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Elmira, Ontario, Canada | observerextra.com | Volume 29 | Issue 18

This Weekend

Friday

22°



Saturday

18°



Sunday

21°



MAY 2, 2024



Living Here | 27



Emergency crews responded to location on Arthur Street north of Elmira Apr. 26 after a northbound gravel truck collided with a horse-drawn buggy. The horse was killed, but there were no other injuries reported.

Steve Kannon

Slower home sales as buyers show more caution in the market

Julian Gavaghan
Observer Staff

THE NUMBER OF HOUSES SOLD in Woolwich and Wellesley has slumped by more than half within a year as cautious potential buyers wait for expected interest rate drops, say realtors.

A total of 34 sales closed over the last three months compared to 85 in the same period in 2023 as homes sit on the market longer, new data shows.

The number of pending sales from January 20 to April 20 was 76, with other deals set to close in the coming months.

But it still represents some nervousness about buying, said Scott Miller of Conestogo-based Red and White Realty.

“A lot of people are just holding and waiting for the interest rate to drop. But I think less inventory is keeping prices steady,” he said.

Data from the MLS sales system shows that the average price actually fell 2.7 per cent in Woolwich

→ HOUSING 6

Some 1,500 high school students in region face suspension

Region of Waterloo Public Health officials see a number of issues at play as numbers increase dramatically this time around

Julian Gavaghan
Observer Staff

ALMOST 1,500 WATERLOO REGION HIGH school students were banned from classrooms Wednesday because their vaccine records were not up to date.

That figure is almost three times the number who were suspended five years ago, the last time

Ontario’s immunization rules were fully enforced in the period before the pandemic.

The 1,428 teenagers face having to stay home for 20 school days until May 30, during a busy period of preparing for June exams, unless they log their vaccines before then.

The announcement by Region of Waterloo Public Health came six days

after the return to school of the last 59 out of 2,969 elementary students who were initially banned on March 27.

David Aoki, the region’s director of infectious disease and chief nursing officer, said many of the suspended high schoolers had not received shots for meningitis.

The highly infectious virus is known as the

“kissing disease” because it is commonly caught by teenagers and those in their early 20s when young people often congregate in close quarters.

The vaccine for it is routinely given in schools to Grade 7 pupils and a lot of current secondary students missed out because they were forced to stay home during the

pandemic, Aoki said.

He also said others were missing their Tdap booster for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis that is given between the ages of 14 and 16, a decade after first receiving the vaccine.

“The main reason that more students have been suspended is because it has been five years since suspensions were last enforced,” Aoki explained.

“Because of this there were some parents where it went by the wayside and there were missed opportunities for catch-ups because of the pandemic.”

He said increased vaccine skepticism may also be a factor, although he noted that there were not more exemption letters than previous years.

→ VACCINES 10



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Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group marks Red Dress Day on May 5

Bill Atwood
Observer Staff

IN RESPONSE TO A CALL for religious organizations to honour and acknowledge Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Children and 2-Spirited (MMIWG2S+) people in Canada, nine Wilmot churches have joined together to mark this Sunday's Red Dress Day by hanging a red dress each of their locations.

As this is the first time churches in Wilmot have banded together to mark the day, this is a significant step for bringing more awareness to the day and the issues, said Tammy Gagon, a Métis person who helped organize the dress hanging.

"It's a big deal because with truth and reconciliation we need to build the communication up between Indigenous people and the settler community," Gagnon said.

"So it's all about learning and knowledge sharing...with nine churches they have their congregations so they reach a wide audience of people. So when they're hanging a red dress at the church, there's a large audience that's probably going to ask, 'Hey, why do you have that red dress hanging up there?' So it's an opportunity for sharing knowledge and educating people about things that are going on within our

community," she said. Red Dress Day came out of a 2010 Winnipeg art installation by Métis artist Jamie Black, whose REDress display gathered several hundred red dresses and hung them in public spaces around the city.

According to the Assembly of First Nations, Indigenous women make up 16 per cent of all female homicide victims and 11 per cent of missing women in Canada despite only making up only 4.3 per cent of the population.

The call for religious organizations to participate in the Red Dress initiative came from Elder Nina De Shane of the Wilmot Family Resource Centre and is being led by the Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relations, (WEWGISR).

Marie Pavey, a member of a local Mennonite church and WEWGISR, said it is just one way to build a relationship with Indigenous people.

"We look for invitations because, as settlers, we've done a lot of and are doing a lot of harm when we do things, so when we look for invitations from their community to ours, we pay attention to that. We try to respond as opposed to say to saying 'this is what we think needs to be done,' because that's happened a lot, and that's why we've ended up in

→ RED DRESS 32

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News tips are always welcome.
Email: newsroom@woolwichobserver.com
Online: observerxtra.com/tips

Church Street closure

The region having resumed work on the final stages of the reconstruction of Church Street East in Elmira, there have already been some lane closures recently. Starting May 13, however, the region plans to close all access along the route for two weeks, a brief repeat of last summer.

From the archives

Ontarians awoke to an open market for electricity May 1, but the local utility expects few immediate changes in the wake of deregulation. In the new market, consumers now have a choice of retailers from whom that can buy electricity. The deregulation mandated by the provincial government follows the model established a few years ago for natural gas.

From the May 4, 2002 edition of The Observer



Scott Kuehl demonstrates his chess moves at home in Elmira as he prepares for a "simultaneous exhibition" at EDSS on May 23. **Julian Gavaghan**

Chess enthusiast to take on multiple players at EDSS event

Julian Gavaghan
Observer Staff

SCOTT KUEHL HAS PLAYED CHESS more than 10,000 times in the 50 years since he first learned the game of kings. He still can't get enough of it.

That's why the Elmira expert is hoping to take on ten EDSS students on separate boards by himself in a special "simultaneous exhibition" during their lunch hour.

And while it may not have the Cold War connotations of Fischer v. Spassky or the shock factor of the 2022 world championship cheating scandal involving a certain

kind of beads, the May 23 event still promises plenty of drama.

"Last year when I did it for the first time, it was against nine students and I won 9-0. And I still had time to help them clear up," he said.

"I think people will want to see if I can match what I did again this year."

He said last year the students who came to watch "seemed to like watching me scurrying around" as he made his moves.

"I basically go in a big circle, going around all the different boards making moves and then, when I come back to the board, you make your move, then

I make my move, and we keep going," he explained.

Part of his EDSS gambit is trying to encourage more people to play chess in Waterloo Region because he fears the game in Canada and North America is falling behind Europe, where the majority of top tournaments are now played for increasingly large sums of money and with record popularity.

Kuehl, who has won several solo tournaments and even finished high up in the U.S. Open Chess Championship in Las Vegas in 2017, says simultaneous games pose a different challenge.

→ CHESS 5

Region pitches plan to tackle chronic homelessness

Bill Atwood
Observer Staff

REGIONAL COUNCIL LAST WEEK ACCEPTED a new plan aimed at ending chronic homelessness in the region, with a goal of reaching "functional zero" or having less than 0.1 per cent of the population be homeless by 2030.

The details, including how much money that will cost, will be rolled out later this year as part of the 2025 budget process, however.

A report to council estimates a capital investment of \$110 million in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and supportive housing will be needed. It also calls for an increase in operating spending of \$5 to \$8 million each year for the next six years.

Peter Sweeney, commissioner of community services, noted at the April 24 meeting there is a "high level of alignment between the plan through a housing first and human rights the federal approach" to ending chronic homelessness, meaning that it will inform their advocacy strategy when making funding requests.

For 2024, council budgeted \$245 million for affordable housing and homelessness, with 23 per cent of that directed toward homelessness and supportive housing programs.

The plan, officially dubbed the Plan to End

→ HOMELESSNESS 6

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Increased demand at Wellesley Food Cupboard a sign of the times

Bill Atwood
Observer Staff

FOLLOWING AN INCREASE IN THE number of people it serves, the Wellesley Food Cupboard has put out a call for donations to make up for the demand. That comes at a time when people generally do not think as much about giving compared to other times of the year, said organization chair Christa Gerber.

“It’s just this natural cycle of giving, and unfortunately in spring and summer, we don’t think of that time. We’ve made it through the reserves we had stored up from Thanksgiving and Christmas and now our reserves are getting lowered,” she

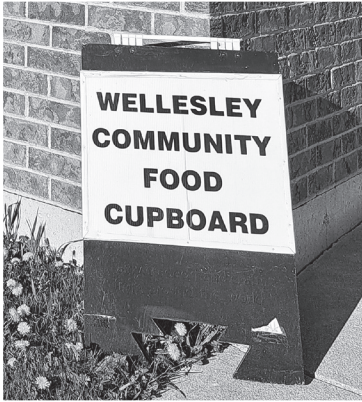
explained. In addition to households that receive monthly food assistance and gift cards, the group is now supporting 24 households with perishable items every other week. That’s an increase over the 20 households it normally provides assistance too. At \$40 a box, that increase makes a huge difference, Gerber said.

“It does when you think of each box is \$40. And they’re getting two a month. And some of them are getting more than that because they’re a larger family, though some are getting less than that because they might just be a single person. I think the biggest thing that is eye-opening for me is the families that need



assistance have needed it now more than they’ve ever needed it before,” she said, noting that current funds will not last until the end of the year. Increased demand is due to a mixture of people that are working, but

whose wages have not kept up with inflation, as well an increase of cupboard users that are on disability support, she said. “It just goes to show that the government is not supporting people with



An increase in the number of households it supports saw the Wellesley Food Cupboard put out a call for donations. disabilities, it’s really sad.” Beyond monetary donations, the most needed items are cereal, school snacks and baby food. “When you can have those extra gifts to hand out, that’s just saying to someone else is think-

ing about you. Baking supplies is another one. A lot of our families bake, and a bag of flour is very expensive – anything like that is really always helpful,” Gerber added. “A lot of people like to give canned goods and, unfortunately, it’s just not as popular as obviously things like a box of granola bars or a big box of cereal.” Those looking to donate can send an e-transfer to office@wellesleymennonite.ca or mail a cheque payable to Wellesley Mennonite Church with “Food Cupboard” in the for line to 157 David St., Wellesley, ON, N0B 2T0. Those in need are asked to contact the group via email at wellesleyfoodcupboard@gmail.com.

CHESSE: He’s got a number of events lined up to promote the game locally

→ FROM 3 “The hardest thing is to maintain focus because you’re playing so many different positions at the same time,” he explained. “So at one particular moment, you have to absorb what’s going on on one of the boards and then you have to be able to do that for each of them. “And because you have an hour and are playing eight or nine players at a time, it’s not like you’re sitting at one board for five minutes; you’re lucky if you’re at one board for 10 to 20 seconds.”



Scott Kuehl is looking to grow the game’s appeal locally, including setting up a chess club in Elmira. **Julian Gavaghan**

Kuehl has also been on the other side of the board in a simultaneous match after playing Swedish grandmaster Pia Cramling and Canadian international master Deen Hergott in separate events. “I did as well against them as these high school students did against me,” said the father-of-two, who has been married to his wife Elizabeth for 29 years. Despite worrying about the future of chess in Canada, Kuehl, who learned the game as an 11-year-old growing up in Kitchener, said children

are increasingly learning it from a young age. “Nowadays, you have kids that are already grandmasters at 12 years old because they’ve been tutored,” said the 61-year-old, who works as a Linamar receiving inspector and says the numbers and pattern recognition he uses for his job are similar to the game he plays recreationally every day. In his efforts to grow the game, Kuehl has organized two Horse and Buggy Chess Opens at the Woolwich Memorial Centre in Elmira and he has been

surprised by the ages of the competitors. “At the second Horse and Buggy, I had a five-year-old in the tournament playing,” he noted. In 2021, American Abhimanyu Mishra, then aged 12 years, four months and 25 days, became the youngest ever grandmaster, the highest title in chess and just above international master in rankings. Chess was born out of a 1,500-year-old Indian game called chaturanga and spread from there to Persia, where it morphed

into its current form with the name shatranj. Because the Persian word for king is “shah,” like the ones who ruled Iran until 1979, the winning move was called “shah mat”, which became known in English as “checkmate”. The game spread via Arab Muslim rulers to Spain, from where it spread across Europe and became particularly popular in royal courts as a game of strategy that could be likened to war. This year, at Floradale Mennonite Church on August 24, Kuehl is hosting a quick chess tournament to raise money for the Elmira Chess Club he is hoping to set up. Games will be limited to 25 minutes with a five-second increment from the first move. The Horse and Buggy Fundraiser Quick requires membership of the Chess Federation of Canada and will be an officially rated tournament with a \$20 entry fee. More information about this and other chess events can be found online at www.chess.ca/en/events.



Eli Bauman, 6, shows off his messy hands (top) while Jennifer Ellis helps her daughters Emma, 8, and Maria, 10, make slime at the Elmira Library’s Homeschooler STEAM Club on Apr. 25. **Julian Gavaghan**



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A two-vehicle collision occurred in the vicinity of Arthur Street North and Florapine Road north of Elmira. No one was injured, and police say the investigation continues, with charges anticipated. **Bill Atwood**

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HOUSING: Higher prices, concerns about interest rates have impact on buyers

→ FROM 1

and Wellesley compared to last year, falling from \$921,644 to \$896,135.

Miller, however, cautioned that the relatively small data sample for the two townships could skew the figures and he felt that, overall, prices had “stayed around the same.”

They still remain about a third below the pandemic peak, when the average home fetched more than \$1.3 million, however.

He expects prices to rise by around 4 per cent over the next 12 months, with an expected reduction in mortgage costs boosting demand.

Many experts predict the Bank of Canada’s benchmark interest rate of 5 per cent will be lowered by 0.25 percentage points on June 5.

The Bank has decided to keep its overnight rate frozen at six consecutive meetings, which are held eight times a year.

But at the last one, on April 10, Governor Tiff Macklem said he was “encouraged” by a cooling of inflation, with the consumer price index staying under 3 per cent since the beginning of the year.

Interest rates began rising from a record low of 0.25 per cent in March 2022 after being held at the level for two full years.

Inflation peaked at 8.1 per cent in June of that



One of the houses that is currently for sale in Elmira as buyers wait for lower interest rates.

year and has been steadily falling since, although is still higher than the Bank’s 2 per cent target.

Falling house sales locally reflect national trends, with the Canadian Real Estate Association in January revealing that the number had fallen to the lowest level since the 2008 recession.

Two weeks ago, the Building for Land Development Association revealed that new home sales in the Greater Toronto Area were also at record lows as “buyers remained on the sidelines.”

Within Woolwich and Wellesley, the latest figures show that the most expensive properties were sold in the Breslau, Bloomingdale and Maryhill areas.

The cheapest were in Elmira, which, compared to the other communities, has a bigger mix of properties, including many

apartments.

The list below shows the average closing and listing prices over the last three months in all communities where properties were actually sold:

| ↓ Community | ↓ Closing | ↓ List |
|--|------------------|---------------|
| Breslau / Bloomingdale / Maryhill | \$1,015,642 | \$1,039,067 |
| St. Jacobs / Floradale / West Montrose | \$927,900 | \$985,760 |
| Wellesley / Bamberg / Kingwood | \$925,500 | \$949,000 |
| Elmira | \$815,206 | \$806,482 |

In most sales, the closing price was slightly lower than the list price.

This is in stark contrast to the peak of the pandemic boom in March 2022, when buyers in Woolwich and Wellesley were paying an average of \$204,359 – or 18.4 per cent – above the average listing price of \$1,108,934, according to MLS figures.

During that month 41 properties sold, compared to 16 in March this year.

The current average sold price in the two townships is almost 32 per cent below the pandemic-era high of

\$1,313,293.

Miller said that now is a much better time for buyers as they no longer need to feel rushed into making a decision and that “prices will continue to rise.”

Unlike during the pandemic, many buyers now are adding conditions to sales and getting proper home inspections.

HOMELESSNESS: Region will look at spending as part of 2025 budget process

→ FROM 3

Chronic Homelessness (PECH), has been in development for more than 18 months. Led by the Social Development Centre, the PECH brought together more than 40 organizations and “lived experts” who have experienced homelessness.

David Alton, lived expertise group facilitator with the Development Centre, explained that the lived expertise is what sets this plan apart from previous attempts at combating the issue.

“Up to now, a lot of the homelessness support system has been very top-down, where regional staff have been making decisions. Then the agencies have been enacting those decisions, and then people who are experiencing homelessness and advocates have been receiving those decisions,” Alton said in a phone interview with The Observer.

The plan calls for 30 actionable items for the

region to implement, including adopting a human rights approach for consulting people with firsthand experience of homelessness, endorsing a tenant protections package, working with area municipalities to adopt matching bylaws and conducting a review of shelter system providers and transitional housing providers.

The PECH also calls for updating plans to the transit hub to ensure that the encampment at the intersection of Victoria and Weber streets in Kitchener remains a sanctioned location until functional zero is achieved.

The full PECH report comes as chronic homelessness has greatly increased in the region. From January 2020 until last September, there was a 129 percent increase, with shelters seeing a capacity rate of around 83 percent. If trends do not change, the number of people experiencing homelessness could triple by 2028.

Laura Pin, an assistant professor of political science at Wilfrid Laurier and one of three academics who worked on the PECH, said several factors have led to the increase.

“We are in not just a housing affordability crisis, but an affordable housing crisis. Often, there’s a lot of attention from politicians and commentators around affordable homeownership; young folks can’t purchase homes, and I think that is very concerning. But truly, in terms of folks who are on low or fixed incomes – people who are pensioners or retired people who are receiving social assistance, people who are working minimum-wage jobs – their income is so out of tune with the actual housing costs for market-based rental housing,” Pin said in an interview.

Pin explained that the eight- to ten-year wait for a one-bedroom subsidized apartment in Waterloo Region is consistent with

the rest of Ontario and Canada.

According to the PECH, 13 per cent of the unhoused in Waterloo Region are youth, a 20 per cent increase from two years ago, while Indigenous people make up 12 per cent of the homeless population.

While functional zero is a long-term goal, Pin said more process-based measures could be used to determine the program’s success.

“We will continue to have diverse participation because we know that’s essential to making strong policies. We will also continue to have a process that brings the groups we need to the table, as well as decrease the number of people experiencing homelessness, which is entirely measurable.”

Regional Chair Karen Redman said at the council meeting that the PECH “arms us very well to go to senior levels of government and say we now have a plan.”

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The Optimist Club of St. Jacobs have been aerating lawns as a fundraiser for 17 years. Taking part this year were Hudson Trask and Tyson Hirsh (back row); Nick Lopes, Dan Ring and Rob Perry (middle row); and Sharon Charter (front). **Bill Atwood**

Aerating lawns is all in a day’s work for St. Jacobs Optimists

Bill Atwood
Observer Staff

AFTER FINDING SOME OF ITS regular members unavailable due to injury and calling for volunteers, the Optimist Club of St. Jacobs was out for its annual aeration fundraiser on Monday evening, with six volunteers tackling 17 lawns. The club was expecting to finish 101 lawns once the fundraiser wraps on Saturday. The club, which started 19 years ago, is in its 17th year of the aeration fundraiser that raises around \$4,000 annually, said club president Rob Perry.

“It’s just neighbours helping neighbours.” While the club puts on a number of events throughout the year, including an Easter Egg hunt and breakfast with Santa, it also provides funding to a number of to support youth, Perry said. That list includes the robotics teams at St. Jacobs Public School and EDSS, the summer reading program at the St. Jacobs library, Strong Start to Reading and the Woolwich Counselling Centre for programming it provides at the public school. That’s in line with the club’s mandate to help

improve the lives of youth, Perry added. “We really believe that we can make our community better by improving the lives of kids. That takes on a couple of shapes. The other side of it is that we want to encourage programs that will promote the arts, literature, and academics. We need to invest more in sports, that kind of thing, and generate opportunities for kids to express themselves in leadership as well,” he said. The aeration fundraiser is not a typical initiative for service clubs, but it is catching on with other Optimist Clubs, Perry

explained. “It’s certainly a unique thing. There are a lot of other Optimist clubs within southwestern Ontario that have been doing this. I think we’d like to take credit that they modelled after our program, but I’m not sure if that’s the case. It really was finding a way to raise money, and we felt that we wanted to do something that was something people would normally do anyway. Something that we could interact with people directly, and then turn that it right back into the community,” he said of the funds raised.



Hudson Trask aerating a lawn as the project got underway on Monday evening.

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Kyle Korir (top left) runs fast down the right wing as EDSS senior boys’ soccer team take on Bluevale Collegiate Institute. Also at Rim Park on Apr. 25, Judson Martin (top right), Ethan Bettridge (bottom left) and Petro Kaskampas (bottom right) also dribbled the ball into attacking positions but the Elmira players were frustrated in the end by a 4-0 loss. **Julian Gavaghan**

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Opinion

OBSERVER EDITORIAL

Removing smartphones from classrooms the right move

There are bound to be some issues, but the provincial government's effort to reduce the use of mobile phones in Ontario's classrooms is a welcome move.

The goal is to reduce distractions in class, allow students to focus on learning and improve student wellbeing.

Students in kindergarten to Grade 6 will be required to keep phones on silent and out of sight for the entire school day, unless explicitly permitted by an educator. For students in Grades 7 to 12, cellphones will not be permitted during class time unless explicitly directed by the educator.

Moreover, social media websites will be removed from all school networks and devices, and report cards will include comment on students' distraction levels in class. The government will provide mandatory training for teachers and new supports for students and parents.

The latter is a good idea, given that previous attempts at restrictions met with mixed effectiveness given that the rules were left to the boards, schools and even individual teachers, making for a lack of consistency.

To be sure, the new measures will meet with resistance from students, and probably more than a few parents, who should instead be concerned with a better learning environment.

Studies consistently find a negative link between excessive smartphone use and student academic performance. Students can take up to 20 minutes to refocus on what they were learning after focusing on a distraction, for instance.

A CAMH study on youth, smartphones and social media use found some 35 per cent of Ontario's secondary school students spend five hours or more daily on electronic devices such as smartphones, tablets, laptops, computers, gaming consoles.

Female students are significantly more likely than male students to spend more than five hours a day on social media, as were students in Grades 9-12.

Studies also show that the issues go far beyond controlling mobile phone use in the schools, as action must be taken to reduce or eliminate the negative impacts of social media in general, particularly on young people.

Mental health experts note that social media use in the past decade has significantly increased in parallel with the number of children and adolescents reporting moderate to severe mental distress, including suicidal ideation.

Young people report lower life satisfaction and higher rates of loneliness compared to previous generations. Research links the increased prevalence in technology with depression, anxiety, chronic stress and low self-esteem.

Social media has also been shown to affect young people's self-image and interpersonal relationships, promote social comparison, and facilitate cyberbullying and self-harming behaviours.

Social media is such a negative influence that the Toronto public and Catholic school boards, along with the Peel and Ottawa-Carleton public boards, recently launched a lawsuit against the parent companies of social-media platforms Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok, accusing them of harming the mental health of students and disrupting learning. They're seeking some \$4.5 billion in total damages.

Kids are especially susceptible to social media addiction, which the tech companies themselves encourage with algorithms designed specifically to keep people plugged in.

It should come as no surprise, then, that UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report released in 2023 calls for smartphones to be banned in schools. More generally, children should be weaned off the link due to concerns about data privacy, cyberbullying and mental well-being.

In addition to concern about children's wellbeing, there is clear data linking mobile phones with reduced learning outcomes, which hits right at the heart of growing concerns about education. Parents would be well advised to help with efforts to remove social media from the classroom ... and everywhere else.

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Verbatim

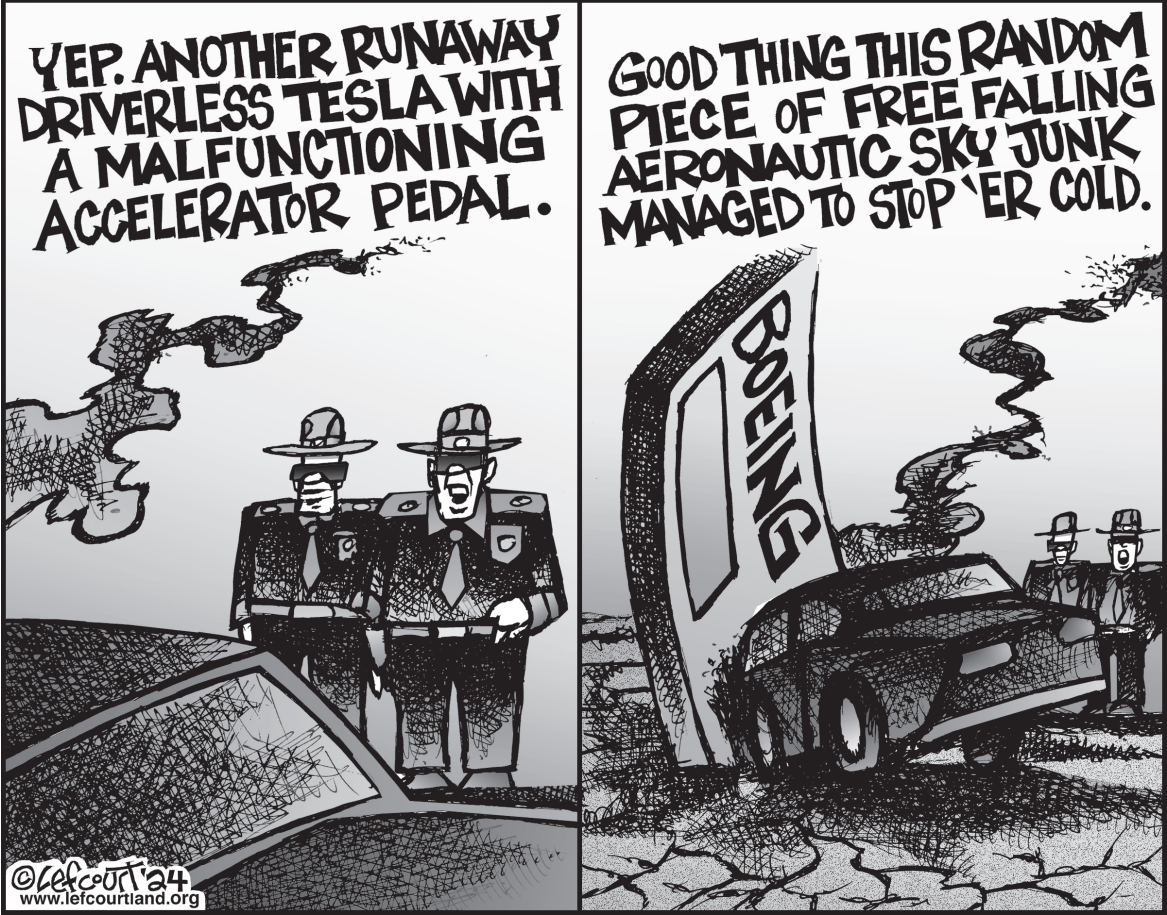
"As the host country of this round of negotiations, Canada has a continued role to play in working with other host countries to push for an ambitious, full lifecycle approach to addressing the plastics pollution crisis, including by cutting plastic production, in the leadup to the final round of treaty negotiations."

Melissa Gorrie, law reform manager at Ecojustice, on the need for more work following the UN plastic pollution conference in Ottawa.

The Monitor

The Canadian tax system has been getting less progressive for low-income households. Households in the bottom 20% in 2022 paid a much larger share of income in total taxes than they did in 2004. While federal taxes have fallen for most groups, provincial taxes have increased.

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) report.



ANALYSIS OF CURRENT WORLD EVENTS

War in Africa so common it's not news

“We could see an all-out war between all the tribes and that is really the doomsday scenario. At this point, it's not unrealistic,” the head of an international non-government organization that is working in Sudan told the Al Jazeera news agency last week. (She asked them to withhold her name to protect her in-country team in North Darfur.)

‘Doomsday’ is a strong word, but the fighting in Sudan is probably already killing more people per day than are dying in the wars in either Ukraine or the Gaza Strip. An estimated nine million people have fled their homes in Sudan since the war began just over a year ago, and severe hunger is already setting in there on a Gaza-like scale.

So why, you might well ask, have you heard so little about it?

I’m not pointing any fingers here. This is a twice-weekly column, and I try to ration the number of times I write on Gaza and Ukraine to once a month each to leave some room for the rest of the world. Nevertheless, I struggle to hold them down to that frequency, whereas I have written only once about Sudan in the past year.

‘News’ has to be about events that people care about, and that is largely a function of distance: the farther away it is, the less



GWYNNE DYER
Global Outlook
on World Affairs

important it seems. But there's another factor at work in the relative silence about Sudan: ‘news’ needs to be new. That is, it needs to be different from the normal, the usual, the past. Unfortunately, war in Africa is none of the above.

There has never been a time in the last half-century when peace has reigned everywhere in Africa. Once the short century of European imperial rule ended – around 1960 for most of the continent, although it took another generation in southern Africa – it has been back to normal.

There are 54 countries in Africa, which means that there are many opportunities for things to go badly wrong. However, there are also 50 countries in Europe, but apart from the Balkans wars of the 1990s and the current war in Ukraine there have been no major wars in the region since 1945.

Africa is very different. In addition to the big war in Sudan right now, the internal war in Ethiopia between Amhara and Tigray states is starting up again. Major Islamist insurgencies are underway in Niger,

Mali, Burkina Faso, and Chad, in each case controlling large chunks of the country's territory.

Internal, essentially tribal wars continue in the new country of South Sudan and in various parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The English-speaking minority is in revolt in Cameroon, the Islamist al-Shabaab group still holds most of southern Somalia (the north has broken away), and there are Islamist rebels in northern Mozambique.

Eleven countries out of 54, containing more than a quarter of Africa's population, are at war, and mostly they are at war with themselves. There's nothing new, nothing radically different, nothing for outsiders to be surprised by. THAT's why the rest of the world isn't paying much attention – but why is Africa like this?

Maybe it's because there are at least 75 African languages with more than a million speakers, and probably another hundred with at least a quarter-million. Moreover, only a dozen have more than 20 million speakers. Language is the biggest element in cultural and political identity, so Africa is by far the richest continent in terms of ethnicities and identities.

→DYER 8

Reducing the amount produced the only way to deal with plastic pollution

A quick look around the room you're in right now will confirm that plastics are ubiquitous. From food containers and toys through to the furniture we sit on while partaking of electronic gadgets, there's simply no escaping them.

In fact, given that some 70 per cent of the 100 billion items of clothing produced each year are made from plastic – polyester, nylon, acrylic, spandex, fleece and the like – that you need only look down in search of plastics.

Cheap, strong, durable and available in a range of forms for a variety of use, plastics have exploded in use over the years. From two million tonnes in 1950 to more than 400 million tonnes today, a number expected to top one billion tonnes by 2060.

That is unless efforts to reduce our use of the petroleum-based materials are successful.

Eliminating plastic pollution by 2040 is the goal of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, the fourth session of which sees representatives from 174 countries meeting in Ottawa. The idea is to have a binding international treaty by the end of this year, following the final session in South Korea.

With the treaty, the UN is trying to take on plastic pollution throughout the lifecycle of such materials, from fossil fuel extraction to disposal.

Right now, we do little to mitigate the harmful effects, from the contribution to climate change through to 10 million tonnes of plastic that ends up in the oceans.

When we think of plastic waste, what comes to mind may be all the items we use once and then pitch into the garbage. Or the plastic that's left to blow around the landscape, the kind of single-use items such as



shopping bags and drinking straws that Canada has moved to ban.

While plastic has many valuable uses, we have become addicted to single-use plastic products – with severe environmental, social, economic and health consequences.

Around the world, one million plastic bottles are purchased every minute, while up to five trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year. In total, half of all plastic produced is designed for single-use purposes – used just once and then thrown away.

Canadians discard more than three million tonnes of plastic waste every year. Less than 10 per cent of that is recycled.

More than a third of all plastics produced are used in packaging, including

single-use plastic products for food and beverage containers, approximately 85 per cent of which ends up in landfills or as unregulated waste.

Additionally, some 98 per cent of single-use plastic products are produced from fossil fuel, or “virgin” feedstock.

But that's just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. We're increasingly aware of the dangers presented by microplastics – bits of plastic that come from weathered larger pieces of plastic that typically measure between 10 microns to two millimetres (a micron is 0.001 mm) that have been found in people's blood, tissue and brains. Exposure to plastics can harm human health, potentially affecting fertility, hormonal, metabolic and neurological activity.

The growing concerns come as the amount of plastics produced continue to increase, thus prompting

the UN's Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, which got underway in 2022.

There have thus far been no big breakthroughs at the gathering, says Karen Wirsig, senior program manager for plastics with Environmental Defence Canada, who is attending the conference.

While there are countries pushing for ambitious programs to end plastic pollution, there are others who resist the kind of legally binding agreements that are the goal of the process, she notes.

“The problem is that at a certain point we're either going to have a treaty with legally binding elements in it that likely fewer countries will sign or we'll have a piece of paper that's probably not worth the ink printed on it,” says Wirsig of the struggle to reach an agreement that goes beyond platitudes.

That doesn't mean there's

been no progress, however.

“I would say what has happened this week is more a discussion about the human health impacts of plastic pollution. It's horrible what plastic microplastics do to wildlife when they escape, as they inevitably do into the environment, but it's also very, very worrisome the amount and types of plastics and other chemicals that are piling up in our bodies,” she says. “There's not enough research, but the little research we have suggests that the presence of these plastics lead to very poor healthcare outcomes.”

Even experts still need more information, but the public is starting to clue in when it comes to the impact of all the plastics in our environment.

More worryingly, we're becoming aware about the health impacts of the compounding amounts of microplastics that are everywhere, even inside our own bodies. The word

microplastics is itself a new one to many people, so our awareness is in the early stages.

“More and more of us are aware about microplastics being a ubiquitous in our food, water, air, and therefore in our bodies. I think people are aware that this can be a problem. And we're even now more aware than ever that plastics come from oil and gas, fossil fuels – even a few years ago was not clear to everyone,” says Wirsig.

We may talk of making more of an effort to recycle, but that's not going to solve the issue, however. That's treating one of the symptoms, not addressing a cure. Massively reducing the amount of plastics we produce is the key, she adds.

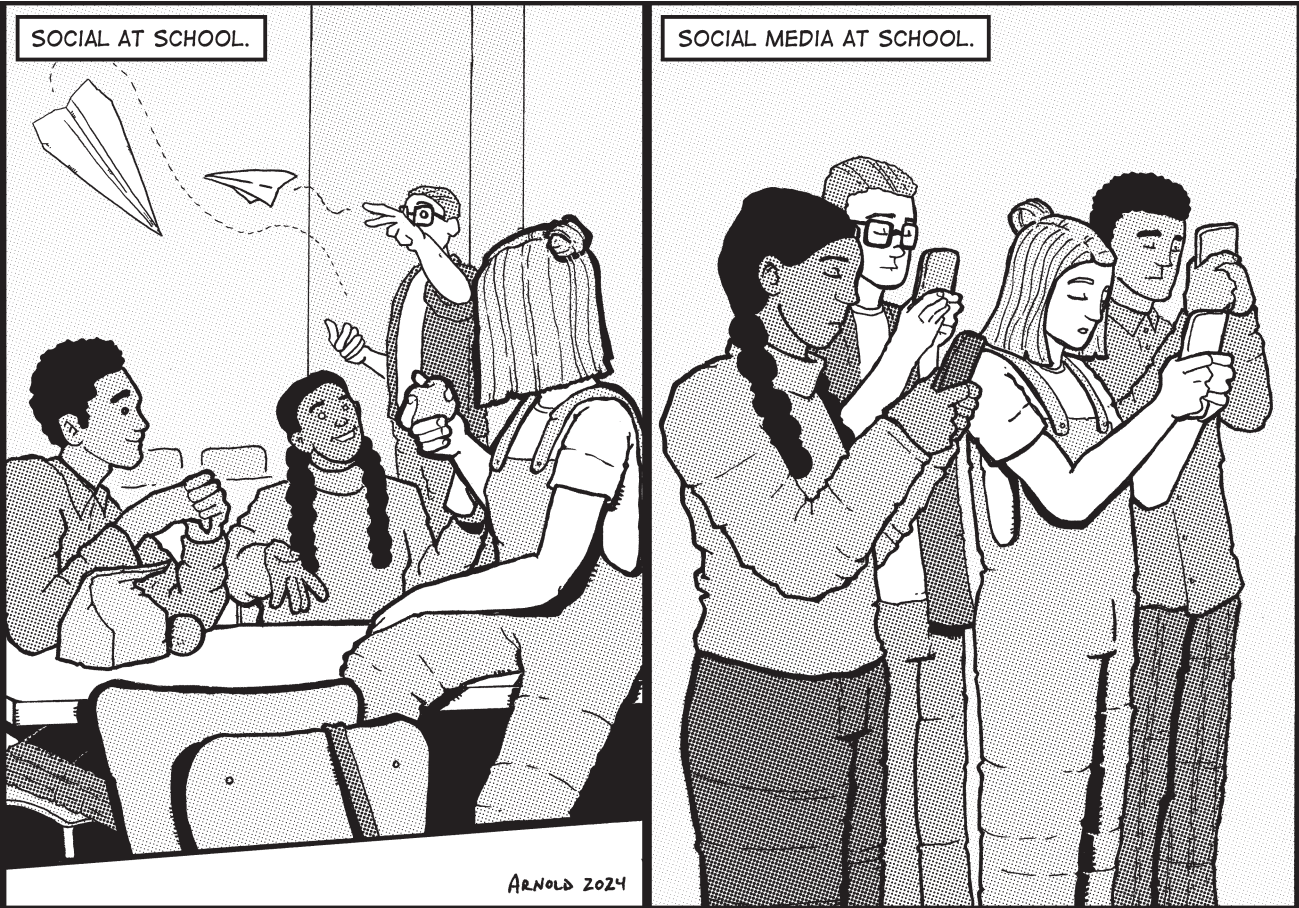
“We're just never going to recycle our way out of this problem, especially as production keeps growing. So little plastic can be effectively recycled. So little of what's recycled can be turned back into the same type of product. The more we make single-use plastic products, the more that drives plastic production, the more recycling will fail.”

Growing public awareness of these issues is cause for some optimism. She notes a poll released last month by Greenpeace found support for reducing plastic pollution is global.

The poll conducted in 19 countries found 82 per cent of people support cutting the production of plastic, with 90 per cent supporting a transition away from single-use plastic packing to reusable and refillable packaging.

That's essential, says Wirsig, adding plastics persist in the environment long after their use.

“They're a ticking time bomb because they never go away. They just keep piling up. The more plastic we produce every year, the more that piles up every year doesn't really go away.”



Along with reducing distractions, moves to reduce phone use at school aim for more "social" and less "media."

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DYER: No quick fix for war and strife in Africa

→ FROM 8

This is a triumph of sorts, because in Eurasia and the Americas that same spectacular cultural and linguistic diversity was ground down over millennia and finally extinguished by repeated conquest, migration and assimilation.

In Europe, only eight languages now account for 80 per cent of the continent's population. Just two languages, Mandarin and Hindi/Urdu, will enable you to speak to almost half Asia's population. This homogenization, accom-

plished mostly by force, did eventually produce long periods of peace over large areas, like the Roman empire or the Ming dynasty in China.

Africa did not take the same road. Iron-working began in Africa at about the same time as in Europe, India and China, but big empires did not follow. African empires did exist, but they came and went relatively fast and never controlled a large part of the continent.

That's why Africa retains so much of its original diversity in language and culture. This is not a 'post-colonial problem.' Small but frequent wars were the price Africans paid for that rich diversity all through their history, and they are still paying it today.

Since modern communications technologies now make it almost impossible to suppress all those languages and cultures, the only possible solution is to integrate them into broader shared identities. The work has begun, but it will take at least another generation. Meanwhile, lots of wars, mostly internal ones.

VACCINES: Lags in the reporting system are sometimes to blame for the lack of updated records for students

→ FROM 1

In 2019, the last time the Immunization of School Pupils Act was enforced in the region, 517 secondary students were suspended.

Aoki admitted that, after sending out around twice the number of warning letters in January and again three weeks ago, he had expected this week's figure to be closer to 1,000.

With elementary students, the figures had been roughly three times those from 2019 and remained consistent throughout all stages of the process.

But he said highschoolers face a bigger challenge because proportionally more of them actually need to get shots as opposed to just logging their immunization records.

"With elementary students, about two thirds to three quarters were just needing to get their records into us," he said.

"They had received the shots and it was just a case of submitting.

"I think with secondary what we're seeing is a smaller number of students who just need to submit and a higher number of students who actually do need the vaccine."

Aoki said the meningitis vaccine was particularly important because high coverage is needed to create a "security blanket" for those who are immunocompromised or not inoculated, which can include people with allergies or other medical problems.

He is confident that Region of Waterloo Public Health's offices in Waterloo and Cambridge can handle both demand for the required shots on site and to register vaccines that students have been given already.

However, on April 4, a week after the elementary suspensions began, The Observer told how frustrated parents had struggled to log the vaccines.

Some said their children had been suspended despite recording inoculations months earlier.

Others complained about how difficult it was to book an appointment online and said it was impossible to phone the region's officials.

Under ISPA, parents are required to ensure students have a range of vaccines and that these are officially recorded.

Alternatively, they must have a valid exemption on file with public health, which can include people objecting to vaccines for religious reasons, as long as the declaration is witnessed by a commissioner for taking affidavits.

Some people are unable to take certain shots for medical reasons and can still attend school as long as these are reported to public health officials, according to the Ontario government.

However, the system has been criticized because it is the responsibility of parents to log children's shots instead of doctors and other health workers automatically reporting vaccines to a central database.

Aoki said he would also like to see a "system that is more robust as far as information sharing" goes in Ontario, but added that the region's public health officials have a "good relationship with our doctors in order to try and facilitate the fastest way to get information across."



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Region of Waterloo

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A little sportsmanship, please

admit that on the face of it, turkey hunting seems ridiculous.

We get up long before first light, put on expensive clothes designed to make us look like shrubbery, drive to a desolate location, and walk in the pitch black until we find the perfect spot to set up a rubber turkey or two. Then we sit on the damp ground and find a place to hide before commencing to do our best vocal imitation of a hen turkey that is in desperate need of some loving.

If all goes well, this will lead to a conversation with a male turkey. If all goes wrong, it leads to an unhealthy emotional attachment that can last for several seasons.

Either way, we have no idea what we are saying to the birds. Yet, on occasion, our avian babbling will be sufficient to lure in a male bird to gun range. But, before we can shoot that bird, we must confirm that its beard is visible. Oh, we can also shoot hens, provided they have a visible beard too, which though rare, is not unheard of.



STEVE GALEA
Not-So-Great Outdoorsman

This leads me to believe a) that our turkey hunting regulations were written by men who really resented the fact that they could not grow a beard and b) we need to invest more taxpayer dollars into mental health and wellness.

Having said all that, I truly enjoy turkey hunting. But there are times when I think the birds forget about the expectation to be sporting.

A prime example occurred yesterday when we were leaving the field after a partially successful turkey hunt. I call it partially successful because we got to watch two hens and other wildlife, but primarily because we did not get soaked.

I could have lived with that hunt and, in fact, been quite satisfied. After all, in turkey hunting, you can't win them all.

But then, on the way home, I saw a big gobbler
→ GALEA 12



Prospective Sugar Kings got a chance to show their stuff at last weekend's camp, held at the WMC.

Bill Atwood

Kings hold prospects camp, now head into summer break

Steve Kannon
Observer Staff

THE BANQUET WAS HELD, THE awards given out and the exit interviews conducted, but the coaches and front-office staff of the Elmira Sugar Kings had one more thing to do before wrapping up the season and enjoying

the summer: the prospects camp.

That box was checked last weekend, as the team welcomed some 60 young players to the WMC to get a look at those hoping to earn a roster spot next season.

"It was good. Lots of good young talent out there – it just seemed to

get better and better," said head coach Corey Prang of the hopefuls who took to the ice over the weekend, noting there was a good contingent of U16 and U18 players, most born in 2007 or 2008.

"We had a good handle on who was coming into camp. We had a lot of guys that were out with us last

year as a team, but there was a bunch of guys that it was kind of our first look. Well, for me anyway – our scouts did a lot of good, hard work all year and scoured the U18 and U16 levels, so they had a good handle on it, but it was nice for me to see it firsthand."

→ KINGS 12

Woolwich U15 hockey team caps season with Triple Crown win

Julian Gavaghan
Observer Staff

THE WOOLWICH WILDCATS U15A TEAM has won the Triple Crown of three major titles for the first time in its history – and the proud coach credits the players' character for their success.

The boys "battled their butts off" to win the prestigious International SilverStick, Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) and Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) championships in a single season, said former Elmira Sugar Kings forward Jeremy Goodwin.



An International SilverStick win was one of the U15 Wildcats' many accomplishments this year.

Submitted

Their most recent 3-0 victory over Woodstock Jr. Navy Vets in the OHF final in Orillia – with goals from Evan Hall, Jordan Martin and Austin Dietrich – capped their Triple Crown success.

Despite the convincing scoreline, Goodwin said getting their hands on the

trophy was not easy, especially as captain Mason Gear and assistant Reese Martin had both broken their wrists.

Additionally, defence-man Jaxon McGuire had cut his foot and also couldn't play against the same tough opponent the

→ TRIPLE CROWN 12

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GALEA: Getting the bird, either way

→ FROM 11

standing on a rock within arm's reach of the road, shaking off the rain as I drove by – and it occurred to me that he was not exactly being a good sport by flaunting his victory in my face. And, further down the road, I saw two more big birds in other fields doing the same. I hesitate to call this a trend, but it's sure starting to look that way.

In any case, I called the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to voice a complaint, but they would have none of it. Apparently, while we hunters are bound by all sorts of regulations and sporting traditions, the turkeys are not.

They didn't exactly say that, but it seemed to be the gist of their response. And by response, I mean they put me on hold for 45 minutes.

I think I can speak for many turkey hunters when I say this is just not right. Having said that, I will also acknowledge that many turkey hunters I discussed this with insisted it was me who was not right.

That may be so. But I wouldn't have minded if those gobblers were standing by the side of the road giving a respectful salute or nod, as decent competitors do.

But this was not the case. Between you and me, the gesture seemed more like the bird.

TRIPLE CROWN:

Coach credits close-knit group for all the success

→ FROM 11

Wildcats had also faced in the final of the 62nd International SilverStick tournament in Port Huron, Michigan three months earlier.

"I think it speaks volumes about the character in our dressing room for them being able to rally and do it for the guys that couldn't play in the finals," said Goodwin.

But that didn't stop the whole team being there to help lift what many regard as the most prestigious trophy in Ontario minor hockey because it mostly involves league winners like the Wildcats.

Among the players also present were Rhys Taylor, Carson Kellough, Matt Kochut, Alex Lloyd, Max Krasovec, Cruz Balog, Colton Brito, Will Krubally and Levi Adams.

However, they didn't just win the Triple Crown this season, they won every other tournament they entered and so also scooped the Woolwich Fall Memorial Tournament, the Collingwood Regional SilverStick and Tri-County

Championship titles.

The last time the Wildcats came close to matching a Triple Crown was during the 1989/90 season when the 1976-born age group won OMHA and OHF championships, said Brad Shantz, the organization's vice-president of coaching.

This same legendary group also won the OMHA three years in a row, with players including former NHL forward Jamie Wright.

Goodwin, who swapped his stick for a clipboard after his Sugar Kings career ended in 2020, said his boys' willingness "to dig in and do it for each other"

KINGS: With prospects camp over, some summer downtime is now in order

→ FROM 11

The season just having finished, it's much too early to know just how many roster spots will be up for grabs when preparations get underway in August for 2024-25. The Kings had just three players age out of junior hockey – all late-season additions for the playoff-push – but there's no knowing for sure who'll be back.

Most years, there are players, existing and prospective, who'll be vying for spaces on other teams, perhaps in the OHL or in leagues elsewhere. Even after the main camp gets going in mid- or late-August, there are still some question marks as teams everywhere wait for

the dust to settle, Prang notes.

"That's how it is. Not just here – that's hockey."

Still, the players at the prospect camp got a taste of what the future may hold, as well as advice for preparing for whatever's in store next season.

"We've given them feedback on what we'd like and what we think they need to work on. A lot of these guys will be going to major junior camps, obviously trying to get a place there," said Prang, noting the players were advised how to train over the summer.

"They gotta put in the work. The offseason is probably the most important time for the guys to get themselves prepared

for the upcoming season. The guys have to put in the work, hit the ground running when the season starts in order to have success," he added. "Gone are the days when you could just hang up the skates and grab a baseball bat, or play lacrosse or soccer, then pick it back up in August. It's all year now."

For management, however, there will be some downtime between last weekend's camp and the late-summer resumption of on-ice activity.

"That was kind of the closer to the season," he said of the prospects camp. "We'll take a couple of months off for everybody to recharge the

batteries.

After that, work will begin in earnest to improve on a season that saw the Kings finish with a record of 32-16-0-2, their 66 points the same as second-place Stratford (31-15-4) and fourth-place Waterloo (29-13-4-4). The Junior B squad had led the Midwestern Conference for much year, but a late-season surge by some of their rivals saw the Kings start the playoffs as the third seed.

The Kings defeated the Cambridge Redhawks in five games in the opening round of the playoffs before falling to the Stratford Warriors in a five-game second-round series that ended March 29.

it up and started rallying around his name and he was around all weekend in the dressing room.

"He was still being a vocal leader, he was still there to pick us up when we had our down moments throughout the weekend. He's a guy that is all heart."

With Gear being off the ice, "the boys had to go out there and lead by example without him," added the coach.

Having two very strong goaltenders he could frequently rotate in Cohen Patterson and Mason Maurice was also a tremendous asset.

Yet, despite the contribution of individuals, Goodwin wanted to stress what really gave this particular group of Wildcats an edge was truly being a team.

"For the most part, these kids have been playing hockey together since they were very young and I honestly think that the biggest thing is that they've been best friends their whole life and they were able to finally put it all together," he explained.

Wildcats organizers have ordered Triple Crown rings for the team and are planning a special ceremony to celebrate the boys' achievement, although a date has not been set yet.



The Woolwich Wildcats U15A team after winning the OHF championships, the third trophy of their triple crown success, on April 21 in Orillia. Top row: Brayden Crawford (forward coach), Tyler McBay (defence coach), Rhys Taylor, Jordan Martin, Carson Kellough, Matt Kochut, Alex Lloyd, Max Krasovec, Reese Martin (assistant captain), Cruz Balog, Mason Gear (captain), Jeremy Goodwin (head coach) and Kordic Weigel (goal coach). Middle row: Austin Dietrich, Evan Hall, Jaxon McGuire, Colton Brito, Emmett Colwill (assistant captain), Will Krubally and Levi Adams. Bottom row: Cohen Patterson and Mason Maurice.

Submitted

were their biggest strength.

But they were also aided throughout the season by plenty of skill – notably their speed and ability to keep the puck – plus a philosophy that the "best offence is a good defence", added the 24-year-old coach.

In particular, before his injury, defenceman Martin's pace on the ice time and again provided cover when the team got in trouble.

"If we had a turnover, he was always the first guy back," explained the coach.

"There are only a handful of people who can keep up to him when he's at his top speed."

He also contributed on the scoreboard, too.

Another "super strong skater" is top-scoring forward Emmett Colwill, who won the MVP award at the OHF tournament, which ran between April 19 to 21.

In addition to being a "voice in the dressing room" and leading by example, Goodwin praised the boy's "hockey IQ" as a unique strength.

"He sees the ice at a different level than a lot of players throughout the league.

"He knows how to find the back of the net. And when he doesn't score, or if he doesn't help the team

score, he takes this a little hard on himself.

"And I think that's what allows him to be so successful, he is never satisfied."

Among other players who helped forge a "brotherhood" and never-give-up spirit was "inspirational" captain Gear – even after getting hurt in the first round of the OHF tournament.

"When he went down with his broken wrist, there was a lot of adversity in the room, not knowing what we would be without him I guess you could say," said Goodwin.

"But kudos to the players. They all picked

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Mel Norris, top right, led the come-try-ringette event at Waterloo's Alberta McCormick Community Centre on Sunday. **Bill Atwood**

Waterloo Ringette Association hosts come-and-try events

Bill Atwood

Observer Staff

SOME 50 AREA GIRLS GOT their first taste of ringette in two recent “come and try” events put on by the Waterloo Ringette Association in an effort to get more players into a sport that has seen a decline in participation numbers in recent years.

Despite occurring at the end of the season, the sessions held on April 21 and 28 at Albert McCormick Community Centre are great way to introduce kids to the sport, said the organization's Sabrina Emerick.

“It's just more bringing awareness to the sport,

showing everybody what an awesome, amazing [sport it is]. Also, it's a good thing for kids to come out and try it, just a little snippet of what the whole program is all about. It gives them that opportunity over the summer to register and get themselves prepared to come for September.”

Emerick never played the sport herself, but got involved with the association after her daughter joined following a previous come-and-try event. The rise in participation levels of girls' hockey has come at the expense of ringette, Emerick said.

There are some 140 players registered with the

association.

“A lot of people are going to hockey. I feel that a lot of it is the dads, they know hockey and they go and they bring the girls to go play hockey. Definitely, the Waterloo Ravens is really a strong organization. And I know Woolwich and everything else is also very strong,” she said.

According to parent and former player Rebecca Hallman, there were more options for those who wanted to play ringette in the past.

“Back when I was playing, they didn't have girls' hockey or there weren't as many associations that had girls' hockey. St.

Clements had a [ringette] team and Wellesley had a team. Kitchener had one. Waterloo, Guelph all the centres had associations. Now, over the years with a lot of girls going to girls' hockey, it's pulled from ringette and those girls have left to go to hockey,” the West Montrose resident said, noting there have been several associations that have merged, including Kitchener and Waterloo.

The St. Clements and Woolwich Ringette Associations are no longer listed on the Ringette Ontario website, for instance.

“It is disappointing, because it is a very

welcoming sport, and it's a fast sport. It involves a lot of team plays, so you have to pass over every blue line. You have a lot more involvement from your teammates instead of having one individual that can carry it from one end to other,” Hallman added.

At the Waterloo association, there are eight groups of teams starting at age 6 and under, with each group having two years of players up until U19 which has three. There is also an 18-plus open group.

Ringette offers an alternative to girls who are looking for an even more team-oriented sport, Emerick said.

“It is a really small community and we all become friends – it's a real family. They make friends from kids that are younger than them and older than them. It's just such a wonderful family,” she said.

Hallman agreed, adding that her daughter Sophie made the jump from hockey.

“She started later in her ringette career, and she said everybody was very welcoming. When you see other people you've gone to camps with or whatever, they all come up and they say hi. It's just a very tight-knit community where everybody supports one another.”

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Sustainability is a pillar for these farmers

If researchers surveyed any Ontario suburb or neighbourhood, the odds of them finding 95 per cent of residents voluntarily using water or energy efficiency techniques are slim.

People are getting better at conserving resources, but that's almost total buy-in for conservation.

However, visit Ontario fruit and vegetable farms, and resource compliance is off the charts.

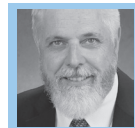
That's one of many findings from a new Vineland research centre report designed to paint a picture of fruit and vegetable farm sustainability in the province.

The report, based on grower input, was released on Earth Day, April 22. It shows that farms in the province are steeped in sustainable production approaches such as technologies and practices that support water, energy and fertilizer efficiency and reduction – approaches urban Ontario can identify with.

These kinds of navel gazing exercises, followed by communications strategies outlining the findings, are important for the agriculture sector. They're prompted by a couple of phenomena.

First, provincial policy makers are light years away from agriculture and highly susceptible to suggestions from special interest groups that farmers don't look after their animals or their land.

Ditto for consumers. They read a tweet or see



OWEN ROBERTS
Food For Thought

a Facebook post or an alarming letter to the editor in the newspaper disparaging farming and wonder if poor management allegations are true.

And finally, as developers continue to be allowed to push into rural areas because of the housing crisis, farmers find they have new neighbours who aren't crazy about the likes of noise, odours and dust. They think it's mismanagement or callousness. It's not; it's just part of farming.

Like any sector, agriculture needs to continually look at itself, figure out if something's wrong, and fix it before policy makers, consumers and neighbours act hastily or without balanced information.

That said, the sector also needs to trumpet its successes.

The Vineland researchers liked what they saw when they held up a mirror to the sector. They found more than two-thirds of greenhouse growers reported having installed climate control and irrigation systems over the last 20 years, as well as heat storage and energy curtains and screens to reduce their energy use.

About half have transitioned to more energy efficient lighting, and close to one-third are using renewable energy

→ ROBERTS 19

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Realtors elect chair

The Cornerstone Association of Realtors elected Julie Sergi as the inaugural chair of its board of directors. A broker with Royal LePage Burloak Real Estate Services, Sergi will lead the new 9,000-member organization beginning July 1. Cornerstone unites the real estate associations of Hamilton-Burlington, Mississauga, Simcoe, and Waterloo Region.

Skills on display

Canada's largest skilled trades and technology conference, the Skills Ontario Competition, returns to the Toronto Congress Centre May 6 and 7. Started in 1989, the Skills Ontario Competition offers a unique opportunity for top students to demonstrate that they are the best of the best in their skilled trade or technology field.

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Isabella Ibarra holds her two-week-old baby girl Melody Grace Ibarra during an appointment with midwife Madelyn Conyers at the St. Jacobs Midwives clinic. The service was founded by midwifery pioneer Elsie Cressman (inset) after her missionary work in Africa.

Marking 30 years of midwifery services

St. Jacobs Midwives have seen many changes since the practice was first regulated in Ontario in 1994

Julian Gavaghan

Observer Staff

PIONEERING ST. JACOBS MIDWIVES HAVE helped deliver more than 9,700 babies since becoming one of the first registered midwifery services to open in Canada 30 years ago.

Yet office administrator Andrea Horst, who has worked at the clinic since the start, never tires of spending her days at a place where almost every day is a birthday.

"What's really interesting and exciting is seeing some of our babies coming back into care as mothers themselves," she said.

"So we have many second generation clients now, whose mom had our midwives for their babies, and now they're grown up and they're starting their own families.

"That's probably one of the most exciting things – I'm talking to someone that I knew as a newborn baby."

To celebrate their own 30th birthday, St. Jacobs Midwives is hosting an open house on May 5, which is also International Day of the Midwife.

The practice also



hopes to mark its 10,000th birth later this year, added Horst, who is the last original team member still working at the

clinic after the death of founding midwife Elsie Cressman and the retirement of four others.

The practice is responsible for the delivery of between 350 and 400 babies every year.

A total of 31 were born in March, ranging in weights between 5lb 15oz and 9lb 11oz.

Until 1994 midwifery was not a registered

profession anywhere in Canada and women who wanted the convenience, personal connection, home visits and delivery by a midwife could not give birth in hospitals under OHIP.

If mothers wanted a midwife, they had to go through all the stages of labour at home and pay out of pocket for a private service.

Among the women to go down this private route was Horst, after meeting Cressman following the birth of her first child, who was delivered in a hospital by an obstetrician in 1983.

Cressman, a nurse from New Hamburg, had worked as a Mennonite missionary helping mothers in Kenya and Somalia

→ MIDWIFERY 19

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MIDWIFERY: Much has changed from the early days

→ FROM 18

after training to become a midwife in London, England.

“She was showing slides from her work in Africa and I saw the joy on the faces of these women, having just given birth, and they had nothing,” said Horst.

“They lived in huts and they had nothing. And I thought, ‘Why are they experiencing birth in such a joyful way, with so little resources?’

“And so that was the first sort of seed planted in my mind that I need to look into birthing options.”

Cressman, who was later awarded the Order of Canada for her pioneering work, delivered Horst’s second and third babies in 1986 and 1988 respectively, inspiring the mother-of-three to get more involved with that kind of care.

Then, in January 1994, Ontario became the first province in Canada to recognize midwifery as a regulated health profession following campaigning by Patricia Legault, the former director of nursing at Conestoga College, and board member Denise Squire.

With Horst as office administrator, Cressman invited four other midwives, including her niece Evelyn Cressman, to set up in St. Jacobs one of just three initial registered practices in the province.

The others were Maggie Fioravanti, Royce Entwistle and Louise Tanner.

All had been trained in either the United Kingdom or New Zealand, where midwives had long been responsible for delivering most babies, even when mothers choose an anesthetist to carry out a pain-reducing epidural procedure in hospitals.

This option, with pre- and postnatal home visits and weigh-ins by midwives – and doctor-intervention if necessary or



Andrea Horst has been the office administrator since the start. Julian Gavaghan

requested – is now on offer to all women in Ontario.

However, only around 20 per cent of mothers in the province choose this option currently, although Horst says midwifery has become increasingly “mainstream.”

About 75 per cent of St. Jacobs’ patients give birth in hospitals, with the rest choosing either to have their babies at home or in the clinic’s birthing suite.

Many Mennonites who travel by horse-drawn buggy prefer the latter options, Horst said.

People without an Ontario Health Card, including immigrants, can also use midwife services to give birth in the clinic or at home without paying, as the province will fund it.

Hospitals would, however, charge them.

In the three decades since OHIP began paying for midwife-delivery, many Canadian universities now offer midwifery as a four-year degree.

St. Jacobs Midwives has mentored more than 120 students from McMaster, Laurentian and Toronto Metropolitan, which was formerly known as Ryerson University.

Among the former mentees is current midwife Madelyn Conyers, who was weighing one of the practice’s newest babies, Melody Grace Ibarra, when The Observer visited last week.

Isabella Ibarra, the infant girl’s mother, gave birth on April 11.

Visits by pregnant women, mothers and babies are big reasons why Horst, 62, continues in her role even after her friend Cressman died aged 89 in 2012 and the other founders retired.

While the clerical element of her job has changed since the office was founded, notably moving from physical paperwork to digital records, the rhythm of pregnancies is the same and every day excites her.

“You never know what the day is going to bring. It can be a busy birth day, it can be a busy clinic day, it can be a busy day of calls for care,” she said.

“I love seeing the evolution of midwifery in Ontario to mainstream normal now for low-risk people to have midwifery care.

“The people I work with, the clients, seeing babies, happy parents, empowered women, all of those things, just make me enjoy my work.”

St. Jacobs Midwives’ Open House takes place on Sunday, May 5 between 2 and 4 p.m. The clinic is at 9 Parkside Drive, St. Jacobs.

Visitors can meet midwives and tour the newly opened birthing suite and light refreshments will be provided.

ROBERTS: Sustainability and profitability are linked

→ FROM 18

or capturing and re-using carbon for crop growth.

Outdoors, 85 per cent of growers report using crop scouting and pest monitoring to target crop protection applications only as needed.

Four out of five producers take soil tests to guide more precise fertilizer application. And about the same number are planting cover crops to keep the soil healthy and support carbon capture.

So, that’s what they’re giving. What do they need? The survey respondents said addressing broader industry issues around competitiveness, taxation, red tape and regulatory burdens, combined with incentive initiatives, will make it easier for them to continue adopting sustainable practices.

Said greenhouse grower Jan VanderHout, chair of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association environment and

conservation committee: “We’ve made tremendous progress in the last two decades, and growers are willing to do more, but farms need to also be financially viable, which includes a streamlined regulatory environment, financial investments and the consumer support.”

Sustainability and profitability need each other. It looks like they’re finding it on Ontario fruit and vegetable farms.



Sat. May 4
at
LongHaul
TRAILER SALES

Super Sale
on remaining
2022's

1 day
Event!!!

Free Lunch
On site
Finance Approvals

Free Draws
1 day only
5.99%
on 2022 RV's
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\$1000 off!



Parts
Garage Sale

519-291-5454

LonghaulTrailers.com

1150 Wallace Ave N, Listowel ON May 4
from 8 to 4

Invasive Plant Pull

GARLIC MUSTARD

Come
Join Us!



4 locations to choose from:

In Elmira:

- Southpark Woods — meet at the trail entrance at 25 Whippoorwill Drive
- Victoria Glen — meet in the mowed green space at 28 Victoria Glen St.
- Elmira Nature Reserve — meet in the parking lot at 96 Southfield Drive

In St. Jacobs:

- Health Valley Trail — meet at trail entrance behind the fire hall at 35 Albert St. East



SATURDAY MAY 11
2 to 4 pm

Questions?
Contact Ann at aroberts@woolwich.ca



Arts

Read a local best seller every week.

Local stories that inspire.

Email: newsroom@woolwichobserver.comTips: observerextra.com/tips

Student art on display

The Elora Fergus Arts Council presents an art show featuring the works of Centre Wellington District High School starting today (Thursday) from 4-6 p.m. at the Centre Wellington Sportsplex. Art teachers Jennifer Main and Bobbi Bentham-Reynolds challenged the students to create quick-drying acrylic paintings within a 20-minute time limit.

www.elorafergusartsCouncil.ca

AGO reopens

Marking the reopening of the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), the museum is offering free admission this weekend. Included during this free admission weekend is the new special exhibition Making Her Mark: A History of Women Artists in Europe, 1400-1800.

www.ago.ca

A concert that puts the fun in fundraising

The Scott Woods Band performs May 14 at Elmira church in support of the Grassroots Response to the Ukrainian Crisis

Bill Atwood

Observer Staff

WHILE IT IS RARE FOR a full-time working band to do most of their shows as fundraisers for churches and other local organizations, that arrangement works for fiddler Scott Woods and his bandmates.

That setup started some 20 years ago when, after his father passed away, his mother mentioned the idea of taking a mission trip. Not being in the position to take such a trip, Woods suggested using a show to raise money for Men for Missions. After doing 12 of these shows in the spring of 2004, the group has been doing 150-160 such concerts every year, minus the pandemic pause.

"Some were doing mission work and some of them were doing other fundraising for

the community because of, say, house fires or raising funds for a family or whatever. And they were so successful and so popular that the churches started calling me and saying, 'Hey, I heard from my buddy down the road that you would come and play for our church because we'd like to raise money,'" Woods said, noting the band makes the majority of their income on CD sales.

That will once again be the case when The Scott Woods Band performs at Elmira's Gale Presbyte-

rian Church on May 14, with proceeds going to support the Grassroots Response to the Ukrainian Crisis group. While the show dubbed 'Old Fashioned Hoedown' is a fiddle-oriented performance, it will also feature a variety of tunes, Woods said.

The band, which has had a rotating cast of members over the years, currently features Woods, his sister Kendra Norris, Quebec native Germain Leduc and the youngest member, fiddler and step dancer Leo Stock. Each member will have a chance to shine at Gale.

Norris adds a comedic element to the show, telling some jokes and singing a "silly song," Woods explained. Stock dresses up as a farmer and performs the 1956 Leort Van Dyke song The Auctioneer, while

Leduc plays Quebecois-style fiddle music of his own composition as well as some ragtime piano music. Woods will do some trick-fiddling with a broomstick, a coat hanger and some somersaults. He will also

perform a talking song in the style of Johnny Cash and Tommy Hunter. The chosen piece for this performance will be the well-known Touch of the Master's Hand.

"We try to have it the way that music was intended to be. It's fun, it's happy music. There's a little bit of an emotional roller-coaster. We do have some serious moments throughout the show," said Woods.

As a band that does all of its own setup and takedown, there are a lot of technical elements and imagery in the show to give the audience an even more enhanced experience.

"We have GoPro cameras on the stage so you can see when [Leduc's] playing this piano solo, you can see his fingers moving and we have a camera on the feet so that you can see Leo's feet when he's dancing. And you can see close up with my fingers when I'm playing some fancy fiddle tunes as well.... So it's a real production where we do all our own sound and lighting," Woods explained.

"There's just the four of us on the bus, except for my dog Sandy that travels with us. She's kind of our mascot."

The Scott Woods Band is set to perform at a Gale on May 14 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45 each and can be purchased online at www.scottwoods.ca or by calling 1-855-726-8896.



Kendra Norris and Scott Woods make up half of the Scott Woods Band, along with Leo Stock and Germain Leduc.



Leduc plays

Quebecois-style fiddle music of his own composition as well as some ragtime piano music. Woods will do some trick-fiddling with a broomstick, a coat hanger and some somersaults. He will also



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For Sale

THOUSANDS OF ITEMS TO CLEAR AT Kitchener warehouse. Furniture, Mattresses, Shoes, Bicycles and more. Call for an appointment. 226-606-0710, 226-988-7024.

Hay & Straw

CORN STALK BALES - 4X5 ROUND, BALED Spring of '24, stored inside. Call or text Kevin 519-616-4985.

Word ads and Help Wanted continues on next page

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CONTRACTOR CAP for small pick-up with a 6ft box and cargo slide, must be sold together. \$1200.00, Dave 519-664-2945.

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INITIAL OFFER DEADLINE MONDAY, MAY 27TH AT 6:00 P.M.

40 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. Approx. 31 acres workable, balance mixed bush. Majority Harriston loam type soil with approx. 6 acres black muck. Recently systematically tiled.

NOTE - A nice chunk of workable land with lots of possibilities. A great location, whether adding to your farming land base or to potentially build your dream home. Minutes from Elmira, central to Waterloo, Kitchener & Guelph.

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Order and pay for family announcement notices online at:

observerextra.com/notices

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All classified advertising is prepaid. Ads will be accepted in person, email, or phone during regular office hours. **Deadline is Wednesdays by 10am.** Order and pay online at: **observerextra.com/classifieds.**

Residential: \$9 per 20 words (20¢ per extra word)
Commercial: \$15 per 20 words (30¢ per extra word)

Auction

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Webcast Online | Police, Fleet & Municipal Vehicles

Saturday, May 11th • 9:30am

MAY TIMED ONLINE TOOL AUCTION

Soft Close May 14th • 2pm

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Help Wanted



CONESTOGO
 AGRI SYSTEMS INC.

Service Technician

Job Summary

Conestogo Agri Systems Inc., a progressive, growing company, is seeking the right qualified individual to join our service team who is organized, detail oriented, self-motivated, has the ability to adapt to new technologies in the agricultural industry, and must possess excellent customer service skills. This fulltime position offers variety and continual learning opportunities.

This position could entail a variety of different skills, ex. welding, electrical, plumbing. A farming or agriculture background would be considered an asset and would be preferred. With the support of your fellow service technicians, you will be responsible for troubleshooting and servicing milking and barn equipment.

Role Responsibilities:

- Work on a team and independently from a mobile location
- Electrical and mechanical aptitude a must.
- Welding skills a plus.
- Ability to work in all types of Ontario weather
- Ability to lift 50lbs on a regular basis
- Required to participate in the after-hours emergency service "on-call" rotation with the other service technicians.
- Flexible for overtime as required. (Premium Pay for Overtime Hours)
- Responsible for accurate and complete documentation required of a service technician for daily duties.
- Responsible for your assigned vehicle in regard to communicating all maintenance requirements, keeping vehicle clean, keeping an account of all tools assigned, and keeping account of all inventory.
- Required to display a high degree of professionalism, craftsmanship, work ethic, excellent attendance, teamwork attitude, and perform at a high level of efficiency.

Required Professional Knowledge, Skills and Qualifications:

- Service, installation and maintenance experience with dairy milking systems and components
- Aware of all codes and safety regulations
- Technical trouble-shooting skills
- Strong electrical knowledge
- Driver's license in good standing
- Must possess excellent written and verbal communication skills

We offer competitive wages, benefits and an RRSP Program.

If you are interested in joining a dynamic, progressive, detail-oriented team who are dedicated to Customer Service and quality workmanship please e-mail your resume to:

info@conestogoagri.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Conestogo Agri Systems Inc. is fully committed to abiding by all equal opportunity employment standards.

Help Wanted

COMMUNITY CARE CONCEPTS

of Woolwich, Wellesley and Wilmot



Student/Youth Employment Opportunities

(Full-time - May/June to September)

(5 Positions Available)

Community Care Concepts provides high quality support services throughout the Townships of Woolwich, Wellesley and Wilmot that enable seniors and adults with disabilities to remain as independent as possible in their own homes. Community Care Concepts is a non-profit volunteer-based organization.

We are searching for students/youth to work in a variety of roles including a **Community and Social Services Worker**, an **Activities Leader - Seniors** and a **Case Aide** (5 days per week - 35 hours per week - starting as early as mid-May to September).

The **Community and Social Services Worker** will work in our home and community-based programs across Woolwich, Wellesley and Wilmot Townships. The **Activities Leader-Seniors** will work in our adult day programs and group-based community programs across the Townships. Both will be directly involved in delivering programs and services to meet the social, physical, emotional and cognitive needs of our clients.

We also searching for a **Case Aide** to provide a variety of administrative and direct service functions associated with the case management of clients and the coordination of our programs and services within our Elmira office.

Candidates must meet the eligibility of the Canada Summer Jobs program including:

- be between 15 and 30 years of age at the start of the employment
- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person to whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act for the duration of the employment; and,
- have a valid Social Insurance Number at the start of employment and be legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial or territorial legislation and regulations

The ideal candidates will possess education in recreation, gerontology, social services, personal support work or a related discipline accompanied by directly related experience in working with seniors or adults with disabilities. Computer proficiency as well as strong oral and written communication skills, an ability to work independently, program planning and delivery skills and knowledge of the needs of the client base are essential. A valid driver's license and access to a reliable vehicle are a definite asset. A mandatory vaccination policy is in place within the organization.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a resume and cover letter no later than 4 pm on Friday May 10, 2024 to:

Cathy Harrington
 Executive Director
 Community Care Concepts
 929 Arthur Street South
 Elmira, Ontario
 N3B 2Z2
cathyh@communitycareconcepts.ca

Write a letter to the editor and submit it online today.

OBSERVER observerextra.com/letters



Exercise your freedom of expression with relevant discourse in your community.

Word ads and Help Wanted
continued from previous page

Ag. Services

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Commercial: \$15 per 20 words (30¢ per extra word)

Order online at:
observerextra.com/classifieds

Coming Events

MAPLETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY Annual Meeting - Friday, May 10 at 7 p.m. Maryborough Community Centre, Moorefield. Speaker Catharine Anne Wilson - Being Neighbours: Cooperative Work and Rural Culture. Learn how neighbours working together in work bees played a vital role in the viability of the family farm and rural culture. Her book will also be available. More info mapletonhistorical@gmail.com or 519-501-5423.

Garage Sales

DOWN SIZING SALE. 81 TIMBER TRAIL RD., Elmira. May 11, 7:30 - 4. Furniture, Dishes, Tools etc.

GARAGE SALE- SAT MAY 4TH, 8AM-1PM. 32 Robin Drive Elmira. Something for everyone.

HEIDELBERG TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE. Saturday, May 11 8am-12pm. Shop the quaint town of Heidelberg. Rain or shine.

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Attn: Rob

Email hr@craftsmenhardwoods.com

In Person 34 Drayton Ind. Dr. Drayton ON

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted

519-638-3380 | www.craftsmenhardwoods.com

Help Wanted

Carriers Wanted!



The Observer is seeking reliable adults and teens to deliver newspapers and associated flyers to homes in Woolwich and Wellesley. Delivery is one time per week on Thursdays.

Ideal candidates will:

- Have reliable transportation (walk, bike, car)
- Be available Thursdays
- Be reliable and work independently
- Be able to lift newspaper bundles weighing up to 20 lbs

To apply, contact Joe Merlihan at 519-669-5790 x107 or apply online. Please provide your name, address, phone number, and area you are interested in delivering The Observer.



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Help Wanted



CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATOR

OUR TEAM IS GROWING!

As a Construction Estimator at Frey, you will work as part of a professional team to carry out day-to-day estimating duties. We are seeking a highly motivated, disciplined team member to prepare detailed construction cost estimates, perform quantity take-offs, and collaborate with team members to meet deadlines and key project deliverables. The Construction Estimator will report directly to the Senior Project Manager and work closely with the entire project management team, as well as a vast network of vendors, subtrades and suppliers.

Responsibilities:

- Analyze plans, specifications and other project documents to determine requirements and scope of work
- Attend meetings and collaborate with team members in a professional environment
- Prepare detailed, accurate and timely cost estimates for a wide range of projects (multi-market)
- Maintain accurate records of estimates including revisions and provide timely updates on estimating schedules

Qualifications:

- Architectural Construction Technology Diploma or equivalent
- Highly organized with the ability to prioritize and adhere to deadlines
- Solid understanding of the construction process
- Minimum 5 years of similar experience required
- Comprehensive understanding of various construction contracts
- Strong focus on attention to detail is a must
- Proficient in Microsoft Outlook, Excel, and Word
- Knowledge of WinEst software is an asset but not required
- Professional and pleasant demeanor with excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Able to work independently with minimal supervision, managing multiple projects simultaneously

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Resumes and Cover Letters can be sent to:

Ryan Martin (ryan@freybc.com)

We are an equal opportunity employer and thank all applicants for applying. Only those candidates who are selected for the interview process will be contacted.

↓ PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Solutions for this week's puzzles.

F R O G L I K E
EASY

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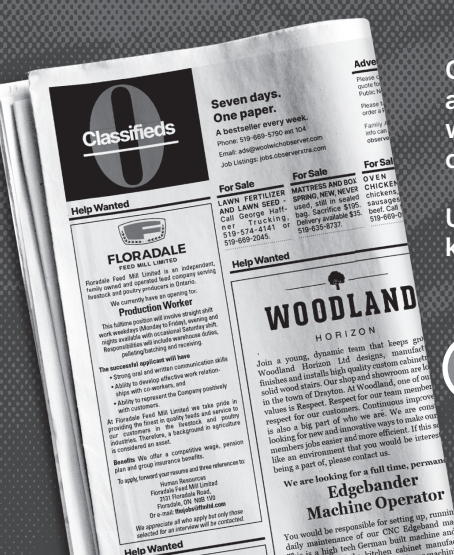
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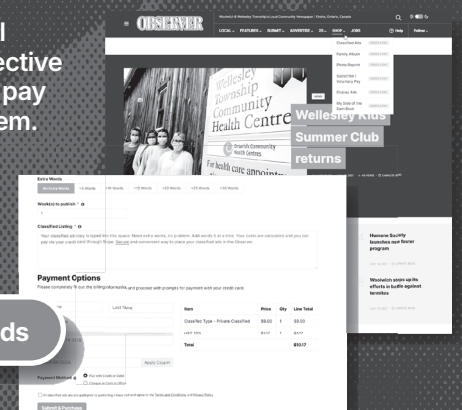
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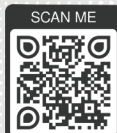
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NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF A NEW COMPREHENSIVE ZONING BY-LAW FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Woolwich passed By-law Number 26-2024, on the 23rd day of April, 2024 under Section 34 of the Planning Act, 1990 as amended.

An explanation of the purpose and effect of the By-law is attached. As the comprehensive review affects the entirety of the Township a location map has not been included.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On April 23, 2024 Woolwich Council passed By-law 26-2024, being the Comprehensive Zoning By-law for Woolwich Township (the “new Zoning By-law”), which concurrently repealed and replaced Comprehensive Zoning By-law 55-86 (the “previous Zoning By-law”).

To develop and refine the new Zoning By-law, the Township reviewed the relevant planning policy documents and completed an extensive public consultation process in accordance with Section 34 of the Planning Act, which included holding three public open houses in Elmira, St. Jacobs and Breslau and one formal public meeting.

The new Zoning By-law implements and is in conformity with the Township of Woolwich Official Plan, which was approved in 2022, and by extension Provincial and Regional planning policies, to control the use and size of land, as well as the use, size and location of buildings and structures within Woolwich Township. The new Zoning By-law will state exactly:

- how land may be used;
- where buildings and other structures can be located;
- the type of buildings that are permitted and how they may be used;
- the minimum and maximum lot sizes, parking requirements, building height and setbacks from a property line; and
- other building and land use controls as deemed appropriate.

The structure, format and mapping in the new Zoning By-law was significantly altered in comparison with the previous Zoning By-law and it will also address other housekeeping matters identified by the Township or identified during the public consultation process.

A summary of the key changes to the text and schedules, as well as a complete copy of the new Zoning By-law, can be viewed at the Township Administration Offices – Development Services Department weekdays between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

You may also view the documents on the Township’s Engage Woolwich page by navigating to: engagewr.ca/zoning-by-law-review.

- View the individual sections of the New Zoning By-law under the heading Attachment 1 to Report DS 11/2024.
- View the Summary of Changes by selecting “Attachment No. 4 - Summary of Changes to the Zoning By-law” listed under the heading Attachments 2 through 14 to Recommendation Report DS 11/2024; and

Any person or agency may make an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal by filing with the Clerk of the Township of Woolwich no later than 4:30 pm on **May 22, 2024** an appellant form which can be found at <https://olt.gov.on.ca/appeals-process/forms/> or from the municipality. Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a Zoning By-law to the Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an

unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf. No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the Council or, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party. The Notice of Appeal must set out the reasons for the appeal and must be accompanied by the fee required by the Tribunal.

At such time when an appeal is filed with the Clerk of the Corporation of the Township of Woolwich the appellant shall also submit the required fee of \$750.00 payable to the Township of Woolwich.

For additional information, please contact Jeremy Vink, Manager of Planning, by phone at 519-669-6038 or 1-877-969-0094 ext. 6038 or by email to jvink@woolwich.ca.

Dated at the Township of Woolwich this 2nd day of May, 2024.

Jeff Smith, Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BYLAW

On Tuesday, May 28, 2024, the Council of the Township of Woolwich will hold its first public meeting, pursuant to Section 12 of the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, as amended, to present and obtain public input on the Township’s proposed development charges by-law and underlying updated background study. If deemed necessary the Council of the Township of Woolwich will hold a second public meeting on Tuesday June 18, 2024.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Public Meetings of Council and any person who attends the meetings may make comments relating to the proposed updated by-laws and updated background study. The meetings are to be held:

| 1st Public Meeting | 2nd Public Meeting (If Necessary) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tuesday, May 28, 2024 | Tuesday, June 18, 2024 |
| at 7:00 pm | at 7:00 pm |
| The Council Chambers | The Council Chambers |
| 24 Church Street West; Elmira, ON | 24 Church Street West; Elmira, ON |

If you want to **speak** at the meeting:

- **virtually by zoom**, please register: www.woolwich.ca/delegations and register through the “online delegation request form”
- **in person** you can either preregister by completing the online delegation request form or there will be an opportunity during the meeting for anyone to speak.

Anyone can **watch** the meeting in person or on YouTube: www.youtube.com/@woolwichtownship9588

In order that sufficient information is made available to the public, copies of the proposed by-laws and the updated background study have been made available as of May 2, 2024 on the Township’s website www.woolwich.ca/building. The report will also be made available by contacting the Township Finance Department. Phone - 519-669-1647

Interested persons may express their comments at the Public Meeting or in writing, addressed to the Township Clerk, at the above address or by email to councilmeetings@woolwich.ca or phone Clerk’s staff at 519-669-6004 prior to May 28, 2024.

↓ FAMILY ALBUM

Thank you


Thank You

THANKS for all the cards and best wishes as we celebrated our 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Also for the ongoing love and support of our family.

Noah & Doris Metzger

In Memoriam



Bryan John Benjamin "B.J." Maher

December 19, 1989 - May 5, 2017

Our lives go on without you

But nothing is the same

We have to hide our heartache

When someone speaks your name

Sad are the hearts that love you

Silent are the tears that fall

Living without you is the hardest part of all

You did so many things for us

Your heart was so kind and true

And when we needed someone

We could always count on you

The special years will not return

When we were all together

But with the love within our hearts

You walk with us forever

How can we forget someone who gave us

So much to remember!

Skip, Grace and Stacey


Obituary

Martin, Selinda W.

Passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at St. Mary's Hospital, Kitchener at the age of 83 years. Sister of Sarah and Menno Brubacher of Elmira, Abner and Anna Martin of Fordwich, Nancy and Onias Martin of Holyrood. Remembered by many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her parents Nelson and Lucinda (Weber) Martin and sister Lena and Ira Martin. Visitation took place on Thursday, April 25, 2024 from 1-5 and 6-8 p.m. and on Friday, April 26, 2024 from 1-5 p.m. at the home of Menno Brubacher, 1205 Tilman Rd., Elmira. A family service was held on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 9 a.m. then to Springfield Mennonite Meeting House for burial and public service.

❖ www.dreisingerfuneralhome.com

Obituary



Runstedler, Doris Muriel (nee Smith)

Passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at Village at University Gates, Waterloo on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the age of 87 years. Doris was born in Normanby township on September 21, 1936. She was an RNA in Guelph and Kitchener hospitals. She raised a family and farmed with Andrew Runstedler (2013) in Linwood for 49 years. She retired to Elmira in 2008. Doris treasured her family. Cherished mother of Shirley and Bryon Hergott, Andrew J and Kim Runstedler, Eunice Schade, Joyce and Kevin Doerbecker, Glen and Robyn Runstedler. Loving grandmother of Lori and Tyler, Kyle and Stacy, Scott and Sarah, Jamie and Heather, Trent and Natasha, Cory and Danielle, Katelyn and Mike, Erica and Steve, Heather and Trevor, Nicole and Clark; and great grandmother of Avery, Sadie, Hailee, Owen, Ethan, Lilly, Olivia, Walker, Kenna, Caleb (2023), Liam, Myles and Miley. Will be missed by many nieces, nephews, their families, and godson Scott Runstedler. Survived by Elaine, Lorne and France, Ann, Theresa, Herbie, and Anne. Predeceased by her parents Florence (Carmount) (1988) and Ronald Smith (1995), sister Noreen (1935), one infant (1962), sister Marilyn, brother Lyle, and in-laws Floyd, Barb, Annie, Walter, Mary, Joe, Helen, Fernando, Wilfred, Vincent, Alvin and Ralph. Special thanks to the caring staff at University Gates. To Rose and Charlie, thank you for your regular letters. Special thank you to Claire for your care and support. Your friendship and love for Doris meant so much to her and the family. Doris has fond memories of friends in Linwood and Elmira, especially Amy, Wayne, Leroy, Nathan, Elsie, Veron, Betty, Sarah, Annie, Mary, treasured namesake Doris Irene Weber, and many others too numerous to mention. Doris' family will receive family and friends on Thursday, May 2, 2024 from 6-8 p.m. at the Dreisinger Funeral Home, 62 Arthur St. S., Elmira and on Friday, May 3, 2024 at St Teresa of Avila RC Church, 19 Flamingo Dr., from 10-10:45 a.m., followed by the funeral mass at 11 a.m., with Father Peter presiding. A reception will follow. Cremation will take place, with interment in Maplewood Cemetery at a later date. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Woolwich Community Services Family Violence Prevention Program or Kiwanis Transit would be appreciated and may be made through the funeral home.

❖ www.dreisingerfuneralhome.com

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Jane's Walk weekend

Among the events scheduled as part of Jane's Walk in Waterloo Region this weekend, McDougall Cottage is hosting "Remembering the Flood of '74: Building the Living Levee walking tour," an exploration of human adaptation to flooding hazards, and learn how the levee continues to do its work.

www.regionofwaterloomuseums.ca

GRCA seeks feedback

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) is looking for feedback on a draft Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy. An online public information session outlining the strategy will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on May 15. Members of the public can register for the information session by emailing grca@grandriver.ca.

www.grandriver.ca

Elmira landmark keeps ticking along ...

The members of the Society of Clock Winders are responsible for manually winding the mechanism atop the clock tower

Julian Gavaghan
Observer Staff

"WE'RE THE WORLD'S WORST SECRET society because everybody talks about it all the time," jokes Brad Lebold about the group of volunteers who keep Elmira's most famous landmark ticking.

Yet, despite that, many people living in the town might be unaware that the clock tower's 110-year-old timepiece is the only one left in Ontario that still requires winding by hand.

Lebold and six of his friends – for their Society of Clock Winders is a very sociable one indeed – are responsible for cranking the antique mechanism each week.

"It's a privilege," says Patrick Kelly, an accountant and volunteer firefighter who five years ago took over the task from his uncle Joe Kelly, who had tended to it since 1988.

"I was asked if I wanted to do it. I was always drawn to the historical elements of it. There are not many clocks left that are still wound by hand," adds the nephew.

The other members of the society are Brandon Seip, Jeff Hutchinson, Scott McMillan and Dylon Smith.

The mechanism they devotedly maintain was made in Whitchurch England, by J. B. Joyce & Co., a firm that originated in 1690 and was said to be the world's oldest clock-maker.

The bell was also forged in the small town in Shropshire, the Wales-bordering county that gave birth to the industrial revolution



Patrick Kelly and Brad Lebold stand at the top of the Elmira clock tower. They are among the volunteers who ensure the four huge dials carry on displaying the right time after 110 years.

Julian Gavaghan

in the early 1700s when iron was first smelted with coke there.

With the dedication of its Canadian custodians, the mechanism has chimed on the hour in Elmira with little interruption since it was installed in 1914.

"With a little bit of mineral oil that clock can

run forever," says Kelly, who is proud of his Elmira roots and is passionate about keeping the town's heritage alive.

Lebold, whose day job also involves balancing mechanical systems, revealed that the timepiece's original guardians used porpoise oil to lubricate its moving parts.

However, he insists that no marine mammals have been harmed in ages as part of the process of keeping the landmark ticking.

The clock needs winding once a week with around 60 laborious turns of its crank.

The volunteers usually go up the 108-foot-tall tower individually and

have a roster to determine whose turn it is.

But each member admits thinking about the clock even when they're not on duty.

"Everytime I drive by it, I'm checking the time," says Kelly.

Until recently, the clock was losing about two minutes each week, which

meant members had to regularly move one of its hands to catch up.

That problem was eventually solved by the group's newest member, Seip, a plumber who joined two years ago and discovered, perhaps not too surprisingly given his trade, that extra washers could fix the problem.

"The pendulum weight is what affects that type of mechanism," Seip explains.

"After discussions between everybody, we basically slowly started putting more washers on the pendulum every time until we finally got to the right number of washers and nuts."

As a group, they admit thinking a lot about time generally.

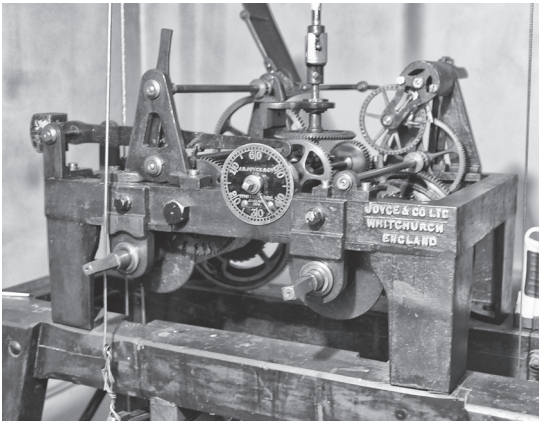
At one point during an interview, Kelly stops to remark on the oddity of Lloydminster, a city that straddles both Alberta and Saskatchewan, with the latter being the only province in Canada that does not observe daylight savings time.

Back in Elmira, members of the society have a key to a door on the second floor of the tower building that leads to a series of narrow ladders going up to the clock.

It is in this first room where one finds the brown clock winding mechanism that is marked in gold lettering to identify its historic maker.

Above this chamber is the bell room, with "Whitchurch, England" embossed on the giant bronze ringer in large capital letters.

→ WOUND UP 29



The winding mechanism (left) and bell were made by J.B. Joyce & Co, said to be the world's oldest clockmaker, and were installed in the tower in 1914.

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THURSDAY, MAY 2

□ **Music Jamming Night at the Junction**, 47 Arthur St. S, Elmira from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy the music of the 70s & 80s - light rock, folk, and country. Bring your instrument or simply come to listen/sing along. For more information: Marilyn @ 519-589-5356.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

□ **Schnitzel Dinner at the Elmira Legion**, 6 p.m. Pre-purchase tickets at the Legion Hall, Elmira. cost \$15.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

□ **Hawkesville Mennonite Church Finale**. The congregation of Hawkesville Mennonite Church invites you to their finale service starting at 2:30 p.m. After 74 years of Ministry Hawkesville Mennonite Church will be dispersing.

□ **Lutherwood's Steps for Kids 2024**. Join us, as we lace up our shoes and walk for Children's Mental Health at Lutherwood's annual Steps for Kids fundraising event. Steps for Kids is a free family-friendly event. To register or donate: www.lutherwoodstepsforkids.ca Registration is required (FREE).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

□ **Seniors Community Lunch at Wellesley Recreation Complex** at noon. Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch and fellowship. The cost is \$14 per person. Please call 519-664-1900 by May 3 to sign up.

□ **Kiwanis Club of Elmira Speaker's Series**. Hosting speaker Robin Heald. At the Harvest Moon Restaurant in St. Jacobs to learn about child victims and witness services in the region. Free to attend, just buy your breakfast. Email Lorne.mackinnon16@gmail.com to confirm your attendance.

THURSDAY, MAY 9

□ **Seniors Community Lunch at Breslau Community Centre** at noon. Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for lunch, and fellowship. The cost is \$14 per person. Please call 519-664-1900 by May 3 to sign up.

□ **Woodside Evergreen for Seniors at Woodside Church**, Elmira, 10:30 a.m. "Songs We Knew When: Vinyl, Folk, Gospel, Classics" Menno Valley Sound Band. Devotional by Pastor Roland Mechler. Registration is required by May 5 at woodsidechurch.ca/evergreen or 519-669-1296. All seniors are welcome.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

□ **Woolwich Gardeners Fundraiser Plant Sale Donations**. Hosted by Woolwich Gardeners and TWEEC. Potted and labelled perennials and other garden-related items are accepted for donations on May 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the Woolwich Gardeners' Plant Sale which is held Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 8 a.m. to noon at Elmira Home Hardware parking lot-- 22 Church Street West. Native Plants promoted by TWEEC.

□ **FREE Tool/Garden Trade**. Clear out your unwanted tools, garden items, plants, and other outdoor items you no longer need (all in good condition, please). Drop them off at Gale Presbyterian church on May 8 or 9. Join us from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the FREE giveaway and see what you find. Anyone can take or trade items. No donations are necessary. www.galepresbyterian.com for details.

↓ 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 observerxtra.com/event

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Five steps to overcome perfectionism

Perfectionism is often thought of as a desire for excellence. It is in fact a complex personality trait defined by very high standards and an inability to accept anything less than perfect.

Perfectionism can drive high achievement, motivation, and efficiency. But it can also result in stress, low self-esteem, and strained relationships.

Unhelpful thinking habits and behaviours, our interpretation of the world around us, and the high standards we set for ourselves are part of perfectionism. Recognizing and challenging these patterns is important for good mental health.

Here are five steps to loosen the grasp of perfectionism:

Recognize Perfectionist Tendencies

The first step in overcoming perfectionism is self-awareness. Reflect on the following questions: Do you constantly feel anxious or frustrated when trying to meet your standards? Do others perceive you as excessively hard on yourself or others? Acknowledge these tendencies with kindness and without judgment.

Change Your Thoughts

Our thoughts impact our feelings, which impact our behaviours. Incorporate realistic thinking to offset perfectionistic behaviours: "Nobody is perfect, everyone makes mistakes." It's important to adjust our perspective by considering the bigger picture and the inevitability of mistakes. Learn to compromise and embrace imperfection as part of the journey towards growth.

Confront Perfectionist Tendencies

Combat the fear of failure by deliberating making small, insignificant mistakes and learn to accept that not everything needs to be perfect

□ Your Mental Wellbeing

Woolwich
Counselling Centre

all the time. Sometimes "good enough" really is good enough. This helps to build resilience in a powerful way. Overcome procrastination by setting realistic schedules and breaking down large tasks into manageable chunks. Do not personalize failure and shift your focus from outcomes to progress. This will help you to embrace the journey of learning and growth.

Prioritize Self-Care

Amid the relentless pursuit of perfection, self-care often takes a backseat. However, it is a cornerstone of emotional and mental wellness. Integrate self-care practices into your daily routine, prioritizing your well-being to avoid burnout.

Cultivate Self-Compassion

We are often our own biggest critics, especially perfectionists. Instead of self-criticism, practice self-compassion. Celebrate your efforts and small victories. This will serve as motivation to carry on without being overwhelmed. Offer yourself grace and credit when possible – you deserve it! Overcoming perfectionism is a journey of self-discovery and self-acceptance. Through this transformative process of accepting and embracing imperfection, we create a life of balance, fulfillment, and overall wellness. It's not about achieving perfection, but about embracing our humanity and the beauty found within our imperfections.

↓ Woolwich Counselling Centre is a nonprofit counselling agency that creates awareness and provides education to promote emotional and mental wellness for individuals, families, businesses, and others in Woolwich and Wellesley. Check out their upcoming small group therapy sessions and workshops at www.woolwichcounselling.org.

↓ FAITH DIRECTORY



9:30am

Season of Easter

Pastor Charleen preaching

www.elmiramennonite.ca

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Healthy Communities

The place to get involved.

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Projects & News
- Sub-Committee updates

healthywoolwich.org

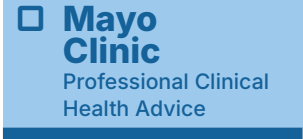


Advances in care for med-resistant epilepsy

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: My son is in his 20s and has had epilepsy for years. He had undergone extensive evaluation over a decade ago. Lately, his medication hasn't been effectively preventing seizures. What are some of the innovations available to provide him the chance of seizure freedom and improve his quality of life?

ANSWER: An epilepsy diagnosis can be challenging for anyone. Epilepsy can be frustrating because of the unpredictability of seizures and the challenge many people have with medication.

The good news is that over the last two decades we have made several advances in both diagnosing and treating epilepsy. From a diagnostic standpoint, we have a better understanding of the genetic basis of epilepsy, with the discovery of multiple epilepsy genes guiding treatment decisions. Advances in imaging mean high-



er-quality brain scans that can help us better pinpoint a patient's seizure focal point and improve chances of providing seizure freedom. Soon we also hope to forecast or predict when seizures will occur.

If your son has not had continuing care with a neurologist or epilepsy specialist, I would recommend that he consider an evaluation at a specialized epilepsy center that can provide a comprehensive team approach to his care. The National Association of Epilepsy Centers rates Mayo Clinic as a Level 4 epilepsy center because of the availability of the broadest range of diagnostic and treatment options for people with epilepsy. Mayo Clinic epilepsy care teams have experience treating epilepsy to eliminate seizures or reduce the frequency and intensity

of seizures in children and adults.

As far as treatment advancements, there have been many improvements over the last several years. There has been a significant increase in the number of antiseizure medications coming to the market. There are now more than 25 different medications, which are much safer and more effective in controlling seizures.

When medicines cannot adequately control seizures, patients now have a number of other advances to help them, including minimally invasive laser surgery, which uses a laser probe and thermal ablation to destroy epileptic tissue, and deep brain stimulation, which can significantly reduce seizures in people whose epilepsy is difficult to treat. Also, patients who may have focal epilepsy and are not surgery candidates have other options for care.

Another recent advance-

ment is the ability to use implantable electrical devices that act like pace-makers of the brain. One of these devices can sense abnormal electrical brain activity and then deliver an electric current to stop seizures. The amount of stimulation is controlled by a wire that travels under your skin near the chest and connects this device to the electrodes in your brain.

In addition, there is exciting research that is happening related to epilepsy, including clinical trials looking at new therapies.

Having uncontrolled seizures can be extremely frustrating, but given the advances in recent years, seeking out expert care for a second opinion may be valuable for your son as he ages so he can find a better quality of life.

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



The members of the Society of Clock Winders include Brad Lebold, Brandon Seip, Patrick Kelly and Jeff Hutchinson. [Julian Gavaghan](#)

WOUND UP: Keeping alive a tradition that dates back more than a century

→ FROM 27

It is mostly quite dark until one reaches the top, where light brightly shines through the four elegant white clock faces on each side of the tower.

Cogs can also be seen that constantly wind four separate rods that each lead to one of the dials so that every new minute and hour of every day can be marked by moving hands.

Aside from maintaining the antique mechanism, the society is also charged with keeping the

Canadian flag flying over Elmira.

The rooftop where the maple leaf flutters can be reached through a door on one side of the bell room.

Outside on a flat surface, there are sweeping views over town and it was possible to take aerial photographs from this vantage point of this year's Elmira Maple Syrup Festival.

Being that close to the bell can leave it ringing in your ears longer than the short chimes that mark each new hour, however, so it is advisable to stand

some distance away when it does.

Although all the members of the Society of Clock Winders would gladly keep this treasured piece of Elmira's history ticking for free, they reveal they are technically paid to do the job.

Juliane Shantz, who owns the building that is now branded as the Clock Tower Wellness Centre, gives them \$1,300 a year to manage the clock, which the group always donates to charity, they say.

While the clock was

installed in 1914, the tower itself was built in 1912 and has served as a police station, a post office and was Woolwich's town hall between 1966 and 2008.

The two-storey red-brick structure, which features elements of the classical and Italianate styles, including triangular-shaped gables, received a heritage designation by the township in 2010.

That means that it cannot be torn down and must be kept as it is now forever – long may it ring.

Getting Rid of Garlic Mustard

Last week's article focused on why garlic mustard is a problem. Now let's move on to how to control it.

Garlic mustard can be controlled by hand pulling in the spring- starting now! The plants, unlike dandelions, are easily pulled especially after a rain. The plants have a tap root and do not regenerate from the root.

First year garlic mustard stays close to the ground and produces a rosette, the second-year plant produces the flowers and seed pods.

Timing of the pull is most effective before the flowers set and go to seed starting the end of May. The seed heads can lay dormant for seven years, so timing is crucial for the best results, otherwise you have the same job again next year.

The pulled plants can be disposed of in your garden waste bags only if they are not flowering or producing seeds. Plants that have flowering heads with seed pods need to be solarized in dark garbage bags.

Solarization is a method of killing the plants with heat. The bags should be left to bake in the sun for best results.

Each year you should see fewer plants, but it may take several years until the existing seedbank has been exhausted.

If you would like to learn more about garlic mustard identification and control methods please join us.

The Township of Woolwich Environmental Enhancement Committee (TWEEC) is a volunteer group and will be hosting community Garlic Mustard pulls in Elmira and St. Jacobs.

These pulls will be May 11th from 2 to 4 pm at Victoria Glen, Southpark Woods, the Elmira Nature Reserve and along the Health Valley Trail in St. Jacobs.

Please come and help enhance our natural areas. Families welcome. If you are interested in this rewarding endeavor, please contact Ann Roberts aroberts@woolwich.ca for more details.

For information on invasive plants and what to grow instead, go to www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca.





Word of the Week

HOMAGE

An homage is something that is done to honor someone or something.

Mini - Word

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| 10 | | | | | |

ACROSS

1. Gather on the surface, chemically
7. Diet
8. Lung membrane
9. Followed orders
10. Shoot for, with "to"

DOWN

1. Beginning
2. Handouts
3. Brush
4. Eyes
5. Less common
6. Fan part

Sudoku EASY

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|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 8 | | 2 | | | 7 | | |
| | | 9 | | | | 2 | | 6 |
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| | 2 | | 8 | | | | | |
| | | 1 | | 4 | 5 | | 2 | |
| | | 6 | | 9 | | | | |
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Sudoku HARD

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| 2 | | | | | 9 | 3 | | 8 |
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| | 5 | | 1 | 6 | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | 2 | | | | | | | 9 |
| | 9 | 6 | | | 8 | | 3 | |

Find - A - Word

THEME: ASTRONOMY

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

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|---------|----------|---------|--------|-----------|--------|
| AGN | EPOCH | MOON | CLOUD | RED GIANT | URANUS |
| COMA | GALAXY | NEBULA | ORBIT | SETI | VENUS |
| COMET | GANYMEDE | NEBULUS | PHASE | STAR | |
| EARTH | IO | NEPTUNE | PLANET | SUN | |
| ECLIPSE | MARS | OORT | PLUTO | UNIVERSE | |

Crossword

ACROSS

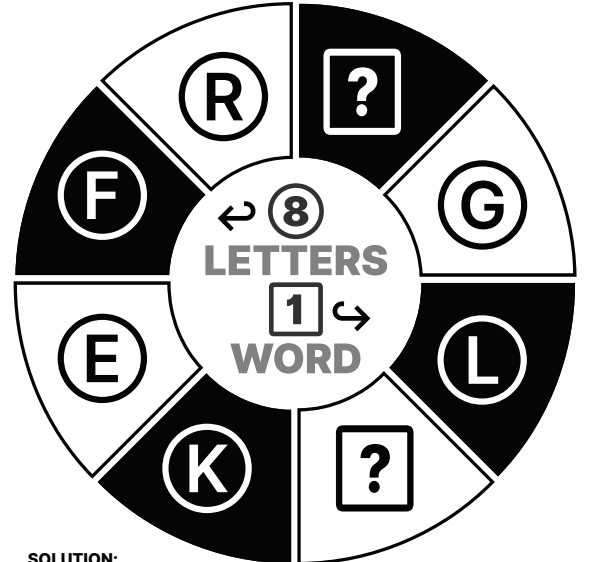
1. City planning ideology
9. Biblical cleansing herb
15. Admission of guilt
16. Art of harmony and self-defense
17. Born to commoners
18. Backbone parts
19. Choose to do
20. 1/12 of a foot
22. Neighbor of Thailand
23. Slow tempo in music
26. Bring into a straight line
27. End mark in a sentence
30. Dwelling made of turf
32. Seventh planet from the sun
33. Successor
34. Make do with little
37. Place for outgoing letters
39. Inhabitant of a locale
41. Egyptian Cobra
42. Family lineage symbol
44. Licorice-flavored seeds
45. Like a spider's creation
46. Mournful expression
47. Tossed greens dish
50. In a spooky manner
52. Island welcome gifts
53. Sound reflection

DOWN

1. Raised part of a shield
2. Harvest crops
3. Linen-making fiber
4. High card in a suit
5. Small protrusion
6. Global labor organization
7. Twig with leaves
8. Resembling a man
9. Diner breakfast staple
10. Small dog's sharp sound
11. Thin porridge
12. Peninsula between Egypt and Israel
13. European cinema chain
14. Sheriff's support group
21. Soft, murmuring sound
23. Southern slang term
24. Was skeptical of
25. Bind to a surface
26. Gland near the kidneys
27. Immature insect form
28. Greek god of love
29. Harsh, scraping tool
31. Indian festival of lights
34. Otherwise
35. Highly interested
36. Formerly, in poetry
38. Three-masted vessel
40. Slightly alkaline or tart
43. Eye-shaped opening
45. Hardware item to distribute load
47. Thick flat pieces
48. Writer of moral tales
49. Metric unit of capacity
51. Land-walking vehicle on Mars
53. Not difficult
54. Not straight
55. Competitive event
56. Human-like primates
58. Leave a mark on
60. Compass heading between E and NE
61. Basketball hoop edge
62. Symbol of aloha

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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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 | | | | | | |

8 Letters 1 Word



SOLUTION:



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



TIM LOUIS

Member of Parliament
Kitchener-Conestoga

These Vegetarian-friendly burgers are delicious

America's Test Kitchen
Rigorously tested recipes that work.

A food processor makes quick work of chopping not just the fish but also our fresh bread crumbs for these salmon burgers. We use just enough bread and mayonnaise (plus some choice flavourings) to bind the burgers together while letting the salmon still shine through. Broiling the salmon burgers on a sheet pan in the oven allowed us to prepare a roasted vegetable side dish in the same pan, but you can also grill them together outside if the weather is nice.



Broiling or grilling the salmon burgers and asparagus together allows for easy cleanup.

Salmon Burgers with Asparagus and Lemon-Herb Sauce

- 6 **tblsp** mayonnaise, divided
- 3 **tblsp** chopped fresh parsley divided
- 2 **scallions** minced, divided
- 1 **tblsp** lemon juice
- Salt and pepper

- Combine 1/4 cup mayonnaise, 1 **tblsp** parsley, half of scallions, and 1 **tblsp** lemon juice in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Cover and refrigerate until serving.
- Adjust oven rack 4 inches from broiler element and heat broiler. Pulse bread in food processor to coarse crumbs, about 4 pulses; transfer to large bowl.
- Working in 2 batches, pulse salmon in food processor until coarsely ground, about 4 pulses, transfer to bowl with bread crumbs and toss to combine. Add mustard, remaining scallions, remaining 2 **tblsp** pars-

- 1 **slice** hearty white sandwich bread, torn into 1-inch pieces
- 1 **lb** skinless salmon fillets cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 **tblsp** Dijon mustard

- ley, capers, remaining 2 **tblsp** mayonnaise, 1/4 **tsp** salt, and 1/8 **tsp** pepper to bowl; gently fold into salmon mixture until well combined.
- Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil. Divide salmon mixture into 4 equal portions and gently pack into 1-inch-thick patties, about 3-1/2 inches wide. Place patties on 1 side of the prepared sheet. Toss asparagus with oil, 1/4 **tsp** salt, and 1/4 **tsp** pepper and spread in a single layer on the empty side of the sheet.
 - Broil until burgers are browned on top, 4 to 6 minutes. Flip burgers and asparagus and continue to broil until burgers

- 2 **tsp** capers, rinsed and minced
- 1 **tsp** extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 **hamburger** buns
- 4 **leaves** Bibb or Boston lettuce

- register 125 degrees (for medium-rare), and asparagus is lightly browned and tender, 3 to 6 minutes.
- Transfer salmon burgers and asparagus to a platter. Discard foil and arrange buns, cut side up, in a single layer on the now-empty sheet and broil until lightly browned, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Top bun bottoms with lettuce, burgers, lemon-herb sauce, and bun tops. Serve with asparagus.

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

Notes: If using wild salmon, which contains less fat, cook the burgers to 120 degrees (for medium-rare). Age affects the flavor of asparagus enormously. For the sweetest taste, look for spears that are bright green and firm, with tightly closed tips. If the weather cooperates, take the fish and veggie outside to the grill!



Holly Morrell, top, performs with the Country Horizon Band at an Elmira Legion fundraiser on Saturday, prompting those in attendance to get up and dance. **Bill Atwood**



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Twenty-two red dresses were smudged in Wilmot on by a member of the local Indigenous community. A profile of a missing person is attached to each dress. **Submitted**

RED DRESS: Taking note is part of reconciliation efforts

→ FROM 3

In advance of Red Dress Day, WEWGIR purchased 22 dresses that went through a smudging ceremony by a local Indigenous person. Each dress has a profile of a missing or murdered woman, girl or two-spirited person and an explanation of what Red Dress Day is.

While Indigenous people make up a small percentage of the region's population at less than two per cent, education of residents is still important given the overrepresentation of the overall

stats across the country, Gagnon said.

"Even all across Canada, the [Indigenous population] compared to the non-Indigenous population is a small population, but they're over-represented when it comes to murdered and missing women. There's a higher percentage of women missing and murdered of Indigenous women than the percentage of non-Indigenous women," she said.

While there will not be an official ceremony on Sunday, each church

has been encouraged to include information on MMIWG2S+ in their services.

Gagnon added that partnering with churches on reconciliation efforts is a step forward for both parties given the historical issues, particularly where churches were concerned.

"I think that the reason we call the churches specifically, and why the churches want to work with us, is to bridge that gap and start moving towards reconciliation," she said.



Employees make their way back into the Home Hardware head office in St. Jacobs on Tuesday following an evacuation caused by a fire alarm ringing, which prompted a response from firefighters.

Bill Atwood

Spring Open House

Saturday, May 11, 2024

8 am - 4 pm

Shop sales on:

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