CAMI RALLY PAGE 6

PJHL ROUNDUP PAGE 22

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Foxboro Green held its bi-annual Halloween Forest Ride for residents and their families on Sunday, Oct. 26. Organizers went all out to transform the woods into a magical – and rather ominous – setting for riders in decorated golf carts, and people who chose to walk. The trail was well populated with witches, mad scientists, zombies and other nefarious characters. The event was busy all afternoon.

Wilmot budget to be drafted by outside firm

No additional cost to taxpayers

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wilmot Township's 2026 draft budget will not be produced by staff, but instead by one of the world's largest professional services firms.

Mayor Natasha Salonen has used her Strong Mayor Powers to hire KPMG to lead the development of the budget as well as a long-term financial plan.

"There have been some internal changes in the finance department, and with Strong Mayor Powers, the budget is my responsibility to present regardless of people's thoughts on the legislation. Talking with our CAO and corporate leadership team about putting a good budget together we are confident in, we came up with a big-four firm to come in."

The big four also includes Ernst and Young, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Deloitte. KPMG is one of the world's largest professional services firms, specializing in audit and assurance, tax services and advisory and consulting in

Continued on page 2

Oxford MP sees shortfall in government bail bill

Kitchener-Conestoga counterpart confident it meets the need

JEFF HELSDON AND LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporters

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna was glad to see the government introduce legislation to tackle shortfalls in the country's bail system but said it could do more.

Khanna has been working on his private member's bill, The Jail Not Bail Act, which would tackle the problem of repeat violent offenders being let out of jail and reoffending. His research found that 1,600 violent crimes are committed per day, and many of these are committed by repeat offenders. He also discovered one-third of murders in the country were committed by repeat offenders.

Khanna's bill hasn't been debated yet, and a motion to fast-track it was voted down, but last week, the Liberal government tabled Bill C-14, The Bail and Sentencing Reform Act, which makes changes to Canada's bail and sentencing framework.

"It's good to see after years of advocating, not just from us but Canadians as well, they put something forward," Khanna said.

Khanna sees some elements of his bill in the Liberal legislation, which he considers a win. Still, he said there are parts of his bill that

Continued on page 3

HALLOWEEN PARTY

PHOTO BOOTH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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Strong Mayor Powers used to appoint KPMG for Wilmot's 2026 budget

Continued from page 1

management, financial and digital services.

"We are looking to them to bring credibility back to our budget. During this term of council, we have had a different treasurer and a different budget process every single year. (We're) trying to get stability and a clear understanding of our budget, implementing best practices where perhaps we have fallen behind and being able to give the public, council and our staff assurance as we move forward."

Salonen said council, staff and residents have been calling for a long-term financial plan, something KPMG will be able to provide.

"They'll be preparing a financial strategy for us, something future staff and councils can implement as needed."

The mayor won't say definitively if the township will continue to outsource the budget in the future, but she is committed to hiring top financial staff as soon as possible.

"I am not going to say definitively one way or the other, but we are hiring a new director of corporate services and treasurer, and we are also looking to hire a new deputy treasurer."

The township's financial woes are well known and have been subject to intense scrutiny from the public. Salonen said people's frustrations are justified

"It's a valid feeling and valid concern. In my opinion and experience, the best way to rebuild credibility is to get the right people in those places. A team of financial professionals who are third-party coming in to help us is the right thing, and I stand firm behind that decision."

The move will not cost taxpayers any additional money as it will be fully funded through organizational savings achieved from internal vacancies, making it net neutral to the township's operating budget. The agreement with KPMG is worth $130,000. Salonen added, despite the budget being the township's first under provincial Strong Mayor Powers, there will be opportunities for the public and council to provide input.

"Before we hired KPMG, I had directed staff to directly engage with councillors for pre-budget consultations. Each councillor was given the opportunity to meet one-on-one with myself and finance staff to share input both on their perspective and the perspective of their constituents."

A community input meeting is scheduled for Nov. 10 in council chambers at 7 p.m. The budget is expected to be completed by early December, with the long-term financial plan finalized early in 2026.

Coun. Steven Martin said he supports the decision and is pleased the taxpayer won't be on the hook for farming out the budget.

"KPMG is a leading national accounting firm with a lot of experience in working with municipalities. Since we have had turnover in the finance department, acquiring their services seems like a financially sound move in order to help us with our 2026 budget. It also ensures that we have a trusted, third-party oversight to help us with our process of creating a sound budget, building reserves and ensuring that we are using sound accounting management practices," Martin said.

He added council will have its say once the document is tabled.

"The final budget still needs to be approved by council, so we will still be involved and the community will be given the opportunity for input. Coun. (Lillianne) Dunstall and I have already gone to the community for input a month ago."

Dunstall said it is unfortunate most of council learned of the decision only a couple of days before the public announcement, by email.

"We received no explanation of how the decision evolved, what factors were weighed, or any specifics beyond what later appeared in the media release. I do not necessarily disagree with the outcome. Given the situation in our finance department, it may be the right call. The issue is that council was not privy to the discussions, the justifications, or the basis for selecting the firm. That lack of process and information undermines trust and makes it difficult to answer residents' questions."

The Gazette reached out to each member of Wilmot Township council for their thoughts on the budget situation but only received replies from Martin and Dunstall.

Pumpkin Giveaway brings smiles to local kids

DIANE DANEN

Gazette Correspondent

The Optimist Club of Petersburg held its third annual Youth Pumpkin Giveaway on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Thanks to a generous donation from Herle's Country Farm Market in St. Agatha, kids were able to stop by Bechthold Home Improvements in Petersburg between 9 a.m. and noon to pick out their very own pumpkin.

Kids are encouraged to send a photo of their carved pumpkins to the Optimist Club by Oct. 30 for a chance to win prizes, including gift cards to stores like Mastermind, where they can choose a fun and educational game or activity.

Club president Warren Bechthold said the crowd may have been smaller than at some events, but the smiles were big.

"If giving out the pumpkins puts a smile on one child's face, that makes it all worthwhile," he said.

The Optimist Club plans to host the event again next year and hopes to see even more happy faces.

Next up, the club invites families to join them for Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 13, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Petersburg. Families are encouraged to come out and enjoy some holiday fun.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF OPTIMIST CLUB OF PETERSBURG)

Pictured at the Optimist Club of Petersburg's Pumpkin Giveaway Oct. 25, in the front row from left, are Donna, Maya, Reese and Optimist Danny. In the back row, from left, are Optimist Al, Optimist John and Victoria.

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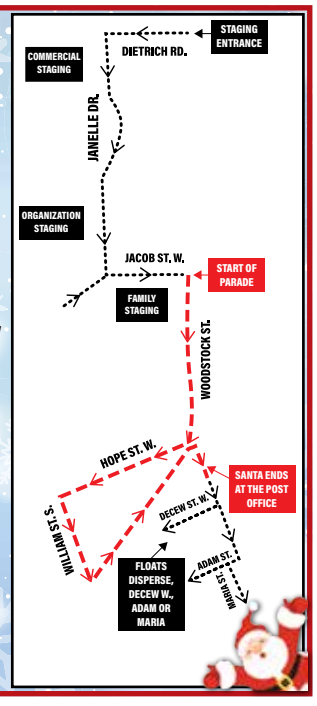

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Khanna applauds bail reform progress, calls for tougher measures on repeat offenders

Continued from page 1

aren't included and maintains it should have been accepted in its entirety.

For instance, he said the principle of restraint, introduced by the Liberal Bill C-75 in 2019, made it mandatory for judges to release the accused under the least restrictive conditions at the earliest opportunity during bail hearings. The new Liberal legislation doesn't go far enough on this issue, Khanna maintains.

"I called for getting rid of it altogether and instead have a principle of public safety as the primary consideration when considering bail," he said.

He also said Bill C-75 doesn't impose tougher bail compliance conditions or require judges to enforce them and doesn't mandate that judges consider a person's criminal history when deciding on bail.

Asked if he would support C-14, Khanna said he will examine the legislation in more detail and then make a decision.

"There is no monopoly on good ideas," he said.

Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis said his government's legislation hits the mark and, if passed, will make improvements.

"We've talked about tougher bail conditions, longer sentences for repeat offenders and better protection for victims. The government has been working since late spring, and I am proud of it. It's focused and it is going to crack down on violent and repeat offenders without violating rights."

When asked if C-14 goes far enough to protect innocent victims, Louis said it was written after extensive consultation with experts in the field.

"There was consultation with the provinces, law enforcement and stakeholders to make sure we are strengthening the laws, specifically for repeat offenders and organized crime. It's those legal experts and police we have been working with that make me believe we are targeting the right people and not sweeping up people who don't pose a threat."

Louis explained the Liberals are always open to working with the opposition parties on any piece of legislation, but in the case of Khanna's bill, there was no opportunity to do so.

"The Conservatives took it and bundled it into a motion which rushed it through, skipping the proper consultation and bypassing the normal legislative process private member's bills take. We would have had more discussions and talked about amendments."

He said he voted against the bill, not because it came from the opposition but because a yes vote would have fast-tracked it.

"That wasn't the proper way to do it. There are parts of the bill which are worth bringing and now that we have government legislation, we can look at his bill and see if we can take parts out of it because there are similarities. This is a non-partisan issue."

Louis said there are about 80 changes to the Criminal Code in C-14 and he is confident it will make Canadian communities safer.

SHOW US YOUR WILMOT

(PHOTO COURTESY OF SHOW US YOUR WILMOT)

Charles Okum recently shared this photo of a rainbow over downtown New Hamburg after a rainstorm Oct. 24 to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page.

Wilmot's strategic plan gets failing grade on financial pillars

No progress made on eight of nearly 40 action items

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It likely won't come as a surprise to Wilmot taxpayers, but the township has made no progress on several parts of its strategic plan, and some of them are of a financial nature.

The plan, approved in 2024, includes 39 action items. Recently hired CAO Jeff Wilmer presented council with a quarterly update at Monday night's regular meeting, noting that eight of the items have seen no progress to date.

"Of those eight, there is a reasonable explanation as to why they haven't started yet. There is one in particular I wanted to draw attention to … that is of significant concern … and that is the asset-management plan."

Wilmer noted having a robust asset-management plan is a critical piece of the township's capital budgeting, both in the short and long term.

"In terms of making sure we have the reserves in the budget to deal with asset management and asset replacement, it is an area of significant concern and I don't want to sugarcoat this. There is significant work to be done and that's why this report seeks to draw some attention to that."

Other areas where no progress has been made include establishing a multi-year operating and capital budget forecast, completing a comprehensive service review to establish a baseline of program and services costs, and developing a financial strategy to support sustainable growth.

Coun. Stewart Cressman asked if the hiring of KPMG to draft the 2026 budget would fit in with any progression on an asset-management plan.

"How would those be married and who will be tasked with the critical piece of informing us about the asset longevity and their expected end date of useful life?" Cressman asked.

Wilmer said the best KPMG can do is work with the information they have, which will be limited aside from some assets the township has been tracking well.

"Our building assets and recreational infrastructure; those we do have a pretty good handle on. It's the linear assets – water, sanitary and storm sewers. Those are the assets that are of the most concern in terms of the lack of detail about their quality, longevity, the replacement cycle and so on."

He added it will take some time to get those assets figured out, along with money and the support of council. Having an asset-management plan is something mandated by the Ontario government, something Coun. Kris Wilkinson mentioned when he asked if the township could be on the receiving end of provincial penalties. Harold O'Krafka, the township's director of development services, said they are working on getting compliant.

"(We have contracts) to address 2024-2025 compliance for asset-management plans. That contract had begun but was paused pending the hiring of the new treasurer, who will work closely with them and director (of engineering Kenneth) Vanderwal and KPMG as well in the long-term financial planning we are doing."

Council also heard from resident Barry Wolfe, who appreciated the strategic update provided by staff under Wilmer's leadership, but still felt it fell short of the transparency required.

"This is the first step toward taking the static chart the consultant provided and moving it toward a tracking chart. However, we both acknowledge this is in no way the online dashboard framework that the township originally contracted for and did not get for its money."

Wolfe added there is no online platform for staff to update the plan's progress and for council and the community to track every workplan action item as it appears in real time, something he said was a part of the 2023 request for proposal.

"Wilmot knew what it wanted, but unfortunately, didn't get it."

Wilkinson asked several questions about the plan, including one about the action item to complete a communications strategy that establishes community engagement priorities and targets, activities, and methods, including optimizing the Engage Wilmot portal site.

"We actually received a presentation early on in our term, and we didn't really see a final result or final report. I'm curious if you could just explain, maybe, what you mean by refresh and what we can anticipate coming forward?"

Salonen explained the previous council received a presentation and the current members received a report for information early in its term.

"It was pending that the manager of communications and strategic initiatives was to bring back the finalized version for council approval which never came to fruition."

Wilmer added the original work done by Redbrick is now out of date, but they have been asked to give the plan a minor update.

"(We asked Redbrick) is there anything in there that was relevant at the time that isn't relevant now, or something that has emerged subsequently that's overlooked in that, and (said) we were impressed they were willing and able to do it at a reasonable cost. That is something we expect early in the new year."

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Immigration Partnership Waterloo Region requests support for new immigration strategy

Immigration Partnership asks Wilmot and Wellesley councils for $5,000 annually

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Representatives of Immigration Partnership Waterloo Region and its partner organizations delegated before councils across the region recently, including at council meetings in both Wilmot and Wellesley Oct. 27 and 28, to request support for a new immigration strategy.

Speaking before both councils, the organization that helped settle more than 10,000 newcomers across the region last year – the highest influx of immigration the partnership has seen to date – with the support of its more than 70 partner organizations said it is working to implement a new, three-year immigration strategy developed with the expertise of almost 1,700 immigrants, its partner organizations and the wider community.

"Through our strategy, local partners will work together to help local services meet the needs of a changing population, help employers have the tools and resources that they need to leverage the skills of immigrants and help our regional communities be increasingly welcoming," past immigration partnership chair Tracey Hare told Wilmot council. "Our work with the immigrants directly often happens particularly through our service providers – those 70 organizations and 120 volunteers."

Hare told the two councils the immigration partnership has developed four shared priorities as part of this new strategy, all of which are aimed at supporting townships like Wilmot and Wellesley in leveraging immigration as important drivers of the local workforce and population growth.

Those priorities include:

- Gathering insights and evidence to develop a shared understanding of immigration and its ecosystem and build support for immigration.
- Mobilizing partners and community leadership to improve access to information and supports for partners and immigrants, and to make changes addressing the primary needs and integration of immigrants.
- Influencing public, private and non-profit decision makers to make changes and investments that improve immigrant settlement, work and belonging, and guide employers to actively improve immigrant employment.
- And building organizational resilience by engaging partners and staff with appropriate skills and influence, and ensuring immigration partnership funding, governance and structures optimize performance.

At the same time, the immigration partnership said it is trying to address a roughly $230,000 cut in federal funding this year, something Hare told Wellesley council is related to recent efforts by the federal government to reduce immigration across the country.

"There are a few different reasons. Ultimately, the federal government also cut back on immigration overall and, essentially, the process of intake of immigrants," Hare said. "In step with that cutback, in immigration partnerships across the country there have been cutbacks as well. We, as a partnership, are one of the strongest immigration partnerships across the country; others look to us for guidance and see the success that we've had regionally.

"Ultimately, the funding that we receive, if we think about last year's intake of immigrants for our region – that 10,000 people number that I mentioned is, in fact, last year's number – it was the highest number of immigrants we've taken in as a region to date. So, the funding has not aligned, necessarily, with the federal government's strategy around slowing the inflow of immigration. The services that are needed to support the immigrants even that are already here are still quite essential and will be for quite some time."

With that in mind and the fact that immigrants accounted for 10.4 per cent of the population of Wilmot (2,200 people) and 5.4 per cent of the population of Wellesley Township (615 people) in 2021, Hare asked both councils to consider an annual $5,000 contribution to Immigration Partnership Waterloo Region.

While both councils agreed to consider the request during 2026 budget deliberations, Wilmot councillors Stewart Cressman and Harvir Sidhu spoke highly of the work the immigration partnership does for the township and beyond.

"My parents were immigrants, so I see the importance, and I know the importance of helping immigrants when they come here and helping them thrive," Sidhu said. "Being a small business owner, previously owning a small business, I see the need for immigrants to fill a gap of certain roles and jobs. … If you look at the small, rural townships, there are more and more immigrants than before and there is a need for a workforce to fill those gaps, so I do thank you for making that presentation tonight."

Coun. Lilliane Dunstall, however, spoke against providing a $5,000 annual contribution to the immigration partnership, suggesting there aren't enough resources for those residents who already live in Wilmot Township, including the more than 2,200 newcomers who already call Wilmot home.

"Immigration has real, human stories and I respect that. My duty is to the residents of New Hamburg and Wilmot, and I hear from my constituents all the time that schooling and doctors and housing and hospitals are at their breaking point, and I can tell you that our taxpayers have been stretched to the limit, and that's why every single dollar counts for us. … My focus is to be fiscally responsible and provide services for the residents that we have here now, and that includes the 10 per cent of new immigrants that we've welcomed into our community."

Dunstall also noted that Wilmot Township already contributes to the Region of Waterloo annually. Since the region contributes $50,000 annually to the immigration partnership, Dunstall suggested Wilmot residents are, by extension, already contributing to the work the organization does.

"The immigrants and newcomers are here; they are also the talent source for many of the businesses in Waterloo Region," Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce CEO Ian McLean interjected, speaking out of turn in response to Dunstall's comments. "So, the federal government cutting the work of the immigration partnership is very shortsighted. I recognize the challenges around all those things because at the chamber of commerce, we're certainly working on all those things. … But there is still a responsibility to recognize our workforce of the future is newcomers to the country. … There will be newcomers here and it's important for them to have a sense of belonging, get them settled and get them jobs to make sure they're productive and helping the economy grow here."

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Unifor holds rally for CAMI workers

Large crowd turns out to support workers affected by GM's decision to cease Ingersoll production

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Members of Unifor Local 88, along with other locals and labour supporters, held a Solidarity Action rally at Ingersoll's CAMI manufacturing plant on Wednesday in response to General Motors' elimination of production of the BrightDrop EV delivery van.

Local union chair Mike Van Boekel said he was pleased with the turnout early in the day but hoped more supporters would attend as the day went on. He added the rally was strictly to raise awareness.

"We want to make sure GM knows we aren't going anywhere and also to send a message to the federal and provincial governments that they need to keep the pressure on."

He added the BrightDrop van may not have sold well, but the bigger problem with their employer is Trump's rhetoric south of the border.

"He doesn't want any (automotive) investment outside of the States and wants all the jobs to go back there. GM sells hundreds of thousands of vehicles in Canada, and they make billions here, so they can supply jobs to Canadians."

Van Boekel explained Unifor had a constructive conversation with the federal government last week, but he is concerned about the auto sector as a whole.

"It looks like they are paying attention now. Unfortunately, Chrysler took a plant down the week before ours. If they all keep doing this, there will be nothing left in a month. The bleeding has to stop somewhere."

One of the potential uses for the facility, and something that came out of talks with the feds, is a military vehicle. Van Boekel said his members are willing to build anything to keep the plant going.

"We proved it with the battery. We took brand-new technology that was state of the art, and we hit it out of the park within a year. We will build anything they want. We're just looking for jobs."

Laid-off CAMI employees are receiving 80 per cent of their normal wage and will for months to come, but Van Boekel is worried about what happens when people's income dries up.

"A year goes by fast, and if you have both parents in here and you are losing your pay, it hurts. I think our members could live through it if we had something signed within 18 months that would change everything over again; then there is light at the end of the tunnel."

He said employees can make some adjustments and survive, but if the plant were to close, it would fire a hole right through Oxford County and the surrounding areas.

One of the affected employees is Brantford resident Mike Horne, a 21-year CAMI veteran who has lived through the strike of 2017, COVID-19 and multiple layoffs. He said news of the shutdown was devastating, particularly since he was one of the 300 workers scheduled to return to work.

"I was really happy about coming back and it literally broke my heart. It's been a downward spiral with a bit of depression. Thank God for good weather to get outside to keep my mind off things, but it's been tough."

Horne's two children are attending university, and he said while the 80 per-cent pay is a blessing, it is still a stressful time.

"I am thankful my wife is a vice-principal, where she helps out quite a bit, but we always feel the financial burden as a man. I have been actively looking (for work), updating my resume and it's time to start thinking about something else."

The event included music and a pair of food trucks while transport truck drivers and others honked horns in support of the workers. Other union members also came out.

"This shows solidarity, not just from 88 but from the other locals that took the time to come and support us," Horne said.

Over the 40 years CAMI has operated in Ingersoll, Horne said the workforce has consistently answered the call to build a quality product, no matter what it was.

"We have been challenged on what we can build, and we've come through every time. We made it work, we put our heads down and helped the company because they are helping us. We need these jobs to survive."

He added Trump is at the top of the list of those to blame for the situation the auto sector is in but said our politicians could have been more proactive.

"I think our government could have gotten ahead of this. They knew it was coming and could have done things to get the ball rolling, but they waited and reacted to the situation."

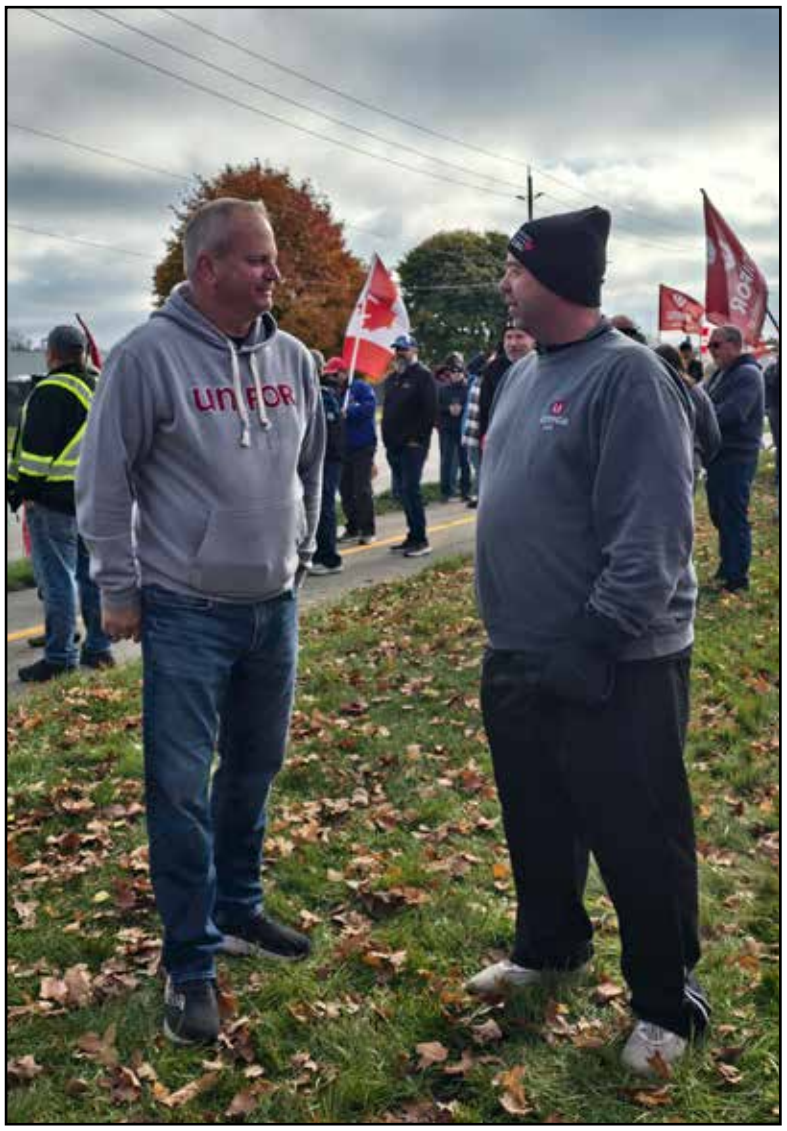
Auto manufacturing creates thousands of spin-off jobs, mainly at parts plants located near facilities like CAMI. Van Boekel said those jobs are also worth fighting for.

Lana Payne is Unifor's national chair, and she explained Canada's auto industry is under direct attack.

"President Trump has made it clear he wants our auto jobs on U.S. soil, and now automakers are caving to his pressure by shifting production south of the border."

She added it doesn't stop at the auto sector.

"Trump is taking aim at the foundation of Canada's industrial economy – forestry, steel, aluminum, heavy-duty truck and bus manufacturing, and other sectors that sustain good, unionized, middle-class jobs in communities across this country."



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTOS)

Unifor Local 88 chair Mike Van Boekel, left, talks with 21-year CAMI employee Mike Horne at a rally in Ingersoll

Hundreds of Unifor Local 88 supporters turned out Wednesday morning in Ingersoll at the CAMI plant to send a simple message to GM and the federal government – we want our jobs and want to get back to work.

Township of Wellesley restricts parking on Queen's Bush Road, reduces speed to 60 km/hr on Hessen Strasse

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wellesley council has approved changes to the township's traffic and parking bylaw that prohibits street parking along a section of the north side of Queen's Bush Road and reduces the speed limit to 60 km/hr along a short portion of Hessen Strasse.

Those bylaw changes, along with a new provision prohibiting trailers from being parked on township roads without being affixed to their tow vehicle, were approved by council at its Oct. 18 meeting. Speaking to those changes, director of public works Chris Cook told councillors the new no-parking zone along the north side of Queen's Bush Road from the driveway of 1149 Queen's Bush Rd. to Molesworth Street is intended to improve sightlines for drivers coming from or onto Molesworth Street.

"There's been a lot of discussion on this one since the road was reconstructed," Cook said. "The road width – the asphalt width – is exactly the same as what it was prior; now, there's a definitive curb line where there wasn't one before. Cars used to park over four or five feet onto the boulevard; now, they don't have that option anymore, so it blocks the sightline to Molesworth Street."

Cook also told council township staff have reviewed the intersection at Hessen Strasse and Moser-Young Road after concerns were raised by residents following a recent collision at this intersection. Based on the density of driveways both personal and for business near this intersection and coupled with the houses being set very close to the road as compared to most other rural intersections, Cook said a speed reduction from 80 km/hr to 60 km/hr is warranted, similar to other areas in the township like Powell Road and on Hessen Strasse near Maplewood Road.

The final change to the bylaw approved at the Oct. 28 meeting, Cook explained, is intended to prevent trailers from being parked on township roadways all day, every day, or for long periods time. According to Cook's report to council, the bylaw previously allowed trailers less than 10 metres in length to be parked on township roadways, primarily so landscape and construction trailers could be parked on the road during the day to facilitate work at local residences.

"There are several areas in the township where we are seeing trailers being parked overnight for lengthy periods of time. They're not abandoned; they are owned by somebody, but they're on the roads," Cook said. "We're just requiring them now to be affixed to their tow vehicle when they're parked on the road. There's insurance implications, there's other things like that which come into play."

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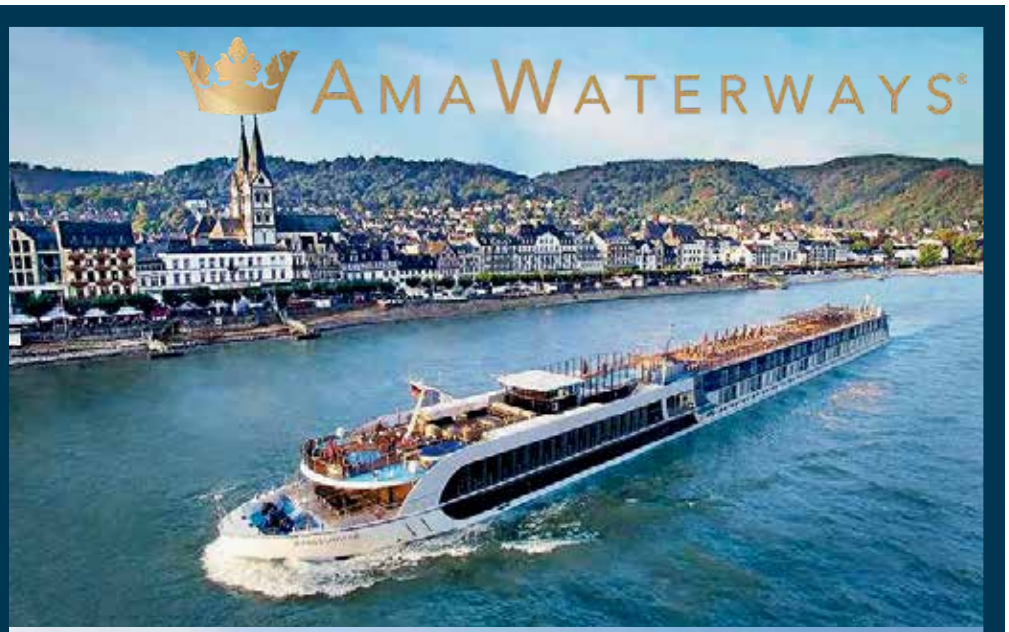

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Poppy Flag to be raised in Wilmot and on Parliament Hill ahead of Remembrance Day

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF
thewtgazette@gmail.com

As Canadians prepare to honour the sacrifices of veterans and service members, poppy flags will be raised this week in both Wilmot Township and on Parliament Hill, marking the start of the 2025 Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign.

The local poppy flag raising will take place Thursday, Oct. 31 at 10 a.m. at Castle Kilbride, home to the Wilmot Township Offices in Baden. The public is invited to attend the ceremony, which will be hosted by the New Hamburg Legion Branch 532.

The Legion Colour Party will march on the colours, followed by opening remarks from Legion president Brian Miller. During the ceremony, Miller will present Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen with the first official poppy in the township for the 2025 campaign.

Salonen will also offer brief remarks on behalf of the township before the flag is officially raised – if not already in place. The poppy flag will fly at Castle Kilbride from Oct. 31 through Nov. 12, serving as a symbol of remembrance for those who have served and sacrificed for Canada.

Meanwhile, New Hamburg Legion members will be representing the community at the national poppy flag raising ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa the same day. Attending from Branch 532 will be Connie and Ian McKie, and Gerry and Kathy Eichler.

(ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION PHOTO)

The Royal Canadian Legion poppy flag will fly at Castle Kilbride from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12 as a symbol of remembrance and gratitude.

The Ottawa ceremony will begin at 10:45 a.m. and include remarks from Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis, who will welcome dignitaries and thank veterans and partners for their support. The program will also feature a performance of "O' Canada," followed by speeches from Minister of Veterans Affairs Jill McKnight and Connie McKie representing the Royal Canadian Legion.

Veteran Don Eenkooren will raise the poppy flag on Parliament Hill, followed by a moment of silence.

The ceremony will close with remarks from Louis, who hopes to make the event an annual national tradition – one that reminds Canadians to honour veterans and their families not just on Remembrance Day, but throughout the year.

The poppy flag will fly proudly in both locations as a symbol of remembrance and gratitude for those who have served Canada in times of war, peace and conflict.

LEGION
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Poppies will be distributed throughout the Tavistock area. Please wear a poppy and REMEMBER those who fought and died for our freedom.
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10:30 am: Remembrance Day Service at Grace United Church
1:00 pm: Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony will take place at the Tavistock Memorial Legion, 223 Hope Street West. Hosted by Tavistock Legion Branch 518. Public is welcome.
Royal Canadian Legion
Tavistock Memorial Branch #518
Lawn signs and poppy ornaments still available.
For signs call Mary Boland at 519-655-2992.

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Tavistock Scotiabank supports firefighters in Muscular Dystrophy campaign

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

There was good news at Tavistock's Scotiabank last week as local staff and firefighters teamed up once again to support the Muscular Dystrophy campaign.

Two members of the Tavistock Fire Department, Matt Lamers and Connor Occleston, presented a cheque for $5,545.44, raised through the department's annual Boot Drive held over the August long weekend. Scotiabank added an additional $3,000 donation, bringing the total contribution to $8,545.44 for Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

Firefighter Gary Ollivier was among those collecting donations at the department's popular roadside campaign on Woodstock Street North, which once again drew generous support from the community.

Funds raised will go toward research and specialized equipment for individuals living with muscular dystrophy.

(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

Tavistock Scotiabank employees present a cheque for $3,000 – the bank's contribution to the Tavistock Fire Department's annual Muscular Dystrophy Boot Drive. From left are Matt Lamers, Ellen Hurley, Margaret Herlick, Vicki Eckhardt, Nichelle Horst and Connor Occleston.

Tavistock firefighters add their Boot Drive proceeds of $5,545.44 to Scotiabank's $3,000 contribution, for a total donation of $8,545.44 to Muscular Dystrophy Canada. Accepting the cheque is Stephanie Singeris (far right), the fundraising manager for Muscular Dystrophy Canada, who said the funds will help support vital research and equipment for those living with the disease.

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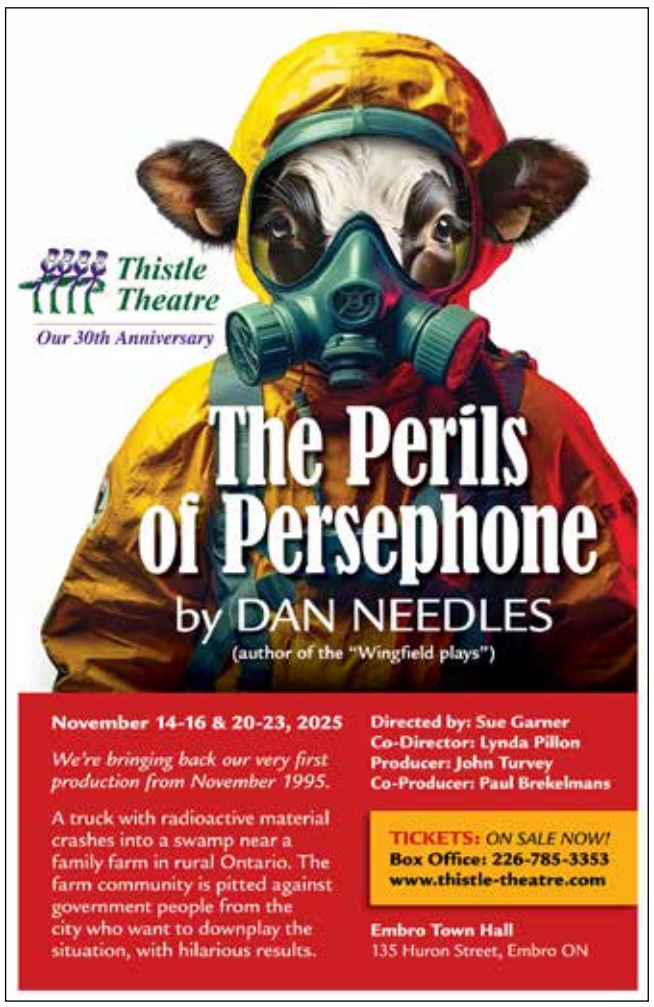

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Southwestern Public Health encourages vaccination to prevent respiratory illnesses

COVID, influenza and RSV doses now available

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) is encouraging residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19, influenza, and, if eligible, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

"As respiratory viruses begin to circulate across Oxford, Elgin and the City of St. Thomas, it's important we take steps to protect ourselves and those around us," said Colleen Brett, program manager at Southwestern Public Health. "Vaccination, staying home when sick and practicing good hand hygiene are simple but effective ways to reduce the spread of illness in our community."

Jaime Fletcher is the health unit's chief nursing officer, and she said the fall kicks off respiratory sickness season for public health and the community.

"We are sharing that the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines are available through local pharmacy partners and primary care providers to those at highest risk of severe complications from those illnesses."

The general public, as of Monday, was also eligible for the pair of shots. Fletcher added the RSV vaccination is also available at no cost to those over the age of 75.

"RSV is a serious respiratory virus that can affect infants and those in their senior years. It can cause significant illness," Fletcher said.

She added the symptoms are similar to COVID-19 and influenza.

"High fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat and general malaise. While you might not know which respiratory illness you have, we are pleased to provide vaccinations against three of them, the ones we know can be prevented or have the impacts lessened with vaccination."

Fletcher explained the decision to vaccinate is rooted in science and research, and the power of vaccinations has been proven. She added prevention is the key.

"It is always from a lens of prevention. Our call to action is that individuals get vaccinated ahead of respiratory season when we know these viruses can have significant impacts on individual, family and community health, as well as impact our very busy health-care system."

The SWPH has extensive information on its vaccination program on its website and local health-care providers are also able to provide information.

"They are all well-informed about the power of vaccination and what is available in our community. We have recently launched a respiratory illness dashboard on our website where we are continuing to monitor and publicly post levels and risks associated with illnesses this season," she added.

Southwestern Public Health will not be hosting community clinics this fall, but will have limited appointments available for COVID-19 and influenza immunization for children aged five and under only (and their guardians) and the RSV monoclonal antibody for infants who do not have a health-care provider and were born on or after April 1, 2025, or are less than eight months of age at the time of vaccination. RSV immunization for eligible older adults who do not have a health-care provider and have not had a previous dose are also available.

Appointments are required and can be booked online at www.swpublichealth.ca/booking. For full RSV eligibility, visit www.swpublichealth.ca/RSV.

SWPH is also offering tips to prevent the spread of illness for those who are ill, such as staying home, washing hands frequently, covering coughs and sneezes, improving indoor ventilation and wearing a mask in indoor public spaces when ill or recovering from illness.

"This respiratory season, we all have a role to play in reducing the spread of illness," added Brett. "Being prepared by being protected is the first step to staying healthy this fall."

Oxford OPP seeking public assistance in theft investigation

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

The Oxford Provincial Police (OPP) are seeking the public's assistance following a report of a theft from a vehicle in the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock (EZT).

According to a press release, on Sept. 11 at approximately 7 p.m., police responded to a report of a theft on Highway 59, where a suspect entered a vehicle and took multiple items.

Through investigation, police obtained surveillance footage of a possible person of interest.

The Oxford OPP is seeking the public's assistance to identify the person of interest involved in this incident. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122, reference report number (E251240132). Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

(PHOTO COURTESY OF OXFORD OPP)

Pictured is surveillance footage of a person of interest Oxford OPP say was involved in a theft from a vehicle on Highway 59 in East Zorra-Tavistock.

WRPS investigating hit and run in Wilmot

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) is investigating a hit-and-run collision in Wilmot Township.

On Oct. 25 at approximately 12:30 a.m., police responded to the area of Christner Road and Waterloo Street for a report of a hit-and-run collision, WRPS said in a press release.

Through the investigation, it was determined that the driver of a vehicle left the road and struck a hydro pole. The collision caused significant damage to the pole and resulted in downed powerlines. The driver failed to remain at the scene, police say.

The suspect vehicle is believed to be a 2017-2021 red Chevrolet Silverado, which is believed to have sustained extensive front-end damage and is missing the Chevrolet emblem.

The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone who witnessed this incident or has dash-cam footage is encouraged to contact police at 519-570-9777 ext. 6399.

Anonymous information can be provided to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or www.waterloocrimestoppers.com.

WRPS investigating fatal collision involving a pedestrian in Wilmot

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

The Waterloo Regional Police Service's (WRPS) traffic services unit is investigating a collision in Wilmot Township that killed a pedestrian.

On Oct. 25 at approximately 4:35 p.m., emergency services responded to reports of a collision between a motorcycle and a pedestrian on Wilmot Centre Road near Bleams Road, police said in a press release. The pedestrian, a 66-year-old Wilmot man, was transported to an out-of-region hospital and pronounced dead.

The driver, a 34-year-old male, reported no physical injuries.

The roads were closed for several hours for the investigation and have since reopened.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who witnessed the collision or has dash-cam footage is encouraged to call police at 519-570-9777 ext. 8856.

To provide anonymous information, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit online at www.waterloocrimestoppers.com.

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The Maples seniors go all in for the Blue Jays

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Residents at The Maples Home for Seniors in Tavistock showed their Blue Jays pride on Monday, cheering loudly before Game 3 of Toronto's playoff series in Los Angeles.

Dressed head to toe in Blue Jays gear — or anything blue they could find — residents and staff gathered around the big-screen TV to watch the game together.

"The Maples staff and residents were busy cheering the Blue Jays on," said executive director Joan Hergott. "Everyone dressed up, enjoyed freshly popped popcorn and refreshments, and had a wonderful time. Go Jays Go!"

(PHOTOS BY JOAN HERGOTT AND STAFF AT THE MAPLES)

Residents on the extended care side of The Maples throw their arms in the air with enthusiasm, shouting "Go Blue Jays," cheering on Canada's team.

Retirement residents at The Maples also joined in on the fun Monday, donning Blue Jays apparel and anything blue to support their team during the playoff game in Los Angeles.

en (Butch) Mogk, usually known for being low key, joins in the excitement, watching the game and celebrating alongside his fellow residents.

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Tavistock's former traffic cop, Willie Elzinga, seen here with PSW Darlene Glouscher, gets into the Blue Jays spirit while watching the game on the big screen. Both proudly hold a major league baseball as they cheer for Toronto.

Tavistock Men's Club gears up for annual Sauerkraut Supper

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

President Brian Boland of Tavistock's busy Men's Club is reminding everyone not to miss out on one of the community's most beloved traditions – the annual Sauerkraut Supper set for Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Often described as Tavistock's best homegrown meal, the Sauerkraut Supper features hearty, local ingredients and plenty of community spirit.

Tickets are available at the club's Kraut House on Woodstock Street North, where members will be selling them Wednesdays from 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Boland encourages residents to get their tickets early while they last.

(GARY WEST PHOTO)

A bright banner on Woodstock Street South reminds everyone that Tavistock's annual Sauerkraut Supper is just around the corner. The Men's Club looks forward to welcoming the community on Nov. 12.

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Township of Wellesley Official Plan and Transportation & Mobility Master Plan

Posted on October 20, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette and Stratford Times now available in Milverton

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Travelling north through Perth County always offers something interesting to see – from busy farms to friendly small towns like Milverton, Brunner, Newton, Poole and Milbank.

We're pleased to announce that limited copies of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette and Stratford Times are now available at several Milverton locations, including the Brunner Post Office, Milverton Stockyards, Milverton Mini-Mart and Milverton Foodland.

We're excited to share more local news and community stories with readers in northern Perth County and look forward to expanding our coverage in the Milverton area in the months ahead.

(GARY WEST PHOTO)

A sight not often seen in Stratford, Tavistock or New Hamburg – a horse and buggy tied up behind a local store. In Milverton, it's just part of everyday life.

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Explore the heritage of the Hickson Fire Department

MARILYN PEARSON

Tavistock and District Historical Society

To coincide with Fire Prevention week in October, the Tavistock and District Historical Society (TDHS) has set up a Heritage of Hickson Fire Department Display in the lobby of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock (EZT) administration building, 89 Loveys St., Hickson, open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The 4-H display board, photos, articles and newspaper clippings outline the history of the Hickson Fire Department from its inception in 1956. You will learn about some of the tragic fires in the Hickson area, improvements over the years to fire equipment, vehicles and the fire station. Most importantly, read about the extensive training, bravery and service awards received by the dedicated and committed volunteer firefighters.

Prior to 1956, neighbours rallied to assist anyone who was unfortunate enough to experience a fire. When the party telephone line with 14-15 customers on it came into existence, it was used to notify neighbours of an emergency. A long ring brought people rushing to answer the phone to determine the location of the fire. Pails, shovels and water buckets were used to douse the fire.

The first "fire alarm" system in Hickson was a steam whistle at the Borden Milk Plant, which was blown loud, long and clear throughout the village and beyond. People hurried with their equipment out to the street to catch a ride to the fire or disaster.

(PHOTOS COURTESY OF TDHS)

The Hickson Fire Department heritage display.

Bucket brigades were often formed – that is people in a line who pass buckets of water from one to another, forming a line from the source of water to the fire, while the empty bucket was returned in a similar fashion. Some fires were brought under control by this method; however, as time advanced, ideas for a fire department developed.

In June 1956, ratepayers met with East Zorra Township council to decide whether or not the purchase of a fire truck was needed. A committee of councillors and citizens were appointed to investigate possibilities for the purchase of firefighting equipment. A demonstration of how electronic and radio equipment can play an important part in fire protection was held. It was suggested that 18-20 men were needed for a volunteer fire department in Hickson. Finally, a decision was made to proceed with a volunteer fire department in the community, and a fire truck was ordered.

On Jan. 9, 1957, East Zorra council took delivery of a new $19,000 Lafrance pumper truck capable of pumping 625 gallons per minute and carrying 600 gallons of water, ladders and equipment. A fire hall was built at a cost of $4,500 in the spring of that year. The fire department joined the mutual aid setup, which meant assistance could be obtained from Woodstock and other departments in case of an emergency.

Hickson founding firefighters were Chief Eric Loveys, deputy chief Bob Ross, Henry Fullick, Bruce Allardyce, Earl Hostetler, James Hostetler, Don Hyndman, Gordon Irwin, Alfred King, Bob Loveys, Bob McLaren, Wilfred Pallister, Floyd Sippel, Wilfred Weber and Orval "Shorty" Wettlaufer.

Thanks to emergency services manager and EZT Fire Chief Scott Alexander and Hickson Fire Chief Tom Bickle for their help with this display. It did not take long to fill up a showcase of preserved fire department artifacts, photos and equipment from the three stations in East Zorra-Tavistock – Hickson, Innerkip and Tavistock.

In October, lithium-ion battery safety is being promoted. Fire Chief Scott Alexander recommends following the four key elements of lithium-ion battery safety, including:

1. Batteries: Only use batteries that have one of the recognized Canadian certification marks, such as CSA, cUL and cETL, and continuously monitor the battery health.
2. Charging: Lithium-ion batteries can be a fire hazard when improperly charged. Avoid overcharging. Keep your battery in sight when charging and unplug it when charging is complete.
3. Tampering: Never attempt to modify, tamper with, or build your own lithium-ion batteries.
4. Disposal: Lithium-ion batteries are household hazardous waste and should never be placed in the garbage.

Don't delay! Come to Hickson to check out the East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Department display until the end of December. The next display in January 2026 will feature the Heritage of Hickson Public School.

A wooden fire pump.

A portable resuscitator.

A smooth bore nozzle made of brass and copper.

The fire alarm steam whistle from the Hickson Borden Milk Plant.

Brocksden School Museum holds annual meeting near Shakespeare

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

One of Ontario's busiest country school museums, the Brocksden School Museum, held its annual meeting Saturday just outside Shakespeare.

Operated by the Easthope Historical Group, the museum reported another active and successful year filled with educational visits, special events and community engagement.

Throughout the year, Brocksden hosted 17 visiting school groups, where classes were taught by four volunteer retired teachers. The lessons give students a hands-on glimpse into the past as they learn how pupils once studied in a single-room schoolhouse with eight grades and one teacher.

In addition to student programs, Brocksden has welcomed Girl Guides, seniors' groups and hopes to soon host members of Stratford's Probus Club, who have expressed interest in visiting.

The year also featured a variety of special events, including a June piano recital on the school's recently tuned piano with hopes for more to come, and a successful Teddy Bear Picnic, which organizers plan to make an annual tradition beginning in 2026.

A highlight of the summer was the "All Classes" reunion in July, which drew more than 100 former students, teachers and friends. The day was filled with games, storytelling and plenty of memories from years spent in Brocksden's historic classrooms.

Looking ahead, the museum plans to host an All Teachers Reunion in 2026, as well as a Blacksmith Day on Saturday, Aug. 29 featuring demonstrations in leatherworking, beading and woodworking by Roger Cook.

Organizers are already planning for a major milestone – Brocksden School's 175th anniversary in 2028, which will include a series of special celebrations and community events.

Before this year's annual meeting, retired teacher Gloria Priestap, dressed in period-appropriate clothing, gave a lively presentation on how the traditional "three R's" (reading, writing and arithmetic) were taught during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Priestap, who spent 20 years teaching visiting classes at Brocksden and 33 years at Shakespeare Public School, shared her passion for education and her fond memories of teaching history through experience.

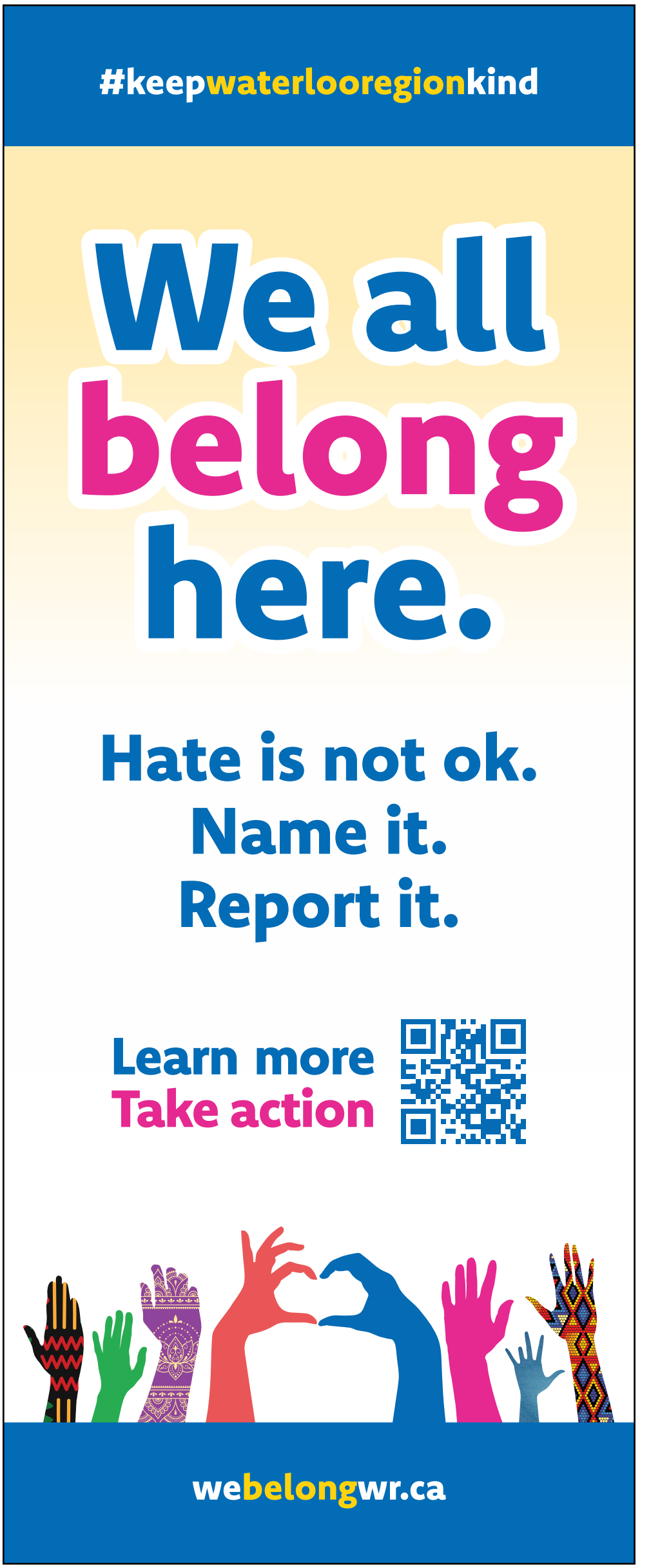
Those wishing to support the museum's ongoing programs and preservation efforts can contact Jessie Campbell at brocksdenschool@gmail.com or send donations to Easthope Historical Group c/o Jessie Campbell, 4482 Road 110, Stratford, ON N5A 6S2.

(GARY WEST PHOTOS)

A new welcoming sign now greets visitors to Brocksden School Museum, located on Perth Line 37 (Vivian Line) east of Stratford, just northwest of Shakespeare.

Retired teacher Gloria Priestap, who taught at Brocksden for 20 years, speaks at the annual meeting. She demonstrated one of her classroom experiments using golf balls, pebbles, sand and coffee – a lesson she once used to teach students about priorities in life.

Members of the Brocksden School Museum gathered for the annual meeting. Front row, from left: Joan Scott, Gloria Priestap, Pat Eidt, Ruth Hart, Hugh McDermid, Jessie Campbell (program co-ordinator), Roger Cook and Elaine Cook. Back row: Scott Campbell (president), John Campbell (recording secretary), Leonard Neeb and Darryl Herlick.



Townsend tops Field Crop Grain Corn Competition

(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Ross E. Townsend's award-winning corn field on Maplewood Sideroad.

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Tavistock Agricultural Society has announced the results of this year's Field Crop Grain Corn Competition, which drew several strong entries from local farmers.

Taking first place was Ross E. Townsend of Maplewood Sideroad, whose crop impressed judges with its quality and consistency. Second place went to Dwayne Ruby, while Trevor Townsend claimed third.

Judging criteria included seed placement, stalk strength, disease and insect resistance, weed control, cob length and fill, kernel depth and uniformity, and overall maturity – including the development of the kernel's black layer, which indicates full ripeness.

The directors of the Tavistock Agricultural Society congratulate this year's winners and invite all area farmers to participate in next year's competition, which will include categories for hay, soybeans, silage corn and grain corn. Participation continues to grow each year as local producers showcase the quality of crops grown in the Tavistock area.

Perth County Holstein Club hosts awards banquet in Mitchell

(GARY WEST PHOTO)

The Perth County Holstein Club held another successful annual awards banquet last week in Mitchell, recognizing outstanding 4-H members for their hard work and dedication. From left: Perth County president Sjoerd Kemmere presents Jackson Kaufman of Bornholm with the Perth County Champion 4-H Calf trophy, and Addison Hyatt of Poole with the Grand Champion Showperson award from the Perth County 4-H Championship Show held in Stratford in September. Addison was also later presented with the Earl Hooper Memorial Award as the Top County 4-H Member for 2025, recognizing excellence in leadership, mentorship and community involvement.

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ANSWERS FOUND ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

Shakespeare Men's Club Halloween Dance raises $6,456 for local family

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Shakespeare Men's Club hosted its annual Halloween Spooktacular Dance on Saturday night at the Optimist Hall, drawing a crowd of costumed partygoers who came out to support a special cause – Carter Kuchma and his family.

Seven-year-old Carter Kuchma of Shakespeare has been undergoing cancer treatments at London's Victoria Hospital Cancer Centre since early August. Despite the challenges, his parents, Tyler and Diane Kuchma, and his two sisters say Carter continues to show improvement at home.

"We're taking one day at a time," the family said, "and we're so very appreciative of the support and generosity the entire community has shown over the past number of weeks."

The event, organized by the Men's Club, raised an impressive $6,456.41 for the Kuchma family. Hundreds attended the dance, buying tickets, making donations and contributing to a fun-filled evening filled with music, costumes and community spirit.

Though Carter and his parents couldn't attend – as Carter is on a monitored medication pack – they expressed heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part.

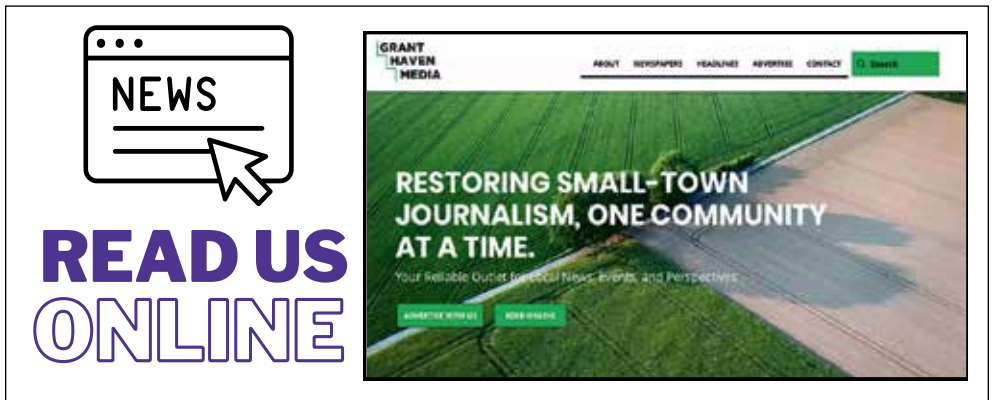
"We're so grateful and proud to live in a community with so many caring and amazing people," the family said. "Thank you all for being so generous."

Donations are still being accepted via e-transfer to info@shakespearemensclub.com.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Members of the Shakespeare Community Athletic Association Terry Reis, Kristene Ankenmann, Amy Taylor and Cathy Glaab, dressed up for the Halloween fundraiser, said they had a "ball" supporting the Kuchma family. Shakespeare Pizza donated the midnight snack, providing pizza for attendees.

A view from the balcony captures the lively crowd at the Shakespeare Men's Club's annual Halloween Dance, where the community came together to raise funds for the Kuchma family.



GRANTHAVEN.COM/WILMOT-TAVISTOCK-GAZETTE/

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

pursuant to Section 34(12) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended

APPLICATION FOR Zone Change
in the
Township of East Zorra-Tavistock

Township of East Zorra-Tavistock
89 Loveys Street East
Hickson, ON N0J 1L0
Telephone: 519-462-2697

FILE: ZN 2-25-07 (Township of East Zorra-Tavistcok)

Purpose and Effect of the Proposed Zone Change

The purpose of the application for Zone Change is to make amendments to the Township Zoning By-Law to improve the clarity and implementation of existing provisions for Additional Residential Units (ARUs) and to reflect recent changes to provincial legislation.

The proposed amendments to the Zoning By-Law provisions include the following:

- New definitions for Detached Additional Residential Unit, Distance From, Ground Floor Area, Dwelling Unit Area and amending other related definitions;
- Amending the General Provisions, including but not limited to:
  - amending how the size and lot coverage of detached accessory structures and ARUs is calculated and regulated;
  - aligning maximum lot coverage and minimum lot area requirements for ARUs in fully serviced settlement areas with provincial legislation; and,
  - clarifying requirements for garden suites where there is also an ARU on the lot.
- Removal of minimum dwelling unit sizes to be consistent with the provisions of the Ontario Building Code; and,
- Addressing any technical errors identified since the last amendments.

The proposed amendments will not make any changes to where ARUs are permitted or affect any previous site-specific zoning approvals.

This application pertains to all lands within the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock.

Public Meeting

The Council of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock will hold a public meeting to consider the proposed Zone Change on:

Date: **Wednesday, December 3, 2025**

Time: **9:00 a.m.**

Place: **Council Chambers, Township Office, 89 Loveys St E, Hickson, ON N0J 1L0**

Other Planning Act Applications: **None**

Please be advised that Council may approve, modify or refuse the requested application at the meeting. If you do not attend or are not represented at the meeting, the Council may proceed and may not advise you of any proposed modifications.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock on the proposed amendment, you must make a written request to the either the Clerk of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock or to planning@oxfordcounty.ca.

In order to appeal a decision of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, to the Ontario Land Tribunal, eligibility requirements must be met as outlined in the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended. If a specified person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of Township of East Zorra-Tavistock to the Ontario Land Tribunal but does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to Township of East Zorra-Tavistock or the County of Oxford before the amendment is adopted, the specified person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision. Third party appeals of any decision are not permitted.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock or the County of Oxford before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Additional information relating to the proposed amendment is available for review at the County of Oxford Community Planning Office at the address below, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or by visiting the Community Planning website at www.oxfordcounty.ca/en/services-for-you/land-use-development.aspx. If you have any questions regarding the above-noted application and how to preserve your appeal rights, please contact **Hanne Yager, Policy Planner**, Community Planning Office **(5195399800 ext. 3218)**. Written comments may be forwarded to the address below or emailed to: planning@oxfordcounty.ca. Please include the applicant's name and our File Number on all correspondence.

Yours truly,

April Nix, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Policy Planning
Community Planning Office
County of Oxford
21 Reeve Street
Woodstock ON N4S 3G1
Telephone: 519-539-9800 / Fax 519-421-4712

OBITUARY

SHANTZ, Richard Nyal

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Richard Nyal Shantz, who passed away peacefully on October 26, 2025, at WRHN – Midtown, formerly Grand River Hospital, Kitchener.

Richard was the cherished son of the late Nyal and Helen (Lichty) Shantz. He was the caring and devoted husband of Constance "Connie" (Roth) Shantz, with whom he shared over 51 wonderful years of marriage, since February 1, 1974.

A loving and dedicated father, Richard will be forever remembered by his children Luke Shantz (Joanna Baechler), Lindsay Leis (Scott), and Kevin Shantz (Kristy). He was a proud and adoring "Papa" to Keira Shantz, Dylan Leis, Marissa Shantz, Lauren Leis, Hudson Leis, Levi Shantz, Felix Shantz, and Lydia Shantz, who brought him great joy and pride.

Richard will be deeply missed by his siblings Lorrie Baechler (Roger), Pauline Martin (Glenn), Michael Shantz (Linda), and by brother-in-law Clifford Wideman. Predeceased by his sister Joanne Wideman.

He will also be fondly remembered by his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Pat Roi (Bob), Wanda Zwaag (Howie Brohman), Brian Roth (Deborah), Sandra Roth (James Shantz), Dennis Roth (Luanne), and Marcia Kastner (Chris), and predeceased by Penny Roth. Richard leaves behind many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and countless friends who will miss him dearly.

Richard enjoyed his time on the family farm in Baden, where his strong work ethic and love for the outdoors were evident. Over the years, he worked as a truck driver, iron worker, and crane operator, always taking pride in a job well done. His kindness, humour, and steady presence touched the lives of many, leaving behind a legacy of love, friendship, and integrity. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be held at Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg on Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 1 – 3 & 6 – 8 p.m. A funeral service to celebrate Richard's life will take place at Shantz Mennonite Church, Baden on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Sharing and light lunch to follow. For those unable to attend, a livestream will be available.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wilmot Wellesley Family Resource Centre and can be done through the funeral home.

Personal condolences and donation information can be posted for the family 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.

OBITUARY

Nancy Claire Schwartzentruber 1951 - 2025

Called to eternal rest on Tuesday, October 28, 2025. Having faced cancer four times over a period of 30 years, Nancy continued adapting, finding purpose wherever possible.

Predeceased by her parents, Edmund and Katherine (Bender) Schwartzentruber, older brothers, Glenn and Grant, she is fondly remembered by sister-in-law Joyce, sisters Ferne (Dennis), Mary Mae (Finn), Barbara (Jim) and brother John (Judy).

Nancy faithfully connected with 15 nieces and nephews and spouses, and 25 great-nieces and great-nephews who enjoyed her individual attention, and whose names and dates she collated through the years and shared with family.

In 25 years dedicated to teaching elementary school, Nancy found great satisfaction in watching the progress of the more challenging and vulnerable students. She also excelled in her second profession as a Junior Senior helping Senior Seniors stay in their homes. Wherever she lived, she created beautiful spaces to be enjoyed both in her own yard and within the community, through collaborating with others.

Nancy expressed profound gratitude for the faithful support of her family and neighbours and for the exceptional care by staff at the WRHN (Midtown) Cancer Centre as well as Ontario Health at Home Palliative Care personnel, ParaMed and Care Partners. Special thanks to Dr. Ivan Jagas.

A private graveside service was held at Riverside Cemetery in New Hamburg.

Should you wish to make a donation in her memory, donations would be accepted to Grand River Regional Cancer Centre or Wilmot Family Resource Centre, which can be found on the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home website. www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, New Hamburg.

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of

TOM BILINSKY

October 31, 2017

Those we've loved
don't go away
They walk beside us every day
Unseen, unheard
But always near
So loved, so missed,
So very dear.

Lovingly remembered by Joan, Joanna, Mike, Kristin, Dune, Keith, Bree and Josh.

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AT 226.261.1837 OR
HEATHER@GRANTHAVEN.COM

OBITUARY

KRANTZ: Irene Gertrude (nee Faulhafer)

Passed away peacefully at West Perth Village, Mitchell on Tuesday October 28th, 2025 at the age of 95 years. She was born in Stratford on August 17th, 1930 daughter of the late John Ephriam and Catherine (Lenheiser) Faulhafer.

Irene and her late husband Clarence farmed on Line 33 (Pork Street) in South Easthope Township for 35 years before retiring in 1984. During their retirement they took great pleasure in travelling, card games and great gatherings with family, friends and neighbors. Irene was an avid gardener who loved her flowers and truly had a green thumb. Irene is survived by her two sons, Kenneth and wife Gayle Krantz, Glen and wife Cindy Krantz and two daughters, Gloria and husband Henry Collier, Linda Krantz and husband Jeff Waller, 17 grandchildren and many great grandchildren and many great great grandchildren. Her family was the light of her life.

She is predeceased by her brother Laurie and sister-in-law Leta Faulhafer and brother Austin Faulhafer as well as brothers and sisters-in-law Elton and Dorothy Krantz, Carl and Dorothy Krantz and Lorne and Jean Krantz.

Family and friends will be received at the Francis Chapel of the Glendinning Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock St. N., Tavistock on Saturday November 1, 2025 from 10:00 - 11:00 am followed by the funeral service at 11:00am. Interment to follow at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Sebastopol-Tavistock with a reception to follow in the church hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Trinity Lutheran Church, Sebastopol-Tavistock or the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family.
Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. Which monster is said to transform during a full moon?
2. What is a group of witches called?
3. What year did It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown first air?
4. Which famous Halloween movie features the line "Do you like scary movies?"
5. Vincent Price provides the spooky monologue in which popular Halloween song?
6. What creature is known for being tall, thin, with a featureless white face, long arms, a black suit and is said to teleport?
7. What do zombies eat?
8. What does the Grim Reaper usually carry with him?
9. Camp Crystal Lake features in which horror movie?
10. "Who you gonna call?"

Answers found on the classified page

The Old Gazettes

By Sydney Grant

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

October 28 - November 4, 2020, Edition (5 years ago)

About 34 children signed up to get a free pumpkin and carve it with the help of their parents on Sunday, Oct. 25 when Hebron United Church sponsored pumpkin carving at the Hickson Pavillion. Large-sized pumpkins were generously donated by Your Farm Market, Woodstock. The church congregation members helped distribute the pumpkins and supplied the tools and designs for the families to use in their endeavours. There were three sessions with a maximum of 25 people per session to allow for social distancing.

Tavistock resident Stephanie Cahill was this year's valedictorian for the 2020 graduation ceremonies of Stratford Northwestern Secondary School (SNSS). Along with the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions, this was the final year for SNSS as they have amalgamated with Stratford Central to become Stratford Intermediate School and Stratford District Secondary School. "When we entered this building four years ago together, I don't think any of us had any clue how things would go," Cahill said in the introduction to her valedictory address. "Having these two schools come together for the first time ever, instead of trying to one up each other, is what we really needed. You might think that we finally became one school and we lived happily ever after. Well obviously, we know that's not where our year ended."

The Burke family, owners of Baden Coffee, have combined two of their seemingly disparate passions – coffee and golf. They are a golfing family. They all play very well with son Cam making it to the professional web.com Tour (now the Korn Ferry Tour) after winning the Canadian Amateur in 2008 and 2009. Three years ago, they searched for a way that they could support junior golfers through their well-established coffee business. The result was the PIPELINE - Roasted Down the Middle coffee program. Baden Coffee sells the special blend of coffee to golf courses across southern Ontario, from public courses to high-end, private clubs. The proceeds from the coffee sales go to providing four junior golfers with memberships to participating courses.

October 27 - November 3, 2010, Edition (15 years ago)

Some may call it a working holiday, but to four local volunteers, their upcoming medical mission trip will be a way to help poor, orphaned or otherwise needy children in the Dominican Republic. Brenda and Marlin Bender, Jessica Kelly and Heather Roth will be a part of a 56-member team of professionals travelling with Friends of the Orphans Canada (FOTOCan). They will be staying two weeks, Feb. 25 to March 11, 2011, to provide free health-care services to area residents. They will also be assisting in some basic construction and structural repair to facilities in the area of San Pedro de Macoris.

Just about every imaginable jack-o-lantern was on hand at the annual pumpkin-carving contest at Tavistock Public School on Friday, Oct. 29. Sixty-four entries, from scary to funny and smallest to largest, were brought in by the students in the morning with an assembly and prizes awarded at noon. With the help of their parents, students brought their entries in before classes began and selected a category that best fit their creation. The pumpkins were then placed in the amphitheatre for judging.

The Township of East Zorra-Tavistock has sold the former Tavistock Carnegie Public Library and PUC shed to Dave and Kim Piggott. The sale closed on Friday, Oct. 29, 2010. The sale includes the former Tavistock Library building, former PUC shed building and lands to the rear of the library. The township has retained the former PUC office and some parking spaces to the East. The PUC office continues to be the home of the Tavistock and District Historical Society.

November 1-8, 1995, Edition (30 years ago)

An excited crowd of over 200 youngsters, their parents and friends attended the "Ronno" Concert at the Tavistock Public School last Thursday evening. As the youth gathered on mats in front of the stage, the older set found chairs behind but were not left out of this rollicking musical concert and puppet show. Everyone enjoyed Ronno's "positively singable songs." "Ronno and Friends" is an internationally acclaimed recording/performance group that presents songs that encourage respect for ourselves, others and the world.

The official ground-breaking ceremony for the new Tavistock Arena and Curling Rink project was carried out Monday morning just after 9 a.m. under crisp, sunny skies. Building committee chairman Steve Bender and East Zorra-Tavistock Mayor Dave Oliphant combined to turn the ceremonial piece of sod supported by members of the building committee and other officials.

HAVE A STORY IDEA?
SEND IT TO OUR EDITOR GALEN SIMMONS
AT GALEN@GRANTHAVEN.COM

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TOWNSHIP OF EAST ZORRA-TAVISTOCK

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Music by Marilyne Nystrome

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All ages Junior Sunday School will follow after the service.
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stpaulstavistock@gmail.com
Pastor Rev. Michael Mayer

EAST ZORRA MENNONITE
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All are welcome

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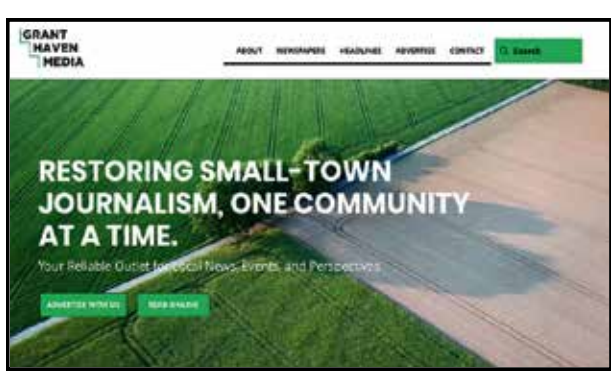

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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette SPORTS

PJHL Roundup: Navy Vets surge into division tie with Applejacks

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

Woodstock's 5-2 victory over visiting Tavistock in front of nearly 500 fans Saturday afternoon propelled them into a first-place tie in the Provincial Junior Hockey League's (PJHL) Doherty Division.

The Braves led 1-0 on Carter Arseneau's sixth goal of the season, but the Navy Vets scored the next two goals before Evan Palubeski's ninth, just 30 seconds into the second period, tied it up at 2-2. Woodstock scored the game's next three goals to clinch the victory as they went two for seven with the man advantage, while Tavistock was zero for seven.

The Braves started the weekend on a positive note with a 4-0 shutout of the visiting Firebirds. Blake Richard stopped all 30 shots he faced and, in doing so, earned the first-star nod. Palubeski, Marc Dionne, Nolan Miller and Jabob Reid-Brant all scored for Tavistock.

"I was very pleased with our effort on Friday night. We competed hard in all three zones, defended our crease well and kept their chances to the outside," said Braves head coach Zac Berg. "When they did get opportunities in front, Richy was there to make the saves, just like he has all year. The one area I'd like to see improvement on is our start – we need to come out even stronger right from puck drop."

Woodstock has played its best hockey recently, something not lost on Berg, who is well aware of how explosive the Navy Vets are offensively.

"They're definitely a team that's firing on all cylinders right now and will be tough to beat. That said, if we play our best hockey, we can compete with anyone in this league."

Every team in the Doherty Division has reached double-digits in points, something the seven divisions have not yet achieved. Berg said the parity highlights the importance of consistent play night in and night out.

"If you look around the league, there's still a lot of parity, and I expect that to continue for the rest of the season. This is the most competitive I've seen this league in a long time, which is great for us – it forces teams to play their best hockey consistently because if you don't, points can be taken from you on any night."

While Palubeski, Arseneau and Yann Raskin have combined for 46 per cent of the team's offense to date, Berg has full confidence in all four lines to produce.

"I'm very comfortable with what we have up front. All four lines play important roles for this team, whether it's offense, defense, or bringing physicality. I like our depth and we've won multiple games because of it."

New Hamburg travelled to Dorchester on Saturday and squeaked out a 3-2 win. Josh Soulliere gave the Firebirds a 1-0 lead just before the two-minute mark of the first period, but the Dolphins scored the next two goals to take a 2-1 lead after 20 minutes.

Ben Oliver picked up his sixth of the season late in the second and then his seventh midway through the third to give New Hamburg the win. Kayden Livingston assisted on both markers as the visitors outshot Dorchester 48-28.

Wellesley started the weekend with a 4-2 road win in Norwich on Friday. Luke Schofield and Ian Speiran scored with the man-advantage for the Applejacks, who went two for four on the powerplay. Ben Morton, with the game-winner early in the second period, and Riley Noble, with an empty netter, also scored for Wellesley.

The Applejacks lost 2-1 in Hespeler on Saturday. Noble scored the lone Wellesley marker.

Prospect game locations announced

The top young talent in the Provincial Junior Hockey League will be on full display with the 2025 PJHL Prospect Games taking place Saturday, Nov. 8 at 1 p.m.

This year's event features the 80 best 16- and 17-year-old players from across the league, split into two matchups. The South Conference vs. East Conference will be held at the Vic Johnson Community Centre in Streetsville, with the North Conference vs. West Conference set for the North Huron Wescast Community Centre in Wingham.

These games highlight the next generation of PJHL stars and provide a unique opportunity for players to showcase their skill, speed and potential in front of fans, scouts and coaches.

"This event is a celebration of the incredible young talent developing across the PJHL. It's always exciting to see our future stars compete and represent their conferences with pride," said league commissioner Terry Whiteside.

While full roster announcements are expected in the coming days, the Tavistock Braves will be represented by Tucker Otto and Nolan Miller.

(ALEC RICHARD PHOTOS)

Tavistock Braves' forward Evan Palubeski puts a shot on net during the Braves' shutout victory over the New Hamburg Firebirds on Oct. 24. Palubeski contributed one goal in the 4-0 win and has now scored in three straight games.

Wellesley Applejacks' defenceman Riley Noble scores a goal on the Hespeler Shamrocks on Oct. 25. The Applejacks lost 2-1, with Noble scoring Wellesley's only goal of the game in the second period. Noble has scored in three of his last four games, and in five of his last seven, and has five goals this season.

PROVINCIAL JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE PJHL CURRENT STANDINGS

	South Doherty Division	GP	W	L	OTL	T	SOW	SOL	PTS	OTW	GF	GA	DIFF	PCT	PCT	PIM	RW	ROW	STK	IN-DIV	GPCT
1	Wellesley Applejacks	12	9	3	0	0	0	0	18	3	50	37	13	0.750	0.000	221	6	9	0-1-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.575
2	Woodstock Navy Vets	14	8	4	2	0	0	0	18	1	61	43	18	0.643	0.000	234	7	8	2-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.587
3	Tavistock Braves	11	8	2	1	0	0	0	17	1	49	34	15	0.773	0.000	225	7	8	0-1-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.590
4	Norwich Merchants	14	6	6	1	0	0	1	14	2	43	49	-6	0.500	0.000	220	4	6	0-2-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.467
5	New Hamburg Firebirds	12	5	4	3	0	0	0	13	0	41	36	5	0.542	0.000	237	5	5	1-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.532
6	Hespeler Shamrocks	13	6	6	1	0	1	0	13	2	26	49	-23	0.500	0.000	275	3	5	4-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.347
7	Dorchester Dolphins	13	4	6	2	0	1	1	11	0	49	51	-2	0.423	0.000	195	3	3	0-1-1-0	0-0-0-0	0.490
8	Paris Titans	13	5	8	0	0	0	0	10	1	44	64	-20	0.385	0.000	199	4	5	1-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0.407

New Hamburg Firebirds thanks community for support with Thanksgiving Food Drive

MORGAN MILLER

New Hamburg Firebirds

The New Hamburg Firebirds truly needed you to be part of the team again this year to help the Thanksgiving Food Drive, and boy did you ever.

A total of 12,337 pounds of non-perishable food was collected to put on the shelves of the Wilmot & Wellesley Resource Centre's food bank. One of the things that makes Wilmot Township such a great place to live is the way residents come together to assist and support each other if the need presents itself. I see this evidence in every part of the community, especially this time of year.

The New Hamburg Firebirds Hockey Club and their Players would like to give special thanks and list all assists that got them to not only their goal of 10,000 pounds, but surpassing it by 2,337 pounds.

Thanks to Shawn Merner from Sobeys and Dave Mackay from Mackay's NoFrills, along with both their amazing staff, for having the "Meet the Players" day at their locations, which brought in 3,619 pounds of non-perishable food donations.

Thanks also to Dave Bender and his staff at B-W Feed and Supply for letting us use their scale to weigh after pickups from each school that participated in the "Shopping Cart Challenge" as well as the final weighing on game night.

Thanks to Mike Roth, who volunteered his vehicle, trailer and day collecting the donations from the schools that participated, as well as Anna-Maria, Hannah and Emily who collected and packed all the donations as well as handing out tickets and stickers on game night. Another great job, you three!

To the schools that participated in "The Shopping Cart Challenge," a huge thank you to staff and especially their students. Thanks to the Baden Bulldogs, Sir Adam Beck Chargers, Forest Glen Flacons, Grandview Tigers and New Dundee Dragons for their donations and having pickups so well organized.

It was another year of being overwhelmed by the response from the students and their help! A whopping 6,870 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected from the "Shopping Cart Challenge" – the best year, yet again! Kids helping the community! What a reward! Absolutely incredible!

Thank you to all the volunteers from Wilmot Centre Church for giving their time on a Friday night of a long weekend to unload 8,718 pounds of donations that had been collected from the schools and on the night of the game.

A total of 3,619 pounds of food was collected at the Poor Boys Luncheon and "Meet the Players" day, The "Shopping Cart Challenge" brought in 6,870 pounds from the participating schools and 1,848 pounds on game night. The grand total for this year was 12,337 pounds, as well as over $2,227.70 in monetary donations.

The New Hamburg Firebirds Thanksgiving Food Drive's huge success is only possible because of the phenomenal help of people in a community that just continues to give.

What a night! Great job everyone!

Curling with champions: SDSS Perth County Farm Girls sweep their way to success

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The championship curling team from Stratford District Secondary School includes, from left, Deanna Halls (Second), Hailey Peters (Vice), Addison Hyatt (Skip) and Brooklyn Hyatt (Lead).

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Four young curlers from Tavistock and Poole are making their mark on the ice, competing in bonspiels across Ontario and showing that hard work and teamwork pay off.

The team – all students at Stratford District Secondary School (SDSS) – is led by skip Addison Hyatt, who says the group's growing experience in larger tournaments has helped them improve their game tremendously.

"The more experience we get in bigger cities, the better we work together as a team," Hyatt said. "You can see the difference every time we step onto the ice."

So far this season, the team has competed in several U18 events, including the Phoenix Slam at the K-W Granite Club in Kitchener, where they finished strong. They went on to play in the Hammer Spiel in Hamilton in early October, followed by the U18 Stu Sells Oakville Tankard, where they posted their best record yet at 2-2, advancing to the semifinals in a series of close matches.

Off the ice, these curlers are equally impressive. All four are active in Perth County 4-H, where they show dairy calves, and each has also competed at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Their coaches say they are proud of the team's dedication, growth and sportsmanship, both in competition and in their community.

Light them up with Blue Jays blue

(GARY WEST PHOTO)

The "Blue House" in Shakespeare glows proudly with Blue Jays spirit, sending a clear message: Go Jays Go!

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

There's a house in Shakespeare that's showing its team spirit in a big way by lighting up the night sky in Blue Jays blue.

Len and Heather Schoonderwoerd have illuminated their home to cheer on Canada's team as the Toronto Blue Jays make their playoff run against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Once the baseball season wraps up and Christmas arrives, the Schoonderwoerds will swap their Blue Jays lights for their famous holiday display – one of the most colourful in all of Shakespeare.

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MINOR SPORTS SCRAPBOOK

(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Hudson Sinclair fires a heavy shot on target during the U11 A New Hamburg Huskies game this past Monday.

(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Isabella Gibson plays the puck off her backhand during this past Sunday's U11 B Wilmot Wolverines game.

(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Mateo Lakoseljac backhands the puck towards the opposition's net during the U12 Minor A New Hamburg Huskies game last Thursday.

(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Maddy Potvin kicks out her pad for a save during the U13 LL Wilmot Wolverines game last Wednesday.

(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Halle Schnurr launches a wrist shot on net during this past Sunday's U15 B Wilmot Wolverines game.

(ALEC RICHARD PHOTO)

Garrett Bell rips a quick wrist shot off his stick during the U15 LL Two Tavistock Titans game last Saturday.

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Tall but not tongue-tied: Fred Hotson

VINTAGE VIEWS

By Tim Mosher
Tavistock and District Historical Society

By the time Fred Hotson of Tavistock was 16, he was about 1.94 meters tall (six feet, five inches) and first place winner at the provincial-level oratorical contest competing against 10 other Ontario students. Among them, he was the only one representing a continuation school; they did not offer Grade 13, so he and his classmates had to take the train to Stratford for their final year of secondary studies. His competitors were all from regular high schools or university-focused collegiate institutes, both offering all grades from nine to 13.

The provincial finals were held in Hamilton, where he was accompanied by his principal, his teacher, his father, Hugh Hotson (an English-born footwear salesman with a shop in Tavistock), and John 'Jack' Lemp, Tavistock pharmacist and photographer. The subject of the speeches for all of the participants was: What has Canada accomplished up to that date, 1927, our 60th "Diamond Jubilee" year?

Fred highlighted our unusual bilingual federal government, the superlative engineering of the Niagara hydro-electric generation systems, the exceptional railway stretching 32,000 kilometres from coast to coast and how our North-West Mounted Police (today's RCMP) ensure day-to-day law and order. He made special mention of the "character that has carried Canada along through 60 years of glorious history and achievement!" He won first prize.

At the Canadian national level in Ottawa, he was with about 30 advisors, friends and family members seated with the crowd reported to be 12,000. He spoke on the same subject, was declared the first-place winner and his delegation erupted with cheers, pennant waving and hats thrown in the air. The London Free Press noted "it was a great speech, filled with noble thoughts and stirring facts, devoid of flowery phrases and patterned on a firm, enthusiastic belief in Canada." Additionally, the paper reported "autograph books were held high above the throng, for (Fred's) name must adorn numerous albums of the fair sex."

When Fred returned home, he was met at the train station in Shakespeare by 50 flag-waving people honking their horns, cheering and a playing band, wrote the Tavistock Gazette. When they arrived on the edge of Tavistock, they were stopped and greeted by many more cheering people and the town's band playing a congratulatory tune. Here, Fred and his family were asked to ride into town in a phaeton (a light, four-wheeled carriage) specially decorated for the occasion but, curiously, not drawn by horses. Rather, they entered the community pulled by Fred's classmates, both male and female, tugging on long ropes!

The Hotsons were taken to the arena for a reception where the ever-poised national champion orator was feted by civic officials and an admiring crowd.

The story doesn't end there. In October 1927, Fred moved up to the International Oratorical Competition held in Washington, D.C. While in the capital, he had lunch with future Governor General Vincent Massey. McDermott motors, Tavistock, advertised in the Gazette on Oct. 13, 1927, "Everyone is welcome to our showrooms to listen in (to the radio broadcast). This is a big event for Tavistock as Frederick has already advertised the town the world over." Why would a car dealership make this offer? They sold "batteryless receiving sets" (radios).

Overall, third prize went to Fred Hotson, second to a young woman from France and first to a Mexican lad. However, Fred was "first for English speakers" says his obituary in the Tavistock Gazette. Whodathunk it? Tall Fred from John Street in Tavistock was on the international winners' podium but he wasn't old enough to vote!

The inscription on his trophy is very hard to read but it appears to include the words "Tavistock" and "Champion." John "Jack" Lemp took this photo in his studio behind his drug store and, as I've noted in earlier articles, the image was upside-down in the camera, so it appears that Mr. Lemp didn't notice that he needed greater depth of focus on the camera to have both Fred's face and the lettering sharp by manually adjusting to a higher f-stop number.

The look on Fred's face, however, is easy to read: "Public speaking is a breeze. Let's get this picture over with." He's a dapper fellow with his double-breasted jacket, collar pin and almost plastic coif.

Fred then attended the University of Toronto intending to be a minister in the United Church, but the Great Depression changed his plans as he wanted to support his parents. He found full-time work at the Toronto Daily Star as a journalist where he was already known there. First, because the Star sponsored the Canadian oratorical contests and publicized his spectacular successes. Secondly, because he was a "cub reporter" there already in 1929. By age 26, he headed the Star's syndication department, distributing its news to other publications. He rose through the ranks and became executive editor of the Star Weekly, taking charge of a large staff.

Fred's oratorical skills also landed him work as a news commentator at CFCA radio in the late 1920s and '30s. The 1940 publication "Today's Young Men" commented that Fred "climbed to the top of the ladder, not in spite of the Great Depression but because of it." In 1960, he changed directions at the Star, taking charge of its philanthropic initiatives such as the Santa Claus and Fresh Air Funds supporting families in need.

He was now 50 years of age. In 1962, he was nominated as the federal Liberal candidate for Perth but was not elected. In 1974, he was in charge of the paper's public affairs and general policies, and after 44 years at the Star, he retired later that year.

Fred died of cancer at his home in Gravenhurst on May 8, 1983, at age 73. He left his wife, Isabel, and children, Norman and Anna Belle. His brother, Ralph, was living in Tavistock. Frederick Pearson Hotson was a towering man with a giant reputation.

The last history mystery: The Oct. 16 question was "What school is in this article?" It was open to readers up to and including age 14. No one responded with the correct answer. The answer is: Tavistock Public School. The second floor and two-storey front entrance were added in 1898. The photo was taken in 1885. A similar photo is in Bill Gladding's book, Crossroads In Time, on page 74.

This week's history mystery: is open to all readers. What was Fred Hotson's prize when he won the Canadian national oratorical competition in 1927, in addition to the trophy that he posed with? The first person to send the correct answer to me at tim_mosher@hotmail.com will have their name, the name of their community or rural route number published with the next Vintage Views article.

MUSEUM ARCHIVES
TAVISTOCK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(JOHN LEMP PHOTO; LSC SCAN #9068)

Whether under pressure delivering speeches at international oratorical competitions, or posing for a photo with his winner's trophy, Fred Hotson was a stoic fellow. He was only 17 years old when he sat for a photo in John Lemp's studio in this 1927 winner's portrait.

(REG INNELL, TORONTO STAR PHOTO)

The Toronto Star hosted a series of panel discussions at St. Lawrence Hall in Toronto and Fred was the moderator of many of them, here in 1970.

Oxford County Dairy Classic team heading to the Royal Winter Fair

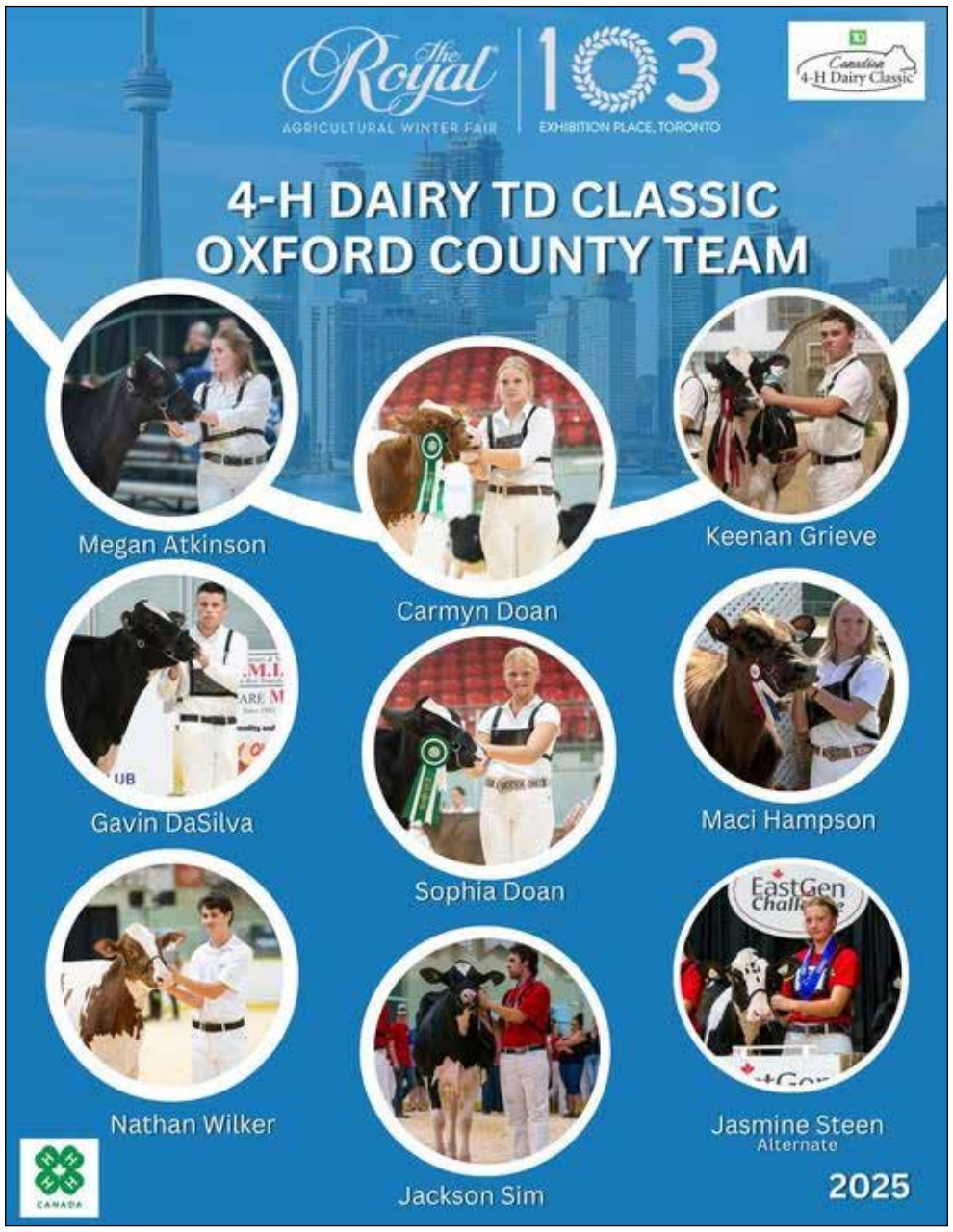
GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

Nine enthusiastic, young 4-H members from Oxford County are preparing for an unforgettable experience at the 103rd Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto this November.

These dedicated youth earned top honours showing their 4-H dairy projects at local fairs, district exhibitions and achievement days throughout the year. Their hard work and success have earned them a spot representing Oxford County at this year's TD 4-H Royal Dairy Classic Show, held during the opening weekend of the fair.

The Royal Winter Fair is one of the most prestigious agricultural events in the country, giving young competitors a chance to showcase their animals, skills and commitment to excellence in dairy farming.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Representing Oxford County at the 2024 TD 4-H Royal Dairy Classic Show are, in the back row, from left, Megan Atkinson (Woodstock), Carmyn Doan (Norwich), Keenan Grieve (Embro). In the middle row, from left, are Gavin DeSilva (Woodstock), Sophia Doan (Norwich) and Maci Hampson (Oxford Centre). In the front row, from left, are Nathan Wilker (Hickson), Jackson Sim (Embro) and Jasmine Steen (Embro).

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Gazette Puzzles

SPOOKY HALLOWEEN

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Pet of the Week

SCOUT

Scout is an affectionate and gentle kitten with a heart full of love and curiosity. This sweet boy is always ready to snuggle, play, and follow you around like your tiny shadow. Pick him up, and he'll start purring instantly and then melt right into your arms for cuddles.

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Self-help to self-soothe stress

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold

Stress is your body's natural reaction to any situation, whether it's an event or a thought. Acute stress can be short-term and even helpful, activating the "fight-or-flight" response, but chronic stress is another story.

Symptoms can range from headaches and fatigue to anxiety and even depression. Many chronic stress sufferers suffer from brain fog and memory problems. Everyone deals with stress differently. Trying times are the most challenging to prioritize health, but the most important. Some of us seek support while others fly solo. During dark days when there's no escape, Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT), also known as "tapping," may offer some peace.

Fast fact; EFT has been used to treat PTSD in war veterans and active military.

Emotional Freedom Techniques is a self-help method similar to acupuncture but without needles. Fingertip tapping focuses on meridian points to restore balance in the body. No fancy equipment or high price tag, just you, a quiet corner and a desire to calm the body, mind and spirit on the spot.

Let's begin. Set a benchmark from zero to 10, 10 being the most difficult. This number corelates to how you feel prior to focusing on the issue or fear at the onset and during tapping. Experts agree establishing a two-part personalized phrase is key. One phrase acknowledges the issue and the other is linked to self-acceptance despite the problem. The phrase must fit your issue, not addressing anyone else's.

Here's mine: "Even though I'm anxious to go to Ukraine, I deeply and completely accept myself."

EFT's tapping sequence focuses on nine meridian points, not all 12. Next, tap on the edge of your palm, below your little finger, repeating your phrase three times. Next, tap each of the points below seven times in the order they are listed and recite the phrase.

- Eyebrow
- Side of the eye
- Under the eye
- Under the nose
- Chin
- Beginning of the collarbone
- Under the eye

Repeat the sequence a few times. Do you feel better? On a scale from zero to 10, is the number lower? No? Repeat the process.

EFT is a simple self-care alternative to deal with stress, anxiety, depression, headaches, chronic pain and raise your self-worth in a non-evasive way with zero side effects. Before dismissing it as hokey, find a quiet space and step outside your comfort zone. Be specific in addressing the problem. Give it a go, engaging long enough to truly try it on for size. Don't be surprised if you feel overemotional as you dig up buried feelings. Crying is not uncommon and healing helps you live your best life.

I will be utilizing EFT as I travel through Europe on the way to see my son as a holistic helper to stay calm and centered amidst any challenge that may arise.

Representation, deposits and why they matter

EXPERT REAL ESTATE ADVICE

By Isabel Livingston

With all the news circulating about the real estate world, it seemed like an appropriate time to talk about the logistics behind representation, deposits and how this affects you as the client. It is important to understand not only what they are and how they work, but also how they impact you.

Understanding representation in real estate is essential for the consumer or client. It defines who works for you, who protects your interests and what obligations exist on both sides. The foundation of representation from a legal standpoint is this; when you sign a listing agreement or a buyer representation agreement with your chosen agent, you are actually signing to be represented by their brokerage with the agent as your designated representative.

In more general terms, your agent will assist with showings, communications, paperwork, etc., but the brokerage legally represents you through the transaction. The agent/brokerage owes you what is called fiduciary duties – loyalty, confidentiality, full disclosure, obedience (of lawful instruction) and competence. It is highly important that the agent/brokerage explain in writing how they are being paid and who is being represented.

Multiple representation is important to discuss with your agent, whether it be through the agent or the brokerage. Multiple representation occurs when either the same agent or the same brokerage represents both the seller and the buyer in the same transaction. This is important to understand as it changes the obligations from the agent/brokerage standpoint to ensure both sides are represented fairly. Multiple representation also must be disclosed in writing. Understanding representation can seem daunting and foreign, but a clear conversation with written agreements regarding the topic ensures everyone is on the same page about their duties, responsibilities and the terms of the agreement.

Deposits are another important topic when it comes to trading in real estate. A deposit secures your intention to purchase a property; it shows good intention, meaningful desire and financial security for a seller. It's about understanding where your money is going and what happens in the event you don't move forward with the property.

When you submit a deposit, you submit it to the listing brokerage or sometimes the lawyer. These funds are held in trust in a designated trust account for the duration of the transaction. Upon completion, the funds are generally used for fees accumulated, downpayment or sometimes a combination. It's important to note a deposit is funds to "hold" the property, and a downpayment is a lump sum put down up front to reduce your mortgage and complete the purchase on closing.

In the event you do not proceed with the transaction, it's important to understand what happens to your deposit, and when and how you will get the deposit back. This can be situational. If the seller breaches the contract, the buyer gets the deposit back. If the buyer breaches the contract, they don't get it back. If a mutual release is signed, the buyer gets it back. Ensure that you talk to your realtor about the specifics of deposits, how they work and what the process/situational outcomes are.

It can seem overwhelming, but as I always say, knowledge is power and you deserve to make a knowledgeable decision when trading real estate. Make sure you understand what you are signing and not only what your obligations are, but also what your representation's obligations are.

As always, for questions or article inquires please feel free to reach out to me at ilivingstonsells@gmail.com or 226-232-4236.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Why Wilmot residents feel cynical about local planning

Dear Editor,

I attended the recent public meeting on Wilmot Township's new official plan. The evening session was poorly attended – and that, I believe, speaks volumes. The problem isn't apathy; it's discouragement. People no longer believe that official plans actually guide what happens in our community.

The proposed Bleams Road industrial mega-site is the clearest example. When it was first announced, it didn't conform to either the township's or the region's official plans, both of which were still in force. Despite that, none of our elected officials openly opposed the proposed development, and neither township nor regional staff publicly acknowledged that it conflicted with existing policy.

When residents see that the rules meant to guide land use can be ignored whenever political or economic pressures arise, it's no wonder they feel their input doesn't matter. The province's ability to impose Ministerial Zoning Orders – effectively overruling local planning – has only made that feeling stronger.

If the province can step in and bypass our official plan, what's the point of asking the public to spend time participating in the process? People need reassurance that local planning still matters – that our rural character, farmland and community values will actually be protected.

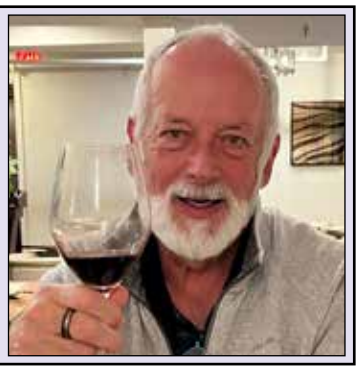
Before we can rebuild public engagement, we first need to rebuild public trust. That starts with honesty; acknowledging where the system failed and making sure the next official plan is more than a paper exercise.

Anne Loeffler

New Hamburg

Surviving the scam epidemic

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO



By Paul Knowles

Make no mistake: I love travelling in Europe. Just in the past year and a half, we have visited France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. We hugely enjoyed our time in all of the above, and plan to return to Europe soon.

But there is one thing we consistently encounter there that never seems to come up on visits to Canadian cities. Again, in the past year or so, we have spent time in Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Saint John, Saint John's, Sherbrooke, Halifax and all points between, and here's what we never saw: a sign saying "Pickpockets are active in this area."

I'm not saying Canadian communities are crime-free, or that there are no scams happening here, but on-the-street tourist scams seem to be almost epidemic in some European cities.

Believe me, I am not saying don't go, but I do suggest caution, common sense and a certain amount of preparation.

And just so you know, this stuff really happens. F'rinstance:

We were in Paris a couple of weeks ago, strolling in front of the Opera House. A woman was approaching us on the crowded street when she suddenly reached down, picked up what appeared to be a man's gold wedding ring and immediately offered it to us. "This," she said in very passable English, "is your lucky day."

We looked confused because we were!

"I cannot keep this," she said, "because my religion forbids me to wear jewelry. So please allow me to give it to you, with my blessing."

We voiced our objections, but she placed the ring in my hand and began to walk away. We looked at each other, bemused to say the least. Then she returned. "Perhaps you could buy me a coca cola or something as a thank you," she said.

I cottoned on. "No, we don't want the ring." She became adamant. I bent down to put the ring back on the sidewalk; she intercepted my hand. I dropped the ring into her palm, and as she protested, we turned and walked away.

In immediate hindsight, we realized this had been some kind of scam, though I had never heard of this particular ploy.

Turns out, as a travel writer, I probably should have. According to my internet search, "The lost gold ring scam is one of the oldest and most famous tourist scams in Paris. Trusting tourists are the best mark for this deception." The internet description was a virtually word-for-word script of our experience. It predicted the scammer would have asked for more money in return for a completely worthless ring, and might have made quite a scene if we resisted.

Ah, so after all my travels, I qualified for the "trusting tourist best mark" award. Only slightly embarrassing! But at least we escaped unscathed.

More through luck than sense, we also avoided some scammers in Spain a few months ago. These were again women, this time insisting that we accept a sprig of rosemary as a gift. Turns out, according to our Spanish guides, if you take it, they will demand payment and it can become a highly embarrassing scene.

It was even somewhat embarrassing when we declined because they were quite rude in their response.

In some cases, there is a secondary purpose to these approaches – the women with the rings or the rosemary may be distracting you so their accomplices can work their pickpocket magic.

Warnings against pickpockets are everywhere, even in the most holy sites – like Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, a church where, because of incredible crowds, pickpockets can find their own version of paradise.

One fairly recent scam involves young people carrying survey clipboards. They are working for the tourism board, they say, and would like to ask you a few questions. Heck, doesn't everyone love to offer our opinion? The problem is either an accomplice is lifting your wallet while your attention is on the survey person or, in the case of the really experienced crook, she is actually opening your purse directly under the survey clipboard. We have seen these folks in action, too, though we were never directly approached to take a "survey."

The advice from our guides is simple, though not foolproof. Don't carry excess cash or passports on you. Leave them in your hotel safe. Men should have their wallets in a front pocket. Women should keep their handbags closed and zipped up. Don't wear your best jewelry in public. Don't hang a bag on the back of a chair in a café. And so on.

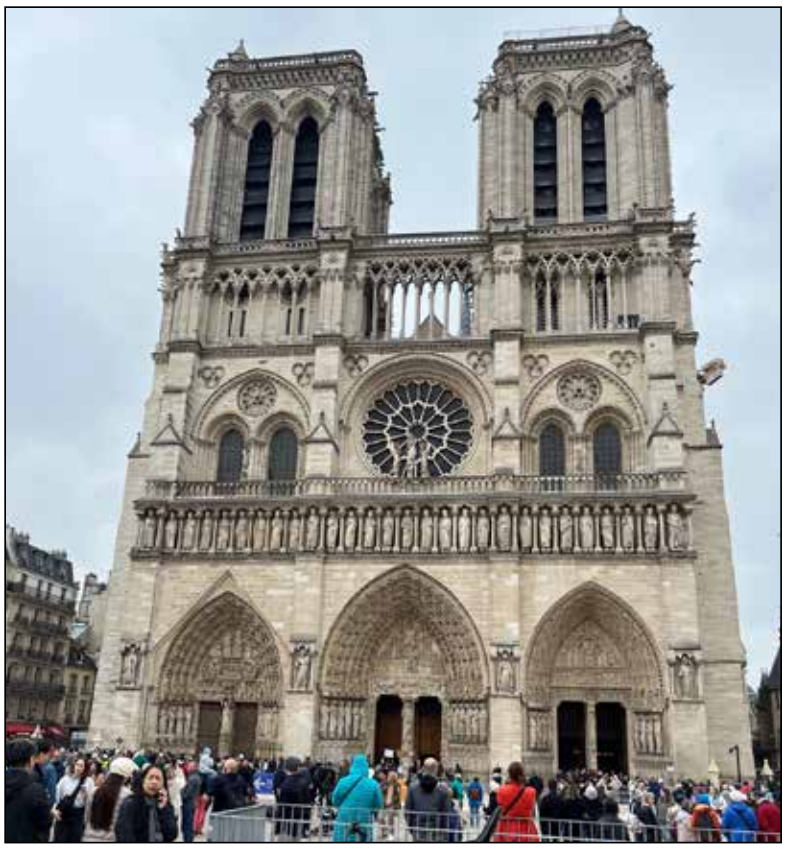
Personally, I would suggest if you are travelling as a couple or a group, one should take the pictures while others keep a close eye – better still, hand – on any valuables.

Again, this is not a knock on travelling to Europe. We love it – the art, the food, the architecture, the history, the people, the scenery, the whole deal. I come home educated, entertained, refreshed, invigorated and, I think, a better citizen of our complicated world. You can, too. Just keep one hand on your valuables, and don't accept unwarranted gifts!

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

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The Opera House in Paris – the site of the "gold ring" scam that almost convinced the author.



The crowd of hundreds, perhaps thousands, that gathers in front of Notre Dame Cathedral is paradise for pickpockets.

Though there is a lot of area in the Louvre courtyard, as people press toward the entrance, pickpockets can find fertile ground.

Narrow streets and distracting views are a challenging combination in European communities like Setenil de las Bodegas in Spain.

The beautiful Spanish town of Ronda attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists – and the omnipresent scam artists.

Don't be sheepish, fashion shop online without getting fleeced

DRESS SHARP. SPEND SMART.

By Scott Dunstall

Hunting fashion deals online is like fishing the Nith River. You need bait, patience and a healthy suspicion of anything that promises a trophy for no effort. Here is how I stalk bargains, dodge scammers and come out looking like I have a stylist and a bottomless trust fund.

Feelings buy neon loafers; plans buy navy blazers that work for five years. Write a short list of what you truly need this season. Shoes, a coat, two shirts, a sweater. Search those, not every shiny object that slides by. Use the search filters like you mean it – your size, preferred colour family, natural fabrics if that is your thing. You are not browsing. You are bird-dogging. But do it now while we are still in the transition from warm to cold and some end-of-season deals still linger.

Use price history to smoke out fake "sales"

Some retailers jack up prices on Tuesday so they can slash them on Friday and call it a miracle. Use price trackers or at least compare across three stores before you click buy. If the "60 per-cent off" price still matches last month's regular price elsewhere, that is a parade, not a sale.

Coupons and cash back are your sidekicks

Before checkout, search the store name plus "code" or "coupon." Many browsers have extensions that test codes automatically. Pair that with a cash-back portal. Five to 15 per-cent back on a big purchase is not confetti. Also, sign up for the newsletter, then ignore it for a week. You will get a welcome promo code, a random midweek promo code and the occasional "we miss you" promo code. If they aren't time restricted, see which ones give you the biggest discount when you find that "gotta have" item.

Clearance is a treasure hunt, not a donation bin

Clearance sections are where great basics go to be adopted by people who know what they are doing. Sort by "lowest price first," then apply your plan. If your size is common, move fast. If your size is rare, you are often the last to be left, which can be magic. For online shopping, it does take some vigilance to keep checking back, but if you use notifications (see below), that task gets easier.

How to spot a scam before it picks your pocket

Most people get scammed because they don't know they are. Check the domain. Real brands live at real addresses. Look for "About" and "Returns" pages with coherent sentences and a real address. Read the return policy, then read it again. If returns are "only for factory defect," reject, reject, reject because you know as well as I do, no matter how careful you are, sometimes you order a pair of shoes and you get a left nostril inhaler with a picture of Foghorn Leghorn on it. Scan the contact page for a phone number. If not there, then don't go.

Next, check the payment options. Secure platforms offer major cards and trusted wallets. If a site pushes you to pay by bank transfer or e-transfer with a "limited time discount," that is not a discount. That is a goodbye. Finally, Google the store name plus "reviews" and add the word "scam." If the first page is a crime scene, you already know.

The safest places to shop

Large, multilabel retailers with strong customer service are your safest harbour. They live on reputation. They process returns without drama. Marketplaces like Amazon or eBay can be excellent but read seller ratings and stick to "fulfilled by" or top-rated sellers with long histories. Brands' official websites are generally solid, especially for end-of-season sales. Off-price retailers' online arms are good for staples if you can filter clearly. Thrift and consignment platforms are fantastic for quality fabrics at friendly prices but insist on buyer protection and clear photos.

Fit and fabric so you keep what you buy

Online returns are a pain in the butt. Avoid them as much as possible. Learn your key measurements and keep them in your phone. Chest, sleeve, shoulder, waist, inseam, thigh. Compare size charts rather than guessing by small, medium, or large. Read fabric composition. Cotton, wool, linen and blends tend to age better than mystery textiles that sound like a space mission. If the product photography hides seams or never shows the back, assume they are hiding something. I bought a jacket that looked great from the front. When it arrived, the back was a different pattern – like they slapped that on there when they ran out of material for the front.

The timing trick that saves real money

Best markdowns usually show up at the end of seasons and during big holidays. That does not mean you have to wait forever. It means you watch your shortlist. Create alerts. When the price dips to your target, you move. If you miss it, let it go. There will be another navy blazer. There will never be another rent payment that pays itself.

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

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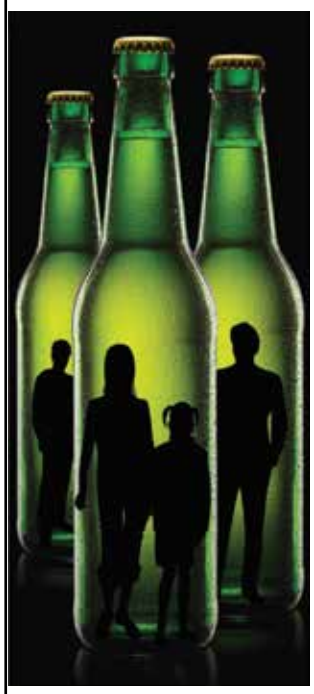

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Apply by November 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Resumes are only accepted via email at hr@oxfordcounty.ca. Please include the competition number in the subject line.

To view the full job description and qualifications, please visit: **oxfordcounty.ca/careers**

OxfordCounty
Growing stronger together

Nature paints New Hamburg's William Scott Park in autumn's palette

(KATHRYN MURRELL PHOTO)

The fall colours were on full display in downtown New Hamburg last week.

HELP WANTED

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About Grant Haven Media: At Grant Haven Media, we are committed to delivering top-quality news and information to our readers. As a leading newspaper company, we take pride in our dedication to journalistic excellence and community engagement. As we continue to grow, we're looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our dynamic sales team.

If you are interested, contact Heather Dunbar at: heather@granthaven.com

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Rosebank Church Gospel Music Concert
6:30 p.m.
Rescue Junction Gospel Blue Grass Band, Concert. Free Will Offering.
Rosebank Church,
1434 Huron Rd. Petersburg

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Wilmot Special Council meeting
8-9 p.m.
Council chambers
60 Snyder's Road W., Baden

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Ostomy Support Group Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Speaker – Joanne Schreuders
'Securing Your Legacy' –Planning and preserving your memories
Social time and snacks. Everyone welcome.
(519)273-4327
93 Morgan St., Stratford

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Taste the Culture: "Bite and Delight"
6:30 p.m.
Call Wendy for tickets at 519-656-2961-limited tickets available.
Bill Gies Recreation Complex
1401 Queens Bush Rd, Wellesley

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Innerkip Quilters' Annual Sale
5:30 - 8 p.m.
Admission FREE. Proceeds Support: Innerkip Masonic Programs & other needs in our local community
Innerkip Masonic Centre
70 Blandford St., Innerkip, ON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Innerkip Quilters' Annual Sale
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Admission FREE. Proceeds Support: Innerkip Masonic Programs & other needs in our local community
Innerkip Masonic Centre
70 Blandford St., Innerkip, ON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

The Plattsville & District Heritage Society Annual Remembrance Service
11:30 a.m.
Chesterfield Cenotaph
816661 Oxford Road 22, Bright

RCL Tavistock Memorial Legion Branch #518 Remembrance Day, Wreath Laying Ceremony
1 p.m.
Tavistock Memorial Legion
223 Hope Street West Tavistock

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Growing Greener Communities: Perspectives from Tree Canada
9 p.m.
Speaker: Christine Earnshaw. Join us for a fun evening celebrating LTW's accomplishments and recognizing our volunteers. Christine of Tree Canada leads the Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) initiative. She will talk about our national tree program and discuss how important our work in Wilmot is.
Wilmot Recreation Complex, Rm A, Baden

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Tavistock Men's Club Sauerkraut & BBQ Pork Chop Supper
4 to 7 p.m.
Pick Up Only. Call 519-655-3573 or email: info@tavistockmensclub.ca
or online tavistockmensclub.ca
Tavistock Memorial Hall
1 Adam St. Tavistock ON

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 CON'T

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 noon
Cost: $14.00. Please register by Nov 7 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.
Wellesley Recreation Complex, 1401 Queen's Bush Rd., Wellesley

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Rosebank Church Gospel Music Concert
6:30 p.m.
Torchmen Quartet Gospel Concert. Free Will Offering.
Rosebank Church,
1434 Huron Rd. Petersburg

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 noon
Cost: $14.00. Please register by Nov 21 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.
Linwood Community Centre, 5279 Ament Line, Linwood

MUSEUM/ARCHIVES EXHIBIT

The Plattsville & District Heritage Society Museum/Archives will be open for viewing of **Remembrance Displays and Memorabilia** on the following **Saturdays of November 1st, 8th, and 15th, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** All are welcome
816661 Oxford Road 22, Bright

MORNING & EVENING BIBLE READING

Read the Bible in a Year in Community
Morning meeting 6:00am daily
Evening meeting 6:00pm daily
Contact Arthur Rosh if interested.
Phone number: 226-899-1551
Email address: arthur.rosh@gmail.com
Location to be determined in New Hamburg, Tavistock, Baden, Wellesley, New Dundee, St. Agatha, Shakespeare, Petersburg, Hickson, Punkeydoodle's Corner and area

EVERY WEDNESDAY

TOPS - Taking off Pounds Sensibly
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
TOPS is a non-judgmental weight loss support group. Need help on your weight loss journey. For info call Cathie 519-662-9273.
St James Church, Baden

Wednesday Night Euchre at the New Hamburg Legion
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
65 Boulee St., New Hamburg

STAMP CLUB

Oxford Philatelic Society
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4pm) and 4th Tuesday (7 to 9pm)
September to May
If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection.
Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com
Website: http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford
Church of the Epiphany
560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7

FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES

Tavistock Seniors Activities @ Tavistock Memorial Hall, 1 Adam St. Tavistock ON, except Shuffleboard
Pickleball Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon, 12-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052
Cards Monday , Wednesday afternoon 1-4, euchre, crib (bring board), etc. Just drop in to play, good to bring someone . Contact: Bob Routly 519-301-2118
Inside walking Monday & Wednesday morning 8.30-12. Contact: Larry Brown 519-240-6715
Crokinole Monday , Wednesday morning 8.30-12, Just drop in to play, good to bring someone. Contact: John Schultz 519-655-2346
Shuffleboard @ arena, Wednesday 12:30-4 and Thursday 10-4. Contact: Don Junker 519-535-7052.
VON Smart Seniors Exercise, Tuesday and Thursday morning 9 - 10; Village Manor 10:25 - 11:25. Contact: 519-539-1231 x 6285

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE
Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for windbreak and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm
Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc. North of Wroexter on Belmore Line)

MUSIC
For just $20, Steve can turn the music from your favourite vinyl record or cassette tape into mp3 files. The sound quality is just as good as the original record or tape and the process is ideal for downsizing your belongings. Email Steve, sde0037@gmail.com, for details.

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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

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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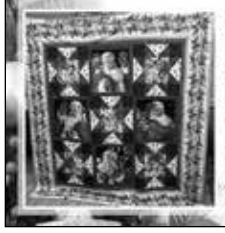
UPCOMING EVENT

INNERKIP QUILTERS' ANNUAL SALE
FREE ADMISSION
Innerkip Masonic Centre - 70 Blandford St., Innerkip
Friday Nov. 7th, 2025 5:30 pm – 8 pm
Saturday Nov. 8th, 2025 9 am – 2 pm
• Penny Sale Table • Bake Sale Table • Christmas Cakes



CHRISTMAS QUILT DRAW
December 11, 2025
DRAW FOR 31 INSULATED TOTE WITH WHEELS
November 8, 2025
Proceeds Support Innerkip Masonic Programs & other needs in Our Local Community

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Weekly Quiz Answers

1. A werewolf
2. A coven
3. 1966
4. Scream
5. Michael Jackson's "Thriller"
6. Slenderman
7. Brains
8. Scythe
9. Friday the 13th
10. Ghostbusters!

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