U.S. edges out Canada in national para hockey battle

Squads play to a draw in the first of two exhibition matches in Elmira, with Americans taking the second 2-0

BY DAMON MACLEAN

In the natural on-ice rivalry between Canada and the U.S., the American para hockey team has had the advantage in recent years. That was the case again last week as the national teams took to the ice at the Woolwich Memorial Centre in Elmira.

After posting a 2-2 tie in the opening exhibition match February 13, the stage was set for a deciding game Saturday in which the U.S. team emerged with a 2-0 victory.

Beyond the score, however, it was a chance to showcase the sport following Team Canada’s week-long training camp at the WMC.

At Saturday’s game, staff and volunteers encouraged spectators to choose their seats facing the teams’ benches if it was their first time attending a para hockey game. For these sledge hockey games, the regular boards in front of the benches are replaced by glass so that the players can see out onto the ice when they are catching their breath and charging another player.

The two national teams, with players from across their respective countries, took to the ice after some pre-game practice, which appeared to be half preparation and half attempt at intimidating the other side.

The two national teams, with players from across their respective countries, took to the ice after some pre-game practice. The action got underway immediately, though neither team managed a goal in the opening period, with the U.S. squad outshooting the Canadians 7-2.

The first example of a penalty unique to the game when Kevin McKee got off to a quick start, scoring just 16 seconds after play resumed. Travis Dodson managed to bump a defender’s stick in front of the net, allowing the puck to slide straight in.

Then at 12:19 on the game clock, a brawl erupted between the two teams, it took all the referees and all of their dedication to tear the players apart. USA goalie Steve Cash was the first to throw a punch, he was also the first player involved in the altercation to skate off while the others continued. Roughing calls were made and handed out to Canadian players Aaron Halbert and Greg Westlake, as well as American players Cash and Ralph DeQuebec they each received two minutes.

In the third, Team USA got off to a quick start, scoring just 16 seconds after play resumed. Travis Dodson managed to bump a defender’s stick in front of the net, allowing the puck to slide straight in. With the U.S. up 1-0, it was still anyone’s game. The play went back and forth until, at 13:55, the U.S. added another goal, this time from Jack Wall. While Team Canada goalie Dominic Larocque stopped 13 of 15, his American counterpart was perfect in stopping all 10 shots he faced.
An aging population and growing number of dementia cases have health researchers working on numerous fronts, from medical to social. In the latter category, the Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging last week received $3 million in federal funding for a new initiative to address social isolation in older adults living with dementia in Waterloo Region.

The Supporting Inclusion through Intergenerational Partnerships (SIIP) project looks to address social isolation and bring different generations together. Federal Minister of Seniors Deb Schulte was in Waterloo February 14 to announce financial support for the project through the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP).

“The government of Canada is empowering vulnerable seniors by investing in opportunities where they can benefit from and contribute to their communities. This project will help improve the lives of older people living with dementia, their families and caregivers. It will increase seniors’ social inclusion and well-being, and make a meaningful impact in the community,” she said in a statement.

To that end, the University of Waterloo-based research institute will be soliciting public input and, eventually, requests for proposals to implement projects that could help keep people with dementia involved in the community.

“We’re trying to be creative in the way that we’re engaging older adults, like doing that [by] connecting them with youth in our community, creating meaningful roles for both contributing to society in their experiences and their knowledge, benefitting community,” said Neb Zachariah, the institute’s project manager for the SIIP program.

She notes patients with dementia remove themselves from society, taking with them their expertise and experiences. Pairing them with young people – high school and university students, for instance – can both keep them engaged and allow them to pass on what they know.

“We as a society and as a community lose without the knowledge of those people who have become isolated.”

With the funding in place, the organization can begin the process, starting with a public input session planned for next month in Waterloo. She wants to hear from people living with dementia, their families and caregivers, along with the young people who the project would be aimed at. 

Federal funding to boost dementia research in Waterloo Region
Judgment day for seven local maple syrup operators

Hopeful vie for “producer of the year” title at festival, with winner to be named later this month at first-tap ceremony

BY STEVE KANNON
skannon@observerxtra.com

And the winner is ... well, that’s still a secret. The winning entrant vying for the “producer of the year” title from the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival was chosen February 13, but just who supplied it won’t be announced until the ceremonial first tap on February 28.

A pair of judges sampled the maple syrup submitted by seven hopefuls during a session last Thursday at the Woolwich Township administration building in Elmira. Brian Bainborough, president of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producer’s Association, and Todd Leuty, a maple syrup expert with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, were the arbiters.

Of the seven submissions, one was disqualified because the sugar content exceeded 69 per cent – in order to qualify, the syrup must be at least 66 per cent, but no more than 68.9 per cent. Beyond 69 per cent, there’s a risk the product will crystallize, Leuty explained. The disqualified entry remained part of the judging, including the taste test, in order to provide the producer with additional feedback.

“They are all good. There’s none of these you couldn’t use,” said Bainborough about sampling the syrup. “There wouldn’t be one here that I’d be ashamed to serve to my friends and family.”

Along with the measurement of sugar content, carried out with a piece of scientific equipment, each of the syrups was judged for colour, visible imperfections and taste.

In this case, each entry had an amber colour – the classification is one of golden (light), amber, dark and very dark. Golden is the toughest to produce, while dark syrups are the easiest, said Bainborough, who’s not only a judge and educator, but has a 4,000-tap operation on Manitoulin Island.

The colour depends not only on tapping season methods, but the time of year and the type of season. The flavour and colour of maple syrup vary throughout the season due to the various changes that its composition undergoes. At the beginning of the season, maple sap has a high content of sucrose, whereas at the end of the season, its fructose and glucose content increases. Sucrose, fructose and glucose are all sugars, but each has its own distinct sweetness strength. Glucose and fructose have a sweeter flavour than sucrose. As such, maple sap collected at the onset of the season will produce syrup that is not as sweet as that from the close of the season. Leuty explained.

As with all sugars, the contents of various natural components found over the season can mobilize and to use the product – it can become more difficult to maintain social relationships. This project aims to reverse that trend, he explained.

“This project gives us the opportunity to not only bring our resources for people living with dementia to the community, but to also help foster partnerships and innovation across generations,” said Josie d’Avernas, executive director of the Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging, in a statement. Seniors are the fastest-growing demographic group in the country, expected to represent almost a quarter of Canada’s population – some 9.6 million – by 2037. More than 500,000 people already suffer from dementia; primarily a disease of older people, the number of cases is expected to double over time.

SCHOOLS TO CLOSE

The ongoing labour dispute between teachers and the province will see all schools close again Friday. The Ontario English Catholic Teachers’ Association (OECTA), who returned to the negotiating table this week, say they will continue rotating strike action on Monday if a deal isn’t reached by then.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

After almost nine decades of service, the soldier that once adorned the cenotaph in Elmira has found a much more comfortable home for his retirement: indoors at the Woolwich Memorial Centre. Removed from his perch in late 2009 and eventually replaced with a bronze replica, the soldier was put into the hands of craftsmen at The Stone Centre to undergo extensive repairs.

From the Feb. 18, 2012 edition of The Observer

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* Image 1: A pair of judges sampled the maple syrup submitted by seven hopefuls during a session last Thursday at the Woolwich Township administration building in Elmira. Brian Bainborough, president of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producer’s Association, and Todd Leuty, a maple syrup expert with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, were the arbiters.

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A long with financial insecurity due to inadequate pensions, Canadians have health issues to worry about as society ages and we live longer. The most alarming fears is dementia: the physical side of aging, whether aches and pains or more serious ailments, is one thing, but the prospect of losing a grip on one’s own reality is something else entirely.

In that light, investments such as the one announced last week for the Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging will become more prevalent.

The broad term dementia refers to a number of brain disorders, some treatable others still irreversible. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common among aging men and women; symptoms such as withdrawal, isolation and loneliness along with confusion are quite common in later stages. According to the Alzheimer Society of Canada, more than 66,000 Canadians are currently living with dementia, with that number expected to hit 97,000 before the middle of the next decade. One in 11 Canadians over the age of 65 have some form of dementia, and the numbers are only rising as the country’s population continues to age. Others remain undiagnosed, possibly due to stigma or other barriers.

Dementia also has an impact beyond the lives of those afflicted, particularly for partners and family members who are the first line of caregiving – those directly and indirectly affected amount to some 1.1 million Canadians. In monetary costs alone, the society puts the annual tab for caring for those with dementia at $10.4 billion.

Dementia is the most common type of neurodegenerative disorder, used to describe a range of symptoms associated with a decline in mental function severe enough to reduce a person’s ability to perform everyday activities. It’s caused by a variety of diseases and injuries that affect the brain. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common, followed by vascular dementia with Lewy bodies, and frontotemporal dementia; individuals can also have a combination of different types of dementia.

Mental functions that may be impaired include memory, communication and language, ability to focus and pay attention, reasoning and judgment, and visual perception. Emotional control, social behaviour and motivation may also deteriorate. As the condition progresses, the need for assistance increases, and eventually, almost constant supervision is required.

Dementia rates are very low among those younger than 65 but increase dramatically with age. The prevalence of dementia more than doubles every 5 years among seniors (from less than one per cent in those aged 65 to 69 to about 25 per cent in those aged 85 and older). Dementia is as prevalent among those 60 and older as heart failure (a chronic condition that develops after the heart becomes damaged or weakened), and is more prevalent than stroke.

The Public Health Agency of Canada estimates 7.1 per cent of all people 65 and older are living with dementia, two-thirds of them women.

Last week’s funding announcement in Waterloo comes on the heels of Alzheimer’s Awareness Month, with the Alzheimer’s Society continued a campaign to erase the stigma attached to the disease. The organization notes that research indicates one in four Canadians would feel ashamed or embarrassed if they had dementia. For three years now, it’s had people dealing with the affliction put the message in their own words. The “I live with dementia. Let me help you understand” campaign gives a voice to Canadians with dementia who are frustrated by the constant assumptions and misinformation associated with the disease.

Given the numbers, we’re going to have do much more than what we’re doing even today.

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**OUR VIEW | EDITORIAL**

**Needing for dementia research will only keep growing**

Last week’s funding announcement in Waterloo comes on the heels of Alzheimer’s Awareness Month, with the Alzheimer’s Society continued a campaign to erase the stigma attached to the disease. The organization notes that research indicates one in four Canadians would feel ashamed or embarrassed if they had dementia. For three years now, it’s had people dealing with the affliction put the message in their own words. The “I live with dementia. Let me help you understand” campaign gives a voice to Canadians with dementia who are frustrated by the constant assumptions and misinformation associated with the disease.

Given the numbers, we’re going to have do much more than what we’re doing even today.

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**GLOBAL OUTLOOK**

**On a path to a new Ireland?**

**BERTIE AHERN, who was the taoiseach (prime minister) of the Irish Republic from 1997 to 2008, was a brilliant machine politician, not a nationalist or an ideologist. In fact, if you asked him the word ‘principal’ in his presence, he might have to look up the meaning. But here’s what he said after the Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams spoke in last week’s Irish election.

“I think a border poll (on the unification of the Republic and Northern Ireland, which is currently part of the United Kingdom) is inevitable. If you ask me whether it is, I think it probably five years off at least … but it will be inevitable over this decade.” Are we about to see the final, peaceful solution to the 400-year-old ‘Irish prob-
The finance industry always extracts its ounce of flesh

More than half of Canadians won’t be contributing to an RRSP this year, apparently immune to the exhortations of the financial services industry that would have us render unto them that which is ours.

For many, there will be no such contributions or savings of any kind given that the cost of living leaves nothing to set aside. For others, it’ll be the cost of living beyond their means that leaves nothing to save, in which case the banksters will be raking it in through other means — they always get their pound of flesh.

But we can and should add an unwillingness to support the often-rigged financial services sector as another reason not to buy into the pre-March 2 hype.

Banks and related financial services are some of the worst offenders when it comes to the fiscal black hole — both as individuals and as a society — find ourselves in. Specifically, for the corporatism that has eroded the middle class, subverted democracy, fostered inequality, stolen billions of dollars and led to an unproductive economy where money and power is increasingly held by a small minority.

We saw what that brought in 2008, but soon forgot. Some of us are undoubtedly under the impression things got “fixed” after the meltdown, that rogue elements in the financial sector were curtailing. Yet, in fact, some of the excesses are creeping back in, both in that sector and in the wider corporate world.

Just as the financial instruments became so convoluted — and so far removed from useful investments — that few could explain them, the corporate world has grown beyond the scale of those who are meant to benefit from the system: us.

There are rumblings calling for transformation, some more radical than others. The shenanigans that is being reflected here as well. Yes, Canada was spared some of the economic impacts seen south of the border and elsewhere, but that’s nothing for which recent governments can take credit. We were sheltered partly because of our resources and, more to the point in a discussion of the economic crisis, by what happened previously governments refused to go along with the kind of deregulation we see in the States.

We weren’t, however, immune to the meltdown in 2008, despite what the federal government claims. Today, the reliance on resources, particularly oil, is coming back to bite us in the posterior.

Clearly we’ve learned nothing from the most-recent recession. Created by financial-sector vau-lace, unfettered corporate greed and compliant governments that championed deregulation, the economic meltdown has continued to be catastrophic to middle- and working-class people across the globe. Even though we’re technically out of a recession, the only people who have bounced back are the ones who were re- sponsible for the mess.

Far from being penalized, they were in essence rewarded for what happened, and appear quite content to keep on doing what they’ve done before. Perhaps they’re convinced they’ll continue to reap the profits while the rest of us will pick up the tab. A clampdown was warranted at the time, but the politicians, bought and paid for, made only noises, not regulations.

Those who argue that regulation only hinders capitalism — often the same people who vaguely equate socialism with democracy — miss the point of a so-called free market. The idea of a free-market economy is to let the market decide what will be made and how much of it, rather than the central planning of the communist system, for in- stance. It doesn’t, however, mean free from regulation. How many people would argue that business should be “free” to use slaves or child labour? That was once the case in some countries, but has since been regulated out of the mix.

Once we’ve established that the market is an artificial construct that we’re designing, we’re free to shape it in such a way that it provides only benefits to society, not harms. The deregulation that fuels the so-called recovery of the last few decades — think of the rise of globalization, monopolies and oligarchies and the resultant decline in quality of life — fol- lowed a postwar boom that was shaped by a market system that was devised with the broad public in mind. It wasn’t designed by any means, but far more equitable than is the case today. Deregula- tion killed that. New regulations controlling the excesses of the financial sector are needed to put us back on track. The same goes for removing corporate influence in the political process.

The system of trickle-down economics is what we’ve been living with for more than three decades and they’re paying the price for. It’s founded on the belief that what’s good for the wealthiest classes is good for everyone. Bank profits are at an all-time high, financial services are raking in billions and corporations have rebounded nicely. For the bulk of us, however, unemployment re- mains high, personal debt levels soar and the standard of living falls. But it’s the bulk of us that gets the benefit of these new regulations, no matter how much we’re told we need in order to pay for the profits of those who’ve done well — not coinci- dentally the same people asking you for more prior to March 2.

DYER: It’s the economy and poor governance, not nationalism, that’s driving voter preferences in Ireland

In the south, independent from the UK for a century and home to almost three-quarters of the island’s 6.6 million people, almost everybody is of Catholic heritage and mate- rial at some point more or less settled. Politics was domi- nated by two centre-right parties, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, which gave more than lip-service to the notion of unification with the North.

Nobody in the Republic wanted to hear about that. The ‘Celtic Tiger’ years (ca. 1995-2008) had finally made the Republic a prosperous place, after a long history of genteel poverty. Most of its citizens had no desire to see a united Ireland if it risked bringing the North’s chron- ic violence (‘The Troubles,’ 1968-1990) to the south as well.

In these circumstances Sinn Féin, an all-Ireland leftist and nationalistic party that operated as the political front of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) during the ‘Troubles,’ had little attraction for voters in the Republic. It was North- ern-dominated and linked to terrorism, and both of the major parties in Dublin refused to have anything to do with it.

And now, suddenly, Sinn Féin ends up with more votes than any other party in the Republic. What happened? This political revolu- tion is not driven by Irish nationalism. Few of the people who voted for Sinn Féin cared much about the North, or unification, or any of that old stuff.

They voted for Sinn Féin because they were fed up with high rents, housing shortages and long hospital waiting lists. Their only al- ternative was to vote for the same two old parties that have bided their time back and forth for a hun- dred years, so they ignored Sinn Féin’s IRA links and voted for it anyway.

Those links recently became easier to ignore because Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin’s leader for 35 years and simultaneously a senior officer in the IRA (though he always denied it) finally retired in 2018. His succes- sor, Mary Lou McDonald, definitely has no blood on her hands, and she was born in the Republic, not in the North. She’s vot- er-friendly, not scary, and she wins the votes.

Irish politics is clearly now a three-horse race, in the sense that Sinn Féin, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael each got between 21 per cent and 25 per cent of the vote. But that leaves each of them with fewer than half the seats they would need for a majority in the Dáil (parliament). Prospects for viable coa- lition-making were looking grim after the election, with both traditional major parties saying they would never enter a coalition with Sinn Féin. The only viable alternative was yet another deal between the two tradi- tional major parties — but that is what the voters had last revoluted against.

Now it’s looking a little saner, with Micheál Martin of Fianna Fáil saying that he’s open to talks with Sinn Féin. But the sheer tribal truculence of Irish politics is embodied in the very names of the Republic’s major parties: ‘Ourselves Alone’ (Sinn Féin), ‘Tribe of the Irish’ (Fine Gael), and ‘Soldiers of Destiny’ (Fianna Fáil).

It will therefore take some time to make a deal, but one will be reached eventually, and it will probably include a place for Sinn Féin. Mary Lou McDonald said it plain- ly — “We are going to have a unity referendum” — and Fintan O’Toole, the best Irish political commentator of his generation, explained what that means in his col- umn in the Irish Times.

“Whether or not they go where they were warned not to go,” he wrote, “and in doing so they have redrawn the map of Irish politics to include territory previously marked ‘Here Be Dragons.’”
In need of just one more win to clinch first place in the Midwestern Conference, the Elmira Sugar Kings claimed all three games over the weekend.

The Kings book-ended wins over the Brantford Bandits Saturday (6-3) and Monday (4-1) with a 2-1 OT win over the Brantford Kings, who had book-ended the previous day, the Bandits finally returned to the ice. A little more than four minutes later, the Bandits finally got one, a power-play goal of their own. Any hope of a comeback was squashed when Keaton McLoughlin replied for the Kings at 8:47, assisted by Goodwin and Leblanc.

Play was dominated by the Kings, who outshot Brantford 20-7 in the third, and 35-16 overall. Their playoff position decided, the Sugar Kings (36-8-0-5) play their final game of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League’s regular season Saturday night in Cambridge against the third-place Redawks (31-13-1-4).

TITANS SNAP STREAK

The KW Titans took down rivals London Lightning for the second time this season on Monday, edging the home team 108-107. Damon Lynn collected 26 points and four rebounds for the Titans, while Akeem Ellis added 21 points and three assists. Ed Horton had the lay-up that secured the win in double overtime. The win moves the Titans second to 5-22, snapping a three-game losing streak.

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conundrum comes in. If you decide to release it, this is your first mistake. If you decide to keep it, that’s your second.

Permit me to explain. Option one: Releasing a perch, especially a plump, jumbo like I caught, just means the fish gods will immediately notice you were leaving and stop by to pretend to be sociable but in actuality to claim the holes you drilled – and you will show them what you caught. Then, they will know that there are big perch in the area. This will mean that they will also catch a perch after you leave and in roughly a week someone will set up a big-monkey perch derby over the very hole you raised that fish through. So what is the upside? Well, if you are vague enough about how you chose this spot and forget to mention you were targeting rainbows, people will start referring to you as “The Perch Master,” which, let’s face it, is not exactly every angler’s dream but much better than “The Chub Master.”

Those who have never gone ice fishing will probably now suggest a fourth choice – just shutting up, hiding the perch under your tackle and telling passing anglers that you have been skunked. This sounds plausible on the surface, but as I said these people have never been ice fishing...

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EDSS performers take Broadway under the sea

Drama students get set for the stage adaptation of the beloved Disney musical, The Little Mermaid

BY STEVE KANNON
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

The tropics, under the sea or otherwise, seem like a much better place to be as we suffer through some midwinter weather. Way down south, or deep in the heart of Elmira, in this case, they’ve come up with a tropical paradise that’s all about some fun-filled escapism. This one even comes with mermaids.

Well, one mermaid in particular: Ariel, a.k.a. The Little Mermaid, on stage this week courtesy of the Elmira District Secondary School drama department.

For the one or two people not at least passingly familiar with The Little Mermaid, on stage this week courtesy of the Elmira District Secondary School drama department. The Little Mermaid takes us on an adventure as Ariel looks to leave her ocean home in favour of a life on dry land above – going from fin to feet, as it were. But first, she’ll have to defy her father, the king of the sea, escape the clutches of an evil sea witch and convinces a prince that she’s the girl with the perfect voice.

A Broadway adaptation forms the basis of this production. It’s something of a departure for long-time drama department head DJ Carroll.

“Thirt this is my 20th year teaching drama, so I decided I wanted to do something big,” he explained, noting the many shows that look at shows in the vein of the Wizard of Oz and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat before opting for The Little Mermaid.

“I’ve never done a Disney play or musical… so this is different.”

Most of his students, however, are more than familiar with the Disney universe.

“All the kids now, they grew up watching the cartoon,” he said. “People know the story, and they’re familiar with the music.”

As with the movie, the stage version revolves around Ariel, a young mermaid who is fascinated by life on the land. When she falls for a human, Prince Eric, her determination to be on land only grows stronger. Against the wishes of her father, King Triton, she makes a deal with a witch, Ursula, to make it happen. She is aided by a colourful group of undersea friends, including a stern Caribbean crab, Sebastian, her faithful fish sidekick, Flounder, and the goofy seagull Scuttle.

The theatrical version contains all of the songs from the Academy Award-winning animated feature film – including “Under the Sea,” “Part of Your World,” and “Kiss the Girl” – as well as three new songs from the Broadway show, which debuted in 2008.

For the EDSS production, Ariel is played by Hadley Mustakas, joined by Dani Scott’s Sebastian, Elias Gallant’s Flounder and Evelyne Jewitt-Dyck’s Scuttle.

“I love The Little Mermaid. Ariel is my favourite of the Disney princesses – I’m over the moon,” said Mustakas of her role.

“I have actually wanted to be a Disney prince,” laughed Zenker at a dress rehearsal Tuesday.

For Scott, the role of Sebastian may not have been a childhood dream, but she’s enjoying every minute of it now.

“Sebastian was one of my favourite characters in the movie,” she said, admitting “I actually want to be Ursula,” the villain.

“I prefer Sebastian now – he’s really fun to play.”

A live-action musical, the theatrical version requires more than a little magic to capture the spirit of an animated film. Costumes, lighting and props are used to create the undersea portions of the story. In this, the school has been aided by Drayton Entertainment, which has staged the show itself.

“What’s been really fantastic is Drayton Entertainment stepped in and loaned us some equipment, some technical expertise,” he said Carroll.

The EDSS Youth Players production of The Little Mermaid hits the stage in the EDSS gym tonight (February 20) at 7 p.m., and Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are $10, $5 for children 13 under, or $25 for a Saturday matinee family pass, available online at www.eventbrite.ca.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020 | THE OBSERVER

FROM ROBERTS: We can’t expect farmers to keep beating their heads against the wall, so some kind of relief is in order.

problems can develop that decreases their value significantly.

But sometimes, farmers can do little, if anything, to fight wet harvests. They can try to wait out a rainy fall and harvest later on, but if they wait too long for their crops to naturally dry, the crops can deteriorate standing in the field.

Farmers’ income depends on that crop. They might not be in a position to wait to harvest it and sell it.

Storage problems can be lessened if farmers use equipment called grain dryers to reduce the moisture content. Typically, these dryers are fuelled with propane or natural gas.

Last fall, with the incessant and untimely rain, many farmers had to harvest their crop wet. As a result, it had to be dried. And farmers are staining down the carbon tax for using fuel to dry that grain.

He introduced a private members’ bill Tuesday morning, Bill 206, asking for changes to the law.

He’s not alone. Earlier Tuesday a coalition comprising the Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO), Producteurs de grains du Québec, the Atlantic Grains Councils and the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association issued a statement asking Ottawa to provide relief now.

“The carbon tax on grain drying needs to be eliminated immediately,” says GFO Chair Markus Haerle. “Grain farmers need the government to reimburse the carbon tax bill for grain drying from 2019. Farmers have no alternative fuel for grain drying and cannot afford to pay it in the face of historical low commodity markets.”

The coalition says the escalating tax will make grain farmers’ bill for grain drying alone $100 million in two years. It adds that the cumulative indirect inflation of carbon tax on farm costs is already estimated to be $14.50 an acre, and that it will more than double in 2022.

The cost for rail and truck freight for shipping grain and fertilizer as well as fertilizer itself are all subject to the carbon tax.

Coalition members don’t think this cost can be passed on to consumers. And they also say they’re not getting any credit, tax or otherwise, for all the carbon they naturally store from growing crops.

On top of all this, the railroads aren’t moving their grain to processors or to port because of the blockades to protest pipeline development. So, there’s another punch in the gut.

These issues are swirling around Canada like a tornado’s waterspout. Ottawa knows the many ways farmers already contribute to greenhouse gas sequestration. It needs to consider how this effort weighs against farmers’ use of fuel.

But moreover, how can we expect farmers to keep beating their heads against the wall with no relief? We can’t. And neither can they.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020 | THE OBSERVER

FROM ROBERTS: We can’t expect farmers to keep beating their heads against the wall, so some kind of relief is in order.

problems can develop that decreases their value significantly.

But sometimes, farmers can do little, if anything, to fight wet harvests. They can try to wait out a rainy fall and harvest later on, but if they wait too long for their crops to naturally dry, the crops can deteriorate standing in the field.

Farmers’ income depends on that crop. They might not be in a position to wait to harvest it and sell it.

Storage problems can be lessened if farmers use equipment called grain dryers to reduce the moisture content. Typically, these dryers are fuelled with propane or natural gas.

Last fall, with the incessant and untimely rain, many farmers had to harvest their crop wet. As a result, it had to be dried. And farmers are staining down the carbon tax for using fuel to dry that grain.

He introduced a private members’ bill Tuesday morning, Bill 206, asking for changes to the law.

He’s not alone. Earlier Tuesday a coalition comprising the Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO), Producteurs de grains du Québec, the Atlantic Grains Councils and the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association issued a statement asking Ottawa to provide relief now.

“The carbon tax on grain drying needs to be eliminated immediately,” says GFO Chair Markus Haerle. “Grain farmers need the government to reimburse the carbon tax bill for grain drying from 2019. Farmers have no alternative fuel for grain drying and cannot afford to pay it in the face of historical low commodity markets.”

The coalition says the escalating tax will make grain farmers’ bill for grain drying alone $100 million in two years. It adds that the cumulative indirect inflation of carbon tax on farm costs is already estimated to be $14.50 an acre, and that it will more than double in 2022.

The cost for rail and truck freight for shipping grain and fertilizer as well as fertilizer itself are all subject to the carbon tax.

Coalition members don’t think this cost can be passed on to consumers. And they also say they’re not getting any credit, tax or otherwise, for all the carbon they naturally store from growing crops.

On top of all this, the railroads aren’t moving their grain to processors or to port because of the blockades to protest pipeline development. So, there’s another punch in the gut.

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But moreover, how can we expect farmers to keep beating their heads against the wall with no relief? We can’t. And neither can they.
2020 SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB CUSTOM

LEASE FOR $158 BI-WEEKLY, THAT’S LIKE:

$79 @ 1.9% WEEKLY FOR 24 MONTHS WITH $3,350 DOWN PAYMENT

2020 EQUINOX LT FWD

LEASE FOR $154 BI-WEEKLY, THAT’S LIKE:

$77 @ 1% WEEKLY FOR 48 MONTHS WITH $2,600 DOWN PAYMENT

2020 SPARK LT AUTOMATIC

LEASE FOR $89 BI-WEEKLY, THAT’S LIKE:

$45 @ 1% WEEKLY FOR 48 MONTHS WITH $1,795 DOWN PAYMENT

2019 BLAZER RS

0% APR FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS + $1,000 LEASE CREDIT

4G LTE WITH BUILT-IN WI-FI HOTSPOT, INCLUDES 1 MONTH OR 3 GB OF DATA (WHICHEVER COMES FIRST) FROM VEHICLE DELIVERY DATE

FINAL CLEAROUT

FINISH YOUR SHOPPING TODAY AT CHEVROLETOFFERS.CA

ALL ELIGIBLE 2019 MODELS COME WITH CHEVROLET COMPLETE CARE

2-YEAR/48,000 KM COMPLIMENTARY OIL CHANGES1

4 YEARS/100,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY*2

4G LTE WITH BUILT-IN WI-FI HOTSPOT; INCLUDES 1 MONTH OR 3 GB OF DATA (WHICHEVER COMES FIRST) FROM VEHICLE DELIVERY DATE

FINISH YOUR SHOPPING TODAY AT CHEVROLETOFFERS.CA

1 Eligible tax credits may vary by model. Dealer may sell for less. Factory order may be required. Limited time offer until March 2, 2020. Subject to credit approval. 24-month lease. 10,000 km/year. Security deposit may vary. 2.9% APR lease lid and 1.9% APR loan lid. Excludes taxes, licenses, documentation and registration fees, destination fee, title fees, fees and excise taxes. Void where prohibited. Costco and its affiliated businesses do not sell automobiles nor negotiate individual transactions. ®: Registered trademark of Price Costco International Inc. used under license. Offer may not be redeemed for cash. Conditions and limitations apply to the Costco Executive Membership 2% Reward. Offer may not be redeemed for cash. Conditions and limitations apply to Costco Executive Membership 2% Reward. Conditions and limitations apply to Costco Executive Membership 2% Reward. Offer may not be redeemed for cash. Conditions and limitations apply to Costco Executive Membership 2% Reward. Offer may not be redeemed for cash. Conditions and limitations apply to Costco Executive Membership 2% Reward. Offer may not be redeemed for cash. Conditions and limitations apply to Costco Executive Membership 2% Reward. Offer may not be redeemed for cash.
HELP WANTED

Niewland Feeds Elora

has an opening for a Full Time Truck Driver

We require a valid OZ license. We offer competitive wages, benefits and Monday to Friday schedule.

Email your resume to: info@niewlandfeeds.com or apply in person to Cliff at: 7660 County Road 21, Elora

HELP WANTED

Now Hiring for Full-time Dayshift Positions

Elmira Stone Works

The successful candidate must have a Positive attitude, Good communication skills, and a Strong work ethic.

Production/Assembly of Kitchen Appliances

The ideal individual will have previous experience working with hand and power tools, a keen eye for detail, the ability to assist others as required and a strong desire to learn.

Metal Polisher

We are looking for a metal polisher to sand, buff and prepare parts for Nickel, sand, buff and prepare parts for Nickel, that exhibits the basic skills to excel at this position. These skills include: good hand-eye coordination, attention to detail and the operation of various types of power tools.

If you are an individual who meets the requirements of either position, we welcome you to email your resume with employment references to: bab@elmiraestoveworks.com or drop it off in person at 285 Union Street, Elmira

AUCTION

CLEARING AUCTION SALE

975 Sawmill Rd, Bloomingdale (on the western edge) for Lyle Catt on: Saturday March 7 at 10:00 AM

CONSISTING OF a charming 1 1/2 storey, 4 bedroom brick house situated on the country on an almost one acre lot with mature trees, flower beds; garden and shed. Main floor has: large living room with window; dining room; kitchen; 2 piece bath; bedroom. Upstairs has 2 bedrooms all with hardwood flooring and 4 piece bathroom. Basement has an extra large family room with wood fireplace brick surround ; possible bedroom or office; workshop area; utility room. House enjoys central vac, aluminum roof. House is heated by a gas furnace; House also has an attached car garage and an adjoining outdoor, covered, in ground pool. Note: a gorgeous exception to country property with tons of potential! Property will be sold at 11:00 AM

CONTENTS 10 AM, riding lawnmower, house furniture, lawn and garden, hand and power tools


AUCTION

AUCTION SALE OF:

Pottery, antiques, collectibles, tools, JD riding mower, household goods and miscellaneous items.

To be held at the K.W. Khaki club, 2939 Naflzier Rd. 2 miles south of Wellesley, for John Wine, Brosela, Eileen O’Krafta, Rostock & George & Pat Davies, Elora, on Saturday, February 29th @ 9:30 a.m.

AUCTIONEERS: Janzi Auctions Ltd.

519-699-4451 or 698-0138

NOTE – See www.janziauctions.com for photos.

TERMS – Cash, debit or cheque with I.D. 10% down payment – All sale items followed by furniture (2 ring auction)
The Township of Woolwich has initiated a scoped review of the Township Official Plan. As part of the review process, public open houses will be held in Breslau and Elora as noted below.

**OPEN HOUSES**

- **Tuesday, March 3, 2020**
  - 4 to 6:30 pm
  - Empire Room, Breslau Community Centre

- **Thursday, March 12, 2020**
  - 4 to 6:30 pm
  - Community Room, Woolwich Memorial Centre

Following the Open Houses, a formal public meeting for the Scoped Official Plan review will be held as follows:

**PUBLIC MEETING**

- **Tuesday, March 24, 2020**
  - 7 pm
  - Township Council Chambers, 24 Church Street West, Elmira

The Township of Woolwich will hold a Public Meeting, under Sections 17 and 34 of the Planning Act, to consider an Official Plan Amendment as part of the Township Scoped Official Plan review. The changes are scoped to bring the plan into conformity with the Provincial and Regional policies. Details of this review are as follows.

The Township Council adopted the current Official Plan in 2000, which was approved by the Region in 2002. Since that time, the Province made significant changes to its planning policies and legislation with the approval of the following:

- 2005 Provincial Policies Statement (PPS), which was further amended in 2014,
- 2006 Planning Act, which was further amended in 2019, and
- 2006 A Place to Grow (PPS), which was further amended in 2017 and 2019.

The current 2014 PPS:

- Provide greater protection of prime agricultural areas and support and enhances the long-term viability and sustainability of farming and the agri-food network,
- Promote intensification in the existing urban areas,
- Address the conversion of land within employment areas,
- Promote alternative energy and conservation of existing energy sources, and
- Provide stronger policies to protect environmental features and resources.

The Planning Act changes:

- Allow municipalities to request various studies and pre-consultation requirements that would form a ‘complete application’ as part of the development approval process,
- Reduce planning decision timelines,
- Prohibit appeals in the context of private amendments to expand an urban boundary or remove any land from an area of employment,
- Allow municipalities to incorporate certain building design controls as part of the Site Plan Approval process,
- Make it easier to create additional accessory residential units, such as above garages and in basements,
- Increase the certainty and predictability of the planning system and help build housing, including affordable housing near transit areas,
- Modify the process and structure (from Ontario Municipal Board to Local Planning Appeal Tribunal) for adjudicating planning application appeals, and
- Allow the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal to make decisions based on the best planning outcome.

The current 2019 PPS:

- Planning for complete communities where one can live, work, shop and recreate,
- Provide for transit-oriented development and ‘walkable’ communities, with less dependency on the automobile,
- Require expansion of settlement areas primarily through a municipal comprehensive review,
- Provide greater protection of employment areas and consider requests, through a municipal comprehensive review, the conversion of employment lands,
- The potential identification of Provincially Significant Employment Zones,
- Meet prescribed density targets and managing forecasted growth through intensification within existing built-up areas, Greenfield areas, and growth centers (i.e. downtowns),
- Reduce the need for urban area expansion by placing greater focus on intensification within existing built-up areas in a compact and efficient form, and
- Protect, conserve and enhance the valuable natural resources of lands, air and water.

In 2015 the Region approved their new Official Plan (ROP) to conform to the Provincial Policies and legislation in effect at that time. The Region is currently undertaking a municipal comprehensive review of the 2015 ROP to bring it into conformity with Provincial policies.

Similarly, the Township is completing a scoped Official Plan review to bring the Plan into conformity with the current PPS, Planning Act and Places to Grow, as well as the ROP, where it does not conflict with Provincial policy and legislation. In addition, the Township is proposing minor site-specific and housekeeping changes.

A draft copy of the proposed new Township Official Plan can be viewed or obtained as follows:

**View / print the information from the Township webpage at www.woolwich.ca. Select Ongoing Planning Items / Scoped Official Plan Review;**

**Email planning@woolwich.ca to request a copy by email;**

**Phone Development Services staff at 519-669-6040 to request a copy by mail,**

**Visit the Development Services department at the Township Administration building located at 24 Church Street West, Elmira weekdays between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm to obtain a copy,** or

**Obtain a copy of the Information Report at the Public Meeting as previously noted.**

An information report will be available at the Public Meeting to provide a brief summary of the proposed changes. As the Official Plan amendment will apply to all lands within the municipal boundary of the Township of Woolwich a location map is not included.

Please be advised that Notice of the Public Meeting does not indicate whether the Township is in support of, or in opposition to the proposed official Plan amendment.

**APPEAL RIGHTS**

TAKE NOTICE that if a person or public body would otherwise have an appeal to the decision of the Township of Woolwich or the Regional Municipality of Waterloo to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Woolwich before the by-law is passed, or the Official Plan Amendment is adopted the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

AND TAKE NOTICE that if a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of Woolwich or the Regional Municipality of Waterloo before the by-law is passed or the Official Plan Amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

**NOTIFICATION**

If you cannot attend the meeting, you can express your concerns/comments about the proposed change in writing to the Township of Woolwich. Any comments received on or before March 17, 2020 (Note: that this date is before the public meeting) will be included in a report prepared by Development Services and presented at the Public Meeting. Any comments received after the Public Meeting, but prior to Council making a decision on the applications, will also be considered but will not be included in the Information Report available at the Public Meeting.

The personal information accompanying your submission is being collected under the authority of the Planning Act and may form part of the public record which may be released to the public. This information is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public at the Committee of the Whole and Council meetings. Please note that while the Committee of the Whole and Council may redact some personal information such as email addresses and phone numbers, your submissions will otherwise be made public in their entirety. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Records and Freedom of Information Officer at 519-669-1647 or 1-877-969-0094 ext. 6005. Should you wish to be notified of future meetings and reports regarding this application, please:

- submit a written request, noting that you wish to be kept informed, to the Township of Woolwich, Development Services, 24 Church Street West, Box 158, Elmira, Ontario N3B 2Z6, or
- email your request noting that you wish to be kept informed to planning@woolwich.ca; or
- register your name and address on the signup sheet available at the Public Meeting.

**SPEAKING AT THE PUBLIC MEETING**

The public is invited to speak to this proposal as part of the public meeting. However, if you would like to speak at the March 24th public meeting, please register as a delegation in advance of the meeting by contacting the Township’s Clerk office, on or before 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 19th as follows:

- Contact Sarah Goldrup by phone 519-669-6004, 1-877-969-0094 ext. 6004, or by email at sgoldrup@woolwich.ca
- Or visit www.woolwich.ca/delegations for more information on speaking before Council and to register through the online delegation request form.

Unregistered delegations will also be invited to speak at the March 24th meeting but will be limited to five minutes. Questions or written submissions may be directed to:

Jeremy Vink, Manager of Planning
Email – jvink@woolwich.ca
Phone – 519-669-6038 / 1-877-969-0094 ext. 6038

Township of Woolwich, Development Services Department
Box 158, 24 Church Street West, Elmira, Ontario N3B 2Z6

Dated at the Township of Woolwich this 28th day of February 2020.
Pursuant to the Planning Act and Ontario Regulations 179/96 and 200/96

On March 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. the Committee will meet in the Council Chambers of the Township Administration offices at 24 Church Street West, Elmira to consider the following applications. All persons interested in the applications may attend and may contact Nancy Thompson regarding meeting details or visit the Township Website — Township Services — Mayor and Council — Agendas and Minutes and select the applicable meeting date.

The Committee will also consider submissions for or against the applications if submitted to the Township of Woolwich no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 3, 2020 (Note: that this date is before the meeting). Submissions can be forwarded to info@woolwich.ca or by fax 519-669-6669. Any submissions received will be included in a comment package and presented at the meeting. Any submission received will be included in a comment package and presented at the meeting. This information is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public at the Committee of Adjustment Hearing. Please note that while the Committee may redact some personal information such as email addresses and phone numbers, your submissions otherwise will be made public in their entirety.

MINOR VARIANCE APPLICATION A 5/2020 — Annick Charbert, 24 Eby Street, St. Jacobs

ZONE / USE: Agricultural (A) – dwelling, on-farm business, two farm sheds and a livestock barn

PROPOSAL: The applicant is requesting relief from the calculated Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) requirements between a proposed livestock operation and an adjacent rural employment area in Wellesley Township as follows:

• from 216 metres to approximately 164 metres to the livestock barn;
• from 216 metres to approximately 162 metres to the covered manure storage area; and
• from 216 metres to approximately 1.0 metre to the existing location of a septic tank (as approved by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change) and a proposed livestock barn.

In order to permit the construction of a new livestock barn, the applicant is requesting permission to sever the property to reflect the previous property boundaries as they existed prior to 2008. Each property will have a lot frontage of approximately 15 metres and a lot area of approximately 650 square metres which conforms to the R-5 zoning regulations. The parcels merged in 2008 during a land transaction.

MINOR VARIANCE AND CONSENT APPLICATIONS B 7/2020, B 8/2020 and B 9/2020 — Carl and Rosanna Miller, 41 Holmwood Street, Winterbourne

ZONE / USE: Agricultural (A) and Settlement Residential (R-1) – dwelling, on-farm business, two farm sheds and a livestock barn

PROPOSAL: The applicant is requesting permission to sever a parcel of land for the purpose of creating a new residential property. To facilitate the proposal the applicant is requesting the following:

• B 7/2020 — to sever an irregular shaped parcel of land being approximately 2.17 hectares in area and having approximately 9 metres of frontage on Holmwood Street South, from 41 Holmwood Street;
• B 8/2020 — to grant an access easement, measuring approximately 9.15 metres wide by 107 metres in depth, on a portion of the proposed retained lands (41 Holmwood Street) in favour of the proposed severed lands and;
• B 9/2020 — to grant an access easement, measuring approximately 9.15 metres wide by 107 metres in depth, on a portion of the proposed several lands in favour of the proposed retained lands (41 Holmwood Street).

The proposed severed lands are currently vacant and have been rezoned to Settlement Residential (R-1) with site specific provisions. The proposed retained lands, being approximately 11.3 ha in area, contain a single detached dwelling, garage, shed, drivieded and barn.

SIGN VARIANCE APPLICATION SV 1/2020 — Willy Huber Investments Inc., 1872 Sawmill Road, Conestogo

ZONE / USE: Settlement Commercial (C-3) and Settlement Residential (R-1) – restaurant / retail store and office

PROPOSAL: The applicant is requesting relief from Section 16.7 b) of Sign By-law 35-2015 to reduce the required setback from a lot line abutting a street (Sawmill Road) from 3.0 metres to approximately 0.7 metres to permit the installation of a pylon sign.

NOTICE OF THE DECISION: Within 10 days of the meeting, a copy of each decision will be sent to owners, agents, those who submitted written comments, and people who signed the register at the meeting. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Committee of Adjustment in respect to an application, you must submit a written request to the Secretary-Treasurer — Nancy Thompson ext. 6040 or sign the register at the meeting. This will also entitle you to be advised of a possible Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

APPEAL OF MINOR VARIANCE AND CONSENT APPLICATIONS: Anyone in opposition to a decision may appeal the decision to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. The Tribunal may dismiss an appeal without holding a hearing if the appellant did not make oral or written submissions to the Committee of Adjustment before a decision was given, or does not provide a reasonable explanation for having failed to make a submission to the Committee.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) — Thursday, February 27, 2020

6:30 p.m. Public Meeting

7:30 p.m. GeoEnviroPro Webinar on Human Health Risk Assessment (Part 3)

Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
Administration Building, 24 Church Street West, Elmira
Elmira

This bright 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home is finished from top to bottom, welcoming you into the house. The spacious front foyer, with its functional layout, offers an open concept living space, with large windows and separate dining room. The second floor offers a large master bedroom with luxurious 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.

$729,900

$655,000

$644,500

$655,000

Thinking of Buying or Selling call or email today!

www.peakrealestate.com

519-747-0231

519-572-2528

Contact us by email: mildred@thefreyteam.com
call or text 519-590-0835

FOR LEASE

5158 A & B Amment Line, Linwood

$50.00 sq. ft. MLS #30775472

The building has a great storefront with street parking. A walk of variety of uses in the core of downtown Linwood. Great open area with office overhead if needed or convert to retail. This unit is now vacant and can be viewed at any time. Call listing agent.

FOR LEASE

1,821 SQ. FT. $10/SQ. FT.

4-112 Oriole Pwy, Elmira:

Large open space will allow for new tenant to make divisions as needed. All shelving has been removed. Owner is obtaining quotes to paint, remove half walls and finish the floor. MLS #10861168

BUSINESS FOR SALE

579,900

97-112 Oriole Parkway, Elmira

Stratford Laundry in Linwood. $5000.00 per month, 24 hour laundry

- Linwood. Great open area with office overhead if needed or convert to retail. This unit is now vacant and can be viewed at any time. Call listing agent.

FOR LEASE

$79,900

68-112 Oriole Parkway, Elmira

Community Services.

Open House: Sun., Feb 23rd | 1 /uniF6BA 3 PM

NEW LISTING

45 Arthur St. S., Elmira

R.W. THUR REAL ESTATE LTD.

office: 519-669-2772

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1,821 SQ FT.

$10/SQ FT.

Call or email today.

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13 PHOEBE CREWS, ELMIRA

$2,250.000

Roy Realestate

3rd Concession (Lebanon)

519.747.0231

office

137 Co. Rd. 11, Elmira

$79,900

580 AMENT LINE, LINWOOD

NEW PRICE

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**OBITUARY**

**BOETTGER at Forest Heights**

Bernice passed away, peacefully on Friday, February 14, 2020 at the age of 97. She will be greatly missed by her family at everyone’s generosity.

We have received blessing upon blessing. She was born in Wellesley 80 years ago.

**JANTZI, ELMINA - Peacefully surround- ed by her family at Becherer’s Heritage House, St. Jacobs, on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at the age of 98.**

**ROTHER, MARION - Passed peacefully to her eternal rest on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at St. Mary’s Hospital. Marion of RR1 Wellesley at the age of 87.**

**REBECHEK, GEORGE - Passed away peacefully at the home of Noah Bauman on February 17, 2020 at the age of 85. Alice (Freeman) of Noah Bauman on February 17, 2020.**

**KENT and Carolyn Martin are happy to announce the engagement of our son Cody to Chelsey Ward. Please come out and help us celebrate at their Stag and Doe!**

**Chelsey & Cody’s Stag and Doe**

**Saturday March 7, 2020**

Elmira Lions Hall 404, St. W. Elmira, On, NBl 189

* $20 + 8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - Macadi Jewellery, Signs, Elmira Meat Market, Pita Pit,

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Under the auctioneer’s gavel to provide help Down Under

Art collector Nancy Silcox sells off some paintings from her collection to help with relief efforts in Australia

After seeing the devastation from the Australian wildfires, a local art collector sold the first painting she ever bought on Saturday to help raise money for relief efforts there.

Nancy Silcox, a retired teacher and New Hamburg resident, said as an animal lover she knew she had to find a way to help when she saw the impact these fires had on the Australian wildlife. The best way for her to help was by selling some of the artwork she has collected over the years, she added.

“It wasn’t something that I had planned – it just came to me,” she said, adding, “It was easy. It wasn’t a heart-wrenching decision on my part. I thought ‘I could do this’ – I’m not wealthy at all, but I do have art and I can give up a couple of my paintings, so that’s what I did.”

The piece she decided to put up for auction is a 110-year-old Homer Watson painting titled “Cattle by Stream in Woods,” painted in the Doon area of Waterloo County.

“It’s historical value to the region was the reason she selected it. Originally valued at $2,500 to $3,500, it sold for $6,000.

Though she is still doing her research, Silcox says the money will be donated to WIRES, otherwise know as the Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service, the largest non-profit wildlife rescue and rehabilitation charity in Australia.

“I didn’t want it to go to a really large wildlife organization like the World Wildlife Fund, which is multinational, … because for a large organization like that you would really never know where your money is going,” Silcox explained. “You know it could go to publicity, it could go to salary or whatever, so I did some research ahead of time to find out who were actually there on the ground with their volunteers scooping up these poor animals and relocating them.”

Having originally bought the painting from the late Jim Miller some 12 years prior, she said the only way she was selling the painting was through his auction house, Miller and Miller Auctions, now owned and operated by his two sons, Ethan and Justin Miller.

“I contacted [them] and they were more than willing to forego their usual seller fee,” Silcox said, noting 100 per cent of the money made for the painting would be going to the cause.

She is also selling two other paintings from her collection at Cowley Abbott, which is a larger auction house in Toronto that sells art across the country. The money made on the paintings “Walking to Church” and “The Skaters” by Maud Lewis, a world-renowned artist from Newfoundland, will also be donated to WIRES. The auction for those paintings will take place over the next two weeks.

Among the pieces art collector Nancy Silcox decided to sell to help Australian relief efforts is “The Skaters” by Maud Lewis.
On the hunt for some tasty chicken

S
ome of us hunt for love, some of us hunt for our car keys, and some of us hunt for chicken. We never really as human kind even historically talk of the hunt for chicken, but certainly talk of the hunt for other fowl and small game such as rabbit (which of course tastes just like chicken). “Cacciatore” means “in the style of the hunter.”

The origin of the dish goes back to the Renaissance period somewhere in central Italy, a great time in history with extreme poverty, the black plague etc., but we were civilized enough to have class systems.

Hunting was evolving from necessity to a sport or leisure activity for the well to do. Whilst out hunting pheasant or quail, they would also collect wild mushrooms, herbs, and flavoured plants and the cook’s job would be to make a tasty stew out of all of the offerings. He would often add tomatoes or olives, as the acidity would help to break down the toughness of the meat. They would then serve it up in a cup with a piece of crusty bread to use as an eating tool, as silverware did not yet exist. It was the first biodegradable cutlery.

This Chicken Cacciatore will be a demo-and-dine dish here on Wednesday, in fact. There may even be cutlery!

### Chicken Cacciatore

1. Dredge chicken pieces in seasoned flour and sauté in butter/oil combination until lightly browned, then remove from pan.
2. Sauté vegetables in the same pan until starting to colour, and deglaze with wine and tomatoes.
3. Return chicken to pan and place in 350 F oven for a good hour or until cooked and tender.
4. Serve with pasta or rice.

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**CHEF’S TABLE**

**CHEF DUFF**

Chef Bruce Duff is the operator of Chef Duff at Rosedale’s, Banquet hall, Cafe and Culinary Centre just outside of St. Jacobs, which hosts private events, banquets, team building and cooking classes and also run breakfast and lunch in the cafe from Wed. – Sat. Info: chefduff.ca.

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**COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

- **Kleensweep Carpet Care**
  - Design + Installation
  - Custom Fabrication

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**MATERIAL HANDLING & PROCESSING SYSTEMS**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

- **UNDERSTANDING SENIORS CONSUMERS PROTECTION, Rights & Scams**
  - Join us at 1:30 p.m. at Woolwich Community Health Centre, St. Jacobs, to learn more about how to protect yourself from common scams and identity theft, plus many other concerns. Facilitated by Kristen Thompson, staff lawyer, Waterloo Region Community Legal Services.

**M&G MILLRIGHTS LTD.**

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**COMMERCIAL FUEL DEPOT**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

- **SENIORS’ COMMUNITY DINING AT LINWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE**
  - Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for lunch, fellowship and entertainment. Call 519-664-1900 by noon Feb. 24 to sign up.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3**

- **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE AT ST. TERESA OF AVILA CHURCH, ELMIRA**
  - 7 p.m. Join members of some of the Elmira churches for an Ecumenical Prayer Service created by the women of Zimbabwe on the theme “Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk!”, Med with food, scripture, prayer and even some Zimbabwean treats. Free-will offering.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3**

- **UNDERSTANDING SENIORS’ COMMUNITY DINING AT LINWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE**
  - Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for lunch, fellowship and entertainment. Call 519-664-1900 by noon Feb. 24 to sign up.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7**

- **COME LET’S BE SINGING 2020! CHILDREN IN GRADES 1-3**
  - Invited to join the Inter-Mennonite Children’s Choir Training Choir for an afternoon of singing from 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. at W-K United Mennonite Church. Visit www.mennonisters.com/imcc or imcc.conductor@rogers.com.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11**

- **ASING WELL IN WOOLWICH - INFORMATION & ACTIVE LIVING Fair at Calvary United Church, 9 a.m. Special guest speaker: Raymond Cho, Ontario Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. Vendors, exercise demonstrations, speakers, door prizes. Please contact Community Care Concepts, 519-664-1900 to RSVP.**

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 ad.observeron.ca/event/scheduling/
The Wellesley Applejacks are up 3-2 in their best-of-seven series against the New Hamburg Firebirds, having claimed two of this week’s three games in the first round of the PJHL playoffs.

The Jacks went up 2-1 in the series with a victory February 12, extending that to 3-1 last Friday night before the Firebirds turned the tables the following night.

In game three at the Wellesley arena, the Jacks essentially put the game away in the first period. Goals from Shaun Pickering (assisted by Gianfranco Commissio) at 1:17, Justin McCombs (Kyle Fischer, Owen Lane) at 2:57 and Zach Ribeiro (Matt Cas-kanette) at 15:54 gave the home team a 3-0 lead after 20 minutes.

Just 50 seconds after play resumed it was 4-0 courtesy of Warren Gorman, assisted by Zack Lyons and James Ranson.

New Hamburg’s Kolton Mooney got the visitors on the board two minutes later. It would stay 3-1 after one.

The Jacks will be looking to seal the series and were rewarded with goals from McCombs (Gorman) at 16:31 and a power-play marker from Lane (Ranson, Lyons) at 19:41.

In the second, Lane made it 3-0 with an individual effort at 6:39. Three minutes later, the Firebirds started to make a game of it. Goals from Matt Larochelle and Riley Benko in the second made it 3-2 after 40 minutes.

The Firebirds completed the comeback less than a minute and half after the final frame with a goal off the stick of Matt Mercier that made it 3-3. It would remain locked up until 13:16, when the Jacks opened the floodgates.

Lyons (Ranson, Lane) put the Jacks ahead to stay, followed by goals from Gorman (Austen Cousineau) at 17:35 and Ribeiro (Lane) at 18:32 to salt away the 6-3 victory.

Up 3-1 and looking to send the Firebirds packing, the Jacks weren’t able to seal the first-round deal Saturday night in Wellesley. This time, it was New Hamburg that took the quick lead the visitors would never relinquish. Just 53 seconds in and enjoying a man-advantage, the Firebirds were up 1-0 thanks to Quinn Bischof. A couple minutes later, New Hamburg was right back at it, with Ryan George scoring at 2:49. The rest of the period went back in forth without any more scoring – it was 2-0 after one.

Zach Mark made it 3-0 for the visitors before the Firebirds finally got on the board with a goal from McCombs (Lyons, Gorman) at 14:50. It would stay 3-1 when the period ended.

The same trio got Wellesley within one with a power-play goal 43 seconds after the game resumed. But that was it, as New Hamburg’s Cole Stannix at 50:50 rounded out the 4-2 loss.

The Jacks will be looking to claim the series on the road Friday night at the Wilmot arena. Failing that, game seven is set for Saturday night in Wellesley. The puck drops at 9 p.m. in both instances.

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FEBRUARY 20-23 4 DAYS ONLY!

**THUR** 9-9  **FRI** 9-9  **SAT** 9-6  **SUN** 10-5

### Vinyl
- **Click Vinyl Planks 6mm Thick**
  - **Price:** $0.99 per sq ft
  - **Regular Price:** $2.99

### Laminate
- **12mm Thick Laminate**
  - **Price:** $1.57 per sq ft
  - **Regular Price:** $3.99

### Tile
- **Class & Stone Backsplash**
  - **Price:** $1.99 per sq ft
  - **Regular Price:** $8.99

### Tile
- **12" X 24" Porcelain Tile**
  - **Price:** $0.99 per sq ft
  - **Regular Price:** $2.99

### Hardwood
- **Engineered Click Handscraped Hardwood**
  - **Price:** $2.99 per sq ft
  - **Regular Price:** $5.99

### Hardwood
- **Engineered 5" Wide x 3/4" Thick Hardwood**
  - **Price:** $3.99 per sq ft
  - **Regular Price:** $8.99

### Stone
- **Modern Wood-Grain Tile**
  - **Price:** $1.99 per sq ft

### Carpet
- **2-Tone Frieze Carpet**
  - **Price:** $1.49 per sq ft
  - **Regular Price:** $3.99

### Rugs
- **5'X7' Shag Area Rugs**
  - **Price:** $49.99

### Laminate / Hardwood
- **Stair Treads**
  - **Starting Price:** $35.99 each
  - **Regular Price:** $89.99

### MDF Primed White Baseboards
- **67¢ $1.57 $1.67**

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