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This Weekend

Friday

22°

Saturday

24°

Sunday

26°

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025



Workers have built a temporary span across the Grand River to help them restore the West Montrose Covered Bridge. [Julian Gavaghan](#)

Latest Southwood subdivision in Elmira unveiled at council session

Steve Kannon
Observer Staff

ROUNDING OUT A LONGSTANDING DEVELOPMENT in the south end of Elmira, the fifth phase of the Southwood subdivision would add up to almost 600 new homes to the community.

Schlegel Urban Developments is seeking a zone change for some 46 acres of land fronting on 1065 Listowel Road, with plans discussed at Tuesday night’s meeting of Woolwich council.

The land, currently designated for agricultural use, has long been

earmarked for development, in this case the fifth and final portion of the Southwood project. The area is essentially bounded by Arthur Street, Listowel Road, South Parkwood Boulevard and Timber Trail Road to the west.

The plan calls for a mix of residential uses, including 77 to 111 single-family homes, 63 to 164 medium-density units (semis and/or townhouses), 51 to 63 street townhouses and three medium- to high-density blocks featuring 136 to 250 townhouses and/or apartment buildings up to five storeys.

→ SUBDIVISION 6

Group proposes alternative budget to counter massive Woolwich tax increases

Julian Gavaghan
Observer Staff

A GROUP OF CONCERNED WOOLWICH residents is drafting an alternative budget to show the mayor and councillors how to tackle a reserve fund shortage without imposing another big tax rise.

Retired Conestogo businessman Hardy Willms and other members of the Property Taxpayers Alliance said many households are already at “breaking point” and need relief.

Willms, a former chief financial officer, hopes that the prospect of next year’s election might

make Mayor Sandy Shantz and the rest of council take notice and focus on reducing staff costs.

The alliance revealed its plan after Woolwich council was asked by director of finance Colm Lynn earlier this month to consider the possibility of a 22-per-cent tax rise next year.

Willms fears that figure is designed only as a device to make another double-digit increase more palatable to already frustrated voters.

“This year, the rise was 10 per cent, and the last three years combined is 29.3 per cent, so it’s already unsustainable,” he said.

“They’re not going to do 22 per cent next year, but they threw that number out, and if they come in at 10 or 15 per cent, they’ll think they’re heroes.”

Earlier this year, an investigation by The Observer revealed that the 2025 increase was the second steepest among the 69 surrounding

municipalities that were examined.

Only Wilmot, with an 18.22 per cent increase, eclipsed the figure.

However, the township has argued that large tax increases have been necessary to address a predicted infrastructure deficit.

→ BUDGET 7

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Members of the Mapuche Nation from Chile (top), and another Latino group, Carrera de Sacos (meaning "sack race"), were among performers from a variety of cultures at the All That Worldly Jazz Festival in St. Jacobs on Sunday. [Julian Gavaghan](#)

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Weimar Line fatality

A 24-year-old man was killed early Sunday morning Weimar Line near Maplewood Drive in Wellesley Township after his vehicle left the roadway and caught fire. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene after emergency crews were called out about 3 a.m. Weimar Line was closed for approximately 10 hours while police conducted an on-scene investigation.

From the archives

Waterloo Region plans to get traffic flowing around, and not through, the village, are getting a less-than-enthusiastic welcome from residents. Opened in the fall of 2004 at a cost of \$1.6 million, the bypass – formally Reg. Rd. 17, or Fountain Street – has not been widely adopted by drivers.

From the Sept. 24, 2005 edition of The Observer

Region says there's leeway in speed cameras; few speeders fined

Julian Gavaghan
Observer Staff

MOTORISTS CAN'T GET TICKETS FROM Region of Waterloo speed cameras by going only slightly faster than the limit, the authority admitted, as it revealed only a fraction of those caught are fined.

The municipality told The Observer it is not possible to be ticketed for going only one km/h quicker than what's posted on signs, after critics accused it of entrapping drivers for "cash grab" purposes.

"Speed thresholds are in place to ensure a balanced approach to enforcement that is fair and not punitive," a spokesperson said.

However, the region refused to reveal the exact leeway that is allowed to drivers, despite many other jurisdictions around the world making that information public.

"Municipalities across Ontario, including the Region of Waterloo, do not release details on threshold speeds, as it goes against the intended goal of increasing compliance with posted speed limits," the region's spokesman continued.

"The posted speed limit is the law, but publicly communicating a threshold speed results in some drivers perceiving that there is a new speed limit above the posted speed limit."

However, the region has revealed that only three per

cent of speeders captured at 17 school sites over a six-month period were actually issued tickets.

Out of 1,963,097 vehicles captured going over the speed limit, just 55,899 fines were issued between February 3 and July 31.

"What limits the total number of tickets issued is primarily staffing capacity," said a spokesperson, who also revealed that the same vehicle is never ticketed more than once in a week, and that a few images are rejected because of poor quality.

But the secret threshold also plays a role in reducing the number of fines issued, the region admitted, amid plans to expand its camera program.

Such leeways are used around the world, ensuring that a driver trying to stay below the limit is not unfairly caught out, perhaps due to a miscalibration of their vehicle's speedometer.

Sometimes, they are based on a percentage over the posted limit, while other times, fixed differences are used.

In the UK, where cameras have been commonplace since the 1990s, the National Police Chiefs' Council recommends a leeway of 10 per cent plus two miles per hour, in what is known as the 10+2 rule.

This means that in a 30 mph (48 km/h) zone, a driver would not receive a ticket unless they drove

→ SPEED CAMERAS 6



Jacob Steinmann runs the Elmira Children's Choir every Tuesday evening. **Julian Gavaghan**

New children's choir in Elmira is now recruiting members

Julian Gavaghan
Observer Staff

A PUNK-ROCK BAND AND A children's choir might seem incredibly different, but they do have at least one thing in common, says Jacob Steinmann.

"They're both a very powerful way of bringing people together," said the former Summer Heights bassist, who previously used his fretwork skills to provide low-end muscle and rhythm to its shredding sound.

"The people I played in the band with were some of my closest friends.

"And having a place

where you meet to prepare for and get excited for a concert is always a big feature of any group."

However, the music teacher's new Elmira Children's Choir, which is free to join and meets weekly at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at Elmira Mennonite Church, is designed to sound more soothing than Sex-Pistolesque.

"We're focusing on songs that have themes like friendship and seasons changing," he explained, adding: "It's more about the voices than instruments."

"So, vocal tone is a much bigger thing with choirs than punk rock music, and

so we're looking to make your voice sound fuller and richer."

Steinmann, 27, a West Montrose native who recently completed a teaching degree at Western University, says anyone between Grades 3 to 8 is welcome to join.

He believes anyone can sing and that, even if you think you can't, it really is possible to learn.

"I was in that boat as a kid," he explained.

"I felt like I couldn't sing, and I even thought I was tone deaf because I couldn't hit any notes."

"But eventually, I learned."

→ CHILDREN'S CHOIR 5

Saturday's ABC Festival in Wellesley a sure sign of fall

Andrea Eymann
Observer Staff

THE CALENDAR SAID IT BECAME autumn on Monday, but this weekend's Apple Butter and Cheese Festival in Wellesley really makes the season official.

It's the 50th anniversary for the event, which started in 1975 as a way to promote two local businesses, a local apple cider mill and Dan Snyder's cheese processing plant. The latter is gone, but cheese remains an integral part of the ABC Fest.

"The cheese has just been there forever," said festival president Jamie Reid. "We have cheese vendors in and around the area as part of our craft market."

This year, they are offering a few new things, such as a petting zoo, said Reid, noting it will be a "nice addition for the young families that are attending."

However, for the adults, "we have expanded our craft cider tasting to a craft cider and beer garden," he said, noting customers can purchase full drinks this year instead of samples.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary is "just a fantastic milestone for something that started back in 1975. It's a real tribute to the volunteers and the town itself to last this long and be able to put it on for this long – it's run solely by volunteers,"

→ ABC FEST 5



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Registered
Physiotherapist



Leanne Park
Registered
Physiotherapy



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Ryan Marrin
Registered
Physiotherapist



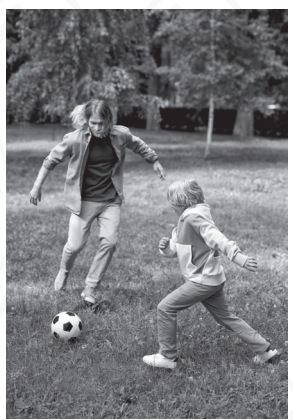
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TO RESERVE CALL:



Paxton Bain, 8, enjoyed getting up close to a cow after Kasja Bowman and Brad Brenneman demonstrated milking during Wellesley's Dairy Education Day. **Julian Gavaghan**

Students get an education in dairy farming

Julian Gavaghan

Observer Staff

THERE WAS A VISIBLE SHUDDER at the sight of an udder as farmer Brad Brenneman offered to squirt warm milk straight into the children's mouths.

Not one of the St. Clement Catholic School

students accepted, with youngsters seemingly only competing to see who could decline the cow juice the loudest and fastest.

"He was just joking," insisted Karen Schlueter-Weiss, who was organizing the Dairy Education Day event on behalf of the Welles-

ley-North Easthope Agricultural Society.

However, while children might well have recoiled at the possibility of consuming milk fresh from the teat, they were still eager to learn about the Holstein harvest and its importance to their communities.

The sessions, which

involved 22 teachers and more than 200 students from across Wellesley Township, with pupils from Linwood and Wellesley public schools also attending, were held in Wellesley village, at the site of the former health centre on Queen's Bush Road, on September 17.

→ EDUCATION 6

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Young entrepreneurs leave their marks, one curb at a time

Andrea Eymann
Observer Staff

A LEMONADE STAND
IS THE staple of a young entrepreneur’s résumé, but St. Jacobs’ Matthew Shoemaker and his friend Steven Bedynski had something else in mind.

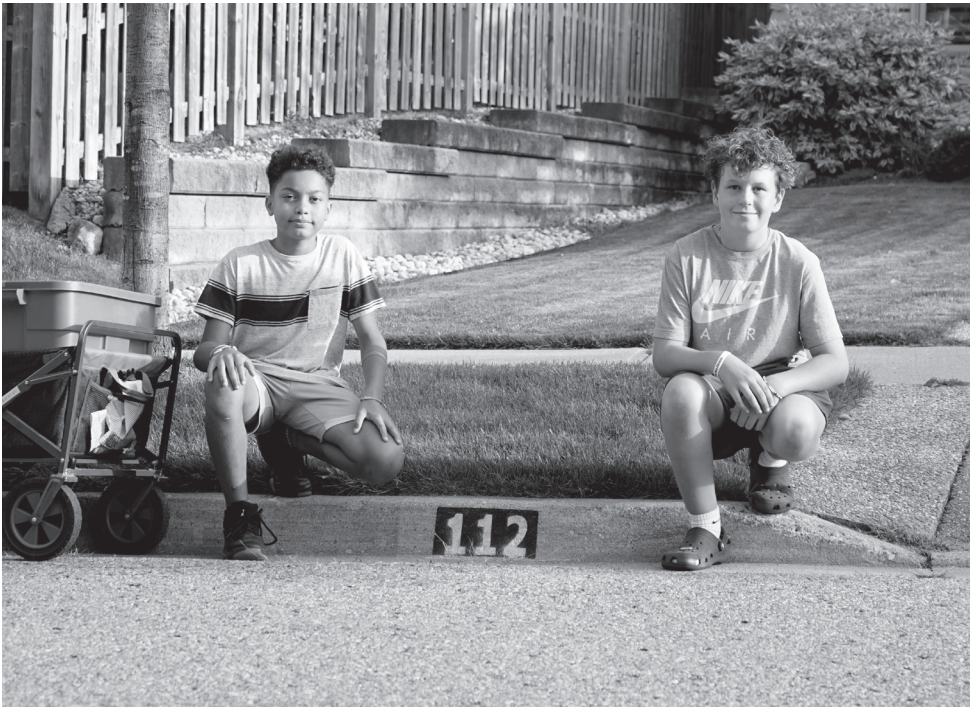
Opting for something a bit more lasting, the friends went into business painting addresses on the curb faces in front of customers’ homes.

“We were thinking of ways to save up for a ski membership, and we saw this around in other neighbourhoods. We just thought we could do that,” Shoemaker said, adding that this is their first time entering the business world.

The 12-year-olds plan to snowboard at Chicopee ski hill in Kitchener this winter.

Shoemaker started snowboarding a couple of years ago, and this will be the first year Bedynski will learn how to shred the slopes.

“He came up with the idea all by himself,” Shoe-



Steven Bedynski and Matthew Shoemaker started a business painting curbs. [Andrea Eymann](#)

maker’s dad, Ryan, told The Observer.

“It was all his idea... and the only thing I did was drive them to go get the paint,” he said, noting he fronted the cash for the first bit of supplies.

The boys subsequently made it a point to pay him back.

“Ever since then, they’ve

been cash-flow positive,” he said.

Shoemaker and Bedynski paint the house number for \$20, but they also have an option to add a Canadian flag to display one’s national pride for an extra \$10.

“It helps people find their house, like visitors, delivery drivers, and

emergency services find their home,” said Bedynski of why curb painting is a good idea.

Shoemaker explained that they start with a wire brush to clean the curb to ensure the paint lasts for a long time.

Using duct tape, they put it around the spot they will paint to get

sharp edges to give it a professional look. They use cardboard to stop the overspray.

Learning the ropes, the kids learned how to do it all themselves, admitting it was “pretty difficult.”

“But as we kept going, we got better at it,” Shoemaker said, noting it just takes about half an hour to paint the numbers.

Adding the flag was a way to make a few extra bucks, Bedynski chimed in.

“We weren’t getting money pretty fast, we weren’t on track to get enough money by the end of the year,” Shoemaker said, noting they added the flag option to help reach their goal of \$600 each.

However, since starting their business venture

in June, they have had almost 40 clients.

“It is really exciting. When we first started out, I was thinking it would just maybe get us a bit of money, I didn’t expect to do this well,” Shoemaker said, noting their clients have been from Waterloo and St. Jacobs.

Shoemaker noted that this venture has helped them build their confidence from knocking on doors to spreading word of mouth.

“The first time we were pretty nervous,” he admitted, adding that they just got used to promoting their business to potential customers.

Those interested in their service can contact them at kwcurnumbers@gmail.com.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR: It’s all about having fun while learning to sing

→ FROM 3

“So, I always think the best thing is not to get someone to try to sing the right note at first, but maybe just to sing the wrong note – and to sing it loud.

“Then we know what to work on.”

He expects to be able to get any new starter singing sweetly by the scheduled Christmas concert.

While the new children’s choir practises at Elmira Mennonite Church, and was funded from inheritance money left in a late parishioner’s will, it is a strictly secular project and the young members don’t sing any religious songs, Steinmann noted.

“It’s all about encouraging a sense of community with everybody in Elmira, because there’s so many different people here, and we want to get as many involved as possible.”

Being willing to have a go makes the biggest difference to developing a good voice, he insisted.

“From working with kids in classrooms and other parts of my life, I’ve seen what a difference just trying new things can make,” he explained. “It really helps if you’re not scared of making a fool of yourself, because sometimes it happens, even sometimes when I’m singing, I lead by example and sometimes I don’t hit the right note.

“But that’s okay because it’s all about trying new things and learning what you can do.”

Steinmann hopes the no-charge nature of the

choir will encourage children to have a go, as he noted the cost of hockey and other sports programs are a big commitment for many families.

“Whether they’re passionate about wanting to sing or not sure, I encourage everybody to come out,” he said.

“If they’re not having a good time after a couple weeks and don’t want to come back, that’s okay. But I want to make sure it’s enjoyable to the students, and I hope they will stay.”

Steinmann, who before training to be a teacher had excelled at the classical guitar with a music degree from Wilfrid Laurier University, plans to also incorporate a range of instruments into the choir.

He hopes this exposure will also encourage the children to go further musically.

“Singing really brings people together, but it’s also about discovering more about music and what you can do once you know how to sing,” he explained.

“So, for example, once you learn how to do a little bit of reading music, I think other instruments and other music comes more naturally as well.

“So, singing is like a stepping stone.”

Elmira Children’s Choir is free to join for those in Grades 3 to 8.

It meets every Tuesday during the school year between 6:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. at Elmira Mennonite Church, 58 Church St. W., Elmira.

ABC FEST: Event sees population grow tenfold for one day each year

→ FROM 3

said Reid, noting there are more than 200 people who chip in to make the festival happen.

Reid, 50, has been helping out for as long as he can remember, as his dad, Bob Reid, was the previous chairman, but has been on the committee for around 45 years.

“I can honestly remember being in public school and couldn’t wait to get out on Friday to go help everybody set up,” he recalled.

“It was just like a fun event. As a kid, it was cool to see the town transform into a one-day festival basically overnight,” Reid added.

The event draws some 30,000 to 40,000 visitors to the village on the last Saturday of September.

“We’re very proud of it. We have a town of 3,500 people, and we bring over 30,000 people in for one day, so we’ve got to be doing something right. People keep coming back year after year,” said Reid, noting organizers try each year to maintain the spirit of the first event.

“A lot of work goes on behind the scenes that people don’t know,” said Mike Fritz, an ABC volunteer.

On the day of the event, Reid said people are there



There are more than 200 volunteers who make possible the Apple Butter and Cheese Festival. [File photo](#)

by 5 a.m. to set up the pancake breakfast.

Fritz is usually there by 6 a.m., setting up his booth, which sells Wellesley apple butter products outside at the back of the old arena.

“Not a lot changed at the core of the festival – the original idea is still visible in today’s festival.”

He says people show up every year because there is something for every age, young or old.

“If you like crafts, there’s a ton of crafts. If you’re a fan of antique cars, tractors, or have young kids, there are plenty of things to do. There’s entertainment. There’s kids’ entertainment. There is something for everyone.”

Following the inaugu-

ral pancake and sausage breakfast, which kicks off the day at 7 a.m., a host of activities takes place over a slice of downtown, including the site of the former arena and adjacent ball diamonds. It’s there you’ll find the craft and artisan market, for instance.

“I love the food,” said Reid. “It’s definitely the food, and I enjoy walking around and seeing people smile and having a good time; it’s just a great day.”

He notes that apple butter is a staple in his diet.

“Everywhere I go, if I order sausage, I’m asking for apple butter,” he said. “Put it on any pork product you could imagine.”

Additionally, there will

be antique cars behind the library on Henry Street, where anyone can display their old vehicles and park starting at 7 a.m.

But if you are more interested in tractors, there will be farm machines on Brown Street, which can be parked on the Friday evening before the event, but need to arrive no later than 8 a.m. on Saturday morning.

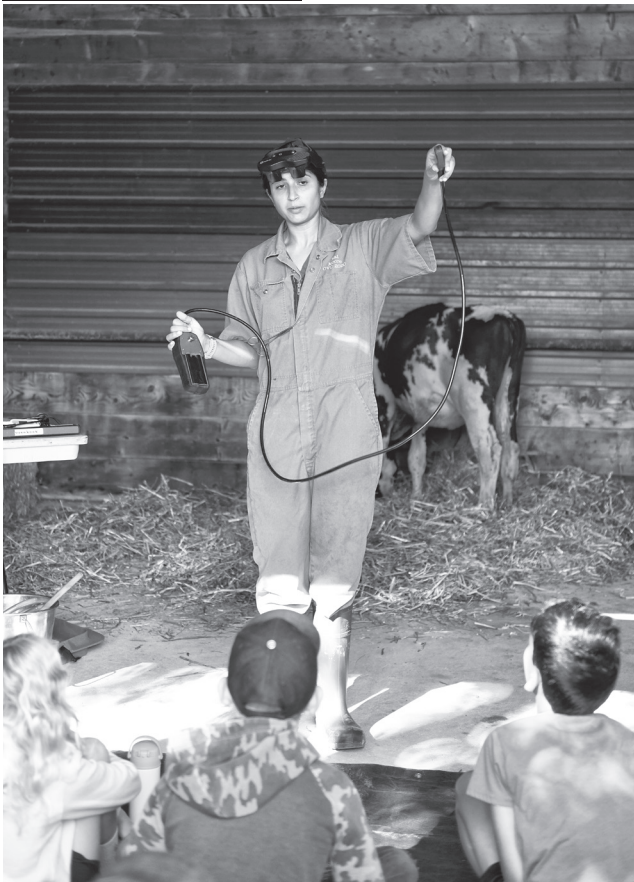
Over the years, the festival has been able to put donations towards the new recreation complex, the accessible playground, baseball diamond refurbishing, splash pad, and downtown beautification.

“We’ve done a whole bunch of stuff directly in the town of Wellesley, and that’s what we aim for, to keep the money in the town itself,” Reid said.

Most recently, Fritz notes they were able to replace two village entry gateway signs that were originally installed 30 to 40 years ago, a job carried out earlier this month.

The new signs cost just more than \$22,000, and will highlight the three organizations: Wellesley North Easthope Agricultural Society, Wellesley and District Lions Club and the ABC Festival.

More information can be found online at www.wellesleyabcfestival.ca.



Veterinarian Nicole Burcar, with a young heifer behind her, demonstrates some of the methods used to treat cattle to children. **Julian Gavaghan**

EDUCATION: Another option

→ FROM 4

As well as a milking exhibition, in which Brenneman was assisted by 4-H's Kasja Bowman, there was also a demonstration by vet Nicole Burcar and other lessons.

Aside from a hiatus during the pandemic, Dairy Education Day has been running for 15 years, said Schlueter-Weiss, who noted that its purpose has become more important as more people move from cities into the rural area.

"In the past, a lot more children here would have had exposure to dairy cattle, but now they don't,

and this makes a real difference," she told The Observer.

This is not just because they can see what some of their neighbours might do, but also because they might realize it's something they can try too.

"I know that when my daughter was in 4-H, because of exposure to some programmes like this, one of the girls in her club was from the city, and she loved being with the animals," said Schlueter-Weiss.

"It exposes kids to other options for them, other than sports."

Region seeking input on new waste management plan

Ethan Braund

LJI reporter

WATERLOO REGION IS UPDATING ITS long-range plan for dealing with waste for the first time in more than a decade, and it's looking for feedback from residents before moving forward.

The region last updated its long-term waste management strategy in 2013. The region hopes the new framework sets up waste management for the next 25 years.

The region's Rachel Vaillancourt told The Observer that one of the biggest challenges is keeping waste out of landfills.

"We have a landfill, and we've got 20 to 25 years left in it, which we consider an amazing

asset," said Vaillancourt.

"This is an important asset, because without the landfill, there would be nowhere for us to dispose of our waste," she added, noting the alternatives would be significantly more costly, such as shipping it to a site outside the region.

"We're doing our best for our community and the environment by diverting the waste from the landfill so we can make it last as long as we can."

Vaillancourt said that public feedback is crucial to the process. Currently, the region is in phase two of creating the plan, which involves public engagement. It has 20 options on the table that residents can rank.

"We're putting them out to the public to see what

their appetite is for some of these things. There are going to be things that are more important to the public, or ones that maybe they don't have an appetite for."

The list of options includes expanding waste services to cover large apartment buildings (all buildings with more than seven units), creating a mobile drop-off service to improve accessibility beyond curbside collection, and establishing a "Community Waste Ambassador" volunteer group to support waste-diversion education.

"We're going to go through a much more in-depth evaluation, where we're going to take the top ones and then rank them based on cost, environmental impact,

level of effort, you know, resources and things like that."

She emphasized that just because there are 20 options on the table at present doesn't mean they will all move forward, which is why this phase of the process is crucial.

"We're trying to get people to come to the website so that they have a good idea of what we're trying to accomplish," said Vaillancourt.

For many people, garbage is out of sight, out of mind once it goes to the curb, and the current process is part of trying to educate people about the importance of waste management, she noted.

To give feedback on the potential options, go to www.engagewr.ca/LTWMS.

SUBDIVISION: Fifth phase of development rounds out project in Elmira

→ FROM 1

Some 1,030 people are expected to live in the subdivision as it's developed between 2027 and 2034, senior planner Stephen Dykstra told councillors during this week's planning public meeting.

He noted the township has thus far received feedback from residents concerned with issues such as traffic, protection of existing trees and the density of housing.

Among those raising concerns was South Parkwood Boulevard resident Ben Hoogendoorn, who

attended the meeting to talk about the impact on the neighbourhood. Specifically, he flagged plans to move an existing pond on the property in favour of a new stormwater management pond.

"It's highly used for a number of activities. There are dogs that are there all the time, playing there. People are walking along the trail, so it's heavily used by the community," he said.

"I'm very concerned about the loss of that area, and concerned about the loss of that pond."

He suggested the pond

be retained, and perhaps combined with a new park to provide a better experience for the many people who use the trail and open areas.

In a written submission, residents James and Denise Jackson raised concerns about traffic.

"Timber Trail is an extremely busy road, lots of cars often appearing to exceed the speed limit. We believe it would be much safer if truck traffic for this project accessing this new area were to access it from Listowel Road only," they wrote. "There are many children in this area

and school buses that stop frequently. We believe this to be a huge safety issue. Also we would request the trees behind properties on Timber Trail remain."

This week's meeting got the zone-change process rolling. No decisions were made, as council will vote on the matter at a later date following the drafting of a recommendation report by township planners. In the meantime, staff continues to solicit input, and will be subjecting some of the studies supplied by the applicant to peer reviews.

SPEED CAMERAS: Province looking at options to replace unpopular technology

→ FROM 3

at a speed of 35 mph (56 km/h) or more.

In New York City, which has used devices in school zones since 2014, no fine can be issued until a motorist goes at least 11 mph faster.

However, there is less tolerance in other places.

Across Germany, where famously there is no speed limit on 65 per cent of its autobahn network, there is typically a 3 km/h threshold where restrictions exist.

The grace period is the same with fixed cameras in the Australian state of Victoria.

The mystery over whether the region uses a leeway has been intensely debated in recent weeks.

In one Facebook group, a post by Chris Birkett generated more than 1,000 comments after he offered to pay the fine of anyone

caught for going just 1 km/h over the limit.

While a number of claims were made, none of the frustrated drivers who posted photos of their tickets had been caught doing less than 11 km/h over.

Since speed cameras first began being rolled out in Ontario in 2019, their presence on roads have become increasingly contentious as their numbers have proliferated.

Some angry motorists have taken to vandalizing them.

One on Parkside Drive in Toronto was cut down for the seventh time this year earlier this month.

Other motorists fear some cameras might not be accurate.

Last week, The Observer told how Heidelberg man William Sinclair was caught twice in two days while using different vehicles in St. Clements.

On both occasions, the retiree had only driven 88 metres after turning out of a parking lot as he headed towards a stop sign.

He questioned how it would even be possible for him to break the 40 km/h limit, given these conditions, let alone reach speeds of 51 and 54 km/h.

When asked how the cameras, which are leased from the German firm Jenoptik, were verified for accuracy, the region stated that they are checked only once a year.

Rising concerns about the cameras and fears they are being used more as a way to fill municipal coffers prompted Premier Doug Ford to describe them as a "cash grab" and call for local governments to end their speed detection programs.

On Monday, Ford said he would provide municipalities with provincial

funding to replace cameras with speed bumps and lights, which he believes are a more effective way to reduce speeding.

He is also thought to be considering banning cameras, potentially tabling legislation later this year.

The region, however, has defended its system, which was launched as a pilot scheme in 2021.

A spokesman said: "The program is focused on changing driver behaviour and raising awareness about the benefits of lower speeds in school zones and community safety zones: lower risk and severity of collisions, decreased traffic noise and vehicle emissions, safer and calmer neighbourhoods for walking and cycling, and reduced strain of resources on police enforcement, allowing police to concentrate on more time-sensitive issues."

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Brent Wiancko B.A., M.A., J.D.

Scott Grainger LLB

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BUDGET: Taxpayers’ organization sees ways to keep spending in check

→ FROM 1

In April, council was presented with an asset management plan that showed that in order to avoid having any funding gap in a decade’s time, Woolwich would need an infrastructure levy increase of 8.4 per cent every single year.

Even if rates were hiked by six per cent over each of those 10 years, there would still be a deficit of \$29.2 million, according to the report.

Willms, who currently serves as Waterloo Minor Hockey’s treasurer, said he and other financial experts would work hard to produce a thoroughly costed and viable budget.

He is confident that the group can produce a document that ensures the equipment and other reserve funds are “future-proofed” while also ensuring services are not impacted in a way many members of the public would notice.

Willms said it was also important to raise capital spending on some projects, such as improving the precarious state of the township’s gravel roads.

The former business owner argues that all this would be possible without above-inflation tax rises if the township’s “massive” wage bill was slashed.

Controlling spending, which would even under the lowest of the township’s proposals rise by 5.3 per cent next year, largely due to salaries and benefits, was essential because taxes had become unaffordable for far too many residents.

“Last year, seven per cent of all Woolwich taxpayers were in arrears, and I’m sure the figure is even higher now, so the

problem is acute,” he said.

“Over the past few years, taxes have just exploded, and it’s not sustainable.

“I keep using the word sustainable. But you can’t keep raising property taxes, year after year, more than people’s wages are going up.”

Without an alternative budget, Willms believes councillors will be persuaded by the township’s high-paid administrators to once again vote for a deal that sees staffing costs rise, including potentially more hires.

“The council relies too much on staff, especially senior staff, who are never going to say ‘reduce expenses’ because that would mean reducing their wages,” he said.

Staffing costs have increased far more than could be justified, he insisted.

While Woolwich’s population has grown by around 25 per cent over the past 13 years, that rate has been vastly outstripped by the growth of staff on the township’s payroll.

The municipality has gone from employing 64 people in 2012 to 96 this year, an increase of 50 per cent.

Additionally, payroll costs have grown from \$6,623,991 in 2015 to \$11,313,820 in 2024, and are slated to hit \$12,825,231 this year.

In the past three years, the total wage and benefits bill has increased 36 per cent, while general inflation has gone up 8.4 per cent.

Also, between 2021 and 2024, the number of staff earning more than \$100,000 per year doubled from 10 to 20.

For example, David Brenneman, Woolwich’s chief administrative officer, earned \$179,353 in 2024.

Willms noted that these rises demonstrate a deepening chasm – and disconnect – between the public and private sectors.

“The Fraser Institute has come out and said that even if you compare similar education, similar everything between the private sector and the public, once you take wages and benefits, the difference is anywhere between 25 and 35 per cent in favour of the public sector,” he said.

“It can’t stay that way because the private sector pays public salaries, so I would be looking at three years of no increase in wages.”

Beyond that, he believes many positions can be axed, with some functions privatized.

“Woolwich has an IT department of three people,” he noted, as an example of positions that could be contracted out.

“I know, having owned a company that had revenue similar to the township, and like most small businesses, you have to outsource IT because three people like that can’t keep up with technology and what might happen if some hackers get in.”

Willms also noted that Woolwich is also blessed by an unusually large business base for a rural municipality, while also having fewer spending requirements than its urban neighbours, notably not having to pay for professional firefighters.

The mayor said she would take note of any suggestions offered by the alliance.

“I welcome input from the community, council and staff as we work with the new format for a mayor’s budget,” said Shantz.

However, she insisted that the township had needed to impose previous tax rises because it had been put in a difficult position.

“The entire taxation system needs a major overhaul – of that I agree with the alliance statements,” the mayor continued.

“Over the decades, there has been more and more downloading without any dollars following, so assuming that there is a ‘starting point’ where a person can say ‘this was the right staffing level’ and ‘let’s just add inflation from this point forward and make that the optimum staffing level’ is fundamentally flawed.”

Shantz insisted reducing pay levels would only make it harder for the township to operate, noting: “It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract good quality applicants as our salary ranges are below our comparators for many positions.”

She also questioned how the alliance’s suggested cuts would ensure services are maintained.

“Much of our budget is staffing costs, so it will be interesting to understand the comment that we can reduce staff, provide needed equipment and maintain services,” she said.

Shantz also noted that “growth does not pay for growth, though it should,” adding: “As we grow, residents expect more and better services. That costs money to provide.”

Wellesley plans two tree giveaway events next month

Ethan Braund
LJI reporter

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP IS BACK WITH its annual tree giveaway and electronics recycling event, providing the opportunity to boost the tree canopy and reduce the township’s carbon footprint.

The event is being held October 18 and 25 (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.) at the administration office located at 4639 Lobsinger Line, St. Clements.

“We are giving away 600 trees each day on a first-come, first-served basis. Residential properties can receive up to three trees, while farm properties can receive up to five. There is no cost to residents, and identification is needed to show you live or own property in the Township of Wellesley,” said the township’s Jake Redpath.

“This event helps to increase the overall tree canopy, reduce our carbon footprint, and help to fight climate change and promote environmental sustainability. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, which creates a healthier environment for residents and visitors to enjoy.”

The annual Planting Roots tree giveaway event, in partnership with Enova Power, will also feature an electronic recycling event concurrently.

Residents can bring any unwanted electronics that have a cord, battery or plug.

“It’s about giving back to the residents of Wellesley Township by offering free trees and collecting unwanted household electronics to be recycled in an environmentally responsible way.

Three sets of tree varieties will be given away at the event, including sugar maple, white cedar and white spruce. That selection provides a good variety of native pieces to choose from, said Redpath.

All of the species are potted and should fit into most standard-sized vehicles.

Officials urge those interested in the trees to bring identification to show that they live or own property in Wellesley Township.

Redpath told The Observer that there are some things that people should remember before coming to pick up a tree.

“The best time to plant trees is in the spring and fall, and regular watering is important to allow the trees to establish root growth. The trees have a higher success rate with reduced heat stress and increased moisture in the ground in the fall.”



The Woolwich Fire Department this week partnered with Wounded Warriors Canada, which aims to deliver innovative mental health training and counselling services to the townships’ volunteer firefighters and their families. From the left: Avril Tanner, Coun. Bonnie Bryant, Lilly Pease, Steven Boychyn, Greg Martin, fire chief Dennis Aldous, Mayor Sandy Shantz, CAO David Brenneman, Anna Salonen and Rae Ann Bauman of the Elmira Legion.

Andrea Eymann

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Opinion

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OBSERVER EDITORIAL

Ottawa on the right track with student visas, must do more

The federal government must continue its measured reduction of new international study permits. The Conestoga College episode makes the case unmistakable: unchecked growth in foreign enrolment can create short term windfalls for institutions while inflicting long term pain on housing markets, health services and the overall standard of living for Canadians.

Conestoga's pipeline of fee paying foreign students has effectively collapsed, with a 97 per cent reduction in new approvals from January-June 2024 to January-June 2025. The federal government issued just 540 new study permits for Conestoga in the first half of 2025, down from 17,600 in the same months of 2023.

Conestoga led the nation in recruiting foreign students between 2022 and 2024, and by summer 2024 those students — charged two to four times the tuition paid by Canadians — accounted for almost 90 per cent of enrolment. The result was a fragile revenue model built on continual inflows of temporary residents rather than sustainable public funding and enrollment planning.

Rapid expansion in international enrolment concentrated demand for scarce rental housing, exacerbating affordability pressures in an already tight market. The college's reliance on foreign tuition intensified competition for rental units and strained local primary care and community services. The federal government's decision to tighten study permits explicitly cited pressure on housing and other services; continuing those controls is necessary until concrete, measurable local capacity gains are in place.

Conestoga's recent fiscal trajectory illustrates the human cost of that volatility. After achieving successive surpluses totaling \$558 million over four recent years, the college now faces an operating deficit in the fiscal year ending next March. Management doubled payroll over six years and has since trimmed it, with a recent head count showing about 1,800 fewer faculty and staff than a year ago and the termination of more than 140 partial load faculty contracts.

Layoffs affected 191 support staff positions in April. Labour turmoil followed, with unionized support staff joining a provincewide strike demanding protection against campus closures, mergers and staff reductions. These are not abstract budget numbers; they are lost jobs, disrupted programs and students caught in the middle.

The college is now offering voluntary severance packages to more than half of its faculty.

Conestoga's attempt to blunt the shock by courting more domestic students and relying on permit extensions also demonstrates the limits of stopgap fixes.

Federal policymakers should maintain reduced study permit approvals until provinces and municipalities can demonstrate measurable increases in housing supply, accessible primary care capacity and community infrastructure tied to population growth. Provincial governments must restore and stabilize operating grants so colleges are not forced into recruitment strategies that treat international students primarily as revenue. Colleges must stop banking on volatile foreign fee surges and adopt prudent fiscal planning.

Continuing tighter controls on new study permits is a responsible policy choice that protects housing affordability, health care access and the standard of living for Canadians. Conestoga College's rollercoaster — astonishing surpluses followed by a sudden collapse in new permits, large layoffs and program instability — is a warning. Governments and college leaders must learn from that warning, and make hard institutional adjustments now so taxpayers do not pay a heavier price later.

Society will be much better off if cuts seen in student visas is extended to reverse irresponsible growth that's long been Ottawa's hallmark, particularly in the past decade. Incremental reductions across the board will ease the transition to a more sustainable future.

Verbatim

"Some people are telling us they're planning to go back to Ukraine — back to bombed homes and shelling — because they'd rather be homeless there than in Canada. That's how hopeless they feel."

Stephanie Goertz, founder of Grassroots Response to the Ukrainian Crisis, reacts to the plight of refugees with the end of the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) program.

The Monitor

The top 20% of income-earning families in Ontario pay more than half (58%) of total taxes in the province, including personal income, sales and property taxes. Conversely, the bottom 20% of income-earning families in each province pay no more than 2% of total taxes.

Measuring Provincial Tax Progressivity in Canada



ANALYSIS OF CURRENT WORLD EVENTS

Too Late for a Palestinian state?

Ten more countries are recognizing Palestine as a sovereign state in the course of this week. That merely brings the total up from 147 to 157, but it's a big deal nevertheless because for the first time it includes quite a few big, rich Western countries (France, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia). But it is not unified and it still controls no territory.

The cascade of recognitions at the United Nations General Assembly's annual session in New York is pure gesture politics. What drives it is belated sympathy for the Palestinians as they face a disaster even worse than the naqba (catastrophe) that drove most Palestinians out of what is now legally the State of Israel in 1948.

The new naqba got underway last week, with the big Israeli offensive to drive all the surviving Palestinians in the Gaza Strip down to a tiny southwest corner, far too small to accommodate the Strip's surviving two million people even in the most miserable conditions. There they will be offered free trips into exile with enough money to start anew nowhere near their homeland.

The governments of the countries that are now offering token recognition to a purely virtual Palestinian state know very well what Israeli Prime



GWYNNE DYER
Global Outlook
on World Affairs

Minister Binyamin Netanyahu intends.

They suspect that he will then exploit violent reactions by the three million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank to expel them as well and complete the conquest of all of Palestine.

They know all this, but they dare not try to stop it so long as Donald Trump maintains his unstinting, unquestioning support for the present Israeli government. The Palestinian state is probably about to become even more virtual, in the sense that hardly any Palestinians will still live there.

It all feels inevitable now, but once it wasn't. There was a time when the 'two-state solution' was quite possible. All that it required was a real Palestinian state — and it was Arabs, not Israelis, who sabotaged that possibility.

Palestine fell into British hands when the victors carved up the Middle East after the First World War. During the war, Britain had promised to create a 'Jewish homeland' in Palestine to attract financial support from wealthy Zionists. Afterwards, it found itself

caught between the anxieties of the resident Arab majority and the ambitions of would-be Zionist immigrants.

By 1948, the British Empire was crumbling, Palestine's Jewish population had soared, and they were demanding independence. In fact, Jewish terrorists (Irgun and the Stern Gang) were killing British soldiers. The war-weary British dumped the problem in the lap of the United Nations, which decided Palestine must be partitioned into two states.

The history is complicated, but the salient fact is that sovereign states were offered to both the Jews and the Arabs in 1948.

It was a more or less equal division — about 50-50 — and the Israelis (as they would now be called) accepted at once. Why not? Their population had grown more than tenfold in 30 years, they were now one-third of the total population, and they got half of the good land.

The Palestinians, for equally obvious reasons, rejected it. They assumed they would win in a war, although they had no army and hardly any arms themselves. The armies of much bigger Arab countries around them — Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq — would do the fighting and 'drive the Jews into the sea.' Stories

→ DYER 28

Red tape is killing Canadian housing affordability

Imagine putting down a hefty deposit on a \$1 million pre-construction condo only to find out at closing that your unit is now worth \$800,000. That's a \$200,000 shortfall. Since banks lend based on appraised value, you're left with two choices: cough up the extra cash or walk away and kiss your deposit goodbye.

Canada's housing affordability crisis isn't just about rising prices—it's about a broken system that can't keep up with what people actually need.

This isn't an isolated nightmare. In major cities across Canada, appraisals are landing 10 to 30 per cent below contract prices. And it's exposing a deeper dysfunction in our housing market.

Toronto alone has more than 24,000 unsold new

Conrad Eder
Guest Column

condos. Units that once attracted investors and young professionals now sit empty while developers keep building more of the same—small, overpriced boxes nobody's clamouring for. Meanwhile, buyers are hunting for larger, livable spaces they either can't afford or can't find.

Yet despite the demand for larger, livable spaces, the system keeps producing what no one really wants.

How did we get here? It's not just about supply and demand. It's about municipal red tape and sluggish approval systems that choke off the market's ability to respond to changing needs.

If we're serious about affordability, we have

to fix this bottleneck. That starts with slashing approval timelines so homes can actually be built where and how people want them.

These delays don't just frustrate builders: they limit housing supply, inflate prices and leave Canadians competing for homes that don't fit their lives or budgets.

Across the country, getting from concept to construction can take years. The planning grind—permits, consultations, rezoning, environmental assessments—drags on and racks up indirect costs of as much as \$5,576 per unit per month.

In Toronto, approvals average 25 months. That delay alone can tack on more than \$100,000 to the final price of a condo. In Hamilton, it's 31 months. And those delays don't

just raise costs—they throw off timing. By the time a project finally breaks ground, the market has often moved on, leaving developers stuck delivering yesterday's housing to today's buyers.

Even those who can afford larger units hesitate to commit. Who wants to wait years just to move in, especially when the price is climbing the entire time? Unsurprisingly, larger units are often the last to sell—too costly for most, too delayed for the rest.

The result? A steady stream of undersized condos that few actually want, offered at prices most can barely justify.

Yes, regulation has a place. But among the 35 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Canada ranks

34th in approval speed, with an average of 249 days. That's not oversight—that's paralysis. Countries with similarly strong environmental and safety standards manage to approve projects in half the time. So what's our excuse?

It doesn't have to be this way. Some cities are proving that faster approvals don't mean cutting corners—they just mean cutting red tape.

Between 2022 and 2024, Halifax slashed its approval timelines from 20.8 months to 9.8. Edmonton went from 10.5 months to just 3.4, without compromising safety or public input.

Other cities could follow suit by adopting tools like automated same-day permits, consolidating overlapping policies, creating fast-track review lanes for

compliant developers and publishing timelines to inject predictability and accountability into the process.

Let's be clear: this isn't about giving developers a free ride. It's about giving Canadians more choice, better options and a fighting chance at ownership.

Unlike interest rates or material costs, these delays are entirely within government control. If policymakers actually want a responsive housing market, they need to stop jamming the gears.

They aren't stuck with these timelines. They're choosing them. And those choices are making housing more expensive while preventing the market from delivering what Canadians need, when they need it.

↓ Conrad Eder is a policy analyst at the Frontier Centre for Public Policy.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Speeds can in fact be reached quickly

To the Editor,

Your September 18 article "Heidelberg man fears speed cameras a cash grab" raised some interesting physics questions.

So, a friend and I, and our reliable 2007 Honda minivan, visited St. Clements on a quiet Sunday night to answer a few of these questions. Can a car accelerate to 51km/h in the 90 metres from the corner before the speed cameras? Would someone have to accelerate recklessly to do so?

Before we tell you the answers, we uncovered some other interesting data. The warning sign is indeed 90m from the corner, however, the speed cameras are targeted at a spot further 32m for a total distance of 122m.

We assumed the lesser distance of 90m for our experiments.

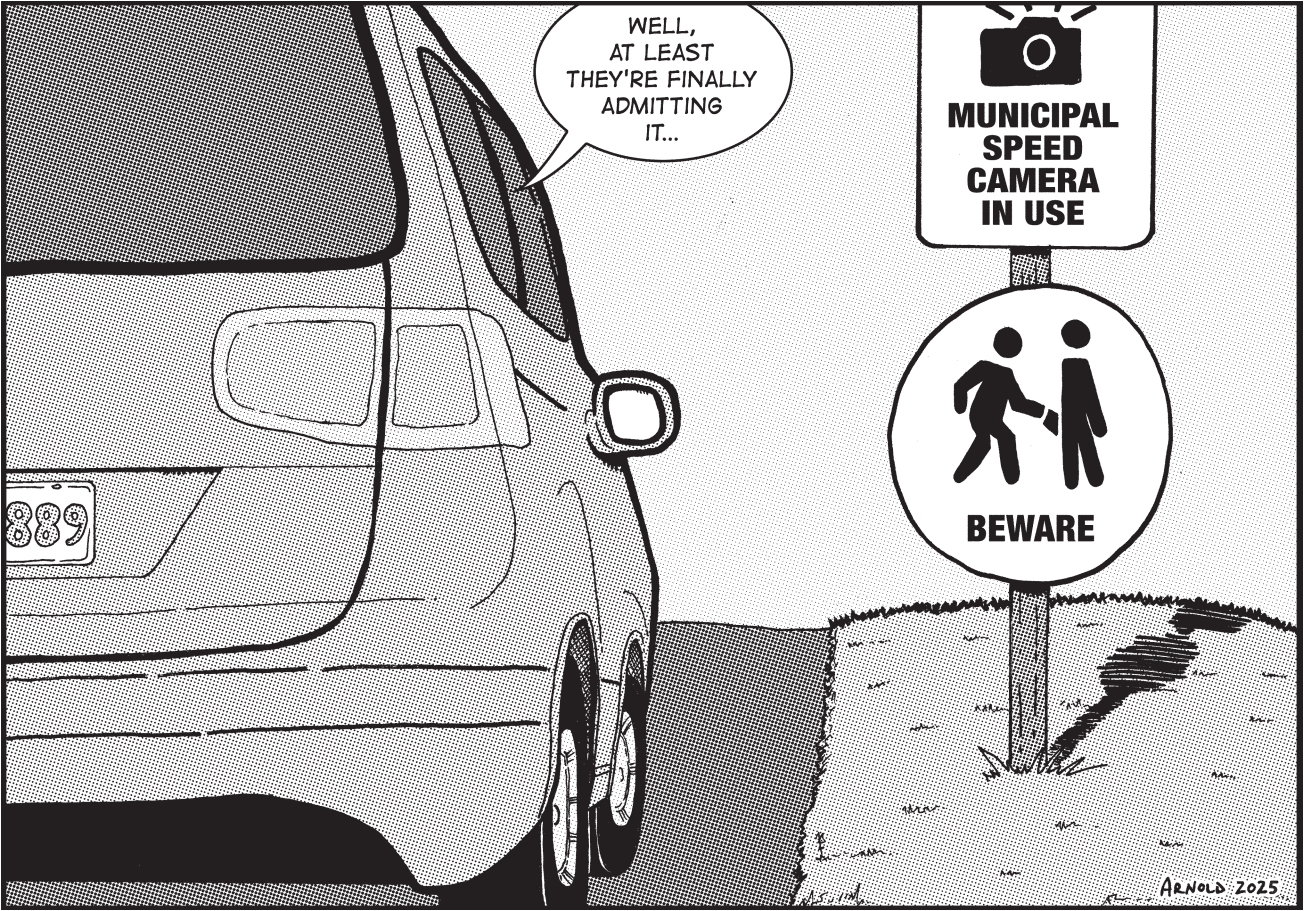
The answer – the Honda minivan reached 64kph at the 90m distance, while accelerating moderately.

Other vehicles available to us showed the following maximum speeds in 90m distance. (Note, these experiments were done elsewhere.) Ford F150 – 113 km/h; (very fast) EV – 129 km/h.

A quick check shows that only three production vehicles since 1950 would not be able to reach 51 km/h in 90m, all because of maximum speeds lower than 50.

So thanks to physics, we know that, yes, a "cautious driver" like Mr. Sinclair could indeed easily reach 51 km/h before the speed camera.

Mark Schwarz
(victim of many a speed trap)
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Lancers on the court

The EDSS girls' basketball teams are back on the court today (Thursday). The senior squad brings a record of 2-1 into the match against Galt Collegiate Institute, while the junior team is 1-1 going into their game against GCI.

GOJHL scoring leaders

After a high-scoring weekend, the Elmira Sugar Kings have two players among the top-10 scorers in the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League. Brendan Gerber is third with 11 points (3-8) in four games, while Kyle Morey is 2-6-8 over that same stretch.

The season of the nosebleed seat

Now that the bear season is in full swing and the archery season for deer is just around the corner, hunters will be putting up their tree stands.

This might not seem very interesting to you, but I happen to believe that some up-and-coming psychiatric researcher should do a study on why men and women choose to spend long hours sitting in trees and what the height of a tree stand says about their general level of sanity.

Also, I believe that just as you can age a tree by its rings, you can age a hunter by the height and precariousness of his or her tree stands. Sometimes by as much as 30 years, if it is windy.

When I was younger, I hunted on a southern Ontario farm for deer, and the farmer – a man of questionable goodwill – told me I needed to sit in a tree stand to cover a field he knew deer would visit. He pointed up to the crown of a tree where he had somehow (I believe by helicopter) placed a wooden pallet and said, “You need to watch the field from up there.”

Up there was at least 30 feet away – high enough to



STEVE GALEA
Not-So-Great Outdoorsman

give a hunter a nosebleed, and worse if he or she fell.

Better still, the “ladder” up to the stand was a work of pure minimalism. Basically, it comprised of two-by-four sections nailed to the trunk of the tree – and, being a farmer, my friend didn’t waste a lot of money on nails either.

It got even better at the end. For it was at that point you had to kind of hug the tree with one arm and reach for the edge of the pallet with the other. Then, once you had accomplished that, you had to swing one-armed, then grab the edge with the other arm, and do a chin-up into the platform – not an easy thing to do while soiling your pants.

I just looked at him and said, “I’ll hunt from the ground, thank you very much.”

To which he said, “Suit yourself, but you won’t see a single deer from there.”

It turned out he was right. So, on the second day, I got my affairs in order and ascended the tree. By the time I had

→ GALEA 22



Elmira's Zion Shadd was named All-Canadian defensive MVP at the Canadian High School Showcase – All Canadian Combine in Edmonton.

Andrea Eymann

Young EDSS football player's drive to continually improve pays dividends

Andrea Eymann

Observer Staff

YOUNG FOOTBALL PHENOM ZION SHADD was named All-Canadian defensive MVP at the Canadian High School Showcase – All Canadian Combine in Edmonton.

“I felt good about that. I went there and did my thing,” said the 15-year-

old defensive lineman from Elmira, who started playing just two years ago.

He plays on his high school team at Elmira District Secondary School and the U16 Waterloo Jr. Warriors minor football AAA squad.

Shadd was invited to the two-day Canadian combine event after attending one in Toronto

earlier this year.

He was one of two athletes from among more than 200 kids who were made an offer to attend IMG Academy, a high school in Florida that specializes in sports training.

However, he wasn’t offered a full scholarship; the family of six could not afford the tuition,

which ranges between US\$75,000 and \$90,000.

Additionally, he also recently had an unofficial visit to the University of Michigan.

“We’re doing all of this... because we ideally want to get him down to the States, whether it be starting in high school,” said his mom, Melissa Shadd,

→ FOOTBALL 11

Plenty of scoring as Kings split pair of weekend games

Steve Kannon

Observer Staff

SPECIAL TEAMS WERE A BIG factor as the Elmira Sugar Kings split a pair of games last weekend.

Power-play goals accounted for eight of the 11 scored September 20 in Komoka as the Kings dropped a 6-5 decision. The following day against Strathroy, Elmira romped to a 9-0 win, scoring three with the extra man and one shorthanded.

“I thought our power play units were moving the puck really well, which enabled us to put a few pucks in the net this weekend, which is

great,” said head coach Cory McRae. “On the flip side, I think we gave up three shorthanded goals against.”

On Saturday night in Komoka, the host Kings scored the first and last goals, the latter being the deciding factor.

Owen Miniotas opened the scoring at 4:13 of the first. Less than 40 seconds later, however, Elmira’s Ryan Cornfield scored on a power play, assisted by Alex Simioni. At 9:02, Cornfield tallied again, also on a power play, to put the visiting Kings up 2-1. Assists went to Brendan Gerber and Brett Warrilow.



Brady Schwindt goes to the net for Elmira during the Sugar Kings’ 9-0 victory over the Strathroy Rockets at the WMC on Sunday.

Julian Gavaghan

In the middle frame, the home side scored early and often, starting with a power-play goal from Ben Siroen 67 seconds in to tie the game. Less than two minutes later, Komoka was up 4-2 on goals from Nash Jacobs (power play) and Tyson Ackerman. At 7:33, it was 5-2 when Parker Graham beat netminder Reed Straus.

Warrilow’s power-play marker, assisted by Benjamin Brunton and Simioni, made it 5-3 with just over two minutes left in the period. That’s how the score would stand after 40 minutes.

→ KINGS 22

FOOTBALL: Player’s dedication to his training prompts kudos from coaches and others involved in his development

→ FROM 10

noting her son’s goal is to play for an NCAA Division 1 team.

Zion played hockey when he was in grade school, taking up football after the pandemic. The sport was a good fit.

His dad played football at Wilfrid Laurier University. Another connection came via a long-time family friend, Jonathan Hamm from Atlanta, who played in the NFL for the New Orleans Saints.

Hamm met Shadd’s uncle when they both attended Southern Illinois University.

He told The Observer that one of Shadd’s biggest attributes is his speed, fostered via his track training with his uncle Kenen Shadd from Waterloo’s Maximus Performance.

“He is really fast,” said Hamm, noting his technique is far beyond his age.

“When you see his moves, his speed, the way he used his hands, he looks like a professional,” he added.

This skill has also been noticed by Ese Mrabure, a former CFL player who is now a coach at Wilfrid Laurier University.

“It stands out tremendously,” he noted, adding Zion has been training with him for about a year now, focusing on defensive line work.

“He comes to every session eager to learn... he’s got a little bit of that gene that I see in other professional athletes,” said Mrabure, noting that he is “obsessed” with learning to become a better athlete.

“It’s almost night and day,” Mrabure told The Observer about how the young athlete has improved.

“He’s always been athletic, but it was more so the confidence and knowing what to do with that athleticism.”

He is very explosive with his speed, which was originally developed when he played in the Woolwich Minor Hockey system, and was improved by training with Maximus Performance.

“I train hard for it,” Shadd said, noting that most defensive linemen are not doing track training.

“They’re slower, and I’m explosive,” the 6’1” and 220 lbs player explained, adding that his different



Zion Shadd in game action with the EDSS junior squad last November.

Andrea Eymann

technique is what sets him apart from other athletes.

“I have a deeper understanding of moves I can use to get past offensive linemen,” he added.

The young athlete also works on agility training with Cavell Johnson, the WLU men’s basketball head coach.

Shadd said he likes playing as a defensive end. “It’s like a chess game, because I’m playing against offen-

sive linemen every single play.”

“I can’t just run past them. I have to set up certain moves over the course of a game to get to the quarterback,” Shadd explained.

“It’s like a fun chess game over the entire game, going back and forth with the offensive line,” he added.

As a member of the EDSS junior football

squad, last year he helped the Lancers capture the WCSSAA championship for a third consecutive year.

After the team’s two quarterbacks suffered injuries, he stepped up as a backup quarterback, a position he had never played before.

“Our backup quarterback came in and threw a touchdown pass that they didn’t see coming, and

gave us a 21-7 lead, which helped us get a little more confident, get the momentum back in the game,” said EDSS coach Alex Derma.

“Zion is by far one of the best players,” he told The Observer last year.

Shadd noted he is training almost every day, yet he still manages to have an 85 per cent average in school.

He admitted he does sometimes have to sacrifice hanging out with friends to focus on football and school.

“It’s really just looking at what everybody’s done for me,” he said of what keeps him motivated.

He’s spurred on by the likes of his cousin Trinity Shadd, who plays volleyball for the University of Wisconsin, along with being the top qualifier for the women’s long jump of 6.10 metres at the 2022 Canada Summer Games.

“I see what she’s doing right now, and that’s an inspiration,” Shadd said, adding that his whole family inspires him to keep doing everything he can to improve.

“It’s super exciting to watch,” said his mom, Melissa.

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Jacks post a pair of wins, including an OT nail-biter in Tavistock

Julian Gavaghan

Observer Staff

THE WELLESLEY APPLEJACKS HEAD COACH said he is proud of his players' determination to win, after digging another overtime victory out of an otherwise poor performance before comprehensively thrashing their next opponent the following night last weekend.

Derek Lebold said he was disappointed by much of Friday's game in Tavistock, which was only settled when Captain Kian Harron scored the winning goal against the Braves in a 3-2 decision.

His overtime goal was a measure of how he "leads by example," said Lebold.

The following evening, on home ice, Wellesley beat the Woodstock Navy Vets 7-3 in a very exacting form of revenge, given it was the same scoreline, but in reverse, of the two sides' first encounter eight days previously.

Having at one point led 7-2, Lebold jokingly

promised he did not order his team to concede one more just to make a point, following the Jacks' 7-3 defeat in the season opener on September 12.

It means Wellesley now has a 3-1 record, putting the team second in the PJHL South Doherty Division with six points, one behind the Norwich Merchants.

Most pleasing for the coach, however, was seeing former Elmira Sugar King Ian Speiran not only open his goalscoring account but also earn a hat trick against Woodstock.

"I'm extremely excited. I think it's important for him to get going," said Lebold.

"Obviously, he's an offensively gifted young man.

"He's got a big, heavy shot, but I'm also impressed by how he defends, which leads to him creating a lot of offensive opportunities.

"So, it was good to see him get rewarded, because he's definitely earned it with his level of effort.

"The guys are also super excited for Ian, because he's a very popular guy with the rest of the team."

Friday night's encounter in Tavistock started well for Wellesley, after Luke Schofield scored at 3:20 in the first period, with Hudson Parker and Lincoln Walsh assisting.

Within three minutes, however, Carter Otto equalized for the home side, and the hitherto unbeaten Braves began to dominate.

Tavistock then went 2-1 up at 19:29 in the second frame, through Evan Palubski.

"It was a good start, really bad middle series," commented Lebold.

"I did not like the second period at all.

"Tavistock did a great job just playing with their speed and turning the pucks over effectively.

"I thought we lacked judgement."

Despite that, the Jacks were able to keep the damage to a minimum and even managed to draw level 27 seconds



Wellesley's Luke Schofield celebrates scoring the first goal in a 3-2 OT victory over the Braves in Tavistock Sept. 19. **Julian Gavaghan**

after the Braves went ahead, with rookie Tyler Chadwick scoring his first goal for Wellesley.

In the third period, Wellesley's exciting mixture of experienced

veterans and talented rookies was able to "regroup," the coach said.

But neither side was able to bulge the twine again during that last stanza, and so, with the

scoreline locked at 2-2, the game went into overtime.

Where Stuart Sinclair had stepped up the previous week, this time it was Harron's turn to show why he was so deserving of the big "C" stitched to his jersey.

"He's a poker-game guy on the back end," said the coach, noting the defenceman's ability to go on the offensive when required.

Shots went 30-28 in Tavistock's favour, with Wellesley netminder Logan MacMillan turning 28 aside.

Neither side profited from power plays, with the Jacks going 0-6 and the Braves 0-5.

Saturday's match was an altogether less-nail-biting affair – and a whole lot more pleasing for Lebold, who said the game bore the fruits of a heavy-forechecking approach he demands.

"It shows what we can do when we're aggressive like that," he told The Observer

→ JACKS 22

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The EDSS senior boys' volleyball team fell 3-2 against Forest Heights Collegiate Sept. 18. Top photo: Elmira's Tyler Baumam spikes the ball over the net. Bottom: Jaxon Lamb (left picture) and Alex Veitch (right) in action on the court. **Andrea Eymann**



The EDSS varsity girls' field hockey team, which has won all eight of its games so far this season, in action during a 5-1 victory over Southwood Secondary School on Sept. 18. Vienna Cooney (top left) celebrates scoring the first of two goals. Taylor Rayfield (top right), Stella Grundy (bottom left) and Emily Brubacher also kept the opposition's defence busy. [Julian Gavaghan](#)



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Boost for forestry

The province last week announced some \$3.5 million in funding through the Forest Sector Investment and Innovation Program to support Ontario's forestry sector and bring more made-in-Ontario wood products to market. This funding will provide businesses with advanced manufacturing technology, create jobs and boost productivity, the province says.

From the IPM

Wellington County's Nina Hiddema was named Miss Friendship and was one of the top-five finalists in the Queen of the Furrow competition at last week's International Plowing Match in Niagara Region. She also finished fifth in the plowing contest. Victoria Kolb of Caledon, representing the Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association is the new Ontario Queen of the Furrow.

Taste the Countryside event gets underway today

Andrea Eymann

Observer Staff

THE REGION'S FOUR RURAL TOWNSHIPS are in the spotlight during the annual Taste the Countryside event, which kicks off today (Thursday).

For the next 10 days, a dining trail will feature stops in Wellesley, Woolwich, Wilmot and North Dumfries.

"The initiative shines a spotlight on the region's rich agricultural roots and diverse culinary talent, bringing restaurants, farms and producers into the spotlight to share their passion with the community and highlight farm to fork," said Kurtis Wells, Woolwich's economic development and tourism officer.

Ahead of Taste the Countryside, a harvest meal event was held September 15, raising \$4,000 for the Wellesley Food Cupboard, Wilmot Family Resource Centre, Woolwich Community Services food bank, and It Takes a Village Ayr.

"Seeing the energy in the room, and seeing the atmosphere, and seeing the conversations that were happening, there's a valuable opportunity to bring individuals together," said Wells, noting the event took place at Shuh Orchards near Elmira.

"It was a nice initiative to be able to spotlight the host, but also bring everybody together and get some conversation happening within our local boundaries," he added, noting there were about 80 people in attendance.

For the dining trail, there are currently 12 local restaurants spread across the four townships, including St. Jacobs' Chef Duff Culinary Creations, Wellesley's Schmidtsville Restaurant, Herrle's Country Farm Market in Wilmot, Elmira's Rural Roots Brewery, and Flame House Grill & Bar.

Each participating business must have a minimum of three ingredients on its menu that are local to Waterloo Region.

"Many people do not know or consider where their food comes from. It is a great opportunity to learn about the foods that are produced and available right in our region," said Michelle Herrle from Herrle's Country Farm Market in St. Agatha.

"It's nice to know some of the items that we're already using and then at the same time also challenge myself with a menu to try and incorporate some ingredients I might not have thought of using before," added chef Bruce Duff.

→ TASTE THE COUNTRYSIDE 15



In 2024, 78,079 temporary foreign workers were employed in the agri-food industry, according to Statistics Canada. Farmphotos.ca

Temporary foreign workers are crucial to agri-food industry, says OFA

Ethan Braund

LJI reporter

THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY IS CURRENTLY facing a major labour shortage problem, and temporary foreign workers (TFW) are essential to the solution, says the Ontario Federa-

tion of Agriculture (OFA).

The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council reported that 28,200 agricultural jobs remained unfilled, resulting in approximately \$3.5 billion in lost sales.

Agriculture, along with the entire food system, depends on one thing –

people.

The OFA's Cathy Lennon told The Observer that there are not enough workers to fill all the available jobs, noting that current suggestions about downsizing or even scrapping the TFW program would make the situation worse.

"There's been sort of

a significant number of media out there about unemployment rates for youth in Canada and maybe Canadians in general, and some discussions about how to address that," she said, pointing to talk about the TFW program.

→ OFA 15



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TASTE THE COUNTRYSIDE: For the the third year, putting the spotlight on local food, from farm to fork

→ FROM 14

"I'm just excited to play out something a little bit different than we have every day, and hoping to meet some new faces."

Duff's culinary business caters to special events up to 50 people, holds cooking classes and prepares take-out items at his location in St. Jacobs.

Taste the Countryside is all about local food, Wells stressed.

"We're trying to give them a reason or a spot to go and support local."

"The ultimate goal



Chef Bruce Duff will host one of the stops. [File photo](#)

of trying to expose our local residents to new places, but also when we have visitors in the areas, trying to showcase the awesome food establishments that we have within our community," Wells said, noting they want to make the connections between the farmers, producers, restaurants, cafés to show how much is available right in your own back-yard.

For more information about the 10-day dining trail, visit tastethecountryside.ca.

OFA: Doing the jobs that would otherwise go unfilled

→ FROM 14

"I think there's quite a bit of attention and knowledge, really, about the role migrant workers and seasonal agriculture workers play on horticultural farms.

"I just thought it was important to share that temporary foreign workers and seasonal Ag workers are critically important throughout the whole system, and it's often people that you don't see."

Many of these unfilled jobs rely on temporary foreign workers because they are not attractive to young people or domestic labour for a variety of reasons.

One of the factors they consider is that many of these jobs are located in rural communities, which creates transportation issues. It is also true that many jobs in the industry are demanding, with long hours, such as those in trucking and logistics.

These jobs sometimes do not have ideal conditions, such as working in the heat of a field or the cold of a meat-packing plant. Likewise, some of

them being only seasonal, which may lead to a lack of interest from domestic workers, as many are looking for employment year-round, said Lennon.

The agri-food sector would suffer in the absence of TFWs, she stressed.

"There are a whole lot of farms out there that would indicate they simply could not continue to operate without the seasonal ag workers. They would be forced to transition to a different kind of farming, or transition out of farming because there aren't a lot of other options."

You would also see changes in products at the grocery store, similar to what happened during the pandemic due to supply chain troubles.

"I think it's important that we make sure that we understand what the impacts could be without all of the people needed to run them," added Lennon.

This does not mean that we should stop trying to attract Canadians to work in the agri-food industry, she added, noting that regardless of one's interests, numerous job oppor-

tunities are available in the industry, including roles in HR, media and nutrition.

"We want people to know that there are exciting careers, because when people think about agriculture in school, if you didn't grow up in the industry, you think an agriculture job is on the farm and it's milking cows or it's picking strawberries," she said.

Lennon went on to say that there will always be a need for TFWs in the agri-food industry, but we still need to continue to try to build the Canadian workforce.

"I definitely think we will remain focused on developing and building a workforce for the future of Canadians. But there's always going to be either those jobs that are seasonal, that are tough to fill, and there's always going to be those jobs that are less attractive for Canadians.

"I do think there's always going to be a need for immigration for some of those jobs. And there's always going to be temporary labour needs."

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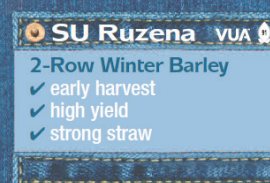
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New chapter unfolds for plant-based “meat”

When McDonald's Canada added the McVeggie sandwich to its menu this week, it marked a new chapter in the plant-based meat sector...a chapter that will be marked by plants being presented more as plants, not meat.

According to McDonald's, the McVeggie is “a breaded veggie patty made with a blend of vegetables (including carrots, green beans, zucchini, peas, soybeans, broccoli and corn) and seasoning, topped with shredded lettuce and creamy mayo-style sauce, served on a toasted sesame bun.”

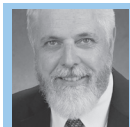
That sounds pretty wholesome and indicates how the next chapter for plant-based products is unfolding.

For years, fast food outlets including McDonald's, as well as major processors and manufacturers such as Beyond Meat, promoted their vegetarian offerings as head-to-head competition to meat, particularly beef burgers.

That approach failed. Time has shown that overall, consumers who crave meat don't want plant alternatives. And if they want veggies, they don't want them dressed up to look, smell or taste like beef, chicken or pork.

That's especially true given the long list of extra ingredients that had to be added to some plant-based meat to get it to taste familiar.

I'm not sure the McVeggie is void of all those nasty additives. But if the ingredient list is as complete and natural as



OWEN ROBERTS
Food For Thought

the website claims, this market is off to a refreshing restart.

Other companies have read the tea leaves, too. For example, Beyond Ground lists just four ingredients – water, faba bean protein, potato protein and psyllium husk – in its ground beef alternative. Appearance-wise, this product looks odd, but there's not much for critics to quibble with in that ingredient list.

And IKEA is reportedly offering a falafel plant ball this fall to replace its plant-based meatball, which failed to make a dent in the market.

This new direction is encouraging, for a couple of reasons.

First, it's a more honest way of doing business. What started out as simply offering consumers alternatives to meat morphed into a name-calling, finger-pointing, all-out war between the beef sector in particular, beef lovers, vegetarians and plant-based product manufacturers.

The pro-meat group accused plant-based companies of deceiving consumers with their claims of “natural,” minimalistic ingredients. It sparked anti-plant-product campaigns based on meat having but one ingredient. The plant-based side took a milder approach and didn't have a comparable war chest to fight the meat sector, although activists had

→ ROBERTS 22



Rob Albrecht, of John's Nursery, shows a seven-son flower, a tree that produces blossoms in the fall.

Julian Gavaghan

As the leaves fall, it's a good time to put down roots

Conditions are now ideal for planting new trees, which is a specialty at John's Nursery in St. Jacobs

Julian Gavaghan

Observer Staff

WITH THE GOLDEN GLOW OF nature's final blaze, fall is the season Rob Albrecht enjoys most at John's Nursery, the St. Jacobs-area gardening business his father established 57 years ago.

“You see that rain we've just had, it makes it the perfect time for planting trees, shrubs, evergreens and perennials,” he said.

“It's also just a nice time of the year to be outside collecting seeds and doing other things to prepare for what can grow next year.”

Away from the summer

heat that makes it hard to re-establish root systems, the cooler, wetter weather is an ideal time to plant new trees, Albrecht explained.

“From this point on, you can plant until you can no longer dig a hole in the ground, basically,” he said.

In fact, whenever the first frost arrives, it can help a transplanted tree establish itself, noted the dedicated green thumb, whose 86-year-old father, John Albrecht, Sr., is still busy at the Lobsinger Line garden centre.

“What usually happens is, once you get your frosts, a lot of the nutrients in

the tree will flow down to the root system,” said the 50-year-old.

“So, as the leaves are dropping from the top, the focus is more on the roots, and so, if you're digging them in at this point, it's the ideal time to transplant them.”

During summer, it's the opposite, so if you dig in a tree then, it is focusing on foliage and the energy goes there instead of the roots, making it harder to establish in new ground.

The hot weather also does not help as it creates unsuitably dry conditions.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, as tastes in tree species diversify away from classic sugar maples and ash, species that exhibit bright fall colours are popular at

this time of year.

“There's been a bit more awareness now, just with different social media accounts pushing out new ideas, so things like flowering dogwoods and red buds are popular.

“There are other types of maple too, like the Autumn Blaze, as well as lindens.

“Right now, two attributes that are pretty desirable for most people are flowering trees and fall colour.

“Fruiting trees are also pretty desirable.”

At the nursery, a large section is devoted to a bewildering variety of Japanese maples, such as full moons, which have become increasingly

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Byrne opens Folk Night

Newfoundland's Matthew Byrne has released his fourth album *Stealing Time*, recorded in the UK with folk legend Martin Simpson and musicians from the UK scene. He kicks off the Folk Night at the Registry series Oct. 4, making his first appearance at the Registry since 2017.

www.FolkNight.ca

Indigenous art at YFK

The Region of Waterloo International Airport unveiled three Indigenous cultural initiatives, including an Indigenous Languages Greetings Wall featuring greetings in the languages of Indigenous peoples within the region, and three new Indigenous murals by Jeannette Ladd, Judy Ross Mack and Cheyenne Ricard.

Everyday life changes provide a few laughs

Tackling a common issue, *Menopause the Musical* makes its way tomorrow to the stage at the Centre In The Square

Andrea Eymann

Observer Staff

JEANIE LINDERS' MUSICAL COMEDY MENO-PAUSE the Musical makes its way tomorrow (Friday) to the Centre In The Square in Kitchener.

It tells a story about a group of four ladies who meet in the lingerie department at Bloomingdale's, where they get into a big fight over some of the underwear.

Yet, when they start talking, they realize each of them had a lot in common, becoming fast friends.

"They just become great friends and sing and dance with parody of songs from the 60s, 70s and 80s, but the tunes are very familiar," said Janet Martin, co-producer of the show, along with portraying the Iowa Housewife.

Each woman comes from a different walk of life, said Mark Zimmerman, co-producer of the show from Shaggypup Productions.

The Iowa Housewife had led a fairly sheltered life, he explained. "This is her big chance to get into the big city."

"It's fabulous," said Martin of playing the role.

"I feel I can relate, since I'm a wife with two children, just like my character, and she goes on a real journey.

"She starts off being... rather sheltered, and then as the show progresses, she lets go more and more... by the end she's swinging off the rooftop," said Martin, noting she has worked in the theatre as a professional for several years across North America, and when this show came along to produce it was "a natural progression."

The Professional Woman played by Fredena J. Williams is all about "climbing the corporate ladder."

Then there is the aging Soap Star (Lorena Mackenzie), who, at one time was very well known but has found that the roles have dried up due to her age.

Lastly, the Earth Mother, played by Denise Oucharek, was "a crunchy granola growing up, a hippie, so to speak," Zimmerman explained.

"So all four of them are very distinctive and their own characters in their own right, but what makes the show so powerful and beautiful is that in each other, we see each other,"



Menopause the Musical features Janet Martin, Denise Oucharek, Fredena Williams and Lorena Mackenzie. **Submitted**

he added.

Despite the women having different backgrounds, they see how similar they are in life struggles and the changes they are going through with the change of life.

According to the National Institute on Aging, menopause is the stage in a woman's life when menstrual periods stop, usually between the ages of 45 and 55.

It often brings symptoms such as hot flashes,

night sweats, trouble sleeping, joint and muscle discomfort, moodiness and irritability.

Playing up on all that entails, the musical has been touring for 10 years and has had 513 consecutive performances, Zimmerman noted.

Not even a bad storm that closed the roads could halt their progress – the production chartered a small plane to get them to the next stop.

"The good news is, we've

never had to cancel a show ever," he stressed, noting the adrenaline, the energy, and the feedback from the audience is exhilarating.

Martin said of producing the show for a decade: "I think we're always finding new audiences because we mostly appeal to women who are on the brink or in the middle of their menopause years."

"And it's like a great big sisterhood, where they can share not only the enjoyment of the show,

but also they can laugh at some circumstances of what menopause is doing to them," she explained, adding that the audiences' reaction is the most rewarding part about the production.

The show has also helped men understand what women are going through, Zimmerman points out.

"We've had men come up to us and say, 'Thank you very much, you saved my marriage... I now have a better understanding of what my wife is going through, I have more empathy, more understanding.'"

He noted that men don't usually understand what women go through, as this topic used to be hidden in the closet.

"But now through the show, it's about celebrating women celebrating the change of life, and instead of hiding it or feeling bad about it, it actually becomes empowering," Zimmerman said, noting that despite it being a musical comedy, there is an underbelly of truth and empowerment.

The Shaggypup production of *Menopause the Musical* is on stage tomorrow (Friday) at 8 p.m. at Centre In The Square in Kitchener for one day. For tickets, www.centreinthesquare.com/event/menopause-the-musical.

RESTORING A CLASSIC: The goal is to earn enough from each project to move on to the next project of interest

→ FROM 23

am happy as a lark. Yeah, the pizza is cold, but the car totally broke on me, and I managed to get home with nothing but a tube and a piece of baling wire.

"If something goes wrong with modern engineering, you'd never be able to do that."

Other potentially frustrating quirks include transmission overdrive systems that, counter-intuitively, can only be disengaged by pushing your foot down harder on the accelerator.

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of view), classic British sports cars also have redeeming features.

Chief among them, they are "fun as hell" to drive due to their lightweight designs and unfiltered, driver-focused mechanics.

They're also guaranteed to "turn heads," Carter said, because of their understated elegance that has rendered them more timeless, unlike many American cars from the same era, which include features such as Space Age-inspired tailfins that more definitively age them.

Among the other models he has worked on and sold were the Lotus Europa, the

MGA, MGB, and Morgan Plus 8.

The one non-British vehicle he has restored is an American-design Willys Jeep, which he fitted with Royal Canadian Air Force decals and livery, to match the ones used by the service in wartime England, where his mother, Ursula, grew up during the Battle of Britain.

It was sold to become a movie prop.

While he's not seeking profit, as his main aim is simply to earn enough to continue doing the projects he loves, he has pocketed thousands on some sales.



Maryhill's Will Carter with his Jaguar E-Type and two other classic British cars he has restored. **Julian Gavaghan**

On one Triumph TR3, he purchased the vehicle for \$6,000, invested an additional \$12,000, and then

sold it to a buyer in France for \$47,000.

Many of the projects Carter has undertaken

started as an "absolute shipwreck," and he's had to learn a lot of skills to piece, patch and weld them back to their original shape.

"You cannot make money restoring cars unless you do everything yourself," he said.

Some projects have involved months of sanding.

Others entail searching for parts in farmers' fields.

But, even when others have given up, Carter prides himself on finishing every car he begins.

"I'm obsessive compulsive. So, when I start working on something, I won't stop until it's done," he explained.

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Wanted

WANTED, CASH PAID OMEGA, TUDOR, Rolex etc. Broken gold jewellery, coins, paper money, All silver wanted. 45 yrs experience, fair, honest prices. Elmira, Terry Gallamore @ 519-242-6900 or gallamore@golden.net will pick up.

Wanted

WILLING TO BUY - DIE CAST REPLICAS OF farm tractors and equipment; Industrial equipment and Tonka sandbox toys. In any useable condition. No collection too large or too small. Ask Dwayne for details. 519-669-5500.

Trades & Services

CUSTOM APPLE PRESSING. JUICE sales by appointment. Wesley martin, 3175 Northfield Dr. Elmira. 519-669-3541.

Coming Events

SHOP 40+ LOCAL VENDORS AT THE 3RD Annual Fall Market! Saturday, Sept 27, 10 - 3, Gale Presbyterian Church, Elmira.

Help Wanted

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We are looking to add a motivated and professional individual to our

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In this department, our cabinets are loaded onto our delivery truck, taken to site and unloaded into the house. You will be working in a team of 2 people. The successful applicant will enjoy periods of hard physical work which are then followed by a long drive back to the shop.

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Position

- We are looking for a Cabinet Delivery team member
- In this position, you would be delivering cabinets to site.
- You will need to be able to comfortably lift 150 pounds.
- In this position you would be reporting to our Install manager.

Required skills

- Respectful
- Team player
- Courteous and friendly
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laverne@woodlandhorizon.com
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Only those receiving an interview will be contacted. Thank you.

Auction

LIVE CLEARING AUCTION SALE

of Tractors, Equipment, Milking Equipment, Buggies and Miscellaneous Items
for Ernie and Seleda Brubacher

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 2025

STARTS AT 10:00 AM

7489 Wellington Road 8, Goldstone, Ontario

1st Farm east side of Goldstone, Approx 5 miles east of Drayton

TRACTORS: CIH MXC100, 2wd, open station, perkins, motor, PS transmission, Shuttle, Dual Remotes, 18.4x34 R rears, 5000hrs, bought new; CIH 5120 4wd, open station, Dual remotes, 18.4x34 R rears, 360/70 R24 fronts, 8041 hrs, bought new; IH 884, red panel, 2wd, open station, TA, 18.4x30 rears, bought new; JD 6110L 4wd, 420/85/R34 rears, 360/70 R24 fronts, shuttle, 9420 hrs, Quicke Loader, 6ft bucket, selling separate 2 prong bale fork and pallet forks;

MACHINERY: MF 852 pto pull type combine w/ 6 belt pickup, unloading auger slip clutch needs attention; MF 785 12ft swather; CIH 8340 9ft haybine; CIH 8725 harvester w/ processor, 2row narrow corn head, electric controls, 1000 pto; CIH 8725 harvester, electric controls, 1000 pto, w/hayhead, CIH 600 forage blower; 3 Dion Forage Wagons w/ roofs on 10 and 12 Ton Horst Gears, LH unload 2- 1016's 1-10, 2 rebuilt steel boxes, 1- wood box; 2003 CIH SBX 540 small square baler w/ thrower, inoculant applicator, hyd tension; Creebank 20 ft steel thrower rack w/mesh floor on 10 ton horst gear; Unifarm 3pth 10 arm rotary hay rake; Krause/Kuhn 5635, 22ft Cultivator w/ 3 bar harrows, walking tandems on main and wings, Like new; White 6100 4 RN air corn planter, dry fertilizer, IH 510 18 run comb, GS, seeddrill, rear hyd's; Kneverland 3 furrow, 3pth, square beam, hyd variwidth plow, Nice; IH 18 1/2ft Vibra Shank Cultivator; IH 11 1/2ft Vibra shank cultivator; Hagedorn 276 series 2 TA, DB, EG Manure Spreader; 12ft sprocket packer, hyd lift; Triple K 4RN scuffler; Westfield 8" x 51 ft pto auger w/ boot; NH 355 pto mixmill w/ loading auger, 13ft unloading auger; Bruns 200 bushel gravity box on gear; 3pth Pto belt pulley; 16ft flat rack on martin gear, small wagon on rubber w/ tongue for team; 5 section harrows and pole; 3pth 6ft grader blade; Artsway-Agrotrend 4102D, 8 1/2 ft DA, Hyd Hood, Snowblower, Like new; Baumalight 45 KW Generator on trailer;

MISC: 18.4 x34 and 18.4 x30 T Rail Duals; 18.4x34 set of Trig chains; 220 volt electric pressure washer; Dyna Glo Salamander Heater; Chicken Crates; portable air compressor 220V; Rissler 450 Honda gas powered TMR feedcart w/ scale; Poly feedcart; Sabre 25hp, 54" cut lawn tractor; Husqvarna push lawn mower; Wagon load of Misc items;

MILKING EQUIPMENT: Mueller 600 Gallon round milk Tank w/ compressor, soap dispenser and auto wash; TTR; Vacuum Pump; Surge Pulsation control, Jar and control; Rotary Soap Dispenser all to be removed; 2" stainless pipeline and PVC vacuum line already removed; Boumatic Milker pump for single cow milking; Milker Bucket;

BUGGIES: 3 seater carriage; 2 seater buggy on rubber; single seater buggy;

Also selling for Neighbor- MF 775, 12 ft swather; Brillion 14ft culti packer; 12ft rubber tire packer w/ diamond harrows; Kilbros and J&M 250 bushel gravity boxes on heavy gears; 175 bushel gravity box on gear; 6 section diamond harrows and pole;

NOTE

Plan to Attend this Clearing Auction
as Ernie and Seleda have sold the Farm after almost 50 yrs.
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PROPRIETORS

Ernie and Seleda Brubacher 519-638-0344

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Auction

FOR SALE BY TENDER

7589 Wellington Rd. 7, Alma
(one km east of Parker intersection)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 9, 2025

APPROX 4.96 ACRE country property; surrounded by farm fields; field stone bungalow with 3 bedrooms; 4 pc bath, 2 pc bath, living room, kitchen, unfinished basement, attached one car garage. House heated by an oil and pellet stove; 20ft x 30ft hip roof shop/barn; 2025 property taxes are \$5459.48.

NOTE: an incredible; rare property close to Drayton, Alma, Arthur etc. All offers need to be submitted by Thursday October 9 at 12 noon. Viewing by appointment.

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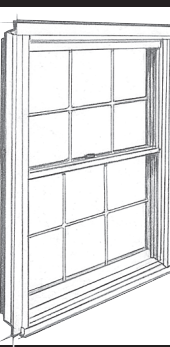
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COMING SOON TO BRIDGEPORT



\$890,000

ELMIRA - Welcome to 1 Kingfisher Drive, Elmira - tranquil Living in a Private Oasis! Discover peaceful, easy living at this beautifully maintained home in Elmira's sought-after Birdland neighbourhood. Nestled on a generously sized 125ft x 62ft lot, this 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home offers quiet comfort, thoughtfully designed spaces, and a true sense of retreat. Step into a bright, welcoming living area that flows effortlessly into the dining room and kitchen — ideal for hosting family dinners or enjoying a quiet morning coffee. The kitchen offers direct access to both the backyard, laundry and garage for added convenience and ease of daily living. The charm does not end when you head upstairs and find 3 bedrooms, a full bathroom and space for a future 4th bedroom above the garage should the space be needed. Outdoors, unwind in your own private oasis: beautifully landscaped gardens, a sparkling in-ground pool, and a charming pool house (with electrical) provide the perfect setting for relaxation or entertaining. Whether you're enjoying a summer swim, tending to the garden, or simply listening to the birds, this backyard was made for quiet enjoyment. The fully finished basement adds flexibility with a cozy gas fireplace, a second bathroom, a home office, and additional living space — perfect for visiting guests or hobbies. Lovingly maintained over the years, this immaculate home offers peace of mind and pride of ownership in an established community. If you're ready to embrace a more relaxed lifestyle — 1 Kingfisher Drive is waiting for you!



\$949,000

BRIGHTON - Imagine waking to the sunrise over the pond across the street; sipping coffee on your covered front porch running the full length of the house while enjoying the tranquility of the countryside. Full of character and charm, this historic building has seen life as both a general store (from 1957 - 1900) and then a post office — and today it has been thoughtfully updated into a versatile 3-unit dwelling. (legal duplex) The soaring 12 foot ceilings, open space and large sunny windows create an air of space and serenity while still feeling cozy with the wood stove in the main living area. The property features a cozy 1-bedroom apartment, a spacious 3-bedroom home, and an additional unit currently used as a yoga studio. With its own main-floor entrance and washroom, this yoga space could easily be transformed into an in-law suite or adapted to suit your needs. Set on a generous 0.8-acre lot, this property offers plenty of room to bring your homesteading dreams to life. Enjoy a large back deck overlooking the yard, complete with cherry, pear and apple trees. A barn with hydro and a garage door provides flexible options for vehicle repair, storage, a workshop, or even a play space. All of this is conveniently located just close to the 401, 10 minutes from Plattsville and 15 minutes from New Hamburg—country living with easy access to nearby towns. Don't miss this unique opportunity to own a piece of history with endless potential!

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday 1-3pm
164 Timber Trail, Elmira



\$1,199,800

ELMIRA - Located in the desirable South Parkwood neighbourhood, this beautifully designed 3-bedroom home, built in 2021, offers modern comfort, style, and space for the whole family. The bright open-concept layout is filled with natural light, thanks to oversized windows that frame peaceful views and mature trees in the backyard. The heart of the home is the spacious kitchen, which flows seamlessly into the main living area and offers direct access to a covered upper deck—perfect for relaxing or entertaining in any weather. Inside, you'll find three generously sized bedrooms, including a stunning primary suite with cathedral ceilings that create an airy, retreat-like atmosphere. The luxury ensuite features high-end finishes, a spacious walk-in shower, and elegant fixtures—ideal for unwinding after a long day. The standout feature is the fully finished walk-out basement, complete with floor-to-ceiling windows, a fourth bedroom, and a newly completed 3-piece bathroom. This flexible space is perfect for guests, a home office, or multigenerational living. From the walk-out, step onto a covered lower patio that extends your living space into the serene, tree-lined backyard. Enjoy the tranquility of South Parkwood while staying close to parks, schools, and all essential amenities. A must-see property!

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 2-4pm
189 Porchlight Dr, Elmira



\$749,000

ELMIRA - Welcome to this charming 3-bedroom family home, built in 2008 and thoughtfully designed for comfortable living. The open-concept main floor is filled with natural light, creating a warm and inviting space to gather with family and friends. Recent upgrades include all new windows (2022 & 2023), bringing both efficiency and peace of mind for years to come. The finished basement adds even more room to enjoy, whether as a cozy family retreat, playroom, or home office, with a bathroom already roughed in to make future finishing easy. Step outside to the backyard oasis, where mature trees provide privacy and shade. A spacious deck is perfect for barbecues and summer evenings, while the shed adds convenient outdoor storage. The yard is partially fenced, offering a great mix of openness and security. The oversized concrete driveway with stamped concrete walkway add convenience and style. This home blends modern updates with family-friendly comfort — move-in ready and waiting for you to make it your own.

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday 10am-12pm
6 Erb St, Elmira



\$725,000

ELMIRA - DUPLEX - This 5-bedroom legal duplex bungalow is tucked away in a quiet Elmira neighborhood on a generous, private lot with a large backyard. The main floor offers 3 bedrooms, its own laundry, and a bright, welcoming layout. The lower level features a separate entrance leading to a spacious 2-bedroom unit with fresh finishes and plenty of natural light. Recent updates include a furnace (2022), A/C (2023), roof (2018), and all windows (2016). Each unit has its own hydro and water meter for convenience. Outside, you'll find a concrete driveway and walkway, plus a dedicated shed for each unit offering extra storage. Whether you're looking for multi-generational living, a mortgage helper, or a smart investment property, this home could be the perfect fit!



\$549,000

WATERLOO - Welcome to your new home in the heart of Beechwood! This charming and spacious 2-bedroom, 4-bathroom townhome is nestled in a sought-after, family-friendly neighbourhood offering both tranquility and convenience. The main floor features a bright kitchen with a cozy breakfast nook, a separate dining room, and a warm living area with a gas fireplace—perfect for entertaining or relaxing evenings in. Upstairs, the large primary suite boasts a walk-in closet and a private ensuite bath. The finished basement offers additional living space with a rec-room, laundry area, a full 3-piece bathroom, and direct walkout access to the single garage. Step outside to a fully fenced backyard oasis with a patio and beautiful gardens—your own private retreat. Residents enjoy exclusive access to an in-ground pool and tennis court. Whether you're raising a family or looking to downsize in style, this home offers the perfect blend of comfort, privacy, and community. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity in Beechwood!



\$999,000

ELMIRA - Spacious Family Living on the West end of First St., Elmira! Discover the perfect blend of comfort and functionality in this impressive 4-bedroom residence on First Street west. Designed with gathering in mind, the expansive open-concept living area provides an inviting atmosphere for daily life and special occasions alike; a true host's delight! Four well-proportioned bedrooms ensure ample private space for every family member or the flexibility for a dedicated home office. Practicality meets convenience with main floor laundry and a generous 2-car garage. The fully finished basement expands your living possibilities, offering an ideal space for a home theatre, children's play zone, or a versatile recreation room. This corner lot property features a charming back deck and gardens, perfect for outdoor relaxation and entertaining. Don't miss this opportunity for exceptional family living!

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↓ PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Solutions for this week's puzzles.

W I S H B O N E
Easy

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

Hard

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

S	O	L	A	C	E
A	X	I	S		X
N		S	H	O	E
G	A	L	E	N	A
	T	E	N	E	T

B	O	F	E	D	V	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	K	E	L
A	E	R	D	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	O	V	A	M	
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P	I	M	A		C	L	A	P		U	R	G	E
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B	I	G	L	E	A	G	U	E	R		D	I	N
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P	E	P	P		S	P	I	N		R	E	A	P
I	C	A	O		C	L	A	N	G		A	R	G
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4 Weigel Ave, Elmira MLS \$599,900.00



Brick bungalow near downtown in a mature neighbourhood. Very little traffic on a dead end street. 3 bdrms & a full bathroom. Living room & eat-in kitchen w/sliders to a spacious deck. Partially finished bsmt. Deep single garage.

81 Timber Trail Rd., Elmira MLS \$995,000.00



Check out this immaculate, professionally landscaped bungalow – only 8 yrs old. 2 bdrms on the main flr as well as an office (or 3rdbdrm), open concept living room & eat-in kitchen w/island & built-in's. Sliding doors to a partial covered composite deck & patio. Practical laundry rm/rear entrance. Primary bdrm w/3 pc. ensuite & walk-in closet. Fully finished bsmt w/stairs from the garage. 2nd kitchen & laundry facilities. Rec rm & games area. Tons of closet space w/5 walk-in closets!

14 Mill St., Elmira EXCLUSIVE listing \$795,000.00



Looking for a tri-plex? Located downtown with 2 main flr apartments & one apartment upstairs. All one bedroom units in good condition. Lots of asphalt parking. Detached garage – 16'x24' built in 2012. All units are metered separately for hydro. One gas furnace replaced in 2021 plus a gas F.P. for heating. Steel roof. Immediate possession is possible

25 South Parkwood Blvd, Elmira MLS \$1,050,000.00



Custom built bungalow in 2001 – still in excellent condition. Updated flooring on the main flr, roof shingles, granite counter tops, gas furnace & ensuite bathroom. Main flr primary bedroom w/W.I. closet & 4 pc. ensuite w/heated flr. Open concept great rm & kitchen & dining areas. Formal dining room. 2 pc. powder rm & option of main flr laundry. Upstairs features a separate space incl a bdrm, full bathroom & sitting area. Finished bsmt w/3 bdrms, rec room & bathroom. Lots of house! Wooded lot behind & across the street from wooded parkland!

1857 Hopewell Creek Rd., Breslau MLS \$2,890,000.00



70 acres of land w/25 workable – the balance being hardwood bush. Sprawling 2,500 sq. ft. bungalow – custom built in 1985. Detached double garage w/workshop space – 26' x 44' as well as a steel clad shed w/concrete floor – 28' x 65'. This unique property is a dream for someone who enjoys working w/firewood. A steel structure w/roof is located in the bush for storing firewood. MLS

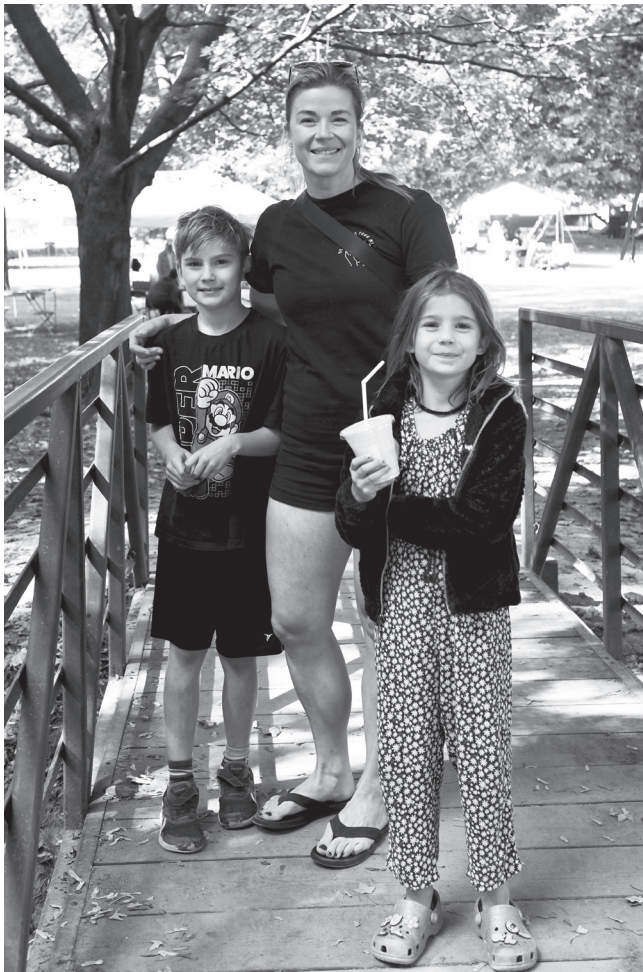
SPACE FOR LEASE

Birdland Plaza, Elmira MLS



1 unit available – 1,310 sq. ft. With front & rear access. \$11.00/sq. ft. plus common area fees.

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The third annual Multicultural Festival of Elmira was held on Saturday at Gibson Park. The event was organized by H.O.P.E., whose founder, Abby Cooper, was seen with Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis (middle right). Performers included the Caribbean fusion band Moka (top). Among the other activities was a community painting effort led by EDSS teacher Jennifer Horst (left). There was also Iroquois lacrosse, which Desmond Palacios, 10, tried. Karen Myers attended with her son, Easton, and daughter, Lively. Julian Gavaghan

↓ FAMILY ALBUM

Obituary

Martin, Titus

Passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, September 21, 2025 at the age of 1 year, 4 months. Son of Edwin and Ina Martin of Linwood. Brother of Amy, Josiah, Barbara, and Lovina all at home. Paternal grandson of Edwin and Lena Martin of Linwood. Maternal grandson of Emerson and Catherine Hoover of Wallenstein. Arrangements entrusted to Dreisinger Funeral Home, Elmira.

◆ www.dreisingerfuneralhome.com

Birthday

**Elaine Schaefer's
turning 90**

We'd love for you to join us to celebrate 9 decades of laughter, love & cherished moments!

Sunday, Oct. 5/25
Open house from 1:30-5:00 pm

Woolwich Memorial Centre | Seniors Centre
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**ROBERTS: Consumers
want safe, wholesome food**

→ FROM 16

long drawn a line in the sand with their stance against meat production.

Ultimately, this new approach could lead to a less polarized protein sector, less of an us-versus-them mentality. Consumers won't feel the need to join one camp or the other – they can choose between the two, or patronize both, without feeling they are compromising their moral standing.

And companies can concentrate on marketing benefits, not glitzy features.

What consumers really want is safe, wholesome and affordable food. Look at meat and non-meat alternatives and ask which side is offering all three of those benefits. That's the side that deserves Canadian consumers' support as we settle in for an elbows-up fall and winter.

GALEA: Reaching a new perspective from on high ain't always a good thing

→ FROM 10

settled in on the platform, I had developed a relationship with God and a newfound appreciation of ground blinds.

Settled is not exactly the right word. For there were no safety rails surrounding the platform, and the tree swayed impressively with the wind. Plus, it was then that I realized that the rope I had

attached to my shotgun to hoist it up had tangled on a lower branch. So, I had to go down, untangle it, and do it all over again.

Eventually, however, I got in the stand and, half an hour, later, shot a respectable buck from it.

That was the last time I climbed into a tree stand without a safety harness. It

was also the last time I did a chin-up.

The worst part was, later that week, I refused to go up again. Instead, I sat on the ground with my back to a tree. That's when I realized that the farmer was right. I did not see a single deer while I was on the ground.

I saw two walk by me within touching range...

JACKS: Wellesley looks to continue winning ways against Dorchester, Hespeler

→ FROM 12

"We're a team that's pretty hard to beat, and we want that to continue as we move forward.

"I think that we have a lot of depth, and this gives us the ability to roll all four lines and consistently establish a forecheck like that."

Speiran, the kind of physical forward perfectly suited to this approach, scored first, helped by Ian Gedney and Ben Morton, at 1:46.

Within 90 seconds, Sinclair (Spencer Davidson and Boden White) had put Wellesley 2-0 up.

The side then went 3-0 ahead at 8:03, when Schofield scored his third marker of the season, with Alexander Govanis

assisting.

Later on in the opening frame, Woodstock replied with two, off the sticks of Cooper Vickerman and Reshaad Eichenberg, at 16:10 and 19:36 respectively.

However, the one-goal margin was as close as the Navy Vets came.

Speiran (Jake L'Heureux and Morton) made it 4-2 with the only goal of the second period, at 9:08.

In the final frame, Wellesley put the game to bed, with three goals within 10 minutes.

First up was Lincoln Wash (Harron and Kaelan McDougald) at 3:59.

Next, at 7:48, Speiran completed his hat trick, with Harron and Jordan Abbott assisting.

Finally, Walsh bagged his second goal of the night at 13:10, with help from Tyler Chadwick and Riley Noble.

Woodstock's Will McGregor scored at 16:39, but at that stage it was nothing but a consolation goal.

Incredibly, neither side had a single power-play opportunity.

Wellesley dominated the shot count 34-23.

Nolan Carriere, who has been sharing goaltending duty, made 20 saves for the win.

This weekend, the Jacks host the Dorchester Dolphins at the Wellesley rec. centre at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, before travelling to Hespeler to face the Shamrocks on Sunday afternoon.

KINGS: Special teams take advantage of opportunities as they had plenty of work

→ FROM 10

Elmira wasn't ready to quit. After the second intermission, the Kings capitalized on two power-play opportunities to tie things up early on in the third. Tanner Lawson (Brady Schwindt, Gerber) found the back of the net at 2:32, and Kyle Morey (Gerber, Lawson) did the same at 5:27.

It was 5-5 until just past the midway mark when Komoka went ahead for good on a power play of their own.

Shots were 38-29 in favour of Elmira, which went 5-11 with the man advantage, while Komoka was 3-6.

"We were up 2-1 after one, and then there was a stretch there of about five or six minutes where they got three or four quick ones. That was a combination of PKs and just us kind of losing a little bit of focus on the road," said McRae of the game's turn of events, noting the players never quit.

"All the accolades go to the guys to battling back to make it 5-5. They got one late, and we just kind of ran out of time. I thought that, for the most part of the

third, we were playing the game we want to play."

Less than 24 hours later, the Kings were back on the ice, this time home at the WMC to welcome the Strathroy Rockets.

There was no back-and-forth here, as it was all Kings, all the time.

Noah Battler got things rolling with a goal at 6:08 of the first, assisted by Sam Ratcliffe. Less than three minutes later, Brody Straus added to the lead with a goal assisted by Morey and Schwindt. The period would end with Elmira up 2-0.

The Kings found the net four more times in the second. Schwindt scored on a power play at 4:18, helped by Gerber and Morey. Twenty-five seconds later, it was Nate Gravelle, from Brunton.

Cornfield's power-play goat at 13:35, from Gerber and Morey, made it 5-0, while Gerber added another with a shorthanded effort at 19:05.

The second intermission proved no help to the visitors, as Strathroy was again held scoreless in the third.

The scoring came off the sticks of

Lawson (Schwindt) on yet another power play and Ratcliffe (Battler). Warrilow capped things off with 43 seconds left in the stanza, assisted by Straus and Alexander Kyriocou.

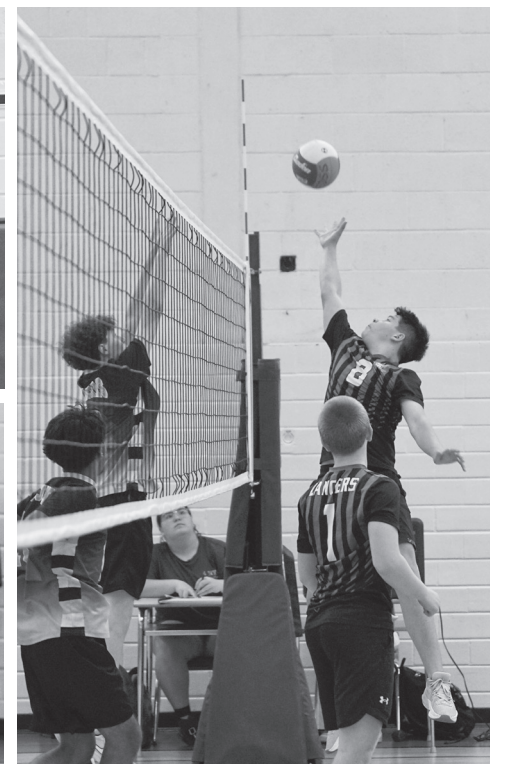
When the horn sounded, it was 9-0 for the Kings.

Shots were 51-26 in favour of Elmira, which went 3-9 on the power play, while the Rockets were 0-6. Liam Reid turned aside everything he saw to post the shut-out win.

"I think we had nine different goal scorers, so a balanced attack on Sunday," said the coach, noting the big lead allowed him to do some experimenting with the lines.

"When we got up a few, during the third we had different power-play looks, and some of the younger guys got some opportunity in the power play, which they probably haven't had yet this year."

This weekend, the Kings are staying put. They'll host the Waterloo Siskins Saturday night before welcoming the St. Marys Lincolns the following evening. Game time both nights at the WMC is 7 p.m.



The EDSS junior boys' volleyball squad fell 3-2 to Forest Heights Collegiate Sept. 18. Ryder Wideman (left and top middle). James Ferguson, bottom middle, bumps the ball. Right: Darius Staken tries to get it back over the net. **Andrea Eymann**

Living Here

WWDSS fundraiser

The Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society (WWDSS) will hold its annual fundraising event, the Any Which Way You Can A-Thon, on Sunday in Waterloo Park. The event will begin at 1 p.m., with opening remarks at 2 p.m. followed by a 2km walk and roll route, entertainment, and fundraising announcements.

www.wwdss.ca

Climate action grants

Schools in Woolwich will be eligible for financial support for environmental projects such as tree planting and creating a pollinator garden under a new program approved this week by township council. The Climate Smart Schools Micro Grant program will be funded by \$10,000 from the climate action levy.

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Rolling out a piece of Old Blighty on local roads

Maryhill man's lifelong passion for old British cars has led him to painstakingly restore many classics over the years

Julian Gavaghan

Observer Staff

"ENZO FERRARI SAID IT WAS the prettiest car he'd ever seen," noted Maryhill's Will Carter as he gushed over the sensual, sweeping curves and timeless design of his 1969 Jaguar E-Type.

"And that man made some beautiful cars, so I think that says everything."

The black E-Type is just one of dozens of classic British sports cars that he has been lovingly restoring for the past two decades, having become beguiled as a child by their unique blend of style, simplicity and sheer fun.

Carter, 62, currently keeps two other iconic British designs at home.

His Austin-Healey 3000 and Triumph TR3, both built in 1960, also bring Swinging Sixties' vibes to Woolwich's roads.

He wishes he could keep more of the vehicles he has painstakingly restored, but the prohibitive cost and more cool-headed thinking from his wife, Mary Francis, ensure he has a limit.

"She says I'm allowed to have two, and so I've said, 'Well, okay, that's two done, and one in the shop to get restored,'" he said.

"So, the Jag's waiting to be restored, while the Healey and TR3 are already done."

He has sold most of his projects from the past 22 years.

Ordinarily, he spends around a year bringing the vehicles back to how they would have looked, sounded and driven during the heyday of The Beatles.

But the especially elegant E-Type, which he bought three years ago, is a different kettle of fish, he noted.



Enthusiast Will Carter currently owns three classic British roadsters, including an Austin-Healey 3000 (with its hood – or, in the British vernacular, bonnet – up), a Jaguar E-Type and a Triumph TR3. He has restored many others.

Julian Gavaghan

"This is my serious bucket-list car that I've always wanted. That's why I'm taking my time restoring it," the father of three explained.

Carter, whose passion for British automotive design started because of the 1956 AC Bristol that was bought in 1957 and

still owned by his father, Bill Carter, admitted that, unlike their reliable German rivals, such vehicles have more of a reputation for breaking down.

However, such incidents really only add to the charm, he insisted, as he listed some of the more memorable occasions

he's been forced to fix the "idiosyncratic" cars.

"Only this morning, the Healey caught fire," the retired construction firm boss noted.

"I ran down to the gas station today to get some fuel for the lawnmower, and some guy walks by, and he says, 'You got a lot

of smoke coming out of there.'

"The battery cable had burned off, but the nice thing is you go in the boot, and you pull out your toolbox, and 10 minutes later, the car's fixed and driving home."

"That's the nice thing with British cars, you can always tinker with them, and as long as you understand them, they won't leave you stranded."

Not everyone appreciates this apparent charm as much, however.

His wife accosted him once when he returned an hour late from a short jaunt to pick up some take-out food after the fuel line in his Triumph TR6 became blocked.

"I'm walking in with a cold pizza and my wife says to me, 'Why do you do this to yourself? Why don't you go get a reliable little sports car, like a Miata or something?'"

"And I said, 'You don't understand. I am thrilled. I

→ RESTORING A CLASSIC 17

Understanding encephalitis: Symptoms, causes and treatment

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: Ever since I had my son, I tend to worry whenever he gets ill, so I try to educate myself on different viruses and autoimmune disorders. I recently came across encephalitis. What is it? What are some of the warning signs? And how is it treated?

ANSWER: It's normal to worry as a parent. However, encephalitis is a rare disease. The word encephalitis means swelling (often inflammation) of the brain. Early signs

Mayo Clinic
Professional Clinical Health Advice

can include the sudden onset of headache, fever and frequent seizures. Patients will often develop cognitive problems such as memory loss, hallucinations and confusion — sometimes not knowing what time of day it is or what year it is. A number of patients can develop problems walking, abnormal movements, fluctuating blood pres-

sure and potential loss of consciousness. It can be a very challenging time for everyone involved.

What causes encephalitis is two-pronged. For some patients, infections from bacteria or viruses can cause their illness, which is called infectious encephalitis. For other patients, their own immune system causes the illness when immune cells attack the brain by mistake, which is called autoimmune encephalitis. Family history or genetic predispositions can play

a part in autoimmune encephalitis, but it is not spread from person to person.

Encephalitis is treated depending on the cause. If you have an infectious cause, you usually receive drugs that try to eliminate the virus, such as antiviral drugs. This can be very successful, especially if given early on. In patients who have autoimmune forms of encephalitis, the body's immune system is overactive. Suppressing the immune system can greatly improve the

patient's symptoms.

Once immunosuppressive treatment has begun, especially if it can be started early in the diagnosis, many patients make dramatic improvements. However, despite those improvements, many patients are left with remaining symptoms such as memory problems and sleep disturbances. There are currently no preventive measures or vaccines for these illnesses, but there is hope in research.

Our research is essen-

tial because we're trying to better understand how the patients present their illness to health-care professionals and, therefore, how they can be diagnosed accurately. We hope to improve recognition of the disease, better understand how to measure the disease, how to measure improvement in an individual patient, and then be able to answer the ultimate question that all our patients want to know: "Why did this happen to me?"

→ MAYO CLINIC 25



Now is a great time to start thinking about getting your winter tires on!

As temperatures slowly begin to drop, it is beneficial for you to plan early and beat the rush by **scheduling your appointment.**

If you do not have winter tires yet, no worries! We are more than happy to get you into a winter tire that suits your driving needs and budget!

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

□ **Woolwich Tree Giveaway**--Breslau, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Breslau Community Centre. Trees are available to all township households on a first-come, first-served basis. 3 trees for urban properties. 10 trees for rural properties. Details about tree species at healthywoolwich.ca. Call Ann at 519-514-7027.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

□ **Breslau Train Show at the Breslau Community Centre** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Four free public hobby seminars, a large LEGO display and much more. Canteen operated by the KW Kiwanis Club. free parking. Cash only Admission: Children under 12 Free, General admission \$6, NMRA members \$4.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

□ **Senior's Community Dining at Calvary United Church, St. Jacobs.** Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for lunch, fellowship and entertainment. Cost: \$14. Call to register by September 26 by calling 519-664-1900.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

□ **Senior's Community Dining at Wellesley Recreation Complex.** Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for lunch and fellowship. Cost: \$14. Call to register by October 3, 519-664-1900.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

□ **Senior's Community Dining at Breslau Community Centre.** Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for lunch and fellowship. Cost: \$14. Please call to register by October 3 by calling 519-664-1900.

□ **Woodside Evergreen Fellowship.** Join us at Woodside Church, Elmira at 10:30 a.m. "Aging Gracefully" by Rebecca Cannon, Naturopath, a devotional by Pastor Dan Allen and special music by Muriel Clemmer. Please register at www.woodsidechurch.ca/evergreen or 519-669-1296 by October 5. A \$12 donation at the door includes a hot lunch.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

□ **Woolwich Tree Giveaway Elmira.** Woolwich Tree Giveaway--Elmira from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the WMC, Elmira. Please enter from Park Street. Trees are available for all Township households on a first-come, first-served basis. 3 trees for urban residents. 10 trees for rural residents. The list of tree species at healthywoolwich.org. Ann at 519-514-7027.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

□ **Woolwich Tree Giveaway-Elmira, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** at the Woolwich Memorial Centre. Please enter via Park Street. Trees are available to all township households on a first-come, first-served basis. 3 trees for urban properties. 10 trees for rural properties. Details about tree species at healthywoolwich.ca. Call Ann at 519-514-7027 with questions.

□ **Elmira Lions Club Bottle Drive at Elmira Lions Hall.** Bring your empty beer cans and bottles, wine and liquor bottles, and wine bags from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Proceeds to Woolwich Community Services.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

□ **Senior's Community Dining at Linwood Community Centre.** Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for lunch and fellowship. Cost: \$14. Please call to register by October 17 by calling 519-664-1900.

↓ 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-listing/

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If you like milk and cookies, you'll love this.

Cookie fluff is so delicious it's unfair

I fear that my oven thinks I may have abandoned her. It's been too long since I've turned that dial to bake cakes or cookie treats. But just because I haven't been baking, doesn't mean I haven't been whipping up sweet treats to share. I've been relying on no-bake desserts like layered delights, icebox cakes, and fluffs instead. Chocolate chip cookie fluff is my latest party trick. For this recipe, all

□ **The Kitchn**
Patty Catalano

you have to do to enjoy this taste of childhood is fold mini chocolate chips and crunchy store-bought chocolate chip cookies into a sweetened whipped cream. It's a 15-minute, no-bake recipe that is everything you love about dipping freshly baked cookies into a tall glass of milk, but so much easier than baking a batch of cookies.

Chocolate Chip Cookie Fluff

□ **1 cup** cold heavy cream

□ **2 tablespoons** packed light or dark brown sugar

□ **1 teaspoon** vanilla extract

□ **1/8 teaspoon** kosher salt

□ **1/2 cup** marshmallow

creme, such as Marshmallow Fluff

□ **1 1/2 cups** coarsely crushed crunchy chocolate chip cookies (about 4 ounces), such as Chips Ahoy, plus more for garnish

□ **2 tablespoons** mini chocolate chips, plus more for serving

1. Beat 1 cup cold heavy cream, 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, and 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt together in a stand mixer with the whisk attachment on medium speed until soft peaks form, 3 to 4 minutes. Add 1/2 cup marshmallow creme and beat on medium speed until firm peaks form, 1 to 2 minutes.

2. Fold 1 1/2 cups coarsely crushed crunchy chocolate chip cookies and 2 tablespoons mini chocolate chips into the cream with a flexible spatula until just combined.

3. Divide between four serving cups. Garnish with more crushed chocolate chip cookies and miniature chocolate chips if desired.

▲ Recipe notes

The recipe can be made up through Step 1 up to two hours ahead and refrigerated in an airtight container. Fold in the chocolate chip cookies and miniature chocolate chips just before serving.

Leftovers can be refrigerated for up to one day. The cookies will soften upon storage.

↓ Patty Catalano is a food editor for TheKitchn.com, a nationally known blog for people who love food and home cooking. Submit any comments or questions to editorial@thekitchn.com.

↓ FAITH DIRECTORY



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Scott Scheifele, Megan Olthoff and Jonathan Bushey prepare breakfast for a big crowd that showed up to Conestogo fire hall for a fundraiser event Saturday morning. **Julian Gavaghan**

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regionofwaterloo.ca/WinterPlan



MAYO CLINIC: Understanding and treatment have evolved

→ FROM 23

Over the last 10 or 15 years of both doing research and seeing hundreds of patients with autoimmune encephalitis, we've improved our understanding of which patients should receive which treatments at which times, and we've understood much more about how to begin to estimate and explain to the patient, their relatives and caregivers what we think might happen in the future.

One of our main goals is for healthcare teams to be able to identify and treat patients earlier. Mayo Clinic is ideally positioned to be a center of excel-



Encephalitis is a rare disease.

lence for these patients. We also are structured to have a clinical trial set up for many of these patients so that we can see these patients, understand their biology and then begin to use that as a way to offer

them the right treatments at the right times.

↓ 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.

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Word of the Week

PERPETUITY

refers to a state of continuing
forever or for a very long time.

Mini-Word

1	2	3	4		5
6					
		7		8	
9	10				
	11				

ACROSS

- Comfort
- x, y or z
- Loafer, e.g.
- Lead source
- Article of faith

DOWN

- Caroled
- Male cattle
- Fine thread
- Bloodless
- Permission granted by a bishop
- "We're number ___!"
- @

Sudoku EASY

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

Sudoku HARD

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

Find-A-Word

THEME: PUMPKIN SEASON

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

AUTUMN	CRISP	FESTIVAL	HAY	PIE	SQUASH
BARN	DECOR	FIELD	JACK	PUMPKIN	STEM
BASKET	FALL	FRESH	LANTERN	ROUND	VINE
CANDLE	FARM	GOURD	MARKET	SEEDS	
CARVE	FEAST	HARVEST	PATCH	SPICE	

Crossword

ACROSS

- Variety of cotton
- A round of applause
- An impulse
- River into the Caspian
- Place to cast a ballot
- Low ebb, nautically speaking
- MLB player (2wrds)
- Entertain over supper
- Doctrinal suffix
- Fail to catch, say
- Exact retribution
- Venezuela's former president Hugo
- Affirmatives
- Neighborhood, loosely
- Render legally void
- A cheerleader's demeanor
- Political damage control
- Harvest the rewards
- Intl. body that standardizes flight codes
- Sound of metal meeting metal
- 2012 Best Picture winner
- Drive-___ window
- Campus military training prog.
- Bottomless pit
- Silicon Valley venture
- ___ Grey tea

- Helped through tough times

- adverbially
- Digital music file format
- Unexpected twist of fate
- Highest position
- What sunburned skin might do
- ABC island mystery series
- Shakespearean "you"

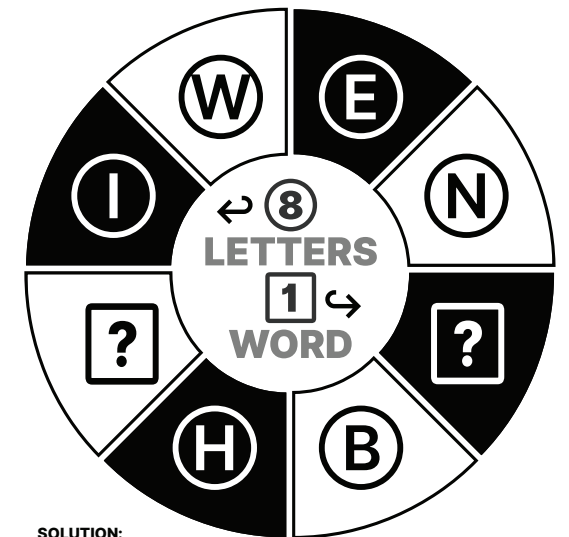
DOWN

- Bone near the pelvis
- Like Dublin natives
- Volcano's material
- "That's ___ folks!"
- Small parts in a big machine
- Really terrible
- Had dinner
- Musical expression technique

- Persona non grata
- Horse's strap
- Criminal organization
- Dueling weapon
- Pool table covering
- Abrasive mineral for polishing
- Animal doctor
- Jet's sky signature (2wrds)
- Show clearly
- Tilted position
- Lofty dwelling
- Price labels
- Early Greek epic poetry
- Cherry centers
- Genuine, in German
- Prefix meaning "beside"
- Gentle touch
- Black gold from the ground
- Pleasant scent
- Game with no winner
- Monkey business?
- Woodworking joints
- Gear's gripping parts
- Ice block shelter
- Large South American rodent
- Garbage site
- Pennsylvania port city
- Surrender formally
- Scavenger's activity
- Frat guy's greeting
- Body art, abbrev.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16				17						18			
19				20				21	22				
23			24			25	26						
			27			28		29			30	31	32
33	34	35				36	37			38			
39					40					41			
42					43					44			
45				46				47	48				
			49			50		51			52	53	54
55	56	57				58	59			60			
61					62	63				64			
65					66					67			
68					69					70			

8 Letters 1 Word



SOLUTION:



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



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PRIME PLANTING: Seeing growth from its early days, nursery is very much a family affair at this point

→ FROM 16

popular in recent decades.

And it's not just the foliage that is exhibiting colour during poet John Keats' beloved "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness."

There are several tree species with autumnal blossoms.

Among them is the seven-son flower.

"They're quite beautiful, usually they have pinkish flowers," Albrecht said of the plant, which is a cross between a tree and a shrub and can grow to 20-by-20 feet in size.

"It means you can have flowers in every season, even winter with witch hazel."

It is fairly simple to ensure the survival of most transplanted trees, but some species, such as oaks, can be more challenging because they have fewer roots and proportionally face more damage when severed.

Abrecht works alongside his brother, John, Jr., 61, and, since retiring as an optometrist, his sister, Jackie, 60, does as well.

He revealed how the vision and hard work of their father and mother, Mary, 80, had helped the business to flourish.

"My dad was working various jobs, and then he started just growing a few trees on the side of the property for a hedge-row in the mid-60s," he explained.

"Then, someone came by and said, 'Oh, are these trees for sale?' And that kind of just sparked him to say, 'Okay, yeah.' That was a light-bulb moment.

"So, the nursery officially opened for business in 1968.

"He was working two jobs at the time. He was doing night work at one of the breweries and my mom would take care of the place during the day."

The younger Albrecht said there were two keys to its success: his father's friendly customer-service approach and his willingness to do as much as possible himself.

"He was a mechanic for a long time and so built most of the buildings and did welding work by

himself," the son noted.

The first expansion was buying a field opposite for a tree farm, a patch of land with good soil and a natural water source for irrigation.

Today, the business owns 150 acres, including the original 17-acre property on which the garden centre is located.

There is also a landscaping business, which does work for local municipalities as well as private customers.

The firm employs between 20 and 30 people, depending on the season.

Growing as many of their own trees as possible has always been important because they can guarantee quality that way, insists Rob Albrecht, whose 15-year-old daughter has also developed the family green thumb.

But there is a lot more variety now than five decades ago.

"Whereas dad would have planted hundreds of just a few trees, now we grow a lot more varieties but fewer of each of them," he explained.

DYER: Neither Jordan nor Egypt has been helpful thus far in the founding of a proper Palestinian state

→ FROM 8

about driving out the Crusaders got some play, too.

The Arab armies lost, of course. All those countries were just emerging from British or French colonial rule, their kings had been chosen in London or Paris, and the main job of their armies was holding the local peasantry down. They were easily defeated by the Israelis, who ended up holding five-sixths of the country.

The other one-sixth was what we now call the Gaza Strip and the West

Bank, which gave shelter to most of the Palestinian refugees driven out by the Israelis. No Palestinian government had been formed, so the decisions stayed in the hands of Jordan (the West Bank) and Egypt (Gaza). And this was when the Great Mistake was made.

Neither Egypt nor Jordan showed any interest in using that remaining land as the base for the Palestinian state that had already been authorized by the UN. Yes, it would have been severely truncated, but it would be

celebrating its 77th anniversary this year. Instead, Jordan simply annexed the West Bank, and Egypt did nothing useful in Gaza.

Both those areas were conquered by Israel in the 1967 war, so Palestine might now have a government-in-exile if that war had also happened on the alternate timeline. But nothing could be as bad as the fate Palestinians face now. No actual state has been erased from the map by violence since 1945, but virtual doesn't count for much.



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