Raising money for WCS, on a cold February night

BY STEVE KANNON
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

It may be billed as the Coldest Night of the Year, but February 22 will offer up plenty of warm feelings, say organizers of an event hosted by Woolwich Community Services (WCS).

The Elmira outing that will see hundreds of people hit the pavement as part of a nation-wide fundraiser in support of the “homeless, hungry and hurting.”

Last year was WCS’ first go, and the group raised $83,000. This time around, the goal is $90,000 to $100,000, said community engagement coordinator Leigh-Anne Quinn.

“One of our goals is to make this one of the biggest winter events in Woolwich, fundraising-wise,” she said. “The proceeds are allowing us to run more food bank programs. For instance, we have our bread program...and we’ve now just started the fresh fruit Fridays, where people can come on Fridays and get fresh food items, with an emphasis on fruits and veggies.

Funds raised will also support WCS programs such as family violence prevention and affordable housing.

“We are starting to take a look at housing instability, with a focus on low-income earners,” Quinn explained. Along with raising money for the cause, the event is also great for community-building, added WCS executive director Kelly Christie.

Participants not only walk the 2-, 5- and 10-kilometre routes together, but also sit down to a meal afterwards, she said. “It’s a great way to bring the community together. We’re looking forward to it being an annual event,” said Christie. “We want to make this the biggest winter event for the Woolwich community.”

WCS is looking for both walkers, who can register individually or sign up a team, and for those to help with the event itself. “We are still looking for volunteers, specifically route marshals,” said Quinn. “Those are the people that are out along the walk, cheering people along and making sure they go on the right path.

“If people are interested in volunteering, we would love that. They can register by visiting the Coldest Night of the Year website (cnoy.org) and selecting the Elmira location.”

Across the country, there are already some 145 locations registered to participate this year, with a goal of $6 million. “The Coldest Night of the Year is a national event. There’s over 100 cities across Canada that participate, so there’s a real synergy in that as well,” said Quinn of the Elmira walk’s link to the whole.

“People in this community are walking for Woolwich Community Services, but there are people in communities all over Canada that are walking for different causes.”

Woolwich hires contractor to assess condition of its buildings

BY STEVE KANNON
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

Some of the municipal buildings aren’t particularly old, but Woolwich is already planning for the eventual repairs and replacement costs associated with equipment such as heating and cooling systems.

Part of that is good planning, but such asset management plans are required by the province, which is the rationale for spending $50,000 to do a condition assessment of four facilities to start with: the Woolwich Memorial Centre, St. Jacobs arena, Elmira library and township administrative office.

Despite some reservations, township councillors meeting Tuesday night awarded a contract for the work to Paradigm Engineering Group Ltd., the winning bidder in a tender that drew 22 submissions.

Councillors questioned both the need for such a study and the buildings to be assessed.

Coun. Larry Shantz noted the township has spent a considerable amount of money on upgrades at the St. Jacobs arena, for which is the rationale for spending $50,000 to do a condition assessment of four facilities to start with: the Woolwich Memorial Centre, St. Jacobs arena, Elmira library and township administrative office.

Despite some reservations, township councillors meeting Tuesday night awarded a contract for the work to Paradigm Engineering Group Ltd., the winning bidder in a tender that drew 22 submissions.
Deputy chief to retire from WRPS

Waterloo Regional Police this week announced deputy chief Kevin Chalk will retire after 38 years of service.

Chalk, who will officially retire February 29, began his policing career as beat officer in Waterloo in 1983. He served in several different positions, including frontline patrol, drug enforcement, emergency response, and executive officer before rising to the rank of inspector in 1999. In 2001, he was promoted to superintendent and over the next 12 years served in a variety of areas of command. He was named deputy chief of police in 2013.

"From a very early age all I ever wanted to do was policing," said Chalk in a release. "I've had the honour of working with many incredible people over the years. Serving the community and helping to make it safe was a privilege. I will miss working alongside the members of the Service always striving to ensure they all go home safely and be the best they can be.”

Coun Murray Martin challenged the value for money spent, noting most of the issues can be identified without paying a consultant $50,000 to write it up.

"What are you going to tell me about that place... that we don’t already know?" he asked of the library, for example.

Director of finance Richard Petherick said the facility assessment is essentially an expansion of spending the township has made in response to provincially mandated assessment management planning – the township started with hard services such as roads, bridges, water and sewage pipes. Under regulations, it will have to include all buildings through to provincially by 2022.

"The best way for us to do that is a condition assessment," he said, explaining the process would judge the state of all buildings through the same lens.
The province may be holding steady next year the overall funding it provides to rural and Northern municipalities, but Woolwich is planning to see its share decrease, as it has done in the last few years.

Ontario Municipal Partnerships Fund (OMP) support to the township peaked in 2017 at $736,200, dropping to $452,000 this year. Wellesley Township, on the other hand, has seen its numbers remain much steadier since peaking in 2018 at $780,900 before falling a little bit to $772,300 this year.

In reducing the OMPF funding, the province limited the year-over-year decrease to a maximum of 15 per cent, with Woolwich seeing that cut annually, noted director of finance Richard Petherick. His counterpart in Wellesley, treasurer Theresa Bischof, points out the impact has been much smaller there.

“In 2018 we received OMPF funding in the amount of $780,900. In 2019 we received $774,700 and in 2020 we will receive $772,300.”

Wellesley’s large agricultural land base and its rural makeup have helped keep the cuts fairly small, posted Mayor Joe Nowak. “We’re fairly fortunate in that we didn’t get any big cuts,” he said.

Woolwich, meanwhile, has been forced to do some juggling of its budget in recent years due to cuts that are much more noticeable. For instance, this year’s OMPF allocation is $80,000 less than in 2019, a figure that represents about three-quarters of a one per cent tax hike, Petherick notes.

While Woolwich has more growth and increases assessment dollars to go along with its more diversified tax base, there’s still ground to make up.

“The Ontario government last month announced it would be maintaining OMPF funding levels at $500 million in 2021, the same as this year.”

“Municipalities told us how vital the OMPF is to their communities and they need information sooner to plan their budgets,” Minister of Finance Rod Phillips said January 20 at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association annual conference. “That’s why we announced allocations for 2020 earlier than ever before, and why we’re committing today to maintain the funding envelope for next year.”

The province made a similar announcement last year about the “funding envelope,” so that doesn’t mean each municipality can count on the same OMPF grant next year. “Nothing is official until it is official, but my take would be for Woolwich to continue to expect to another 15 per cent reduction in our OMPF allocation in 2021,” said Petherick. “Premier Ford made a similar announcement last August ... and what he really was saying is that the province was going to maintain the amount for OMPF but the methodology on how it gets allocated to municipalities is not changing. This is why we received a 15 per cent reduction, which is their maximum reduction in any one year.”

The township and other municipalities have been advocating for stable and predictable funding from the province, along with new revenue tools (i.e. taxes and fees) to bolster their budgets.

“We always have issues such as our infrastructure deficit. No matter what, there’s never enough money,” said Nowak.

Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Mike Harris said the government would be looking at the OMPF funding formula for the 2021 budget year, with an eye on re-evaluating it. The Ford government has also announced plans to review the property tax system that provides municipalities some $22 billion annually, but that’s with an eye on streamlining it to help the province be more competitive, particularly in regards the accuracy of the property assessment part of the equation.

---

Max Campbell’s dreams of perhaps one day making it to space got a down-to-Earth boost last week in the form of a $5,000 scholarship from the University of Toronto. He’s now in his last semester at EDSS.

Max Campbell is in his final semester at EDSS, and is now preparing for university.

---

EDSS student wins $5,000 scholarship to pursue his university education

Max Campbell’s dreams of perhaps one day making it to space got a down-to-Earth boost last week in the form of a $5,000 scholarship from the Horatio Alger Association of Canada, awarded annually to deserving high school students in financial need who have overcome significant adversity while demonstrating strength of character, strong academics, a commitment to pursuing higher education as well as a desire to contribute to society.

Since 2012, $6.28 million in scholarships have been awarded to 1,162 deserving young Canadians. Annually, the association awards $1.2 million in need-based scholarships to 245 students. Among the list of past recipients is Campbell’s sister, Savannah, who was one of 85 students selected in 2017, along with fellow EDSS student Rosemarie Hartman.

Campbell plans to pursue a degree in engineering, with a focus on aerospace applications. He’s applied to relevant programs at Carleton University in Ottawa, Queen’s in Kingston and the University of Toronto. He’s been accepted at the first two, and is waiting to hear back from U of T, the most recent application.

After all the applications have been assessed will come the job of weighing programs against such practicalities as cost of living, housing and job prospects in each of the three cities, said Campbell, noting other grants and offers will factor into the equation, as well.

The $5,000 from the Horatio Alger Scholarship can be applied to whichever university he chooses.

“It’s going to be very helpful in paying for my postsecondary education,” said the Grade 12 student now in his last semester at EDSS.

Campbell credits much of his academic success to his teachers, particularly as a member of Elmira Scouts – with hundreds of hours under his belt, he’s well past the 40 hours required of all Ontario students in order to graduate.

“Thank you to the Horatio Alger Association. I am beyond grateful and extremely honoured to be named a scholarship recipient,” he said.
Every community deals with homelessness, social ills

Only one event such as the Coldest Night of the Year has the potential to provide community-building benefits like one says about a fundraising event. It does have the ability to raise awareness along with money, in this financial support for the varied offerings of Woolwich Community Services

Scheduled for February 22, the event is part of a Canada-wide fundraising effort to help the “homeless, hungry and hurting.” That’s a fairly wide net, as there is a multitude of woes in today’s society that affect growing numbers of our fellow citizens

Those in need, including homeless people and those in need of mental health services, are much less visible in the rural parts of Waterloo region. Even in the cities, the problem isn’t of the proportions seen in larger centers. That doesn’t mean the problem doesn’t exist: out of sight may mean out of mind for many of us, but that doesn’t change reality of the situation

Regional government, having declared its intention of eliminating chronic homelessness by the start of this year, has discovered the problem is larger and more intractable than it imagined. While there’s been an increase in shelter beds, for instance, demand and the length of stays in shelters—another indicator of the much-discussed affordable housing crisis—have grown even faster. Where the total number of shelter-bed nights was 88,511 in 2017-18, that number had climbed to 107,340 in 2018-19, regional figures show.

That problem is more pervasive in larger cities. Some elements of that to be found even here in Waterloo Region. The problem extends well beyond the stereotypical image, however.

Shelters are the frontline of the homelessness issue. At a broader level, the rising home costs we’re all familiar with have an impact on affordable housing. The price increase ripple through the entire economy, doing the most harm to the disadvantaged. Just because the region is relatively affluent and has a strong push for social housing, there’s still much work to be done.

While you won’t find people wandering up and down Arthur Street in Elmira or Woolwich Street in Breslaw pushing a shopping cart, for instance, aspects of the homelessness issue goes beyond the street-level symptoms. Of those on the streets, the most visible are those who suffer from mental illness.

As the shelter numbers indicate, however, much of the homelessness goes beyond the most troubled among us. Most can be directly linked to poverty: people lose their housing, and end up in a crisis situation.

Building affordable housing is part of the solution. So too is providing a living wage, enabling people to cover the cost of shelter and other expenses. Currently, there is a significant gap between what low-wage earners can afford to pay for housing and average rental rates in the region. Based on the assumption “affordable” means paying 30 percent of one’s income for housing, someone earning minimum wage is increasingly out of luck.

Events such as the Coldest Night of the Year draw attention to the problem, which is as valuable as the money raised. Where an event can get a few hundred people out, there’s activism at work. Many of us may not call it such, perhaps referring to “activism” to tying oneself to an old-growth tree or blockading a road to disputed land, but it really does describe activities for the betterment of a community or society, especially when it’s led by people and not by government officials.

Is the ‘devil virus’ a ‘black swan’?

China officially went back to work on Monday, after an extended two-week Lunar New Year holiday, while the authorities struggled to get the spread of the new coronavirus under control. But a lot of Chinese are not going back to work yet, and the spread of the ‘devil virus’ (as President Xi Jinping calls it) is manifestly not under control.

This virus has already killed more than 800 people—more fatalities in two months than the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak of 2002-03 caused in seven months—and it’s accelerating. The last few days have seen more than 80 deaths a day, and the death rate in the city of Wuhan in Hubei province, even in the cities, the problem isn’t of the proportions seen in larger centers. That doesn’t mean the problem doesn’t exist: out of sight may mean out of mind for many of us, but that doesn’t change reality of the situation.

The death rate is still only two per cent nationally, but infections elsewhere are generally more recent than those in Hubei province and may not reflect the final death rate. And it’s still spreading fast within China: four large cities in Zhejiang province on the coast are

Copyright © 2004 Canadian Catholic & Justice News.
Efforts for economic development misguided, with growth misplaced and counterproductive

There must be no deserters, or they will be nailed to the pillar of historical shame forever. But mere rhetoric won’t save him if the epidemic goes nationwide. It probably will: the two or three weeks that were wasted after the virus was first detected cannot be recovered. But the enforced holidays, travel curbs and lockdowns, belated though they are, may still limit the spread of the virus beyond China. Or maybe not, but even if the virus is largely contained within China the risk of financial infection is high. High enough, in fact, to qualify as a potential ‘black swan.’

A ‘black swan’ is an unforeseen event that has a huge impact on the normal course of events. The SARS epidemic in 2002-03 was a black swan: it knocked about two percentage points off China’s economic growth that year. However, that epidemic did not cause a global recession, because back in those days China was only a small part of the global economy.

Now the Chinese economy is the world’s second-biggest. It takes up four times the space in the global economy that it occupied in 2002, so a two per cent fall in Chinese economic growth translates into at least a half-per cent hit to the global economy. Which would not be a big deal if the global economy was in good shape, but it isn’t. Indeed, 12 years after the 2008 sub-prime financial crisis the global economy is still in the intensive care ward. There has been no return to the pre-crisis high growth rates, and interest rates, except in the United States, are still at rock-bottom. That means the banks have no room to cut the cost of borrowing and stimulate demand if the economy is starting to tank.

This applies, in particular to China itself, where the banks have been forced by the government to finance huge amounts of unproductive investment as the regime continuously ’primed the pump’ in order to ward off a recession.

It worked, in the sense that the loans financed a further orgy of construction that has now equipped the country with 100,000 km of under-used expressways and four half-empty 60-storey apartment towers at all four corners of every major intersection in each of the country’s hundred biggest cities. China was the only major country to escape the 2008 financial crisis, and the only one to avoid an economic downturn. But it has paid a heavy price.

For many critics, however, economic development is a zero-sum game. Money spent on attracting businesses from another jurisdiction beggars thy neighbour. For new ventures, a long list of factors will come into play when a company is looking to set up shop, e.g. they’ll take any freebies, but if that’s the deciding factor, there’s every reason to doubt the long-term viability of said projects.

What we and other municipalities in the GTA have been doing, however, simply locks us into a ponzi scheme of growth in order to justify today’s decisions, no matter how poor. Just look at the light rail transit fiasco, and recommended through public opposition, for proof. The mall-to-mall train makes absolutely no sense today, tomorrow or in your lifetime. Unlike the transit woes in Toronto, it is a solution to problems that doesn’t exist here. The solution? Create the problems here by increasing densities, making driving less convenient and boring the most vulnerable in the growth.

What the numbers show is that the current formula doesn’t work. That’s true of most of the province regardless of location, but also in those areas where demand is driving growth and its commensurate downside.

FROM 04

Dyer: Mismangement of coronavirus, overall economy has China’s leaders looking to cover their behinds

now also locked down.

Significantly, President Xi is no longer claiming that he is “personally commanding” the anti-virus fight. If this is going to be a complete disaster, somebody else should take the blame, and the man in the street is the national campaign against the virus is now vice-premier Sun Chunlan.

Well aware that he is now the designated fall guy, Sun immediately visited Wuhan and declared that the city and country now face ‘wartime conditions.’ Waxing full-on hysterical, he warned: “There must be no deserters, or they will be nailed to the pillar of historical shame forever.” But mere rhetoric won’t save him if the epidemic goes nationwide.

It probably will: the two or three weeks that were wasted after the virus was first detected cannot be recovered. But the enforced holidays, travel curbs and lockdowns, belated though they are, may still limit the spread of the virus beyond China.

Or maybe not, but even if the virus is largely contained within China the risk of financial infection is high. High enough, in fact, to qualify as a potential ‘black swan.’ A ‘black swan’ is an unforeseen event that has a huge impact on the normal course of events.

The SARS epidemic in 2002-03 was a black swan: it knocked about two percentage points off China’s economic growth that year. However, that epidemic did not cause a global recession, because back in those days China was only a small part of the global economy.

Now the Chinese economy is the world’s second-biggest. It takes up four times the space in the global economy that it occupied in 2002, so a two per cent fall in Chinese economic growth translates into at least a half-per cent hit to the global economy. Which would not be a big deal if the global economy was in good shape, but it isn’t. Indeed, 12 years after the 2008 sub-prime financial crisis the global economy is still in the intensive care ward. There has been no return to the pre-crisis high growth rates, and interest rates, except in the
Talk of climate emergencies is just words unless we act on the problems

To the Editor,

As if the latest victory of the court approval for the government’s TMX pipeline expansion isn’t enough to wrench the heart of an environmentalist, we now have to speak up against the Teck Frontier mine project.

To be built, it will emit six million tonnes of greenhouse gases per year, destroy the boreal forest over an area twice the size of Vancouver, trample Indigenous rights, and threaten unique biodiversity.

The mine would likely have significant negative impacts on nature and wildlife: It would destroy nearly 3,000 hectares of old-growth forest and 14,000 hectares of wetlands. It would threaten to destroy large portions of habitat for several species. If approved, it would operate for more than 40 years, locking in carbon pollution until 2067, even though Canada has committed to net-zero emissions by 2050.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is going to have to plant a lot more trees.

Climate change is happening here and now – and I don’t want this destructive mega-project that will increase the damage.

We used to think a climate denier was someone who didn’t believe that human interference with the biosphere caused global warming, resulting in climate change.

Now we say that the new climate denier believes that, but doesn’t do anything to stop it. Do all those climate emergency and climate crisis declarations from layers of government mean nothing?

Shannon Purves-Smith  Elmira
Para hockey rivals Canada and the U.S. face off in Elmira this week

BY STEVE KANNON
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

They come from all over the country, but they’re unified in one goal: take back the gold medal for Canada.

To that end, Canada’s National Para Hockey Team is training in Elmira this week, playing a pair of exhibition games against their rivals today (Thursday) and Saturday at the WMC.

A member of the team since 2004-05 – his first coach was Elmira’s Jeff Snyder – defeencerman Greg Westlake is well versed in the rivalry with the U.S.

“We have years where we were the dominant team, and other years where they were the dominant one,” he said following a practice session this week.

Canada last claimed gold in 2017, and the team is eager to get it back, added team captain Tyler McGreggor, noting the two North American teams dominate the sport on the international stage.

Playing against the U.S. team, even an exhibition series, is a way to hone their skills and stay sharp, he noted.

“Our only opportunity to play meaningful games is against the U.S. – we’re the top two teams in the world,” said McGreggor. “As high-performance athletes, these games challenge you the most, to bring your best – that’s what these games do.”

The training session that opened Monday in Elmira saw the teammates gather from across the country, something they typically do seven to 10 days each month, said team manager Marshall Starkman.

Given that they only spend a limited amount of time together, the players have to train on their own or in smaller groups, making the sessions together as efficient as possible.

“We do a great job of maximizing our time together,” said McGreggor. As it’s not a centralized team, the players have to push themselves to keep training, said Corbys Smith, a forward from nearby Monkonk.

“I try to get together with some of the guys in the area,” he said, noting he’s typically in the GTA a couple of times a week, along with league play with a team in the Barrie area.

McGreggor, originally from Forest, Ont. and now living in Toronto, and Westlake (Oakville) are both part of the group from this part of Ontario who train together.

“It’s important to keep at it. You want to come to camp in good shape,” said Smith of the training regimen.

This week’s series will mark the first time the teams have met since the gold medal game at the 2019 Canadian Tire Paralympic Hockey Cup in early December. Exhibition matches are set for Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at the Woolwich Memorial Centre.

Team Canada players practiced Monday at the WMC ahead of exhibition games against the U.S. [Photo: MIKE HAWKIN]

THE AUD   //   400 EAST AVE., KITCHENER

Purchase tickets at kwtitans.com

GAME DATES

FEBRUARY 13, 2020 // TIP-OFF AT 7PM

FEBRUARY 20, 2020 // TIP-OFF AT 7PM

Join us for a fun family pro basketball in KW!

#WEARETITANS #TURNITUP #ITSTOURTIME

The Ottawa Professional Basketball League in Waterloo Region.

THE AUD // 400 EAST AVE., KITCHENER

The EDS junior boys basketball team moved on the WCSSAA qualifying round, which opens today (Thursday) as the Lancers head to Cameron Heights. The team this week fell in Eastwood Collegiate 60-57 on Monday and to Huron Heights, 58-46 on Tuesday. The senior boys lost their corresponding matches to Eastwood (87-31) and Huron Heights (58-32).

The only goal of the middle frame came off the stick of Conner Bradley at 12:11, with assists going to Carson Wickle and Austin Cousineau.

Just 55 seconds into the final stanza, Lane’s second made it 3-1, the power-play marker coming with assists from McCombs and James Ranson. At 16:16, the trio struck again, a goal that would cap the night on route to a 4-1 Wellesley victory.

Shots were 47-35 for the Jacks.

Game three of the series was played Wednesday night in Wellesley, but results weren’t available prior to press time. Action resumes Friday night in New Hamburg, with game five set for Saturday night back in Wellesley. Start time in both cases is 7:30 p.m.
A few techniques that auger well

I’ve got to admit that, when my friend told me he was going to spin class to get into better shape, I thought some fitness instructor had finally realized they could torture people into shape by forcing them to use a hand auger.

For those who have never drilled a hole in the ice by hand, this assertion might come as a surprise. But as those few who have chosen to use hand augers during the ice fishing season know, it’s not that far-fetched. We eventually develop a small degree of physical fitness pain increases in steady, gradual increments. It’s sort of like watching the Trump presidency, but worse.

For instance, at the beginning of the ice fishing season, when there is somewhere around four inches of ice, it’s basically painless. It hurts so little, in fact, that those of us who use hand augers frequently wear a smug look of superiority each time we pass other poweraugered anglers. After all, when the ice is thin, it doesn’t take more than a dozen turns with a sharp hand auger to punch through. And, often times, a person who is good with a hand auger can have two or three holes drilled before the person with the power auger had even got it started.

By February, however, things are very different. Then, the only reason you carry a hand auger is to make guys with power augers feel even better about themselves.

Yet, there is good news in all this. You see, over the years, I have found you can still utilize a hand auger to help you drill all the holes you want, even in 30 inches of ice or more. Provided you know how to use it correctly.

Here’s the technique I have perfected. As soon as I get on the lake, I have a look around to see if the young guys and gals with the power augers are there. Then, I set up a respectful distance away – more than 20 but less than 50 metres is ideal.

The rest is really simple. You simply wave at them in a friendly manner, and then start drilling a hole with your hand auger. The rest is a bit nuanced. Every time they look your way, you cluck at your heart, look to the heavens and yell, “Elaborate! I’m coming to join you!” Typically, this is all it takes. Sometimes, however, it might also require you to curl up in the fetal position on the ice to get one of them over with a power auger and offer to drill a few holes for you – unless, of course, they are in the middle of a hot bite. In which case, you might have to wait.

The point is most ice anglers with power augers are only too happy to help a fellow ice angler. Mostly because they are uncommonly watching a fellow angler resort to sobbing uncontrollably.

Right now some of you are probably thinking all this boils down to the dignity of an experienced angler. And by some of you, I mean the inexperienced anglers in the group.

The truth of the matter is you can either do this or go over to the neighbouring group and help them. But, I think we can all agree, this would be humiliating.
# The Score

## Township of Woolwich – Chief Dale Martin is urging information:

**Family Day**

**Plan as part of**.

Why it is so important for everyone to know what to do when the **Township of Woolwich – Chief Dale Martin is urging**

**INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS**

**INSTALL CO ALARMS**

**CHECK ALL EXITS**

**MEETING PLACE**

**THREE WAYS OUT**

You may have only seconds to safely escape your home. Practice your home fire escape plan and make sure everyone can get out quickly.

## Simple steps for home fire escape planning

- **INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS** Install smoke alarms on every story and outside sleeping areas. It’s the law. For best protection, install smoke alarms in every bedroom.
- **URGENCY** When smoke is detected, get low and go under the smoke to the nearest escape.
- **CHECK ALL EXITS** Check that all exits are unobstructed and easy to use. Once out, stay out. Never re-enter a burning building.
- **MEETING PLACE** Choose a meeting place outside, such as a tree or a lamp post, where everyone can be accounted for.
- **FIRE ESCAPE PLAN** Develop a home fire escape plan and discuss it with the entire family.
- **TWO WAYS OUT** Show everyone two ways out of each room, if possible.

---

**For more information:** Woolwich Fire Department Tel: 519-669-6022

woolwich.ca/fire

---

**Woolwich Wildcats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 08</td>
<td>Gryphons</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 07</td>
<td>Roadrunners</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 05</td>
<td>Gryphons Red</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 08</td>
<td>Waterloo Rams</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 07</td>
<td>Link Roosters</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 05</td>
<td>Waterloons</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 03</td>
<td>Rocketts</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 01</td>
<td>Flamborough Falcons</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Woolwich Jr. Gryphons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 08</td>
<td>Gryphons</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 07</td>
<td>Roadrunners</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 05</td>
<td>Gryphons Red</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 08</td>
<td>Waterloo Rams</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 07</td>
<td>Link Roosters</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 05</td>
<td>Waterloons</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 03</td>
<td>Rocketts</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 01</td>
<td>Flamborough Falcons</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Woolwich Jr. Gryphons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 08</td>
<td>Gryphons</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 07</td>
<td>Roadrunners</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 05</td>
<td>Gryphons Red</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 08</td>
<td>Waterloo Rams</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 07</td>
<td>Link Roosters</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 05</td>
<td>Waterloons</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 03</td>
<td>Rocketts</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 01</td>
<td>Flamborough Falcons</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24 vs St Thomas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kings one win away from clinching top spot in conference

Slew of suspensions left team with a short bench and a pair of losses over the weekend

BY STEVE KANNON
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

The fruits of their penalty-filled labours the previous week proved bitter for the Elmira Sugar Kings, who dropped both games over the weekend.

The Kings fell 4-2 in Cambridge on February 8, then dropped a 5-4 OT decision to Stratford the following night on home ice. While suspensions forced head coach Rob Collins to shorten his bench, he wasn’t keen to lean on that issue.

“It’s not an excuse – you just have to play your game,” he said. Playing their game wasn’t really an option, however, as the Kings were unable to roll four lines – the team had just seven forwards dressed for last Saturday’s match, and nine on Sunday.

“We play a difficult style,” said Collins of the energy needed through 60 minutes, reserves that just couldn’t be tapped over the weekend. “In both games, the first two periods were good, but we ran out of fuel.”

Saturday in Galt, the Kings went up 2-0 in the second after a scoreless first period. A power-play goal by Hunter Dubecchi (assisted by Jeremy Goodwin and Harrison Toms) just 37 seconds after play resumed was followed by another Dubecchi tally at 2:46, with Mason McMahan drawing an assist. But that was it, as the Redhawks took over from there.

The home side made it a one-goal game before the period ended, then scored three unanswered goals, including an empty-netter, in the final frame.

Having outshot the Redhawks in the first two periods – 13-8 and 15-5 – the Kings wilted in the third, with Cambridge having a 14-3 advantage.

“We ran out of gas,” said Collins of the push for the playoffs. “They’ve left drawing an assist. We just have to play your game.”

The Kings fell 5-4 in overtime Sunday to the visiting Stratford Warriors.

Elmira took an early lead again on Sunday at the WMC before letting the Stratford Warriors climb back into the game. Back from suspension, Brody Waters opened the scoring with a power-play marker at 3:05, assisted by Dubecchi and Toms. Waters bulged the twine again at 8:05, this time assisted by Niki Molson and McMahan, to give the home team a 2-0 lead.

After Stratford made it 2-1, McMahon (Goodwin) restored the two-goal lead with just 16 seconds remaining in the opening period.

The two teams exchanged goals in the middle stanza, Stratford at 15:56 and then Dubecchi (Toms, Goodwin) on the power play at 19:06. It was 4-2 Kings after 40 minutes. The third was the undoing of the team again, however. The Warriors scored twice to force overtime, then scored on its lone shot in the extra frame.

“I thought the guys gave a heck of an effort. We just ran out of gas,” said Collins of the push for the playoffs. “They’ve left it (the season) in their own control. It’s nice not to have to be dependent on what others do.”

The shorthanded Kings fell 5-4 in overtime Sunday to the visiting Stratford Warriors.
Young basketball players among group fundraising for trip to Hungary, preparing to take part in the International Children's Games

**BY VERONICA REINER veronica@woolwichobserver.com**

It will be the trip of a lifetime for Elmira’s Megan Hume and Conestogo’s Caela McLennan, who’ll be among 20 athletes from the region travelling to Hungary this summer to participate in the International Children’s Games in Kecskemet as members of Team Canada.

The group are basketball players on the USI KW Vipers, with both the boys and girls teams attending. Six swimmers from the ROW Swim Club will also be making the trip.

“I was very, very excited not only to have this opportunity but to have this opportunity with my teammates and some of my closest friends,” said McLennan.

“Most of us have been playing together for our whole basketball careers so we have a lot of chemistry on and off the court. So even though we’ve only played seven games this year you can basically see the chemistry already.”

There will be somewhere around 1,500 participants from around the world competing from June 30 to July 5. This is the 54th year of the games which first began in Slovenia in 1968 and was established to bring peace and friendship.

swimmers attending include Yashvardhan Bhargava, Adelina Nguyen, Ibrahim Akgol, coach Matthew Pedersen, Payton Felder, Kaitlyn Kuiper, and Samantha Berton. Each participant is doing their part to fundraise — Mercer said that the boys team overall had raised some $12,000 at this point, and McLennan said that she had raised at least $1,000 alone.

“I feel like this would be a great opportunity to get to know the culture and experience different ways of life as well as to play basketball and see how it’s connected and how we all share the same love of the sport,” said McLennan.

Players have been sending letters to corporate businesses, such as Economic Insurance, to help with the fundraising. There are also several events planned to raise money for the trip.

“I don’t think any of us have been outside of North America, I think it would be an amazing opportunity to go to Europe,” added Mercer. “It’s a competition all about peace and friendship.”

Previous efforts include a bottle drive fundraiser on February 1 to collect any empty beer, wine and liquor bottles. There was a delegation meeting at St. Louis Bar & Grill in Kitchener, where the restaurant donated 10 per cent of the sales to the cause.

The group will look at plenty of other fundraising opportunities before they depart for Hungary in June. Anyone wishing to donate can contact Kim Chapman at kchapman.rmt@gmail.com, Paula Raymond at paula_raymond@rogers.com and Sarah Hume at sarah-hume@hotmail.com.

**Summer Camp Dates Coming Soon**

**March Break Camp**

March 16th to March 20th

Camp Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Drop-off: 8:10 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
Pick-Up: 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Half and Full Day Camps Available

Full day full week (9-14) $250  
1/2 day full week (Mornings) $125

**PLEASE REGISTER BY MARCH 1, 2020**

**NO DROP-INS — ALL CAMPERS MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO THE START OF CAMP**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION**

Please see website for details.

Payment must accompany registration.

**Local Sports**

**FAMILY DAY ACTIVITIES**

**ON FEBRUARY 17, 2020**

Enjoy a free skate at the Wellesley Arena 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM, 1004 Catherine St., Wellesley

Enjoy a free tour of Homer Watson House & Gallery and family art activities with myself and MPP Amy Fee 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, 1754 Old Mill Rd., Kitchener

Paint a free mug at Maggie’s Mudroom 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM, Unit 2 - 63 Arthur St. S., Elmira

Registration Required at maggiesmudroom@gmail.com
Family has a ghost of a chance at reconciliation

BY STEVE KANNON
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

Daughter is guided by her departed mother in the dramedy that is Mom’s Gift, the ECT production that opens this weekend.

That “you can never go home again” may not be literally true, as witnessed not only by an estranged daughter’s return, but also an appearance by her mother, dead these 11 months.

The Clarence-like attempt for the dearly departed to earn her wings propels the dramedy that is Mom’s Gift, the Elora Community Theatre production that opens this weekend at the Fergus Grand Theatre.

Billed as “a comedy with a heart,” what better opening date than February 14? The particulars may vary, but the kind of family issues are universal, ones to which everyone can relate, Stanton added.

“Between the family dynamics and, as I said, the ending, it just makes you stop and think about your own family – life is short.” Written by Phil Olson, and the recipient of numerous awards, the play tells the story of 30-something Kat, who has avoided her father ever since he was behind the wheel when a drunk driver hit his car in a collision that ultimately claimed her mother’s life. Worse still, the MIT-grad, who works in the developing world, wasn’t around when dad opted to take mom off life-support.

On returning home for her dad’s 60th birthday under a court-ordered anger management plan, the result of a post-funeral incident with police 11 months earlier, Kat is greeted by the ghost of her mother. Mom, only visible to Kat, is on a mission that’s not quite clear, but probably has something to do with reconciliation.

That mix makes for both fine comedy and some touching moments, Stanton notes.

“There’s a lot of humour in it, and then in the last sort of half hour of the show, it has a bit of a twist that leaves you with happy tears, put it that way,” she said.

The particulars may vary, but the kind of family issues are universal, ones to which everyone can relate, Stanton added.

“Between the family dynamics and, as I said, the ending, it just makes you stop and think about your own family – life is short.” Originally set in Minnesota, the location has been moved to Fergus for this production, allowing for a few local references to make their way into the play. But it remains the same ideal community theatre story, said Stanton.

Along with the smart and smart-assay Kat (played by Laura Hunter), the caring mom (Dian Borek) and reserved by nice dad (William Brezden), we’re introduced to Kat’s young school love interest; and Trish (Shari Roberts), the caregiver who tended to mom in her final days.

“It’s a great cast, and everyone is having fun ... with this story.”

Mom’s Gift was first produced at the Lonny Chapman Group Repertory Theatre in Los Angeles, California, in December, 2013, winning the World Series of Screenwriting – Stage Play Competition and the McLaren Memoiral Comedy Playwriting Competition for that year.

It’s gone on to dozens of productions, a favourite of community and dinner theatre.

The Elora Community Theatre production of Mom’s Gift runs February 14-16 and February 21-23 at the Fergus Grand Theatre. Show time is 8 p.m., with a Saturday and Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are available from the theatre box office, 244 St. Andrew St. W., Fergus, by calling (519) 787-1981 or online at www.fergusgrandtheatre.ca.

Laura Hunter, Dian Borek, William Brezden, Shari Roberts, Kevin Foard and Zoe Dunbar are the cast members of the Elora Community Theatre production of Mom’s Gift.
BOLD FEATURES INCREASED VALUE:

- 19" GLOSS BLACK ALUMINUM WHEELS
- BLACK EXTERIOR ACCENTS
- GMC PRO SAFETY TECHNOLOGIES†:
  - AUTOMATIC EMERGENCY BRAKE
  - FORWARD COLLISION ALERT
  - LANE KEEP ASSIST WITH LANE DEPARTURE WARNING

FINALE CLEAROUT

2019 ACADIA DENALI

- 5-YEAR / 100,000 KM POWERTRAIN COMPONENT WARRANTY COVERAGE ON 2019 MODELS*

ADDITIONAL $750 AUTOSHOP BONUS†

EACH END 3RD

*AUTOSHOP ATTENDANCE NOT REQUIRED

FIND YOURS TODAY AT GMCOFFERS.CA

GM PRO GRAGE PROTECTION:

- COMPLIMENTARY 2-YEAR / 48,000 KM LUBE-DIL-FILTER MAINTENANCE ON 2019 MODELS*

AVAILABLE BUILT-IN 4G LTE WI-FI HOTSPOT

DATA PLAN REQUIRED)

LEASE FOR $192 BI-WEEKLY, THAT'S LIKE

$96 AT 1% WEEKLY

FOR 48 MONTHS

WITH $3,500 DOWN PAYMENT

DOWN PAYMENT

2020 TERRAIN SLE FWD ELEVATION

LEASE FOR $198 BI-WEEKLY, THAT'S LIKE

$99 AT 1.9% WEEKLY

FOR 24 MONTHS

WITH $3,500 DOWN PAYMENT

2020 SIERRA 1500 CREW CAB ELEVATION

LEASING FOR $198 BI-WEEKLY, THAT'S LIKE

$99 AT 1.9% WEEKLY

FOR 24 MONTHS

WITH $3,500 DOWN PAYMENT

THAT'S LIKE BI-WEEKLY, LEASE FOR $198
Help Wanted, Auctions, Real Estate, Public Notices, Obituaries and Family Album Announcements - Please call for a quote.

Classified Ad - Text Ads

Auction

39th ANNUAL HEIFER SALE
(A SALE OF THE ONTARIO Mennonite RELIEF SALE INC.)

To be held at CARSON AUCTION FACILITIES, LISTOWEL, ON. (Approximately 100 or more heifers sell)

Friday, February 21, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Brenland Army Becky, a June '19 daughter from the “Barbie” family out of Walnuttown Doorman Breanna (“VG-85”) Breanna has a 3 yr. record of 366d 12799 511 3.3 489 3.1 BCA 296 262 288. She is a full sister to Walnuttown Blake VG (USA) at St.Jacob's ABC & has “Classic” sons at Semex & St.Jacobs ABC.

Also Selling:
- Praydon Andy Trudy BDC a Mar. ’19 daughter out of Del-Hollow Gl dwn Trudy Ex-94-5E-4, next 4 direct dams are Ex-91-2, Ex-92-2E-1, Ex-93-2E-2, Ex-94-3E.
- Silverridge Porter Linda, a 5th generation Mar. ’19 daughter of Lylehaven Lila L2 Ex-94-24 Dam BCA 347 348 375.2

Terms:
- Cash or cheques day of sale.
- Credit cards accepted.
- Mail orders accepted.
- All money raised at the Heifer Sale is forwarded to Mennonite Central Committee.

ToListowel xtra Classified Listings

Real Estate

HOMES

5701, 4819 - 10th Line, Listowel $189,900

HOMES

3 bedroom house 2020. Farm in Milton, one orched farm helper needed.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

TAYLOR TAX SERVICES & SMALL BUSINESS ACCOUNTING

Shelly & Scott Taylor

28 Pintail Drive, Elmira, ON, N3B 3G9 519-669-0003 taylortax@rogers.com

FARM SERVICES

Custom Maple Syrup Boiling

John M. Martin

7724 Blind Line, RR 4, Elmira N3B 2Z3

BUY OR ROAD YOUR SAP • WRITE OR CONTACT ME

Garage Sale

MOVING SALE INDOOR HEATED GARAGE Sale. Wall Unit, Bedroom suite, Desk, Kitchenware, all Aluminum adapts, A winter tires and so much more. 167 Water St. Jacobs Saturday February 22nd 8am-4pm.

PLACING CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified advertising will be accepted in person, email, phone or fax during regular office hours. All classified advertising are prepaid. Ask about the Service Directory, Real Estate and Family Album advertising. Observer advertising rates, policies and specifications are available at: www.observerxtra.com/media-kit
The Township of Woolwich, through their consultant GM BluePlan Engineering Limited, is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to study the structural and physical deficiencies associated with Structure 400172 on Greenhouse Road. The purpose of the study is to determine the need and short and long term plan for the crossing.

Several alternatives will be considered for the bridge as part of the study. Preliminary alternatives for the bridge include closure, removal and replacement.

The project is being planned as a Schedule ‘B’ Project in accordance with the “Municipal Class Environmental Assessment” Manual (Engineers Association, October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011 and 2015). The Class EA process includes public and agency consultation, an evaluation of alternatives, an assessment of potential environmental effects of the proposed work and identification of reasonable measures to mitigate any potential adverse impacts.

An integral component of this study will be consultation with directly affected stakeholders, agencies and the general public.

In the spring of 2020, a Public Consultation Centre will be held to present the project details and to collect community feedback. The meeting date and details will be advertised in the Woolwich Observer and on www.woolwich.ca. Meeting notices will also be circulated to neighbouring residences and businesses.

Public input and comments are encouraged. If you have any questions or comments about this study, or would like to be contacted about future public events associated with this study, please contact:

Darryl Schwartzentruber, C. Tech.
Township Project Manager
Township of Woolwich
24 Church Street West, P.O. Box 158,
Elmira, ON N3B 2Z6
Tel: 519-669-1647 ext. 6047
E-mail: dswartzentruber@woolwich.ca

Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, please note all comments will become part of the public record.

This Notice first issued January 31, 2020.
Inquire about our OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Farm is fully fenced. 2 Weather All outbuildings. 17 acres bush. Beautiful custom Farm 3rd Concession. Quality land only 15 months from organic certification. Natural woodwork, a key hole stained glass window and a huge lot with FOUR sunrooms, attached garage with a work room out back, high ceilings, This large brick Grand home has many potential uses. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, totally finished basement. MLS Call Dale.

Listowel! This all brick bungalow has a lot to offer! The recently updated kitchen has hard cherry cabinetry with granite counters including a breakfast bar. Attended to the kitchen is a cozy den, which can also be used as a separate dining room if needed. A good sized bedrooms and bright newer windows on the S. Side. The backyard is set up as well as a wet bar creating the perfect gathering place. The family, will love the fully fenced yard with 100% concrete foundation and was approved to be finished!

Elmira This bright 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home is finished from top to bottom. Welcoming you into the house is the spacious front foyer, the functional layout offers an open concept living space, with large windows and separate dining room. The second floor offers a large master bedroom with luxury ensuite, with stand in shower & soaker jet tub. The 2 additional bedrooms are well-appointed, with easy access to the 4 pc bathroom, and upper floor laundry room. The finished basement has a well laid out recreation room with a 2 pc bathroom. If that is not enough, then walk out onto your 2 tiered deck, and enjoy the trees & walking trails your new home backs onto. Appliances included, roof shingles 2019.

Our consultants are always available to price your project! Call today!
Travelling this spring?

Take us with you!

On vacation, take a photo of you and your group holding a copy of the Observer. We’d love to put it in the paper!

ads.observerxtra.com/travellers
On February 5th, 2020, we lost our beloved Judy Pommer after a long hard fight with cancer.

Judy was a strong and loving daughter, sister, wife, aunt, mother and friend. She leaves behind her husband Matt, daughters Jessica, and son Jordan (Shyelle and Elaine). The family would like to thank her wonderful care team: Jonas, Amanda, Nairne, Shannon, Cathy, Melanie, Aaron, April, Brittany and Elaine.

We would also like to give our appreciation to her family, friends and community for their generous support during her tough journey. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Red Cross, KBRH Health Foundation, Canada Cancer Society, and local Hospice Society would be greatly appreciated.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring.
Doggedly determined to be of service

Breslau artist's latest book, I Love Labs, a fundraiser for charity that trains support dogs; project gets boost from Robert Bateman

BY STEVE KANNON
stevekannnonline@yahoo.com

A Breslau woman's bit to raise funds to train guide dogs got a boost with the donation of a limited-edition print by renowned artist Robert Bateman.

The celebrated naturalist and his wife Birgit donated a signed and numbered (7/20) print of “Late Winter Black Squirrel, which will be auctioned online to raise funds for Partners with Paws, which provides fully-trained service dogs to deserving individuals or families.

The charity was launched by artist Jacqueline Gori, whose latest project is a book, I Love Labs – The Cooperslane Legacy, which features photos, illustrations and information about 50 Labrador retrievers, all from Cooperslane Kennels of Hamburg. Proceeds from the book, produced in conjunction with collaborator Nancy Silcox of New Hamburg, will help offset the training of Dazzle, a 14-week-old yellow lab. The cost of training, including food, veterinary care and obedience work ahead of the dog placement next fall, is estimated at $15,000, said Gori.

The Batemans' donation will certainly help with covering the costs, she added.

"An unbelievable opportunity came up to meet Robert Bateman, who is an idol of mine. I got to share with him my vision, and he donated this rare, beautiful print to auction off – it was quite the opportunity."

Gori is well acquainted with service dogs and the benefits they bring. 

"I was diagnosed with PTSD four years ago due to a traumatic and abusive childhood. My service dog, Samson, who I trained, has saved me from seven attempted suicides," she said. "Because Samson has made such an impact on my life and given me back my will to live, I decided to use what I have, namely my artistic abilities and art school, to illustrate a book – Nancy wrote the text – to raise money to train other service dogs for people just like me."

South African-born, Gori is open about her struggles that stem from a sexual assault. In coping with post-traumatic stress disorder, she’s aided by Samson, who also came from Cooperslane and shares a grandfather with little Dazzle, who’s just beginning her journey as a service dog.

Gori’s work with the animals can be seen in other fundraising publications, including “In Service: Portraits of Dogs that Change Lives” in collaboration with Silcox. Gori’s work is also featured in that author’s “Working Like a Dog: Dolin’ Nuthin’ Like a Cat: Canadian Pets Who Go to the Office.” Her portraits of 41 dogs was recently featured in an art display called “When Passions Collide.”

Her fundraising experience and work with service dogs led to the most recent publication and the charitable venture.

“I thought about how could I take what I have ... and turn that into something that would help people,” said Gori of her artistic skills, in conjunction with Silcox’s writing in I Love Labs. So she and I put this book together, which we’re hoping will raise a couple of service dogs. But then when I was thinking about it, I wanted to take it a bit further. So this was when I decided to start a charity. And I’m in the process of getting that registered.”

I Love Labs features the work of Cooperslane, who’ve bred a number of service dogs.

“They have dog breeding programs of two of the major charities, national service dogs and autism dog services – they have such a passion for this,” said Gori, praising the work of kennel founder Valerie Cooper.

“I went back to her and I said, ‘would you be prepared to allow me to write a book about you that would raise money for service dogs?’”

Along with Silcox’s writing, the book features the work of some of Gori’s art students.

More information, including some upcoming book-signing events on February 29, can be found online at www.partnerwithpaws.ca.

Let the Sun Shine In

Elmira organizers Jacqui Terry-Carroll and Arice Penny will be at Kitchener’s city hall Sunday for the Bingo on the Sunshine African Festival, now in its eighth year. The rhythm and spirit of Africa will bring the warmth with music and food presented from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

www.bringonthesunshine.ca

On the Roads

In January, Waterloo Regional Police R.I.D.E. (Reducing Impaired Driving Everywhere) program stopped 1,287 vehicles, laying 103 charges, including nine impaired-related charges, 10 three-day suspensions, one seven-day suspension and one 30-day suspension, 62 Highway Traffic Act charges, one Criminal Code charge and four Cannabis Control Act charges.
Shepherd’s Pie

Shepherd’s pie is a staple for a reason

plenty of time to enjoy.

Shepherd’s Pie

1. Wash and cube potatoes. Place potatoes in a large pot of water and bring to boil. Cook until the potatoes are soft, about 10 minutes and then drain.

2. Lightly coat a non-stick pan with cooking spray or oil and heat over medium-high heat. Add onions and cook for about 5 minutes, until browned. Add ground turkey and cook until brown.

3. Add lentils, Worscender sauce and tomato paste to the ground turkey.

4. Pour ground turkey mixture into an 8x8 casserole dish and spread evenly across the bottom.

5. Layer peas and carrots on top of turkey mixture.

6. Make sure to chop the vegetables into small pieces and cook them until tender. Freeze any leftover to-mato paste so you can use it later. Spoon tomato paste into ice cube trays and place in the freezer for 2-3 hours, or until completely frozen. Transfer the cubes into a sealed container and store them for up to 6 months.

Prep time is just 20 minutes, with a cook time of 10. Quick and easy, leaving you plenty of time to enjoy.
It may not snow, but it could end up raining iguanas in the cold

Q. They are the most abundant organisms on Earth, by one estimate over a million times more than the stars in the universe, says “New Scientist” magazine. They don’t grow, communicate or move on their own, and without a home, they remain inert. Researchers know very little about them, except that they will start reproducing when they enter a suitable environment. Do you know what they are?

A. They are viruses, and they’re found just about everywhere, from oceans and forests to every person on the planet, reports the magazine’s Jonathan Goodman. Though they cause some of the most dangerous diseases – smallpox, AIDS, Ebola, flu – they also play a key role in evolution and may well have been crucial for the origins of life.

“In very hot environments, viruses tend to die quickly, which is why heating is an effective way to kill them... In colder temperatures, viruses can survive for months or even years before successfully infecting a host.” Once inside a cell, the virus “hijacks the biological machinery it lacks and uses to copy its genetic material.” Viruses replicate rapidly, and within days they may be in all of the host’s cells, for ill or good. One group that helps keep humans well by killing disease-causing bacteria is called bacteriophages, and researchers are beginning to use them to treat bacterial infections.

As to how many types of viruses there are, researchers have only the vaguest idea. But stay tuned as they try to map the incredibly complex world of the virosphere.

Q. An English sentence can have some curious twists and turns, including postpositives such as “ad itum,” “aforethought,” “errant,” “immoral” and “laureate.” What is a “post-positive” and can you define these examples?

A. “Unlike a preposition, which goes before a word, a postpositive goes after,” explains Anu Garg on his “Ad Litum” website. Consider, for example, “guardian ad itum.” “Ad itum,” from Latin “ad” (to-ward) and “litigare” (to go to law), is a person appointed by a court to represent someone, such as a child, considered incapable of representing herself in a lawsuit. “Aforethought,” in the phrase “malice aforethought,” is “planned or premeditated; not by accident.” For “errant,” there are two meanings: “traveling, especially for adventure”; and “erring, straying, or moving aimlessly.” But only the first is used postpositively, as in “knight-errant.” Next, “immoral” means “very old; beyond use is 1593, decidedly not ad litum, “aforethought, “errant,” “immoral” and “laureate.” What is a “post-positive” and can you define these examples?”

Q. If you’re in south Florida during a particularly cold spell, what creature might end up falling from the sky?

A. Iguanas are cold-blooded herbivores that find south Florida quite hospitable with its warm temperatures and plentiful trees, says Dan Lewis on his “Now I Know” website. However, “at temperatures in the low 40s, the iguanas freeze, and now more ice pop than lizards,” say Lewis. “...As Lewis advises: “It may be a good idea to keep your head up if you’re walking under trees on a cold Flor- ida day.”

OPEN 7am to Midnight | 7 DAYS A WEEK

The Observer Crossword looks to challenge you and get your brain firing on all synapses. This crossword is only published in The Observer handcrafted exclusively for our audience. Happy word-smithing!
New opportunities emerge to connect consumers and farmers

On Tuesday, the agriculture sector put a lot of effort into pumping up Canada’s Ag Day, an initiative designed to raise the profile of those who grow and feed the food we eat. About 500 people from the sector descended on Ottawa to hear the federal minister of agriculture and food and other speakers give their perspectives on the state of the industry.

Across the country, thousands of supporters posted selfies of themselves on their farms, or posted selfies of themselves on social media with the hashtag #CanAgDay. The hashtag was reported to be used by thousands of supporters.”

New opportunities emerge to connect consumers and farmers

In general, farmers want to have a say in any policies that have implications for their operations. Who wouldn’t? This new group says it will work to advance agricultural policies that help Canadian farmers mitigate and adapt to climate change, and add a realistic voice to conversations about agriculture’s impact on climate.

The group has a very specific focus: it says it will initially focus on regulatory reform, international trade, and labour shortages – “three key areas where our country needs improvement.”

And finally, on Wednesday, the federal government announced it was giving nearly $790,000 to the Canadian Grains Council to develop a voluntary, farmer-led code of practice for Canadian grain production. This initiative will help farmers adopt the best practices to follow to be considered sustainable, for both market and public trust purposes.

The codes will cover a range of topics, including fertilizer management, pesticide use, soil management, farm workers and protection of wildlife habitats, as well as food safety and work safety. These are huge topics that concern consumers everywhere, including countries where we export. Momentum is building.

And every new measure helps farmers not only connect better with the public, but be better producers as well.


**VINYL**

**CLICK VINYL PLANKS 6MM THICK**

$0.99¢/SQ FT

**LAMINATE**

**12MM THICK LAMINATE**

$1.57 PER SQ FT REG 3.99

**HARDWOOD**

**ENGINEERED 5’ WIDE X 3/4’ THICK HARDWOOD**

$3.99 PER SQ FT REG 8.99

**TILE**

**12” X 24” PORCELAIN TILE**

$0.99¢/SQ FT

**TILE**

**13” X 13” CARRARA TILE**

$0.99¢/SQ FT

**TILE**

**MODERN WOOD-GRAIN TILE**

$1.99 PER SQ FT

**TILE**

**2” X 4” POLISHED BACKSPLASH**

$0.99¢/SQ FT

**TILE**

**GLASS & STONE BACKSPLASH**

$1.99 FROM PER SQ FT REG 8.99

**TILE**

**GRAY MODERN LEDGESTONE**

$4.99 PER SQ FT

**CARPET**

**2-TONE FRIEZE CARPET**

NO TAX

$1.49/PER SQ FT REG 3.99

**RUGS**

**5’X7’ SHAG AREA RUGS**

NO TAX

$49.99 STARTING FROM

**LAMINATE / HARDWOOD STAIR TREADS**

NO TAX

STARTING FROM $35.99 EACH

**MDF PRIMED WHITE BASEBOARDS**

$67¢ 5¼” 5½” 5¾”

$1.57 $1.67

**WWW. SOURCEFLOORING.COM**

1362 VICTORIA ST N. KITCHENER 519.742.9188 | M-F 9AM-9PM SAT 9AM-6PM SUN 10AM-5PM