Region looks at photo radar

Enabled by provincial legislation, the technology is being touted as an option to improve safety in school zones

Easing up on the gas pedal might be a good New Year’s resolution for 2020, as the region contemplates bringing back photo radar.

Running with provincial regulations that allow the use the technology – referred to as automated speed enforcement (ASE) rather than the photo radar term that became unsavoury to the public last time it was rolled out – in school and community safety zones, regional staff are currently drafting a report for councillors to consider early this year.

The move is seen as a way to boost safety by reducing speeding, says Bob Henderson, the region’s manager of transportation engineering.

School zones are likely the first target, with costs being a factor in curtailling a larger rollout of the technology.

“They’d be there ... to better protect our most vulnerable residents,” said Henderson.

Cameras that automatically track cars speeding through school zones would reduce the possibility of collisions, making the areas safer for pedestrians and bicyclists, he added, noting that while there hasn’t been a rash of collisions to date, the ASE program is about preventing future incidents.

The region does receive a number of complaints about speeding.

“Speed has been a concern in all municipalities in the region for quite some time,” said Henderson. “I’m not aware of one road that doesn’t generate speeding complaints.”

That’s true in Woolwich, as well, where speeding issues are perhaps the main reason council members hear from the public, said Mayor Sandy Shantz.

“It’s probably the most common complaint,” she said, noting there are many issues with the way some people drive.

In that light, the photo radar scheme might be warranted, she said.
 NOTICE OF PASSING
MUNICIPAL-WIDE DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW

TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY

By-Law No. 55/2019

RESIDENTIAL (per unit) NON-RESIDENTIAL

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Municipal Wide Services</th>
<th>Roads and Related</th>
<th>Fire Protection Services</th>
<th>Parks and Recreation Services</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The schedule of development charges imposed by the by-law, which comes into effect on January 1, 2020, is as follows:

SCHEDULE B

The provincial government has decreed an incredible organization that has offered me many rewarding experiences and friendships.

"When it wasn't an easy decision to make, it was the right decision," he said.

A copy of the proposed fees and charges will be available for review in the Council and Administrative Services Office, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, 2nd Floor, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener.

The Region of Waterloo intends to pass a By-law to Establish Fees and Charges which includes new fees and charges, as well as amendments and/or removal of existing fees and charges. Some of the changes included in the by-law are for transit services, waste management services, legal services, airport services, Sunnyside Home programs and amenities, cultural services and paramedic services.

On Friday, January 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., the Regional Municipality of Waterloo Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Administration Building 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener will hold a Special Council meeting to receive and consider the proposed 2020 Budget. A copy of the proposed fees and charges will be available for review in the Council and Administrative Services Office, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, 2nd Floor, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener. If you have questions concerning the amendments, please contact Emily Dykeman at 519-575-4757 ext. 3107 or at edykeman@regionofwaterloo.ca.

If you wish to speak at the Special Council meeting regarding the proposed 2020 Fees and Charges by-law, please register as a delegation with the Regional Council and Administrative Services Division at 519-575-4400 or at regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2020. If you require accessible services to participate please contact the Council and Administrative Services Division at least five days in advance of the meeting.

This notice is in accordance with the "Municipal Act, 2001", as amended.

Kris Fletcher, Director, Council and Administrative Services/Regional Clerk

All comments and information received from individuals, stakeholder groups and agencies regarding this by-law are being collected to assist the Region of Waterloo in making a decision. Under the "Municipal Act", personal information such as name, address, telephone number, and property location that may be included in a submission becomes part of the public record. Questions regarding the collection of this information should be referred to Council and Administrative Services.

3175514
Deep freezes, thaws and flooding marked 2019

Environment Canada releases its top-ten weather stories for the year, covering events country-wide

BY STEVE KANNON
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

Forget the scandals, elections and impeachment, the most common talking points in 2019 was undoubtedly the weather.

Complaining about it, in particular, is the great Canadian pastime.

And we had much to complain about last year, as evidenced by Environment Canada’s top-ten weather stories, compiled by senior climatologist David Phillips. The list includes flood conditions, a February deep freeze and record heat in the Arctic.

Closer to home, there was a February marked by a cold-melt-flash-freeze cycle, two rainstorms lead to major spring flooding along the Grand River basin, and record high-water flooding along the Great Lakes.

Phillips has been putting together the annual compilation for 24 years, something that’s become a “worst-dressed list” of weather incidents.

“It’s a chance to relive some of the misery, hardship and misfortune,” he says.

In the early days of the top-ten lists, he notes, there were some good news items in the mix, but the weather has become more variable, leading to more negative incidents.

Climate models suggest that’s a trend destined to continue. We certainly saw some more extremes in the weather in 2019. In these parts, the year was noted for one of the coldest Februaries in decades, followed by a disappointing spring, the result of a polar vortex that lingered past April. Persistent northerly and westerly winds kept spring air cold with ample overcast skies, cold rain, and even snow at times. Spring was colder than normal from Alberta to Atlantic Canada, Phillips notes.

“Over the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin, spring was the second coldest in 22 years. Simply, most Canadians had to wait until summer for spring’s arrival. The lack of sun and warmth and weeks of continuous rains caused concern among farmers, gardeners and golfers: spring might have been the cruelest season ever this year. On the first day of summer, many fields and golf greens in the East were either under water or still saturated from non-stop rains.”

The weather was especially problematic for farmers, he adds, noting that by the long weekend in May, less than five percent of Ontario’s crop was in the ground. “Some seeds were sown but nothing was growing except grass.”

The wet weather that put a damper on spring started to wreak havoc earlier in the year, including along the Grand River, says Phillips, describing last winter in this area as “a lexicon of weather opportunities.”

“We were all over the map, with February freezing followed by a quick thaw and then a flash freeze again. That led to flooding as ice chunks formed dams in the river. Large amounts of rain that couldn’t be absorbed into the ground created yet more problems. “The bomb cyclones brought huge amounts of rain on frozen ground – the ground wasn’t ready for that,” he says, noting flash flooding is fairly new to southern Ontario, but becoming more common.

“We’re seeing some of that now.” We can also expect more flooding issues and the likes of freezing rain as temperatures rise.

Those warming temperatures aren’t not going to make us the Miami of the north, he says, but when the thermometer that usually hovers around minus-8 degrees starts showing minus-2, there’s an impact because weather that dances around the freezing mark makes conditions less predictable.

How it plays out remains to be seen, with Phillips undoubtedly having many episodes to wade through at this time next year.

“I’m anxious for next year – it’ll be the 25th year,” he said, musing that he may look back over the past quarter-century to identify any trends for the next list.

Canada’s Top Ten Weather Stories of 2019 are ranked from 1 to 10, according to factors that include the impact they had on Canada and Canadians, the extent of the affected area, economic impacts, and longevity as a top news story.

Environment and Climate Change Canada’s top ten weather stories of 2019:

1. Another record-setting Ottawa River flood
2. Active hurricane season as predicted
3. sNo-good Prairie fall
4. A brutal February in Canada
5. Record heat continues in Arctic
6. On the Prairies...Too dry early, too wet later
7. Weather witch stole Halloween
8. Spring missing in the East
9. Saint John River floods again
10. Fewer fires, more burning
Local women leverage their financial strength in numbers

They say many hands make light work, and putting that theory to the test is a new community initiative being organized in the Townships of Woolwich. The 100 Woolwich Women Who Care are coming together to pool the combined resources of women across the community to support local initiatives. The group got up and running ahead of an inaugural meeting the following month.

Sugar Kings abruptly fire head coach

It’s not usual to see teams make tweaks and revisions to their rosters late in the season in search of the game-winning combination. But, the Elmira Sugar Kings seemed to signal a much more drastic shakeup on the bench with the removal of head coach Trent Brown.

With just under 20 games left in the season, the decision came as a surprise to Brown, who had been on the team’s coaching staff since 2013.

Wellesley opts in to province’s new framework for cannabis retail stores

While Wellesley is unlikely to see any pot dispensaries in the foreseeable future, the township opted in to the province’s new plan for retail cannabis shops. The decision by Wellesley council was part of a region-wide strategy to deal with the legalization of recreational marijuana and the new Cannabis Licence Act.

Allen D. Martin succumbs to lengthy illness

A teacher, raconteur – and someone who always had a joke at the ready – Allen D. Martin was known by many people in the area. It was no surprise, then, that there were plenty of stories as part of the outpouring that followed his death Jan. 9 at the age of 75. A man with a wealth of talents and a determination to share them all, Martin’s indefatigable zest for life would be steadily tempered by the relentless onset of the neurodegenerative Parkinson’s Disease. Diagnosed at age 50, Martin would continue to fight the exacting illness for the rest of his life.

Woolwich opts in to cannabis plan

Joining other municipalities in the region, Woolwich opted in to the province’s marijuana plan, allowing the option of retail cannabis sales in the township.

Meeting Jan. 15, councillors discussed the benefits of having some control over the process outweigh the potential downside.

Woolwich reacts to Bill 66

Following the lead of other local municipalities, Woolwich council recommended the provisions of the province’s Bill 66. Mostly.

The omnibus bill, known as the Restoring Ontario’s Competitiveness Act, has been decried by community and environmental groups as a way to circumvent years and decades of protections for clean water and land-use planning. Specifically, section 10 of the bill would effectively permit individual municipalities to exempt development projects from the Clean Water Act and the Places to Grow policy, removing needed constraints for public consultation and oversight to boot.

Selling an advisor to the province

What started as Doug Ford’s attempt to block former PC leader Patrick Brown’s bid to lead Peel Region expanded into a formal review in nine upper-tier jurisdictions in Ontario, an effort that will include input from former Waterloo Region chair Ken Seiling.

The Elmira resident, who retired in 2018 after 40 years in local politics, was named one of two advisors who are to provide advice/recommendations back to the province this summer. Joining Seiling in his new role was Michael Fenn, a former Ontario deputy minister, previous municipal chief administrator in several Ontario cities, and founding CEO of Metrolinx.

Wellesley Township expands community improvement grants to Linwood core

Wellesley expanded its community improvement grant program to a third community in the township. Councilors gave the go ahead for the township’s financial incentives program to be rolled out in the Linwood core this year, while adding another $20,000 in funding for the venture.

Woolwich borough looks at water rates

Flush with cash or not, Woolwich residents were tapped to pay more every time they push down the lever in the bathroom, as the township hiked wastewater rates by 6.1 per cent. Refilling the tank also cost more, though the water rates increased by much smaller 0.5 per cent.

In addition, the budgets for water and wastewater at a meeting Jan. 17, councillors backed a plan to boost the water rate slightly to $1.73 per cubic metre from $1.72, a 0.51 per cent increase even though the region has increased its bulk water rate by 2.9 per cent.

Wellesley councillors take an united stance against the prospect of amalgamation

If amalgamation is on the agenda as part of the Doug Ford’s ersatz review of regional government, the provincial officials would have plenty to think about had they sat in on a Wellesley council meeting. The local buzz has been overwhelmingly negative.

Jack’s end the regular season with a string of wins

The WaterlooApplejacks wrapped up their regular season on a high note, extinguishing the New Hamburg Firebirds and Burford Bulldogs.

The Jacks finished the season with a record of 27-8-2-3, their 59 points good enough for third place in the Provincial Junior Hockey League’s South Doherty Division.

The team opened the playoffs Feb. 2 at home against the sixth-place Ayr Centennials.

FEBRUARY

Elmira curling competition puts a name to Team Ontario

Following competition on the ice at the Woolwich Memorial Centre, Roman and McDonald claimed the women’s Ontario Scotties, giving the Greater Kitchener-Waterloo area three straight provincial championships.

The region was hit by some of the most severe weather of the winter, with a mix of intense snow fall and wind gusts topping 93 km/h Feb. 25 caused whiteout conditions, road closures and collisions. But, the worst was over.

Elmira and district’s efforts to get its region’s own SkyCorps program up and running again.

At least one of Woolwich’s old steel bridges lived to continue carrying traffic. The Glasscock Street span in Conestogo avoided the fate of two other structures recently put on the chopping block.

An engineering report recommended spending $700,000 to rehabilitate the Glasscock Street bridge, keeping it open to vehicles for another decade or two. Once it passes its useful lifespan, it should be kept for heritage purposes value rather than demolished, the study suggested.

Some 70 people came through the doors of Watson consultation session held Feb. 20 at the township hall in Elmira.

Whiteouts wreak havoc on township roads

The region was hit by some of the most severe weather of the winter, with a mix of intense snow fall and wind gusts topping 93 km/h Feb. 25 caused whiteout conditions, road closures and collisions. But, the worst was over.

Poor visibility was an issue especially on rural roads in both Woolwich and Wellesley townships due to drifting snow.

Those attempting the drive out of Elmi- ra, for instance, had to find an alterna- tive to Arthur Street, which was blocked off at the request of regional police for more than 12 hours after several vehicles became stranded along the roadway.

Kings wrap up season, advance to playoffs

As the Kings ended the regular season on a less than stellar note over the weekend, but were able rebound with a decisive win in their first game of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League playoffs.

The losses to end the season saw the Kings finish in fifth place in the Midwest region. With a record of 26-15-2-4 for 60 points, three points behind Kitchener, which earned home-ice advantage to start the series.

MARCH

Woolwich taxes to rise 3.39%

Some minor changes aside, Woolwich councilors ended the budget process Mar. 5 with pretty much the same tax rate as 2018. Woolwich.

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Lancers claim hockey title

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020
THE OBSERVER

Dozens of kids and their parents turned Elmira’s Porchlight Drive into a road hockey venue Mar. 31, making it the site of a protest in favour of that classic Canadian pastime. The impromptu rally followed in incident the previous week in which police shut down a game of road hockey, enforcing a Woolwich Township bylaw prohibiting such activities on a public street.

Road hockey brouhaha

Lancers take silver at provincial hockey championship

The Lancers boys brought home the silver from the provincial championships in Barrie, a fitting conclusion to an exceptionally strong season for the hockey team.

Battling through some of the best secondary school teams in the province, the Lancers squad made it to the championship finals on Mar. 22, where they were ultimately knocked out in a 5-2 decision against Toronto’s Neil McNeil High School.

Sunshine list jumps to 16 as additional civil servants hit Sunshine list

APRIL

The sunshine list of Ontario’s public sector employees continued to grow in 2019, with 16 additional civil servants added to the list by the government in the previous week.

The sunshine list has been criticized by some as providing a way for the government to avoid transparency and accountability, as it does not include the salaries of all public sector employees, only those who earn more than $150,000 per year.

EDSS students join in province-wide school walkout

Hundreds of students from Elmira District Secondary School staged a walkout of classrooms Apr. 4 as part of province-wide demonstrations against the Ford government’s proposed changes to education.

Taking to the streets of Elmira an hour before the end of school, the EDSS students voiced their opposition to the changes, which would see average classroom sizes increased in Ontario high schools from 22 to 28 students per teacher, as well as cuts to student loan programs.

Support for family after fire

The "natural hazard" transfer payment from the province was cut almost in half following the release of the Ford government’s first budget. The new allocation was about $450,000 instead of almost twice that amount, as originally expected.

$10 million for Conestoga Meats

Breslaus’ Conestoga Meat Packers was the recipient of federal largesse after a visit from the minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

Speaking at the pork-producing facility on Apr. 25, Marie-Claude Bibeau announced a federal contribution of up to $10 million to the cooperative, part of a broader initiative to support Canadian agriculture in global markets.

Ted Clarke passes at 71

Dr. Ted Clarke, a long-time veterinarian in the community and booster of harness racing, died Apr. 27 at St. Mary’s Hospital. He was 71.

Clarke was instrumental in reversing the fortunes of the Elmira Raceway and the Woolwich Agricultural Society, but is also credited with boosting the finances of other small racetracks in the province. He helped establish the Ontario Teletheatre Network in 1994, essentially bringing racing and gaming off the track to patrons in raceways even if there was no live racing on any given night.

Blaze destroys barn on farm near St. Clements

It was all hands on deck when all three Woolwich fire stations, Waterloo Regional Police and a Woolwich Fire Department tanker were called to a major barn fire on Lobstinger Line Apr. 29.

The call came in from a dairy farmer west of St. Clemens. Clarke was instrumental in reversing the fortunes of the Elmira Raceway and the Woolwich Agricultural Society, but is also credited with boosting the finances of other small racetracks in the province. He helped establish the Ontario Teletheatre Network in 1994, essentially bringing racing and gaming off the track to patrons in raceways even if there was no live racing on any given night.

Finding solace in guilty verdict

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Finding solace in guilty verdict

A guilty verdict brought closure to the family of an Elmira woman murdered almost six years previously.

Michael Ball, 27, was convicted May 5 in a St. Catharines courtroom of the first-degree murder of Erin Howlett. He faced at least 25 years in jail after a jury found him responsible for the June 27, 2013 killing – driven by jealousy,
he choked the 28-year-old woman and disposed of her body in a dumpster. The body was later found in the Grand River in Kitchener.

Woolwich nixes amalgamation, backs two tiers
Feedback from the public decidedly opposed to any hint of amalgamation in Waterloo Region. Woolwich councilors quickly moved May 7 to register their own disapproval of that prospect.

In a special public-input session, township residents and representatives alike had a message for the province and its review of regional government: hands off. Sure, there may be some efficiencies to be found, but the underlying structure of regional government here — an upper-tier region and seven lower-tier municipalities — works generally well, they argued.

Wellesley says no to prospect of amalgamation
There’s no appetite for amalgamation in Wellesley, township councillors heard at a special meeting to discuss the province’s review of regional government. Residents at a May 7 expressed concerns about the potential loss of community and responsiveness if the township gets rolled into a single government along with the other six lower-tier municipalities in the region. Critics have suggested that’s the end game for the Ford government’s review of some 82 municipalities, another round of amalgamations like those foisted on Ontarians the last time the Conservatives were in charge at Queen’s Park.

Wellesley approves Queen’s Bush Rd. park
The township moved ahead in the development of a new park in Wellesley village at the corner of Queen’s Bush and Hutchison roads.

A project long in the works since the township first identified the 230 acres of land for parkland in 2014, councillors gave it the go-ahead on May 14, approving the first phase of development. Phase one of the creation of a 1.6-km trail system in the west end of the 40-acre property, as well as an unpaved parking lot and a driveway entrance off Queen’s Bush Road just west of the Wellesley fire station. The work was estimated to ring in at $124,000.

EMSF raises record amount of funds
The Elmira Maple Syrup Festival committee distributed $65,600 to 30 charities and community groups on May 15, the largest amount it had ever handed out. The funds were generated thanks to a large turnout, placed at some $80,000, at the 55th annual festival, held Apr. 6.

WRDSB says no layoffs expected
The Waterloo Region District School Board said it did not expect it will lay off teachers despite projecting an additional $1,800, as the township hiked its development charges by 19 per cent.

For fully serviced single-family homes in Woolwich’s urban area, the new charges considered by councilors June 4 saw levies rise to $11,663 from $9,836 (18.5 per cent), due to servicing arrangements with the City of Kitchener. The increase hit $12,273, up from $11,446, a jump of 16 per cent.

In the rural area, fees for a single-family home were $9,573, up 17.5 per cent from $7,933.

Stamp of approval from philatelist
Cross over a covered bridge in Ontario, and you know you must be in West Montrose. The historic red-splashed bridge spanning the Grand River in Kitchener is the province’s only remaining covered bridge, and one of a dwindling number still standing in the country.

Built with their iconic covers to protect against the harsh Canadian elements, the covered bridges of Canada — or kissing bridges, as they came to be known for the privacy they offered courting couples — werecelebrated by Canada Post with a collection of commemorative stamps available in locations across the country.

Condos not seen as a good fit for Elmira neighbourhood
Neighbours who are opposed to a four-storey apartment building proposed for the Former Municipal pool property in Elmira, turning over a bridge spanning the Grand River to let township councillors know just that.

Comments at the public meeting followed a written submissions and a petition opposing plans for an 18-unit condominium at 18 Ernst St. The former Elmira pool property was purchased in 2011 by 2248578 Ontario Inc. for $450,000, and had been home to the regional Synchrosed Swimming Club since that time. Now, the principals of the company – Erika Lindner and Leanne McDonnell – want to redevelop the 0.75-acre site at the corner of Ernst Street and Snyder Avenue.

Neighbours want no part of Elmira apartment complex
On the heels of opposition to an Ernst Street condominium proposal, another group of Elmira residents were equally unwell to proposals for a four-storey, 21-unit apartment building on Church Street West.

Wayne Martin and Rick Brubacher are seeking township approval for a rental building on what is now two properties located at 44 and 46 Church St. W. The former contains an older house that’s been converted to a triplex, while the vacant lot after the single-family home there was demolished. The plan presented to Woolwich council June 25 calls for two-bedroom units to be offered for rent.

Groups seek venues following Wellesley arena closure
The township’s decision to close the Wellesley arena for a year had user groups thinking about alternatives. Hockey teams were particularly surprised by the June 25 announcement after the township deemed the condition of the roof made the building unsafe. An engineering assessment of the arena roof found that portions of it could potentially collapse in the winntertime. Previous maintenance coatings had failed sooner than anticipated in the last structural review in 2013, resulting in leaks.

JUNE

Bid for gravel pit near Maryhill
After a flurry of activity around Conestogo, Winterbourne and West Montrose, it was Maryhill’s turn in the gravel pit spotlight. Guelph-based Capital Paving unveiled plans to do the development and extraction operation on some 230 acres of land south of the village.

The company, which already has a gravel pit adjacent to the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the company applied to Woolwich for the zoning and official plan amendments needed to mine what is currently farmland.

Woolwich hikes the cost of buying a new home
The privilege of building a new home for a small additional funding for the new school year. The board did, however, expect a $12-million shortfall in 2019-20 due to the province’s new mandates for larger classroom sizes and mandatory online courses for secondary school students.

Legal battle latest twist to gravel pit
The latest twist in the years-long saga involving a gravel pit proposed for the Winterbourne valley saw the matter dragged before a provincial tribunal.

Preston Sand and Gravel moved to have the debate brought to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT), a quasi-judicial body that deals with municipal planning issues.

Ramping up for a flight, residents were out in force at Woolwich council May 28, pressing the township’s position against the council against the company’s request to mine below the water table at the site.

Dogging the tax bills
Sure that it’s missing out on thousands of dollars, Woolwich got more aggressive about ensuring dog owners purchase tags for their pets.

A new process approved May 28 by councillors saw the township opt for notifications circu-

ated through property tax bills, with those who fail to register their dog’s annual fees being tacked on to their taxes.

The township estimated only a third of dog owners actually license their pets each year as required.

Wage hikes in Woolwich union deal
Woolwich’s 22 unionized work-

ers received a 1.75% raise, 1.85% in 2021 and 1.95% in 2022 under a new contract reached between the township and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 5422.

As is customary for the town-

ship, the same increases applied to the large non-union staff. The deal, ratified by Woolwich councillors May 28, was retroactive to Jan. 1.

EMSF raises record amount of funds
The Elmira Maple Syrup Festival committee distributed $65,600 to 30 charities and community groups on May 15. The largest amount it had ever handed out. The funds were generated thanks to a large turnout, placed at some $80,000, at the 55th annual festival, held Apr. 6. EMFS members grant saga

AUGUST

Church fire deemed suspicious
An arson investigation got underway after a church fire in Wellesley Township Aug. 3. Police and firefighters from the Wellesley Fire Department’s Linwood station were called to Orthodox Mennonite Church on Moser Young Road near Lawson Line at 5:40 a.m. Damage from the fire was estimated at $75,000.

The church had been used occasionally for functions such as funerals, but had seen little regular use for the past 30 years.

Feds provide $700K towards bridge project
Some $700,000 from Ontario and West Montrose will be the final piece of the puzzle needed to rehabilitate the Glasgow Street bridge in Conestogo. Combined with provincial and township money, the funding announced Aug. 9, would help keep the old steel structure open to traffic.

Safety concerns prompt closure of skate park
Granted a reprieve earlier in the summer, the makeshift skate park in Wellesley ran its course, done in by safety concerns.

Councillors meeting Aug. 27 agreed to remove the half-pipe adjacent to the Woolwich Community Centre on Catherine Street due to excessive deterioration and potential liabilities for the township.

Woolwich posts a surplus for 2018
Postponed projects such as road paving left Woolwich with a large enough surplus to offset it...
significant overspending on its operating budget in 2018. The township ended up with an over-all surplus of $31,000.

The 2018 budget numbers were finalized in a presentation Aug. 27 to Woolwich councilors.

The operating budget experienced a deficit of $147,957, offset by a capital budget surplus of $728,863.


SEPTEMBER

Crack forces sudden closure of bridge

A crack in two of the beams on the underside of the West Mon-roose covered bridge, discovered on Sept. 4, forced the Region of Waterloo to close the structure to traffic.

Police investigate graffiti spree

A spate of graffiti in Elmira has police investigating four counts of vandalism.

Some of the spree was caught on high-definition surveillance cameras outside the Home Hardware store on Church Street, making identification of the suspects much easier. The security shows a man and a woman walking across a parking lot into the building, looking right up at the camera while the female suspect shakes a spray can. The incident occurred around 10:20 p.m. on Sept. 6.

Region extends Elmira bus pilot project

A localized bus service that circulates around Elmira remained free to riders and under the auspices of Kiwanis Transit in a plan approved by regional council’s planning and works committee.

The decision altered course for Grand River Transit to take over the service and issue a request for proposal (RFP) for others to bid on the lucrative megabus service. Instead, the pilot project that had already been in place for a year will run through 2020 in much the same way it has since it was launched.

Woolwich households are assessed a special-area rate raising up to $80,000 to cover the cost of the bus.

Leah Sebben named fair ambassador

LWCCC’s Leah Sebben was named the new ambassador of Wellesley-North Easthope Fair. Sebben was named ambassador by a capital budget surplus of $105 penalty.

The bitterly cold winter weather won for the past weekend in Woolwich, as the township moved ahead with automating collection of water-billing information.

Meeting Nov. 19, councillors awarded a $1.1-million contract to KTL Limited to install a remote water-meter-replacement system on some 6,644 water meters. There will then be a $40,000 annual fee for the service.

Teachers work-to-rule

Teachers in the region began a work-to-rule campaign as the public school union stepped up their fight against the Ontario government.

Wellesley Township having cleared the way for a potential new $2.2-million recreation complex, the focus shifted to putting together a fundraising campaign that will make that possible.

Wellsley Township unanimously approved submitting an application for funding from the federal and provincial governments, whose support will be needed to underwrite much of the cost.

Wellesley lifts moratorium on kennels

A 16-month moratorium imposed on new dog kennel licenses in Wellesley Township was lifted Nov. 5, as council also looks to revise its kennel bylaw.

New St. Clemens fire station open

A new $1.3-million fire station in St. Clemens was officially declared open for service Nov. 9.

Snow-clearing crews put to an early test in the townships

Nov. 11 brought more than just Remembrance Day, as snow-clearing crews in Woolwich and Wellesley townships were pressed into service in no small way.

Lancers capture ECSS' first WCSSAA basketball title

In a season that already saw the team rack up win after win, the ECSSWAR girls’ basketball team reached new heights Nov. 12 by capturing its first-ever WCSSAA championship.

Woolwich approves new snow event policy

Already out ticketing cars parked on streets between 4 and 9 a.m., Woolwich extended a ban parking on roads until 12:30 a.m. following the declaration of a snow event. That too will come with a fine once the fees are approved by the province.

The fee schedule approved Dec. 10 by township council sees most of the fines in the $5 to $50 range, depending on how far snow from your driveway onto the road could see you hit with a $105 penalty.

BC Family is Elmira-bound after win

Elmira is set to gain three new residents, as a BC family was named the winner of a million-dollar lottery.

The family purchased a house on Park Avenue, winning the crown during the Sept. 10 opening of the event.

Driver killed in single-vehicle rollover

An 18-year-old Mitchell man died at the scene after being ejected from his pickup truck during a single-vehicle collision near Heidelberg Sept. 12. Police say the driver wasn’t wearing a seatbelt at the time of the incident, which occurred on Lobsinger Line.

Climate emergency in Woolwich

Climate change is not only real, emergency measures are warranted to help stave off the worst of its impacts, Woolwich councillors decided.

Meeting Sept. 24, they declared a climate emergency, joining several hundred other jurisdictions on the planet that have taken the same stance in response to a warming world.

Repaired Glasgow St. bridge to be a one-way route

The Glasgow Street bridge will carry traffic in just one direction – south – when it’s rehabilitated, said a solution that got formal approval from Woolwich council Sept. 24.

Getting a big boost in the form of federal and provincial funding, the township plans to spend some $1.3 million in hopes of expanding the bridge’s lifespan by a few more decades.

Wellesley Idol winner

Along with taking in the smell of fresh apple fritters, people crowded at the Wellesley Apple Butter and Cheese Festival Sept. 28 were privy to the finals of the Wellesley Idol competition, which featured the 16-year-old Hadley Mustakas winning over the judges with her vocals.

Wellesley council declares a climate emergency

Wellesley officially recognized that the municipality is facing a climate emergency, a situation that requires bold action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Meeting Oct. 8, councillors voted unanimously to approve the decision, adding the townships’ voice to a chorus of more than 1,000 municipalities globally that have taken the same stance.

St. Jacobs theatre a gift

The Schoolhouse Theatre in St. Jacobs was passed on from MersystrncmpCharitable Foundation to longtime tenant and partner, Drayton Entertainment.

Lions refresh park equipment

Upgrades completed at the Elmira park that bears its name, the Woolwich Community Lions made it official with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and donation to the township.

Mayor Sandy Shantz was on hand Oct. 10 to wield the scissors and accept a cheque for $40,000, money raised by the club to help with the restoration of the playground in Lions Park on Barnswallow Drive.

Wellesley rec. complex moves ahead

As the EDSS junior girls’ basketball team declared a climate emergency, a situation that requires bold action to respond to a warming world.

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Hypersonic missiles are not a terrifying new weapon. They are just another cog in the terrifying but remarkably stable old strategy called nuclear deterrence.

“The Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle entered service at 10000 Moscow time on December 27,” boasted Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu – but nobody quailed in their boots. Nothing much happened, aside from the fact that the West knew it was coming and hit the panic button before plunging back into the atmosphere and—well, not much. The hypersonic missile’s warheads go low early.

The hypersonic missile launches on a ‘depressed’ trajectory, and then a ‘glide’ warhead heads on a rock-et, just like the traditional ICBMs. Hyper-sonic Missiles (ICBMs). However, instead of going very high and travelling most of the distance through space in a predictable ‘ballistic’ trajectory before plunging back down into the atmosphere and striking their target, the ‘hypersonic’ missile’s warheads go low early.

Climate change or otherwise, some adjustments will have to be made.
Photo radar is proof governments don’t care about civil rights

The region’s plan to roll out photo radar is symbolic of what ails government and society in general. An overstatement for something that proponents will say protects children? Not at all. Essentially, the proposal to introduce photo radar in school zones is a cash grab masquerading as a public relations exercise. We know that by asking a simple question: what problem does this solve? There haven’t been scores of deaths, injuries and collisions in school zones, so that’s not the problem in question, despite what will be repeated appeals to safety. Surely, that occurs, though the region itself will acknowledge the calls it receives from the public are often due to perceptions of speeding, not the reality of the situation, as actual traffic monitoring typically reveals.

The region’s existing red light cameras have been shown to cause collisions, though whether they deter drivers from running red lights – as opposed to heat- ing yellows – is another matter. Certainly other jurisdictions have shown the cameras to be flawed, open to corruption and, yes, simply money grabs. The cameras are put in place because they exist. Once installed, the revenue they generate becomes part of the budgeting process, and must be maintained and increased to four money to sustain local offers – hardly a reason to support them, unless you’re a bureaucrat looking for alternatives to extract more from the already overburdened public. More widely, photo radar being deployed because the technology exists is symptomatic of a wider trend in which we’re sliding into authoritarian surveillance.

As with every effort to strip away privacy rights, there are those who will argue they’re fine with each new measure because they’ve got nothing to hide. Only those with something to hide – only criminals, for those of this misguided mindset – would argue against more surveillance. That kind of reasoning alone is enough to dismiss the “nothing to hide” argument. Of course, it’s also easily shut down by asking those who make that argument if they own curtains and blinds. If they’ve got nothing to hide, they certainly won’t mind others looking through their windows, right? Or having their bank records made public?

Nobody, of course, wants to do that. We all value some measure of privacy. And we all have something to hide, which doesn’t make us criminals, terrorists or the like.

Our privacy is under attack from every direction: drone surveillance and increasingly draconian internet snooping. Large corporations, particularly the invasive Google, Facebook and the like, have created a business model based on violating your privacy and civil rights. They could be shut down at the stroke of a pen by government regulation, yet politicians and bureaucrats have no interest in protecting your rights. Instead, they want to make life much worse, all to their own benefit.

They care not about the unethical drive to boost the state’s ability to collect, track, store, aggregate and use information that represents a huge power imbalance. A lack of control on what happens to the growing amount of information collected poses an existential threat as technology evolves, while today it threatens to circumvent laws that protect our rights in traditional encounters with authorities.

Sure, a photo radar service to protecting the public here – officials in Europe are doing a much better job, though there’s a long way to go – has the hope of curtailting the erosion of our rights. We have become accustomed to financial outlets tracking our spending habits, having credit and debit cards; “security” cameras are commonplace everywhere from banks to convenience stores using the Internet leaves a clear trail to those in the know. In the private sector, we still have something of a choice to avoid something or not, though not as large as we think – nor as large as we should have if regulators were doing their jobs. But the government becomes more and more installing what are in essence tracking devices with gleeful abandon, we have the state sanctioning this dangerous and invasive practice.

Given the government failures, nobody’s watching the watchers. With every photo radar and red light cameras, government joins the rank of the voyeurs. It’s into that environment that red light cameras and school-zone photo radar needs to be debated. We’re already suffering death by a thousand cuts, so we need to be more, robustly, taking each back until we’ve got a fair society. There is thus far no talk of such privacy and civil rights concerns, of course.

KANNO | 16

DPYR: Latest missile development just another example of the one-upmanship and the military industrial complex

From 08 vehicle ‘detaches from the rocket and skips along the edge of the atmosphere, travelling at up to 20 times the speed of sound. It comes over the horizon much faster and is so powerful it seems to make the enemy’s missile defence radars only when it’s much closer to the target.

Even better, it can manoeuvre, speeding off in the target, which makes it much harder to intercept. As Putin said, “The Avangard is a new generation’s ability to intercept by any existing and prospective missile defense.” Indeed, he claimed, everybody is “playing catch-up with us.”

This would be deeply alarming to Russia’s potential adversaries if all the orthodox, traditional (ICBMs) had suddenly become vulnerable to interception. If that were true, only then the Russians would have new missiles that could get through the other side’s defences, and so they would rule the world. But actually, there are no reports of any missiles against mass attacks by ICBMs, so everybody is still equally vulnerable.

The United States has been working on anti-ballistic missile (ABM) systems since Ronald Reagan’s ‘Star Wars’ fantasies of almost four decades ago, and it does have one active ABM site in Alaska. It might be able to stop one or two incoming ICBMs launched by, let’s say, North Korea. It certainly shouldn’t stop the hundreds of ICBMs that Russia would launch in any real nuclear war.

The problem with any kind of anti-missile defence system is that it’s relatively cheap and easy to overwhelm by sheer numbers. The dumb old ICBMs will still get through any ABM defences if used in quantity, while how they would certainly be used in any great-power war. ‘Hypersonic’ missiles are wonder- fully fast and clever, but they’re also expensive and quite unorthodox.

So why has Russia spent what is clearly a great deal of money to develop a snazzy but pointless weapon? Because the ‘metal-eaters’ alliance’, the Russian equivalent of the U.S.’ military-industrial complex’, is still alive and kicking despite the demise of the old Soviet Union. Developing new weapons is what they do, whether they are needed or not. This provides an entire Russian industry with interesting and well-paid jobs. In return, the industry provides the regime with cool new weapons that make it look powerful and even fearsome to people who don’t understand nuclear deterrence. These new weapons don’t actually change the strategic realities, but who cares? Nobody’s really planning to use them anyway.

That is not to say that nuclear weapons are not dangerous. Of course they are, and although nuclear deterrence has kept nuclear war at bay for three-quarters of a century, there is no guarantee that it will work forever. We would be much safer if these weapons were abolished. But the long strategic stalemate will not be destabilized by some flashy new gadget like hypersonic missiles. As long as no effective defence is available against mass attacks with nuclear-armed missiles, mutual deterrence will persist. The only technological development that could really undermine it is directed-energy weapons.

High-energy lasers and particle-beam weapons would be far more effective than the ground-launched missiles employed in today’s rudimentary ABM systems. They would function at light speed, they would have absolutely flat trajectories (which allows precise targeting), and above all they would be able to switch almost instantaneously from one target to the next.

In theory, therefore, directed-energy weapons would make effective defence possible against any nuclear attack using missiles, whether they are ICBMs, cruise missiles, or hypersonic gliders. They would switch the advantage from the offensive to the defensive. It would require a massive shift in everybody’s thinking about strategic matters.

The good news is that, at least right now, nobody has come up with an operationally credible directed-energy weapon in a convincing way. Maybe one day they will, but until then innovations like hypersonic missiles are just minor new wrinkles in an essentially unchanging strategic scene.
Kings split a pair before heading into the holidays

Elmira posts a win over Kitchener before falling to Waterloo to wrap up 2019; Kings back in action this weekend

The Elmira Sugar Kings went into the Christmas break having both given and received, splitting their final two games of 2019.

Having taken a 3-1 decision over Kitchener on December 21, the Kings gave a win to the Waterloo Siskins the following afternoon. The two points helped keep them atop the Midwestern Conference standings in the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League with 54 points (25-6-0-4).

The weekend before the holidays started with a stop in Kitchener to face the Dutchmen. Elmira ran into penalty trouble, but ended up coming out ahead, having scored two shorthanded goals.

The Kings got on the board first, with Jeremy Goodwin scoring an unassisted goal at 4:32 of the opening period. Kitchener retaliated with a lone goal later in the frame, taking a 1-0 lead into the first intermission.

The parade to the box continued, with a total of 10 Kings penalties in the first period. Elmira converted on both goals. Wickie (Gorman, DeGroot, Carson) scoring on the power play at 7:36, making it 2-0 for the Saints.

The Kings continued their offensive onslaught in the middle frame. Special teams were also on in earnest in the second half. The Kings dominated stretches of the match – shots at game’s end were 33-17 in their favour – but came up short on the scoreboard.

Things started well for Elmira, Dubeiicki opening the scoring at 5:48 on a power play, assisted by Toms and Goodwin. Less than two minutes later, however, the Siskins responded with a power-play goal of their own. An even-strength goal at 7:47 made it 2-1 for Waterloo, giving them a lead they’d never relinquish.

The Siskins scored early and late in the middle frame, taking a 4-1 lead into the second intermission, capitalizing twice on just five shots through 20 minutes.

The Kings dominated much of the game, but came up short in a 4-3 loss to the Siskins in Waterloo on Dec. 22.

**JACKS | 11**

**LOCAL SPORT**

**JACKS | 11**

**VERONICA REINER**

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Though the Wellesley Applegeeks might have been better served by spreading out the scoring across the four games that wrapped around the Christmas break, they still took three of them to the bank.

One-sided victories over Delhi and New Hamburg before Christmas were followed by a one-goal victory over Paris and a loss to Tavistock, the top team in the PJHL’s South Doherty Division. The Jacks remain just one point back in second with a record of 19-5-1-4.

Five days before the traditional meal was served, the Jacks feasted on the Delhi Travellers at the Wellesley arena, skating to an 18-1 victory.

James Ranson (Justin McCombs, Owen Lane) drew first blood at 2:04, while Gianfranco Commisso (Steven DeGroot, Carson Wickie) kept up the momentum at 7:21. The next Jacks goal came courtesy of Shaun Pickering at 11:15, assisted by Kyle Fischer. Zach Ribeiro (McCombs, Lane) joined in on the scoring frenzy at 12:38. The floundering Travellers finally retaliated with a lone goal at 13:59 to make it 4-1 at the intermission.

Things got rolling from there. Pickering (Warren Gorman, Koby Seiling) scored on the power play at 1:06, Austin Cousineau (Gorman) followed up at 4:30, then DeGroot (Commisso, Seiling) kept the streak going at 7:36. The next goal came once again from DeGroot at 13:01, with Commisso and Conner Bradley picking up the assists. Pickering picked up a hat trick before the second stanza’s end at 17:26, with assists going to Bradley and Cousineau.

The final frame saw nearly twice the amount of scoring on the Applejacks side, giving Delhi no chance to respond whatsoever. Kicking off this onslaught was Cousineau (Pickering, Gorman) almost instantly. Wickie and DeGroot assisted on both goals. Wickie scored a goal of his own at 4:18, with Wickie and DeGroot picking up assists. The next Wellesley goal was courtesy of Seiling (Lane, Bradley) at 8:58. Commisso (DeGroot) continued the streak at 9:40.

Perhaps feeling the pressure of a 1-5 disadvantage getting to them, Delhi racked up several penalties throughout the frame. Wellesley was quick to take advantage, with Kyle Fischer (Gorman, Pickering) scoring on a power play at 12:11. Ribeiro also capitalized on a power play at 14:26, with the assist going to Daniel McCutcheon. Wickie (Commisso, DeGroot) scored a pair of goals in the final frame, making the final score 8-5 in favour of the Jacks.

**VERONICA REINER**

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The Travellers had a number of chances as they pushed to tie the score late in the third, giving every indication they’d do so if there’d just been more time. As it was, however, the buzzer dashed any hopes of a comeback.

Having had a couple of weeks off to enjoy the holidays, the Sugar Kings are back in action this week-end. They’re in Stratford Friday night to take on the Warriors (18-12-1-2), returning home Sunday afternoon to welcome the Frantford Bandits (15-23-0-5). Game time is 2 p.m. as the Kings host Woolwich Minor Hockey Day in which WMHA hockey players wearing a team jersey or spirit wear are admitted for free.
Wellesley dominates in both pre-Christmas games, but finds the going tougher last weekend

FROM 10

McCombs (Fischer, Wickie, DeGroot) quickly put Wellesley on the board 1:38, with no more scoring and just a handful of penalties until the second frame. Cousineau (J. Ranson) continued the Wellesley streak at 4:05, before the Mounties retaliated on a power play at 9:41. The second frame was all power-play goals on both sides, with the Applejacks and Mounties using their special teams effectively. Paris scored again on the power play at 10:32, and then once again at 14:25. But Wellesley managed to follow up in almost the exact same manner, with

a shorthanded and unassisted marker at 6:28. The scrappy tone of the game continued into the third period, allowing Bradley to capitalize on a power play at 10:21. Pickering and Ribeiro picked up the assists. Gorsman (Ribeiro) scored the final goal at 18:39, resulting in a 9-2 win for Wellesley in what was a scrappy affair decided by special teams.
WOLLIWICH WILDCATS
PeeWee Minor AE 3
Dec 17 vs Flamborough-Dundas
HOME: 5 VISITOR: 3
GOALS: Mitchell Krasovec (2), Tate Berfelz, Carter Weir, Alex Veitch, Caleb Paquet, Spencer Hume
ASSISTS: Declan Martin (2), Spencer Hume, Mitchell Krasovec, Adam Bloch

PeeWee: PeeWee AE
Dec 19 vs Caledon
HOME: 5 VISITOR: 1
GOALS: Ethan Bickerton, Jordan-Chang, Joey Martin, Cade Beacom
ASSISTS: Ethan Bickerton, Jordan-Chang, Joey Martin, Cade Beacom

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Dec 19 vs Caledon
HOME: 5 VISITOR: 1
GOALS: Ethan Bickerton, Jordan-Chang, Joey Martin, Cade Beacom
ASSISTS: Ethan Bickerton, Jordan-Chang, Joey Martin, Cade Beacom

WOOLWICH WILDCATS
PeeWee AE 5
Dec 17 vs Flamborough-Dundas
HOME: 5 VISITOR: 3
GOALS: Mitchell Krasovec (2), Tate Berfelz, Carter Weir, Alex Veitch, Caleb Paquet, Spencer Hume
ASSISTS: Declan Martin (2), Spencer Hume, Mitchell Krasovec, Adam Bloch

PeeWee: PeeWee AE
Dec 19 vs Caledon
HOME: 5 VISITOR: 1
GOALS: Ethan Bickerton, Jordan-Chang, Joey Martin, Cade Beacom
ASSISTS: Ethan Bickerton, Jordan-Chang, Joey Martin, Cade Beacom

WOLLIWICH WILDCATS
Bantam A
Dec 23 vs New Hamburg
HOME: 0 VISITOR: 2
GOALS: Parker Alles, Ryan Brubacher, Keenan Martin, Cade Beacom
ASSISTS: Ethan Hickerton, Keenan Martin, Eric Hutton, Joey Martin, Cade Beacom, Tucker Armstrong (2)

Bantam A
Dec 23 vs Guelph
HOME: 6 VISITOR: 2
GOALS: Drew Birmingham, Ryan Brubacher (2), Jordan Cheng (2), Joey Martin
ASSISTS: Jordan Cheng (2), Joey Martin (2), Tucker Armstrong, Teagan Cadieux, Wil Lavigne

Bantam A
Dec 19 vs Flamborough-Dundas
HOME: 5 VISITOR: 3
GOALS: Ethan Bickerton, Parker Alles, Keenan Martin (2), Ethan Martin
ASSISTS: Ethan Bickerton, Jordan-Chang, Joey Martin, Cade Beacom

PeeWee: PeeWee AE
Dec 13 vs Whitby
HOME: 4 VISITOR: 2
GOALS: Wes Atkin (2), Haden Wagner, Graydon Martin
ASSISTS: Owen Weppeler (2), Spencer Miller, Connor Goebel, Nate Dyck, Patrick McCarthy

PeeWee: PeeWee AE
Dec 13 vs Samis Jr. String
HOME: 0 VISITOR: 2

PeeWee: PeeWee AE
Dec 14 vs Windsor Jr. Spitfires
HOME: 0 VISITOR: 1

WOOLWICH WILD
Midget B 5
Dec 15 vs Kitchener Lady Rangers
HOME: 2 VISITOR: 0
GOALS: Andreaa Chisholm, Serena Hesseis
ASSISTS: Taylor Rayford, Brynn Berfelz
Shutouts: Hailey Thom

Midget: Midget BB
Dec 20 vs Saugeen
HOME: 4 VISITOR: 1
GOALS: Leah LaCouriers, Hayden Clemen (2), Delaney Keen
ASSISTS: Hayley Clemen (2), Leah LeCouriers, Delaney Keen, Cassidy Mosey, Brythe Bendor, Muddy Gass

Midget: Midget BB
Dec 22 vs Grand River
HOME: 5 VISITOR: 1
GOALS: Delaney Keen (2), Brythe Bender (2), Kara Dietrich, Leah LeCouriers, Cassidy Mosey (2), Shae-lynn Martin
ASSISTS: Avery Bender (3), Abby Burkholtz

GOT SCORES?
We’d love to share them in the next sports section.
Submit them online.
ads.observerxtra.com/scores
The Waterloo County Steam-Thresher’s Reunion presented the Woolwich Thrashers Sledge Hockey Team with $2,500 on Dec. 27.
HELP WANTED

Nieuwland Feed Elora has an opening for a Full Time Truck Driver
We require a valid CD license. We offer competitive wages, benefits and Monday to Friday schedule.

Email your resume to: info@nieuwlandfeeds.com

AUCTION

TOY AUCTION
of Tractors, farm toys, tractor trailers, literature, and other related items, to be held at the K.W. Khaki Club, 2939 Nafziger Rd. 2 miles south of Wellesley, for Mervin Roth, New Hamburg, & additions, on SATURDAY, JAN. 11th @ 9:30 A.M.

HOME HARDWARE’S DEALER SUPPORT CENTRE
34 HENRY STREET, ST. JACOBS (enter through reception)
9:00 am to 11:00 am SAT, JAN, 11, 2020
for a walk-in interview!

Each year Home Hardware Stores Limited employs over 150 Terms and Students to work in the St. Jacobs Dealer Support Centre. Material Handlers pick and pack product for our Dealers. Interested in joining us? Bring your resume and references for a walk-in interview!

Any applicant must be 18 years old to be eligible. Students need to be available to work Saturdays and public holidays as required. Must be able to perform strenuous physical activities, including: walking, standing, bending, lifting, and must be willing to be trained on powered lift equipment. We will accommodate the needs of qualified applicants under the Human Rights Code in all parts of the hiring process.

SAT, JAN, 11, 2020
9:00 am to 11:00 am
WED, FEB, 19, 2020
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

HELP WANTED

Layer Farm south of Elora looking for full time year round individual to gather eggs and general farm work. Day time hours, Monday - Friday with occasional weekends. Willing to train, starting wage $13-18 depending on qualifications.

Send resume to: corey.anneke@stickneyfarm.ca or call 519-830-1230

HELP WANTED

HIGHLY MOTIVATED, M E C H A N I C A L ly minded with professional people skills person needed for rewarding and challenging troubleshooting, position, in growing professional trade company. Willing to learn but any electrical/mechanical repair experience an asset. Wage according to abilities and performance. Performance incentives. Email resume to glpwds@gmail.com or call 519-649-4083

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING AT SCHNURR’S GROCERY
WED. JAN 15 AT 9:45 AM
AM - CLEARING AUCTION
SALE OF TOYS; farm toys, tractor trailers, literature, and other related items, to be held at the K.W. Khaki Club, 2939 Nafziger Rd. 2 miles south of Wellesley, for Mervin Roth, New Hamburg, & additions, on Saturday, January 11th @ 9:30 a.m. Gerber Auctions Ltd. 519 669-4851 or 519-698-0138

RENTALS

FARM SERVICES
ICE SALT & ICE MELT • ICE SALT COMES IN 20 & 40kg, Ice melt comes in 20kg bags. Call George Haffer Trucking, 519-574-4141 or 519-669-2045.

FARM SERVICES
KILN DRIED CORN & CORN SCREENING Delivered by Emwetcher. Minimum 15 ton lots. Call George Haffer Trucking, 519-574-4141 or 519-669-2045.

HELP WANTED

HOME HARDWARE MATERIAL HANDLERS

Each year Home Hardware Stores Limited employs over 150 Terms and Students to work in the St. Jacobs Dealer Support Centre. Material Handlers pick and pack product for our Dealers. Interested in joining us? Bring your resume and references for a walk-in interview!

Any applicant must be 18 years old to be eligible. Students need to be available to work Saturdays and public holidays as required. Must be able to perform strenuous physical activities, including: walking, standing, bending, lifting, and must be willing to be trained on powered lift equipment. We will accommodate the needs of qualified applicants under the Human Rights Code in all parts of the hiring process.

HELP WANTED

HOME HARDWARE’S DEALER SUPPORT CENTRE
34 HENRY STREET, ST. JACOBS (enter through reception)
9:00 am to 11:00 am SAT, JAN, 11, 2020
for a walk-in interview!

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NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Township of Woolwich intends to discuss the draft 2020 budgets as required by section 290 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended:

- Tax-supported operating budget; and
- Tax-supported capital budget;

at 4 (four) special budget meetings on January 7th, January 9th, January 14th and January 16, 2020, each commencing at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 24 Church Street West, Elmira.

Richard Petherick, CPA, CMA
Director of Finance & Treasurer

Holiday Hours at the Woolwich Township Administration Office and Notice of Change in Office Hours for 2020

As of January 2, 2020, the office hours of the Township of Woolwich Administration Office at 24 Church Street West in Elmira will change to 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on a permanent basis.

Our website (www.woolwich.ca) is always available to receive inquiries from members of the public via our Report-it feature. Residents and business owners are also invited to submit documentation via the drop-box on the Maple Street side of the Township Administration Office.

THANK YOU to the following businesses and organizations for their generous sponsorship of Free Holiday Skates and Swims at the Woolwich Memorial Centre and St. Jacobs Arena:

Elmira Insurance
Elmira Lions Club
Elmira Pet Products
Good Auto Parts
Joslin Insurance
MPP Mike Harris
Programmed Insurance Brokers/RWAM
Pumps Plus
St. Jacobs Printery
Township of Woolwich Council
Toyota Boshoku
Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council
Woolwich Community Lions

We would also like to thank Canadian Tire for our big, beautiful Christmas Tree!

Please stop by the Woolwich Memorial Centre to pick up the holiday schedule of free skates/swims or visit us online at www.woolwich.ca

AUCTION

AUCTION SALE

Of tractors; machinery; double 12-herringbone parlour; stabilizing coolers; and miscellaneous items at 936821 Blenheim Road RR 1 Plattsview (or approx 2 kms sw of New Dundee) for Friedridge Farms on:

SUNDAY JANUARY 11 AT 10:00 AM

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
- 200 square bales of straw 4ft x 8ft; large pile of loose straw in barn; JD 2750 loader tractor with 245 loader, 4wd with manure bucket and spear to be sold – expect to take 5700 hours – really good; 2- JD 1010 tractors fully restored; Massey Harris pony tractor fully restored; Neufeld tractor fully restored; JD 4010 fully restored; all tractors in excellent running condition; Massey Harris R26 2 furrow antique trailer connects to plow; Case IH 600 forage blower; Bruns 300 bushel gravity wagon; 4 Winds 21t boat with 280 Mercury Cruiser in board motor on trailer; 3 – 2000 gal tanks; electric crowd gate with cable and motor; Wompa hoist trailer stall on wheels; 8" plug shooter, hydro engineering; 2 6" augers one with bristle brush and one for fertilizer both hydraulic and with hoppers; Valmetal roller mill with 5 hp motor new in September; A&P 12ton supplement bin; 8 - MU 480 6t stall milker units; variety of water bowls and milk carts; Delaval 3000 gal 15 year old stainless steel milk cooler with condensing unit – complete; Delaval 15 year old double 12-herringbone parlour complete with 24 units pulsators; automatic take offs; pipe line; swing gates; etc; variable vacuum pumps; variable speed receiver 60 gallon stainless steel tank; Mueller plate cooler; approx 150 Delaval transponders, collars, and 900 numbers; 160 BSM hoop style free stalls; large quantity of various sizes of conveyors; 14 section of H-bunk feed troughs; Delaval cattle brushes; 2014 Penta 4420 stationary vertical screw variable speed drive TMR mixer; BSM 260ft of 10ft sections of head locking gate systems; Harvester 9900 power mover grain plan unloader; scraper blade systems including 8 blades with 450t of chain, 400t of chain 8 months old; quantity of 4ft basket fans; stationary fans; 8 Calftel pen systems calf huts; large quantity of various sizes of steel farm gates; and a wagon load of miscellaneous items.

NOTE: The Frieds are building a new dairy barn and everything in the old barn needs to be sold. There will be loading available but everything needs to be removed by end of January.

TERMS: cash, cheque, or debit.

AUCTIONEERS:
Jantzi Auctions Ltd.
Wellesley | 519-656-3555
www.JantziAuctions.com

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COMING EVENTS

KARATE - NEW YEAR SPECIAL! SCH- WEITZER’S MARTIAL ARTS 8 weeks plus uniform only $99! All Group classes for ages 4 to adult Classes taught by Renfri Becki Schwartz, 4th Degree Black Belt and World Karate Champion Location at Heidelberg Community Centre 2015 Lobinger Line, Heidelberg Call 519-580-1418 or e-mail becki.schweitzer@hotmail.com

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

Is your collection collecting dust?

JACKS: Back in action Saturday night in Paris

FROM 11

McCombs (Lyons, Commissio) potting one at 15:00, then Troy Vanderven-busche (Lyons) also capitalizing on the extra player advantage at 19:52.

Lyons managed to score a goal shorthanded at 12:39, with the assist going to McCombs. There were many infractions littered throughout this suspens-filled frame, with a collective 14 between the two teams.

Paris finally responded on a power play, unassisted at 19:47 with just seconds left in the match, but it was not enough to save the game for them. The win once again went to the Applejacks, with shots in Wellesley’s favour 36-30.

The mattine game the following day took a different turn, with the Tavistock Braves putting an end to the Applejacks’ six-game win streak. Being a little too chippy may have been Wellesley’s downfall: they never again capitalized on a power play.

They scored once again on the second frame at 4:14, before Wellesley finally found their footing. McCombs took advantage of a power play 6:03, with assists going to Lyons and Pickering. Pickering scored on a penalty shot at 12:35, but it was all Wellesley could muster before the game’s end.

Tavistock once again capitalized on a power play at 15:24, taking a 5-2 lead before the final frame. There was little scoring in the third game for a lone Tavistock goal on a power play at 13:13. There were plenty of penalties, however, with over a dozen coming from Wellesley’s side.

When it was all said and done, Tavistock came out on top 6-2. The shot count was a little more balanced – Tavistock’s 31 vs Wellesley’s 23.

The Applejacks will look to improve their standings in their first game of 2020 on in Paris as they take on the Mounties Saturday night.
### Professional Services

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From that point of view, I think it’s a good idea.”

Using red radar cameras around schools helps to reduce the chance of collisions there. “That’s something we worry about. We start in the school zones as a way to protect our most vulnerable children,” said Shantz. "The intent should be to reduce speeding and keep the kids safe.”

Both Henderson and Shantz note many of the complaints about speeding are due to perceptions rather than the reality of the situation. Traffic monitoring routinely shows actual speeds are much lower than those reported by the public. “Perception of speeding and actual speeding aren’t always the same,” said Shantz. Henderson said the use of cameras will be backed by actual traffic studies.

Currently, the region is looking at using photo radar in school zones only, though Bill 65, the Safer School Zone Act, allows for its use in community safety zones as well. The restricted use is largely due to cost and ease of administration. Still, there will be considerable expense, though there have been no figures attached to preliminary reports thus far.

“To process the tickets generated each year by an ASE system, the region would require significant numbers of new staff in provincial offences administration and prosecutions,” reads a report to the planing and works committee. “There are potential mechanisms to lessen the impact on resources that are being explored, including limiting the number of cameras in use and modifying the speed threshold used to determine when a violation occurs and/or limiting enforcement to specific time periods (e.g. school hours, school walk times, etc.).”

A slow-phase rollout is expected if the plan gets the green light, said Henderson. Preliminary reports look at the feasibility based on the technical aspects rather than discussing the ethical issues of surveillance technology, though Henderson notes the region already employs red light cameras. Privacy issues and similar concerns are for the politicians to decide, he said. “For me, the whole program is all about road safety, nothing else. If people weren’t speeding or running red lights, we wouldn’t need the cameras.”

Shantz said there has been no discussion at that level to date, but such concerns are worth noting.

On a larger context, society has already allowed a considerable amount of technological invasions of privacy, she added – “That horse has left the barn.”

The technology is worthwhile if it protects children in school zones, Shantz suggested. “I don’t think it’s the wrong answer.”

Another report is expected to come before councillors early in the year, Henderson said.

KANNON: Looking beyond revenues to what’s right

FROM 09

What reports thus far do talk about is increasing the size of the bureaucracy, which is always the primary concern of bureaucrats. No worries, though, as the costs will be covered by revenues from fines. Those rising staff costs will need to be factored in to the budget – a quota system, as it were. And if people stop cooperating by slowing down in the school zones – the punishment is just as dear.

REC. FEES: Wellesley applies inflationary increases to most of its recreation and public works charges

FROM 01

Local minor sports.

Proposed recreation fees to be removed include minimum staffing ($72,30) and full day minimum staffing ($164) for night time ball tournaments, and the Linwood large hall hourly rental rate of $47.72.

One new feature that caught the attention of councillors is the “Slice of Ice” recreation fee, with Ward 4 Coun. Carl Smit suggesting. “Slice of Ice is designed for a P.A. Day property changes hands.”

It costs $8.86 minimum and requires at least five players. Slice of Ice is not available on weekends and dependent on staff availability ($44.64) for night time ball tournaments, and the Linwood large hall hourly rental rate of $47.72.

One new feature that caught the attention of councillors is the “Slice of Ice” recreation fee, with Ward 4 Coun. Carl Smit suggesting. “Slice of Ice is designed for a P.A. Day property changes hands.”

“Our world is changing,” said Councillor Mike Parker. “We have to work into the budget – a quota system, as it were. And if people stop cooperating by slowing down in the school zones – the punishment is just as dear.”

“This gives them the ability to pay $10 per property changes hands.”

— the region can always add more cameras or modify them so they can boost taxes for paid to increase administrative costs that add no value to the public.

Simply axing the program and the associated staff aren’t on the, the well, radar. Well beyond the pale is the simplest solution of all: drop the idea before it becomes another burden on the wallets and rights of the public.

“In loving memory of Erma Albrecht, a dear wife, mom, grandma, & great Grandma who passed away 4 years ago on Jan 4, 2016.

Gone is the face we loved so dear.
Silent is the voice we loved to hear.
Too far away for sight or speech,
but not too far for thought to reach.
Sweet to remember her
who once was here,
and who, though absent,
is just as dear.

Love Bill & Family

Kalan, Robert William

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Robert on Tuesday December 17, 2019 at the Grand River Hospital.

Loving father to Jeff Kalan, Randy (Sandy) Kalan, Lori (Marty) Cassell, and Patti (Bert) Del Cul

Sadly missed by his grandchildren Jamie (Ryan), Tricia (Marc), Jeff (Kim), Nathan (Brittany), Cameron (Maddie), Samantha, Aleks, Victoria (Ali, Antonia, Charlotte (Connor), Joe (Rhean), Mattia, Alicia, and Dante.

Forever remembered by his great grandchildren, Austin, Blake, Nash, Tristan, Emilie, Eli, Amelia, Findley, Hunter, Poppy, and Hallie.

Sadly missed by his lifelong companion and friend Deanna. Survived by his brothers Howard and Ted (Donna). Fondly remembered by his in-laws Carolyn, Ann (David).

Predeceased by his wife Margaret, His daughter in law Linda and his sister-in-law Linda.

A private graveside service will be held at the Memory Gardens Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Memory Gardens Funeral Home 2723 Victoria St. N. Breslau 519 904 0490.

A special thank you to the Doctors and nursing staff at the Grand River Hospital 6 South Floor.

A book of online condolences or Memorial donations to the Grand River Hospital Foundation 6 South Floor can be made online at:

www.memorycemetery.ca.

McLean, Randy Charles

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our loving son Randy, on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, in his 54th year, at St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver, BC. Beloved son of Ross and Heather McLean of Elmlira. Dear father of Amy McLean (Mike Parker) and Jade McLean, all of Vancouver Island, BC. Proud Grandpa of Cahan Parker, Randy will be missed by his sister Melanie (Greg) Jesperson of Waterloo, nieces Delaney and Lauren, nephews Keaton and Adam (Jesperson), grandmother Jean McLean of Waterloo (formerly of Elmlira), many cousins, aunts and uncles in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Predeceased by his grandfather William (Bill) McLean. Memorial visitation will be held on Sunday, January 5, 2020 from 1 p.m. until service time at 2 p.m. at the Dreisinger Funeral Home, 62 Arthur St. S., Elmlira. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society could be appreciated by Randy’s family.

www.dreisingerfuneralhome.com

Dammier, Dorothy

Peacefully passed away on Sunday, December 29, 2019 at Chartwell Elmira LTC at the age of 91 years. Beloved wife of the late Ralph Dammier (1989). Dear mother of David and Dianne, Linda, Douglas and Connie, Morris and Debbie, Philip and Loretta, Barb and Ray Weber, and Warren and Penny. Lovingly remembered by her 22 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and sister Irene Turner. Predeceased by her parents Emil and Vera (Zinkan); Schneider, grandson Ian, sister Fern (Bert) Bird, sisters-in-law Laurine (Gordon) Cook, and Marie (Walde) Koehler. The family will receive relatives and friends on Thursday, January 2, 2020 from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at the Dreisinger Funeral Home, 62 Arthur St. S., Elmlira. A funeral service will be held on Friday, January 3, 2020 at 11 a.m. at St. James Lutheran Church, 60 Arthur St. S., Elmlira, with a reception to follow. Interment in St. Peter’s Lutheran Cemetery, Linwood. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Muscular Dys trophy Canada or Canadian Hearing Society would be appreciated.

www.dreisingerfuneralhome.com
Elmira’s Scott Willard has expanded his reviews of craft beer to include a new podcast co-hosted with Jim Brickman

BY STEVE KANNON
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

Having developed a passion for craft beer, Elmira’s Scott Willard has been spreading the word. His established Instagram reviews have recently been joined by a video podcast co-hosted by Jim Brickman, a fellow who knows a thing or two about craft brewing.

There are now two episodes of The Beer Show posted on YouTube, the first featuring Rural Roots Brewing in Elmira and the second focusing on Block Three in St. Jacobs. Willard has been doing beer reviews on Instagram (bigwilly1827) for four or five years, with the idea for a podcast fermenting for about a year after he met Brickman, the founder of one of the country’s earliest craft breweries, Brick Brewing Co.

“He’s the original craft guy in Canada,” said Willard of Brickman, who launched Brick Brewing in 1984. “It’s nice to see his story.”

In mapping out the podcast, they looked at the logistics of studio space, a home locale and the like.

“We were trying to figure out how to implement it. Then we said, ‘why don’t we go to breweries?’”

Starting with his hometown, Willard and Brickman visited Rural Roots before heading down the road a piece to Block Three, which is where he first got into craft beers.

“The guys from Block Three got me hooked on craft beer,” he noted.

Since that time, he’s taken craft beers to heart, travelling near and far to sample them, as well as trying brews sent to him by likeminded people he’s met through his online postings.

“I’ve gotten to know so many people in the industry,” he said.

In that time, he’s seen the craft brewing field explode, with hundreds of small breweries in Ontario alone.

That alone ensures he’ll never run out of material for his podcast. His plan is to start locally and expand outward in geography. Next up, for instance, is TWB (Together We’re Bitter) in Kitchener, with plans to include Innocente, Counterpoint, Elora and Descendants.

“We want to feature these local guys, promote them,” he said. “Every brewery has a different story.”

At small craft breweries, the person pouring your beer is often the one who made it. The people who get into the field are typically passionate about beer, often having been home-brewers for years, and they love to talk about beer and making it, said Willard, noting they’re not shy about spreading the word.

“The breweries love it when you talk about them,” he laughed.

And there’s always something new to talk about, as craft breweries are always experimenting with new recipes, making small-batch products and delving into various ingredients.

There’s an unlimited number of options.

“You want to come back because there’s always something new,” he said of visiting the small brewer- ies, which certainly counts as research in his case.

And he’s very fond of research, enjoying a variety of beers.

“I love brown ales and porters,” he said. “And there are some really nice pilsners and lagers. And great seasonal stuff.

“I like everything,” he concludes, with a laugh.

That comes in handy as he works his way through the many beers now available, posting his takes via Instagram and, now, the podcast.

The idea being the show, which is largely unscripted and “off the cuff,” is to maintain an intimate feel, Willard explained.

Part of the inspiration came from Robert Arsenault, aka Drunk Polkkaaro, who does reviews on YouTube.

“He’s the guy that got me into craft beers,” he noted.

Enjoying more than just drinking the stuff, Scott Willard has employed Instagram and now YouTube to talk about the merits of local craft breweries.

Expanding on his previous podcast (bigwilly1827) for four or five years, with the idea for a podcast fermenting for about a year.

Happy New Year!

We are excited for what this year will bring and look forward to serving you and your family.

Safe winter travels and like always feel free to call us anytime with your questions or emergencies. 519-669-1082

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Turkey fingers
another great option for leftovers

Nothing says holiday mode like leftover turkey. This tasty recipe is a fun finger food. Using high-fibre breakfast cereal adds the right amount of crunch to the turkey fingers.

Of course, if you don’t have any leftovers, turkey breasts can be found at the store. Or you can mix things up and use chicken or even pork instead.

You can also switch up the herbs and try dried parsley, basil or thyme. If you have fresh herbs, just chop finely and use twice as much.

This recipe is also a good choice to double up on, freezing them for a quick meal option on those hectic weekdays.

Crunchy Turkey Fingers with Oven Fries

1 boneless skinless turkey breast, about 600 g/1-1/4 lb
1 Tbsp. Dijon or yellow mustard
1 tsp. canola oil
2 cups bran flakes
2 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
1 tsp. Italian herb seasoning or dried oregano leaves

Oven Fries:
1 sweet potato, peeled and cut into strips
2 parsnips, peeled and cut into strips
1 tsp. canola oil
1/2 tsp. chili powder
1. Cut turkey breast into finger size strips and place in a bowl. Add mustard and oil and using your hands coat turkey fingers evenly.
2. Place bran flakes into a large re-sealable bag and crumble breadcrumbs. Add cheese and seasoning. Add turkey fingers to bag, one at a time, and shake to coat. Place coated turkey onto parchment paper lined baking sheet. Repeat with all the turkey fingers; set aside.
3. Oven Fries: In a large bowl, combine sweet potato and parsnip strips. Add oil and chill powder and toss to coat evenly. On a second parchment paper lined baking sheet, spread fries in single layer onto sheet.
4. Place fries in bottom third of preheated 220°C (425°F) oven for 15 minutes. Move fries to top third of oven and place turkey fingers on bottom third of oven for 15 minutes.

Wednesday, January 8
Séniors’ Community Dinner, Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for a light lunch and fellowship at the Breslau Community Centre at noon, $7. Call 519-664-9000 by noon on Jan. 6 to sign up.
New Horizons at Maryhill Community Centre at 10 a.m. Ken Dowling will be guest speaker for New Horizons. Topic: The West Montrose Bridge Spanning Seven Generations. Ken is a member of the BridgeKeepers in West Montrose. Coffee, tea and a delicious snack are served; $2 admission.

Thursday, January 9
Séniors’ Lunch Club, Community Care Concepts invites you to join us for a light lunch and fellowship at the Woolwich Community Centre at noon, $7. Call 519-664-9000 by noon on Jan. 6 to sign up.

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Biotech ruling could change global farming through the 2020s

W
hile most of us were preparing for Christmas, a game-changing pro-biotechnology ruling took place on the other side of the world that could profoundly affect agriculture everywhere through the next decade and beyond.

In mid-December, the Philippine Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Plant Industry ruled that that Golden Rice, a genetically engineered, vitamin A-enabled crop (vitamin A gives it its golden colour), is “as safe as conventional rice.”

That ruling is huge. It’s being touted as a victory for science-based regulatory decision-making – an approach to which Canada has traditionally subscribed – by a country where this enhanced crop can really make a difference in people’s lives.

Here’s why. Vitamin A deficiency causes a host of debilitating and sometimes fatal conditions including blindness and death. It’s rare in the western world, including Canada, because we generally eat a balanced diet from which we receive vitamin A. But in countries where rice is a staple, it’s a real problem, because Vitamin A does not naturally occur in rice. The World Health Organization estimates upwards of a half-million vitamin A-deficient children go blind every year, and in the year that follows blindness, they die.

Golden Rice has been a focal point for pro- and anti-biotechnology groups for years. It was developed in the early 2000s by multinational plant and crop protection company Syngenta, making Golden Rice an enemy of anti-technology groups, despite its potential to help save lives. Ultimately, Syngenta gave it over to global development organizations such as the International Rice Research Institute, whose interests are not shareholder driven.

Still, Golden Rice struggled to shed the negative image of a biotech crop. It was further vilified because some of the countries where it could help the most did not have regulations in place for testing or adopting such crops. Its western world opponents positioned Golden Rice as an untested industry-driven technology being imposed on uninformed populations. They also feared its acceptance would much more broadly open the door for plant biotechnology.

Now, two decades later, regulations have been instituted in many countries that eliminate some of those arguments. The Philippines is among them. More testing will follow, and Golden Rice must still be approved for commercial propagation in the Philippines. But there was no way that would happen if it was not officially considered safe. Now, it is. Canada took a big step in 2018 to declare Golden Rice safe – but didn’t go as far as to allow it to be sold here. Maybe someday. But that’s not why it gave its approval. Globally, Canada is considered to have a tough regulatory system. If officials here said it was safe, it could have sway with regulatory agencies in other countries. And that appears to be what’s happening.

In 2020 and beyond we’ll see the doors open further for genetically modified crops grown abroad. Some will be approved here and will need to go through our own regulatory channels. Some already are, like papayas, which have been saved by genetic intervention from a virus that was destined to wipe them out. We need a strong and thorough regulatory system here to monitor what’s coming in, and what’s going out. The export environment is tough enough with political trumped-up trade restrictions against our farmers’ crops and livestock. We need to be leaders in food safety at home and abroad to give Canadian producers a fair chance to compete, and to give consumers the assurance they need to feel confident in our food supply, regardless of where it’s produced.

I hope I get a chance someday to try Golden Rice. Food variety helps make life rich. And I hope we all get the opportunity to be as healthy as possible this decade, thanks to dedicated researchers, smart regulations, and good, affordable choices.
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