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(SHOW US YOUR WILMOT PHOTO)

Heidi Schroeder recently shared this photo she took of a beautiful sunrise on Shade Street in New Hamburg to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page.

Township of Wilmot's 2025 budget deliberations continue

Proposed tax hike slashed by nearly 30 per cent

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Township of Wilmot has made some progress on scaling back a proposed 51 per cent tax hike in its 2025 budget.

Council passed several motions at Monday night's meeting to lower the proposed increase. Among them was a direction to phase the capital budget increase over the next four years at nine per cent annually until 2028. The current hit on the ratepayers of

Wilmot sits at 19.12 percent.

That number includes a proposed 10.12 percent operating budget increase which was lowered from its original 14 percent at the last meeting. Council is seeking further reductions to operating costs and has asked staff to reduce day-to-day departmental budgets by five per cent.

The Jan. 27 meeting was the fourth time council has met to discuss the budget line by line to approve a document residents can live with. Mayor Natasha Salonen said

council is thinking about today but also the future.

"Council is working hard to bring the proposed draft budget amount down while ensuring we continue to make strategic investments in our infrastructure and multi-year planning. These decisions are about more than just today - they're about setting the foundation for long-term financial health and building a stronger future for Wilmot."

Coun. Steven Martin said council is

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Wilmot mayor hopeful for increased provincial financial support

ROMA conference gives Salonen reason to be optimistic about the future

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference was held in Toronto from Jan. 18 to 20 in downtown Toronto, and the mayor of Wilmot came home with positive vibes surrounding the financial future of the township.

It is no secret Wilmot is not in a good monetary situation as it grapples with tough budget decisions thanks in large part to a lack of reserves. Natasha Salonen explained Ontario notices how important rural parts of the province are to the overall economic picture.

"We had some great delegations both as Wilmot and jointly with other townships in the Region of Waterloo, talking about rural priorities. The really big takeaway is the provincial government recognizes that our rural municipalities are what's going to fuel the economic backbone of Ontario going forward."

She added Wilmot and other small municipalities are starting to see consistent investment from the province along with recognition of the need for infrastructure support.

"Wilmot itself had a great delegation with Neil Lumsden, the provincial minister of sport. We were talking about funding for a recreation complex, for example, and it

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Township of Wilmot's 2025 budget deliberations continue

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working together to approve a document residents can stomach.

"We want to reach an acceptable increase that gives more money than we have been giving to things like infrastructure but is not the 51 per cent increase that was first proposed. We have many needs that we have to address, and we can't continue to push things into the future. We do have to deal with our failing infrastructure but spread it out over time."

He added the motion to approve a 9 per cent increase on capital expenses over the next four years seems to be a good starting point.

Another councillor said significant progress has been made to finalize the budget at the next meeting on Monday, Feb. 24. Lillianne Dunstall explained one key issue contributing to the township's challenges has been the tendency to overcut, which is unsustainable for a \$33 million organization managing \$534 million in assets.

"To address this, I presented two motions supporting a long-term strategy, both of which passed. The first calls for a full cost analysis of our assets to identify underperforming buildings, exploring options for third-party rentals or even liquidating assets."

She added constituent engagement remains important in making serious decisions.

"The second introduces a phased 9 per

cent capital tax increase over four years, starting this year. For a resident paying \$5,000 annually in taxes, this equates to an additional \$10.80 per month. While any increase is a burden, this is a necessary step towards dealing with our over \$19 million in infrastructure backlog."

Further options for reducing township department budgets will come to council at the next budget meeting scheduled for Feb. 24. Councillors will also review and discuss the revised 2025 budget based on the four-year capital increase approach approved on Monday.

Despite slashing about 30 per cent off the budget, Coun. Harvir Sidhu said the job isn't done and wants further reductions.

"We have been able to bring the proposed tax hit down to below 20%. There is still more work to do in my opinion. I have heard from the public loud and clear they understand that we are in a tough financial position, however, it is not something that can be fixed overnight. A multi-year approach is needed so our residents are not overwhelmed."

He added he is looking forward to seeing what each township department brings back to the next meeting in terms of reducing each budget by five per cent.

Coun. Kris Wilkinson is on the same page and despite being pleased with the work council has done to date, they aren't done cutting.

"I think our focus as a group has been to ensure we are looking at maintaining and

improving our existing infrastructure which is super important to the long-term health of our township."

Wilkinson put forward the motion to have all departments find savings, something he said should give council options to consider and allow for considerable changes to the operating budget.

"As we continue in this process, I look forward to getting a document that we can bring back to tax payers for final approval.

My hope is that we can get a new draft budget at the end of February that includes the financial information our citizens have been asking for."

The Feb. 24 meeting gets underway at 2 p.m. at the Wilmot Administration Complex. Members of the public can attend the meeting in person or view it live on the Township's YouTube channel.

Additional budget meetings are possible if further deliberations are needed.

Wilmot and area municipalities launch survey to improve fireworks safety

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

The Township of Wilmot, along with the Cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo, and the Townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, and Woolwich, are working together to improve fireworks safety across the region and explore a co-ordinated approach to better manage and enforce fireworks regulations.

Residents are invited to take a short online survey and share their ideas on making their municipality safer for everyone. The goal of the survey is to better understand what residents value about fireworks, think about safety and fireworks, and what degree of support they have for different options. Your contributions will inform recommendations about how municipalities can make fireworks safer through new or improved bylaw regulations.

This public engagement campaign was prompted by the City of Kitchener. In September 2024, Kitchener City Council directed staff to do research and

consultation to develop recommendations by April 2025 for:

- How the City of Kitchener can make fireworks regulations more stringent
- Potential policies or actions that can be implemented to address the fireworks issue effectively
- Strategies for a coordinated regional effort to manage and enforce fireworks regulations

In response, Kitchener staff reached out to area municipalities, and all agreed to collaborate on finding ways to improve fireworks safety through coordinated bylaw restrictions, management, and enforcement.

Results from the survey will inform Kitchener's recommendations to Council this spring. Other municipalities, including Wilmot, will report back to their councils.

The online survey is live until 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 13 and is available at <https://www.engagewr.ca/fireworks/surveys/survey>.





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Wilmot mayor hopeful for increase provincial financial support

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is normally a shared agreement where the province will kick in usually 40 per cent and we do the other 60. That's just not viable on our tax base."

Salonen said council decided not to pursue the refurbishment of the New Hamburg Recreation Complex would have cost the township in the neighbourhood of \$6 million even with a \$4.5 million injection from the province. She explained Lumsden was receptive to exploring other ways of writing cheques.

"He acknowledged the need to look at different funding models for rural municipalities that have mainly residential tax bases. We just don't have as many revenue sources as our larger counterparts. What really came off loud and clear is this provincial government is interested in rural Ontario and sees it as an area to invest in."

The mayor, who sits on the ROMA board of directors, added health care was another hot topic at the conference. Salonen explained she was made aware of some initiatives with the goal of implementing more rural health support, something badly needed locally.

"The last data I have is from 2021 and it showed over six thousand Wilmot residents with no connection to a primary care physician or nurse practitioner. We only have one office in New Hamburg and we want to see an expansion in some form."

Wilmot falls under the jurisdiction of the Woolwich Community Health Centre, a facility that has a nurse practitioner-led clinic in nearby Wellesley. Salonen said the goal is to have something similar in the township.

"We are looking at how we can get more services out to Wilmot residents, especially with our aging population, we are seeing many people want to access locally. New Hamburg has the largest per capita visits to emergency rooms in the Waterloo Region.

We know ER visits can often be prevented if there is access to primary care, so how can we get our residents connected and reduce ER visits."

Many residents also express their desire for more recreation in Wilmot, something on the radar according to Salonen.

"The ask comes from small children all the way up to our seniors. There seems to be a real gap, not just in Wilmot but across our society, on programming for young teens and really getting them engaged in the community in different ways. I would love to say we can get our skate park up and running again, but financially that's not going to be in the near future."

She added the township will continue to work with community partners to leverage programming to be able to offer more recreation opportunities, including the local Optimist Club.

"We are looking at pickleball because we aren't going to be replacing the floor in St. Agatha this year unless the budget takes a drastic turn, so we are going to look at other facilities and perhaps some of the churches that have gymnasiums to ensure our residents have access to programs."

She added the upcoming provincial election was also on everyone's mind, even before it was officially called by Premier Doug Ford.

"Whoever wins it, I think we will see a focus on rural municipalities which is great for us."

Salonen added the need to upgrade infrastructure was also on the minds of many municipalities at ROMA, something the township is struggling to maintain due to the current financial situation.

"We are seeing the need for renewal of our bridges and culverts which are costly. We don't have the capital reserves to cover that, not unlike many municipalities across Canada, but those are realities we need to provide so residents can get to and from locations in the township."



(WILMOT TOWNSHIP PHOTO)

Wilmot Township mayor Natasha Salonen recently attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference in Toronto and came home with hopes of increased provincial funding.

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Local municipal politician earns Oxford Liberal nod in upcoming provincial election

One campaign focus is on rural transportation

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A familiar face in Oxford County has been acclaimed as the Liberal nominee for the Feb. 27 provincial election.

Bernia Martin's campaign will be her first foray into provincial politics after successfully earning a seat as a city/county councillor in Woodstock in 2022.

"I have always believed people deserve a credible candidate to choose from, that's the first point. Secondly, I believe Doug Ford and this conservative government really has not been a friend to municipalities or the people of Oxford."

She added county residents should expect more and have a stronger voice at Queen's Park. The Gazette asked Martin if she sees the upcoming vote as an election against Doug Ford or the current Oxford MPP, Ernie Hardeman.

"My frustration has been with the Ford government as a whole and its policies. I have never personally had an issue with Ernie, he's a nice guy. For me, this is about the much bigger picture across Ontario and how the Conservatives are treating rural and small municipalities and that's my

focus," explained Martin.

Martin said she has issues with not only the funding provided by the current government but also its policies.

"The money is nice, the funding is nice, but the policies live on well beyond and of it. The Ford government has fallen down on homelessness prevention. For me in Oxford County, that's number one. We have a homelessness, mental health and addiction crisis, and access to attainable housing crisis, and those are all linked."

She added the lack of funding is making those problems worse, and continues to grow because of a lack of responsible and dedicated money streams.

"I could point to five different examples of why that is. I think, and this aligns very closely with the Liberal platform, that health care and education are so underfunded and our policies do not meet the needs of real people living in communities like Oxford."

Martin explained there are smaller issues she wanted to point out where the big cities are able to receive big dollars for certain files.

"You mentioned health care what the big ridings get the smaller ridings don't always get, the same goes for me with rural transit. Southwest Community Transit is an established system throughout nine rural counties."

Martin said it was initially funded through the Ministry of Transportation and started back in 2019. That funding is set to

cease at the end of March.

"This system connects community to community so people can get from one town to the next on a rural system and now the funding is disappearing. We know that the economic impact of that decision will be close to three-quarters of a billion dollars based on the people who ride that to get to work."

She added people also use the transit system to attend health care appointments, college or university, as well as allowing seniors to remain in their homes.

"Seniors have been allowed to stay in their communities and age in place because they don't have to move to a large urban centre to access the things they need because they have been able to do it through the rural transit system. That's an example, one of many, where smaller ridings don't always get the attention some other parts of Ontario get. Transit is essential in the GTA. Why isn't it here?"

One criticism of the Liberals and party leader Bonnie Crombie is she still does not have a seat in the provincial legislature. Martin doesn't see it as an issue.

"Critics could point to any aspect of any campaign and find something to be negative about. Bonnie has been focused on leading the party, developing policies and talking to people. She is doing the work to reestablish a party that needs that energy right now."

She added having a seat or not having a seat in the legislature has not impacted the



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Woodstock city/county councillor Bernia Martin will run for the provincial Liberal party in the Feb. 27 election.

leader's ability to do her job.

"She'll run in this election and I think she'll win handily. There is the expectation the leader must have a seat but it's not a requirement."

In addition to being on Woodstock City Council, Martin is the board chair of Southwest Public Health and had a two-decade career working in the economic development field. She was also raised on a family farm in Southwestern Ontario.

The Gazette will run a feature on each Oxford and Kitchener-Conestoga candidate running in the upcoming provincial election.

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What to know about Ontario’s upcoming provincial election

CIVICS 101



By Nathan Bean

It is election time in Ontario, and many of you may wonder what that entails. The expected dissolution of the provincial legislature means a snap election will now occur on Feb. 27.

Why is an election being called?

In Ontario, the King’s Representative, known as the Lieutenant Governor, holds the executive power within the province. This means they grant royal assent to bills, turning them into laws. The Lieutenant Governor can also dissolve the legislature and call an election, usually following the Premier’s advice. The Premier will call for an early election when they believe it’s in the best interest of Ontarians.

The Ontario Election Act sets fixed election dates every four years, but this does not supersede the Lieutenant Governor’s ability to call an early election.

Once an election is called in Ontario, there are only 28 days for candidate nominations, ballot printing, and polling station setup.

The Election Act states that when a snap election is called, candidates have until the “third Thursday after the date of the writ” to register. Without the legal jargon, you have two weeks after a snap election is announced to become a candidate and meet the necessary criteria.

Are you wondering when the new election date will be? According to the Election Act, election day will be on the fifth Thursday after an election is called — in this instance, Feb. 27.

While election day may be one of the most popular ways to vote, it is not the only way. You can also vote using mail-in ballots, special ballots and advance polling days.

You can vote at advance polling days for snap elections at the returning office in each riding. These offices are also known as election offices. These polls are open to any eligible voter of the riding for six days between the thirteenth and sixth day before election day.

If ballots are not printed, advance polls open between the eleventh and sixth day before election day, including weekends. That means there will be advance polls open at the election office for six days between Feb. 14 and Feb. 21, inclusive. Advance polls are open from 10 a.m. to

FEBRUARY

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			29 Writ Drops (election is called)	30 Special Ballots First Day (write-in)	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Candidate Nominations Due	14 Advance Polls Open (if ballots are printed)	15
16 Advance Polls Open (at the latest)	17	18	19	20	21 Advance Polls Close	22
23	24	25	26 Special Ballots Last Day (6pm)	27 Election Day	28	

(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

A calendar showing what the potential election schedule will be according to the Ontario Election Act. Advance poll days may vary.

8 p.m.

The local Returning Officer may establish additional advance polls based on their judgement. These will have identical hours of operation, though each location will be unique.

Do you want to vote in person but can’t attend an advance poll or make it on election day? Well, there is another option — a special ballot!

Any eligible voter can go to their riding’s election office to request a special ballot. If you bring proof of residency and a piece of government-issued ID, and you sign a declaration, you can vote! You can vote by special ballot at your election office starting one day after the election is called and ending at 6 p.m. on the day before election day.

The election office will give you a write-in or printed ballot, depending on the day you visit during the election cycle. The printed ballot will have candidates’ names on it. To vote, you simply place an ‘X’ in the bubble beside the person you wish to vote for.

A write-in ballot requires you to write the name of the person you wish to vote for, so double-check the spelling and ensure that the person will be a candidate!

If you are 18 years of age or older on election day, a resident of your riding, and a Canadian citizen, you can vote! Voting is the core principle of democracy. Hundreds of millions of people around the world dream of the right to vote, so please make sure you are registered!

You can check your voter registration status on: vreg.registertovoteon.ca. For more

information, please visit the Elections Ontario website.

Embryo native Nathan Bean is a first-year

student at the University of Ottawa who is working toward a Bachelor’s degree in political science and public administration.

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Fun ways to celebrate Groundhog day

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Move over local television and radio meteorologists. Come February 2, a different weather expert garners all the forecasting glory.

Groundhog Day celebrations are an entertaining way to break up the bleakness of winter. Groundhog Day evolved from an earlier custom, known as Candlemas Day, which was observed by early European Christians. During Candlemas, clergy blessed candles and distributed them to others as a way to ward off the winter chill. A poem was recited during the ceremony:

If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Winter has another fight.
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,
Winter will not come again.

German settlers in Pennsylvania likely brought over Candlemas traditions, and they evolved into Groundhog Day

customs involving a local animal known for its hibernation habits. Similar to Candlemas Day, if the groundhog "sees" his shadow then winter will continue for another six weeks. If he does not, spring is around the corner. Punxsutawney Phil is the most famous of the prognosticating groundhogs. Phil emerges at festivities in Gobbler's Knob in Pennsylvania each year. But there are others who also look for their own shadows in different regions of the country.

Families can get in on the Groundhog action and do their own weather-predicting activities and other fun stuff. The following are some creative ways to celebrate Groundhog Day.

- Make shadow art. Explore how shadows work by gathering some three-dimensional objects and sidewalk chalk. Venture outdoors during the morning and see if you can trace the shadows of any of the shapes onto the sidewalk or a driveway.
- Learn about groundhogs.

Groundhogs are interesting creatures that are sometimes referred to as woodchucks. They are extremely intelligent animals that form complex social networks. Groundhogs belong to a group of large ground squirrels known as marmots, and are native to the eastern United States and Canada.

- Create a groundhog craft. All you will need is a paper tube made from construction paper, and a cut-out paper groundhog attached to a straw, stick or pipe cleaner for a fun kids' craft. Kids can take turns popping their groundhogs out of the tops of their tubes just like Punxsutawney Phil pops out of his den.
- Read a groundhog-themed book. Plenty of books feature groundhogs as the main character. "Wake Up Groundhog!" and "How to Catch a Groundhog" are two such options.
- Go for a night walk. The days soon will be getting longer and hours of



night shorter. Capitalize on the opportunity to enjoy the quiet of the darkness with a neighborhood stroll.

Groundhog Day marks the moment when people learn if winter will stretch on or if spring will soon arrive. It is marked by certain customs that families can make their own.

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Perth County council defers Giant Hogweed treatment initiative to 2026

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A plan to monitor, control the spread of and ultimately eradicate the invasive weed species, Giant Hogweed, in Perth County has been deferred for consideration in 2026 as Perth County staff make adjustments to bring it more in line with available grant funding from the province.

At the Jan. 23 Perth County council meeting, councillors voted in favour of a recommendation made by the county's agricultural working group at its meeting in December. Though the working group supports the program in theory as an enhancement to the county's existing forestry and invasive species program, it suggested refinements are needed to the project plan to better align it with the objectives of available grant funding.

"A concern around treating the invasive species called Giant Hogweed was identified as a need, thereby necessitating an expansion to our existing county weed-control program," said county resilience and stewardship coordinator Hannah Cann. "Giant Hogweed is a hazardous, invasive plant from central Asia which poses a risk to humans and ecological health. Giant Hogweed spreads quickly and easily through watercourses as its epic number of seeds disperse easily through the air and the plant often infests riverbanks and marginal lands.

"Treatment is challenging due to this threat to human health and safety with chemical treatment being the most effective option for eradication. Long-term treatment strategies are often required for this species, like many other invasives, and therefore demands for adequate treatment of this species are above and beyond our existing budgetary constraints for weed control in the county, making access to grant dollars desirable."

Cann said there was an opportunity in the fall and winter of 2024 to expand the county's weed-control program to include

Giant Hogweed treatment through the Invasive Species Centre's Invasive Species Action Fund, which offered one-to-one, matching-dollar funding for invasive-species mapping and eradication projects.

A plan for the mapping and eradication of Giant Hogweed was presented to the agricultural working group at its Dec. 10, 2024, meeting for feedback because it would involve work on both public and private land across the county. As the working group recommended the program be adjusted, staff brought a report to county council Jan. 23 with a recommendation to defer the project to 2026.

The plan, as it was presented to the working group, included the following actions:

- Identifying hotspots for Giant Hogweed in the county through public reports and regular surveys conducted by the county weed inspector in known and potential areas of infestation such as riverbanks, parks and roadsides. County staff would also use historical data and reports from partner agencies to identify areas with repeated Giant Hogweed occurrences to develop patterns and predict future hotspots.
- Mapping current infestations using the county's geographical information systems and evaluate the potential risks to ecological and public health associated with each infestation area. Staff will also be able to prescribe proper treatment methods based on the severity and location of each infestation.
- Chemically treating each infestation by trained, certified professionals who adhere to local and provincial regulations, and environmental guidelines, especially near water bodies. Treatment would likely occur between April and June.
- Monitoring treated areas and retreatment if necessary. This plan would also seek to empower landowners and community groups to help

monitor, identify and report new instances of Giant Hogweed.

Had this program gone ahead this year, Cann said the county would have looked to spend an additional \$25,000 that could have been matched for a total of \$50,000 through the Invasive Species Centre's Invasive Species Action Fund. The deadline for applying for funding through that program in 2025 has now passed.

"We've been dealing with this in West Perth for a number of years," said Walter McKenzie, county councillor and West Perth mayor. "It's all along the Thames River. I'm going to say three or four years at least we've been dealing with it, and I guess until such time as its control is a little more broader and countywide, what we're trying to do, I guess, is futile if we're not going to control it in other areas.

"I don't know what other municipalities are doing, but I'd assume it must be all along the waterways. Anybody who has had contact with it; it's not nice."

According to the staff report to council, Perth County's weed inspector has been tracking and treating Giant Hogweed since 2007, but there is community knowledge of the plants being in the county for over 40 years. In 2007, the weed inspector petitioned the province to allow Perth County to add Giant Hogweed to the local list of noxious weeds. Following this request, the Province of Ontario added Giant Hogweed to the Schedule of Noxious Weeds under the Weed Control Act of 2009.

Since that time, Perth County has been unofficially tracking hotspots and treating publicly accessible areas with herbicide, as well as supporting and encouraging landowners to watch for infestations and treat them accordingly.

In recent years, the City of Stratford has undertaken work specifically towards Giant Hogweed, contracting the services of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) to track and treat infestation locations to reduce risk to humans and environmental health. The local



(VECTEEZY PHOTO)

Perth County is delaying their Giant Hogweed eradication plan until 2026. The hazardous invasive plant, known for its risks to human and ecological health, remains a pressing concern as county staff refine plans to align with future grant funding opportunities.

municipalities in Perth County also have treatment contracts with their relevant conservation authorities for the treatment of Japanese Knotweed, Phragmites Australis, Common Buckthorn and others.

While county staff previously reached out to the UTRCA to determine what capacity it has to support the county's proposed Giant Hogweed plan, deputy warden Dean Trentowsky asked staff to touch base with the other local conservation authorities – the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Grand River Conservation Authority – to determine what capacity they have to support this program.

A report on this program will likely be brought back to council as part of 2026 budget deliberations in the fall.

Snowmobile collision result in fatality in Perth East

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE STAFF

thewtgazette@gmail.com

A young man has lost his life following a tragic collision in Perth East.

Perth County Provincial Police say they were called to the scene where a snowmobile collided with a tree on Sunday, Jan. 26.

Perth County Emergency Medical Services and Perth East Fire Department attended a collision on the trail near Perth Road 140.

The 18-year-old male driver was taken to a local trauma centre where he was pronounced deceased.

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club trail between Perth Road 135 and Road 140 was closed while the OPP Technical Collision Investigation was on the scene investigating. The trail has since been re-opened, but the investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Perth County OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Police are thanking the friends and family of the deceased as well as the responding emergency services and Huron-Perth Victim Services for their assistance and support in dealing with the traumatic event.



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“Women Sharing, Women Caring, Be a Woman Involved”

LAURA GREEN

Oxford District Women's Institute

A familiar name in the 4-H world and now in the Women's Institute (WI) world, Cheryl Sullivan – 4-H council president in 2020 – was elected president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) at its annual general meeting (AGM) Jan. 15.

The evening meeting was held in person in Grimsby at the Casablanca Hotel and by Zoom. Since one of the provincial initiatives is Human Sex Trafficking, the evening's guest speaker was Det. Const. Sarah Caven of the OPP's provincial human trafficking intelligence led joint forces strategy.

Two Oxford District WI members have completed their three-year term volunteering at the provincial level of FWIO. Chris Wiffen was membership coordinator and hosted the Zoom Bloomers once a month. This Zoom Bloomers program featured speakers from across the province on a variety of topics that allowed members to enjoy the learning opportunities on their

computer screens.

Laura Green was southern region provincial board director representing the southern area (Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford districts). Monthly meetings were held on Zoom and the eight board directors plus president elect and the president held many positions on the board. Green worked on the scholarship committee.

Members from across Ontario voted on one of five choices for the new catchphrase prior to the AGM. The winning phrase was announced by Ellen Wade, public relations coordinator, so be on the watch for “Women Sharing, Women Caring, Be a Woman Involved.”

To mark WI Day Feb. 19, the Federated Women's Institute of Canada (FWIC) and Canada Area of Associated Country Women of the World are hosting a joint Zoom presentation titled “W.I. Day and Advocacy Event” at 6:30 p.m. One must register to receive the zoom link at registrations@fwic.ca.

For more information about local branches, contact the office at fwio.on.ca



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Newly elected Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario president Cheryl Sullivan (middle) thanked two Oxford District Women's Institute members for their time and knowledge given to the provincial organization. On the left is Laura Green, provincial board director representing southern area and, on the right, is Chris Wiffen, the membership coordinator for the province of Ontario.

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TDHS visit peopleCare in Tavistock



(TAVISTOCK AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

On the walls of the newly built peopleCare long-term care facility in Tavistock are 18 photographs from The Lemp Studio Collection on display. These photographs are a reminder that peopleCare has a long history with Tavistock and is an integral part of the community. The directors of the Tavistock and District Historical Society (TDHS) recently went on a tour of the new facility and experienced the warmth and nostalgia these photographs bring to the home. Kirsten Leenders, the director of programs for peopleCare, is shown here in front of a John Lemp photograph with TDHS board member Bob Rudy.

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The Old Gazettes

By Sydney Grant

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

January 21-28, 2015, Edition (10 years ago)

A record low temperature of -24°C was set last week on January 12th.

Thursday, January 15th marked the eighth anniversary of the New Hamburg Thrift Centre. The centre is the result of the merger between two MCC thrift shops into one mega thrift store over 8,000 sq. feet. Since opening its doors on January 15th, 2007, the New Hamburg Thrift Centre has generated sales of \$8,816,680 from quality donated items.

The Tavistock Royals are in a tie for first place in the south division of the W.O.A.A. Senior AA hockey league after two weekend wins.

They doubled the Clinton Radars 8-4 Friday night in Clinton, then managed a 5-4 overtime win against the Milverton 4-Wheel Drives Saturday night at home.

Don't put off viewing this lovely 4-bedroom, 2-storey brick home, featuring main floor laundry, formal dining room, attached double car garage, newer kitchen, and so much more. On sale for only \$299,999.

January 23-30, 1985, Edition (40 years ago)

At Don's Food Market, Tend-R-Fresh Boneless Chicken Breasts are sold for \$3.99/lb. One could also buy 1 dozen tangerines for \$1.99.

Two Sprucedale School students took the top awards at the Tavistock Legion Branch 518 annual public speaking contest held on Saturday, January 26th in Legion Hall. Graham Shantz (11), a grade 6 student, and Tarra Trachsel (12), a grade 7 student at the Shakespeare Public

School, topped the junior and senior divisions. Graham spoke on the making of "Apple Butter" and his tantalizing descriptions and presentation won him top honours in the junior division, grades up to 6. Tarra Trachsel took a reminiscent look at the games of yesteryear entitled "Grandma's Toys" for the first place award.

It took Richard Hill, representing Hickson, four extra rounds to break the tie with Jeff Porchak of Tollgate Public School to become the Optimist Spelling Champion in Tavistock last Monday night, January 21. Richard received a dictionary and \$20 while Jeff was awarded \$15 and a dictionary.

January 22-29, 1985, Edition (50 years ago)

Robert G. Rudy was installed as president of the Tavistock Men's Club and Board of Trade for 1975 last Thursday night. Outgoing presi-

dent Roy Facey turned over the gavel and asked the members to give Mr. Rudy the same co-operation as extended him during his year in office.

The highlight of the 4-H Club was the annual Awards night by the Tavistock Agricultural Society held last Tuesday night in the Memorial Hall. Members met there to receive their prizes and trophies for the work they've done during the year and their showing at the 1974 Tavistock Fall Fair. Winners included Wanda Stock, Brian Reymer, Pat Brennehan, Arthur Alblas, Kim Cheyne, and Jack Kinnaird.

For the first time in the history of the school, Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School will be presenting a full length play. Up until now, the drama club has successfully presented one act plays. February 20, 21, and 22 are the dates of George Bernard Shaw's popular and delightful play "Pygmalion".

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY BICKLE

In loving memory of a very special lady who left us on January 27, 2022. An amazing Wife, Mom, Grandma and Great Grandma. A lady of many, many talents, class to boot and a heart of pure gold.



We think about you always,
We talk about you still.
You have never been forgotten,
and you never will.
We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you will remain.
To walk and guide us through our lives,
Until we meet again.

*Always remembered by Eric, Margaret and Ross,
Harold and Kelly, Edward and Michelle, Jeanette
and Jeff, James and Jacinthe and families.
Love you always!*

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of

Lynda Mark



Honey, I can't find the right words to say how much you are missed by everyone. It's hard to believe it's been two years since God came and took you home. You'll always be in our hearts & your love will never be forgotten.

*Thinking of you always.
Love your Husband Bill,
your son Gary & family and
daughter Terri Lynn & family*

Until we meet again ❤️

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OBITUARY

STEINMANN, John J.



Passed away peacefully into eternal rest with his Lord and Saviour on Friday, January 24, 2025, at St. Mary's General Hospital, Kitchener. John was a long-time resident of Wilmot Township and was born 89 years ago in Wellesley, Ontario.

Beloved husband of Bernice (Schmuck) Steinmann who predeceased him on December 7, 2021. Cherished and loving father of Jennifer and Gord Toman and Jeffrey Steinmann. Devoted grandfather of Jenelle (Chris), Aaron (Hannah), Rachel (Ben), Daniel (Rachel), Faith, James, Micah and Jonathan. John was a very proud great-grandfather to Mary, Malachi, Samuel, Vivian, Emma, Kinsley, Anna, Gloryanna, Theodore, Jeremy, David, and Cole. John will be missed by his sister Irene (Eldon), by sister-in-law Peggy (Robert), brother-in-law Fred (Gloria), and by many nieces, nephews and extended families.

Predeceased by his father and mother Enos and Clara (Leis) Steinmann, father-in-law and mother-in-law Frederick and Margaret (Stumpf) Schmuck, daughter-in-law Bridget Steinmann, sisters Ruth (George), Norma (Stuart), Nancy (Joe), brother Clare, brothers-in-law Cliff and Joe (Shirley).

John was a faithful and long-standing member at the Kitchener Gospel Temple. He was a valued employee of Bell Canada for 34 years and in retirement drove shuttle for Heffner Toyota and long haul and expedite for Erb Transport. John loved travelling the open roads and the serene beauty of nature. John and Bernice enjoyed travelling together and even spent many weeks on various missions' trips. John and Bernice loved spending time at their cottage with family and friends. They spent many mornings with their coffee watching the sunrise!

Relatives and friends are invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 5 – 8 p.m. A funeral service will take place in the chapel of the funeral home on Friday, January 31, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Randy Magnus officiating. John will be laid to rest in Pioneer Park Mennonite Church Cemetery, Kitchener with his beloved Bernice. The funeral will be available via live stream for those who are unable to attend.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to Gideon Bible Society or Roseville Church would be appreciated.

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

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



Sorry For Your Loss

OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of
Myra Jeanette Brunk
August 18, 1938 -- January 21, 2025



Myra Jeanette Brunk passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, at the age of 86 on January 21, 2025 after a short journey with cancer. Myra is the beloved wife of the late Donald Brunk whom she married on July 6, 1968. She is the mother of Lynnette Gerber (Chris Vardy) and Tracy Grace and nana of

Jordyn Gerber (Braden Barteshewski), Brady Gerber, Caleigh White, and Kian White. She is the sister of Ruby Regier (Karl) and sister-in-law of Melvin (Alida) Brunk, Marilyn (late George) Wickham, and Ruth Anne Weber (Bill). She is fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. We will all miss her incredible love and care for her family, especially her grandchildren whom she affectionately referred to as her "awesome foursome".

Myra was born in Guernsey, Saskatchewan, the eldest daughter of Harold and Eileen Biehn. She is predeceased by brothers Maynard and Elvern, and sister Saloma (in infancy). She enjoyed sharing stories about life on the farm, attending a one-room schoolhouse, and working as an RNA in the newborn nursery ward at University Hospital in Saskatoon before moving to Ontario. Myra was a country girl at heart and loved feeding the birds on her rural property north of Millbank, especially the yellow finches, orioles, hummingbirds, and her beloved bluebirds. She loved visits with family at the "farm" and providing comfort food to her grandchildren.

Myra had a gift for sewing curtains, clothes, skating dresses, prom dresses, and teddy bears made from fur coats or quilts; she even sewed her own wedding dress. She crocheted and knitted countless afghans, baby blankets, and sweaters with a unique left-handed technique that only she understood. She found great joy in spending hours in her gardens. The vegetable garden was filled with almost every vegetable that could be frozen or preserved and the flower garden was a beautiful display of daisies, black-eyed susans, gladiolas, lupins, roses and crocuses. Myra eagerly anticipated berry-picking and making jam with her family each summer. She took pride in regularly going for 2-mile walks with friends and family.

Words cannot express the gratitude we have as a family for the support we received from CarePartners and the staff and volunteers at the Rotary Hospice in Stratford. The patience, kindness, and compassion shown in caring for mom in her final chapter was a tremendous blessing. We'd like to extend a special thank-you to friends and neighbours as well for their generosity, especially over recent years.

Visitation was held at the Mark Jutzi funeral home in Milverton on Sunday, January 26, 2025 from 12 - 4pm. As per her wishes, her family will celebrate her life with a private gathering. Cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are greatly appreciated in supporting the incredible work of the Rotary Hospice in Stratford.

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

OBITUARY

NICKLAS: Mary Lorriane (nee Wiffen)



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our cherished mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Mary Lorraine Nicklas, of Tavistock, on Monday, January 20, 2025, at the age of 88.

Mary was born on October 17, 1936, to the late Arthur Wiffen and Marguerite Corp. She grew up on the 13th Line of East Zorra and, together with her husband, Carl, farmed and raised their family on the 16th Line before moving to Tavistock in January 1995. Mary was predeceased by her beloved husband, Carl Nicklas, on October 9, 2016, after 53 years of devoted marriage. Together, they built a life full of love, commitment, and shared memories.

She is lovingly remembered by her children: Sharon (Al Anonech), Ken (Janis), and Lynne (Terry Ross). She was a treasured grandmother to Zachary and Alexis Anonech, Maris and Kyle Nicklas, Jillian Hislop (Alex), Drew Ross (Emily Smith), and Jessica Ross (Max Hall), and a proud great-grandmother to Nora Hislop. Mary will be greatly missed by her siblings, Ron (Marleen) Wiffen of Tavistock and Margaret (Derwin) Spencer of Prescott, as well as her nieces, nephews, and countless other relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Ross Nicklas (Violet), Ada Hoffmeyer (Clinton), and Ruth O'Dell (George).

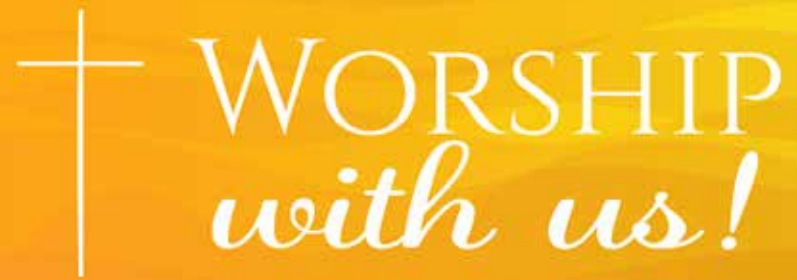
At the age of 10, Mary demonstrated incredible resilience by overcoming tuberculosis after spending 150 days in a sanatorium. This experience shaped her determined and generous spirit, which she carried throughout her life. Mary's life was marked by her boundless energy, creativity, and passion for community involvement. An avid quilter and knitter, she crafted numerous quilts for the Mennonite Central Committee Thrift Store and donated thousands of finger puppets to the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario. She found immense joy in attending her grandchildren's events, baking cookies, and playing games with them. Her famous Rice Krispie squares were a beloved staple at every family gathering. In her community, Mary's contributions were numerous and impactful. She served as a Brownie Leader, 4-H Leader, and secretary of the World Crokinole Committee. She was a proud 60-year member of the Princess Elizabeth Women's Institute, a director with the Tavistock Agricultural Society, and a member of Cassel Mennonite Church. She was also a founding member of the Tavistock and District Historical Society. Mary's passion for ancestry led her to compile 30 detailed family histories, preserving her family's history for generations to come. In 2008, Mary and Carl were honored as the Seniors of the Year for the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, recognizing their lifelong dedication to their community.

Visitation for friends and family will take place at the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock Street North, Tavistock, on Sunday, February 2, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. A funeral service will take place at the funeral home on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., with visitation one hour prior. A time of fellowship and remembrance will follow at the Tavistock Men's Club Hall across the street. Interment later in Grace United Church Cemetery.

For those unable to attend, the service will be streamed live via Mary's obituary on the funeral home's website.

As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to the Princess Elizabeth Women's Institute, Cassel Mennonite Church, or the Tavistock and District Historical Society. Personal condolences can be posted at www.francisfh.ca

Mary's kindness, generosity, and unwavering love for her family and community will be deeply missed by all who knew her.



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and sermon discussion.

All are welcome

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. In what state is Super Bowl LIX being held?
2. How many planets orbit the sun?
3. What year did an NHL team based in Canada last hoist the Stanley Cup?
4. Which organ does a lobotomy target?
5. What infamous mob boss inspired "The Godfather"?
6. What company coins the slogan "What's in your wallet"?
7. An inactive volcano is called?
8. Who invented dynamite?
9. Is the Panama Canal man made?
10. Where was the first blood bank established?

Answers found on page 23

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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette SPORTS

PJHL Roundup: Braves winless in five

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

Tavistock’s Provincial Junior Hockey League season continues to be a struggle but they did manage to earn a point against Norwich on Saturday in front of over 200 fans at the Tavistock and District Recreation Centre.

Logan Van Den Akker scored his first goal of the season just 15 seconds into overtime to give the Merchants the win and pull them into a first-place tie with New Hamburg on top of the Doherty Division standings. The goal came on the powerplay as Keaton Bartlett was serving a late third-period minor for hooking. The Braves led 2-0 after 20 minutes on goals from Yianni Peppas and Kye Taylor, his first of the season. The Merchants scored the only two goals of the second period before a scoreless third.

Norwich went 2 for 8 with the man advantage while Tavistock was 0 for 2. The Merchants outshot the Braves 36-17.

Tavistock hosted New Hamburg on Friday and stuck with the visitors through 40 minutes, but the Firebirds scored twice in the third period to earn a 5-3 victory. The game was New Hamburg’s only matchup of the weekend.

The Braves opened the scoring five minutes into the first and the teams exchanged five markers before Owen Fischer scored the game-winning goal four minutes into the final frame, his nineteenth of the season. Owen Bruder’s twentieth of the campaign with three minutes left rounded out the scoring.

“Our team made great strides this weekend we played well as a unit, considering we had a depleted lineup,” explained Tavistock’s rookie general manager, Brent Lange. “In both games, we played hard and as a team and competed for all 60 minutes.”



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The New Hamburg Firebirds celebrated Minor Hockey Day on Sunday during a game against the Dorchester Dolphins. A total of 10 alumni are on this year’s Firebirds team.

He added the Beaves played solid in Friday night’s loss but added goalie Lander Hartley would have liked to have another chance at the goals he let in during the third.

“Saturday afternoon we started out strong and competed pretty well as a team. We battled through some tough calls against us, but our discipline has gotten better for the most part. Saturday seemed like we were playing against two teams at times.”

Lange was complimentary of the effort by Kaden Lange between the pipes on Saturday.

“He played a heck of a game for us and held us in there when we needed to make some big saves. Our power play has been strong of late as well so that’s always a positive for us and we want to keep it going.”

Tavistock has seven regular season games remaining and trails Paris by a single point but does have two games in hand.

As long as we keep competing hard down the stretch and battling every period. We will be fine. And heading into the playoffs on a positive note. If the playoffs were to begin today the Braves would face New Hamburg but it is anyone’s guess where the final standings will end up.

“Anything can happen in the playoffs with any team. So, if it’s New Hamburg, Woodstock or Wellesley, it is what it is. We will be ready and show up and compete hard as a team each game. There are seven games series for a reason.

Firebirds lose on Hockey Day in New Hamburg

The Firebirds ended up splitting the weekend following a 3-2 loss to Dorchester in front of nearly 400 fans on Sunday afternoon. Michael Gear tied the game at one with a goal at the buzzer at the end of the first period and Fischer again tied it up in the second after the Dolphins took a 2-1 lead early in the second. The third frame was scoreless as Dorchester snapped New Hamburg’s six-game win streak.

All minor hockey players in New Hamburg received free entrance into the game as the Firebirds celebrated the 10 graduates who now play for the junior team.

Applejacks drop both weekend matchups

Wellesley travelled to Norwich on Friday and was outshot 40-24 in a 4-2 loss. The teams were tied at two after 20 minutes and after a scoreless second, the Merchants notched the game-winner early in the third and added a late empty-net marker. Tyler Wagler and Dimitri Eleftheriadis scored for the Applejacks.

On Saturday, Wellesley hosted surging Paris and dropped a 5-3 decision. The Applejacks led 3-2 after 40 minutes, but the Titans tied it up just 38 seconds into the third period and added the game-winner at the 12:25 mark before adding an empty-net goal.

Owen Troyer led the Wellesley attack with a pair of goals and an assist while Connor Doerbecker added two points.

Paris has now won three straight games and moved one point ahead of Tavistock.

<div><div><div>PROVINCIAL JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE</div><div>PJHL</div></div><div><div>SOUTH DOHERTY DIVISION</div><div>STANDINGS</div></div><div>As of Tuesday, January 28</div></div>																			
South Doherty Division	GP	W	L	OTL	T	SOW	SOL	PTS	OTW	GF	GA	DIFF	PCT	PIM	RW	ROW	STK	GPCT	
1 Norwich Merchants	36	28	8	0	0	2	0	56	1	145	87	58	0.778	574	25	26	3-0-0-0	0.625	
2 New Hamburg Firebirds	37	27	8	0	0	0	2	56	3	146	99	47	0.757	606	24	27	0-1-0-0	0.596	
3 Woodstock Navy Vets	37	21	10	1	0	1	2	51	1	139	105	34	0.689	483	22	23	5-0-1-1	0.570	
4 Wellesley Applejacks	37	21	14	1	0	5	1	44	1	113	98	15	0.595	719	15	16	0-2-0-0	0.536	
5 Dorchester Dolphins	36	16	17	1	0	0	2	35	3	99	115	-16	0.486	603	13	16	1-0-1-0	0.463	
6 Paris Titans	37	11	23	3	0	0	0	25	1	101	136	-35	0.338	591	10	11	3-0-0-0	0.426	
7 Tavistock Braves	35	11	22	2	0	1	0	24	0	115	150	-35	0.343	798	10	10	0-4-1-0	0.434	
8 Hespeler Shamrocks	35	7	24	2	0	0	2	18	0	82	150	-68	0.257	516	7	7	0-4-0-0	0.353	

Royals down lowly Lancers as OEHL regular season nears end

LEE GRIFFI

Gazette Correspondent

Tavistock moved into a third-place tie in the Ontario Elite Hockey League standings with a 10-2 drubbing of winless Lucknow. The Royals have 24 points as does Minto, but the 81s have two games in hand.

Defenceman Jeromy Munro led the attack with a pair of goals and two assists while Lucas Bast, Matt Zilke, Drew Gerth and Nicholas Thibodeau added three points each.

Tavistock outshot Lucknow 53-17 in a game that saw just four minor penalties.

Royals General Manager Brad Stere said playing against a weak team can sometimes be challenging but the players stayed focused and got the job done. He added the efforts by Munro and Bast this season have made a big difference.

“Jeremy is having a banner year. He always contributes with his offense and is an exceptional penalty killer. He is one of those all-around players

who brings his game every night. Lucas made a bit of a change this year and has moved up to forward. He has excelled up front and it is showing in his production. It also shows his versatility that he can play both if we ever are short on the defense.”

Munro is also closing in on a pretty impressive landmark as a member of the Royals. He has played 267 career games for the Royals, just two behind the current leader Geoff Killing. Tyler Heimpel sits third at 262. Munro is also tied for fourth all-time for goals scored with 72. Heimpel leads the way with 126 followed by Wes Kropf with 107.

Tavistock’s final game is Friday night at 8:30 at home. Stere said their likely first-round opponent will be Saugeen Shores.

“We play Durham in the last game of the year and it will be a big one as they need that win to stay in the top eight so we are expecting a tough battle. The way the playoffs are setting up it looks like we will start with Saugeen Shores first round. They are a very tough opponent that matches up well against us.”



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAHY PHOTOS)

Nicholas Thibodeau scored his first goal of the season. The forward has six points in seven games.



Jeromy Munro picked up four points in the Royals 10-2 win over visiting Lucknow on Saturday night. The 10-year veteran is closing in on the team record for number of games played.

ONTARIO ELITE HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS - SENIOR MEN																
TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	OTW	OTL	P%	GF	GA	DIFF	PPG	PPGA	SHG	PIM	
Ripley Wolves	20	18	2	0	38	2	2	0.950	114	59	55	18	9	8	464	
Seaforth Centenaires	20	15	5	0	31	1	1	0.775	92	51	41	16	14	3	267	
Minto 81's	18	13	5	0	26	1	0	0.722	93	51	42	15	8	3	322	
Tavistock Royals	19	12	7	0	24	2	0	0.632	88	62	26	24	14	3	320	
Saugeen Shores Winterhawks	20	11	9	0	23	1	1	0.575	100	87	13	29	21	8	264	
Creemore Coyotes	19	9	10	0	19	1	1	0.500	80	68	12	21	16	4	306	
Georgian Bay Applekings	19	8	11	0	18	1	2	0.474	83	85	-2	19	22	7	414	
Erin Outlaws	19	7	12	0	17	1	3	0.447	80	99	-19	14	16	4	369	
Durham Thundercats	18	7	11	0	14	1	0	0.389	73	94	-21	14	20	8	302	
Milverton Four Wheel Drives	19	5	14	0	12	1	2	0.316	62	98	-36	16	14	3	241	
Lucknow Lancers	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	0.000	28	139	-111	1	33	1	419	

NEW LISTING

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1ST - 1:00-3:00 PM

163 JANELLE DRIVE, TAVISTOCK - MLS®#: X11940730 \$789,900
This stunning 4-level back split offers space, elegance, and modern updates. Located in a sought-after neighborhood backing onto green space, this home features a large 82 x 111.55 ft lot, an oversized single-car garage, and a double concrete driveway. Inside, you'll find 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths (including a 5-pc cheater ensuite), and an open-concept main floor filled with natural light, ideal for family living and entertaining. Highlights include a newer roof (2016), gas heat, central air, mostly newer windows, and an owned water heater. The finished family room boasts a wet bar, while the lowest level offers laundry, in-floor heating, a 3-pc bath, potential for a 4th bedroom, and a walk-up to the garage. The bright kitchen opens to a large deck with an above-ground pool, perfect for enjoying sunsets. With an automatic generator and quick closing available, this lovingly maintained home is ready for your family!

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST
AT 8:30PM
TAVISTOCK & DISTRICT RECREATION CENTRE

Tavistock Agricultural Society Field Crop Results yield many local winners

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

The Tavistock Agricultural Society sponsors a field crop competition every year in conjunction with their Fall Fair, and the results are now in. The Field Crop committee of the agricultural society state that the basic rules are still the same as always, but the modifications were mainly with conveners for this year.

Bill Brown was the convener for the standing hay competition sponsored by Premier Equipment of Tavistock and first place went to Steveleigh Farms (Steve & Karen Witmer). Second place was awarded to Danendale Farms (Andrew & Rob Danen, and third place went to the Jack & Jane Danen family. There were 10 exhibitors competing in this part of the competition.

Don Mordue was the convener for the coloured bean competition, sponsored by Townsend Brothers Limited, and of the eight exhibitors entered, first place went to Ross E. Townsend, second place to John McRoberts, and third place went to Nathan Townsend.

In the silage corn competition



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Pictured above is Field Crop Convener Zenon Bender of Trouw Nutrition and Yantzi's, who would encourage crop growing farmers in the area to enter the Tavistock Fall Fair 2025 field crop competition in the coming months.

sponsored by Trouw Nutrition Canada Inc. of Tavistock, the convener was Zenon Bender and there were 10 farms entered. First place went to Danzel Farms (Ed & Julie Danen), second place to Danendale Farms, and third place to Daneholme Farms (Chris & Janice Danen and family).

In the Soybean part of the competition sponsored by Pioneer Hybred Canada and John McRoberts, the convener was Brad Zehr. First place went to Daneholme Farms, second place to the Jay & Lisa Zehr family, and third place went to Misha Laemmler, with a total of 7 exhibitors competing.

The highly competitive Grain Corn competition was sponsored by Syngenta and the convener was Charlie Wettlaufer.

First place went Steveleigh Farms, second place to Keith Townsend, and third place to Daneholme Farms. There were 22 exhibitors that took part in the Grain Corn competition.

Area Farmers are reminded if they would like to compete in the 2025 competition, please contact the convener or any Tavistock Agricultural Society board member. Agricultural Society directors wish to thank all who participated in 2024.



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Ontario farmers appreciate risk management program funding increase

LILIAN SCHAER
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario farmers are expressing their support for today's announcement that the provincial government is expanding risk management funding for farmers.

Over the next three years, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness is phasing-in a \$100 million increase to the Risk Management Program (RMP) for beef, pork, sheep, veal and grain farmers and the Self-Directed Risk Management Program (SDRM) for fruit and vegetable growers.

RMP and SDRM help provide financial protection for farmers against unprecedented challenges beyond their control, including inflation, supply chain disruptions, market downturns and climate risks.

"This additional investment by the government comes at a critical time for Ontario farmers as we are making key decisions for the coming growing season," says Drew Spoelstra, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. "This increased funding will provide Ontario farmers with confidence to continuing making critical investments in our farm businesses and in Ontario's agri-food sector in such uncertain times."

Increased funding for risk management has long been a key advocacy priority for

the OFA, and it was one of the organization's top three budget asks of the provincial government for 2025. This ask also supported efforts by the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC), who have long been urging the province to enhance its investment into RMP and SDRM.

Ontario's agri-food sector is a key part of the provincial economy, contributing more than \$50 billion in annual economic activity, \$26.2 billion in agri-food exports, and employing 11% of Ontario's workforce by supporting more than 870,000 jobs.

"We appreciate the government's recognition of the importance of our sector to the provincial economy and we thank Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, Rob Flack, for his leadership strengthening this critical risk management tool for our sector," adds Spoelstra.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) represents 38,000 farm families across the province and serves as the leading advocate and strongest voice of Ontario's farmers. As a dynamic farmer-led organization, the OFA represents and champions the interests of Ontario farmers through advocacy and government relations, research and farm policy recommendations, media and public relations, community representation, and more.



(OFA PHOTO)

OFA President Drew Spoelstra (third from left) stands with members of the provincial government and others at the announcement of risk management funding expansion for farmers in Guelph on Jan. 28, 2025.

Gazette Puzzles

GROUNDHOG DAY - FEBRUARY 2, 2025

G S V O B A U I F B I B A N K M L X E D
P Q U Y Z L F A N X E E N H D A J D C P
C K H P U W A F Y G R S E O C Y B D P U
N D A G E X S P R I N G H S T U N G D N
L V G D Y R F P W I I V D A R R A K D X
U V I X F N S I J C A I X R V V A K H S
M P F B U Z N T K G J V O O V P G I F U
H W Z M R T N Q I V N W B K S N R H W T
W G I X E X F G I T C H F L O F O I Z A
G L D R S E O N C E I E W I N Q U B I W
I F Z C O K U G F X B O T F E N N E D N
D R Z C S H Q I O R D C N S G P D R W E
G W I F Y U G I U A I E I I L H H N I Y
N F U D N Z E A H D N K U X Y I O A L P
W T G G V Q R S E I O U M W R L G T L G
N U G V W Y D R H G H G P E G N F I I S
S K W L T S P S Y P E Q W E V R K O E Y
J K B W A N N Y V U T C S K I R Y N U G
P M O O O U Y Q F X J Z T S Z U M O P O
W P D J S P I I B V P R E A D O N E T J

Burrow
FebruaryTwo
Groundhog
Hibernation
Phil

Prediction
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Spring
Superstition

Sunshine
sixweeks
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Willie
Winter

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BRANT FARMS

NIAGARA FARMS

Pet of the Week

MINNIE

Meet Minnie, a 9-year-old sweetheart ready to find her forever home. At 60 pounds, this medium-sized mix has bounced between homes but is eager for stability and love. Minnie adores people and thrives on affection, making her a loyal and snuggly companion. She's happiest lounging on the couch, chasing toys, and giving kisses. Minnie needs to be the only pet in a house or townhouse (no apartments). With a moderate energy level, she enjoys daily walks and enrichment but loves her downtime just as much. Her ideal family will provide training and patience to help her overcome challenges. Ready to give this sweet senior the loving home she deserves? Visit kwsphumane.ca to adopt Minnie!



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Super Spirulina

HEAPS OF HEALTHY TIPS

By Mercedes Kay Gold



Living a holistic life is linked to longevity. Food fuels our body, feeds the mind and nourishes our spirit. As a holistic nutritionist, I encourage clients to eat less from a box and more from the earth. I believe wholeheartedly, Mother Nature doesn't need any help. Eating whole foods is the foundation to build, maintain and repair the body throughout one's lifetime.

Whether you are meat or plant-based, fruit, vegetables, grains, legumes, and healthy fats are part of marvelous menu planning. I am often asked if I believe in superfoods. According to Wikipedia a superfood is a marketing term for a food claimed to confer health benefits resulting from an exceptional nutrient density. In 2007, the marketing of products as "superfoods" was prohibited in the European Union unless accompanied by specific authorized health claim supported by credible scientific research. In Canada, nutritionists and dietitians often name berries, kale and avocados but my top pick is spirulina. Could it be the food of the future?

What is spirulina? It's been around forever. It's a type of cyanobacteria, but better known in the health food industry as a blue-green algae. Spirulina was first eaten by the Aztecs and people in the Lake Chad area of Africa for its substantial nutrition. Today it's regarded as supplement and even used by NASA astronauts

on space missions. This rich plant grows in both fresh and saltwater. Spirulina is 65-70% protein mostly coming from phycocyanin, the pigment providing its phenomenal bright blue-green color.

Spirulina is heaps of holistic health help. With just twenty calories in a tablespoon but four grams of protein, spirulina is the perfect plant-based swap for eggs. It contains just two grams of carbohydrates, zero sugar and a mere one gram of fat. Spirulina contains a bevy of vitamin B1, B2 and B3 as well as top-notch trace minerals. Copper assists in making red blood cells, keeping nerve cells healthy and improving the immune system. Copper helps form collagen, key to strong bones, connective tissues and healthy glowing skin.

Iron rich spirulina is essential in making a protein in red blood cells referred to as hemoglobin. Low iron long-term is often the cause behind overwhelming exhaustion. Since iron is not produced in the body and must be absorbed from food, spirulina is stupendous source for those suffering from anemia.

The numerous nutrients in this gorgeous green superfood are body-boosting beyond. Spirulina is an amazing anti-oxidant, and an all-star thanks to its anti-inflammatory effects. Inflammation contributes to disease in the body, and spirulina is a sure-fire way to help you stay strong and disease

free. Spirulina is a natural way to help lower cholesterol levels as well as triglycerides. Since spirulina increases nitric oxide, blood vessels naturally relax, therefore resulting in reducing blood pressure. There's growing evidence this powerhouse may also aid in weight loss by regulating blood sugar. A review published in 2019 found spirulina may reduce body fat percent and waist circumference. Allergies an issue? It's been well documented that adding spirulina to your diet may help combat congestion, sneezing and itching. Spirulina is a sensational source of zeaxanthin, a plant pigment linked to supporting exceptional eye-health.

Spirulina contains trace amounts of iodine, and can be consumed for those on iodine restriction diets. Seaweed is often used as natural thyroid support.

Spirulina comes as a powder or in capsules. Go for green and power up your favorite foods with the green powder. Bring on the electric green guacamole, pesto, salad dressing, hummus, and wacky colored popcorn. Spirulina is a superb smoothie or juice add-in at home or for a grab-and-go at your favorite holistic hot spot. It's a huge wellness win in yogurt alongside the gut goodness of chia for an outrageous overnight pudding.

Shop for organic spirulina to avoid contaminants and whether you choose green or blue, start with 5mg daily and increase slowly to 10mg daily. Its never to early or too late to work towards a more holistic lifestyle.

Always speak to your Medical Doctor or Naturopath before starting any new supplement or food source if taking medications.

Sources:

- <https://www.webmd.com/diet/spirulina-health-benefits>



(VECTEEZY PHOTOS)

Spirulina is a nutrient-packed blue-green algae, a powerhouse of protein, vitamins, and minerals for holistic health.



A vibrant spirulina smoothie paired with blueberries and spinach to fuel your body, mind, and spirit.

- <https://www.mountsinai.org/health-library/supplement/copper#:~:text=It%20helps%20your%20body%20make,can%20damage%20cells%20>
- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3136577/>
- [health.com \(benefits of spirulina\)](https://www.health.com/benefits-of-spirulina)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Practicing what you preach, a politician's guide to governing

A Wilmot Township social media post boasted of Mayor Salonen's recent attendance at this year's Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference, in particular a session she chaired on fostering healthier democracies in rural Ontario, with an emphasis on inclusive governance and community engagement. Conference organizers must not have checked Mayor Salonen's dismal record within her own rural community of Wilmot.

As mayor, Ms. Salonen has overseen

citizens being denied from delegating in open council after reversing a previous council's unanimous public vote, while doing so in private behind closed doors. Remained silent while her township solicitor and clerk denied a community groups request for their expert's road safety report be added to a council agenda as official correspondence for the public record. A lack of leadership or accountability as mayor, and Wilmot's sole representative at Regional Council, as it relates to the ongoing Wilmot land grab scandal.

And, most recently, while ward councilors hosted individual townhalls, filled with engaged residents concerned about Wilmot's proposed and unprecedented 51 per cent budget increase, Mayor Salonen did not attend any of the town halls hosted by her colleagues, nor did she hold a townhall of her own.

If this is Mayor Salonen's record of fostering democracy in her own rural community, then maybe the mayor was better suited to taking notes as a session attendee. Today, residents in Wilmot are

craving for what is missing in their community: leadership, transparency, and accountability; both from its government, and its mayor. For next year's conference, Mayor Salonen may want to attend a session called "Practicing what you preach, a politicians guide to governing."

Rory Farnan

Wilmot Township

Fox Harb'r growing beyond "great"

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles



One of the perks of my work as a member of the Golf Journalists Association of Canada is I occasionally get to play outstanding golf courses – courses that, if truth be told, are vastly more impressive than my golf game. But I always agree, show up with my clubs and usually allow the course to humiliate me, smiling all the way.

When I was planning our road trip down east last summer, a colleague in Nova Scotia wondered if we would like to play Fox Harb'r and spend a night or two there. I jumped at the chance. Fox Harb'r is one of Canada's premiere golf courses, built by Tim Hortons founder, the late Ron Joyce, and very recently voted Best Corporate Retreat in Atlantic Canada.

This is obviously much more than a golf course. Fox Harb'r offers luxurious accommodations, spa facilities, two restaurants, a private airstrip and more. We stayed in a beautiful suite with our second-floor balcony overlooking the course and, beyond it, the Northumberland Strait.

The course was in superb shape. Nine holes ran along the ocean and the other nine took us inland for parkland-style play. We enjoyed every minute and, for a change, a world-class course did not beat me up! I finished very happy with my score and delighted by the dramatic views, especially on the ocean-side holes.

What we didn't realize was that our round was a unique opportunity to play a course that would cease to exist in that form at the end of the 2024 season. And that's because Fox Harb'r, already an award-winning destination, is upping the ante. What was already great is going beyond that description in virtually every aspect of the resort. It's all part of the celebration of Fox Harb'r's 25th anniversary.

Most dramatic are the developments around the golf course. After I received a news release about the changes, I called Kevin Toth, the genial president of Fox Harb'r, to get an update from the source.

Toth, shall we say, is excited. Really excited. We started by talking about the golf course it-

self, and that's when I learned the lovely course we had played would never be played again in that form.

That's because the hybrid layout of the course – half ocean-side, half parkland – is being converted through the creation of 18 additional holes.

The eventual outcome will be two very distinct courses – the ocean course and the vineyard course. Yes, Fox Harb'r has its own vineyard, producing unique wines.

Kevin told me the ocean course will be a cohesive, authentic, links-style course, appropriate to its seaside location. It has been created by famed course designers Doug Carrick and Tom McBroom. The vineyard course will be a gorgeous, heathland 18, he says.

This involves more than building 18 more holes, and the existing nine ocean holes are being reconstructed, changing most of the layouts and ensuring that links style is more than just a cliché. That means altering bunkers, fairways, landscaping, greens, the whole shebang.

The plan is to have both new 18s open for play by the spring of 2027. In the meantime, golfers will still be able to play a terrific 18-hole course – in fact, a different one each year as available nines are combined to allow golf fans to enjoy superb 18-hole layouts.

If that sounds confusing, the key is you'll be able to play Fox Harb'r any time in the next seasons, but avid golfers will want to

mark spring 2027 on their calendars because that's when we will be able to play the 36 holes of two different, amazing courses at the resort.

Fox Harb'r innovations go beyond the fairways and greens. The resort has opened a new state-of-the-art fitness centre, and Kevin told me about the \$2-million renovation to the spa and wellness centre, including a new hydrotherapy studio. This is all scheduled to open May 8 of this year. The resort is also adding accommodations, building 18 new town homes.

Fox Harb'r is clearly a destination in its own right. There are a few nearby attractions – the quirky ocean-front town of Tatamagouche is less than half an hour away, as is Jost Winery, one of the finest among Nova Scotia's excellent wineries. But people come to Fox Harb'r for Fox Harb'r, and the number of staff employed by the resort says all you need to know about the service the resort offers. Kevin told me that in 2024, the destination employed 264 staff members. In the long term, he says Fox Harb'r will employ 325 people. The resort is building more accommodations for its staff and also, according to Kevin, strongly encouraging senior employees to permanently locate in this part of Nova Scotia. Fox Harb'r is not only committed to serving its guests, it's also committed to being a responsible corporate citizen in its community.

But most importantly for the dedicated golfer, Fox Harb'r is offering a unique opportunity to play a different course layout each year through 2027. That's when Fox Harb'r's vision will fully become a golfer's dream come to life.

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Fox Harb'r's ocean-front golf course with the Northumberland Strait as the spectacular backdrop.



The course additions and reconstruction will create an even more authentic links golfing experience.



There is beauty on every whole of the course, and that will double with the opening of 18 more holes by 2027.



Guests at Fox Harb'r can enjoy luxurious accommodations, right beside the golf course.



The entrance to Fox Harb'r tells visitors a lot about the attention to detail, and the overall beauty of the resort.

Mitigating the risk of future regret

INTERFAITH COUNSELLING CENTRE

By John Dinner

The start of a new year can be a sobering reminder of how quickly time passes. I often say that, during different times of life, the days can feel long but the years invariably seem to pass quickly. Life seems to accelerate with age. As such, there's always the risk we may look back on our lives and wish things had been dif-

ferent. This is particularly true when those things we wish were different were within our control and we may passively make a choice not to choose a different path.

Even though we're now well into the new year, it's not (and it's never) too late to make shifts in our lives from which we'll benefit and be thankful for in the future.

I've noted in this column before that many of us tend to live in the past – that what we focus on and think about reflects what we wish was different. This often means looking back with regret at what we wished we had done but did not.

The pace of life is one culprit that gets in the way of making desired change. Procrastination is another, as is simply allowing life to play out on its own without a whole lot of thought that it could be better or different.

A common practice at this time of year that seems to have lost favour is setting life resolutions (a year which is still relatively new). Good intentions somehow fade from memory as a new year takes on a life of its own.

A different and, hopefully, a more meaningful approach might be to shift our focus away from adding to our already demanding lives. Instead, the idea is to identify current habits that are not lifegiving. The essence is to stop those habits we will likely live to regret.

Being honest and future focused will help us identify less-than-optimal choices. It may, for example, be less work-related travel to spend more time with family or choosing to reduce alcohol or other substance consumption given the risk of living with the regret of poor health in the

future. Less time online may well counter future regret about what we see when we look back on how we've used the precious but limited time we've been given. Forgiving now for something done in the past may result in a restored relationship instead of finding ourselves in the future regretting not having done so now.

There's no time like right now to stop doing things we are likely to regret later. There is inherent sadness and loss that often follow the words, "If only" or "I wish." By anticipating now the words that are likely to follow these phrases, we can take steps to mitigate the risk of future regret.

John Dinner is a registered psychotherapist who works as a counsellor at Interfaith Counselling Centre in New Hamburg. He's choosing to sit less in 2025 and hopefully forever.

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2020 Kia Rio EX



\$17,495 OR **\$65/wk** + HST & lic
Mileage - 89,685 KM

2023 Kia Forte EX



\$19,995 OR **\$74/wk** + HST & lic
Mileage - 96,425 KM

2022 Kia Rio LX+



\$20,495 OR **\$76/wk** + HST & lic
LOW KMS - 68,581 KM

2022 Hyundai Elantra



\$22,795 OR **\$84/wk** + HST & lic
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MCC Meat Canning

GARY WEST

Gazette Correspondent

After months and even years of planning, the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) meat canning facility has come to fruition at the newly renovated and refurbished location in New Hamburg, beside the busy MCC Thrift Store.

On Jan. 18, 700 people gathered at the MCC hub in New Hamburg to celebrate the grand opening of the new MCC Meat Cannery.

This is a 10,000 square-foot facility and is set to make a significant impact on vulnerable communities worldwide with a goal of producing 60,000 cans of nutritious food annually for families in crisis.

Organizers were very excited at the event that was filled with energy and hope as supporters, donors, and volunteers celebrated alongside MCC staff, local elected officials, and members of the local meat canning committee.

Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis and Region of Waterloo Chair Karen Redmond joined in the festivities, marking this chapter in MCC's long-standing commitment to humanitarian aid.

Their history is long and proud. Since 1947, MCC has been a trusted provider of canned meat for people caught in conflict and disaster.

For decades, a mobile cannery served communities in Leamington, Elmira, and

into the United States, drawing together the passion and generosity of local churches.

Over time, regulatory challenges made it increasingly difficult to continue this tradition across the US/Canada border, and the COVID-19 pandemic further complicated operations.

These setbacks led to the inspired idea of building a permanent, stationary cannery. This investment that would provide a long-term solution to meet the rising need by MCC partners for canned meat due to disasters and food insecurity.

As New Hamburg's Jon Lebold, material resources coordinator from MCC Ontario, explains, "we've got the space, the logical efficiencies, and when we scale up, the impact will be huge far into the future."

Guests at the grand opening had the opportunity to tour the facility, learning about each step of the canning process from knowledgeable MCC staff.

The tour ended with an invitation for visitors to share messages of support on fabric squares, which will be sewn together to create comforters, "used in the prayers of sending for future shipments of canned meat".

For more information or with an urge to help out, contact Sheryl Bruggeling, communications and events senior manager, at 519-745-8458, extension 265, or www.mcc.org.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Alicia Weber, MCC material resources associate, shares insights about the Meat Cannery during a tour stop at the grand opening, guiding guests through the process and discussing the impact of the new facility.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Over 700 interested visitors took in the open house at the new 10,000 square foot MCC Meat Cannery in New Hamburg next to the MCC Thrift Store.



(KEN OGASAWARA PHOTO)

The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting at New Hamburg's MCC Meat Cannery includes, from left: Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis, MCC material resources program co-ordinator Jon Lebold, MCC Ontario Executive Director Michelle Brenneman, Waterloo Region Chair Karen Redman, MCC Meat Cannery Manager Dylan Yantzi, and MCC Meat Cannery Build Consultant Peter Fiss.

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The quiet beauty of winter gardens

FROM THE GARDEN

By Nancy Abra



When we think of a garden, it is often pictured as a landscape of striking flowering perennials, colourful annuals, lush shady plants, shrubbery, with perhaps pathways and other added features and sculptures. A garden in winter lacks the vivid colours like the other seasons but it can still offer a unique and serene beauty.

The focus of a winter garden is entirely different than a summer's garden. This winter our landscapes are covered in snow, adding a blanket of insulation on our gardens, but also providing the perfect setting and contrast of the dark greens of our evergreens.

The foliage of shrubs and trees such as holly, cedar, juniper and pine have more of an emphasis in a winter garden.

With the absence of leaves of deciduous trees, their importance is more prominent in a winter's landscape. But the barren branches of certain trees also add interest. Trees, such as birch with their peeling bark or dark thick branches of maple or tulip trees now become focal points. Red branches of the *Conus sericea*, red-osier dogwood and *Cornus sanguinea*, a blood-twist dogwood are striking additions for winter interest.

A couple more interesting shrubs are Witch hazel, *Hamelis* and Corkscrew hazel, *Corylus avellana*. Witch hazel thrives in our chilling cold winter months. Its late winter blooms of yellow, red strands are like a starburst exploding from their branches, making

a striking specimen in a dull setting. The Corkscrew hazel, a deciduous shrub, becomes a sculpture in a winter's garden with its gnarled and curly branches.

Many of us grow ornamental grasses in our gardens. Their green structures act as a backdrop for our colourful floral designs. But in the winter, when the snow has blanketed our perennial beds, they add a subtle beauty and movement. Their seed heads also provide food for birds.

Perennials such as *Echinacea*, *Rudbeckia*, *Eutrochium purpureum* (Joe-pye-weed) and tall varieties of *Sedum* add a colourful display in late summer as well as being a nectar source for bees and butterflies. In the winter months, they become interesting structures. As well, their spent dried flower heads are an excellent food source for many small birds such as wrens, sparrows and chick-a-dees.

Snow and heavy frost can transform the garden, highlighting shapes and forms, creating a secretive and magical place. The afternoon sun shining through tall trees casts long interesting shadows, bringing



another dimension to our gardens.

If you look closely among the snow laden bushes, there are tiny imprints made by the dozens of birds that seek refuge in those evergreens. You may come across a mass of serpentine trails created by other small critters. We think that

our gardens are dead during the winter months. Our plants are sleeping but our gardens are a hub of activity.

Our winter gardens are full of interesting elements that ensures us they still are a place of captivating beauty throughout the cold months.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

"Hicktown Hoedown"

9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Raffles, prizes, food, local beer, line dancing and you can even ride the bull. (Wicked Wesley). This is a fundraiser to support the Wellesley Township "Fall Fair". More info at: marlenekoster@gmail.com

Bill Gies Recreation Centre in Wellesley



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

East Zorra-Tavistock Council meeting 9 a.m.

Council Chambers

89 Loveys Street East, Hickson

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Tropical Plants for your Home 7:00 p.m.

Garden Wilmot welcomes Julie Baker, a Tropical Plants Specialist from Meadow Acres Garden Centre. Free event.

Wilmot Rec Complex

1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Wellesley Council meeting 6:45 p.m.

Council chambers

4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Community Dining for Seniors in

Wilmot and Wellesley Townships

12:00 p.m.

Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please register by Feb 7 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.

Wellesley Recreation Complex
1401 Queen's Bush Rd., Wellesley

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Optimist Club of Petersburg Valentine's Drive Thru Pork Schnitzel Dinner - Pick up at New Hamburg Legion

For tickets contact 519-465-1157 - please leave a message.

New Hamburg Legion

65 Boullee St, New Hamburg



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp Free Family Day Open House

10am-3:30pm

RSVP to info@hiddenacres.ca

More info at hiddenacres.ca

Hidden Acres Camp

1921 Line 37, New Hamburg



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Community Dining for Seniors in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships 12:00 p.m.

Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please register by Feb 14 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.

Wilmot Rec Complex

1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Wilmot Council meeting 7-11 p.m.

Council chambers

60 Snyder's Road West Baden

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Community Dining for Seniors in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships 12:00 p.m.

Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please register by Feb 21 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900.

Linwood Community Centre

5279 Ament Line, Linwood



FREE SENIORS ACTIVITIES

Tavistock Seniors Activities

Inside walking Monday & Wednesday morning 8:30-12. Contact: Larry Brown 519-240-6715

Pickleball Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon, 12-4. Wednesday night 7-9. 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

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

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1 Adam St. Tavistock ON

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Gazette

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

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

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

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- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Louisiana | 7. A Dormant Volcano |
| 2. Eight | 8. Alfred Nobel |
| 3. 1993 | 9. Yes |
| 4. The brain | 10. The Western Front (Frontlines WWI) |
| 5. Frank Costello | |
| 6. Capital One Financial | |

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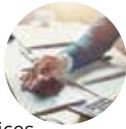
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