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This Weekend

Friday

6°



Saturday

6°



Sunday

5°



NOVEMBER 21, 2024



Business | 19



Wyatt Sernoski, 5, sent stuffed penguins flying as he joined other children for fun on the ice Saturday at the Twin Centre Hockey Day at the Wellesley rec. centre. [Julian Gavaghan](#)

Canada Post strike has local impact

Residents, businesses scrambling to find alternatives as workers hit picket lines

Julian Gavaghan
Observer Staff

WOOLWICH AND WELLESLEY BUSINESSES THAT rely on Old Order Mennonites sending cheques in the mail have been among those most affected by the Canada Post strikes.

As the walkout enters its seventh day today, amid fears it could drag on into the holiday season, firms also reported a growing backlog of payments, invoices and other items they are unable to send out.

Township operations

have also been impacted by the strike, which began last Friday when members of Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) walked out in a dispute over wages and working conditions.

Wellesley staff resorted to delivering some documents by hand and might pay extra to have others sent by courier.

As the walkout by 55,000 workers across the country continues, including by around 20 staff picketing Elmira's post office this week, Canada Post revealed that the "parties remain far apart."

→ CANADA POST 5

Processing operation, lodgings approved for St. Jacobs-area orchard

Steve Kannon
Observer Staff

A BOUNTIFUL YEAR AT THE Prica Orchards farm near St. Jacobs got better this week, as Woolwich council approved plans to allow onsite processing there.

Meeting Tuesday night, councillors gave the go-ahead to the zoning change needed for the property at 881 Weber St. N. to house a processing operation, an agricultural research and training centre, seasonal and year-round farm help accommodation, and a farm produce stand.

"There's an urgent need for onsite services and facilities to help provide storage, washing, cooling, shipping, etc., not to mention a store. The site's located right adjacent to the Stockyards area, so there's also a nice tourism-supporting element to this store on the site," said Brandon Simon, a planner with the Planning Partnership, which represents Prica Orchards, which acquired the property in 2018.

The 28-hectare (69-acre) site, which has frontages along Weber Street, Lobsinger Line and Apple Grove Road, has been planted with some 20,000 apple, pear and plum trees, said Simon.

The processing and lodging buildings will be contained on a three-hectare portion within the settlement boundary, while the rest of the property remains as "protected countryside" in the agricultural zone.

Prica's proposed use, discussed at a public meeting July 16, meets all the needed planning criteria, prompting Woolwich staff to recommend its approval, said township planner Sherwin Melony.

"It is staff's opinion that the proposed site-specific zoning is consistent with Provincial Policies and Guidelines and conforms to the regional official plan and the township

→ ORCHARD 8





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Page Three

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Clean audit for Woolwich

Woolwich can officially close the books on 2023, the township having taken receipt of an audit of its financial statements. Councilors this week heard the records got a clean bill of health in a presentation from KPMG's Matt Betik.

From the archives

The water, and sundries, should be flowing in Breslau next year as Woolwich reached a deal with Kitchener to extend sanitary sewers across the Grand River. The agreement paves the way for two major subdivisions – Forwell Developments and Thomasfield Homes each have longstanding plans to build 475 homes in the village.

From the Nov. 23, 2003 edition of The Observer

WCS Christmas Goodwill program shifts into gear

Andrea Eymann

Observer Staff

AS FOOD PRICES CONTINUE TO rise, demand increases for Woolwich Community Services' Christmas Goodwill program.

The program provides families in need in Woolwich and northern Wellesley with toys, clothing for kids, and gift cards from local stores.

Last year, WCS supported 238 families, which was 662 people who received hampers, but this year, they are expecting to help around 250 families.

"Due to the cost of living – which, since Covid, continually went up – more and more people are struggling," said Tina Reed, community support services coordinator at WCS.

"The best thing about this program is taking away stress from families so that they know that their kids are going to get Christmas," she added.

"And for adults, even without children, like low-income families and other adults, they will get

something for the holiday season as well."

Christmas wish trees are located at Home Hardware stores in Elmira, Linwood and St. Jacobs, Living Waters Book & Toy Store and Canadian Tire in Elmira. People should be able to remove a wish gift tag from the tree, purchase the item, and return it under the tree by December 13.

If the store does not have the listed item, then they can take the wish to find it somewhere else and return to any of the places noted above.

Popular toys this year include LEGO, as well as traditional items such as baby dolls and teen crafts.

Reed notes there is a need for a wide range of items given that not everyone has the same request.

That means there's no easy answer when WCS is asked what's most in demand.

"It's so hard; everything is different, and it's hard to pinpoint what people want," said Reed.

"I know people always want to know what's the

→ WCS 8



Murray Haight and Hugh Weltz on William Street, the starting point for the Kiwanis Club of Elmira's Santa Claus parade on Nov. 30. **Andrea Eymann**

Elmira Kiwanis Club gears up for Santa Claus parade Nov. 30

Andrea Eymann

Observer Staff

THE WEATHER'S BEEN MILD, BUT the countdown to Christmas is definitely on. One sure sign is the increase in visits by St. Nick, including the Elmira Kiwanis Santa Claus Parade on November 30.

Starting at William

Street, the parade makes its way down Arthur Street through downtown Elmira starting at 10 a.m. Up to 30 floats and three bands – UW Warriors, Waterloo Regional Police and Fergus Brass – will travel down to First Street, ending up at the Elmira Legion.

Murray Haight, the Kiwanis Club of Elmira's

parade organizer, says there will also be a few VIPs walking the route: MP Tim Louis, MPP Mike Harris, Waterloo Region Chair Karen Redman and Woolwich Mayor Sandy Shantz.

Next week's event will continue a decades-long tradition.

"There's a lot of work

behind the scenes to make it successful. Hundreds of hours of volunteer time and lots of people volunteering to help put the thing together, as well as participate in it," he said, noting that there are around 20 to 30 volunteers at various points in the parade.

→ PARADE 7

Enviro-Stewards celebrate 20 years of Safe Water Social Ventures

Rachel Fioret

LJI reporter

ELMIRA-BASED ENVIRO-STEWARDS INC. WILL CELEBRATE the 20th anniversary of Safe Water Social Ventures tonight (Thursday) in Kitchener over dinner and a series of inspiring short

films.

The project began in 2004 with a mission to empower communities to provide clean, safe water.

Twenty years later, it has made a real impact, the organization says.

"About five thousand filters have been installed," said SWSV coor-

dinator Wesley Palmer.

The third annual Impact Film Festival will begin with dinner at 6 p.m. at The Apollo Cinema in downtown Kitchener. The film festival portion of the event will start at 7:30 p.m.

This year's festival will showcase powerful social and environmental causes

while promising to inspire the audience to create a better world.

Community members are welcome to attend the event for free. A YouTube livestream will also allow viewers to tune in from home.

With a collection of short films from Canada

and abroad, viewers will follow stories of initiatives, organizations, and real people who are working for social change.

Creators of the short films will attend the event and introduce their work before it's shown.

An innovative approach to aid, the Safe Water

Project seeks to create long-term solutions for communities, focusing on prevention rather than relief.

"We're essentially teaching people how to build these [biosand filters]," said Bruce Taylor, founder and president of Envi-

→ SAFE WATER 7

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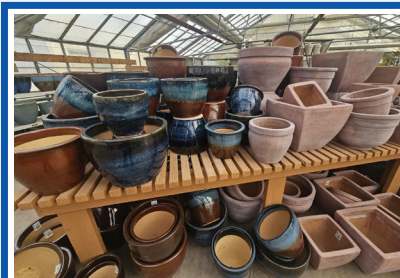
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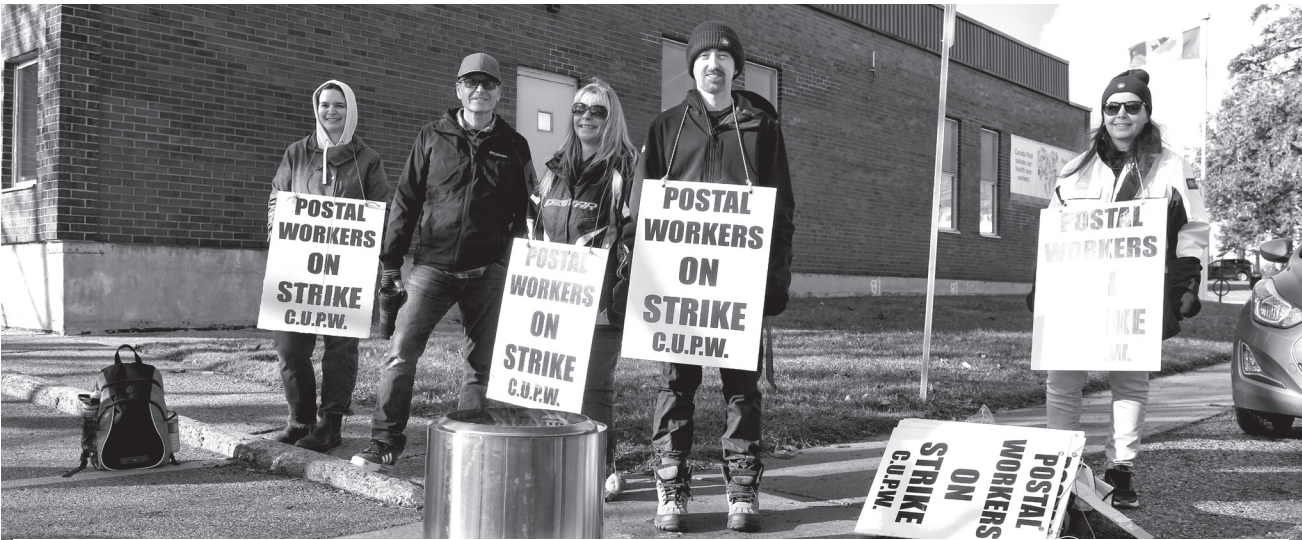


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Striking Canada Post workers kept warm with a fire as they picketed at the Elmira post office this week. Among those taking part were Alanna Martin, Howard Brown, Christa Allison, Ryan Belanger and Ana Campregher.

Julian Gavaghan

CANADA POST: Union says positions remain far apart; mediator appointed

→ FROM 1

Many businesses fear the strike could eat a big bite out of Christmas sales, with reports of online orders already slumping.

The dispute, which includes union demands for enhanced group benefits - such as coverage for fertility treatments and gender-affirming care - as well as inflation-aligned pay rises and improved protection against technological changes, is also likely to impact the ability of people, especially older individuals, to send gifts and cards to relatives across Canada and overseas.

But it is small companies that have the most to lose financially because they are less able to pay for their goods to be shipped by alternative delivery firms, which can cost two to three times more than what the Crown corporation charges, according to Dan Kelly, the president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

Harley Finkelstein, president of the Canadian e-commerce giant Shopify, said “small businesses will unfairly bear the brunt” of the strike by workers of the leading carrier, which began just two weeks before Black Friday.

However, while there are alternatives for parcels, firms like UPS, FedEx and Purolator are unable to deliver mail as Canada Post has a monopoly on letter delivery.

And the almost total loss of this service is having a bigger impact in Woolwich and Wellesley because relatively more commerce is done by sending payment cheques in the mail.

Among the local businesses affected in this way is the independently-owned Home Hardware store on Church Street West in Elmira.

“Obviously, a lot of our in-house accounts are

Mennonite clients, and they require paper because they don’t have the internet,” said manager Brad Matthews.

“So, they require monthly statements to be sent out to their house. They come in and pay their account.

“And, if we can’t ship it out via Canada Post at the end of the month, if the strike is still ongoing, we were talking about how we might have to do something else.”

Matthews said they have hundreds of customers who still pay by cheque and are unable to make the same electronic transactions that most Canadian retailers and wholesalers now rely on.

“So, if they come in and buy \$500 worth of stuff, whatever it may be for their business, they charge the in-house account,” he explained.

“Technically, we’re holding it for them, like we’re kind of their credit card company. It means we don’t get any actual money back into the business until the end of the month.

“So, at the end of the month, we might have \$100,000 of money owed to us from local businesses.

“So, it’s very important that we get that money back. Otherwise, we’re just out \$100,000 and inventory.”

Matthews, whose store also serves as a FedEx drop-off location that has seen volumes soar, noted that the strike had at least come at a relatively better time than if it had started at the end of the month.

But, if it continues into December, he will have to arrange for customers to come into the store in order to settle their balances.

On the other side of the equation, Kitchen Kuttings café and specialty food store in Elmira buys fresh items from local Mennonite producers and

has been unable to send out payment cheques to several of them.

“For us to be able to pay them back is a challenge now,” admitted Lydia Weber, who helped found the business in 1988.

“A lot of suppliers take e-Transfer, but we also do quite a bit of local buying where they do not take e-Transfers and the only way is paying by cheque,” she added.

Municipal operations have also been affected by the strike.

“We have had to find alternate routes of delivery for the time being,” said Samantha Sernoski, the executive administrator of the Township of Wellesley.

“It’s not very convenient, but we have made it work, mainly by hand delivering mail so far.

“On the positive side, it’s given our staff a chance to interact with people more face-to-face, which is always nice.”

On Monday, four days into the strike, she said the amount of mail that needs sending was growing.

“There is a bit of a backlog, but as of now, any mail that needs to be out in a timely manner has been or will be hand-delivered by Township staff or other means of delivery, like couriers,” she explained.

But Sernoski expected the situation to become harder by the end of the week.

“Mailings for statutory notices are most affected. We have a big mailing ready for an upcoming community improvement plan workshop that we hoped to mail out Friday,” she added.

She also noted that the timing of the strike could have been worse.

“Some people still pay bills via cheque. Fortunately, our tax due date just passed, so we don’t anticipate much fallout in that regard at this time,”

she told The Observer.

Sernoski added: “If the strike continues for an extended period, we will prepare and communicate a contingency plan.”

However, not all businesses are facing the same challenge, even those who deal with many individuals who don’t use the internet.

Colin Meerstra, of Meers-tra & Co chartered accountants in Elmira, said most of his Mennonite clients have always hand-delivered their documents and other items.

“When they’re paying bills, they’ll drive the cheque to my office, rather than stick it in the mail. That’s always been the case. I’m not sure why,” he said.

Mike Offord, the president of CUPW’s 560 Office, which represents Waterloo Region and some other surrounding communities, believes the strike could last many days.

“We’re poles apart as far as meeting at the negotiating table is concerned. So, this might take some time,” he said, adding: “We don’t anticipate being sent back anytime soon.”

He said he had seen a lot of support from communities in the region and encouraged businesses affected by the strike to contact their MPs.

“They should ask their Member of Parliament to ask Canada Post to come to the bargaining table with true intention on negotiating a fair contract for all the members.

“The sooner they do that, the sooner we can have mail.”

Canada Post said it remains committed to reaching an agreement and noted that vital deliveries, such as government cheques, had been maintained.

A special mediator has been appointed to help the two sides work out their issues.



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Retiring from a second job he never expected

Retiree Len Martin, who went on to serve as a crossing guard in Linwood for 15 years, says he'll miss the kids

Julian Gavaghan
Observer Staff

COME RAIN, HAIL, SNOW OR shine, Len Martin has been out helping to keep Linwood's children safe as the community's crossing guard for the past 15 years. Now, he has hung up his stop sign and retired from a "retirement job" he never imagined he'd be doing for so long when he first started.

"I have loved this job. I have a wonderful, wonderful relationship with the kids and I've enjoyed saying, 'Good morning' and 'good afternoon' or 'have a great weekend' whenever I see them," he told The Observer.

Along the way, Martin, 70, has met hundreds of students from Linwood Public School.

And some of those youngsters have found an especially big place in his heart over the years.

"I will always remember Madison," he said. "She was always so nice and friendly. She always talked to me.

"Then, when she was in Grade 8 and going to high school, I said, 'It's too bad I won't see you anymore.' And she says, 'Well, maybe on a Friday, I'll just walk down and visit you.'

"And I thought that was just so nice. But all the kids are nice and I have loved seeing them every day."

Martin also enjoyed greeting everyone else who passed by his spot at the intersection of Manser Road and Alfred Street before his final day on November 8.

"Almost every day, the same people go by, and a lot of them I know," he said.

"I used to drive trucks. Some of the other drivers knew I did this, and they'd wave and beep their horn. I'd wave back and say 'hi' to them."



Len Martin earlier this month hung up his stop sign after 15 years as a crossing guard in Linwood. **Julian Gavaghan**

Martin said he found retiring hard after such a long time in a job that is celebrated every March 23 with School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day in Ontario, and known by a variety of names in other countries, such in Britain, where those who help children cross roads are whimsically called "lollipop men" and "lollipop

ladies" due to the yellow circular stop sign they carry that resembles candy on a stick.

"On Friday, when I told some of the kids that I'm not going to do this anymore and I won't be here on Monday, one of them asked, 'Does that mean you're never going to be here again?'

"And that was hard. It's

hard walking away from a job like this."

However, Martin, who lives with his wife Judy and cat Rufus near the crossing, says heart problems have made it difficult to carry on.

Before quitting, he said he was also concerned about some safety aspects.

In particular, he was worried about a roadside tree that he felt blocked drivers' views and may have been responsible for a near-miss between a tanker truck and a school bus that was turning into Manser Road.

After that, Martin felt he could not carry on.

"I could feel it in my heart, you know, and I feel for the kids," he added.

Chris Cook, Wellesley's director of public works, told The Observer that the matter of the tree has been looked into, with "several checks at various times of the year," but that township staff had felt that

there was not a "sightline issue."

As the road is Region of Waterloo route, a spokesperson said it would look into the matter.

"No complaints have been received to date, and staff found no immediate concerns. Since the current conditions are different, staff will include this area on their spring inspections and will provide tree pruning as required," said Lynsey Slupeiks.

Cook told council on November 12 that the township is looking for a new crossing guard in Linwood.

He and an assistant were seen helping to man the crossing last week.

He added: "We thank Leonard for his 15-plus years of service, manning that crossing on behalf of the township and getting the kids across safely."

Cook also noted that it is rare to see someone serve so long in the job.



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Annual Christmas Bird Count turns hobbyists into citizen scientists

Rachel Fiore
LJI reporter

A YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITY, BIRDWATCHING GETS elevated from recreational to scientific as the holiday season approaches.

The Christmas Bird Count, launched in 1900, is one of the longest-running citizen science projects in the world. It runs throughout the Western hemisphere to count birds and understand migration and bird populations over time.

Within each region, citizens organize to work together to count birds in a defined area with a radius of 24 kilometres. From year to year, the local area stays the same. Citizens sign up to count birds within a portion of that 24-kilometre radius on a single day, a 24-hour period near Christmas.

There are upcoming counts centered on Guelph and Cambridge set for December 15.

Seasoned birders will be out for local counts, but it's also a good time for those new to the hobby, suggests Mike Cadman, coordinator of the Guelph count.

"I'm a great believer in citizen science, in having people apply their knowl-

edge to help learn more about the world, and the Christmas Bird Count is a great way to do that," he said.

"I think it's going to be a very productive count this year again," he said.

Volunteers will count birds within a defined plot over a 24-hour period of time. That provides insight to how many birds and species are within the area.

"I expect we'll see more birds, and we seem to be getting more and more participants in the project, so that helps, too," said Cadman, who has been participating in the count for 42 years.

With decades of local ornithology experience, he noted drastic changes in numbers over the years.

"Things are very dynamic these days, with climate change. It's having a big effect on the birds that we see."

Open waters later into the season has resulted in more ducks, geese, ravens and eastern bluebirds over time.

His personal favourite bird to spot is the bald eagle, which has increased in numbers in southern Ontario.

Participants can find themselves wandering around local nature

reserves to view and track their own favourite native species, he notes.

The Grand River watershed offers an array of birding locations, spread across 20,000 hectares of land. Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area and Laurel Creek Conservation Area are some of the best places to sight varying bird species.

Heading into the winter, you might notice a vibrant red northern cardinal resting on a snow-covered branch, or a dark-eyed junco, a gray sparrow that migrates north to the arctic during the summer months.

A lifelong birder, Chris Earley shared that his "favourite thing is seeing birds in their natural habitat, and watching their behaviours, whether it's how they're hunting, how they're catching food, how they're interacting with other birds or other animals in their environment, and just seeing the variety of birds and seeing how they're adapted to living where they're living."

"It's amazing how you can drive, just drive two or three hours any direction and you'll find birds that are not found where you started from, or are not found there commonly," said the interpretive biol-

ogist at education coordinator at The Arboretum at the University of Guelph.

He said he's noticed a difference between the warblers near Guelph and those up at the cottage, which is his current favourite place to observe wild birds.

He teaches workshops at The Arboretum on birding from identifying species and hearing their distinct sounds in the forest.

Earley added that "it's wonderful working with university students that are interested in all of this, you know, so that they can really, you know, get to get to know the natural world and possibly make a career out of it."

Earley also shared his passion for nature with his children, who both now pursue academic research in biodiversity and soil science.

"They also inspired me, so I learned lots from them. They saw things that I would have never seen just with their young eyes."

"My advice to people who want their kids to notice this stuff is to sort of go where they want to go."

In his case, his daughter was really interested in

→ BIRDS 8



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The Enviro-Stewards team in matching shirts in preparation for the 20th anniversary of Safe Water Social Ventures. Back row: Laura Shen, David Hannah, Cheryl Kress, Stanley Appiah, Bruce Taylor, Mats van Kleef, Andreas Mertes, Liam Koch Nichol. Front row: Alicia Wind, Kate Enns, Julia Baribeau, Wesley Palmer. [Rachel Fioret](#)

SAFE WATER: Venture emphasizes local solutions

→ FROM 3

ro-Stewards Inc.

Taylor shared that they are focused on “development, where you’re teaching them how to do it.”

Each project uses biosand filters, a sustainable technology that requires low maintenance to operate and generates positive returns, says the organization.

By implementing a strategy to teach and share the benefits of the water filter, communities can maintain the system and continue the work without continuous intervention.

“The transition of knowledge is the main

part,” said Taylor.

This project supports communities across Uganda, South Sudan and Malawi in providing safe and clean water and developing the local economy of these villages.

“It’s sustainable in many ways; all the materials used in the biosand filter are sourced locally, supporting the local economy, and so it’s more sustainable that way, and if something breaks down, they can fix it themselves,” said Mats van Kleef, director of operational strategy at Enviro-Stewards Inc.

“They’re only hiring local staff to do the

construction and distribution of the filters,” he added.

“It’s not just given to the people who need it the most, they also put some money towards it which is really important to be sustainable as well because they feel ownership of it and they really take care of it, and that makes sure that it lasts for 25 years.”

Van Kleef said that aspect is what he finds the most rewarding about the work.

More information can be found online at www.safewatersocialventures.com.

PARADE: It’s a busy time for Santa, with the Elmira parade just one of a number of stops he’s got lined up

→ FROM 3

Also taking up plenty of time is the work to prepare the floats themselves, with Haight noting the one upon which Santa rides took months to put together.

It’s well worth the effort, he added.

“The number-one reason is that Santa Claus happens to come along and is there to greet all the young people,” Haight added.

“And the other thing is

that we give out tremendous amounts of candy, and the kids always seem to enjoy that too.”

While the parade will follow the usual route, there will be a few new floats in the mix this year.

Another part of the preparations has nothing to do with what’s on display, however: keeping things safe.

“Safety is a paramount issue in the running of this parade, so in addition to three paid police officers,

we also have 14 auxiliary police helping to ensure safety as well as putting up the barricades and no parking signs,” Haight noted.

If you are travelling to Elmira to watch the parade, the best spots to park are on the side streets that are not along the route.

Other parades around the region include the Elora Santa Claus Parade on November 30, starting at 6:15 p.m. and Christmas Tyme in Wellesley on December 13 at 6:45 p.m.

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Thursday, November 28, 2024 at 7 p.m.

With guest speakers Jonathan Brubacher and Heather Bowman

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Notice of Community Improvement Plan Update and Upcoming Workshop

....

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The Township of Wellesley is working on an update to its Community Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a planning tool that will allow the municipality to designate areas for improvement and offer various incentives (i.e., grants and loans) to stimulate growth and revitalization in our community.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 | 6-8PM

TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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RSVP to Samantha at ssernoski@wellesley.ca by November 29th.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE ERBSVILLE NORTH MASTER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICING PLAN & DISTRICT PLAN

Date and Time: December 11, 2024 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Location: Creekside Church, Atrium

The Public Information Centre is an opportunity for us to share information and for you to learn about the process associated with the Erbsville North Master Environmental Servicing Plan (MESP) and District Plan. You are invited to attend in person to review information that introduces the study, presents background information and describes the future Study process.

Purpose of Erbsville North Master Environmental Servicing Plan (MESP) and District Plan

The purpose of the Erbsville North Master Environmental Servicing Plan (MESP) and District Plan (the Study) is to guide the development of lands within the residential area of the City of Waterloo. The MESP will integrate environmental, servicing, transportation and land use planning components and provide direction for preparation of the District Plan.

The MESP will document existing conditions, develop land use alternatives and select a preferred land use land to be implemented through the District Plan. The District Plan will establish the land use designations and policy framework to be included in the City's Official Plan.

Master Environmental Servicing Plan and District Plan Process

This Study has been initiated by area landowners. MHBC is leading the process in collaboration with a team of experienced professionals from the City, Region and GRCA. Consultation will occur with other agencies as required, Indigenous communities and stakeholders for technical input and comments.

The project is proceeding based on the Master Plan requirements of Municipal Class Environmental Assessment and the requirements of the Planning Act and the City Official Plan.

The Study findings may result in amendments to the regulated area mapping Grand River Conservation Authority. Public consultation will play a key role in developing the study recommendations.

Public Consultation

PIC#1 will introduce the study, present the background information and conditions and describe the Study process.

There are three (3) Public Information Centres (PIC) planned throughout the Study process.

The first PIC is scheduled for:

Date and Time: December 11, 2024 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Location: Creekside Church, Atrium

Before any decisions are made on a recommendation, or acceptance of the study, there will be further public consultation, and a future Public Meeting.

Please sign in at the PIC for notification of all future PICs and Council considerations.

Contact Information for Comments

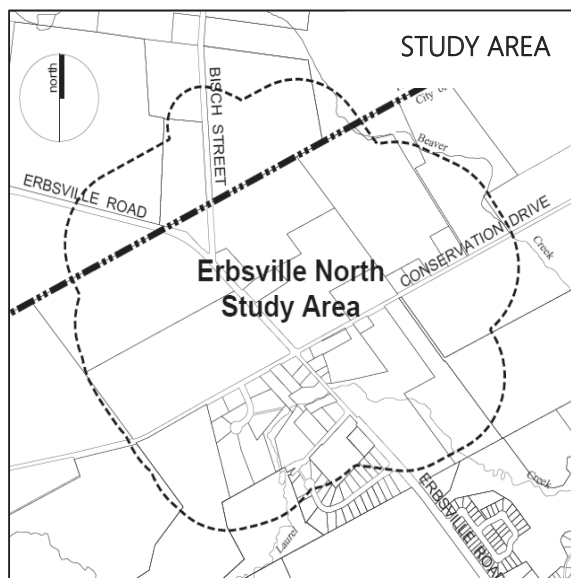
We are interested in hearing any comments that you may have about the study. All comments will become part of the public record. Please address your comment or inquiries or further information to:

Dave Aston, MSc, MCIP, RPP

MHBC
540 Bingemans Centre Drive, Suite 200
Kitchener, ON N2B 3X9
Tel: (519) 576-3650
meetings@mhbcpplan.com

This notice was first issued on November 21, 2024

Information will be collected in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. If you have accessibility requirements in order to



Tina Reed with some of the gifts under Woolwich Community Services' Christmas tree. **Andrea Eymann**

WCS: Expecting more demand for Goodwill hampers this year

→ FROM 3

main thing, but when I have companies, people, businesses, churches that want to know what to give out, I change it up with who calls and asks for what they need," she noted of the ever-shifting list.

"That's why we have the wish trees, because the [requests are] divvied up between the age ranges and the sizes for clothing. That way, we get some of everything to fulfill the wishes."

Contributions of new clothing and new toys will be accepted at the WCS until December 13, and cash donations can be dropped off at the charity or online at www.woolwichcommunityservices.org.

If you know of an individual or family in need, contact WCS at 519-669-5739.

For more information, you can contact Reed at 519-669-5139, ext 228 or email tinar.wcs@gmail.com.

ORCHARD: Fruit from some 20,000 trees will be processed on the site

→ FROM 1

official plan. It should also be noted that the owner/applicant is aware that a formal site plan application is required and is forthcoming," he said in his report.

Noting an issue raised at last summer's public meeting, Coun. Bonnie Bryant asked the applicant if a neighbour's concerns about proximity to a nearby home, Simon said the owner had met with the neighbour to address

any issues.

He also told her that health and safety concerns about the use of sprays and fertilizers near the proposed lodgings for farm workers had been addressed, with protocols put in place to minimize impacts.

In response to a question from Coun. Evan Burgess, Simon said traffic to the site would be directed to Lobsinger Line, avoiding the use of Apple Grove Road.

BIRDS: Study looks to track changes in populations, habits over time

→ FROM 6

caterpillars when she was 4-5 years old, so he got really into the creatures. His son was interested in identifying dragonflies, so he did that too.

He utilizes the eBird app to track findings on personal nature walks and bird viewing endeavors.

"Not only is that keeping a record for you of all the birds you've seen, it's also accessible to researchers, and they can use that to study changes in bird populations, bird ranges, new species for

different areas, all that type of thing," he said.

Earley notes it's another great citizen platform for people to share their interest in birds with researchers.

"The Christmas Bird Count is also another citizen science project... there are all kinds of different things that people can do to get to know birds with other birders."

More information can be found online at sites such as www.ontario-nature.org and www.birdscanada.org.

↓ POLICE REPORT

Police launch this season’s Festive RIDE Campaign

Police across the province will be conducting extra stops this holiday season as part of the Festive RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) Campaign. This year’s Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police Festive RIDE

Campaign runs until January 1. In this area, Waterloo Regional Police and the OPP are taking part. A heightened police presence is expected. In its campaign, the West Region OPP says RIDE checks can be carried

out at any time. To date in 2024, West Region officers have conducted 10,170 RIDE check events in all 13 detachment areas, compared to 8,487 RIDE check events in 2023, a 20 per cent increase. Waterloo Regional

Police say they’ll conduct RIDE initiatives and random mobile checks to help keep roads free of alcohol-impaired and drug-impaired drivers. “Driving while impaired, whether by alcohol or drugs, is both dangerous and illegal,

and tragically remains the leading cause of criminal fatalities in Canada,” said Staff Sgt. Scott Griffiths of the WRPS Traffic Services Unit. “This campaign serves as a reminder that there is no safe amount of alcohol or drugs if

you plan to drive during the holiday season. The Waterloo Regional Police Service is dedicated to reducing impaired driving and will carry out RIDE programs and enforcement throughout the holidays to support this important effort.”

NOVEMBER 12

4:40 PM | Waterloo Regional Police responded to a single-vehicle collision in the area of Lerch and Chilligo roads in Woolwich Township. There were no injuries, and the driver was charged with a Highway Traffic Act offence.

NOVEMBER 14

11:19 AM | Police receive a report that a vehicle travelling on Notre Dame Drive in Wilmot Township collided with an animal. No injuries were reported.

11:54 AM | Police received a report of a shoplifting incident at a

business on Hutchison Road in Wellesley.

12:00 PM | Another shoplifting offence at a Hutchison Road business was reported to police.

NOVEMBER 15

5:25 PM | Police received a report of a single-vehicle collision after a vehicle travelling on Benjamin Road in Woolwich Township struck an animal.

6:11 PM | A driver was charged with a Highway Traffic Act offence after a single-vehicle collision on New Jerusalem Road in Woolwich Township. No injuries were reported.

10:00 PM | Waterloo Regional Police responded to a business in the area of Farmers Market Road and King Street North in Woolwich for reports of a robbery. Two suspects were observed entering the business and were seen concealing items. When staff approached one of the suspects, a knife was brandished towards staff and threats to harm were made. The staff member left to notify police. Upon arrival, police quickly located the two suspects and placed them under arrest. A 45-year-old Kitchener man was charged with ‘robbery,’ ‘possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose’

and ‘uttering threats to cause death.’ A 43-year-old Kitchener woman was charged with ‘theft under \$5,000’ and is scheduled to appear in court in December. The man was held in police custody for a bail hearing.

11:33 PM | A business on Farmers Market Road near St. Jacobs reported a shoplifting incident. The investigation is ongoing.

NOVEMBER 16

3:34 PM | A two-vehicle collision occurred at the intersection of King and Weber Streets near St. Jacobs. Damage was reported to be minor, and

there were no injuries. One of the drivers was charged under the Highway Traffic Act.

NOVEMBER 17

5:07 AM | Four unknown males broke into a business in the area of Gerber Road and Nafziger Road and stole tools. The suspects fled the area in a white Chevrolet Express van with running boards and damage on the passenger side. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 519-570-9777. Anonymous tips can be provided to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.waterloocrimestoppers.com.

NOVEMBER 18

10:10 AM | Police received a report of a collision in the area of Listowel Road and Three Bridges Road, Elmira. A pickup truck which was towing a trailer that was carrying tires. A tire fell off the trailer bed a collided with the vehicle behind it. The driver of the truck briefly stopped and then proceeded to drive away. There were no reports of any physical injuries. Anyone with information or dashcam footage is asked to contact police at 519-570-9777, extension 6399.

When it comes to readying your lawn for winter, fuss a lot or a little

Rachel Fioret
LJI reporter

JUST LET THE LEAVES FALL where they may, or rake up every last one ahead of winter’s arrival? There’s no one right answer, according to a researcher at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI). Dr. Sara Stricker suggests a creative approach to managing leaves and maintaining healthy biodiversity. It’s about “finding what works for you,” she said. “You have to look at what you currently have in your backyard and how you want to use your backyard.” Rather than following a standardized approach to caring for a healthy lawn, Stricker promotes strategically using your space in a way that fits with your life-style, goals and aesthetic. “I have in my backyard what I call the ‘let it be corner’ where there’s leaves on it, there’s weeds in it – whatever grows, grows,” said Stricker, adding she’s fenced this section of the yard off to prevent her dog from rummaging through the dirt. Still, some care should be taken if you’re look-



Researchers suggest taking a creative approach to lawn care this autumn to promote biodiversity. ing to give your lawn a healthy start next spring, she notes. If the layer of fallen leaves is too deep, for instance, the grass might not be getting enough oxygen. Even during the winter when turf is dormant, it is still essential that it can breathe to ensure a smooth recovery when the climate warms in the spring. Stricker suggests mulching leaves to assist with decomposition. “Breaking it up with the lawnmower will help speed up that decomposition and allow the grass blades to sort of peek through the small little chunks,” she said. When mulching, she recommends shrinking leaves to “less than the size of a quarter. Smaller is better, and being able to see green grass still through your mulch. “You just will probably have to run over it two to three times, depending on how much leaf coverage you have.” When it comes to promoting biodiversity on your own property, Stricker shared that garden beds are a great option. Fallen leaves can be distributed within garden beds, along with hollow stems from flowers, which make excellent nesting sites for insects, such as cavity-nesting bees. Stacking a woodpile is

another creative option to foster insects and pollination. “Making those little niches – that’s a biodiversity refuge,” she said. “Other practices that are good at this time of year include top dressing, which is where you add extra soil on top and sort of break it in, and that can help even out bumps.” Stricker said that she uses this technique in places where her dog digs, where she removes weeds, or any other small hole in the soil. She adds fresh grass seed on top to ensure a plentiful sprout in the coming spring. “It’s never a bad idea to put more grass seed down. It just helps keep the genetics of the turf new and fresh, and can help fill in bare spots as well,” said the turf enthusiast. Overall, Stricker suggests that your lawn “is probably a lot healthier than you think.” Stricker says her passion for lawn care extends into the off hour, where she takes home calls to speak with people about the best ways to manage their lawn. You can connect with her and the team at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute via email at gti@uoguelph.ca.

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Opinion

OBSERVER EDITORIAL

Public needs full disclosure to make informed decisions

Wellesley council's discussion last week about another large hike in development charges on new homes – policies that see municipalities make housing less affordable even as they wring their hands about the affordability crisis, at times wasting still more money – revisited the issue of higher taxes and fees to pay for the township's new rec. complex.

Similarly, that \$27-million project was referenced recently as Woolwich rolled out a recreation master plan that includes the possibility of a future new facility in growing Breslau. Notably, there were no budget figures included, though future discussions will hinge on the dollars involved.

Or should, at any rate. What we've seen, however, is that municipal governments almost always prefer to downplay the costs of their often-troubling decisions.

With the Wellesley rec. facility, the lack of transparency came under fire during last year's budget process, as residents learned they'd face a 14 per cent tax hike, driven largely by costs associated with the new facility.

The township argued that it had gone through a public consultation prior to construction, though the financial impacts were never spelled out. By the time the full cost became evident, there was no turning back.

More transparency may have led to a different outcome – either a scaled-back project or none at all, for instance – which may not have been what project boosters wanted, but the public would have had its say. For real, not just in the disingenuous way governments normally go about the process.

Take, for example, the Region of Waterloo's current "public consultations" on transit. Its goal is to expand the service. The input sessions will hear from the likes of users, certain advocacy groups and businesses that employ low-wage workers. The region will cite increases in boardings and demand for service. But it will not provide actual figures, including costs.

Questioned directly about the number of actual distinct riders, what percentage of the population they represent (estimated at less than five per cent) and plans for cost recovery (fares cover less than 20 per cent of operating costs, and essentially none of the capital costs now in the billions), the region simply ignores the subject.

True public consultations would begin with revealing all of that information. If the region wants to expand transit, it must convince the vast majority who pay hundreds of millions each year for a service they don't use to dig even deeper into their wallets. But there's no interest in open, honest communication.

Instead, its goal is a window-dressing process designed to support a dubious goal, the bread-and-butter of bureaucracies that serve themselves, not the public.

The public consultation process is only credible if a large percentage of the population provides input – at least 50 per cent to be democratic, but certainly a number much higher than the few dozen.

History will show that the municipality will attempt to use such limited input to justify actions that provide little benefit, though serve government interests in many cases.

If, later on, there's any blowback, the bureaucrats will point to the public meetings that were held, noting that nobody came to complain.

Bureaucrats almost always equate apathy with consent, always feigning surprise after the public reacts negatively when the impacts are clearly spelled out to people.

We've seen countless examples of municipal governments using bogus consultations and poor reasoning to waste millions – and billions, in the region's case – on pet projects that provide little or no benefit to the vast majority of people nonetheless stuck with the bill, and often a reduced quality of life.

As spending runs rampant and punishing tax increases follow, recreation and transit will have to be part of the wider question: Are there services pricing themselves out of the market?

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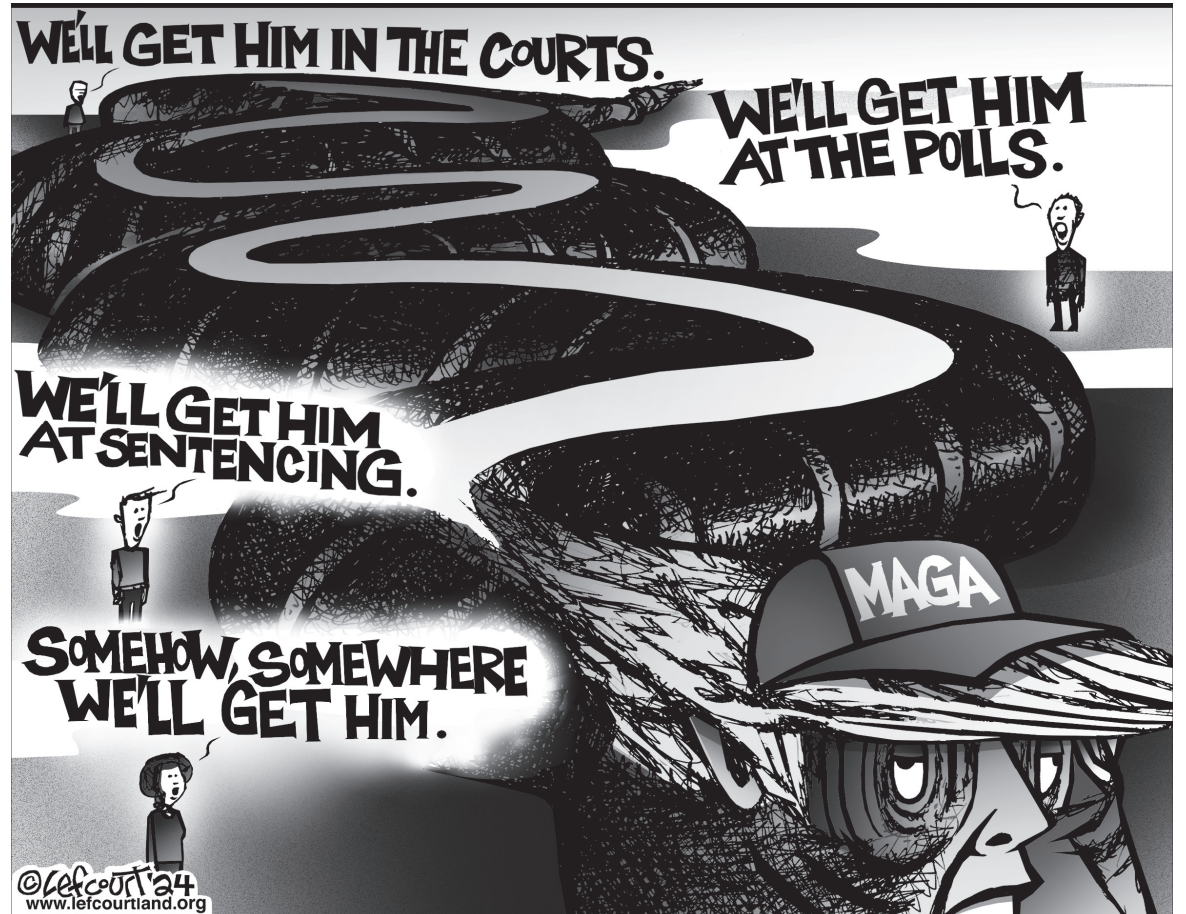
"For a mega-fiasco like this that has disrupted our community and so many lives, vague promises of it 'blowing over' are not enough for the public or the residents of the proposed 770-acre site."

Kevin Thomason, vice-chair of the Grand River Environmental Network, reacts to speculation the U.S. election casts doubt on the need for the Wilmot land-grab project, calling for it to be abandoned.

The Monitor

In October, Canada's CPI rose by 2.0%, an acceleration following the 1.6% increase in September. Gas price changes largely drove the uptick, while shelter price growth decelerated for an eighth consecutive month.

Statistics Canada



ANALYSIS OF CURRENT WORLD EVENTS

Ukraine War: South Korea to the Rescue?

The consensus assumption is still that Donald Trump will force Ukraine to yield to Russia as soon as he takes office on January 20. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky himself said last week that once Trump becomes president the war with Russia will "end sooner" than it would otherwise have done.

Nevertheless, Zelensky did call his phone conversation with Trump "a constructive exchange." German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, after an hour-long call with Trump, declared that the president-elect now has a "more nuanced" position on the war, whatever that means.

On the other hand, the performative cruelty of Trump's cabinet appointments argues that nothing much has changed (although the plan to appoint Jack the Ripper as Surgeon-General has been abandoned after re-animation attempts failed). As for Ukraine, the official MAGA lie is still that Ukraine is beyond saving.

Trump himself said in September: "What deal can we make? It's demolished. The people are dead. The country is in rubble." Vice President-elect JD Vance takes an even harsher line: "I don't really care what happens to Ukraine one way or another." Pending news to the contrary, therefore, we should



GWYNNE DYER
Global Outlook
on World Affairs

assume that US aid to Ukraine will end on January 20.

That is certainly a heavy loss to Ukraine, but not necessarily a death blow. Less than half the military aid to Ukraine since the Russian invasion in February 2022 has come from the United States. (US \$69 billion, NATO's European members and Canada \$85 bn.)

Being cut off from American financial and humanitarian aid will be a lesser blow. The US has only given Ukraine about \$36 bn over the past 40 months, whereas the EU and other NATO members have given it around \$100 bn.

Perhaps the Ukrainians can get by economically just by tightening their belts, but more arms and ammunition are critical to their survival. The non-US NATO members cannot produce enough new weapons to replace the American contribution themselves, and they are reluctant to dig further into their existing stocks in case they are next on Russia's list.

If Ukraine is not to surrender to Moscow's demands, then, where can the extra weapons it needs come from? How about South Korea?

Two years ago, North Korea started selling self-propelled howitzers, long-range rocket systems and vast quantities of other arms and ammunition to Russia for use against Ukraine. Pyongyang has now also sent 12,000 North Korean troops to fight the Ukrainians, initially in the Kursk salient.

If that is escalation, then Russia has already done it. It would involve no further escalation for the other Korea to follow suit, but in fact Ukraine doesn't need South Korean troops; just South Korean arms and ammo.

South Korea's weaponry is already NATO-compatible, so its shells would fit Ukraine's artillery and Ukrainian weapons crews would need no retraining to use South Korean-made weapons. Moreover, South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeo said two weeks ago that Seoul doesn't rule out sending weapons to help defend Ukraine, so it could happen.

South Korea can easily spare some of its weapons. With one-sixth the population of the United States, it has twice as much artillery (3,000 self-propelled howitzers, mostly 155 mm., and 4,000 towed guns). It has vast stocks of ammunition, and ample production lines to make more of everything.

→DYER 11

Canada’s inequality crisis: Why the rich keep winning

W ealth inequality has always been a reality, and Canada is no exception. While the wealthiest Canadians contribute significantly through taxes and philanthropy, their efforts often fall short of addressing the underlying causes of inequality. In many cases, they offer temporary relief rather than lasting solutions to a problem that continues to grow.

Let’s take a look at taxes. In Canada, we have a progressive tax system, which means that higher-income earners pay a larger per centage of their income in taxes. In theory, this should reduce inequality by funding essential services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure – services that are intended to support low- and middle-income Canadians. But the situation isn’t quite that straightforward.

Perry Kinkaide
Guest Column

Many of the wealthiest Canadians use tax loopholes to reduce the amount they actually pay. Investment income, capital gains, and other financial strategies often receive more favourable tax treatment than ordinary salaries. So, while it may seem like the wealthy are paying their fair share, the reality is that many of them can protect significant portions of their wealth. This only widens the gap between the wealthy and everyone else.

Beyond the issue of how much tax is paid, it’s also critical to consider how tax revenue is spent. Canada takes pride in its universal healthcare and public education systems, but access to these services can still be

unequal, depending on where you live and your economic circumstances. When tax revenues are not allocated effectively, it doesn’t matter how much the wealthiest contribute – inequality will persist if those most in need aren’t benefiting.

Philanthropy is another way in which wealthy Canadians give back. Large donations are often directed toward healthcare, education, or community programs, and these contributions can have a noticeable impact, especially at the local level. It’s hard to argue against the value of a new hospital wing or scholarships that open doors for students who might otherwise not have the chance.

But philanthropy alone can’t solve the bigger, systemic issues. These donations tend to address symptoms rather than causes. For example, a

multimillion-dollar gift might improve healthcare access in one community, but it doesn’t address why our healthcare system is stretched in the first place. And there’s a broader question to consider: Should a small group of wealthy individuals have so much power over which social problems get attention?

When the wealthy decide where their money goes, it raises concerns about accountability. While their contributions are often generous and well-meaning, they can lead to a situation where their priorities dictate public outcomes, potentially sidelining broader societal needs. In some cases, philanthropic efforts may even influence public policy in ways that ultimately benefit the donors more than the public.

Historically, societies

where wealth becomes too concentrated in the hands of a few have experienced social unrest and economic instability. While Canada has long prided itself on being more equitable than some other nations, we are not immune to these pressures. The concentration of wealth at the top is growing, and it’s becoming harder for ordinary Canadians to get ahead.

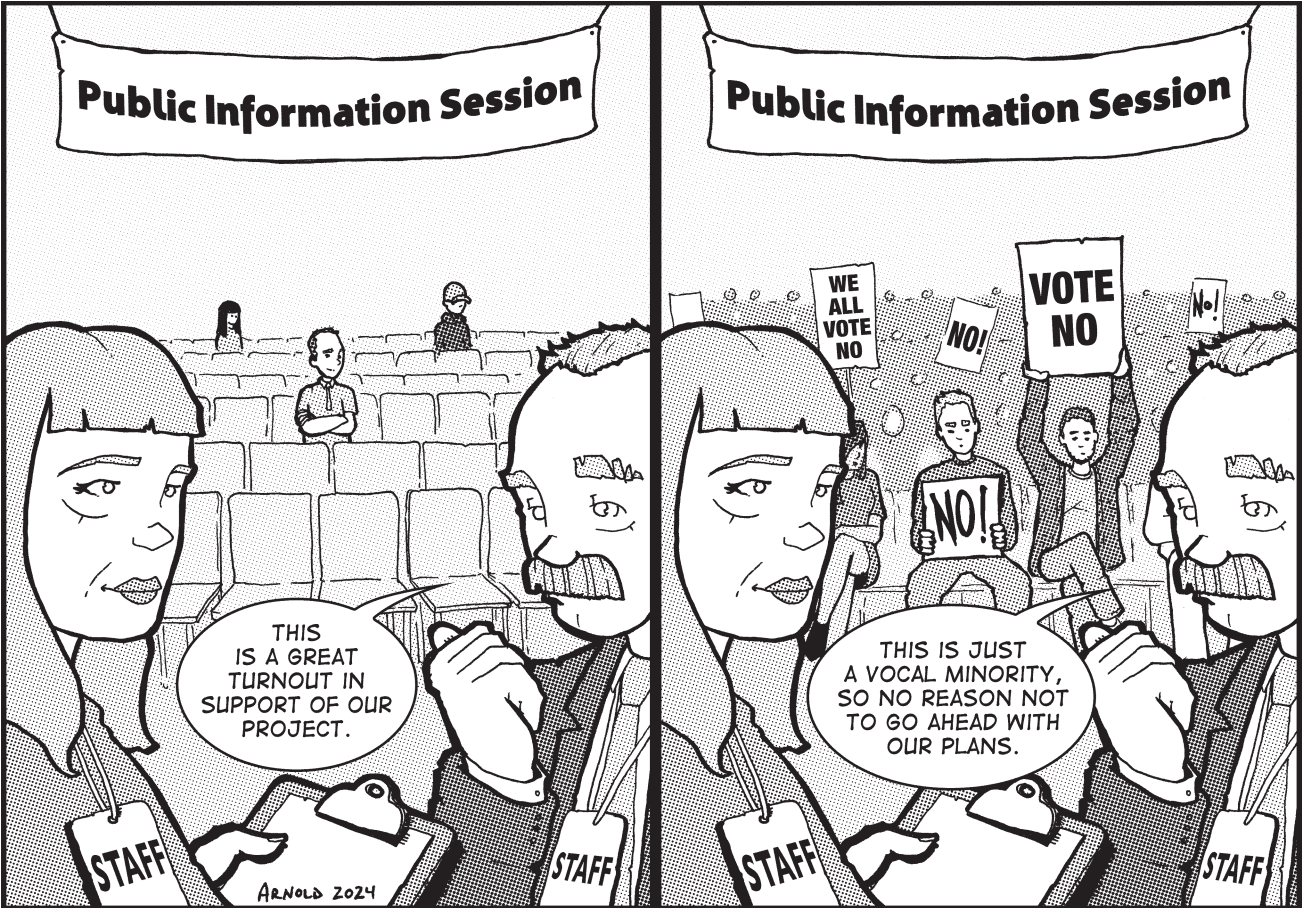
In the 21st century, new forms of wealth generation – especially through technology and finance – are widening this gap. Many of Canada’s wealthiest individuals have built their fortunes in industries like real estate, technology, and financial services, where the rules often seem to favour those who already have capital.

As technology continues to evolve, it’s essential to ask what the future holds. Emerging sectors

like artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and clean energy will likely create immense wealth for those who control them. The world’s first trillionaire could emerge in the next two decades. If the benefits of these technologies aren’t shared more equitably, inequality will only grow, which could have serious consequences for Canada.

So, what can be done? While the contributions of wealthy Canadians are important, they are not enough to address the deep-rooted issues that drive inequality. Canada needs policies that ensure all citizens have access to quality education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. This also means taking a closer look at tax policies to ensure fairness – closing loopholes that allow the wealthiest to pay less than their share.

→ KINKAIDE 32



Municipalities always welcome public input ... when it agrees with their plans.

DYER: Aid to Ukraine hinges on how much Trump wants to help Putin

→ FROM 10

A couple of thousand of those guns and a couple of million artillery shells would reverse Ukraine’s desperate lack of firepower at the front and give the country at least a chance to negotiate a ceasefire with the Russians from a position of relative strength.

South Korea would still be able to stop any North Korean attack at home, and NATO’s European members could easily cover the cost of the weapons. There are only two potential deal-killers. One is NATO’s fear of Trump. The other is South Korea’s reluctance to annoy Trump.

South Korea’s only security against attack by North Korea’s nuclear weapons is the US guarantee to retaliate with simi-

lar weapons. If Trump, eager to impose an unjust ‘peace’ on Ukraine, even hinted that giving Ukraine more artillery might invalidate that US guarantee to South Korea, Seoul would instantly drop the whole idea.

NATO’s non-US members have a similar problem. They want Ukraine to survive because they worry that a Russian victory there would tempt Putin to try reconquering other parts of the old Soviet Union as well. However, they also worry that an aggrieved Trump might pull out of NATO.

If he threatened to do that, NATO countries would quickly block the South Korean deal. In the end, unfortunately, all roads lead back to Donald Trump.

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JOE MERLIHAN
Publisher
519-669-5790 x107



STEVE KANNON
Editor
519-669-5790 x103



DONNA RUDY
Sales Manager
519-669-5790 x104



CASSANDRA MERLIHAN
Production Manager
519-669-5790 x106



JULIAN GAVAGHAN
Reporter
519-669-5790 x101



ANDREA EYMANN
Reporter
519-669-5790 x102



PATRICK MERLIHAN
Online Editor
519-669-5790 x105



RACHEL FIORET
LJI Reporter
519-669-5790 x109

Find Us:
20B Arthur Street North,
Elmira, Ontario, N3B 1Z9

Contact Us:
Phone: 519-669-5790
Toll Free: 1-888-966-5942
Fax: 519-669-5753
Email: info@woolwichobserver.com
newsroom@woolwichobserver.com
Web: https://observerextra.com

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Kings split weekend games, with just one game on tap this time around

Steve Kannon

Observer Staff

A PAIR OF LOW-SCORING GAMES saw the Elmira Sugar Kings come up with a split on their weekend road trip. Having dropped a 2-1 decision to the Strathroy Rockets on Saturday, the team edged the LaSalle Vipers by the same score the following day.

"Low-scoring was OK for a change. It feels like we've been looking at lacrosse scores for the last little while," laughed head coach Dane Horvat.

Saturday night in Strathroy, all of the scoring came in a five-minute stretch in the first period, a late power-play goal proving to be the difference after what would later have been the tying goal was called off by officials on the ice.

The Rockets' Cameron Davidson opened the scoring at 14:53, with Elmira's Ian Speiran getting the equalizer at 16:16, assisted by Ryder Roberson and Sam Ratcliffe. Lucas Laprise's goal with the extra man came with just eight seconds left in the frame.

That 2-1 lead would last through two more scoreless periods, giving the hosts a win.

Shots were 28-25 in favour of Strathroy, which went 1-4 on the power play. That the Kings went 0-5 didn't help in a close game.

Elmira goaltender Elliott

Hartwick stopped 26 in the losing effort.

Horvat noted that the small ice surface in Strathroy was a contributor, as there was less room than usual for players like leading scorers Joey Martin and Luke Della Croce to work their magic.

"Small rinks like that are hard for those skilled guys to do their thing. There's just not that time and space out there for them to do what they do," he said.

"There was a lot to overcome on Saturday night. We actually ended up scoring to tie the game, but it was called a no-goal, so that was pretty frustrating."

The following afternoon in LaSalle, the situation was reversed, with the Kings scoring first and last to take the 2-1 win.

New arrival Thomas Chan scored his first of the season to get things rolling, his unassisted marker coming at 3:53 of the opening stanza.

The Vipers' Jak Thiessen got that back at 15:14, with the score deadlocked at 1-1 as the teams went back into their rooms for the first intermission.

This time around, the scoring extended into the second period, though there were just 15 seconds left when Brett Warrilow found the back of the net, assisted by Liam Eveleigh and Elijah Weiss, to give

→ KINGS 14



The Soo Greyhounds' Brady Martin celebrates after scoring his first OHL hat trick on Nov. 13, a day after London's Landon Sim was suspended for calling him a "Mennonite." **Bob Davies**

Brady Martin shrugs off comment that got player suspended

Julian Gavaghan

Observer Staff

ELMIRA'S BRADY MARTIN SAYS HE is proud of his religion and wasn't offended when a rival OHL player called him a "Mennonite" in an on-ice jibe for which the opponent was later suspended.

The Soo Greyhounds top scorer, who is tipped to be drafted to the NHL next year, admitted he was surprised by Landon Sim's outburst, which led to a five-game ban for the London Knights forward.

"I was skating by the bench when he called me a 'f***ing Mennonite' and I then I kind of chirped

him back and told him, 'Yeah, I drove my buggy to the game,'" Martin told The Observer.

The 17-year-old, who actually drives a pick-up truck and is a more progressive Mennonite, rather than a member of the Old Order community that travels by horse-drawn buggies, insisted he was in no way upset by the remark.

"I thought it was funny. I wasn't offended about it. I'm proud to be a Mennonite, so I let it go," added Martin, who last week scored his first OHL hat trick.

However, the league did not share his lighthearted attitude towards Sim's

outburst and the 20-year-old was thrown off the ice during the Knights' 5-1 win in Sault Ste. Marie on November 6.

Six days later, he was suspended for five games, following an investigation that found he had violated the OHL's code of conduct because he "intended to provoke an opposing player that was marginalizing on both religious and cultural grounds."

By the time Sim is able to return to the ice on Friday night, he will have been suspended for a total of ten games for language breaches during his four seasons with London.

→ OHL 14

Boys' basketball at EDSS

The WCSSAA boys' basketball season gets underway on Tuesday, with the EDSS junior and senior squads hosting their counterparts from Forest Heights Collegiate. Those games will be followed by matches Nov. 28 versus Jacob Hespeler Secondary School.

Making the most of little trophies



STEVE GALEA

Not-So-Great Outdoorsman

Over the eons, countless people have asked the question, "What is the definition of a true friend?"

Well, to me and hundreds of others, the answer is, "A hunting buddy who consistently shoots smaller deer than I do."

Say what you want, but those are the best guys to have around you at any deer camp.

Let me begin by saying, the deer I harvested this year was certainly not the biggest one I have ever taken. Nor was it the smallest. The best way to describe it is that it was not exactly the kind of deer that would make the cover of a sporting magazine – even if the photo was actual size.

To me, it was the perfect deer, though. You see I had hunted ducks, geese, grouse, woodcock, squirrels, hares and pheasant earlier in the season and my freezer could not have accommodated the meat from a deer one pound larger.

Having said that, there is a certain pecking order after the deer season ends. At the top of that order is the guy or gal that shot the biggest buck. That person is easily recognized because he or she has a

→ GALEA 13

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Carleton's Evander Bentley is tackled to the ground by a Guelph player in an inter-university quadball tournament at UW on Saturday. The sport is based on quidditch, a fictional game that features in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter book series. Participants simulate flying brooms by placing sticks between their legs.
Julian Gavaghan

GALEA: Results that help define what it means to be a real friend

→ FROM 12

cell phone loaded with deer photos. And it is kept in a quick draw holster too. That person might even be wearing a tee shirt showing a selfie of him or her with the buck he or she tagged. Unless you have several hours to kill, avoid these people at all costs.

Hunters who shoot less-than-trophy-sized deer will not take up that much of your time, however. We keep our cell phones deep inside our pockets and will only bring them out under duress. Which is to say, we have nothing to brag about

– other than we filled our tags and were able to put nice tender venison in the freezer.

This is not to say that we are not prepared to brag, however. If you corner us and leave us no way out, we will. For instance, if a conversation about this year's deer season gets competitive, I plan on showing a photo of my deer and arguing it takes a really good shot to hit a target that small. Or I will lie and say the photo was taken from a quarter mile away.

Of course, it's all rela-

tive. That's why one of my old friends moved up the rank towards best friend status this deer season. In an unintentionally selfless act, he shot a deer much smaller than the one I shot.

You might think that this is insignificant. But I would argue that this is one of those weird things that helps form a lifelong bond. Primarily because we now share a set of common experiences. For instance, neither of us threw out our backs dragging our deer from the woods. Nor did either

of us need the mechanical advantage of a block and tackle to hang our deer from the rafters for cooling and ageing. Field dressing, skinning, butchering and packaging were all easier and less time-consuming for both of us this year, too.

Better still, when two of us show the photos of our deer to other folks, I will suggest his is "average sized" and he will label mine a "giant." And we will back each other up on this too.

We take no pride in this. OK, maybe just a small amount.

↓ MINOR SPORTS SCOREBOARD

WOOLWICH WILD

■ **U13 LL-1**
11/16/2024 vs Grand River Mustangs
HOME: Woolwich
HOME: 3 VISITOR: 0
GOALS: Hazel Kelly (2), Lauryn McDonnell
ASSISTS: Monika Kumbara, Zoe Martin, Jane Wright
Loree, Ivy Burt
SHUTOUTS: Harlee Merner

■ **U15 LL#1**
11/14/2024 vs Waterloo Ravens
HOME: Woolwich
HOME: 4 VISITOR: 0

GOALS: Bronwyn Rozema, Adelyn Wilk, Neve Kelly, Maddy Collison
ASSISTS: Bronwyn Rozema (3), Abby Mielke, Avery Clemmer
SHUTOUTS: Hailey Maxwell

■ **LL U15 #2**
11/17/2024 vs Cambridge Black
HOME: Woolwich
HOME: 4 VISITOR: 1
GOALS: Adara Martin (2), Madison MacKinnon (2)
ASSISTS: Keira Walsh, Josie Atkinson, Aurora Dobson

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Late goal sinks Jacks Tuesday night in Paris

Julian Gavaghan

Observer Staff

THE WELLESLEY APPLEJACKS MISSED

A crucial chance to keep pace with the leaders of the PJHL's South Doherty Division after losing in Paris on Tuesday night.

The 3-2 defeat to the Titans meant Wellesley slipped to fourth place in the standings, five points behind the first-placed New Hamburg Firebirds, as the regular season nears the halfway point.

Had the Jacks won, the team would have remained in third place, but be within only three points of the leaders and two behind the Norwich Merchants, with a game in hand.

Wellesley, which now has a record of 11-5-1-0-1, giving them 24 points in 18 matches, started the encounter poorly, conceding two goals and mustering only five shots in reply in the opening frame.

The first Paris marker

came via Luke Guagliano at 9:15.

It took just over nine minutes more for the home side to double their lead after Jack Kersey found the back of the net.

As the buzzer sounded for the first intermission, it was apparent that Wellesley simply had to up their game and increase their intensity to have a chance.

And they did. But, despite mostly keeping the Titans at bay while ensuring the Paris goalie, Matthew Dzenekoj, was busy, it took more than 12 minutes for Hudson Parker to finally put Wellesley on the board.

His seventh goal of the campaign was helped in by Tristian Huinink and Dimitri Eleftheriadis, who now has an impressive 14 assists this season and leads the team with 20 points.

With Wellesley's deficit 2-1 going into the third period, it looked very much winnable for the tight-knit group of players,



Members of the Applejacks team at the Twin Centre Hockey Day event at the Wellesley rec. centre on Saturday, before their loss to Paris. Sitting are Evan Silveira, Austin Stemmler, Brandon Abbott, Dimitri Eleftheriadis, Stuart Sinclair and Kian Harron. Behind them are Xavier Bussiere, Langdon McGrath, Keenan McGrath, Kaelan McDougald, Brennan Kennedy and Eric Lacey. **Julian Gavaghan**

who were seen happily meeting and greeting youngsters at the Twin Centre Stars' annual Hockey Day event at the Wellesley rec. centre on Saturday, while playing no matches at the weekend.

When veteran defence-man Brennan Kennedy got the equalizer, scoring his first goal of the season at

10:02 with help from Liam Wadel and Eleftheriadis again, the game was there for the taking.

The Jacks continued to notch up shots, totalling 29 by the end of the match.

Meanwhile, experienced netminder Brandon Abbott, who turned away 31 of Paris' 34 shots during the encounter, neutralized

much of the Titans' threat during that final frame amid a curiously power-play-free game.

But with the clock winding down and overtime beckoning, a cruel twist of fate would see the home side plunge the knife into Wellesley hearts after Emerson Verschoore scored with just two

seconds left.

It ensured the hosts ran out 3-2 winners and made it yet another tango in Paris that the Jacks would rather forget, having now lost two out of three against the formerly struggling side.

Having won their last four games, the Titans moved from seventh to sixth place.

However, there remains a gulf between the top and bottom half of the eight-team standings, with Wellesley eight points ahead of the fifth-placed Dorchester Dolphins.

And, with the top four sides separated by only five points, it looks like it could be a tight race to win the division and finish in the top three to qualify for the playoffs, which begin in March.

On Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Wellesley will look to get back to winning ways against the last-place Hespeler Shamrocks at the Bill Gies Recreation Centre.

OHL: London Knights player's five-game suspension was automatic when he was found in violation of league policy

→ FROM 12

The OHL says it takes any slurs against religions very seriously.

"All players have the right to participate in the Ontario Hockey League in a safe and healthy environment which promotes equal opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices," a statement read.

"All forms of harassment and abuse including, but not limited to, taunts, slurs and comments based on race, age, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, marital status or disability will not be tolerated and are completely unacceptable under any circumstances."

Martin, whose 19-year-old brother Joey Martin is the Elmira Sugar Kings' top scorer this season with 13 goals and 16 assists, said his Mennonite religion had never been

mentioned before during his hockey career.

"I've been called a lot of things, but not that," explained the Soo forward, who admitted he's "not shy" about talking about his faith and that "word must have gotten around" to Sim, who he doesn't personally know.

However, the episode has not affected Martin's performance as he continues to rack up the points, having now earned 19 from 10 goals and nine assists in 20 matches this season.

On November 13, he scored his first OHL hat trick, including the game-winning overtime goal in the Greyhound's 4-3 home-ice victory over the Erie Otters.

"He has his swagger and clearly his confidence is brimming," Soo head coach John Dean told the Sault Star after the encounter.

"He is playing a more polished brand of hockey, and it is resulting in some great opportunities."

The A-rated NHL prospect, a former EDSS student whose family owns a beef cattle farm near Elmira, told The Observer that much of his success this season has been due to the trust put in him by Dean.

Recently, this has included the centre having to play up to 28 minutes per game as his team struggles with an injury crisis.

His performance this season in the OHL, as well as for Canada's under-18s in the Hlinka Gretzky Cup in August, ensured he will take part in the inaugural CHL-USA Prospects Challenge that starts on November 26.

He has also impressed numerous sports writers, who have tipped him to be picked in the first round of

next summer's NHL entry draft.

Earlier this month, Sportsnet's Sam Cosen-tino described Martin as "country strong" as he noted that the player had built a gym in his barn to bulk up over the summer.

"I think by the end of the year, he's not going to be a secret and [will be] a guy who probably cements himself in the top 25 picks in round one," he told the CHL's Inside Take video series.

Steven Ellis, of Daily Faceoff, said Martin was one of his favourite prospects and looked like he could be an asset in any NHL team.

"At the Hlinka Gretzky Cup, the one thing that really stood out to me was he could go out there and score, he can go and make these great plays, but he was also the best back checker," he told the same show.

"He was playing on the penalty kill. He was in all situations. A player like that is going to be so important to so many teams.

"And I'm going to say this right now, I think

he's going to be one of the biggest riders in this draft, because as people get more familiar with him and see that skill, he's going to go out there and be one of the best young players in the OHL."

KINGS: Preparing to take on the conference-leading Lincolns

→ FROM 12

the Kings a 2-1 lead they'd keep right through to the final buzzer.

Shots were 36-31 for Elmira, which went 0-2 on the power play, while the penalty killers dealt with LaSalle's sole opportunity. Hartwick turned aside 30 to post the win.

The Kings (11-9-3) have a quiet weekend, with their lone game seeing them host the Western Conference-leading St. Marys Lincolns (16-3) Sunday night at the Dan Snyder Memorial Arena. The puck drops at 7 p.m.

Special teams are a focus in this week's practices leading up to the St. Marys game, said Horvat, noting the Kings are looking forward to the challenge, building on the win in LaSalle.

"We're feeling good about taking our two points from La Salle and the way that we played.

"When I think back on when we played St. Marys early on in the year (October 11), we lost 6-3, but it didn't feel like a 6-3 game. I think that's the thing with our conference and our division – it's close."



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Finances remain a worry

Although Canadian consumers are more optimistic about their future job prospects, many are still concerned about their current finances. While the inflation rate is coming down, the impact of a sluggish economy and elevated debt levels are still having an impact on consumers' financial outlook, the Conference Board of Canada reported this week.

Immigration fraud targeted

The province plans to introduce legislation to crack down on fraudulent immigration representatives. The bill would create standards that immigration representatives must meet when assisting individuals or employers with their Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) application, with penalties for those who violate these standards including fines, multi-year bans and lifetime bans.

Canada's meat sector sends China a bouquet

One of several calamities related to Donald Trump's election in the US is a potential trade war with China.

Trump conveniently lays the blame for America's trillion dollars of national debt at the feet of imports, such as those from Chinese manufacturers. Canada is not immune to being painted with the same brush; after all, the US is our top export destination.

Indeed, the US has a huge trade deficit. Exports have become an afterthought and the country's competitiveness has dropped off.

But blaming those miseries on imports is like blaming the gas station because you didn't fill your car with gas. You actually have to take action to fill your tank. And metaphorically speaking, the US government is running on fumes. It's been roundly criticized for years (including during Trump's previous administration) for not being aggressive enough supporting exports.

Among its critics are farmers, the same ones that voted for Trump. They've lost export markets for their crops and livestock to countries like Brazil.

Trump said he would fix their ills by more support domestically. One way he's considering increasing support is with tariffs against imports. He's suggested he might slap a 60 per cent tariff on all Chinese goods.



OWEN ROBERTS
Food For Thought

Of course, China won't take that laying down. And US agriculture is vulnerable – China is the largest market for America's farm goods and its biggest customer for soybeans.

So, going forward, if the US doesn't sell to China and trims exports from elsewhere, what are countries caught in the crossfire supposed to do?

The Canadian red meat sector has an idea: turn up the jets on trade with China by opening an advocacy office in Beijing.

On Monday, the sector – comprising the Canadian Meat Council, the Canadian Pork Council and the Canadian Cattle Association – announced it was starting to hunt for a representative in China, to advocate for Canadian red meat exports.

The announcement said this is "a dynamic step in ensuring that the two countries' collaboration continues to grow." It claims that for decades, Canada has earned the trust of Chinese consumers by providing reliable, sustainable and wholesome products.

That's partially true. Canadian beef and pork are renowned in China. And if the US isn't going to buy them, the sector needs somewhere for them to go.

However, Canada's agri-food relationship with China hasn't exactly

→ ROBERTS 32

Using AI as a mental-health tool

UW startup developing an app that uses artificial intelligence to help those with mental-health issues

Andrea Eymann

Observer Staff

AN AI-POWERED APP TO HELP people struggling with early signs of mental health conditions was developed by a University of Waterloo (UW) student.

The app Doro has 30-minute chat sessions for users to express their concerns and feelings about anything, which was co-created by brothers Rastin, 23, and Ramtin Rassoli, 31.

The idea started three years ago when Rastin was working on another mental health startup, which was a game to learn about different content and help someone with anxiety.

This led him to have to interview many different students, learning that there are not a lot of early support solutions for mental health, even though one in every eight people around the world lives with a mental disorder, according to the World Health Organization.

Rastin, who is in his fourth year of joint computer science and psychology, is among that 12.5 per cent as someone on the autism spectrum.

"As a teenager, I faced a lot of problems, and I felt isolated a lot – like no one understands me," he said, noting that he found out he didn't understand people later.

The team of brothers became a great combi-



UW student Rastin Rassoli is the co-creator of a new AI-powered mental health chatbot with his brother, Ramtin, to help with early signs of mental health conditions. **Andrea Eymann**

nation as Ramtin, who is a machine learning researcher, brings the professional and years of experience to the table, but Rastin brings the psychological and computer science aspect.

One of the main reasons he started this venture was to help bring more support to people who need it, as well as to make people more aware and educate them on psychoeducation.

Rastin noted that the app does not diagnose, but it lets people understand the symptoms of mental health conditions to become that first step in therapy. He adds that counselling can also get very expensive – "and not very accessible for early stages anyways."

The brothers got to work coming up with ideas where people can track their mental health – and then the Large Language Models like ChatGPT came out in 2022.

They came to the conclusion that they can have the users talk to the artificial intelligence to

help reduce any emotional strain someone may be facing.

A year ago, they started doing research to understand how AI could be an early support system.

Last June, they had their first trial with 50 UW students, and in September, they launched the second version of the application, which has about 1,500 users.

They discovered from feedback that it is a great tool for regulating emotions and providing immediate emotional support.

"For example, you had a breakup – you're feeling a lot of emotions right now, and you're overwhelmed, and after using this application, the positive emotions are increasing about 30 to 40 per cent, and the negative emotions are decreasing by 30 per cent," Rastin said.

Doro can be anywhere from feeling overwhelmed with school to self-esteem issues, but it does not replace therapy, Rastin noted.

"It's not a substitute for therapy or for counselling," said Tony Dowling of the Elmira Kiwanis Club, who has been working with Woolwich Counselling Centre and Gambit Technologies in Kitchener.

Gambit also built an AI chat, AskEllyn, for women and their supporters who were dealing with breast cancer issues a year ago.

"AI therapy can be an earlier step, like for a kid who's being abused at home is not going to contact a counsellor – but at two o'clock in the morning, they can go on the AI chat," he noted.

Dowling told The Observer that for a device to be powered by AI to help with mental health conditions, it needs to be non-prescriptive.

"You can't have the AI prescribing treatment," he explained.

It also needs to be empathetic and notice if there are warning signs that can direct the user to contact a counsellor or to call the

→ AI APP 23

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www.centreinthesquare.com

Labour film fest

Movies from the Canadian Labour International Film Festival will be featured at a Waterloo Regional Labour Council event Nov. 28 at the Apollo Cinema. Included in the evening will be five short films: Bargaining Forward; 1948, The Silicosis Affair; The Canadian Dream; Adidas Owns the Reality; The Fighter.

www.labourfilms.ca/films



Country singer Naomi Bristow will be performing at Gale Presbyterian Church in Elmira on Nov. 29.

Submitted



Naomi Bristow puts the country, and yodelling, into Christmas

She'll be performing a holiday show at fundraising event Nov. 29 at Gale Presbyterian Church in Elmira

Andrea Eymann

Observer Staff

THE FESTIVE SEASON IS A time for the decking of the halls, the jingling of the bells ... and yodelling, at least at Gale Presbyterian Church in Elmira later this month.

That's when Naomi Bristow will be performing Christmas tunes in support of Grand River Hospital Children's Cancer Centre and Presbyterian World Service & Development.

"It's a big need in our area, otherwise they have to go to Toronto. So, it's important we support our local cancer centre for children," said church

member Marilyn Coupal.

Bristow was an obvious choice to perform at the Christmas show, as the church was familiar with her clear and beautiful singing voice, said Coupal, adding, "Oh, and she yodels."

The 27-year-old Bristow has been performing for 16 years, drawn to country music from her involvement with the rodeo, growing up in Beeton, Ontario, where her dad is a bull rider and she tried her hand riding sheep in a mutton busting competition.

The yodelling began when she was eight years old. Having seen someone yodel on America's Got Talent, she turned to her

grandfather and asked to learn how to do it.

"He sent away to Nashville for an instruction book and a cassette tape – a learn-how-to-yodel book – and I taught myself from the book," Bristow said.

Yodelling is the exchange of your chest voice and your head voice back and forth, a practice that hails from Europe as a way to communicate in the mountains, she explained.

"Then country music took on yodelling – the cowboys would roll out on the range with their cows and it became a thing over here in North America," said Bristow, who incorporates the technique into seasonal songs, as can be heard on Yodelin' Christmas, one of her 11 albums.

"It doesn't get any better than that," she said with a

laugh that it starts off with a 'ho ho ho' and instead comes out as a yodel.

Bristow is no stranger to audiences in this area, having performed at the likes of the Commercial Tavern in Maryhill and the Elmira concert series.

"That's why it's going to be great to do a Christmas show, because people have seen my country show for over 10 years now, and it'll be fun to have people see a different show of mine," said Bristow, noting that Christmas is her favourite time of year, from her faith to sharing the joy and spreading yuletide cheer.

"I always say that if I could sing Christmas music all year round, I would," she added.

"It brings the community together so well,

people love to sing along and it brings so much joy to people when they hear all these classic Christmas. It just really brings people together, and we all feel as one when we're sitting in these venues listening to these songs together," Bristow said.

The November 29 show will include a variety of tunes, from the traditional O Holy Night to some Dolly Parton numbers and fun songs like Santa Looked a Lot Like Daddy by Brad Paisley.

"People are smiling the whole way through because they just remember these songs or they laugh during them. It's really fun to see," she noted.

The song that she is most proud of is Christmas Hallelujah.

"It's based on Leon-

ard Cohen's original but there's a Christmas version that was put out by a group – every time I sing that song, I always get the most feedback," Bristow added.

"It's just so powerful and people love to sing along to the chorus of that song because they all know it from years and years of singing it."

Having started performing at the age of six, music is a big part of her now, something she says she enjoys sharing with others, many of whom have literally seen her grow up. Now married, she's expecting a child of her own early in the new year.

The fundraising concert is set for November 29 (7 p.m.) at Gale Presbyterian Church in Elmira. To order tickets, call 519-669-8410 or email events@galepresbyterian.com.

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Rastin Rassoli drew on his own experience in developing the app. **Andrea Eymann**

AI APP: The goal is to augment, not replace, therapy and other treatments

→ FROM 19

Currently, the website only allows five free 30-minute sessions, and the user would have to buy packages after that.

But they have been thinking about how to improve this platform. They have thought about including 10-minute sessions that are free for anyone to receive support as soon as someone needs it.

By the end of this month, they will have the next version of Doro, in which the design will be changed, and the Doro character will also be added.

"We're building a face for it because, based on my experience, people like characters," Rastin said, explaining that people feel more connected to it, and open the app just to see the face.

At the end of December, the team is hoping to launch the mobile app version to make it more accessible to have quicker access to AI therapy.

Another feature they are currently working on is building a database of Ontario therapists so Doro can direct someone if it gets to that point.

The app was named after Dorothea Dix, a 19th-century activist who changed the medical field for mental health by trying to humanize what were called mental asylums at the time, as well as challenging the stigma of mental health issues.

"We felt she's not very well known, and it's really important to recognize her work and what she did," Rastin said.

The current version of Doro can be found online at www.doro.razroze.ca.

suicide crisis line, 988.

Rastin notes it can direct someone to the hotline to get help from a professional.

"When during the conversation, if something comes up, it reminds people to click on it as they need professional support right now," he explained.

Dowling noted that it also cannot be like generative AI, like ChatGPT, which searches the internet for solutions.

"It's got to be really guard-railed into the documents and the information that you feed, and it's not going off and creating crazy stuff," Dowling said.

Rastin agrees that these AI therapy apps will not replace therapists, but it's possible they could augment therapy techniques.

"The approach can be replaced by AI, but therapists are not just people who use therapy. There is the human aspect, which is really important," Rastin said.

He added: "They build connection, rapport, and after that, they use many different techniques like therapeutic approaches."

The brothers have also tried to create empathy for the robot therapist, and it's important for the user to create that connection with it.

"But sometimes it feels fake because it's AI, and it doesn't necessarily understand everything, but we are trying our best to tune the model and improve it so it feels more human and feels empathic," Rastin noted.



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Elmira, Ontario
N3B 2Z6

Phone:
519-669-1647
or **877-969-0094**
Fax: **519-669-1820**

After Hours
Emergency:
519-575-4400
www.woolwich.ca

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT NOTICE OF HEARING

MONDAY December 9, 2024, at 4:30 P.M.

Pursuant to the Planning Act and Ontario Regulations 197/96 and 200/96 take notice that the Committee of Adjustment for the Township of Woolwich will meet for the purpose of hearing all persons interested in support of or opposition to the following application as described below.

Committee of Adjustment meetings are held virtually via Zoom where public attendance can be arranged with staff, if required. Below is information on how you can view or participate in the meeting as well as how to submit comments. Please contact the Committee Secretary by email to planning@woolwich.ca or by phone at 519-669-6040 if you have any questions.

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT APPLICATIONS

MINOR VARIANCE APPLICATION A 20/2024 – Ben Hoogendoorn, 31 South Parkwood Boulevard, Elmira

ZONE / USE: Residential R-2A with Site Specific Provisions in Section 16.141 / single detached dwelling and a detached accessory building

PROPOSAL: The applicant is requesting relief from the site specific provisions in Section 16.141 a) to reduce the required rear yard setback from 15 metres to approximately 1.5 metres to recognize the location of the existing detached accessory building.

MINOR VARIANCE APPLICATION A 21/2024 – Jonas Bauman, 858 Hawkesville Road

ZONE / USE: Agricultural with Site Specific Provisions in Section 16.128 / single detached dwelling, livestock barn and welding shop

PROPOSAL: The applicant is requesting permission to expand the approved area of operation for the existing welding shop to permit the addition of a 22 square metre covered loading dock on the west side of the existing welding shop.

MINOR VARIANCE APPLICATION A 22/2024 – Andrew Horst, 1463 Three Bridges Road

ZONE / USE: Agricultural – single detached dwelling, garden shed, farm shop / sheds, pole barn housing turkeys, chicken barn and uncovered manure tank

PROPOSAL: The applicant is requesting permission to reduce the Minimum Distance Separation from the calculated 292 metres to approximately:

- 58 metres between a proposed chicken barn and the St. Jacobs Settlement Boundary; and
- 54 metres between a proposed covered manure storage area and the St. Jacobs Settlement Boundary.

The applicant is proposing to construct a new 676 square metre chicken barn and a new 163 square metre covered manure storage area on the property. The existing uncovered manure storage tank will be removed.

MINOR VARIANCE APPLICATION A 23/2024 – Murray Brubacher, 855 Arthur Street South

ZONE / USE: Agricultural with Site Specific Provisions in Section 16.226 / single detached dwelling, detached accessory building, garage / farm shop, livestock barn and barrel / drum receiving and recycling operation

PROPOSAL: The applicant is proposing to install a new septic system for the building associated with the barrel / drum operation and is requesting permission to locate the septic system outside of the approved area of operation. The existing 0.3 hectare area of operation contains a building and a gravel yard which is not suitable for the new septic system.

MINOR VARIANCE APPLICATION A 24/2024 – Deborah Moore, 29 Albert Street West, St. Jacobs

ZONE / USE: Residential R-3 / Legal Non-Conforming Home for the Aged

PROPOSAL: The applicant is requesting permission to change the legal non-conforming use on the property from a Home for the Aged to a Boarding House. The existing facility has 25 rooms and is no longer a licensed retirement home.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

As in-person meetings are not an option at this time, you can view or participate in the meeting as follows:

- view the Committee of Adjustment livestream on the Woolwich Township YouTube channel at the following link [@woolwichtownship9588](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woolwichtownship9588) OR
- participate by registering with the Committee Secretary on or before 12 noon on Wednesday December 4th. To register please email planning@woolwich.ca or phone 519-669-6040. When registering you must provide your name, phone number, email and the application number you would like to comment on. Once you are registered the Committee Secretary will forward information on how to connect to the Zoom meeting (i.e. zoom Wi-Fi login or conference call number).

If you are unsure whether or not you would like to speak at the meeting but want to listen and have the option to comment on a particular application, please register with the Committee Secretary (see above information). You will not be required to speak if you do not want to.

WHY REGISTER

By registering staff can ensure that you are permitted access to the virtual meeting, we know which application you are commenting on and, can call on you at the appropriate time to comment if you wish to do so. As it is virtual, registering will provide a level of security that is necessary to prevent unwanted guests from disrupting the meeting. Applicants and their consultants will be automatically registered and contacted accordingly by the Committee Secretary ahead of the meeting.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

If you would like to comment on a particular application, staff always recommend that you do so by:

- submitting a letter by mail or delivering it to the Township office at 24 Church Street West, Elmira and placing it in the drop box on the Maple Street side of the building; or
- submit an email to planning@woolwich.ca

You can also contact the Township Planner at 519-669-6033 to discuss any comments / concerns however, this is not considered a formal comment.

The Committee will consider submissions for or against the applications. All submissions must be made no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 29th (Note that this date is before the meeting). Any submissions received will be included in a comment package and presented at the meeting. This information is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public at the Committee of Adjustment hearing. Please note that while the Committee may redact some personal information such as email addresses and phone numbers, your submissions will otherwise be made public in their entirety.

This notice has been sent to commenting agencies, and to owners of property located within 60 metres (200 feet) of the subject properties. If you wish to be notified of any last minute changes to the agenda (i.e. withdrawal of an application) you must contact the Committee Secretary at 519-669-6040 or 1-877-969-0094 (Ext. 6040) or by email to planning@woolwich.ca.

Notice of Decision: Within 10 days of the meeting, a copy of each decision will be sent to owners, agents, those who submit written comments, and people who register for the meeting. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Committee of Adjustment in respect to this application, you must submit a written request to the Committee Secretary or register ahead of the meeting. This will also entitle you to be advised of a possible Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

Appeal of Minor Variance and Consent Applications: An appeal from a decision of the Committee of Adjustment to the Ontario Land Tribunal shall be filed with the Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment, in person at 24 Church Street West, Elmira. The Tribunal may dismiss an appeal without holding a hearing if the appellant did not make oral or written submissions to the Committee of Adjustment before a decision was given or does not provide a reasonable explanation for having failed to make a submission to the Committee.

QUESTIONS / FURTHER INFORMATION

Please feel free to reach out to Township Staff by phone or email to assist you should you have any questions. Contact the Committee Secretary at 519-669-6040 or 1-877-969-0094 (Ext. 6040) or by email to planning@woolwich.ca




Kristin Bolliger, with her daughters, six-year-old Aida and six-month-old Ellie, meet Santa Claus at the Christmas Miracle Market, which was organized by Dee Irwin and Laura Pawlowski (inset), at Gale Presbyterian Church in Elmira on Saturday. [Julian Gavaghan](#)



CANADA POST DELIVERY INTERRUPTION

All Canada Post deliveries of The Observer will be affected by the Canada Post Strike.

In the meantime, The Observer has pickup locations throughout Woolwich and Wellesley. These locations can be found on our website at observerextra.com/coverage.



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Community Information Page

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N3B 2Z6

Public Notice WINTER OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN

This is a reminder the Winter Overnight Parking Ban for snow plowing begins December 1st.

Please note the dates and times as follow:


**December 1st to March 31st
between 4:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.**

No overnight parking is permitted on Township roads during this time to facilitate municipal snow plowing from the streets. THIS BAN APPLIES REGARDLESS OF THE WEATHER.

Any vehicles in violation of this parking ban may be ticketed.

Please note that the Region of Waterloo has a year-round overnight parking ban on all Regional roads between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

For further information please contact the Township of Woolwich at: 519-669-6000 or visit www.woolwich.ca/WinterParking



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N3B 2Z6

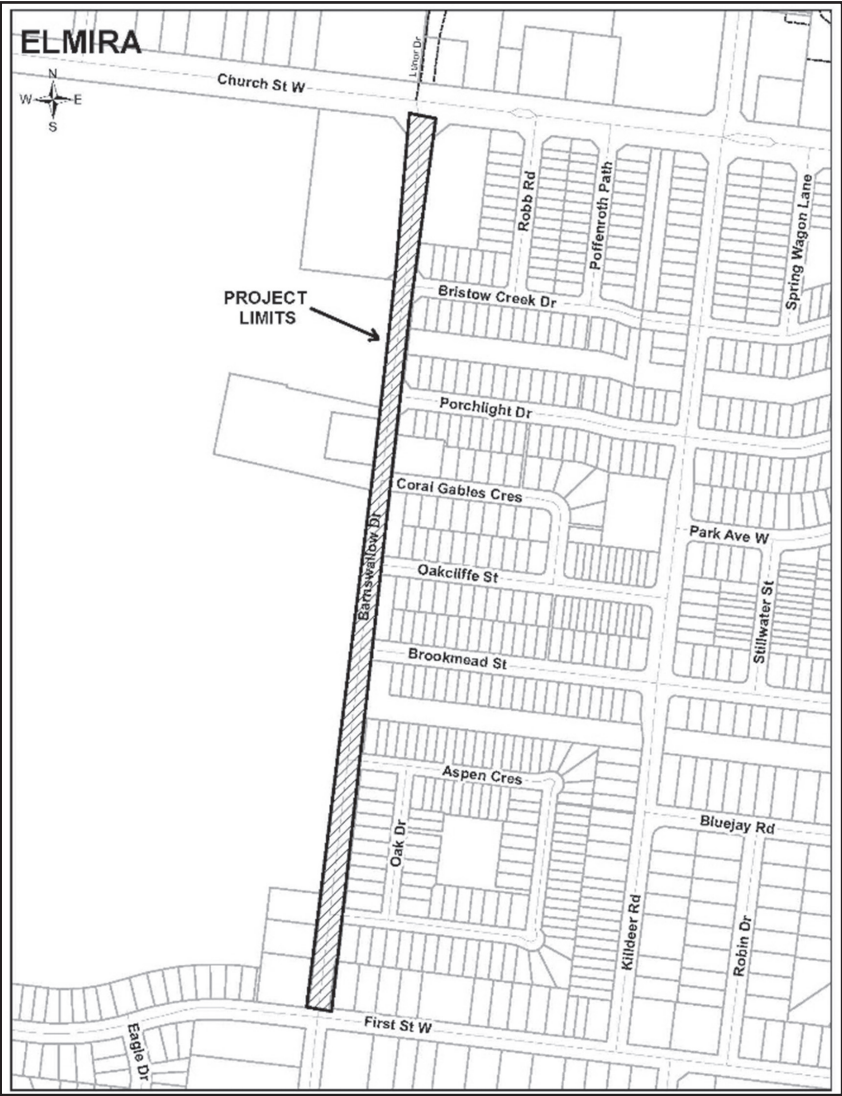
PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE BARNSWALLOW DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Woolwich Memorial Centre – Community Centre Room

December 5th, 2024 – 7:00pm to 9:00pm

The Township of Woolwich is currently working with GHD Limited on the design of Barnswallow Drive between First Street West and Church Street West.

The scope of the Barnswallow Drive work includes the replacement of existing underground storm infrastructure, sanitary sewers, two storm culverts, the replacement of the full pavement structure, and the installation of curb and gutter and sidewalks along both sides the street.



The purpose of the Public Consultation Centre is to present the project to the public and receive feedback from affected residents and stakeholders. Display boards and comment sheets will be available at the Public Consultation Centre and staff from the Township of Woolwich and GHD will be on hand to listen and answer questions regarding the project.

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.engagewr.ca/barnswallow-drive-reconstruction-project>
and/or contact the following:

Ryan Tucker
Engineering Project Supervisor
Township of Woolwich
E-mail: rtucker@woolwich.ca
Phone: 519-669-6048

Aaron Bruce, C.E.T.
Consultant Project Manager
GHD Limited
E-mail: aaron.k.bruce@ghd.com
Phone: 519-340-4067

MAYO CLINIC: Improving your posture can help prevent or reverse many conditions

→ FROM 27

patellofemoral pain. Poor foot and ankle alignment also can contribute to plantar fasciitis, a condition in which the thick band of tissue connecting your heel to the ball of your foot becomes inflamed and causes heel pain.

Shoulder pain and impingement. Your rotator cuff is a group of muscles and tendons that connect your upper arm to your shoulder. Muscle tightness, weakness or imbalances associated with poor posture can cause the tendons in your rotator cuff to become irritated and cause pain and weakness. A forward, hunched posture also can cause these tendons to become pinched, or impinged. Eventually, this can lead to a tear in the rotator cuff tissue, a more serious injury that can cause significant pain and weakness, and limit your ability to carry out daily activities.

Jaw pain. A forward head posture may strain the muscles under your chin and cause your temporomandibular, or TMJ, joint to become overworked. This may result in pain, fatigue and popping in your jaw, as well as difficulty opening your

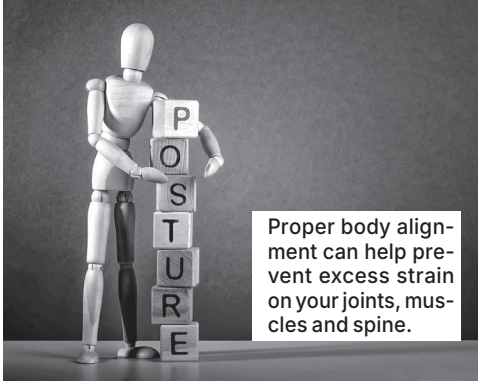
mouth, headaches and neck pain.

Fatigue and breathing problems. Poor postural habits may restrict your rib cage and compress your diaphragm. This can reduce lung capacity, leading to shallow or labored breathing, fatigue and lack of energy, which can affect your overall productivity.

Tips to improve your posture

Here are three ways to improve your posture while standing, sitting and lying in bed:

1. While walking, stand tall. Inhale, roll your shoulders up and back, then exhale and roll your shoulders down, as if you are gently tucking your shoulder blades into your back pockets.
2. Try seated pelvic tilts. Sit on the edge of a chair, place your hands on your thighs and rest your feet on the floor. Inhale and rock your pelvis and ribs forward while you open your chest and look upward. Exhale, rock your pelvis and spine back and look down toward the floor.
3. Do a wake-up or bedtime bridge pose. Lie on your back in bed with your knees bent and your feet resting on the mattress. Inhale, then slowly exhale and curl your



tailbone to lift your buttocks and spine, one vertebra at a time, until your shoulder blades bear your weight. Pause and inhale, then slowly exhale as you roll your spine back down.

Improving your posture can help prevent or reverse many conditions. You'll be amazed to see how your quality of life can improve — simply by standing a little taller.

↓ Mayo Clinic Q & A is an educational resource and doesn't replace regular medical care. E-mail a question to MayoClinicQA@mayo.edu. For more information, visit www.mayoclinic.org.

↓ FAMILY ALBUM

Obituary

Martin, Naomi

Passed away peacefully at home on Friday, November 15, 2024 in her 94th year. Beloved wife of the late Edén Martin (1974). Loving mother of Gerald (Laurel), Janet, Stewart (Lucille), James (Janet) and Dale (Lucille). Lovingly remembered by 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Survived by sisters Nora (Melvin Martin) and Alice Brubacher. Predeceased by her parents Sydney and Alice (Shantz) Brubacher, sisters Verna (Edgar) Martin, Ruby (Melvin) Martin, Ella (Maurice) Martin and Erma Brubacher; and brother Lester (Lucinda) Brubacher. Visitation was held on Monday, November 18, 2024 from 1-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the Dreisinger Funeral Home, 62 Arthur St. S., Elmira. A family service was held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at the funeral home, then to Montrose Mennonite Meeting House for burial and public service.

❖ www.dreisingerfuneralhome.com

↓ PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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THE ELMIRA KIWANIS ANNUAL

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WRCF funding

The Waterloo Region Community Foundation this week announced \$437,000 in funding to 31 local organizations through the Racial Equity Fund. Among the recipients this time around were Community Justice Initiatives, Hearts Open for Everyone and Lion's Mane Ministry.

Anti-bullying funds

The Ontario government marked Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week by announcing \$4.6 million to help combat bullying in schools. The goal is to foster stronger connections among students, promote a safe, respectful and inclusive school environment, and help reduce incidents of violence in schools across the province.

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Elmira man excited to hit the century mark

A celebration will be held just ahead of Lorne Martin's 100th birthday on Dec. 10

Andrea Eymann
Observer Staff

AS HE APPROACHES HIS 100TH birthday next month, Elmira's Lorne Martin says the secret to longevity is... contentment.

"Don't get riled up too quickly," he advises. "It always pays to be decent," the centenarian pointed out, noting he goes through "life in stride" as he drives to McDonald's or Tim Horton's for his daily cup of coffee with his friends as they try to solve all the world's problems. "I can't drive on the 80-km roads anymore, but I still drive around town." Born long before many of the modern trappings we take for granted, Martin embraces today's

technology. Today, you can find him online checking out YouTube videos, as he likes listening to gospel music and how-to videos from his love of tinkering, which he developed from a young boy growing up on a farm near the Listowel cutoff. "At eight years of age, I could put water in a high-pressure boiler," he said of the steam tractor used on the family farm, where they dabbled in a mix of everything, from grain and hay to cattle. At the age of 20, Martin moved to Kitchener to work at a meat packing plant, then moved over to Braun's Bike Shop, where he learned how to sharpen blades and fix bicycles. This became essential knowledge ahead of the opening of Central Bicycle Shop in 1949 with his brother-in-law, Arnold Schwindt, when they moved to Elmira. They eventually changed the name to Central Cycle and Sports,



Lorne Martin will celebrate his 100th birthday on Dec. 10. **Andrea Eymann**

and they also started to include skis and skates at the shop he owned for 40 years with his late wife, Melba, and Schwindt. He and Melba met at the Waterloo arena, where he spotted her sitting in the

stands with a friend. They weren't watching a game; they were just there hanging out with a friend, and he decided to say 'hi.' That led to 60 years together, until Melba's death in 2009 at the age of

85. Together, they had two children, Lois Jefferies and Randy Martin. He now has four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The shop was a good fit for the avid cyclist. He didn't ride long-distance,

like his son Randy Martin, but he did ride around town until he was in his eighties when he stopped because he couldn't get his leg over the bike easily. The business taught him much as he "learned by doing" as the store expanded its offerings of products and services. "I went to some lines that I shouldn't have gone to. Lines would mean what product to sell," he said, noting that some of the items he stocked moved well, while others didn't. At the end of the day, his business focus was caring for his customers, as he always had the philosophy that "a sale is not complete until everything works." If there was ever a problem with a product he sold, he would want his customer to come back in to remedy the situation. "The greatest satisfaction when a guy comes in and says, 'Boy, this machine worked real nice,'" Martin said. → MILESTONE 29

Proper posture and body alignment is beneficial to your overall health

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: My grandmother lives with me, and she is always nagging me to "stand up straight" and "put your shoulders back." She says good posture will keep me healthy as I age. But I'm only 17. Does it really matter if I'm slouching a bit?

ANSWER: Though it may seem annoying, your grandmother is correct in that good posture supports good health. And starting good habits now, though it requires conscious effort, can help you throughout your life.

Mayo Clinic
Professional Clinical Health Advice

Proper body alignment can help prevent excess strain on your joints, muscles and spine — alleviating pain and reducing the likelihood of injury. As a bonus, correct posture can boost your productivity and mood, as well as help you use your muscles more efficiently. And starting good habits now can last a lifetime when they are needed most. You may wonder: what

does proper posture look like? Use the "wall test" to find out: Stand so that the back of your head, your shoulder blades and your buttocks touch the wall, and your heels are 2 to 4 inches from the wall. Put a flat hand behind the small of your back. You should be able to just barely slide your hand between your lower back and the wall for a correct lower back curve. If there's too much space behind your lower back, draw your belly button toward your spine. This

flattens the curve in your back and gently brings your lower back closer to the wall. If there's too little space behind your lower back, arch your back just enough so that your hand can slide behind you. Walk away from the wall while holding a proper posture. Then return to the wall to check whether you kept a correct posture. Unfortunately, ideal posture often is the exception rather than the rule. Poor posture can affect you from head to toe, contributing to several problems

no matter your age. These are among the most common problems resulting from poor posture: Headache. Poor posture can strain the muscles at the back of your head, neck, upper back and jaw. This can put pressure on nearby nerves and trigger what are known as tension-type or muscle-spasm headaches. Back and neck pain. Pain and tightness or stiffness in the back and neck can be due to injury and other conditions, such as arthritis, herniated disks

and osteoporosis, but poor posture is a common contributor. Though rarely life-threatening, back and neck pain can be chronic and reduce your quality of life. Knee, hip and foot pain. Muscle weakness; tightness or imbalances; lack of flexibility; and poor alignment of your hips, knees and feet may prevent your kneecap, or patella, from sliding smoothly over your femur. The ensuing friction can cause irritation and pain in the front of the knee, a condition known as → MAYO CLINIC 26



Prepare Your Car for Winter Mornings

With winter coming, we want your vehicle to be ready for the chilly commute. We take care of ensuring your heaters, defrosters, and wipers are in top shape during every visit to our shop. Plus, we'll top up your washer fluid. It's also helpful to have a reliable ice scraper in the vehicle as well. With our thorough inspections, you can drive with confidence—no surprises! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out. We're here to help you stay cozy this season!

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COLLEEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

□ **Movie Night at the Junction.** Join us at 7 p.m. at The Junction, 47 Arthur St. S., Elmira, for "The Chosen," Season 1 Episode 5 – "The Wedding Gift" (54 min) Free movie, pop and popcorn! The next episode is on Nov. 28. Call Marilyn 519-669-5548.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

□ **Elora Festival Pre-Christmas Book Sale** of gently used fiction, children's books, games, puzzles and other Xmas items in support of the Elora Festival. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fergus Legion, 500 Blair Street, Fergus. Great deals. Cash only.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

□ **Elmira Needle Sisters Quilt Guild Meeting.** Join us at 7 p.m. at Elmira Mennonite Church. Our speaker this month is our very own Kay Palmer. Kay is a very talented quilter, rug hooker and knitter. The cost for visitors is \$5.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

□ **Senior's Community Dining** at Linwood Community Centre. Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for lunch and fellowship. Cost: \$14. Please call to register by November 22 by calling 519-664-1900.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

□ **Movie Night at the Junction.** Join us at 7 p.m. at The Junction, 47 Arthur St. S., Elmira, for "The Chosen," S1 Episode 6: Indescribable Compassion (52 min.) After witnessing the healing of a leper on the road to Capernaum, the friend of a paralytic takes desperate measures to get him through the crowd to meet Jesus. Free movie, pop and popcorn! The next episode is on Nov. 28. Call Marilyn 519-669-5548.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

□ **Naomi Bristow Christmas Concert** at Gale Presbyterian Church, Elmira, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets \$30. Call or email Irene at 519-669-8410 or events@galepresbyterian.com. Proceeds to Grand River Hospital Children's Cancer Centre & Presbyterian World Service & Development.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

□ **Elmira Legion's All You Can Eat Breakfast and Visit with Santa.** Bring your family to the Elmira Legion from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Menu includes ham, sausage, fried or scrambled eggs, home fries, pancakes, baked beans, toast, jam, coffee, tea and juice. \$10/adult, \$5/6-10 years, free for 5 and under. Proceeds to benefit the Royal Canadian Air Cadets 822 Tudor Squadron.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

□ **Senior's Community Dining** at Calvary United Church, 48 Hawkesville Rd, St. Jacobs. Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for lunch and fellowship. Cost: \$14. Please call to register by November 29 by calling 519-664-1900.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

□ **The Karen Reed Fiddle Orchestra** at Westheights Church, 82 Westheights Drive, Kitchener, 7 p.m. Come enjoy traditional Canadian fiddle and step dance. Tickets can be purchased at ticketscene.ca.

↓ The Community Events Calendar is reserved for non-profit local events that are offered free to the public. Placement is not guaranteed. Registrations, corporate events, open houses and similar events do not qualify for free advertising. See complete policy online. All submissions are to be made online at observerextra.com/event-listing/

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The air fryer helped deliver a juicy pork chop with crispy crust

We wanted juicy, perfectly cooked pork chops wrapped in a crispy and deeply flavoured crust. But since air fryers don't fry in the same way that a hot pan with oil does, we had trouble achieving a well-browned, crisp crust. Pretoasting the breading in the microwave with a little melted butter helped significantly, but it was when we switched from regular bread crumbs to Japanese panko that we achieved a crust with crunch.

As with our chicken cutlets, we streamlined the dredging process by whisking the egg and flour together, but went a step further, packing a ton of flavour into the egg mixture with a double

□ **America's Test Kitchen**
Rigorously tested recipes that work.

dose of mustard — Dijon and dry mustard — as well as garlic powder and cayenne pepper. However, the crumb topping flaked off when we flipped the chops during cooking. To help it stick, we scored the surface of the chops in a crosshatch pattern, creating additional surface area for the coating to cling to. We also cut two slits into the fat on the edges of the chops to prevent them from buckling in the hot air. Air frying for 18 minutes gave us the juicy chops we were after, and a squeeze from a lemon wedge added pleasant brightness.

Air-Fryer Crispy Breaded Boneless Pork Chops

- **3/4 cup** panko bread crumbs
- **2 tablespoons** unsalted butter, melted
- **1 large** egg
- **2 tablespoons** Dijon mustard
- **1 tablespoon** all-purpose flour
- **1 1/2 teaspoons** dry

mustard

- **1/2 teaspoon** garlic powder
- **1/4 teaspoon** salt
- **1/4 teaspoon** cayenne pepper
- **2 (8-ounce)** boneless pork chops, 1 1/2 inches thick, trimmed
- **Lemon wedges**

1. Toss panko with melted butter in a bowl until evenly coated. Microwave, stirring frequently, until light golden brown, 1 to 3 minutes; transfer to a shallow dish. Whisk egg, Dijon mustard, flour, dry mustard, garlic powder, salt, and cayenne together in a second shallow dish.

2. Pat chops dry with paper towels. Using a sharp knife, cut two slits, about 2 inches apart, through fat on edges of each chop. Cut 1/16-inch-deep slits, spaced 1/2 inch apart, in a crosshatch pattern on both sides

of the chops. Working with one chop at a time, dredge in egg mixture, letting excess drip off, then coat with panko mixture, pressing gently to adhere.

3. Lightly spray base of air-fryer basket with vegetable oil spray. Arrange chops in prepared basket, spaced evenly apart. Place basket in air fryer and set temperature to 400 degrees. Cook until pork registers 140 degrees, 18 to 22 minutes, flipping and rotating chops halfway through cooking. Serve with lemon wedges.

↓ For 25 years, confident cooks in the know have relied on America's Test Kitchen for rigorously tested recipes developed by professional test cooks and vetted by 60,000 at-home recipe testers. See more online at www.americastestkitchen.com

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MILESTONE: Party set for Dec. 8 at Elmira Mennonite

→ FROM 27

With all the sporting goods on hand, the store was a natural magnet for local kids, whether in search of a new pair of skates or a repair for their bikes.

A supporter of the Elmira Sugar Kings, he found work and leisure time getting mixed up on occasion – he cites, for instance, a game when one of the Kings needed a quick repair to a pair of skates.

“One of the players broke the holder of the skate in the second period, and I said to give it to me, I will run to my store and repair it,” Martin said, noting that by the third period, the player was able to return to the ice.

Martin was very much community minded, taking part in the Elmira

BIA and the Kiwanis Club of Elmira, actions that landed him the Citizen of the Year honour in 1999.

When he and Melba finally decided to sell the business and retire, travel became the new focus. They bought a fifth-wheel camper and travelled all over Canada and into the U.S.

“We went as far as Banff and Jasper, and then we went as far as Key West,” Martin said.

“We went all over the place, out west in Saskatchewan and Alberta,” he said, adding that it would be difficult to pick a favourite destination, as he loved every experience.

That applies to life in general since he arrived into the world on Dec.

10, 1924, going on to do many things, owning a business included, that we could never have imagined as a child growing up on a farm.

“My experience was that I drove four horses pulling a cultivator. We worked with horses, and I was hired out to people who didn’t have a tractor,” he said, adding that he thought he might have stayed on with farm life, but instead rolled with what life gave him.

“Life just comes along; you just make every day count,” said Martin.

Even though he is not usually crazy about birthday celebrations, he is excited about his upcoming party on December 8 at the Elmira Mennonite Church.



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Word of the Week

ARMISTICE

An armistice is an agreement to stop fighting a war, or in other words, a truce.

Mini - Word

1	2	3	4		5
6					
7				8	
		9			
		10			

ACROSS

1. Toward sunrise
6. Algebra or trig
7. Ask payment of
9. ___ bean
10. Cord fiber

DOWN

1. Host
2. "I see!"
3. Hiding place
4. Pang
5. Inexpensive
8. Physical education

Sudoku EASY

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

Sudoku HARD

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

Find - A - Word

THEME: FARMING

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

BALES CHICKENS DUCKS OATS SHEEP TRACTORS
BARN CORN FARMER PASTURE SILO WHEAT
CATTLE CROP HORSES PLOW STRAW

Crossword

ACROSS

1. Asterix comic setting
5. Tater
9. Endorses
14. Shrek-like creature
15. Downton Abbey's cook
16. Lacking sense
17. Space agency
18. Computer account holder
19. Church council
20. Liberace's favourite playthings
23. Excavated with a shovel
24. A lesser exam
25. Football defensive position
27. Rugby position (2wrds)
30. Temporary work
32. Fish eggs
33. Apple's web browser
36. Knockout, boxing lingo
39. Informal term for women
41. Font flourish
42. Black as night
43. Buckeye State
44. Tropical fleshy fruit
46. To feel deep regret
47. Ring-toss game
49. Phobias
51. Boat used to bring in nets

53. Three-masted schooner
55. Lumberjack's tool
56. Field for a pimple pro
62. Sock material that's not quite silk
64. Word of honor
65. Small island
66. Stand-in professional
67. Tall plant, woody trunk

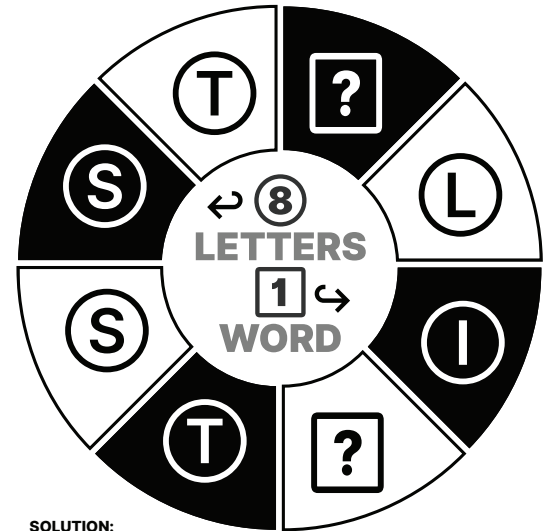
68. One-armed bandit
69. Expensive watch brand
70. German man
71. Tropical sun helmet

DOWN

1. Deep toned percussion instrument
2. Gel-like laboratory
3. Bear constellation
4. Rustic camp shelter
5. Porgy fish
6. Hypothesize without proof
7. Nitrogen-rich from urine
8. Mend a sock
9. West African port city
10. Some, no matter which
11. Branched candlestick
12. Russian whip
13. Overrun with marsh plants
21. Animal lairs
22. Turn into bone
26. Sham
27. Therefore
28. He built an ark
29. Disappear by melting
30. Complains persistently
31. Solo in an opera
34. Yearn
35. Heroic deed
37. Part of BYO
38. Single digits
40. R&B-derived genre
45. Retro hairdo
48. Medical term for "puffy ankles"
50. Sign up
51. British "Hi"
52. Self-evident truth
53. Spud
54. Upper regions of space
57. German surname means "Red"
58. Stallion's better half
59. Nobel Peace Prize city
60. Gooney, unappetizing food
61. Abominable Snoman
63. Nut type

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
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				24						25		26		
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32				33	34	35					36		37	38
39			40		41						42			
43					44					45		46		
			47		48					49	50			
51	52							53	54					
55				56		57	58					59	60	61
62			63			64					65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

8 Letters 1 Word



SOLUTION:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Figure out the mystery letters to complete this eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.



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Twin Centre Booster Club members Lisa Jacobs, Jessica Masschaele and Becky Shaw, who is the fundraising chair, selling 50/50 and raffle tickets at the hockey day event at the Wellesley rec. centre on Saturday.
Julian Gavaghan

ROBERTS: Trade tensions expected under Trump

→ FROM 19

been a love-in. In a retaliatory measure for arresting Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou, China blocked shipments of Canadian beef and pork in 2019. And in September, kicking back against Canadian tariffs on electric cars and aluminum, China stopped purchasing Canadian

canola seed.

"Trade tensions between countries can severely disrupt international trade," says the University of Guelph's Dr. Sylvanus Kwaku Afesorgbor. "My previous research demonstrated how trade tensions between Canada and the United States during Donald Trump's

presidency negatively impacted trade between the two countries, particularly in the agri-food sector."

Given Trump's strong mandate, a trade war seems inevitable. Food prices that were supposed to go down will go even higher. It's not too soon to say 'Here we go again.'

KINKAIDE: Closing the gap is key to a better future

→ FROM 11

As new industries emerge, Canada must actively ensure that the wealth it generates is shared broadly. This could involve investing in retraining programs, providing better access to capital for entrepreneurs, or increasing public investment in innovation. If we don't take these steps, the wealth gap will continue to widen, with far-reaching effects on our economy and society.

Ultimately, the wealthiest Canadians play a crucial role through taxes and philanthropy, but these efforts alone won't close the gap. What's needed are systemic changes that address the

root causes of inequality.

If we don't act now, the disparities between the wealthy and everyone else will continue to grow, posing serious risks to the future of Canada's economic and social fabric.

↓ Dr. Perry Kinkaide has served as an advisor and director for various organizations and founded the Alberta Council of Technologies Society in 2005. Previously, he held leadership roles at KPMG Consulting and the Alberta Government. He holds a BA from Colgate University and an MSc and PhD in brain research from the University of Alberta.



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