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Residents of Foxboro Green, a seniors community in Baden, recently completed and installed a Poppy Project featuring more than 2,000 handknitted and crocheted poppies on the footbridge near the entrance to the community off Erbs Road. Photo by Galen Simmons

Foxboro Green honours Remembrance Day with display of more than 2,000 handknit poppies

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The spirit of remembrance is alive and well among residents of Foxboro Green, a seniors community located in Baden.

Recently, residents of the 215-home community installed a project featuring more than 2,000 handknitted or crocheted poppies on the community's walking bridge ahead of Remembrance Day on Nov. 11. The poppy project, which is fully visible to passersby on Erbs Road, is the

first of its kind in Foxboro Green's 29-year history.

"We had 30 women knitting and crocheting the poppies over the course of the winter," said Marlaine Henderson, chair of Foxboro Green's poppy committee. "We started (sewing the poppies to the mesh netting) in April and just finished up two weeks ago, so just under the wire. So that was quite a few people helping. ... We were doing four hours a week for 40 weeks."

While the women did the bulk of the

work knitting and crocheting each poppy and then attaching them one by one to the netting, members of a Foxboro Green men's coffee group stepped in on Oct. 21 to attach the netting with the more-than 2,000 poppies to the footbridge that crosses the pond near the Foxboro Green entrance.

Many hands made light work and by 10:30 a.m., the poppies were proudly displayed across one half of the bridge.

"We saw so many of our communities – some of the townships and Wellesley has

Continued on page 2

Spat over passing of Wilmot strategic plan breaks out at council meeting; member of the public tossed from gallery

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wilmot Township council passed its new strategic plan Monday night, but it wasn't pretty.

The vote divided councillors in the absence of Mayor Natasha Salonen, who wasn't able to attend for personal reasons, and resulted in the removal of a member of the public.

Kelly Linton from Linton Consulting gave members of council an overview of the draft plan, which was followed by a presentation by Baden resident Barry Wolfe, who was eventually kicked out of the meeting by Coun. Steven Martin, leading the meeting in Salonen's absence.

Wolfe, who has a letter to the editor in this edition of the Gazette, delegated his displeasure with the plan and continued his argument in the gallery, leading to his ejection from council chambers.

Coun. Kris Wilkinson put forward a motion to have approval of the plan deferred but it was defeated in a recorded vote. Coun. Harvir Sidhu voted alongside Wilkinson. The document's approval followed the same voting result.

Wilkinson said the finalized report was released to council and the public on Wednesday, Oct. 16 following the last strategic plan meeting just four days earlier.

"We reviewed some survey findings and have yet to see the raw data released directly to us. We haven't had a chance to

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Foxboro Green honours Remembrance Day with display of more than 2,000 handknit poppies

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one up – so many places already have a blanket of poppies,” Henderson said. “... We’re always talking about Remembrance Day and how important it is to remember, and so I guess just a couple of us said, ‘We can do one of those, too.’”

In accordance with Royal Canadian

Legion Poppy Campaign guidelines, the poppies will remain in place on the Foxboro Green footbridge until Nov. 15.

Each of the poppies is unique with different stitching and shades of red that show how much individual care and attention went into this project. While the project was a lot of work, especially for the

ladies, they know it can be used and reused for many years to come.

While Henderson says she won’t commit to the same amount of work next year, at least not yet, she likes the idea of having the Foxboro Green community knit 2,000 more poppies to span the remaining half of the footbridge.

“Foxboro Green is a seniors’ community and many of us have veterans in our families, or had veterans in our families, and we just think it’s a good reminder for us of why we have this beautiful spot to live in,” Henderson said. “Gratefulness is a really big part of the Poppy Campaign.”

Spat over passing of Wilmot strategic plan breaks out at council meeting; member of the public tossed from gallery

Continued from page 1

go back and dissect this and have real conversations with people who matter in this township. This is a very heavy document and a very important document that guides our work moving forward.”

Wilkinson added he wouldn’t be doing his job as a councillor if he didn’t ask for a pause because no one has had a chance to talk to residents.

“We haven’t had the opportunity to go back and get direct feedback from constituents who need us to have that conversation. While I appreciate a lot of work has gone into this and a lot of work will follow this, passing it tonight would be premature,” Wilkinson said.

Coun. Lillianne Dunstall asked Wilkinson what exactly he was looking for, suggesting council, staff and the public provided a great deal of input.

“Everything in that document we discussed at length, so I’m not sure what it is you are questioning or looking for,” she said.

Wilkinson said the plan is an important

piece of what is going to happen in Wilmot over the next few years and it would be inappropriate to pass it right now. He asked council to take a few weeks to take a second sober look.

“We cannot sit on this for three business days and come to the table and say, yup, everything is great. It’s not. This is the first time we have seen a draft summary of all the information and effort that went into this. We absolutely owe it to our citizens and the taxpayers of this township to dedicate more time and effort into conversations with them,” he said.

Dunstall said she was offended by Wilkinson’s statement.

“That is not true. We spent a lot of time on this. We rolled up our sleeves and I certainly went to the table with the voices of my constituents in my ear as I am sure everyone else did, so I take offence to that, Coun. Wilkinson.”

Wilkinson responded by referring to the fact councillors didn’t see the final report until Wednesday of last week.

“No, you haven’t consulted with everybody thoroughly and this is irresponsible

at this point. It is a conclusive workplan, don’t get me wrong, but it needs more thought and needs to be brought back for further consultation, so I am not in favour tonight.”

Coun. Stewart Cressman voted in favour of the plan and was critical of Wilkinson missing one of the planning meetings for councillors.

“I would remind you, Coun. Wilkinson, you didn’t make the first planning session we had and now we are rushing this? I am quite concerned that we had ample opportunity to have input. We will continue to have ample opportunity to have input into the finer details as the leadership team puts this together for our consideration to implement.”

Cressman added he has gone through the strategic planning process many times and is more than satisfied with what was presented to council. Wilkinson said he hoped staff would be able to reschedule the meeting for all elected officials to attend.

“Despite my efforts to identify, I was unable to attend that meeting due to a work commitment, I was basically told by staff

at the time they weren’t going to move the meeting to accommodate all the councillors. So, I lost out on that opportunity which is unfortunate,” Wilkinson said.

Sidhu was the only other member of council to vote against passing the motion Monday night.

“I’m not sure how we could have passed an important document like the strategic plan without having a chance to properly digest and talk with our residents about it. The mayor is the head of council and should have had the opportunity to discuss the final draft prior to it being approved,” he said.

He added the first time he was able to see the final draft was last Wednesday night.

“There should have been more time given to review and digest. I understand there is an urgency to have things implemented but we need to make sure it’s being done right the first time. We can not keep spending money and resources on consultants.”

Wilmot’s 2024-2027 strategic plan is meant to help township staff and council plan for growth and set goals while informing decision-making.



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Wilmot beginning 2025 budget process

CFO delays release of document as township's financial situation remains weak

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wilmot Township was hoping to have next year's budget tucked in before Santa makes his annual trek around the world, but ratepayers will need to wait until January.

Greg Clark is the municipality's new chief financial officer (CFO) and director of corporate services. He explained a new meeting schedule has been released.

"We are moving council meetings back by about a month and that's really the big story right now that I want to get out to the public. When I took this job, I made a commitment to try and get the budget done before the end of the year."

Clark was asked at council if it would be possible to have the document tabled and passed before the new year, something he initially said yes to. Recent events have derailed that plan.

"There's been a lot of stuff happening over the last couple of months that has taken time, energy and focus away from budget development. I've been working on things I hadn't originally planned on being involved in."

He added the delay allows the township to make sure the right budget and the right information is in front of council and the public.

"Then we're not rushing into it and we are transparent about what's going on. There has been some unexpected work on people's plates and the timeline needs to change a little bit. Instead of the budget being approved on Dec. 9, it will now be Jan. 16, (2025). We need the time to put together the right package for council."

Clark added there have been several factors at play resulting in more of a workload for staff members, including the Region of Waterloo's land acquisition for a future mega-site on 770 acres of township farmland and the township CAO being on medical leave.

"CAO (Sharon) Chambers being away has put me into that role part of the time. The rest of my colleagues and directors have definitely picked up work and it's caused me to have other things that have become priorities," Clark said.

Clark has been working with other CFOs in the region on broader issues and has taken the lead on the controversial Prime Minister's Path project, and the township is in the middle of completing a new strategic plan. He added they have been able to fill some vacancies recently which has helped, but staff is still playing catchup.

"In a small organization like ours, we have three people doing everything and one person doing five things. When you lose a person, whether it's the CAO or someone else, it does have a ripple effect on other people's work. There just haven't



Wilmot Township CFO and corporate services director Greg Clark. Contributed photo

been enough hands on deck to get everything done."

Clark, who has been on the job for six months, admitted there has been a learning curve to get up to speed on what council is expecting in the budget package.

"Everyone jumps into a new job very optimistic they can jump in but sometimes things take longer than expected because they are not as clear, transparent or available as what you thought. I've had to do a little more digging and research to make sure I have the right answer."

It's no secret Wilmot's finances are not in great shape, particularly when it comes to reserves. The 2024 tax increase was approved, reluctantly by some councillors, at 10.8 per cent.

"We have started from a poor position in that we don't have a lot of reserves. Our budget is very tight in terms of if unexpected things happen, things cost more than planned or something breaks and needs to be fixed, we don't have contingency where that is in our operating or capital budget or reserve funds. We don't have the ability to adapt throughout the year," said Clark.

He added Wilmot has been relying on revenues that aren't necessarily sustainable such as higher-than-expected investment returns.

"One of my big things is rebuilding a foundation. It's not an overnight project and not something that will be rebuilt in one budget. It takes time to build up that foundation and create that ability to be nimble enough to deal with issues as they arise while being fiscally responsible with budgets and the revenue we raise."

Clark added the City of Guelph was in a similar situation but was able to dig out from financial pressures there and he believes the same can happen in Wilmot.

"We were able to fix it over six or seven years, so it takes time and dedication. I have every confidence we can get there but it's going to take staff and council working together collaboratively to get things moving in the right direction. I am hopeful this budget will start that process."

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County council approves new Perth County Official Plan

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After roughly six years of planning, drafting and consultations with the public and key community stakeholders, Perth County council gave its official seal of approval to the county's new official plan.

First created in the late 1990s, the county's official plan is the document that guides the long-term vision for growth and development in a community. The newly updated official plan provides Perth County with a vision and a comprehensive strategy for cultivating new opportunities, building community, ensuring environmental health and making intelligent and informed land-use decisions within the county until 2046. The 2024 update to the official plan provides a new visionary policy document that is meant to be both reflective of provincial policy updates and reflective of current community concerns, priorities and values.

"I just want to say thank you to staff and congratulations on getting the official plan to this point," county Warden Rhonda Ehgoetz said after county council voted to approve the official plan at the end of a marathon, four-hour council meeting Oct. 17, which included a statutory public meeting that gave county residents their final

opportunity to comment on the official plan before it was sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for final review and approval.

"I know some of you came in the middle of the session. You took the bull by the horns, you looked at it and you've got it where we are today. I can't thank all of you enough; all the staff that are behind the scenes that have helped, everyone, council is very appreciative. As we've said many times here today, we've been at this for six years and it's great to finally see it come to an end. ... I'm sorry we can't accommodate everybody; we've tried our best. I think we have a great document."

This multi-year project to update the official plan first began in 2017 and has involved seven phases including several rounds of public outreach, public engagement, open houses, background reports and draft versions of the document. The public meeting and council's approval of the plan on Oct. 17 signalled the completion of the plan's sixth and penultimate phase, the final step before the official plan is approved by the province, which could take anywhere between 120 days and two years, according to Moira Davidson, the senior policy planner leading the official-plan project.

"The key elements of the official plan include directing growth and intensification to settlement areas in order to protect our agricultural lands, protecting agricultural resources so agricultural lands and diversification of those resources can continue on into the future, promoting economic growth and development (and) encouraging well-designed built form that is accessible, high quality and considered safe spaces," Davidson said at the onset of

the official-plan public meeting.

"There are the aspects of the official plan that speak to preserving the cultural-heritage values of the county as well as accommodating appropriate services and infrastructure for the longevity of the community and residents. And finally, increasing the variety of housing types and sizes to meet the diverse range and needs of residents and workers that we're seeing."

According to county growth projections made using data collected in 2021, the population of Perth County is expected to grow to 62,900 residents and reach 29,700 jobs by 2051. The official plan includes long-range planning policies and has added 407 hectares of land to the county's serviced settlement areas like Milverton, Shakespeare, Mitchell and Listowel to plan for additional homes and jobs.

While many county residents delegated at the official-plan public meeting, sharing concerns around what areas of the county have been slated for residential and economic growth and what areas haven't, how the new natural-heritage designations on agricultural land will impact farm operations and whether the county did its due diligence in consulting farmers on the policies in the new official plan, council ultimately decided to deal with those concerns on a case-by-case basis as they come up in the future instead of amending the plan now before it goes to the ministry.

Prior to approval, councillors also had a chance to comb through the official plan and point out any amendments or corrections to wording that staff will make before the plan is submitted to the province.

"This is a significant milestone for the planning division and for the county as a whole," said county CAO Lori Wolfe in a press release. "The updated policies of the new official plan will guide and support important growth and development across the county for years to come."

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Area residents continue to raise safety concerns around Hessen Strasse and Maplewood/Herrgott intersection

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Despite a few recent updates to the intersection at Hessen Strasse and Maplewood/Herrgott roads in Wellesley Township, area residents continue to raise concerns about traffic speeds and overall safety for those who live, work and play in the area.

At the Oct. 22 Wellesley council meeting, Paradise Lake resident Caressa Madison, who first presented her concerns about the intersection to council back in March, again delegated before council with an exhaustive report as to why the intersection poses a danger to drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and area residents alike.

"This evening, I would like to address the excessive speeding and distracted driving on Hessen Strasse, Maplewood and Herrgott roads, particularly the accidents that continue at this intersection, which is two kilometres south of St. Clements," Madison said. "In the last 10 years, from July 24, 2014, to present, there have been a total of 18 collisions at this intersection."

According to collision data on the intersection she received from the Waterloo Regional Police Service, Madison said four of those collisions resulted in

personal injury and 14 resulted in property damage. This year alone, there have been three collisions at or near that intersection, one involving a single vehicle on March 23, another on July 20 involving two vehicles and a third involving three vehicles on Sept. 28.

As shown in photos she took from the perspective of drivers heading toward the intersection from all directions, Madison told councillors the intersection itself and oncoming traffic when stopped at the two-way intersection are difficult to see because of changes in road elevation and surrounding vegetation or physical features like berms blocking sightlines, as well as the small stop signs equipped with flashing lights that can be difficult to see on approach.

She also noted drivers tend to speed through the area, which is posted at a limit of 50 km/hr, and the narrow road shoulders pose safety risks to the many seniors, children – including campers at the nearby YMCA camp – and Mennonite farmers who use the road to walk, bike or operate horse and buggies.

"Barely two weeks ago, I started a petition and thus far 67 signatures are on it," Madison said. "These are folks who are

very concerned residents and would like to see a change made. ... We have a few suggested traffic-calming measures to stop or reduce speeding. One, implement community safety zones (CSZ) in all three 50 km/hr zones on Herrgott South, Maplewood and Hessen Strasse, and then request police monitor and enforce it if possible. Make the intersection a four-way stop and install bigger stop signs.

"In an email to a neighbour dated July 24 of this year, (Wellesley director of public works Chris) Cook wrote, 'We are still working on a plan for this intersection. I can confidently say this plan will not include a four-way stop.' We feel that a four-way stop at this intersection would be a very cost-effective and easy solution to the accident problems."

Another area resident, Maryann Stemmler, also spoke about a near miss she had at the intersection in question at the Oct. 22 council meeting, and asked council to consider improving it.

"If I hadn't hesitated, I would have been creamed," Stemmler said. "It's an accident waiting to happen."

In response to a question from Coun. Claude Herrgott about whether the township had made any recent changes to the

intersection to improve safety, Cook told councillors staff had installed flashing lights on the stop signs that were taken from another area intersection where an overhead signal was installed three weeks ago. Staff had also trimmed vegetation and brought a large tree down on the intersection's northeast and northwest corners to improve sightlines for vehicles.

While Cook said staff are still reviewing the intersection, he noted traffic data he had received earlier in the day Oct. 22 seemed to indicate speeds on the roads in question weren't as high as expected, though he said he hadn't had an opportunity to understand the context as to why that might be. Cook also noted he had reached out to transportation consultants True North Safety about doing an analysis of the intersection, which would cost roughly \$7,500 before implementation of any recommendations made.

Once he has a chance to dig deeper into the most recent traffic data collected, Cook said he will bring a report back to council with options for how council would like to proceed in addressing the safety concerns about this intersection.

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EZT begins construction on new storage facilities

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

East Zorra-Tavistock Township (EZT) has started construction on a new storage facility just east of Hickson.

Area residents took to the Hickson community Facebook page to speculate what was happening at the site and some thought a new fire hall was being built, which is not the case. The township approved \$1.5 million in the 2024 budget to construct a salt, sand and storage facility to meet the needs of a growing municipality. A new Hickson fire hall will be considered during 2025 budget deliberations.

Public works manager Tom Lightfoot said the new builds will be in addition to the current roster of township buildings.

"As part of our capital projects for 2024, we will be installing two concrete block and fabric wall storage buildings on the property at the northeast corner of the 13th

Line and Oxford Road 8 intersection. All of our current facilities will remain active. These buildings are additional."

He added one of those buildings, a 53-foot-wide structure, will be used for storing off-season equipment and supplies.

"We have currently been storing equipment outside; this leads to increased maintenance costs from equipment lines and cylinder seals drying out in the sun, and then when we go to use the equipment, we see failures."

The second, a 70-foot-wide building, will be used mainly for sand storage as the current facility in Hickson houses sand and salt.

"It holds about 80 tonnes of salt and 200 tonnes of sand. In a typical year, we use about 800 tonnes of sand during winter control. This means we are routinely bringing in frozen sand during the winter to mix with the salt and also apply it straight to our roadways. The frozen chunks of sand

cause mechanical issues with our trucks," said Lightfoot.

"This also slows down plowing operations when the operator has to stop to clear blocked material discharge chutes. The new building will allow us to put all of the sand we require for the winter season inside to keep it out of the elements."

He added the new facility will also have a drive-through bay to allow the trucks to be loaded inside.

"The growth we have seen within the township has increased the amount of sand and salt that we use to maintain our roads."

He said there have been weather events in the past where the township has almost run out of product to apply to the roads, but the new building's extra storage will eliminate the risk.

Township CAO Karen DePrest said the new structures were approved by council on March 6 as part of the 2024 budget.

"The land was acquired as of Sept. 6 and

currently staff are working on the property with internal resources and the assistance of local trucking companies in preparation for the installation of the salt, sand and storage facilities as budgeted."

She added the building structures themselves were obtained from BriteSpan, the approved vendor through Canoe for sourcing these types of structures in the area.

"Engineering and site-plan work was completed by K. Smart (Associates) on behalf of the township in consultation with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority which has jurisdiction over the watercourse impacts in the area."

DePrest added she hopes the information provided clears up any "mystery" residents may have.

"Any other uses of the lands currently are subject to future budget consideration and approvals by council," she said.



East Zorra-Tavistock Township has started construction of a new storage facility just east of Hickson. The project was approved in the 2024 budget at a cost of \$1.5 million. Contributed photo

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Zorra not ready for wind power; Mayor Ryan's motion passed unanimously

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Members of Zorra Township may not have followed the 160 or so other municipalities in Ontario to declare itself an unwilling host for wind power, but ProWind or any other company won't be building there any time soon.

Mayor Marcus Ryan took a unique approach to not allowing any wind development in the township as council unanimously passed his motion at last week's regular meeting in Thamesford. It essentially said the township doesn't have enough information on wind power to make any decision.

The motion, in part, read, "The Township of Zorra does not have, nor should be expected to have, the expertise or resources necessary to make an informed decision as to whether or not to provide a Municipal Support Resolution for an energy project."

Ryan said he has always championed the protection of prime agricultural land and protection of the environment, but has been struggling with the lack of information on wind power.

"We try to make our decisions based on information, not on opinion. What each of the five of us will decide with that information is another matter, but we should at least have information in front of us."

He added any decision on wind power is

a difficult one since there is nothing illegal about it.

"As the head of council, I am going to have to go to a resident and say I am going to let your neighbour put up a wind turbine even though you don't want them to. Or, I am going to have to go to someone and say I know it is your private property and the province has made a turbine a legally permitted use, but I'm not going to let you do it."

Ryan said he doesn't have the ability to defend either of those decisions, but he is concerned about predictions from the Independent Electricity System Operator there will be brownouts or blackouts within the next five to 10 years if significant amounts of electricity generation are not brought online.

"At some point, decisions are going to have to be made by the province about what that electricity generation is, where it comes from and how it is transmitted. If it's not wind turbines here, where a municipality does have some kind of say and where a private property owner has a say, if the province decides to put 500 turbines on the Bruce Peninsula, there will be a hydro corridor that runs from there to here."

He explained the township would have no say as property owners or municipalities about where those hydro corridors end up.

Coun. Paul Mitchell was the most vocal

opponent of wind power among elected officials. He explained he thought Ryan was in favour of wind power in Zorra and had no idea the motion was being introduced.

"I can't speak for the rest of council, but I was totally taken by surprise. I did not see that coming at all."

He added he is cautiously pleased the motion was passed.

"It appears to have derailed ProWind's proposal, at least for now, but it will be interesting to see if they fold their tent or if they keep trying to recruit landowners for another try later on. I am pleased we have won the short-term battle."

He added he is cautious since the motion is based on the idea it is impossible for the township to get enough information to make an informed decision.

"What I would have preferred is that council looked at the available information and overwhelmingly the risk outweighed the benefits of wind turbines, and we listened to the input from our residents, which is overwhelmingly against building them. I would have liked to make an unconditional statement that we are not going to support having (wind power) in Zorra."

He added if the province changes the rules surrounding wind power, the township could be open to providing support.

"The way I look at it, we won an important battle, but the war isn't over yet," Mitchell said.

Angie Zilke is part of a group of Zorra residents who formed to provide an organized opposition to wind power. She explained the decision by council wasn't strong enough for the group's liking and things could change quickly.

"It's not permanent enough. We need to

be on guard, carry on forward and remain very vigilant. We will have to go over delegations coming to council meetings just to be aware of what's going on. The feeling is (Ryan) has kind of pumped the brakes but the possibility of (wind power) hasn't stopped, it just slowed down.

She added the group will continue to lobby against wind power in Zorra.

"I feel the signs were helpful if farmers were on the fence. Just knowing how everyone around them felt. There is a veil of silence over this whole thing and no one would admit if they were talking to (ProWind)."

The emergence of Wind Concerns of Zorra Township didn't take long to drum up the support of hundreds of Zorra residents against wind turbines.

"We had instant support. Everyone felt strongly about it to begin with," Zilke said. "The health concerns are very real and no matter where you go, you can find people affected by it."

ProWind recently held an information meeting in Embro where close to 100 residents grilled spokesperson Helmut Schneider. Zorra resident Anita Fraser asked the question on everyone's mind at that meeting.

"If you have a landowner who has agreed to (hosting a turbine), but all the surrounding farmers around them say no, does that make a difference?"

Although it was meant to be an information session, many of the questions residents asked were answered with, "We don't know yet," highlighting exactly the issue Ryan and council took in its recent decision not to support the project in this instance.

With files from Connor Luczka.



Helmut Schneider, vice president of renewable energy development at Prowind Inc., fields a question at the community information night held by Prowind on Oct. 8 in the Embro Community Centre. About 100 Zorra residents came to hear from Prowind's leadership regarding a potential wind turbine project in the municipality – a project that was subsequently squashed at the following council meeting on Oct. 16. Photos by Connor Luczka



William Matheson stood up midway through the two-hour meeting, saying that he feels like rural residents are second-class citizens.

MCC Ontario receives five-star rating from Charity Intelligence

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thetvgazette@gmail.com

Charity Intelligence Canada, an organization known for its rigorous analysis of Canadian charities, has awarded Mennonite Central Committee Ontario (MCC Ontario) with a 5-star rating, placing MCC Ontario among the top 100 charities in the country for 2024.

In a press release from MCC Ontario, the organization said Charity Intelligence highlighted MCC Ontario for its financial transparency and effective program delivery, noting that for every dollar donated, 90 cents go directly to its causes. MCC Ontario earned an A-grade in results reporting, which is above average.

In addition to MCC Ontario, MCC Canada, MCC British Columbia and MCC Manitoba have also been recognized as top-rated charities on the 2024 list. Though Charity Intelligence does not rate smaller organizations, both MCC Alberta and MCC Saskatchewan continue to make a significant impact in their communities.

"This recognition is a testament to our commitment to serving vulnerable communities and stewarding donor contributions wisely," said MCC executive director Michelle Brenneman in the press release. "We are grateful for the trust our supporters place in us and will continue our



Deb Wismer, longtime participant of Circle of Friends, displays just a few of her many cards that she has created using recycled cards and craft materials. Circle of Friends is an MCC program that supports social inclusion for those transitioning out of homelessness into stable housing. Wismer has led fellow Circle of Friends participants in a card-making event, sharing her gift of creativity with her friends. Photo by Ken Ogasawara, MCC

mission to bring relief, development and peacebuilding to those who need it most."

MCC Ontario works both locally and internationally to address urgent needs.

While 76 per cent of MCC Ontario's program budget goes to support MCC Canada's international relief and development efforts, the remaining 24 per cent funds critical local programs here in Ontario. Among other important activities, in 2023-2024, MCC Ontario supported 305 refugees, sent 269 comforters to residential-school survivors and provided thousands of material resources like hygiene kits and tubes of toothpaste to those in need. More information about MCC Ontario's local program impact can be found in the organization's Year-End Dashboard report and Annual Impact report, both of which can be found at mcc.org/accountability.

"MCC Ontario's focus on migration, resettlement, restorative justice and food security continues to make a significant impact in Ontario's communities," added Brenneman. "This 5-star rating is an acknowledgment of the ongoing impact we are making, and we are incredibly proud to be recognized in this way."

MCC Ontario operates a large thrift centre in New Hamburg, with all proceeds going back to support the MCC's global and local missions. MCC also organizes the annual New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale, which has been going strong for 58 years.

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50th-anniversary Perth County Holstein Breeders sale brings in over \$260,000

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Buyers and sellers of quality Holstein cows and heifers said they couldn't be happier following the 50th-anniversary edition of the Perth County Holstein Club's Select Sale Oct. 16 at David Carson Farms and Auction services near Listowel.

The Roger Boersen Farm from Gadshill in Ellice Township topped the sale at \$8,000 with their cow, Boernview Helix 6350, who was fresh in her second lactation and milking 65 kilograms per day.

She was purchased by the JBC Dairy Farm (Brian Cook) from Stayner, Ont.

Of the 53 animals sold, 32 went to dairy farms all across western and central Ontario for a grand sale total of \$261,925.

To relate the high quality and prices from this year compared to last year's Perth County sale, in 2023, the top-selling animal was \$4,500.

In commenting on the sale, a representative from David Carson Farms and Auction Services said they were pleased the market is high right now with good demand for milk from quality cows in Perth County, and it helps there are proposed incentive days this fall for dairy farmers in the province to produce more milk.

Stefan Weber, who dairy farms with his family west of St. Marys and chaired the sale committee, felt the expertise of

local dairy farmers Larry Krantz and Doug McKay in selecting the quality of cattle they did was unprecedented, and added to the high prices realized by those who consigned from the top of their herds.

He thanked all those who had consigned



One of the top-selling cows at this year's 50th-anniversary Perth County Holstein Breeders Club sale at Dave Carson's sales arena near Listowel. Contributed photos



Perth County Holstein Breeders presented Dave Carson of David Carson Farms and Auction Services with this laser-cut steel sign before the 50th-anniversary sale for all his years of dedicated service to the club's annual sale. Pictured from left are Murray McGonigle, Larry Krantz, Carson and Doug McKay. Contributed photo

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Shakespeare Opti-Mrs members learn about Alzheimer's disease

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Alzheimer Society of Huron Perth continues to be a very important organization educating and offering programs for those affected by Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

Christy Bannerman, the public education coordinator for the local Alzheimer Society, explained to those in attendance at a meeting hosted by the Opti-Mrs club in Shakespeare last week, that brain health is key to preventing, or at least as an aid in treating, Alzheimer's disease or any other form of the dozens of different types of dementia.

She said 1.7 million people in Canada will suffer from dementia over the next 10 years, and those with Alzheimer's make up the largest part of that number.

During her presentation, she said there are 12 key actions a person can do that will help prevent the onset of Alzheimer's.

They include being physically active every day, being heart healthy, staying socially active, managing medical conditions, being mentally active and getting a good night's sleep every night.

Bannerman also noted that treating depression, avoiding excessive alcohol intake, maintaining hearing ability and finding meaning in life can also play an important role in preventing or treating dementia.

The society is encouraging the public to join its upcoming one-hour virtual presentations on brain health, cognitive changes and dementia.

Information is available at www.alzheimer.ca/huronperth or call the Stratford office at 519-271-1910.



The Opti-Mrs. Club of Shakespeare welcomed area residents to learn more about optimizing their brain health and how Alzheimer's disease continues to grow as the population ages. Pictured from left are Shakespeare Opti-Mrs member Jean Rader, Alzheimer Society public education coordinator Christy Bannerman and Shakespeare Opti-Mrs president Ellen Fuhr.



Alzheimer Society of Huron Perth public education coordinator Christy Bannerman explains to a Shakespeare audience last week at the Optimist Hall how Alzheimer's disease can affect families in many ways and in various stages of a person's life. Photos by Gary West

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Longest-serving employee of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock retires

EAST ZORRA-TAVISTOCK TOWNSHIP STAFF

Gazette Contributor

On Friday Oct. 18, the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock (Ezt) hosted a retirement luncheon for Jeff Rudy who, after 45 years, has retired from his role as public works equipment operator with the township.

Rudy's remarkable achievement was celebrated with members of his family, his former roads crew co-workers, members of council and current staff.

He began working with the township right out of high school in June of 1979. Only a few months later, he and the public works crew were kept busy for days with cleanup duties after the Aug. 7, 1979 tornado that destroyed homes and barns within the rural community of the township.

Rudy also recalled snowplowing during the winters of the early to mid-1980s, one day working 17 hours just to keep up with the heavy snowfalls. Countless times over the years he stopped to assist stranded motorists and get them safely on their way home; those were the days long before cell phones.

Ezt Mayor Phil Schaefer presented Jeff with a retirement gift from the township that included tickets for Rudy to watch his beloved Toronto Maple Leafs, along with a commemorative birdhouse that is inscribed with, "To Jeff Rudy, in recognition of 45 years of exemplary service to the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock Roads Department."

Karen DePrest, township CAO, also spoke about Rudy's commitment to his job and his strong work ethic that has set the standard for our employees. Township staff then presented Rudy with a few mementos of his long career, most notably a miniature die cast of the grader he operated for 20 years.

Thank you, Jeff, for your outstanding service over the last 45 years and we wish you many happy years of retirement.



Pictured from left to right are East Zorra-Tavistock Mayor Phil Schaefer, Jeff Rudy and CAO Karen DePrest. Photo courtesy of Township of East Zorra-Tavistock.

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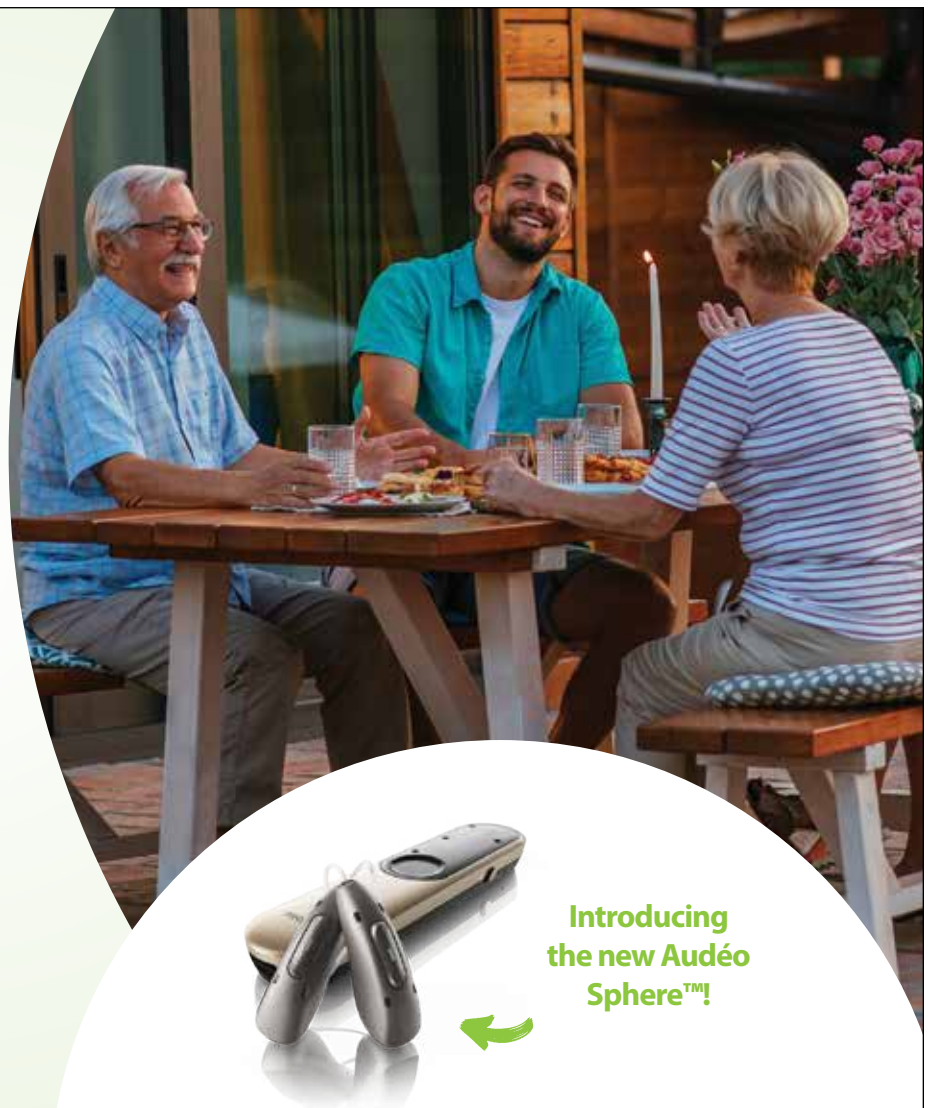
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Katie Kneisel, past Wellesley fair ambassador, now the 2025 Oktoberfest Ambassador

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

If Wellesley area residents recognize the Oktoberfest Ambassador for 2025, it may be because she was also the Wellesley Fall Fair Ambassador in 2017.

Wellesley Fall Fair director Wendy Richardson said Katie Kneisel stayed involved with the Wellesley-North Easthope Agriculture Society, including serving as fall-fair ambassador and part of the new junior ambassador committee this year.

She was also a volunteer judge this year for the first-ever junior ambassador program.

She and Miranda Schultz led the scarecrow competition in the area for many years, and she continues to be a great advocate for her family, her roots, her rural and greater agricultural community and the Wellesley Fall Fair.

Kneisel is 26 years old and is aspiring to be a teacher and a learning specialist, and recently completed her undergraduate degree in kinesiology and physical education with a minor in educational psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University.

She plans to attend teachers college this coming year.

Richardson and all the fall-fair directors were happy to see Kneisel thrive in her new role as the Oktoberfest Ambassador for 2025, and they wish her all the best in the coming year.



Former Wellesley Fall Fair Ambassador Katie Kneisel, 26, is the new 2025 Oktoberfest Ambassador. Contribute photo

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Local students create posters for Community Safety Day

TOM KNEZEVICH

Nith Valley EcoBoosters

In partnership with the Wilmot Fire Department, the Nith Valley EcoBoosters (NVEB) worked with three Wilmot Township schools to encourage students to create posters that illustrate one or more situations related to emergencies,

emergency preparedness, or home safety.

The schools that participated were Holy Family Catholic Elementary School, Sir Adam Beck Public School and Baden Public School. A total of 130 posters were created by the students at the three schools and they were on display at the Community Safety Day event at the New

Hamburg Community Centre on Saturday, Oct. 5.

The posters featured many colours, creative artwork and important messages covering topics such as what to do if there is a tornado warning and what should be in a home emergency kit. Adults and children attending the event also had an opportunity

to play NVEB's new Bee Ready Bee Safe boardgame which challenged them to answer emergency and safety related questions.

This was the second year for the Community Safety Day and attendance was estimated to be over 300, a significant increase compared to 2023.



Pictured from left, Ethan Lackey, Linda Lackey and Elliana Lackey play the Nith Valley EcoBoosters' Bee Ready Bee Safe boardgame at Community Safety Day in New Hamburg Oct. 5. Photo courtesy of Tom Knezevich

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Sheep and farmers enjoy the golden days of autumn



These lambs and ewes are enjoyed the green grass and sunshine in North Easthope Township on what remains one of the driest falls local farmers have seen in years. With corn silage and bean harvest nearing an end with near perfect weather, fall wheat planting is continuing while combining on some early shelled corn in the southern counties is also starting in a few locations. Photo by Gary West

Birthday

Happy 90th Birthday

Myrta Biesel

Love, Your Family and Friends



St. Matthews Lutheran Church is hosting
Special Musical Guests,
The Ropp Brothers
during the service on
October 27, 2024 at 10am
Followed by refreshments.
Everyone welcome!
**965565 Maplewood Side Road,
Tavistock**

Thank You

The family of the late Ken Brenneman wish to express their deepest appreciation for all the donations, lovely cards, flowers, food brought to our homes, phone calls, visits, and to everyone who came to visitation. Special thank you to Rev. Marg Smith for her comforting words and Marilyn Nystrom for her gift of music. Thank you to our church family at Grace United Church Tavistock for all your caring support and to the ladies of U.C.W. for the delicious lunch following the service. Sincere thank you to the caring staff at the People Care Tavistock and the Dialysis Units in Woodstock and Victoria Hospital in London and to all of the Doctors and Nurses that cared for Ken the last few years. Thank you to Jeff Glendinning and staff at Francis Funeral Home Tavistock for guiding us through a difficult time. Thank you again for everything, it will not be forgotten.

*Karen, Dale, Mark, Amanda, and Erin,
Emma, Matthew, Drew and Bailey*

OBITUARY

GINGERICH, Robert Louis

Of New Hamburg, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth. Robert was born 82 years ago, a son of the late Willis and Mabel (Bast) Gingerich.

Devoted and loving husband of Shirley Gingerich, whom he married on May 20, 1967. Cherished father of David Gingerich, Joanne and husband Don Schwartzentruber, and Mark and wife Samantha Gingerich. Proud grandfather of Zach, Cole, Lily, Henry and Ethan. He is survived by his brother Ron and wife Judy and by his sister-in-law Marietta, as well as by his nieces, nephews, and friends. Robert is predeceased by his brothers Verlus and Richard.

Robert was a member of Steinmann Mennonite Church. He enjoyed the outdoors, tending to his gardens. He was a car enthusiast, keeping all vehicles in pristine shape and well looked after. Robert will be remembered for his love of gifting, cooking amazing meals and his photography.

Relatives and friends were invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. A memorial service was held in the chapel of the funeral home on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth would be appreciated by the family and can be done through the funeral home website.

Personal condolences and donation information available at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

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



WORSHIP IN WILMOT TOWNSHIP

St George's Anglican Church

Corner of Waterloo St and Byron St, New Hamburg
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<https://www.stgeorgesnewhamburg.com>

St James Chapel of Ease

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Rev Margaret Walker; Office: 519-662-3450
sgacnewhamburg@gmail.com

St Agatha Mennonite Church

1967 Erb's Road St Agatha 519-634-8212
Pastor Jim Brown
Worship service 10am followed by coffee hour and sermon discussion. All are welcome

OBITUARY

YANTZI: Richard John



Passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at Sakura House, Woodstock. Richard Yantzi of Tavistock in his 59th year.

Beloved husband of Darlene (Schumm) Yantzi whom he married August 31, 1985. Loving father of Sarah & husband Jordan Steenbeek of Woodham, Cynthia & husband Roland Fleming of Waterloo and Kaitlyn & husband Gino Fazari of Toronto. Sadly missed by his grandchildren Leah, Mackenzie, Jason, Trevor, Emma and Luca. Dear brother of Tim & wife Judy of Tavistock, Stephen & wife Lisa of Baden, Sharon & husband Wayne Ropp of Tavistock, mother-in-law Audrey Schumm of Tavistock, brothers and sisters-in-law Bill & Linda Schumm, Richard Schumm all of Tavistock, Mark & Lisa Schumm and Sharon & Barry Roth all of Baden and by many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his parents Omer & Marie (Gingerich) Yantzi, father-in-law Lamar Schumm and sister-in-law Deborah Tucker.

From age 3, Richard wanted to be a farmer! His passion for farming made that dream come true. He now resides and farms on the Original Family Farmstead dating back to the 1800's.

Relatives and friends were received in the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock St. N. Tavistock on Sunday, October 20 from 2-5pm and on Monday, October 21 from 5-8pm. Funeral service was conducted from the East Zorra Mennonite Church, 16th line on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 2:00pm. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the International Needs Canada or to Teen Challenge would be appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. In what country did the game "Baccarat" originate?
2. How many valves does a trumpet have?
3. Snails, clams and octopi fall under what category of animal?
4. What year was the United Nations established?
5. What instrument measures air pressure?
6. In "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" what is Charlie's last name?
7. Who was the famous nurse during the Crimean War?
8. The National Gallery is on which London Square?
9. When did Toto release "Africa"?
10. What shape is in the middle of the Somalian flag?

Answers found on page 26

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The Old Gazettes

By Sydney Grant

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

October 23-30, 2019, Edition (5 years ago)

Tavistock Public School students collected more than one pound of food for each student at the school in support of the Drive Away Hunger campaign for 2019. This year, instead of a tractor and wagon, a pickup truck was loaded with 329.8 pounds of non-perishable food items collected over the past few weeks at Tavistock School.

Just saying the amount raised brought tears to the eyes of Let's Move Run/Bike/Walk event organizers on Friday. The group that held a fun run in Tavistock on Sunday morning, Sept. 15, 2019, was able to present a cheque for \$11,330 to Ronald McDonald House of the London Health Sciences Centre.

The Tavistock Braves added two more wins to their Provincial Junior Hockey League 2019-2020 season by posting wins on the weekend. They hosted the Burford Bulldogs Friday night, Oct. 25, and came away with a 6-1 win and then shutout the Paris Mounties 4-0 on Saturday, Oct. 26 in Paris.

October 21-28, 2009, Edition (15 years ago)

At 7:01 a.m. Monday, Oct. 19, 2009, the Oxford OPP took over policing jurisdictions for the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock. Following a long process of negotiations, since the township council voted to opt out of the Oxford Community Police Service (OCPS), the police service is now operating here. "We are looking forward to continuing our tradition of providing excellent policing service to the residents of the City of Woodstock and working with the OPP during this transition phase," Woodstock Police Chief Rod Freeman said.

Hundreds of people from the area and abroad showed up on Saturday to support the efforts of Shakespeare residents to save their hamlet from becoming extinct. The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) is contemplating expansion of the highway to meet future capacity and has proposed a five-lane highway to be built through the village. At least 11 historic buildings would have to be demolished to allow the widening of the roadway.

The Waterloo Region's version of Dancing with the Stars was held at the Bingham Park Grand Ballroom last Friday evening. Eight couples competed in the second-annual fun evening of dance and raised over \$22,000 for HopeSpring Can-

cer Support Centre. The team of Don Cross and Karma Bryan-Ingle took home top honours on the night with second place going to Bryn Gladding and Marie Cross. The People's Choice Award went to Bruce Arai and Trish Beahan.

October 19-26, 1994, Edition (30 years ago)

Students at Tavistock Public School have a new outdoor volleyball court to use in their physical education classes as well as a kindergarten sandbox thanks to the Tavistock Parent-Teacher Association and through the generosity of several local businesses.

The 1994-1995 executive for the Optimist Club of Tavistock was installed recently to carry on the good works of the club into the new year. Former president Ken Ramseyer was honoured as Optimist of the Year and the club is also honoured to have two of its members holding higher office – Cephas Roth is district governor and Lyle Bender is lieutenant governor. The new executive includes president Al Blum, vice-presidents Larry Hohner and Rob Van Boekel, treasurer Jim Brenneman, secretary Steve Bender, directors Phil Roth, Tom Hanlon, Dayle Reibling, Brad Wettlaufer, Robert Bender, Roger Kropf and past president Marlin Bender.

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GALEN SIMMONS AT GALEN@GRANTHAVEN.COM

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette SPORTS

Royals earn four weekend points with two wins

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

The Tavistock Royals started their 2024-2025 Ontario Elite Hockey League season with a loss last weekend but roared back with two road wins to move above the .500 mark.

After scoring twice in a season-opening loss, the Royals exploded for 14 goals over the weekend and two easy victories. Saturday's home opener was a 7-2 win over Saugeen Shores. Tavistock led 3-0 after one and extended its lead to 7-1 after 40 minutes. Drew Gerth, Patrick Vulgan and Trevor Sauder led the attack with three points apiece.

On Sunday afternoon, Tavistock travelled to Lucknow and dropped the Lancers 7-1 after powering out to a 5-1 first-period lead. Gerth potted three goals in the first period alone and added an assist while Sauder also had a hat trick. Vulgan added four assists for the Royals who are tied for first place in the league standings.

The next action for Tavistock is in Creemore against the Coyotes on Saturday night. The Royals have three of the league's top-six scorers to start the season. Gerth and Vulgan are tied for first with eight points in three games. Sauder is tied for fifth with seven.



Lily Pullen, Tavistock's reigning fall fair ambassador, drops the ceremonial puck at the Tavistock Royals home opener Saturday night between Saugeen Shores assistant captain Curtis Johnson (left) and Tavistock captain Tristan Hohl. Contributed photo

Braves losing streak reaches six

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

The Tavistock Braves were hoping a trip to Paris for a rare Tuesday night game would cure what ails them but instead, the team dropped its sixth straight game by a score of 5-0 to the last-place Titans.

The Gazette talked to general manager Brent Lange after the club dropped their three weekend games.

"Yes, we're on a five-game losing streak which never looks good from the outside. A couple weekends ago against Hespeler, we didn't have a great game and it was plain

and simple to see for anyone in the building. The next night we lost 1-0 and that was a goalie duel. Kudos to Dorchester's goalie for playing a hell of a game, as well as ours. The effort was a bit better than the previous night."

Lange added injuries have played a big role in the team's struggles to date.

"We currently have six forwards out with injuries and two defensemen. I'm not trying to make excuses, but when you have 22 players signed and two goalies and eight are hurt, it makes the coach's job very hard to change things up a couple of hours before games. We've been seeing

what we have coming that night or what lines we can try to match up against the other team that night."

He added the team's APs have filled in nicely, but they need their regulars back to compete.

"When we can't roll our team consistently or have our lines consistent each game, it makes things challenging to coach and manage," Lange said. "Our room is frustrated for sure, not because of the lack of effort, just with the Injury bug piling up while they want to be out there helping their brothers win. We're in a funk with this but we will come out of this stronger and better. It's October, it's a 42-game season. Lots of time left."

The Braves have made a goaltending move, adding veteran goalie Lander Hartley from Hanover.

"He will work great alongside Kaden Lange and help the younger goalie along the way here. We do want to wish our former goalie, James Hopper, all the best in Wingham with the Ironmen. He is a great young man and was a great teammate for us. I enjoyed working with him for the first couple of years here. Best of luck to him with his new team and a fresh start there," added Lange.

Hartley made his first start in the loss to Paris this week where he stopped 29 of the 34 shots he faced.

Tavistock dropped a 5-4 decision to New

Hamburg last Thursday, lost 3-2 against Wellesley Friday and were beaten 6-0 by Dorchester on Saturday.

Firebirds sweep weekend games

New Hamburg remains one point ahead of Wellesley atop the Doherty Division standings after winning all three weekend games.

After downing the Braves, the Firebirds hosted Dorchester and earned a 3-2 victory on Saturday. Josh Soulliere broke a 2-2 tie in the third period to earn the game-winning goal. Kegan Metcalf and captain Owen Fischer also scored for New Hamburg while Cohen Van Zuillen added two assists. The Firebirds outshot the Dolphins 50-31.

On Sunday, the Firebirds downed Hespeler in another close game, 4-3. Antonio Pasqualino scored twice to lead the attack with Owen Bruder adding a goal and an assist.

Four-point weekend for Applejacks

Wellesley started the weekend with a 3-2 victory in Tavistock on Friday. Dimitri Eleftheriadis scored the eventual game-winning goal late in the second period with his third of the campaign.

On Sunday, the Applejacks skated into Paris and earned a 3-0 win. Xavier Bussiere stopped all 30 shots he faced for the shutout. Tyler Wagler, Liam Wadel and Jake L'Heurux found the back of the net for Wellesley.

PROVINCIAL JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE PJHL SOUTH DOHERTY DIVISION STANDINGS								
As of Tuesday, October 22								
South Doherty Division	GP	W	L	OTL	T	SOW	SOL	PTS
1 New Hamburg Firebirds	12	10	2	0	0	0	0	20
2 Wellesley Applejacks	11	8	2	0	0	2	1	17
3 Norwich Merchants	10	7	3	0	0	2	0	14
4 Woodstock Navy Vets	10	6	3	0	0	0	1	13
5 Dorchester Dolphins	11	4	5	0	0	0	2	10
6 Tavistock Braves	12	4	8	0	0	1	0	8
7 Hespeler Shamrocks	10	3	5	1	0	0	1	8
8 Paris Titans	12	2	9	1	0	0	0	5

Wellesley to apply for provincial funding for St. Clements Arena upgrades

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wellesley council has given township staff the green light to apply for as much as \$1 million in provincial funding – or half the project costs – for upgrades to the St. Clements Arena.

At the Oct. 22 Wellesley council meeting, director of recreation Danny Roth asked councillors to approve an application for funding under the province's Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF). The CSRIF is a provincial fund that provides funding for repairs or upgrades to existing sport and recreation facilities. According to Roth, staff have identified the St. Clements Arena dressing rooms, washrooms and lobby as a viable project for this funding program.

"The Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund is open to grant applications until Oct. 29, 2024, for the repair and upgrade of existing facilities (funding stream)," Roth told councillors. "Staff have identified the St. Clements Arena washrooms, dressing rooms and lobby upgrades to enhance accessibility in the facility."

"The St. Clements Arena does meet

current accessibility requirements by having accessible washroom facilities in the upper community centre, which are available by elevator when the facility is open to the public."

However, in Roth's report to council, he indicated the arena does not meet recommended accessibility standards. The improvements this grant could provide would greatly improve the accessibility of the lower lobby, dressing rooms and washrooms, representing a significant improvement for the users of the arena through both enhanced accessibility and as a refresh of the space.

Staff are working with an engineering firm to develop schematic drawings to submit with the grant application, and cost estimates for the project would be submitted as well, however the exact cost of the project will not be known before the grant application is submitted.

Roth was careful to note council's approval of the grant application is not an approval of the project itself.

"The most that can be applied for is \$1 million for this project and it's a 50 per cent split," he said. "We don't have the total cost at this point in time ... but council

would still have the decision (if we are successful with the grant application) to take the whole funding amount or they could pare the project back at that point if needed."

"So, as I understand it, if we were to apply for \$1 million, hypothetically, we

would have to come up with \$1 million as well," Mayor Joe Nowak said.

Roth said the scope of the project would include renovations to the arena's washrooms, four dressing rooms and the lobby, and the addition of a universal washroom.



St. Clements Community Centre and Arena. Photo from Township of Wellesley website



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SHOW US YOUR WILMOT



Christina Held shared this photo she took of the northern lights over Wilmot Township on the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page earlier this month. Photo courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot



This recent warm spell was preceded by a few very cool mornings, as shown in this frosty photo taken along the shores of the Nith River in downtown New Hamburg and shared on the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page by Karrie Burns. Photo courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot

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Shakespeare Optimists hosts annual kids' Halloween Chocolate Bar Bingo

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Ghosts and goblins and many other young bingo players dressed up in Halloween attire to take part in the Shakespeare Optimist club's annual

Halloween Chocolate Bar Bingo.

Shakespeare Optimist president Mike McNeil was happy with the great turnout and members said it's always fun and gratifying to put on these youth events every month for local kids to take part in.



A large crowd of young, local Halloween bingo players converged on the Shakespeare Optimist Hall last week and took part in the Optimist Club's Chocolate Bar Bingo. Photos by Gary West



North Easthope's Noah Harper, dressed up as a cheeseburger, was one of the best dressed at the Shakespeare Optimist Club's Halloween Bingo.



Once a bingo was called, a happy dance was in order and the ever-enthusiastic Aliya McNeil led bingo players in celebration with high-energy music. McNeil is a second-year PhD student in clinical psychology at the University of Waterloo and loves giving back to the programs she once took part in as a student at Sprucedale Public School in Shakespeare.

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STRATFORD NISSAN



Local heart-failure program recognized by provincial awards

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Local residents can rest assured their cardiac concerns are in good hands.

The Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team (HPA-OHT)'s heart failure program has been named one of three finalists in the Improved Population Health category of the 2024 Ontario Health System Quality and Innovation Awards.

Although the program did not win the award when the ceremony was held in Toronto in September, to be recognized above other, bigger programs is a feather in the team's cap, according to Dr. Shanil Narayan.

"Whenever you hear you're one of the best in the province, I think that's reassuring," Narayan, a Stratford-based physician, said.

Narayan is the physician lead for the heart-failure program. He has been a physician in the Huron-Perth area for about 20 years now, helping people with cardiac-function issues for that time. His leadership role has developed over the last three to four years.

The Ontario Health System Quality and Innovation Awards celebrate the work

being done across the province to address evolving health-care challenges. The Improved Population Health category, which the local heart-failure program was recognized by, honours initiatives that demonstrate measurable success in improving health outcomes for specific communities.

"We've been increasingly hearing good things about what our region has been doing over the last little while," Narayan said. "We, as of a few years ago, were one of the first few people to be recognized as an outstanding group in heart-function care, so there were pilot projects launched in our area to try and figure out how to better work on cardiac rehabilitation. We were one of a few regions that received extra funding from the ministry to develop networks to look after heart-function care in the last few years."

Narayan called this award "the cherry on top" of what the team has been hearing from the community and from the wider health-care network. He said the award is something people can look to, but it is representative of the consistent hard work and outstanding care the team puts out.

"I'm super proud of our region to be

high," Narayan said. "I always tell people that Huron-Perth and area punches above its weight class consistently. And I think one of the things that small communities do better than most is establish and leverage relationships.

"You hear stories about family medicine burnout, and it's true, but there are still people fighting hard every day to do good things. We talk about primary care alternatives and we know that there are some excellent nurse practitioners who work with us. We talk about people who are again struggling because of workload, but consistently when we get to these groups, we have young, enthusiastic people working in our emergency EMS pathways who put their hands up time and time again and say, 'Hey, can we help?' We have nurses working in long-term care facilities who consistently say, 'Hey, what can we do to help this be better?' ... Those day-to-day relationships are consistent stories."

Narayan said the silent heroes who work and do great things every day are key to the team's success, as is the population they serve. Having an appreciative patient population that "works wonders" to give feedback that fuels their caregivers is

something Narayan highlighted.

He specifically praised the team's respiratory therapists and nurse practitioners with cardiac training who have been particularly helpful in sharing their skills and knowledge with patients, building the team's capacity.

Since 2019, regions of care have been divided into Ontario health teams: regional coalitions of organizations that come together to deliver care and coordinate resources for the population. Within the team, there are physicians, nurses, community support specialists and people from across the breadth of health care.

The team has not formally celebrated yet, having members across the region's area and members that work in various capacities, but Narayan said there will be a celebration soon.

"We are proud to be recognized for our collaborative and integrated approach," said Joelle Lamport Lewis, director of HPA-OHT, in a media release. "This acknowledgment reflects the hard work and commitment of our health-care professionals and partner organizations who come together to provide the best possible care for our communities."

Tavistock firefighters Boot Drive raises thousands for Muscular Dystrophy Canada

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

There were smiles all around last week at Tavistock's Scotiabank as two cheques were presented to Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

Nearly \$5,600 was raised through the Tavistock firefighter's annual Boot Drive Aug. 30.

Fire Chief Mike Donaldson and fire department volunteers said the day is always successful in raising money for their cause.

Drivers passing through Tavistock's main intersection gave what they could to fill the firefighter boots, which this year added up to \$5,584.74 once the Tavistock Scotiabank and its employees matched what was collected.

The Tavistock fire station has now raised \$217,000 over the years since the Boot Drive began in 1971.

According to Muscular Dystrophy Canada community fundraising officer Stephanie Singeris, there are 256 fire stations in Ontario and 500 stations across the country participating in the Boot Drive, which got its start 70 years ago in 1954.



Pictured from left presenting cheques last week to Muscular Dystrophy Canada at Tavistock's Scotiabank are Tavistock Scotiabank seniors customer experience associate Nichelle Horst, branch manager Michele Frook, customer experience lead Margaret Herlick, Muscular Dystrophy Canada community fundraising officer Stephanie Singeris, and Tavistock firefighter Jaclyn Lange. Photo by Gary West

Brocksden School Museum in good financial shape



Directors and friends are shown at the Brocksden School Museum on the weekend following the Easthope Historical Group annual meeting. Pictured in back row from left are Daryl Herlick, John Campbell and Scott Campbell. In front, from left, are Leonard Neeb, Hugh McDermid, Gloria Hutchison, Patricia Dann, Patricia Eidt, Esther Campbell, Joan Scott, Mary Carnie, Jessie Holding, Mark Campbell and Roger Cook. Photo by Gary West

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Members and friends of the Brocksden School Museum, located in an 1853 schoolhouse only minutes from Stratford and Shakespeare, held their annual meeting on Saturday at the school.

Board chair Scott Campbell said activities at the museum continue to be a success including the Anne of Green Gables outdoor play, which was very well received by the community this summer.

The financial report, audited free of charge by Franklin Hinz of Stratford, shows Brocksden, under the umbrella of the Easthope Historical Group, is in good financial shape as donations continue to come in.

Hugh McDermid, deputy Mayor of Perth East, congratulated the board and Campbell for continuing to explore

potential programs for the future of the museum.

In the months of May and June, 12 student groups attended the school, including homeschoolers and students from Christian and private schools, and in September, three classes visited and travelled from London and Hamilton to the school, where original desks and blackboards still remain.

Retiring teacher Gloria Hutchison was thanked for her many years of excellence and dedicated service to Brocksden. Hutchison spent quality time with students who visited the museum, showing how school programs and lessons were taught in the past.

The board is asking anyone interested in history, teaching and taking over Hutchison's position to contact Campbell at sjcampbell@cyg.net.

Gazette Puzzles

MLB WORLD SERIES 2024

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Celebrate fall and local produce with this honey pumpkin loaf

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



Honey is a gorgeous golden gift from busy bees, super sweet and stocked with antioxidants, vitamins and minerals. Unpasteurized honey is as close to nature as possible. Once extracted straight from the hive, this astounding amber liquid is bottled, retaining boatloads of body-boosting benefits.

After my happy holistic visit to Riverside Bee Yard, my baking inspiration was overflowing. With the rustle of autumn leaves, the promise of pumpkin picking and cozy nights, a slice of honey pumpkin loaf alongside

a chamomile tea with, yes, a spoonful of honey is bliss.

The recipe starts with pumpkin perfection. Pumpkin is a variety of squash. The orange flesh highlights heaps of beta-carotene, an awesome antioxidant the body converts into a usable form of vitamin A. Vitamin A is an all-star linked to eye health, combating free radicals throughout the body and increasing immunity. Packed with potassium, containing up to 564 milligrams in a one-cup serving, the jack-o-lantern is a jewel.

Pumpkin can help regulate blood pressure and even help



This homemade honey pumpkin loaf is the perfect fall celebration. Photos by Mercedes Kay Gold

reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. Pumpkin contains minimal calories and surprisingly is quite low in carbohydrates. The outrageous orange fibre-filled flesh is a stupendous sidekick in satiating smoothies. Pair with nut and seed butters, coconut oil and cinnamon for fall flair.

Roasting pie pumpkins for

puree is a breeze and I was excited to use my fresh fall pick from Fall Harvest Farm. Remember when buying canned, make sure pumpkin is the only ingredient.

Pumpkin seeds are an array of all things healthy but raw are the real deal. Seeds are high in two trace minerals; zinc for immunity and male fertility plus selenium, a top-notch thyroid support.

Pumpkin is packed with phosphorus. This magical mineral deserves mention thanks to marvelously maintaining and repairing all tissues and cells.

Coconut oil is my go-to in recipes due to phenomenal flavour first and foremost. The exotic fruit is key in keto diets and super in sports nutrition due to the fact coconut oil is a MCT or medium chain triglyceride, absorbed intact from the small intestine into the blood. Hello energy!

Eggs are exceptional and a bounty of benefits bundled in one super sphere. Protein, choline and good fats abound, plus eggs are inexpensive and versatile for an easy meal.

Raisins are an extra touch of sweetness and a little iron.

Bzzzz Bzzzz! Bring on the honey and the pumpkin power!

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup Riverside Bee Yard honey
- 1/3 cup extra virgin cold-pressed coconut oil
- 1 cup fresh pumpkin to puree using Fall Harvest Farm Hot Chocolate pie pumpkin or canned
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 cup milk or plant-based alternative
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 tsp pumpkin spice blend*
- 1/2 tsp Himalayan pink salt
- 1 3/4 cup oat flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 cup raisins

- 1/4 cup raw pumpkin seeds plus 2 tbsp

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Cut the pumpkin in chunks, removing the strings and seeds. Brush the pumpkin with coconut oil and pierce with a fork a few times on each half.
3. Bake approximately 45 minutes or until easily pierced with a knife. Cool and scoop out the flesh. Using a mixer or blender, puree until smooth.
4. Melt the coconut oil in the microwave and pour into a large mixing bowl.
5. Whisk 2 in eggs and pumpkin puree.
6. Add the honey, salt, milk or plant-based alternative and vanilla extract. Stir well.
7. Add the flour and baking soda. Combine well.
8. Add the raisins and pumpkin seeds. Stir.
9. Use a parchment-lined, silicon or coconut-oil greased loaf pan.
10. Pour in the batter and sprinkle the 2 tablespoons of pumpkin seeds on top.
11. Bake in the centre of the oven for 35-38 minutes. To check, insert a toothpick and it should be clean when removed.

*To make your own pumpkin spice combine 1/2 tsp ground ginger, 1/4 tsp cloves, 1/2 tsp Ceylon cinnamon, and 1/4 tsp nutmeg. Store and use as needed.

Happy holistic tip; the leftover roasted pumpkin flesh can be frozen.

Happy honey inspired loaf!



These Hot Chocolate pie pumpkins from Fall Harvest Farm were my pumpkins of choice for this honey pumpkin loaf recipe. Feel free to use canned.

A place where the animals really are job one

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



Once upon a time, we all visited zoos and attractions featuring marine animals without asking any questions about animal welfare, health, or exploitation. Those days, thank goodness, are mostly behind us. Today, attractions like Ontario's own Marineland are being investigated and criticized, zoos are being held to much higher standards than before and visitors to these kinds of attractions are asking much harder questions than we once did.

All of which will explain why, when I as a travel journalist am invited to visit an attraction that features animals in captivity, it's my challenging responsibility to determine if this is a legitimate enterprise or if it's another example of exploitation or even cruelty.

So, I am delighted to report that, in my opinion, the Dolphin Research Center passes any ethics test with high, high marks. This is a place that is doing really good stuff, treating its marine charges with respect and utmost care, and educating thousands of people about our relationship with some of the amazing creatures that share this planet with us.

The Dolphin Research Center is located on Grassy Key in the Florida Keys, about halfway down that stunning Overseas Highway drive from Key Largo to Key West. We were guided around the facility by Allie Proskovec, the centre's dedicated and enthusiastic director of media and marketing.

She's especially enthusiastic because the not-for-profit centre is in the midst of a significant expansion. Now, in many cases that might mean that the visitor centre is being enlarged, or a restaurant is being added. Not at the Dolphin Research Center where the focus is on the animals. This expansion means the area available to the dolphins is being enlarged by three times and the sea lion habitat is also being enlarged.

Here, it's all about the dolphins and the other creatures that are in the care of these very caring people. All of the animals – 27 dolphins, three sea lions, five birds

and two African spurred tortoises – are rescue animals or born at the centre. They cannot be safely released into the wild. However, the centre also rescues, rehabilitates and releases animals. The centre is the only licensed marine-mammal rescue operation in the Keys, and the team includes a veterinarian. In addition to rescuing and rehabilitating dolphins, the staff also includes a manatee rescue team that rescues injured manatees, and then hands them off to medical facilities that treat these amazing mammals and return them to their natural habitat. There is no permanent manatee habitat at the Dolphin Research Center.

The centre offers many programs that allow human visitors to interact with the dolphins, including swimming with the animals. But Proskovec stresses the fact that the dolphins are always the decisionmakers about what they choose to do or not to do. Fundamental to the mandate of the centre is the goal of demonstrating the remarkable intelligence of the marine creatures while imposing no demands or causing any anxiety for the dolphins.

Dolphins live a long time – in the wild, typically until their late teens to mid 20s, but at the Research Center, it can be much longer. Proskovec introduced us to one of their residents who was 44 years old and a second who had now reached 50 years of age. Any dolphin born at the centre or rescued and brought there is guaranteed a lifelong home.

"We will never sell or trade an animal," Proskovec said.

Marine-mammal rescue organizations often bring animals

they save to the centre, especially young dolphins that have lost their mothers. We met a dolphin named Ranger who was rescued in the Gulf of Mexico off Texas whose mother had died. Ranger was about a year old at that time; now he is about four years old.

The marine-mammal trainers, education team and other staff members clearly have a warm, personal relationship with the dolphins. They understand each animal's personality and love to tell their stories. We met a dolphin named Jax who had suffered an attack by a shark. Jax survived but lost part of his dorsal fin.

The work at the centre goes beyond care for their charges and education of the public. There is much research carried out as well and the centre has working relationships with a number of educational and research organizations.

The entire team at the Dolphin Research Center is clearly over the moon about the expansion that is currently underway, and who can blame them? The last few years have not held that kind of promise for the centre. First, in 2017, Hurricane Irma devastated the Middle Keys area; staff at the centre were working at reduced pay just so there were enough funds to feed and care for the animals. Then came COVID; visitors stopped coming and, again, there was a financial crunch.

But the team never lost hope, never gave up and never lost sight of their first priority – to provide a home and optimal care for their aquatic charges. That perseverance has paid off as the centre now grows its facilities, its programs and its visitor numbers.

And those visitors can enjoy watching, meeting and even swimming with the dolphins, knowing this is a place where ethics and integrity are built into every decision.

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



Do dolphins smile? Well, they certainly have reason to at their home in the Keys.



Dolphins seem to have a whale of a time, entertaining their guests at the Dolphin Research Center. Photos by Paul Knowles



The dolphin on the right, named Jax, suffered a shark attack which cost him some of his dorsal fin.



Marine mammal trainers working with their aquatic friends.



One Research Center program includes swimming with the dolphins.

The New Hamburg Legion: A detailed list of each Memorial Banner's location (part two)

SCOTT DUNSTALL

Gazette Correspondent

The sight of over 220 memorial banners is now proudly displayed throughout downtown New Hamburg, marking the third full season of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 532 Memorial Banner Program.

Each banner represents a deeply personal tribute to a soldier connected to a family in Wilmot Township. To assist the community in locating specific banners, Marie Voisin, the champion behind the program, has compiled a detailed road map of their exact location. Due to the length of the list, The Gazette published the first portion of the list in the Oct. 17, 2024, edition of the newspaper.

For those wishing to honour a loved one with a banner, applications are available on the New Hamburg Legion's website and Facebook page.

- Fritzell, Ray - 43 Bleams Road West
- Pfaff, Orville - 43 Bleams Road West
- Kaster, John - 176 Huron
- Klassen, David - west side of library
- Kilgour, Lloyd - 231 Jacob & 58 Boullee on Boullee
- Koch, Gerald - 165 Peel
- Koenig, Vernon - 290 Huron
- Kranpien, Irvine - 318 Peel Street [Bell Canada Building]
- Kropf, Emmett - corner of Peel & 1 Bleams West
- Kropf, Lavina - 346 Peel
- Kropf, Lloyd - 18 Bleams East
- Kropf, Lorne - corner of Peel & 1 Bleams West
- Kruspe, Robert - in front of the Murray's Building
- Kurt, Walter - 25 Boullee
- Langford, John - 334 Peel
- Laschinger, Wilfred - 183 Wilmot
- Lautenschlager, Harold - CIBC on Huron
- Linton, James - in front of Trinity Lutheran Church on Church Street
- 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 Hardware
- McKie, Michael - 276 Wilmot
- McNichol, Douglas - 244 Peel
- 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 West
- Merner, Albert - 380 Peel
- Merner, Ross - 380 Peel
- Migliarini, Oliver - 272 Wilmot
- Miller, Clare - Post Office on Huron Street
- Miller, Sonny - 412 Peel
- Milne, Donald - 97 Wilmot
- Mitchell, George - 328 Huron
- Nairn, John - 328 Huron
- Nauman, Clayton - Holy Family Church on Huron

- 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
- 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 - 269 Huron
- Reiner, Lloyd - 331 Wilmot
- Reinhart, Albert - Beside B&W Feed on Peel
- Richards, Alfred - 144 Huron
- Rickert, Ross - 299 Wilmot
- 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 School
- 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 - across from Bailey house on Burns
- 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, 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 - beside B&W Feed on Peel
- Sivyver, Jean - 178 Peel
- Sivyver, Teddy - 178 Peel
- Spahr, John - 25 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
- 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 Wilmot
- Voisin, Urban - by the bandstand on Wilmot
- Wagner, Erhardt - 311 Wilmot
- Walker, Clinton - 73 Peel
- Wallbank, William - 251 Huron
- Walsh, Mary Margaret - 182 Union
- Walsh, Walter - 182 Union
- 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
- Yonge, Charles - 73 Peel
- Zehr, Donald - corner of Peel & Huron Streets
- Zoeller, Henry - 11 Bleams West

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Seeking clarification on Wilmot strategic-plan-review process

Dear Editor,

"Please Contact Me If..."

I'm looking for Wilmot citizens to please contact me if they participated in the public-input sessions for the Wilmot Township's Strategic Plan Review by attending a meeting held at the St. Agatha Township Hall on the evening of Sept. 19.

At that meeting, citizen participants advised the consultant, Kelly Linton of Linton Consulting Services, of their concerns in Wilmot. These included financial stability, improved transparency and rebuilding trust. Specific concerns included the land-assembly process, housing affordability, new development standards, aging-population concerns, infrastructure renewal, aggregate extraction, more town-hall-style meetings, improving the website and township staffing issues.

At that meeting, I introduced a motion that the consultant, Kelly Linton, bring back to the Wilmot Township

council and its senior administration staff our citizens' direction that after the "final draft" of the strategic plan had been received by council, but before it was legally approved, we the citizens wanted public meetings held to provide the opportunity for citizens to review and make comments about its contents. There was unanimous approval of that request. Kelly Linton told us he would bring that request back to the township. We trusted him to do so.

If any of those participants are reading this, I ask that they contact me at thisiswilmot@gmail.com, to give me their name and phone number so that we can chat and I can get confirmation that we did, in fact, ask the consultant to do that.

Thank you,

Barry Wolfe,

Baden



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Let's Tree Wilmot Tree planting
9 a.m.
Details at letstreewilmot.ca/events
Haysville Community Centre
3433 Huron Road, New Hamburg

The Community Players of New Hamburg 40th Anniversary Open House
2 - 5 p.m.
251 Jacobs Street, New Hamburg

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Learn to Curl
7 p.m.
5 Weeks (October 30th - November 27th)
519-301-5620
Tavistock Arena

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Southern Gospel Music Concert featuring the Master's Four Gospel Quartet.
6:30 p.m.
Free Will Offering
Rosebank Church
1434 Huron Road, Petersburg

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

The Community Players of New Hamburg present "Our Town"
8 p.m.
www.thecommunityplayers.com
Studio theatre at the New Hamburg Community Centre,
251 Jacob Street, New Hamburg

Theatre Wellesley presents "A Good Old Fashioned Big Family Christmas" by Pat Cook
Nov 7 & 8 at 7:30 p.m.
Nov 9 & 10 at 2 p.m.
Tickets: www.theatrewellesley.com or at Pym's Village Market in Wellesley
Steinmann Mennonite Church
1316 Snyder's Rd W Baden

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

The Community Players of New Hamburg present "Our Town"
8 p.m.
www.thecommunityplayers.com
Studio theatre at the New Hamburg Community Centre,
251 Jacob Street, New Hamburg

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Aging Well In Wellesley: Information & Active Living Fair
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact 1-855-664-1900 or 519-664-1900 to RSVP
Bill Gies Recreation Centre
1401 Queens Bush Road, Wellesley

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

The Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships is hosting a free screening of Walking Through The Fire at Zion United Church
7 p.m.
Contact ecumenicalworkinggroup@gmail.com
Zion United Church,
215 Peel Street, New Hamburg

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Peace Players (United Church Plattsville) present their annual Dinner Theatre production of "Spirit!"
6 p.m.
For tickets contact Shelley 519-572-3168
saj@execulink.com
20 Samuel St, Plattsville

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Tavistock & District Historical Society Open on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 1 p.m. to 4 pm
37 Maria St, Tavistock

Peace Players (United Church Plattsville) present their annual Dinner Theatre production of "Spirit!"
6 p.m.
For tickets contact Shelley 519-572-3168
saj@execulink.com
20 Samuel St, Plattsville

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Peace Players (United Church Plattsville) present their annual production of "Spirit!"
12:30 p.m. Matinee
For tickets contact Shelley 519-572-3168
saj@execulink.com
20 Samuel St, Plattsville

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Let's Tree Wilmot Fall Celebration
7 p.m.
Details at letstreewilmot.ca/events
Wilmot Recreation Complex
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12:00 pm.
Register by Nov 15 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.
Wilmot Recreation Complex
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12:00 pm.
Register by November 22 by calling 519-664-1900 or toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.
Linwood Community Centre, 5279 Ament Line, Linwood

NEW
COMMUNITY
CALENDAR
GUIDELINES
TAKE EFFECT
OCTOBER 31

SEE BELOW
FOR DETAILS

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 in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
 - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
 - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a business card size for \$35 + hst

CLASSIFIED ADS —

FOR SALE

TREES: Shade trees, Fruit trees, Apple, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Sweet and Sour Cherries, Apricot, Nectarines, Blueberry, Haskopp, Black Chokeberry, Grapes etc. Lots of Spruce, Pine, Cedars for windbreaks and privacy hedges, Sizes 1 to 6+. Flowering shrubs and much more. Come check us out Mon-Sat 7:00am - 6:00pm Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Road, Wroxeter (1 concession north of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us; St. Jude worker of miracles, pray for us; St. Jude helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day, by the eighth day this prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. S.F.

WANTED

I will pay cash for antiques and collectibles. Coca Cola, Pepsi, any pop company, Brewery items Kuntz, Huether Labatts, etc. Old radios and gramophones, Wristwatches and pocket watches, Old fruit jars, Beaver Star Bee Hive etc. Any old oil cans and signs Red Indian Supertest etc Any small furniture. If you are moving or cleaning out stuff please contact me - 519-570-6920.

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\$ Cash Paid \$ for your RECORDS and LPs. Jazz, Blues, Rock, Pop, Folk, Soundtracks, and more. Selectively buying CDs, Cassettes, Turntables, and Stereo Equipment. For more information: DIAMOND DOGS MUSIC 114 Ontario St. Stratford/ 226-972-5750

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN (NEVER TO KNOW TO FAIL)

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmal, fruitful vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God. Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me hear in you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to Succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, Show me herein you are my mother, Oh Mary, Conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal you who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you the eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine (The person must say this prayer three consecutive days. After three days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favour is granted)

HELP WANTED

RETIRED BUT NOT TIRED?

We are looking for a reliable, mechanically inclined, positive person to join our farm. This parttime job would include AZ tanker truck and/or tractor driving, equipment repair and other farm maintenance. Specific jobs and amount of hours adjustable to suit the right person.

Contact 519-949-2158 if interested. Tavistock area.

COMING EVENTS

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS HERE!

To book space contact Sharon Leis at 519-580-5418 or sharonbleis@gmail.com



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Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Italy | 7. Florence Nightingale |
| 2. Three | 8. Trafalgar Square |
| 3. Mollusk | 9. 1982 |
| 4. 1945 | 10. Star |
| 5. Barometer | |
| 6. Bucket | |

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Thrift Centre, Short Stop, Sobeys, Office Pro, No Frills, Mario's Chicken, Library, McDonalds, Tim Hortons, Nith Valley Butcher, The Whining Tree, Town Square Pharmasave, Heart'n Home Creations, Cook's Pharmacy, Great Canadian Dollar, Wilmot Recreation Centre, Pizza Arca, Old Country Restaurant, TLC Pet Food

Tavistock

Double D's Restaurant, D&D Homestyle Cuisine, Tim Hortons, Hasty Market, Sam's Independent Quehl's Restaurant, IDA Pharmacy, Shell Gas, Library, Tavistock Arena, Scotia Bank

Baden

Tim Hortons, Circle K, Subway, Mars Variety, Baden Coffee Company, Pharmacy in Baden Plaza

New Dundee

New Dundee Village Market

Wellesley

Pym's, Schmidt's Bulk Pantry, Cook's Pharmacy Schmidtsville Restaurant, Wellesley Service

Shakespeare

Shakespeare Brewery, Shakespeare Variety

St. Agatha

Pfennings Store, Hasty Market

Petersburg

Petro Canada Gas Bar

Stratford

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