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(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Young anglers spread out around the McTavish family pond north of Shakespeare during the Shakespeare Optimist Club's annual fishing derby last Saturday, hoping to reel in the day's biggest catch. Full story on page 3.

## Wilmot council considers adding 23 Petersburg homes to watermain cost-sharing

AMANDA NELSON

Gazette Reporter

At the June 22 council meeting, staff and councillors discussed the ongoing upgrades to the Petersburg Drinking Water System, which now may include an additional 23 homes.

As part of the proposal, those 23 additional homes along the new water main route would be included in the project's cost-sharing. Staff said these properties would be able to connect to the municipal water system once the new infrastructure is in place.

Staff also recommended that affected property owners be offered a repayment option for the local improvement charges at the Bank of Canada prime rate plus 1.5 per cent for a period of up to 20 years, with repayment beginning once construction costs are finalized.

Ward 2 Coun. Kris Wilkinson said he supports including the additional 23 homes, noting the owners would have access to the municipal water system once the project is complete.

"I should be very clear; no decision has been made to include those additional 23 at this time," he said. "However, I personally am

Continued on page 2

## Multi-day heat event expected for Oxford, Perth and Wilmot

### Public health warns of the dangers and offers tips on keeping cool

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

Much of the province is in the midst of a multi-day heat event with daytime temperatures reaching over 30 degrees Celsius and humidex values in the low 40s.

A heat warning has been issued for the Gazette's readership area based on criteria established by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). It is expected to pose an elevated risk of heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke or heat exhaustion. The warning will be in effect until at least Friday but check

local forecasts for the latest information.

Summer camp season has just started and a health promoter at Southwestern Public Health said there are several steps children can take to minimize the effects of the heat.

"Especially with children, ensuring

Continued on page 2



**TIM LOUIS**  
 Member of Parliament for Kitchener-Conestoga  
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# Multi-day heat event expected for Oxford, Perth and Wilmot

Continued from page 1

they are very well hydrated before, during and after any physical activity is really important. Seek shade wherever you can, take breaks in air-conditioned spaces; all of these can reduce health risks," said Michelle Alvey.

While extreme heat can affect everyone's health, the risks are greatest for older adults, infants and young children, people with chronic illnesses, people who work in the heat and the homeless.

Some seniors live alone without air conditioning, something Alvey said is cause for concern.

"We ask everyone to check in regularly on family and neighbours, especially older adults and people with chronic health conditions, as they are more vulnerable to extreme heat. Where people don't have air conditioning, even spending a few hours

in a public space with it can help reduce the risk of illness."

She added a library or a recreation centre are often available for people to cool off in, and added people need to be aware of the signs of heat-related illness, such as heat stroke.

"Heat exhaustion is another risk. You want to watch for headaches, nausea or vomiting, dizziness or fainting, along with rapid breathing and extreme thirst from dehydration. Heat stroke is a medical emergency, and you are going to want to call 911 immediately if you have a very high body temperature, confusion, dizziness and hot, red skin."

Alvey added drinking cool liquids, especially water, before feeling thirsty to decrease the risk of dehydration is important. It is also a good idea to reschedule or plan outdoor activities for the cooler parts

of the day and wear loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing made of breathable fabric.

"If you don't need to go outdoors during those peak hours, then stay inside," added Alvey.

Other tips to beat the heat include taking cool showers or baths, preparing meals that don't need to be cooked in the oven and keeping curtains or blinds drawn during the day.

With an orange level heat warning currently in effect, the Township of Wilmot is reminding residents of ways to stay cool over the next several days.

The township is home to several cooling centres where residents can find free refuge from the heat. A list of locations is available at [www.wilmot.ca/coolingcentres](http://www.wilmot.ca/coolingcentres).

Public swimming and aquafit programming are available throughout the week at the Wilmot Recreation Complex. Visit

[www.wilmot.ca/swimming](http://www.wilmot.ca/swimming) for schedules and admission details. The splash pad at the Wilmot Recreation Complex is also open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visit [www.wilmot.ca/splashpad](http://www.wilmot.ca/splashpad) for full details.

Pollution levels also tend to be higher on hot days. The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) can be used to determine local air quality and help residents make decisions to protect their health and is available at [www.airqualityontario.com/aqhi](http://www.airqualityontario.com/aqhi).

Follow Environment Canada's weather forecasts at [www.weather.gc.ca](http://www.weather.gc.ca) to stay safe in hot and humid weather. Weather and air quality alerts are also available through "EC Alert me" by signing up at [ecalertme.weather.gc.ca](http://ecalertme.weather.gc.ca).

## Wilmot council considers adding 23 Petersburg homes to watermain cost-sharing

Continued from page 1

of the opinion that they should be. I think it's very equitable. I think it adds value to people's houses."

Wilkinson added that if the homes had been constructed as part of a new subdivision, the cost of the water infrastructure would likely have been incorporated into the original purchase price.

Resident Peter Wendland, whose property would be directly affected, submitted correspondence to council expressing both support for the proposal and concerns about elements of the project design.

Wendland said the proposed sidewalk

alignment is not located beneath the streetlights, creating concerns for nighttime visibility and placing an unfair burden on winter maintenance. He also said the design would have a significant impact on mature trees and require unnecessary grading work when a less costly alternative may be available.

Despite those concerns, Wendland said he supports including the additional 23 homes in the local improvement charges.

"It's not easy to advocate for adding an unexpected expense to potentially unsuspecting homeowners, such as our direct neighbours, who are original owners and

have maintained a well for over 50 years," he said.

Wendland asked council to consider deferring the local improvement charges for the additional 23 properties until they choose to connect to the municipal water system. He also asked council to reconsider the sidewalk design to improve pedestrian safety and winter maintenance.

Earlier during the meeting, council also awarded the project's engineering and construction contracts. Stratford-based GRIT Engineering Inc. will provide geotechnical engineering services for \$67,649.75, while T. Musselman Excavating Limited of

Petersburg was awarded the \$4.47-million contract to complete the water system replacement. Township staff have also been authorized to sign the agreements, allowing the project to proceed.

No decision has been made at this time about the additional 23 homes. Wilkinson said council is continuing discussions on the proposal and encouraged affected residents to share any questions or concerns as the process moves forward.

Anyone wishing to do so can contact Wilkinson directly at [kris.wilkinson@wilmot.ca](mailto:kris.wilkinson@wilmot.ca) or 519-807-4173.

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Jun. 23	Julie Myers, St. Marys . . . . .	\$50.00
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# Shakespeare Optimist Club reels in another successful fishing derby

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Sunny skies and plenty of eager young anglers made for another successful Shakespeare Optimist Club Fishing Derby at the McTavish family pond in North Easthope Township last Saturday.

Children from across the area, many accompanied by their parents, lined the edge of the picturesque pond with fishing rods and tackle boxes in hand, hoping to land the biggest fish of the day.

The annual event was once again hosted at the McTavish family farm on the Fourth Concession of North Easthope Township, where longtime Optimist member Murray McTavish has welcomed the derby for many years.

McTavish keeps the pond and

surrounding property in excellent condition, providing an ideal setting for one of the club's most popular family events.

Throughout the morning, dozens of fish were caught and measured by Optimist member Mike McNeil before the winner was determined shortly after 1 p.m.

The largest fish of the day measured 11.1 inches and was caught by 10-year-old Paisley Wilhelm.

Paisley's mother, Jess, joked she deserved a little of the credit after helping her daughter bait the hook that landed the winning catch.

The annual fishing derby continues to be a favourite event for the Shakespeare Optimist Club, giving young people an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while introducing them to the sport of fishing in a fun, family-friendly environment.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Shakespeare Optimist Club members Murray McTavish, left, Peter Kreyger and Greg Ankenmann helped organize this year's annual fishing derby.



Brothers Jaxson Wilhelm, six, left, and Landon Wilhelm, 13, proudly display one of the fish they caught during Saturday's fishing derby. The brothers also help with chores on their family's dairy farm, where they enjoy fishing in their own farm pond.



Ten-year-old Paisley Wilhelm, a student at North Easthope Public School, accepts the top prize from Greg Ankenmann after catching the largest fish at this year's Shakespeare Optimist Club Fishing Derby.

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# Voting now open for Wilmot's 2026 Citizen of the Year Awards

**WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF**

[thewtgazette@gmail.com](mailto:thewtgazette@gmail.com)

Voting is now open for Wilmot's 2026 Citizen of the Year Awards, which recognize residents who have made outstanding contributions to the community.

This year, 11 eligible residents have been nominated; eight in the community

service category and three in the seniors category. The community can now choose the person from each category they feel is most deserving.

Votes can be cast until July 12. Detailed information about each of the nominees and the voting form are available at [www.wilmot.ca/citizenoftheyear](http://www.wilmot.ca/citizenoftheyear).

The list of nominees, by category, is:

**Community service**

- Alena Barreca
- Brittney Harpell
- Janice Bechamp
- Kathryn Gray
- Kristy Chambers
- Lou Divita
- Melanie Austin
- Samantha Lernout

**Seniors**

- Arlene McBride
- Helen Rempel
- Shirley Mennel

Winners will receive their awards from Mayor Natasha Salonen at the New Hamburg Fall Fair on Friday, Sept. 18.

Township of Wilmot

## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

### COMMUNITY SERVICE NOMINEES



**Alena Barreca**



**Brittney Harpell**



**Janice Bechamp**



**Kathryn Gray**



**Kristy Chambers**



**Lou Divita**



**Melanie Austin**



**Samantha Lernout**

Township of Wilmot

## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

### SENIORS NOMINEES



**Arlene McBride**



**Helen Rempel**



**Shirley Mennel**

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# Local school boards approve 2026-2027 budgets

## Public board runs deficit while Catholic board balances the books

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

The Waterloo Region District School Board has approved its 2026-2027 budget with a deficit of nearly \$6.7 million.

Revenues for the coming year are set at \$957.1 million with expenses totalling \$969.7 million. Public Sector Accounting Board adjustments came in at \$5.9 million, meaning a net budget deficit of \$6.7 million.

Board chair Maedith Radlein said despite the deficit, the document reflects fiscal responsibility and a student commitment.

"I appreciate the professionalism and hard work of staff throughout the organization, especially those in the business services department, in the preparation of the WRDSB's 2026-2027 budget. Trustees approved the budget, which meets provincial requirements and prioritizes investments in student learning and wellbeing."

Enrolment at the board is approximately

63,000 with 6,700 full-time equivalent staff. A total of \$683.1 million goes directly to classrooms and includes teacher salaries, equipment and supplies.

The board's superintendent of business services said they have run intentional deficits for the last two years.

"This is a planned deficit for us, so it wasn't a surprise. There are a number of underfunded and unfunded pressures school boards are dealing with right now, one of them being supply costs for staff," said Nick Landry.

He said supplies for staff are being subsidized to the tune of \$17 million next year, the number of students requiring special education continues to grow and inflation is also a factor.

"There are a number of things contributing to it, but I would say supply costs are probably the largest one for us and probably most school boards across the province."

He added more money is also being

spent on behavioural support teams to help teachers in the classroom. The board will be required by the province to table a balanced budget for the 2027-2028 school year.

"The way the ministry regulation works is we can run two years of deficits, but in that third year we have to balance it. If we can't, we would need to seek additional approval from the minister. Our plan for that year is to have a balanced budget, and we'll be starting to work on that this fall."

School administration accounts for \$67.5 million, with school operations pegged at \$76.2 million and student transportation for \$24.8 million. The board also approved a capital budget of \$82.9 million for land, construction and other projects.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board approved a \$452 million balanced operating budget for 2026-2027.

Finance staff warn cost pressures like salary and benefit increases, rising sick leave costs, inflation and declining English

as a second language enrolment may pose financial problems down the road. Salary and benefits alone account for over 80 per cent of all spending.

The board's director of education and CEO said the organization remains financially stable and continues to provide strong classroom learning.

"Every decision reflects our collective commitment to helping students learn and grow, to serving our communities with purpose and compassion, and to ensuring every child belongs in a safe and welcoming Catholic school," said Annalisa Varano.

"By keeping student achievement and wellbeing at the heart of every decision, we are well-positioned to continue advancing our (multi-year strategic plan) goals while maintaining the financial stability our system depends on."

The board said it made reductions to non-staff areas such as facilities, technology and professional development.

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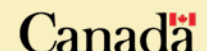
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# Wellesley Fall Fair promises something for everyone Aug. 28-29

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

It may still be summer, but organizers of the 173rd Wellesley Fall Fair are already putting the finishing touches on another celebration of agriculture, community and family fun.

Hosted by the Wellesley-North Easthope Agricultural Society, this year's fair takes place Friday, Aug. 28, and Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Bill Gies Recreation Complex under the theme "Field to Feast."

In addition to the fair itself, organizers are planning several fundraising and community events leading up to the weekend.

The society's annual quilt raffle returns with three prizes, including a queen-size quilt, a lap quilt and a table runner. Tickets are available in advance.

The popular seniors' tea will also return this year. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased by Aug. 14.

New this year is the fair's first online 50/50 raffle. The early-bird prize is a \$400 Lens Mills gift card, while the grand prize will be 50 per cent of the total funds raised. Organizers are hoping to award a substantial cash prize while supporting future fair activities.

As always, the fair itself will offer a



Children enjoy the ride aboard a barrel train float in last year's Wellesley Fall Fair parade. This year's 173rd annual fair returns Aug. 28 and 29 with agricultural events, family activities and community traditions.

(FILE PHOTO)

full schedule of agricultural competitions, family entertainment and activities for all ages.

Visitors can look forward to a horse show, a sheep demonstration, the return of the 4-H cattle show, inflatable attractions, food trucks, zucchini races, children's pedal-car races, the popular baby show and a

pet and stuffy show.

Organizers say those attractions are just part of the weekend's lineup, with additional exhibits, competitions and entertainment planned throughout the two-day event.

The Wellesley Fall Fair continues to celebrate the area's rich agricultural heritage

while providing an opportunity for families and friends to come together and enjoy one of the community's longest-running traditions.

For more information about the fair, quilt raffle, seniors' tea or online 50/50 draw, email [wellesleyfallfair@gmail.com](mailto:wellesleyfallfair@gmail.com).

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# Wellesley Township adopts AI governance policy for municipal operations

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Wellesley Township has adopted a new governance policy designed to ensure municipal staff use artificial intelligence (AI) responsibly as the technology becomes increasingly common in workplaces.

At its June 23 meeting, Wellesley council approved an AI governance policy establishing how the emerging technology can be used in municipal operations while setting safeguards around privacy, security, transparency and accountability.

“This AI governance policy establishes a clear and practical framework for how the township can safely and responsibly use emerging AI tools in our day-to-day operations,” township director of corporate services Jeff Dyck said. “The intent is not to restrict innovation but to enable it in a controlled way, ensuring any use

of AI protects resident and municipal information.”

The policy provides a framework for staff, council members, volunteers, committees of council, contractors and consultants using municipal systems or data to responsibly incorporate generative AI tools into their work.

According to the report, the township developed the policy in response to the rapid growth of AI technologies and the opportunities they present to improve efficiency, support decision-making and enhance municipal service delivery. At the same time, the policy is intended to reduce risks related to privacy, data security, accuracy, bias and legislative compliance.

The policy makes clear that AI is intended to assist municipal personnel, not replace human judgment or decision-making.

“The policy emphasizes that staff remain fully responsible for their work with AI

serving only as a support tool, not a decision-maker, and outlines firm guidelines including prohibitions on using confidential data or relying on AI for hiring decisions,” Dyck said.

Staff using AI-generated information will remain responsible for verifying its accuracy, checking for bias or incomplete information and ensuring any work produced meets the township's standards before it is used.

To protect residents' privacy and confidential municipal information, the policy also limits what information can be entered into AI tools and restricts municipal business to approved technologies that meet the township's security requirements.

For now, Microsoft Copilot is the only AI platform approved for municipal use because it operates within the township's secure Microsoft 365 environment and provides additional privacy and

data-protection measures compared to publicly available AI platforms.

The policy also prohibits the use of AI for certain activities, including screening or evaluating job applicants and creating images of people for official municipal purposes.

Where AI contributes substantially to a document or other work product, municipal personnel will also be expected to disclose its use.

Township staff say the policy will allow Wellesley to take advantage of emerging technologies while maintaining public confidence in municipal decision-making and protecting sensitive information.

Following council approval, the policy will be shared with municipal personnel, with management responsible for reinforcing expectations and reviewing the policy periodically as AI technology continues to evolve.





## 22nd Annual

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# Tavistock kicks off summer with successful 5 Corners Summer Sips

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

Beautiful summer weather set the stage for the 5 Corners Summer Sips fundraiser hosted by the Tavistock Agricultural Society on Saturday, June 27, at the Tavistock and District Recreation Centre.

The family-friendly fundraiser welcomed nearly 400 people for live music, locally crafted beverages and great food,

all while raising money for future improvements to the Tavistock Fall Fair.

Guests enjoyed refreshments from five beverage vendors and a delicious variety of offerings from six food trucks.

Entertainment began shortly after 2 p.m. with Crackerjack Palace, a classic rock cover band performing favourites from artists including The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Steely Dan.

Tavistock natives Katie Hamilton and

singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Chuckee Zehr took to the stage around 5 p.m., entertaining a hometown crowd before the evening's headliner.

Closing out the night was Hotel California, an Eagles tribute band featuring Stratford native Jay Riehl on drums and vocals. The band wrapped up a full day of music and delivered a memorable finale to the day's entertainment.

The goal of the event was to bring the

community together while raising funds for improvements to the annual Tavistock Fall Fair. The organizing committee included Jack Danen, Don Junker, Connie Junker, Chad Keller, Val Jones, Alisha Wilson, Susan Withinshaw and Julie Kimpel. Their dedication, along with the efforts of many volunteers, helped make 5 Corners Summer Sips a success.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Local classic rock band Crackerjack Palace kicked off the entertainment at 5 Corners Summer Sips. Band members include Fern Pridham of St. Marys, Tom Elliott, Dean Jutzi, Mark Diotallevi, Diego Vitello and Tavistock native Barry Klein.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Tavistock natives Katie Hamilton and singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Chuckee Zehr entertained a hometown crowd during their performance at 5 Corners Summer Sips.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Members of the 5 Corners Summer Sips organizing committee, along with volunteers, are pictured together before the event kicked off. In front, from left, are Amy Danen, Connie Junker and Susan Witen. Standing in the middle are Don Junker (Summer Sips co-chair), Chad Keller, Val Jones (Ag. Society president), Chris Wiffen, Monica Wiffen, Kim Urlando, Kim Bailey, Julie Kimpel, Kim Hill and Brooklyn Ross (fall fair ambassador). In the back, from left, are Heidi Lamb, Kara Cahill, Kathy Rosenberg, Jack Danen (Summer Sips co-chair), Miranda Murray, Kelly Ruddock and Alisha Wilson. Missing is Kaitlin Keller. Zehr entertained a hometown crowd during their performance at 5 Corners Summer Sips.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The warm weather and refreshing shaved ice from Indulge made for the perfect combination at the 5 Corners Summer Sips event in Tavistock this past weekend.

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# Historic school bell continues to preserve Shakespeare's educational heritage

GARY WEST

*Gazette Correspondent*

As another school year came to a close at Sprucedale Public School last week, one piece of the community's educational history quietly stood as a reminder of generations of students who came before.

Standing near the entrance to the school is the original bell from Union School Section (U.S.S.) No. 10, the two-room schoolhouse that once served Shakespeare before the construction of newer schools.

While hundreds of students pass by the bell each year, few may realize the important role it once played in daily school life.

For decades, the bell rang at 9 a.m. to signal the start

of the school day and again after morning recess and the noon lunch break, calling students back to their classrooms. In those days, classes continued until 4 p.m.

Like many one- and two-room rural schools throughout Ontario, U.S.S. No. 10 also relied on a handheld bell that teachers used throughout the day.

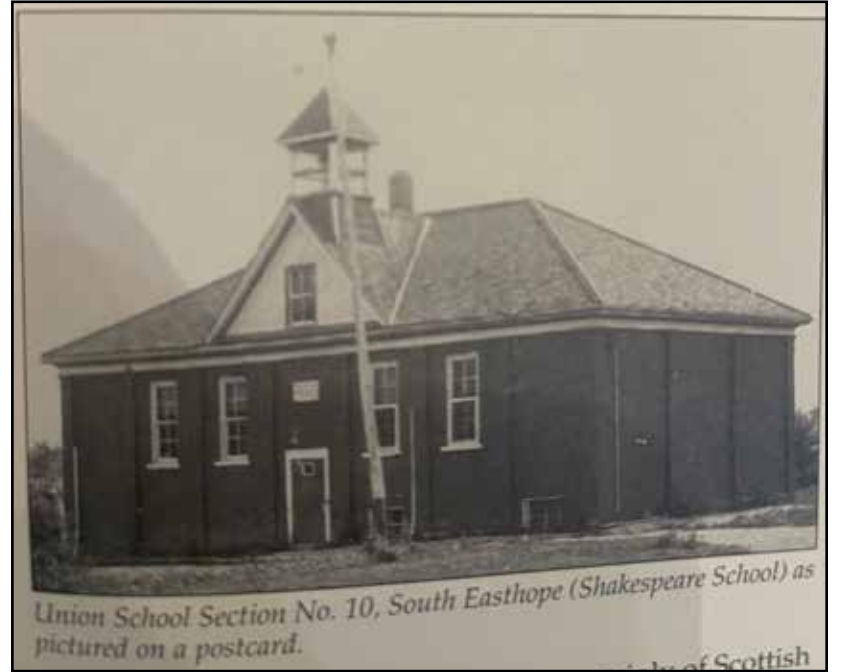
Today, the restored school bell serves as a lasting reminder of Shakespeare's educational history and the many students and teachers who passed through the community's original schoolhouse.

For those who attended the former school, the bell represents cherished memories and a connection to an earlier era of rural education.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

A plaque beneath the original U.S.S. No. 10 school bell notes it was returned to Shakespeare and dedicated Sept. 16, 1992, by the Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman, then lieutenant governor of Ontario. The initials U.S.S. stood for Union School Section, the designation given to many of Ontario's one- and two-room rural schools.



Union School Section No. 10, South Easthope (Shakespeare School) as pictured on a postcard.

(PHOTO FROM COUNTRY ROADS: THE HISTORY OF SOUTH EASTHOPE 1827-2000)

The original two-room U.S.S. No. 10 school in Shakespeare is shown in this historic photograph from *Country Roads: The History of South Easthope 1827-2000*. The original school bell, which once called students to class, now stands beside the entrance to Sprucedale Public School.

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# Junior Optimist Club of Wilmot donates to Wilmot and Wellesley Resource Centre



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Junior Optimist Club of Wilmot is a group of teens (grades seven to 12) who like to volunteer and give back to their community. This month, they donated both their time and some money to the Wilmot and Wellesley Resource Centre. Club members are pictured here inside the food bank. These enthusiastic young people have done fundraising events such as the Community Pancake Supper the past two years and selling novelties at the Wilmot Canada Day fireworks. They were there again this week selling light-up novelties and popcorn to make fireworks even more special. For more information about this group, email [wilmotjroptimists@gmail.com](mailto:wilmotjroptimists@gmail.com).

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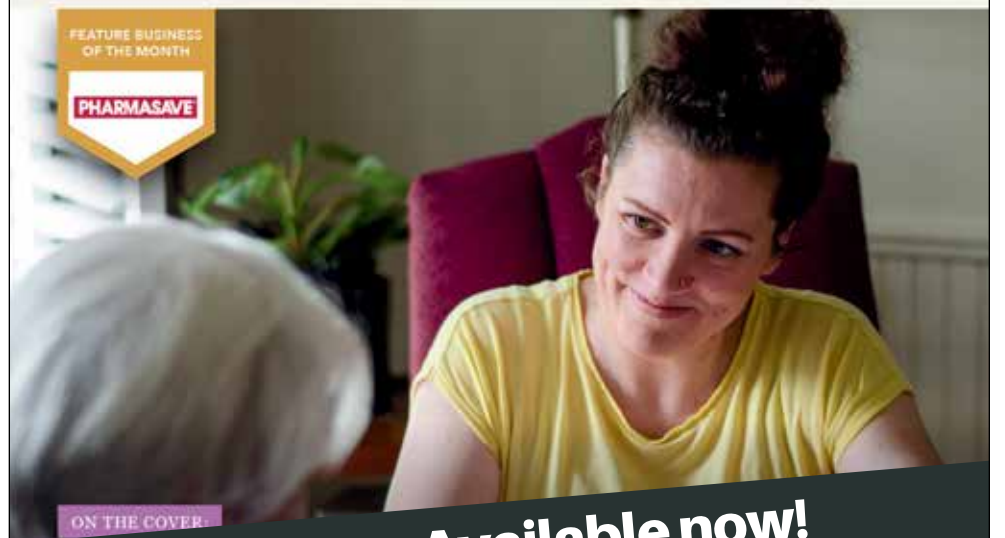


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# Perth East dog park campaign surpasses fundraising goal

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Supporters of the proposed Perth East Dog Park have reached an important milestone, surpassing the project's \$25,000 fundraising goal.

Residents travelling through downtown Milverton may have noticed the fundraising thermometer now showing the campaign has exceeded its target thanks to the generosity of local residents, businesses and community supporters.

The campaign committee thanked everyone who contributed, with the sign proudly proclaiming, "Thanks FUR your support."

Organizers say the project would not have been

possible without the overwhelming backing of the community and the many donors who helped turn the vision into reality.

Once completed, the dog park will provide a safe, fenced space where dog owners can exercise and socialize their pets off leash.

The park is planned for a site behind Boshart Industries and will offer local residents a dedicated area for dogs to run and play while giving owners another opportunity to connect with fellow pet lovers.

The successful fundraising campaign marks a significant step toward bringing the long-awaited amenity to Perth East.

Pictured right, the fundraising thermometer in downtown Milverton shows the Perth East Dog Park campaign has surpassed its \$25,000 goal. Organizers thanked the community's residents, businesses and supporters for helping make the future off-leash dog park behind Boshart Industries a reality.

## CORRECTION:

A factual error was printed in the letter to the editor, "Significant commitments to a downtown core's value," on page 34 of the June 25 edition of the Wilmot Tavistock Gazette. While the letter states that one of the investors is the Guardian Pharmacy, that is not correct. The owners involved are the owners of the Pharmasave located in the

Sobeys Plaza, not the Guardian Pharmacy. The author of the letter, Barry Wolfe, "apologizes to Ashok Jobanputra for not giving him the credit for his contributions to the maintenance of New Hamburg's downtown core, and also thanks the Patels for their investment in the Murray Block."



(GARY WEST PHOTO)



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# Tavistock Missionary Church Block Party brings community together

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

Sunny skies and warm weather provided the perfect setting for the Tavistock Missionary Church Block Party on Sunday, June 28, as families from Tavistock and surrounding communities gathered for a day of food, fun and fellowship.

The free community event began with an outdoor worship service at 11 a.m., followed by a barbecue featuring hamburgers and hotdogs along with cotton candy, games, a bouncy castle and activities for children of all ages.

Pastor Darryl Siemens said the event reflects the church's desire to strengthen

connections within the community.

"Our goal is building community," said Siemens. "We hope it will be a blessing to everyone who comes here."

Siemens said the church hopes to host similar community events several times throughout the year.

Planning is already underway for the

church's annual Fall Expo. This year's event is expected to be even bigger, with more vendors and a carnival-style atmosphere featuring fun activities for the whole family.

For more information about upcoming events, visit [www.facebook.com/tavistock.church](http://www.facebook.com/tavistock.church).



Keith Bell, Ivan Knight and Paul Becker, members of Tavistock Missionary Church, were busy barbecuing hamburgers and hotdogs for guests attending the community block party.





(DIANE DANEN PHOTO)

Andrea Graham of Waterloo helps daughter Rosalyn, eight, and son Lennon, five, create giant bubbles during the Tavistock Missionary Church Block Party. The family attended the event with Keith and Kathy Bell.



Brothers Luke and Evan Herold, nine and six, of Tavistock get ready for some fun in the bouncy castle during the community block party. They attended the event with their mom, Cindy Herold.

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# Wilmot seeks affiliate membership on Kitchener's accessibility advisory committee

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Wilmot Township is looking to continue receiving regional accessibility expertise after the current Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) model comes to an end.

At its June 22 meeting, Wilmot council approved a request to join the City of Kitchener's accessibility advisory committee as an affiliate member municipality beginning with the 2026-2030 term of council.

"This recommendation is the result of regional discussions among local municipalities," said township clerk Amelia Jaggard. "The other townships are aligned on this approach, having already approved similar recommendations. Staff feel this model is an opportunity to continue collaborating with neighbouring municipalities while maintaining local representation and meeting the township's obligations under (the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act)."

The move follows Kitchener's decision to establish its own accessibility advisory committee after serving for years as the coordinating municipality for GRAAC, a

committee that currently provides accessibility advice to the Region of Waterloo, Kitchener, Waterloo and the townships of Wilmot, Wellesley, Woolwich and North Dumfries.

According to the report, Kitchener's growing population and increasing volume of development applications prompted the city to create a dedicated committee while offering neighbouring municipalities with populations under 50,000 the opportunity to participate through an affiliate membership model.

As an affiliate member, Wilmot would continue to receive advice and recommendations on improving accessibility in municipal facilities, public spaces, programs, services and policies from a committee whose membership is made up primarily of people with disabilities or caregivers of people with disabilities, as required under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

The township would also retain the ability to appoint local representatives to serve on the committee, helping ensure Wilmot's accessibility priorities continue to be represented.

Staff said the affiliate model will provide

Wilmot with ongoing access to accessibility expertise and lived experience while helping the township meet its legislative obligations under the AODA.

"I was surprised to see they didn't want us as part of the committee, but they would take us on as an affiliate member," Coun. Stewart Cressman said. "So, I was trying to understand what the difference was as being part of Kitchener's committee as an affiliate."

In response, Jaggard said "affiliate" is simply the terminology the City of Kitchener is using to open the door to participation on the committee by Wilmot and the other townships, noting the intent is to continue having a local representative from Wilmot.

"It's actually a real benefit for us not needing to have our staff run an entire, different committee and utilize the City of Kitchener, allowing us to be an affiliate, as their staff do administer it," Mayor Natasha Salonen added.

The arrangement will see the City of Kitchener assume responsibility for administering the committee, including organizing meetings, managing expenses, coordinating member appointments and

providing administrative support.

According to the report, the model is expected to reduce the administrative burden on participating municipalities while allowing them to continue benefiting from regional collaboration on accessibility issues.

Council also heard that creating a stand-alone Wilmot accessibility advisory committee was considered but is not being recommended because of the additional costs, staffing requirements and challenges associated with recruiting committee members.

Another potential regional committee led by the Region of Waterloo is also being explored, though staff noted no governance model or financial details have yet been developed.

If approved by Kitchener council, Wilmot's affiliate membership will begin Nov. 15 with the new term of council. Until then, the township will continue participating in GRAAC under the existing structure.

The annual cost of affiliate membership in the Kitchener committee is \$2,387.50 beginning in 2027, \$487.50 more than the annual cost of membership in GRAAC.

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## NOTICE OF PROJECT INITIATION AND STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

**Monday, July 27, 2026 at 6:00pm**  
**Council Chambers, Township Administration Complex**  
**60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden Ontario N3A 1A1**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Corporation of the Township of Wilmot is undertaking a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) pursuant to Section 28 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13 and invites all interested persons to attend the Statutory Public Meeting to obtain feedback and comments regarding the CIP, the proposed CIP Area, as well as the proposed incentive program.

The Township of Wilmot is proposing a Brownfield Community Improvement Plan (CIP). This Statutory Public Meeting is a way for you to offer input and to get involved. A copy of the staff report and draft CIP will be available online on or after July 21, 2026 [www.engagewr.ca/Brownfield-CIP](http://www.engagewr.ca/Brownfield-CIP)

### WHAT IS A COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)?

A Community Improvement Plan (CIP) is a land use planning tool that allows municipalities to offer financial incentives (grants and loans) and non-financial incentives to private landowners to encourage revitalization and development to achieve locally defined goals, like the remediation of brownfield sites.

The Township of Wilmot CIP will establish a CIP Area for the entirety of Wilmot and propose a financial incentive program to attract landowners, developers, non-profits, and community organizations to help remediate contaminated lands for redevelopment.

### HAVE YOUR SAY

You are invited to provide input and participate in the Statutory Public Meeting on July 27, 2026, either in person or online. To participate in the Statutory Public Meeting virtually, please pre-register with the Township Clerk by submitting a delegation request online at [forms.wilmot.ca/Clerks/Delegation-Request-Form](http://forms.wilmot.ca/Clerks/Delegation-Request-Form) or emailing the Township Clerk at [clerks@wilmot.ca](mailto:clerks@wilmot.ca) before noon on July 27, 2026. Attendance in person does not require pre-registration. You may also provide written comment through mail to 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden, ON N3A 1A1 or send an email to [planning@wilmot.ca](mailto:planning@wilmot.ca).

Visit the Township of Wilmot's YouTube Channel to watch the Council Meeting. The meeting will be archived on the same webpage for viewing after the event: [www.wilmot.ca/YouTube](http://www.wilmot.ca/YouTube)

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wilmot to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Wilmot before the proposed Community Improvement Plan is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to Council of the Township of Wilmot before the proposed Community Improvement Plan is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Corporation of the Township of Wilmot on the proposed CIP, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Corporation of the Township of Wilmot at 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden Ontario N3A 1A1 or by emailing [clerks@wilmot.ca](mailto:clerks@wilmot.ca).

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact the Township of Wilmot Planning Division at 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden, ON N3A 1A1, T: 519-634-8444, or email [planning@wilmot.ca](mailto:planning@wilmot.ca).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Rachel Greene, Senior Policy Planner, Township of Wilmot

Phone: 519-634-8519 ext. 9237 Email: [planning@wilmot.ca](mailto:planning@wilmot.ca)

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# OBITUARY

## KRYS: Michael "Mike"



Passed away peacefully with family by his side on June 25, 2026 at his residence. Michael Krys of Kitchener was in his 80th year.

Beloved husband of Brenda Noreen (Williams) Krys whom he married Sept 13, 1969. Loving father of Jon & his wife Tammy of New

Hamburg, Jeremy & his wife Tracy of Chilliwack B.C., and Jaime Krys of Kitchener.

Cherished Papa of Zachariah Krys, Mikayla Krys, Darien Krys, Phoenix Krys and Lukas Sobotka.

Survived by his sister Nettie Farkasdi of Edmonton, Alberta, and many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his parents John & Annie (Yaremie) Krys. By his brothers Bill, Jim, Peter, Paul (Edna Patterson), Steve (Jeanette Linkewich), Harry, and sisters Kay (Walter Moore), Mary (Fred Schrader), Helen (John Adamarczuk) Sophie and brother-in-law Harry Tymko.

Mike was involved in the flooring industry throughout most of his career as a contractor, salesperson and small business owner. However, he truly thrived when he was out in nature, or exploring the world. An avid outdoorsman, his happiest days were spent on the water, whether he was patiently waiting for a bite with a fishing rod in hand, or steering his boat through calm waters. His love for exploration also took him on countless travels alongside his beloved wife Brenda, and his children and grandchildren. He mapped out journeys across the country and beyond, always seeking new horizons and creating lasting memories. He was the master tinkerer who could fix anything with a bit of patience and ingenuity. Yet above all his hobbies and adventures Mike's greatest passion was his family. He was a devoted husband, a proud father and a doting Papa, and a supportive neighbor, who never missed an opportunity to support his family, share a laugh or offer guidance. His home was filled with love, laughter and the warmth of his presence.

Relatives & friends are invited to the Francis Chapel of the Glendinning Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock Street N, Tavistock, on Sunday June 28, 2026 from 11:30 am -1:30 pm, followed by a Memorial Service at 2:00 pm in the Francis Chapel of the Glendinning Funeral Home. Reception to follow at the Men's Club Hall. Service will be live streamed.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Mennonite Central Committee, or the Salvation Army would be appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be shared at [www.gffh.ca](http://www.gffh.ca)

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# QUIZ TIME

BY JAKE GRANT

1. What is the birthstone of July?
2. What is the fictional island in Mamma Mia called?
3. What is the capital city of Australia?
4. What do you call a beginner surfer?
5. What is the Italian name for ice cream?
6. What 80s girl band sang "Cruel Summer"?
7. What summer seafood is now a delicacy but was once considered "poor man's protein"?
8. Which Harry Potter character died on the beach?
9. The person in charge of officiating a baseball game is called what?
10. What is the standard distance for Olympic target archery?

Answers found on classified page



by PeterS 2026

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

Answers found on classified page

# 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.*

**June 22 - 29, 2016, Edition (10 years ago)**

The Ponds subdivision in the north-west of Tavistock was initially a five-year project. It's been less than three years and the second phase is almost complete. However, developers and realtors John Day and Peter Lass, along with Tavistock sales representative Brian Wilhelm, have turned their attention to another area of the village. The Orchards is located on 44 acres in the southeast corner of the village. The development will begin with the construction of 39 condominium townhouses this fall called Applewood Estates. There are also 19 lots for single and semi-detached homes available for fall starts.

The students of Ms. Marci Rabe's Grade 3 classroom had a special guest last Friday afternoon when composer, teacher and community musician Owen Bloomfield stopped by to teach rudimentary musical composition. Mr. Bloomfield was a fellow student with Ms. Rabe during their studies for Bachelor of Music at Wilfrid Laurier University. Mr. Bloomfield went on to earn his Master of Music in Composition at University of British Columbia.

Four years ago, Brenda Wettlaufer retired from her position as an educational assistant at Forest Glen Public School in New Hamburg, but that hasn't stopped her from continuing to volunteer in the community. At Sunday's Community Appreciation Event at the Tavistock Memorial Hall, Wettlaufer was presented with the 2016 Provincial Senior of the Year award. Tavistock Coun. Shirley McCall Hanlon, who chaired the event, and East-Zorra Tavistock Agricultural Society president Chad Keller were given the honour to present the award and read the citation on behalf of the nominating group.

**June 21 - 28, 2006, Edition (20 years ago)**

Over \$255,000 was raised at the seventh annual Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life held in Woodstock this past weekend. "We're just blown away," says Kristi Cross, unit manager of the Canadian Cancer Society, Oxford County Unit. "We want to thank over 1,100 participants of the 103 teams, the gener-

osity of the donors, the valued sponsors who donated both cash and in-kind, the approximate 200 event-day volunteers, and the amazing volunteer steering committee. Approximately 182 cancer survivors walked the Survivors' Victory Lap, the first lap of Relay for Life. East Zorra-Tavistock teams raised a total of \$27,539.25.

Emma and Ella Bender, daughters of Shawn and Sherri Bender of Tavistock, and students of Cindy Brick and of the Plattsville Skating Club, had a very successful skating year. Ella competed in six Pre-Preliminary A level competitions earning two fourth-place ribbons, two bronze medals, a silver medal and ending the year with a very satisfying and hard-earned gold medal. Emma had a remarkable year, ending it with the achievement of earning her Gold Skills in May of 2006. A great achievement for a 10-year-old!

Tavistock residents awoke to the sounds of drums and brass this past weekend as the Dutch Boy Drum and Bugle Corps of Kitchener held their rehearsal weekend in Tavistock. Some 54 members of the corps plus directors, support staff and volunteers made Tavistock their home for the weekend. A 10-hour practice session on Saturday culminated Sunday with the first look at the corps' new uniforms. The striking black trousers and white tunics with an inverted, red maple leaf at the collar, topped off with a black hat, silver chain and black plume, are the corps' first new look in years.

**June 25 - July 2, 1986, Edition (40 years ago)**

A tasteful blue and cream-coloured signboard draws your attention to the stately, red brick house on Tavistock's main street. Unlike the sign there some 90 years ago directing patients to the doctor's office, this sign reads "Wedgewood Guest House, Bed and Breakfast." Not only does the style of the sign reflect the shops you'll find inside, but it prepares you for a pleasant surprise. The Wedgewood, incorporating the "Bath Boutique" and "Mother Earth Market," is the result of four months of planning and dedication by owners John and Judy Mohr and Charlene Zehr.

As Dave Jutzi and John Gascho lowered the old oak cabinet from its wall mountings, so ended Tavistock's final link with the past and its founder. The cabinet was being removed from the Sunoco station, J. Sales and Service, at 5 Woodstock St. N, Tavistock, as the building is being demolished this week.



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# The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette **SPORTS**

## U17 Athletics take OASA qualifier

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Reporter

The U17 Tavistock Athletics have punched their ticket to the national championship tournament in British Columbia after an undefeated weekend in Napanee.

The team faced the Tara Twins in the gold-medal game and came away with an 8-1 victory. The A's started the weekend with a 12-2 drubbing of the Kawartha Kraken and followed that up with a come-from-behind, walk-off 7-6 win over Tara. They qualified for the final with another walk-off win, 1-0 over the Elmira Heat.

"We are predominantly a first-year team at this age group, so we certainly weren't expecting to win the tournament this year," said head coach Dave Nahrgang. "But this is such an athletic group of players, and the group's chemistry is great. The majority of these boys have been playing together for nine to 10 years. They all get along well, and they root for each other."

Along with preparations for some stiff competition on the field, the team will now be putting in an effort to fundraise to cover some of the costs. Nahrgang said the cost will be

substantial.

"The tournament runs from Aug. 5-9 in Surrey, B.C. We'll be travelling from Aug. 3 until the 10th, so the hotel rooms, flights and rental cars can really start to add up. For most of this team, this is our third consecutive trip to the Canadian championships, so we're certainly getting experience with all of the travel details," Nahrgang said.

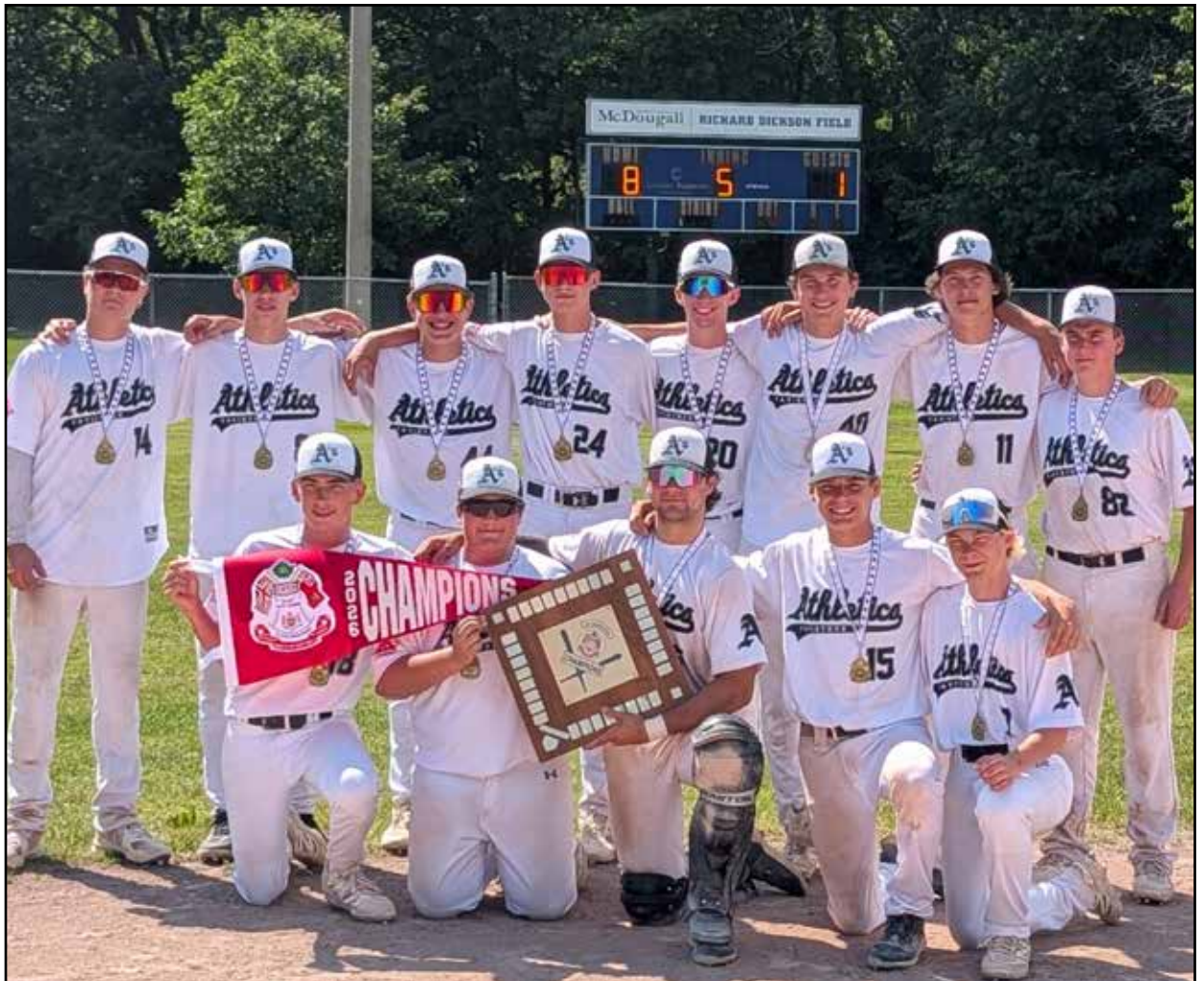
As is common in fastball, the team will have the opportunity to pick up one or two players from other Ontario teams that didn't qualify.

"We will assess what we think our team could use, and pick accordingly," Nahrgang said. He added the goal is to come home with some hardware.

"I think we will be pretty competitive out there. We know the other Ontario teams (Elmira, Tara and Napanee) will be strong, and Nova Scotia is pretty strong at this age group. I want to think we could come home with a medal."

The team has also qualified for the Ontario Summer Games from July 31 to Aug. 2 at Budd Park in Kitchener.

"It's going to be a great few days of fastball, and a great experience for the team," Nahrgang said.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Kneeling, from left to right, are Drew Roth, August Morschauer, Peyton Christie, Jacob Smaglinski and Jordan Zehr. Standing, from left to right, are Marshall McKay, Carson Gilmore, Jackson MacMillan, Dylan McCann, Jay Alexander, Colin Priestap, Ryan Davis and Evan Nahrgang.

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Marshall McKay was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player and was presented with the award from convenor Brad Thomson.



Team captain August Morschauer accepted the U17 banner and trophy from convenor Brad Thomson.



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# Danen family hosts Perth County Holstein Club twilight meeting

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Hundreds of Holstein breeders, dairy producers and neighbours gathered at the Ed and Julie Danen family farm near Punkeydoodles Corners last Thursday for the Perth County Holstein Club's annual Twilight Meeting.

The Danen family welcomed visitors to their South Easthope dairy farm on Perth-Oxford Road, where they milk 140 pure-bred Holstein cows in a modern milking parlour and free-stall barn. The family also raises a similar number of calves and replacement heifers.

Both Ed and Julie Danen come from well-known dairy-farming families. Ed Danen was raised by Bart and Gerry Danen near Tavistock, while Julie Danen grew up on her parents' farm, Ken and Sharon Weitzel, near Stratford.

Both families were respected Holstein breeders for many years, and today they take pride in seeing the next generation continue that tradition with a successful, high-producing dairy herd.

Ed and Julie Danen first met through 4-H and Junior Farmers before establishing their own dairy operation on what was

formerly the Baechler farm, just a few kilometres from the Danen family homestead.

Like many young farm families, they started with a modest operation and have steadily expanded both their land base and herd over the years.

Today, their daughter, Emily, and her husband, Cody Cretier, play an integral role in the business. The couple lives on one of the family's farms where replacement heifers are raised and helps manage the operation's annual rotation of alfalfa, corn, soybeans and wheat.

The Danens also work closely with Ed Danen's siblings, Jack and Jane Danen, and their families, sharing equipment while each operates their own Holstein dairy enterprise.

Beyond their own farm, Ed and Julie Danen have contributed significantly to agriculture through volunteer leadership. Both are past presidents of the Perth County Federation of Agriculture, while Ed Danen currently serves on the board of directors for Gay Lea Foods Co-operative.

The annual Twilight Meeting gave local producers an opportunity to tour the operation, exchange ideas and celebrate excellence in the dairy industry.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Members and directors of the Perth County Holstein Club presented the Danen family with a personalized custom metal "Danzel Holsteins" sign during last Thursday's Twilight Meeting. From left are former Perth County Holstein Club president Sjoerd Kemmere, Emily and Cody Cretier, Julie and Ed Danen, and Perth County Holstein Breeders Association president Luis Velazquez. Missing from the photo is club secretary-treasurer Emma Payne Childerly.

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# NEAT members enjoy annual breakfast at Trinity Lutheran Church

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Members of the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club (NEAT) made their weekly breakfast stop in Sebastopol last Thursday, where they were warmly welcomed by the women of Trinity Lutheran Church.

The annual breakfast fundraiser once again attracted a large turnout of club members, along with their wives and partners, filling the church hall for a hearty meal and fellowship.

The breakfast was prepared and served by Trinity Lutheran Church volunteers, who look forward to hosting the antique-tractor enthusiasts each year.

Cathy Wilker, who helped lead the organizing team, said the church is always

pleased to welcome the group back for the annual fundraiser.

NEAT president Murray Gingerich of Baden thanked the church volunteers for their hospitality and provided members with a brief club update before breakfast.

He also acknowledged several members who were unable to attend because of illness and reminded everyone the club's next breakfast outing would take them north to Poole.

Before the meal, church member Janet Heinbuch offered the blessing.

The weekly breakfast rides continue to be a popular tradition for NEAT members, combining scenic drives on antique tractors with visits to communities across Perth, Waterloo and Oxford counties.



(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Volunteers who prepared breakfast for members of the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sebastopol included, from left, Donna Swartzentruber, Cathy Wilker, Carol Grasby, Brenda Horst, Janet Fuhr and Bonnie Winhold. Missing from the photo is Rich Wilker.



Members of the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club, along with their wives and partners, enjoy a full breakfast prepared by the women of Trinity Lutheran Church during the club's annual stop in Sebastopol.

# Gazette Puzzles

JUNE NEWS RECAP

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## Pet of the Week

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He's a very gentle cat who will do best being an only cat. He can be easily startled, and will find a quiet spot to calm down until he's ready to try again. If you have a quiet home and a gentle heart, Moss might just be the perfect companion for you! He's currently fostered in Kitchener-Waterloo. Learn more about Moss at <https://kwsphumane.ca/adopt/cats>



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# Anxiety on the T-ball field

## INTERFAITH COUNSELLING CENTRE

By John Dinner

There's plenty to be anxious about these days: political conflict with our closest neighbour, climate change, the cost of housing. The list feels endless. Sometimes anxiety operates quietly in the background; other times it takes over. Yet, anxiety itself isn't inherently negative. In many situations, it protects us. It alerts us to danger and prompts caution. But it's seldom life-giving.

Anxiety is everywhere. It even shows up on the T-ball diamond.

Recently, I watched my seven-year-old granddaughter at practice as she was introduced to the game of baseball – or at least a gentle version of it. I suspect my presence may have introduced a bit of anxiety of its own. "Papa had come to watch," which, to a child, can feel like both encouragement and expectation.

It's difficult to communicate my only hope was that she would have enough fun to want to come back the next week with a smile on her face. Even that, I suppose, could be a form of pressure on its own.

Some of the anxiety on the field that perfect spring evening was easier to spot. A few players raised brand-new gloves, fearfully protecting their faces as the ball approached, making catching nearly impossible. When a batter connected with the teed-up ball, it often rolled harmlessly between fielders' legs. Throws travelled with enthusiasm but little direction. Base running alternated between summer strolls and spontaneous but directionless sprints.

None of this was accidental. T-ball was

designed exactly as it should be – an introduction to ball, bat, teamwork and movement. Every piece still existed independently, waiting to eventually connect.

But anxiety wasn't confined to the kids on the field.

As anxiety often spreads from one person to another, it appeared among spectators as well. More than a few parents drifted into unofficial coaching roles. Perhaps this was simple role confusion. More likely, parents were reacting to their child's struggles and feeling compelled to correct, direct, or improve the moment. Intended encouragement occasionally landed closer to criticism. What emerged felt less like coaching and more like emotional spillover. It was quite possibly the individual's own emotional distress with a personal memory of poor performance than the on-field fumbling playing out in front of them.

The point isn't that anxiety is bad. Stress, fear and concern help keep us safe and attentive. The problem comes when anxiety goes unnoticed and begins shaping our re-

sponses.

There may be a simple three-step antidote: First, notice anxiety around you and the behaviours it produces in others. Second, pay attention to what it stirs up in you. Third, choose your response deliberately.

At the ball diamond, that might mean asking whether the situation truly warrants the emotional energy it's generating. Do we need to call out our child? Correct the coach? Or can we remember that this is not the final game of the World Series and that fun and learning is the point of it all?

Sometimes the healthier response is simply to remember that T-ball – and many things in life – aren't as serious as they feel in the moment. Perhaps smiling faces at next week's practice is the real win.

*John Dinner is a registered psychotherapist who works as a counsellor at Interfaith Counselling Centre in New Hamburg. He routinely and anxiously battles the expectations of others and his goal of just having fun on the pickleball court.*

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# Smiles and styles come and go



## VINTAGE VIEWS

By Tim Mosher

Tavistock and District Historical Society

These three similar photos in the Lemp Studio Collection are a good reflection of two things: smiling was not fashionable in early photography and gender identity was not expressed by very young children's parents' clothing choices, as they are today.

As a former photojournalist and photo teacher of many years (now retired), I've taken untold numbers of pictures of people in all sorts of situations in many countries. If they were posing for me, I'd often say "Smile with your teeth," meaning they'll look their best in the pictures with their mouth slightly open and their teeth showing, compared to either not smiling at all or smiling with their mouth closed, which looks pinched and stiff. These are modern ideas. Look at photos of a century or more ago and they didn't smile on demand from the photographer, rather, they consistently looked at the camera very expressionless, like these three youngsters.

Also, 100 years ago, gender identity for pre-school children was much less rigidly defined by their parents through clothing choices compared to current times. Look at the fashions of these three boys and you'll see elements of femininity. Of course, it's their parents choosing their clothing and this ambiguity was common in the western world up to about World War I, starting in 1914. So why do toddler boys of this period – roughly 1860-1914 – wear what appears to be dresses and not pants? It's easier to change diapers if the child is wearing a dress or dress-like gar-

ment compared to pants. Also, pants require more precise measuring than dresses or skirts.

Widespread industrialization in 1920 changed this with more and more automated machines doing the work, standard patterns and processes in factory settings and mass distribution by the newfangled internal combustion engines in delivery trucks of this period.

Another interesting point, though not evident in these pictures, is how pink for girls and blue for boys has done a complete 180-degree switch! Up to the early 20th century, blue was for girls and pink for boys. Hard to imagine today, but true. There's no clear explanation of why this switch occurred.

So remember, when posing for photos, smile with your teeth and you'll look your best.

**The last History Mystery:** The question was "In the photo of the Tavistock Milling Company staff, what hint says this group picture was not taken in John "Jack" Lemp's photo studio at the back of his Hope Street pharmacy?" This was first answered correctly by Gary Pearson of Tavistock who wrote "Lemp's studio on Hope Street did not have a window in this direction as noted in the picture." Mr. Lemp's studio was built about eight years before electricity came to Tavistock, so he had the typical photo studio built for this time, which included a large, east-facing, angled window to provide ample light. The window illuminating the staff photo is visible on the right, which is a standard vertical type. Lemp's big window was closed years ago with roofing, but its odd angle is still visible.

**This week's History Mystery:** What was the ongoing technical problem that bedeviled photographers – amateur and professional alike – when taking photos of pets, babies and toddlers that lasted until about the 1960s? The first reader to send the correct answer to me at [tim\\_mosher@hotmail.com](mailto:tim_mosher@hotmail.com) will have their name and community name or rural route number published in the next Vintage Views article.



(PHOTOS FROM THE LEMP STUDIO COLLECTION)

This reclining boy with two well-behaved dogs are posing in one of the two Woodstock Street photo studios that predate "Jack" Lemp's purpose-built studio on Hope Street. The fur rug and painted backdrop appear in numerous other pictures in the 1890s but, unfortunately, we don't know which photographer took this image, the boy's or even the dogs' names.



Dresses for boys at this time were very common. His jaunty cap askew on his head reveals a typical boy's haircut, though it wasn't uncommon for both boys and girls at the time to have long locks. The dog is on a spool platform rocking chair.



Same studio but a different child and dog without recorded names or dates again. This fellow is no longer a toddler, hence the knickerbocker-style pants like his father. I wonder if the boy is sitting on a sibling he pushed under the rug.

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# Visit the dynamic Duo R Lash Bar in Baden

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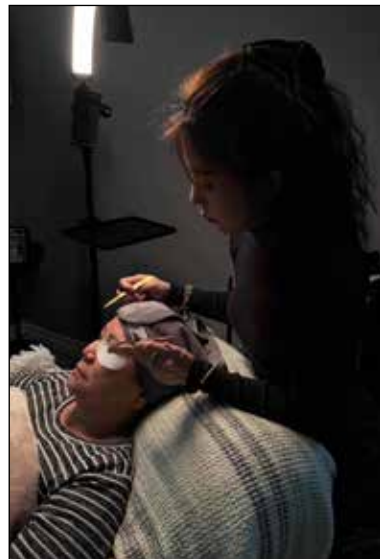
By Mercedes Kay Gold



One of the biggest beauty trends is lashes, and luckily, we have local resident Iris Lam, queen of lashes, right here in Wilmot. Yes, Wilmot, it's time to shine like a diamond. Go ahead and bat incredible lashes at everyone you meet.

Lam is a professional lash technician and passionate about the "intersection of art and confidence."

"Lashing isn't just a service; it's about creating a bespoke look that makes someone feel better



Iris Lam at work on a client at Duo R Lash Bar in Baden.

the moment they look in the mirror," Lam says.

A little lash lesson to start. Eyelashes are mother nature's way to protect the eyes. Eyelashes act as a barrier, protecting our eyes from dust and dirt while preventing pathogens. They also reduce moisture and act as sensors. Think of them as cat whiskers. Eyelashes are expressive and help communicate emotions.

Over the years, eyelashes have been coated in mascara, curled, dyed, tinted and women have applied temporary lashes in various lengths and colours for flirty fun. From Halloween glitter to wedding-day eye-openers or a daily go-to, eyelashes can dramatically change the look of one's eyes. Today, we have taken it a step further, heading to experts for long-lasting versions.

The process is pain-free. Here's what to expect on the journey to lush lashes.

Lam starts with a complementary consultation in-person. It's best to come with clean, all-natural lashes. It's important to assess your natural lashes and eye shape. Lam prides herself on providing a

custom-designed set to suit your eyes. There's no one-size-fits-all at Duo R Lash Bar.

Lash health is of the utmost importance. The tag line, "Go big or go home," doesn't apply here. Literally. Natural lashes have a limit on weight and Lam will always suggest the safest yet stunning option.

Lam takes her time creating a one-of-a-kind look. The process typically takes two to two-and-a-half hours from start to finish. Many clients were shocked at the time it took, but she is meticulous. Each lash is carefully isolated when applying lash extensions, ensuring zero damage.

After leaving with your brand-new dream lashes, there are a few tips to ensure lash longevity. Lam shares her golden rules. First off, keep them clean. Lam recommends using "Lash Bath" daily to remove debris and dirt. Be gentle. Avoid rubbing eyes or pulling on the extensions. Give them a daily brush with the clean spoolie provided by Lam. Always choose oil-free skincare, especially around the eyes, to prevent breaking down the medicinal-grade adhesive used to secure the lashes. Lastly, avoid extreme heat such as a sauna or steam room.

Say goodbye to tubes of glue, magnets and damaged natural lashes. Set aside some self-love time. Hands-free, close your eyes and meditate. The result, after a refreshing nap, is a natural, long-lasting look without compromising natural lashes.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Iris Lam runs Duo R Lash Bar in Baden.

Live, love, lash.

Have a question or need to secure a spot? Call 226-507-8188. Duo R Lash Bar is located in the

heart of Baden on Honderich Place. Follow for fabulous before and after photos on social media @duorlashbar.

# As our summers keep getting hotter, we need to make AC mandatory in Ontario

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Galen Simmons



For the first time since I moved away from home, I have central air conditioning.

Though I definitely took it for granted as a kid, living without it as a renter for more than a decade has given me a deep appreciation of how drastic a person's quality of life can improve once they have AC in their home.

From high-rise apartment buildings to single-story houses, I've lived without AC in nearly every kind of rental. I remember long, sleepless nights covered in sweat with an electric fan on high blowing straight into my face, and days when the heat was so oppressive I couldn't do anything except sit in my living room in nothing but

my underwear with an ice pack on my head, trying to move as little as possible. (Sorry for that mental image).

When I first moved to the Stratford, I rented the cheapest apartment I could find – the attic of a three-story home. As we all know, heat rises and gets trapped in the top level of a home. It got so hot in my attic apartment, there was no amount of fan power, cold showers or open windows that could help me stay cool.

At the time, I didn't have enough money saved to buy an air conditioner, so I had to beg friends and family members until someone finally gave me one. A year later, that air conditioner ended up leaking, staining the bricks below my window, so, at my landlord's insistence, I had to go through the

same process all over again until my sister, who was moving back home at the time, agreed to lend me hers.

It definitely wasn't enough to keep the whole attic cool, but at least it was on wheels and I could roll it from room to room as I went about my day. Had it not been for those air conditioners, I'm not sure I could have actually lived in my apartment on some of those hotter days.

With this week's heat warnings and temperatures rising into the 40s, I can't help but think back to those days and wonder how I would manage this heat without central air. I am truly no good in the heat. It affects my mood, it affects my relationships, it affects my health and, since I work at home, it affects my work.

As our summers continue to trend hotter, I think it's important we remember those lower-income renters who either can't afford to buy an AC or have window-box and portable air conditioners that simply can't compete with this heat.

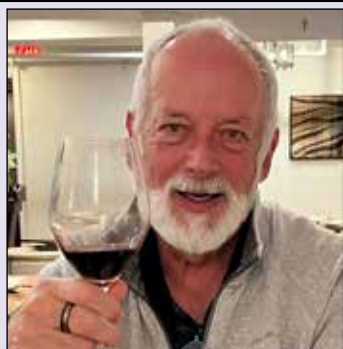
I truly believe having a living space that can be kept at a comfortable room temperature should be a human right, not a privilege for those who can afford it. We should make it mandatory in Ontario for landlords to provide AC that can keep their units between 22 and 23 degrees Celsius even when the temperature outside reaches the mid 40s.

It's not just a comfort thing; it's a health-and-safety thing.

# Learning on the job at a chef's table in Grenada

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



Chef Janice hands me an apron, a large, very sharp knife and a cutting board. "Chop this onion," she says.

Fast forward a few minutes. Chef Janice examines my work, and I fail. "No, chop it much finer than that." Lesson learned.

I was standing behind the chef's table at the Mount Cinnamon Beach and Wellness Resort in St. George's, Grenada. I was invited to Grenada as a member of an eight-person group of Canadian travel journalists.

To tell the truth, I probably should not have been included on the trip because places like Grenada like to introduce new travel media to their destination, and when it comes to this wonderful island in the east Caribbean, I am not new. This was my third visit to Grenada and I hope it won't be my last.

In my job, one should be focused on new, international destinations, I suppose, but there is a short list of amazing places that I would love to return to again and again. Ireland, for example. The southern tip of Italy. South-west England. And Grenada is definitely on that list.

So, when they invite me, I go. But while there, I figure that I should do my best to find new and different experiences to write about.

Being a sous-chef to Chef Janice fits that category perfectly.

Food is an increasingly important element of travel anywhere in the world. More and more people are building travel itineraries around opportunities to enjoy local cuisine. Others may not make food number one but still want to experience local food and drink.

It's the opposite of what may still happen in large, all-inclusive resorts where they offer food they think their guests – especially Americans – are comfortable with. I don't want "comfort," I want "authentic."

When our group arrived for our visit to Mount Cinnamon, the chef's table was set for the eight of us. Our host asked, "Would anyone like to assist the chef?" Two of us immediately raised our hands and were designated sous – or maybe something lower than sous – chefs for the duration.

We stood behind the chef's table, which was spread with an amazing

array of ingredients. Some were obvious – large, freshly caught filets of fish (which turned out to be Mahi Mahi), the aforementioned onions, garlic, tomatoes, lettuce. But then there were the many ramekins filled with colourful and aromatic spices.

That made sense. Grenada brands itself as "the spice of the Caribbean." Later in our visit, we toured the Belmont Estate, known for fantastic chocolate, but where our guide, Kelly, began at a table laden with about three dozen kinds of fruits, nuts and spices, all grown commercially on the estate.

Just as the national symbol for Canada is the maple leaf, Grenada's symbol is nutmeg, the signature spice of the island.

So, while my colleague and I were assigned the more easily identified elements – onions, garlic, tomatoes – Chef Janice added a delicious and mysterious mix of spices to the food we were preparing.

After I was released – we won't say fired – from my culinary duties, and had enjoyed the amazing meal we had prepared, I checked out the menu in the adjacent restaurant. The list of ingredients in the various dishes was mouthwatering: toasted coconut, rosemary, chives, chili oil, ginger, passionfruit, citrus, capers, thyme, cilantro, lemon, turmeric aioli, lime, tamarind chutney, mango, mint, parsley, basil, cinnamon and more, virtually

all fresh from the island. And these are just the seasonings that accent the main ingredients!

The meal I – well, mostly not I – eventually served started with a very tasty Callaloo Soup. Callaloo is a leafy plant; the green soup included coconut milk, garlic, onion, chili peppers and pinches of sundry amazing spices from the magic ramekins.

The main course was grilled Mahi Mahi garnished with tomato, onion and pineapple salsa, sauteed local vegetables (including chunks of yellow pumpkin) and twice-baked potatoes. I was involved in all of this but, shall we say, my learning curve was a factor. I was cautioned not to over-stir the vegetables, and when it came time to plate the meal, I forgot to start with the lettuce leaf that was supposed to be under the veggies. So, I got that one. A victim of my own incompetence.

Though as I enjoyed every single bite of an amazing meal featuring fresh, local, Grenadian ingredients and unique tastes, I did not feel at all victimized. Mostly, I felt lucky.

Local spices, fruits, vegetables and seafood are in evidence everywhere in Grenada, from the restaurants and pubs to the stalls in St. George's Market to the hill-sides where what might appear to be forests are actually orchards where foods like nutmeg or papaya grow on trees that shelter the soil beneath them, where other foods and spices grow.

There are lots of reasons to visit Grenada – more about this in coming months – but for any visitor, the amazing local cuisine should be high on your list.

*Paul Knowles is an author, 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](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



The author with Chef Janice. Photo courtesy of Paul Knowles



A spice seller in the St. George's Market.



Fresh caught tuna at the St. George's fish market.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)



Nutmeg, the signature spice of Grenada, "the spice island."

# New exhibit highlights the history and art of decoy making

## SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO OUTDOORS

By Jeff Helsdon



A hand-carved duck decoy is part utility and part art, with a mix of history thrown in on some occasions.

The opening of the Davidson Decoy Gallery Collection offers an insight into the world of hand-carved decoys and gives visitors a chance to see some of Ontario's finest examples of decoy carving. Situated in the Backus Education Centre outside of Port Rowan, the gallery is situated in an area steeped in waterfowling history. Carvers of the area are known by collectors across the continent.

The use of decoys to lure waterfowl into range for harvesting dates back to ancient Egypt. In North America, Indigenous peoples used decoys to bring ducks into bow-and-arrow range. Research has found reeds were a common base for Indigenous de-

coys. Decoy-making advanced in the 1800s when market hunters carved wooden decoys, examples of which are highly prized by collectors today.

Wooden decoys continued to be used by the average hunter into the mid-20th century, when cheaper plastic displaced them from common use. Some of the Long Point hunt clubs still use wooden decoys to this day. As the use of rougher hunting blocks declined, decoy carving grew as an art form, with the detail of both carving and painting reaching new heights.

The Davidson Decoy Gallery is a modern, well-lit display of decoys not only from the Long Point area but also from other areas across the entire province. The local display includes exam-

ples of decoys from the Reeves family, who are renowned across North America. Divided up into sections based on the carvers' home areas, it tells the story of waterfowling through more than 100 decoys. It also includes several examples of modern artistic carvers, including world champions such as Pat Godin, Jeffrey Krete and Paul Burdette.

The tale of how the gallery came into being was revealed at an opening ceremony this spring. Backus curator Chloe Anna gave credit to Long Point Region Conservation Authority – which owns the Backus Conservation Area – general manager Judy Maxwell and former curator Sarah Pointer, but said the real credit goes to Bruce Malcolm and Tom Davidson.

“Without their help, this wouldn't be a thing,” she said. “They're super passionate and know so much about waterfowling history.”

The journey to the display began with a phone call from Davidson, a hunter at the Lee Brown Marsh, to the marsh manager, Kim Brown.

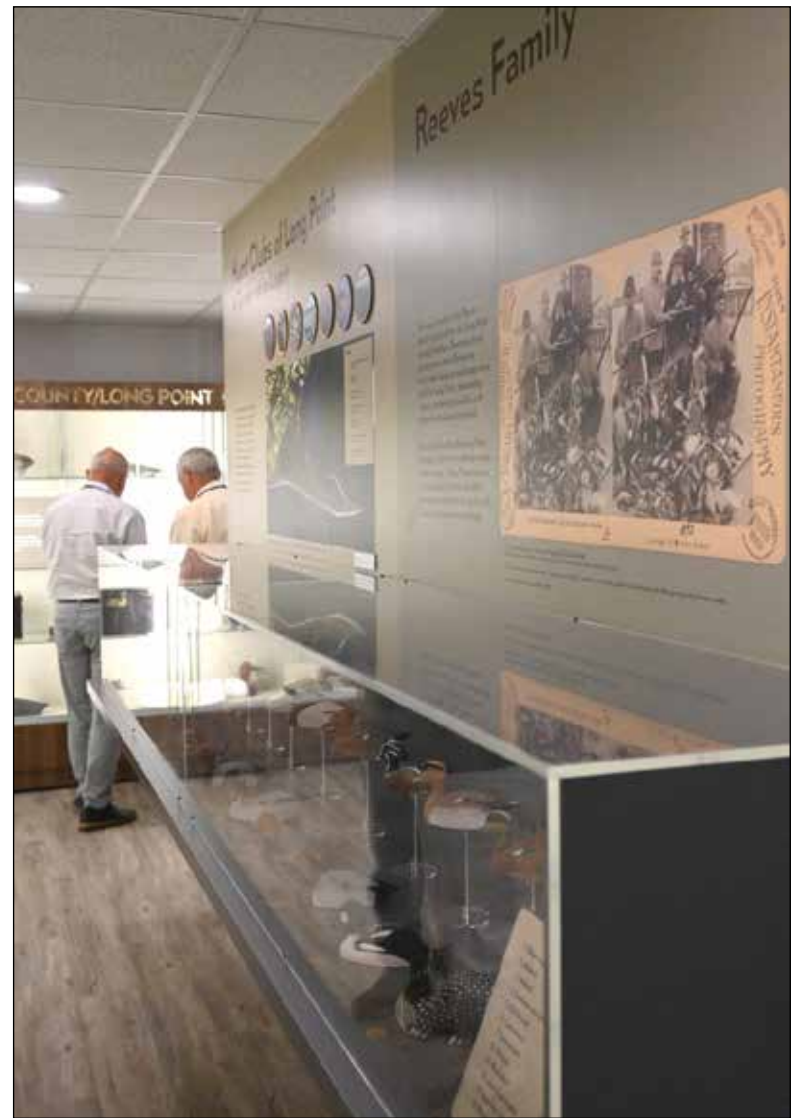
“It started with a phone call to Kim, and I asked if there was anywhere we could buy or rent a building. He described this place,” Davidson said at the opening.

Brown was surprised at the call. “I was in shock,” he said. “I'd seen his collection, and it was unbelievable.”

After Davidson drove to see the facility, the wheels were put in motion.

Davidson also met local Bruce Malcolm, who has been collecting decoys for 55 years. In addition to loaning their own decoys for the display, the two sourced decoys from elsewhere.

Malcolm was behind the Cana-



The Reeves family of the Long Point area and the storied Long Point company are the focus of two areas of the Davidson Decoy Gallery.

dian Decoy and Outdoor Collectible Association, of which he is a member, bringing their annual show to Backus last fall. Some of the members donated decoys at that time, and the show is coming back on Sept. 19.

Davidson, who lives near Caledon, hunted the Long Point area for 45 years, at Lee Brown Marsh for 35 years and was a member of the former Bluff's Hunting Club on Long Point. He has a passion for the area, saying there is no-

where the hunting is better than at Long Point.

“Our objective was to pay tribute to the great carvers of the past and try to entice collectors of the future,” he said of the display.

The gallery is open until Sept. 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday to Sunday. Extended hours are planned for the fall, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays in September and October, to allow waterfowl hunters in the area to see the display.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)

Visitors at the opening of the Davidson Decoy Gallery look at the many display depicting the decoys from different areas of Ontario with rich waterfowling heritage, including Toronto and Hamilton.

## The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR - JULY/AUGUST 2026

### THURSDAY, JULY 2

**East Zorra-Tavistock Council meeting**  
9 a.m.  
Council Chambers  
89 Loveys Street East, Hickson

### TUESDAY, JULY 7

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

### THURSDAY, JULY 9

**22nd Annual Childhood Cancer Fundraising BBQ**  
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Call 519-634-5852 or email sales@bechtholdhome.com. Call or email to place order for pick up by July 7  
1239 Notre Dame Dr, Petersburg ON

### FRIDAY, JULY 10

**Optimist Club of Tavistock Friday Night Fries**  
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Optimist Food Trailer  
Tavistock Optimist Park

### MONDAY, JULY 13

**Food Trucks at Grace United Church Tavistock**  
4:30-7:30 p.m.  
SWAT, Pablas Street of India, Beavertails  
Donations to Grace United Church  
116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock

### TUESDAY, JULY 14

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

### SATURDAY, JULY 18

**Tavistock & District Historical Society Museum**  
1-4 p.m. (other times by appointment)  
Email: info@tavistockhistory.ca or call 519-655-3334. All welcome.  
37 Maria Street, Tavistock

### TUESDAY, JULY 21

**Free Caregiver Connection peer support groups**  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) offers free peer support groups for caregivers, in person, virtual, or hybrid. Visit family.cmho.org or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.  
Revel Realty Woodstock,  
111 Huron Street, Woodstock

### THURSDAY, JULY 23

**Pic-nic In the Park**  
Lunch : 12:00 to 1 pm from Tavi Chill  
Music & Dancing : 1.30 to 3.30 pm  
Entertainment : Dianne & Gary The Cavaliers, with Steve Todd. Bring lawn chairs. For tickets and more information, call Don Junker (519) 535-7052  
Queens Park Pavilion,  
1 Adam St, Tavistock, ON

### MONDAY, JULY 27

**Wilmot Council meeting**  
6-7 p.m.  
Council chambers  
60 Snyder's Road W., Baden

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

**Optimist Club of Tavistock Friday Night Fries**  
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Optimist Food Trailer  
Tavistock Optimist Park

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**Tavistock Seniors Card Games**  
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**VON Senior Exercise Drop-In Standing Class**  
Tuesday and Thursday 9-10 a.m.  
To register contact 519-539-1231 ext. 6319  
Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St.  
**VON Senior Exercise Drop-In Sitting Class**  
Tuesday and Thursday 10:25-11:25 a.m.  
To register contact 519-539-1231 ext. 6319  
Village Manner, 98 Woodstock St., Tavistock

### TAVISTOCK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM DISPLAYS

**Museum Display: "The Glasgow Warehouse"**  
Can be viewed anytime  
Tavistock Home Hardware (Front window),  
24 Woodstock Street S., Tavistock  
**Museum Display: "Heritage of Hickson Post Office"**  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm  
runs until July 13  
Ezt Township Administration Building (lobby),  
89 Loveys Street, Hickson

### PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

**Plattsville & District Heritage Society exhibit "Holidays & Celebrations That Bring Us Together"**  
June 6 to September 19 | Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Donations accepted. Refreshments. Contact plattsvilledistrictheritage@gmail.com or call 519-535-1417.  
Archive & Museum at Chesterfield,  
816661 Oxford Rd 22, Bright

### SAUERKRAUT SALES

**Tavistock Men's Club Sauerkraut Sales**  
Saturday, June 27, 11-2 p.m.  
2 1/2 lb bag @ \$5.00 per bag  
Call (519) 655-3573 or email info@tavistockmensclub.ca  
Tavistock Men's Club building (rear) 78  
Woodstock St N, Tavistock, ON

## The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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

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- 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:
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## Quiz Time Answers

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Ruby      | 6. Bananarama |
| 2. Kalokairi | 7. Lobster    |
| 3. Canberra  | 8. Dobby      |
| 4. A kook    | 9. Umpire     |
| 5. Gelato    | 10. 70 meters |

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