivities wind down and football fills the TV, we finally notice how little time we've had simply to sit still.

There are, I've decided, two very different kinds of boredom. The first is the kind of my youth – the sulking dissatisfaction the world wasn't entertaining me enough. This version comes with an unspoken sense of entitlement; that excitement was owed to me, and if it didn't arrive at my doorstep, well, that was evidence the world was failing in its duties.

The other kind of boredom, however, is something else entirely. It is not passive resignation, but rather a conscious act of rebellion. It's choosing quiet in a loud world. It's sitting still while everything else races by. It's learning to notice what otherwise gets lost in the shuffle. In a society that measures worth by productivity, deciding to just "be" rather than "do" is no

small act of resistance.

Of course, it isn't easy. Most of us have been trained to equate stillness with wasted time. We feel the tug of our unfinished "to-do" lists, the itch of unchecked emails, the guilt of not squeezing maximum efficiency from every waking hour. To live slowly, even briefly, requires intention. It takes practice to embrace tranquility and find peace in solitude, even if only for a quarter of an hour.

So, here's an experiment. Choose a pleasant place – ideally outside – and sit with nothing to do for at least 15 minutes. Don't check your phone, don't bring a book, don't multitask. Just notice. Close your eyes if you like and pay attention to what your senses pick up; the sounds drifting by, the smells on the air, the feel of the ground beneath you. Notice what your mind shows you when it isn't tethered to the next demand.

Chances are you'll feel restless. That's natural. We're conditioned to stay busy

and it can feel unsettling to step out of that current. But give it time because the truth is that a touch of boredom can do wonders for our mental health.

Our brains are overloaded. We live in a world of constant information, alerts and distractions. Each of these tugs at our limited cognitive resources. When attention is scarce, productivity and creativity suffer. Boredom – real, intentional boredom – can reset the system. It helps the brain relax, alleviates stress and restores the capacity to focus.

So, the next time you feel boredom creeping in, don't chase it away. Sit with it. Let it stretch. You may find it's less an enemy than an unexpected gift.

John Dinner is a registered psychotherapist and counsellor at Interfaith Counselling Centre in New Hamburg. He admits he often finds it challenging to simply sit and watch the world as it unfolds before him.

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Long days and big yields as corn harvest rolls through Perth County

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

With the corn harvest in full swing across Perth County, local farmers are putting in long days – and sometimes late nights – even as darkness settles in around 5:30 p.m.

Thanks to a season of good moisture, area yields have been strong, averaging

well over 200 bushels per acre at 26-28 per-cent moisture.

Over the weekend, we caught up with Playerdisse Farms, a family-run operation based near Gadshill, where Mike, Tim and Julie Player were busy combining a 100-acre field along Perth Line 37 (Vivian Line) between Shakespeare and Stratford in North Easthope Township.

The Players are not only grain farmers

but also Perth County Pork Producers, managing two large pig barns while tending to their crops. Their parents, Gord and Cathy Player, keep the operation running smoothly, handling machinery maintenance and logistics – often jokingly referring to themselves as “go-fers,” a title every farmer knows well.

The multi-generational family farm divides its work across three main crops

– one-third wheat, one-third soybeans and one-third corn – and also provides custom farming services for neighbours throughout Ellice, Mornington and North Easthope townships. Always willing to lend a hand, the Players are part of the strong agricultural community spirit that keeps Perth County farming thriving.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

From the cab of the combine, Mike Player takes 12 rows at a time during corn harvest near Shakespeare, filling one of two large grain buggies – each holding over 30 tonnes of corn. Brother Tim Player stands by, ready to fill on the go with the second buggy.



Julie Player drives the grain buggy, unloading corn on the go from the combine's auger. With two buggies working continuously, corn is hauled to VDB Grains near Mitchell for drying.



A transport load of freshly harvested corn heads west to VDB Grains in West Perth, where it will be dried and stored.



Bob Groenedyk of Mitchell keeps pace with the Player combine, hauling loads of shelled corn to the dryers. “I make sure the trucks are filled from front to back to avoid spillage,” he said.

Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. A sleuth/sloth | 6. Gord Downie |
| 2. Charlie Chaplin | 7. Joe Carter |
| 3. Fletcher | 8. Andor |
| 4. Gray jay/whisky jack | 9. Xi Jinping |
| 5. Topaz & Citrine | 10. Mount Logan |



Mike monitors yield and moisture levels as 12 rows feed steadily into the header. Readings show the field averaging 220-250 bushels per acre with moisture levels of 26-28 per cent. The Players know the weather could turn wet before the season ends, so every dry hour counts.

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6:30 p.m.

Call Wendy for tickets at 519-656-2961-limited tickets available.

*Bill Gies Recreation Complex
1401 Queens Bush Rd., Wellesley*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Innerkip Quilters' Annual Sale
5:30 - 8 p.m.

Admission FREE. Proceeds Support: Innerkip Masonic Programs & other needs in our local community

*Innerkip Masonic Centre
70 Blandford St., Innerkip, ON*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Innerkip Quilters' Annual Sale
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Admission FREE. Proceeds Support: Innerkip Masonic Programs & other needs in our local community

*Innerkip Masonic Centre
70 Blandford St., Innerkip, ON*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

**The Plattsville & District Heritage Society
Annual Remembrance Service**
11:30 a.m.

*Chesterfield Cenotaph
816661 Oxford Road 22, Bright*

**RCL Tavistock Memorial Legion Branch #518
Remembrance Day, Wreath Laying Ceremony**
1 p.m.

*Tavistock Memorial Legion
223 Hope Street West Tavistock*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Wilmot Council budget meeting
7-11 p.m.

*Council chambers
60 Snyder's Road West Baden*



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**Growing Greener Communities:
Perspectives from Tree Canada**
9 p.m.

Speaker: Christine Earnshaw. Join us for a fun evening celebrating LTW's accomplishments and recognizing our volunteers. Christine of Tree Canada leads the Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) initiative. She will talk about our national tree program and discuss how important our work in Wilmot is.

Wilmot Recreation Complex, Rm A, Baden

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**Tavistock Men's Club Sauerkraut & BBQ
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*Tavistock Memorial Hall
1 Adam St. Tavistock ON*

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 noon

Cost: \$14.00. Please register by Nov 7 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900. *Wellesley Recreation Complex, 1401 Queen's Bush Rd., Wellesley*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Christmas Bazaar

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bake Tables, Penny Sale, Raffle with top prize of \$700.00, Lunch Tables. *Holy Family Church
329 Huron St., New Hamburg*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Perth East council meeting

7 p.m.

*Council chambers
25 Mill Street East, Milverton*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

East Zorra-Tavistock Council meeting

7 p.m.

*Council Chambers
89 Loveys Street East, Hickson*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Christmas Bazaar

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Crafts, Baking, greenery pots, Raffle, White Elephant Tables. Hwy 7 behind McDonalds. Proceeds for Wilmot xmas hampers *Morningside Adult Community
New Hamburg*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Rosebank Church Gospel Music Concert
6:30 p.m.

Torchmen Quartet Gospel Concert. Free Will Offering. *Rosebank Church,
1434 Huron Rd. Petersburg*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Wellesley Council meeting

6:45 p.m.

*Council chambers
4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 noon

Cost: \$14.00. Please register by Nov 21 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900. *Linwood Community Centre, 5279 Ament Line,
Linwood*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Experience Fanshawe at Open House
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Tavistock Men's Club Santa Claus Parade
1 p.m.

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

MUSEUM/ARCHIVES EXHIBITS

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

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

MORNING & EVENING BIBLE READING

Read the Bible in a Year in Community

Morning meeting 6:00am daily

Evening meeting 6:00pm daily

Contact Arthur Rosh if interested.

Phone number: 226-899-1551

Email address: arthur.rosh@gmail.com

Location to be determined in New Hamburg, Tavistock, Baden, Wellesley, New Dundee, St. Agatha, Shakespeare, Petersburg, Hickson, Punkeydoodle's Corner and area

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

TOPS is a non-judgmental weight loss support group. Need help on your weight loss journey. For info call Cathie 519-662-9273. *St James Church, Baden*

Wednesday Night Euchre at the New Hamburg Legion

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

65 Boulee St., New Hamburg

STAMP CLUB

Oxford Philatelic Society

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4pm) and 4th Tuesday (7 to 9pm)

September to May

If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection.

Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com

Website: http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford *Church of the Epiphany
560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S1C7*

FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES

Tavistock Seniors Activities @ Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St. Tavistock ON, except Shuffleboard

Pickleball Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon, 12-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052

Cards Monday, Wednesday afternoon 1-4, euchre, crib (bring board), etc. Just drop in to play, good to bring someone. Contact: Bob Routly 519-301-2118

Inside walking Monday & Wednesday morning 8.30-12. Contact: Larry Brown 519-240-6715

Crokinole Monday, Wednesday morning 8.30-12, Just drop in to play, good to bring someone. Contact: John Schultz 519-655-2346

Shuffleboard @ arena, Wednesday 12:30-4 and Thursday 10-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052.

VON Smart Seniors Exercise, Tuesday and Thursday morning 9 - 10; Village Manor 10:25 - 11:25. Contact: 519-539-1231 x 6285



The
Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette

Deadline: Tuesday prior at 3 p.m.

Contact: thewtgazette@gmail.com

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

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

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