Party’s a century in the making

Lillian Weiss celebrates her 100th birthday surrounded by friends at the St. Jacobs Village Manor Retirement Home

Lillian Weiss turned 100 on January 20. Her birthday party was hosted three days later at the home, where she was surrounded by friends and staff, complete with a birthday cake, balloons, and live entertainment.

“It’s a huge personal achievement, if I do say so myself,” said Weiss, during her celebration party. “I’ve been very fortunate to have good health throughout my life. I am truly blessed.”

She and her family moved south to the Waterloo Region from Mildmay, Ont., when she was just nine-months-old. Weiss attended high school in KW, where she achieved several scholarships. Eventually, Weiss landed a job working in Ottawa for the government as a canteen girl.

Her real passion, however, came from raising money for charities. In particular, Weiss fundraised for the Canadian Cancer Society through fashion shows in the region for about two decades. She said while things started off small, the effort gradually grew over the years to raise more and more money.

“When I first started I didn’t make very much,” said Weiss. “Then I added door prizes, this and that, and the money accumulated more. I used to make a lot of money.”

It’s a cause that’s very personal
Old steel bridge on Middlebrook Pl. slated for removal

Woolwich, Centre Wellington deem failing heritage span too costly to retain; will replace nearby concrete structure

BY STEVE KANNON
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

An historic steel bridge spanning the Grand River on Middlebrook Place will be removed, Woolwich council last week deeming that the most cost-effective way to deal with the deteriorating structure.

Built in the 1930s near the border with Centre Wellington Township, the bridge has been closed since 2012. Removing it will be a one-time cost of $550,000, the recommended option in an engineering report that also looked at rehabilitating the span for $650,000, plus ongoing maintenance and repairs before the bridge would eventually be mothballed due to age. Other options such as converting the bridge for pedestrian use ($900,000, plus ongoing costs) and replacing it entirely ($3.5 million) were also dismissed.

While closing the steel bridge, a nearby concrete bridge on the same road is to be replaced at a cost of $450,000, providing ongoing access to a property wedged between the two structures.

Both projects are to be funded equally by Woolwich and Centre Wellington.

Removing the steel bridge would eliminate one of just four remaining camelback truss bridges in Waterloo Region (another on Peel Street near Winterbourne is also being considered for a similar fate).

While recognizing there are heritage issues, Ryan Tucker, an engineering project supervisor with the township, said a review found removing the structure is the best option.

“It would get it off the township’s docket so that it’s not costing anything,” he told councillors meeting January 21.

Keeping the bridge for historic purposes would require an upfront cost of $450,000, along with $150,000 every 15 years for repairs and maintenance, the environmental assessment review found.

Though the bridge is closed, people still cross it on foot, noted Jack Turner of GM Blue Plan Engineer-
Pair of charities benefit from BBQ fundraiser

Proceeds from Raymond Dietrich Memorial BBQ supports Kate’s Kause to the tune of $11,500 and Woolwich Sun Rays get $5,000

The money raised at last summer’s Raymond Dietrich Memorial Barbecue fundraiser went to support two local charities, with separate cheque presentations taking place last month.

Kate’s Kause, an Elmira-based charity, received $11,500, while the Woolwich Sun Rays, a local para-ice hockey team, benefited $5,000.

“It is so uplifting to have a group of people recognize our inclusive mandate and support us like this,” said Kate’s Kause founder Kelly Meissner. “We were stunned at the amount of the donation, and it’s all thanks to the big hearts of Will Jamieson and Greg Demeuleneere.

Kate’s Kause is aimed at raising awareness for Angelman’s syndrome and fundraising for inclusive community projects. Meissner said the donation money would entirely be used to help fund the $200,000 accessible washroom project at Kate’s Place for Everyone at Gibson Park in Elmira.

The Woolwich Sun Rays, on the other hand, is a very personal cause for the Raymond Dietrich organizers. The Sun Rays are an ice hockey team open to special needs participants of all skill levels.

The barbecue fundraiser and the hockey team are both named after Raymond Dietrich, a local, fun-loving, caring sports fan who lived with Down syndrome. He passed away in 2011 at the age of 48. Raymond was the inspiration behind the Woolwich Sun Rays.

Both charities share a similar vision of creating a more inclusive and accessible environment across Woolwich Township.

“The would like to give a giant thank-you to everybody that helps support the barbecue every year, a giant thank-you to Kate’s Kause and the Woolwich Sun Rays,” said Chris Pope, a Raymond Dietrich Memorial committee member.

“It’s Woolwich community … there was never a doubt in our minds that we would have the support, but I don’t know if we ever thought we’d get this kind of support.”

The memorial barbecue took place in August 2019 at the Waterloo Rod & Gun Club in St. Jacobs. It drew in record attendance, selling out some 180 tickets at $50 apiece.

The event has grown consistently since its inception three years ago, and organizers are looking for ways to expand further, such as including live music, for their 2020 barbecue.

Strike action to close Catholic schools Tuesday

Province and elementary teachers unions resumed talks this week after hiatus

Catholic schools in the region will be shuttered again Tuesday (February 4) as the Ontario English Catholic Teachers’ Association (OECTA) has called for a one-day strike.

Meanwhile, the province and Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO) this week resumed talks that had broken off. But most of the unions representing teachers in the province continue to carry out work-to-rule campaigns, a list that now include Franco-Ontarian teachers who are members of the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO), who stepped up their efforts as of this week.

Next week’s one-day strike by Catholic teachers is the second such walkout, teachers having taken to the streets Monday, visible in downtown Elmira outside MPP Mike Harris’ office.

Elementary teachers hit the streets Monday, visible in downtown Elmira outside MPP Mike Harris’ office. (VERONICA REINER / THE OBSERVER)
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed Amendment to the Regional Official Plan
Rationalization of the boundaries of the Countryside Line, the Elmira and St. Jacobs Township Urban Areas, and the Breslau Urban Area, Township of Woolwich

The Region of Waterloo is holding a public meeting to receive comments from the community on a proposed amendment to the Regional Official Plan (ROP). The public meeting is being held pursuant to Section 17 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13, as amended.

Date and Location
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Regional Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener.

Purpose and Effect
The Township of Woolwich has completed a rationalization exercise in accordance with Policies 2.8.A and 2.8.B of the Regional Official Plan (ROP). The purpose of this amendment is to finalize/rationalize the boundaries of the St. Jacobs and Elmira Township Urban Areas and the Countryside Line, and to rationalize the Breslau Urban Area boundary.

This change is intended to redirect growth to areas that can be developed more efficiently and cost-effectively on full municipal services. If approved, the proposed ROP amendment would implement the boundary rationalization proposed by the Township of Woolwich.

How to Get More Information
To view the proposed ROP amendment, please visit our Public Notices webpage at www.regionofwaterloo.ca. Click on the Regional Government tab in the top right of the homepage and then select News and Public Notices. You can also obtain a copy of the proposed amendment on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at:
Planning, Development and Legislative Services Department
Regional Municipality of Waterloo
8th Floor, 150 Frederick Street
Kitchener, Ontario

For more information about this matter please contact:
David Welwood, MES, MCIP, RPP
Principal Planner
Planning, Development and Legislative Services
Telephone: 519-575-4400 ext. 3120
TTY: 519-575-4481
Email: DWelwood@regionofwaterloo.ca

If you wish to register to speak at the public meeting, or if you require accessible services to participate, please call the Council and Administrative Services Offices by 4:30 p.m. by Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 519-575-4400 or TTY 519-575-4481.

All comments and information received from individuals, stakeholder groups and agencies regarding the proposed amendment are being collected to assist the Region of Waterloo in making a decision under the Planning Act. 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.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo on the proposed ROP amendment, you must make a written request to the Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, 150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4J3.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of 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 Regional Municipality of Waterloo before the proposed regional official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Municipality of Waterloo before the proposed regional 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.

How to Get More Information:

To view the proposed ROP amendment, please visit our Public Notices webpage at www.regionofwaterloo.ca. Click on the Regional Government tab in the top right of the homepage and then select News and Public Notices. You can also obtain a copy of the proposed amendment on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at:
Planning, Development and Legislative Services Department
Regional Municipality of Waterloo
8th Floor, 150 Frederick Street
Kitchener, Ontario

For more information about this matter please contact:
David Welwood, MES, MCIP, RPP
Principal Planner
Planning, Development and Legislative Services
Telephone: 519-575-4400 ext. 3120
TTY: 519-575-4481
Email: DWelwood@regionofwaterloo.ca

If you wish to register to speak at the public meeting, or if you require accessible services to participate, please call the Council and Administrative Services Offices by 4:30 p.m. by Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 519-575-4400 or TTY 519-575-4481.

All comments and information received from individuals, stakeholder groups and agencies regarding the proposed amendment are being collected to assist the Region of Waterloo in making a decision under the Planning Act. 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.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo on the proposed ROP amendment, you must make a written request to the Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, 150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4J3.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of 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 Regional Municipality of Waterloo before the proposed regional official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Municipality of Waterloo before the proposed regional 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.

The picket lines January 21. The 45,000-member union remains at odds with the government on issues such as class sizes, kindergarten programming and course availability to students. There’s been no progress to date, said OECTA president Liz Stuart.

Besieged Minister of Education Stephen Lecce has been issuing statements regularly, this week calling out OECTA members.

“Teacher union leaders have yet again demonstrated their disregard for parents in this province by not showing up to work,” said Stuart.

Union leaders are prepared to stand up for things like higher benefits for their members but appear unable to stand up for the basic expectation that students should learn each and every day,” he said in a release.

The province and the teachers’ unions remain at odds, with an appointed mediator at times calling off talks due to the gap between the two sides. The unions have accused Lecce of simply going through the motions. On January 29, however, the mediator, Denise Small, reached out to both the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the negotiating parties for the Ontario government and school boards to resume negotiations.

In agreeing to return to the table, ETFO is optimistic that the government’s representatives will engage in meaningful bargaining around key issues, said president Sam Hammond in a statement.

“Open exploratory talks with the Ford government’s negotiators must include a mandate to remove further cuts, increase supports for students with special needs, preserve the current Kindergarten model with a teacher and designated early childhood educator, and maintain fair and transparent hiring practices,” he said.

“It’s time that the Ford government recognized that our public education system is key to the future of this province’s economy. We must have the tools and supports to prepare students to realize their individual aspirations and productively contribute to the economic and social fabric of this province,” said Hammond, whose union represents 83,000 elementary public school teachers and education workers.

The ETFO has said it will escalate its rotating strikes across the province starting Monday if central agreements are not reached by the end of January.

Lecce, however, laid the blame for the impasse and resultant job action on union greed.

“Repeated escalation at the expense of our students, to advance higher compensation, higher wages, and even more generous benefits, is unacceptable for parents and students in our province. We firmly believe students should be in class, which is why we continue to stand ready to negotiate to reach a deal Ontario students deserve,” he said in a statement January 27.

BIRTHDAY: Keeping engaged, active is the key to longevity, she says

FROM 01

to her, having lost her husband to stomach cancer. She said most people she knows have been affected by cancer in some way, shape or form.

“That’s a good aim in life; to help people that can’t help themselves or help people financially and raise money for them. And that’s what I’ve tried to do,” said Weiss. “I’m 100-years-old, and I’m not stopping.”

She’s also involved with the Confederation Club in Waterloo, a networking organization whose stated purpose is to promote awareness and inform members on matters of national, economic or social interest with a Conservative focus.

Weiss attends their meetings when she can, which generally take place once a month and feature a guest speaker. Staying involved in the community, she said, is one of the keys to longevity.

“Keep busy – secret to a long life; I tell that to everybody that asks me: keep your mind busy. Don’t just lay around,” said Weiss.

STRIKE: Teachers’ unions continue to apply pressure with job action

FROM 03

"It’s time that the Ford government recognized that our public education system is key to the future of this province’s economy. We must have the tools and supports to prepare students to realize their individual aspirations and productively contribute to the economic and social fabric of this province,” said Hammond, whose union represents 83,000 elementary public school teachers and education workers.

"Repeated escalation at the expense of our students, to advance higher compensation, higher wages, and even more generous benefits, is unacceptable for parents and students in our province. We firmly believe students should be in class, which is why we continue to stand ready to negotiate to reach a deal Ontario students deserve,” he said in a statement January 27.

BIRTHDAY: Keeping engaged, active is the key to longevity, she says

FROM 01

to her, having lost her husband to stomach cancer. She said most people she knows have been affected by cancer in some way, shape or form.

“That’s a good aim in life; to help people that can’t help themselves or help people financially and raise money for them. And that’s what I’ve tried to do,” said Weiss. “I’m 100-years-old, and I’m not stopping.”

She’s also involved with the Confederation Club in Waterloo, a networking organization whose stated purpose is to promote awareness and inform members on matters of national, economic or social interest with a Conservative focus.

Weiss attends their meetings when she can, which generally take place once a month and feature a guest speaker. Staying involved in the community, she said, is one of the keys to longevity.

“Keep busy – secret to a long life; I tell that to everybody that asks me: keep your mind busy. Don’t just lay around,” said Weiss.

STRIKE: Teachers’ unions continue to apply pressure with job action

FROM 03

"It’s time that the Ford government recognized that our public education system is key to the future of this province’s economy. We must have the tools and supports to prepare students to realize their individual aspirations and productively contribute to the economic and social fabric of this province,” said Hammond, whose union represents 83,000 elementary public school teachers and education workers.

"Repeated escalation at the expense of our students, to advance higher compensation, higher wages, and even more generous benefits, is unacceptable for parents and students in our province. We firmly believe students should be in class, which is why we continue to stand ready to negotiate to reach a deal Ontario students deserve,” he said in a statement January 27.
Ontario is investing $450,000 over two years to ensure the Crime Stoppers toll-free telephone tip line can continue to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the government announced this week.

“For decades, Crime Stoppers has played an important role in making sure anyone can share information about criminal activity with the police at any time, on any day,” Christine Hogarth, parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General, said in a release. “Public safety is our priority. Our government will continue providing our community safety partners, like Crime Stoppers, with the supports they need to help us keep Ontario communities safe.”

Crime Stoppers is a partnership between the public, police and media, which provides the community with a method for anonymously providing tips to assist in preventing and solving crime. January is nationally recognized as Crime Stoppers Month. In Ontario, there are 39 Crime Stoppers programs linked by a toll-free telephone number (1-800-222-TIPS) that works anywhere in North America.

“Having a province-wide program that allows citizens to report crime anonymously is invaluable to police services and communities right across Ontario,” said York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe. “The funding support provided by the Province of Ontario is appreciated and will assist in making all Crime Stoppers programs more accessible to citizens.”

“Everyone has a role when it comes to community safety,” said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. “Sharing tips with the police through Crime Stoppers is just one way individuals can help keep our communities safe. Our society is at its best when we work together and collaborate, so everyone should do their part.”

Wellesley firefighters responded Monday evening to an on-farm shop at a Geddes Street property near Hawkesville.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed Amendment to the Regional Official Plan
Rationalization of the boundaries of the Countryside Line and the Wellesley Township Urban Area, Township of Wellesley

The Region of Waterloo is holding a public meeting to receive comments from the community on a proposed amendment to the Regional Official Plan (ROP). The public meeting is being held pursuant to Section 17 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13, as amended.

Date and Location
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Regional Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener.

Purpose and Effect
The Township of Wellesley has completed a rationalization exercise in accordance with Policy 2.8.7 of the Regional Official Plan (ROP). The purpose of this amendment is to finalize/rationalize the boundaries of the Wellesley Township Urban Areas and the Countryside Line.

This change is intended to redirect growth to areas that can be developed more efficiently and cost-effectively on full municipal services. If approved, the proposed ROP amendment would implement the boundary rationalization proposed by the Township of Wellesley.

How to Get More Information
To view the proposed ROP amendment, please visit our Public Notices webpage at www.regionofwaterloo.ca, click on the Regional Government tab in the top right of the homepage, and then select News and Public Notices. You can also obtain a copy of the proposed amendment on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Planning, Development and Legislative Services Department Regional Municipality of Waterloo 8th Floor, 150 Frederick Street Kitchener, Ontario For more information about this matter please contact David Welwood, MES, MCP, RPP
Principal Planner Planning, Development and Legislative Services Telephone: 519-575-4400 ext. 3120
TTY: 519-575-4481
Email: DWelwood@regionofwaterloo.ca

If you wish to register to speak at the public meeting, or if you require accessible services to participate, please call the Council and Administrative Services Offices by 4:30 p.m. by Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 519-575-4400 or TTY 519-575-4481.

All comments and information received from individuals, stakeholder groups and agencies regarding the proposed amendment are being collected to assist the Region of Waterloo in making a decision under the Planning Act. Under the Municipal Act, persons such as name, address, telephone number, and property location that may be included in a submission becomes part of the public record.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo on the proposed ROP amendment, you must make a written request to the Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, 150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4J3.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of 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 Regional Municipality of Waterloo before the proposed regional official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Municipality of Waterloo before the proposed regional 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.

By Veronica Reiner veronica@theserver.com

He’s just gotta get the music out there

Singer-songwriter JP Sunga has long yearned to release an album, and now that dream is coming true.

Longtime singer-songwriter and Wellesley Idol judge JP Sunga is the first to admit that there are a million reasons for him not to pursue a full-length album. But that didn’t stop the 41-year-old Toronto native from fulfilling that lifelong dream.

His newest single and professional music video, Listen to Your Heart, was released last week. The futuristic pop ballad is the first song on his full-length album, with all songs scheduled to be released by December 2020.

“The song essentially is about finding that hope within us regardless of how dark things in our lives can become. Sometimes even when we don’t want to believe it’s there, there’s always something in there that’s going to be fighting for us,” said Sunga. “The song encourages us to find that light and find that voice within to get us going.”

The father of three found the inspiration to create the song by seeing his friends battle with depression, as well as a reflection on the darker moments of his own life. In particular, Sunga went through a rough patch after losing his mother to cancer.

“Sometimes even when we don’t want to believe it’s there, there’s always something in there that’s going to be fighting for us,” said Sunga. “The song encourages us to find that light and find that voice within to get us going.”

Sunga has self-funded the project, up until recently, and is hoping to raise an additional $3,000 to cover remaining recording, production and distribution costs. To do so, he started a crowdfunding campaign, the practice of funding a project by raising a small amount of money from a large number of people. It can be accessed at https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/jp-sunga-debut-album-project.

The music video released on January 24 and can be found on YouTube or be accessed through his website: www.jspunga.com.
Traffic on Arthur Street was snarled Wednesday morning as Woolwich firefighters responded to a fire at the Fab-Force metal fabrication shop south of Elmira.

Boys will be boys, but men on an sketchy journey of self-discovery may be anything but predictable in the latest offering from the Elmira Theatre Company. Wild Guys opens Friday, offering up insight and plenty of laughs.

Penned by Canadian couple Andrew Wreggitt and Rebecca Shaw, the play follows the story of four middle-aged men on a getaway that turns out to be more than they signed on for. Setting off for an isolated cabin for a “wild-man” weekend in the vein of Robert Bly’s Iron John – it’s set in the ‘90s after all – they soon discover than everything that can go wrong does.

Men’s movement advocate Andy (played by Robb Judd), new age free-spirit Robin (Michael Grant), local grocer Stewart (Dan Kelley) and practical lawyer Randall (Thom Smith) all wind up on a “Men’s Awareness Weekend.”

When the group gets lost on the way to the cottage, there are plenty of room for personality clashes, wild animal noises, and conversations about the men’s movement.

“It’s got some funny moments, and it has its tender moments. The men really get to know each other,” said director Cathy Moore.

“I think these men too had difficulty relating to other men ... because it can be difficult sometimes for men to open up. So over the course of their journey ... from strangers to coming out on the other end as friends, it’s a lovely journey that they do take.”

While it is classified as a comedy, the play touches on several serious topics. The men learn that it is okay to communicate with one another and to express emotion.

Elmira actor Michael Grant takes on the role of the off-colour character, Robin, who’s on a personal journey of self-discovery and trying all types of groups imaginable to do so: talking crystals, discovering your inner shadow workshop, a successful life course.

“It’s been a challenge – it’s been fun. If I ever met this guy, I’d want to hit him,” said Grant with a laugh of his character. “The energy he brings to the group, the youthfulness, was something I enjoyed bringing onstage.”

He clashes considerably with the other characters in the beginning, who lead a more “normal” lifestyle.

“They don’t relate to my character whatsoever,” said Grant. “It’s very apparent that was something I enjoyed bringing onstage.”

As soon as I read it, I start to have these visions in my head ... that’s always a good sign,” said Moore.

The Elmira Theatre Company production of The Wild Guys runs January 31 to February 13 at the Howard Avenue theatre. Tickets are $20, or $65 per person for the Valentine’s Day dinner theatre show on February 14, available through KW Tickets at 1-800-265-8977 or 519-578-1570 or in person at Centre In The Square box office, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener, or online at www.elmiratheatre.com.

Though very different, they find out they’re all Wild Guys

Elmira Theatre Company brings to stage the laughs and introspection of four men’s journey of self-discovery, or something approximating it, at any rate

BY VERONICA REINER
vreiner@woolwichobserver.com

Call to book your massage appointment today!

Guys and Dolls Salon & Spa
112 Oriole Pkwy, Elmira
www.guysanddolls.ca
519-669-8234

Sugar Kings Promotion
For all of you who have been meaning to get your will done but just haven’t gotten around to it ...

$25 OFF PER PERSON

$25 off Wills and Powers of Attorney in the month of February, with the presentation of an Elmira Sugar Kings ticket stub.

Offer ends Feb 29, 2020

Cynthia L. Hastings BA (Hons) LLB
Scott A. Grainger BA (Hons) LLB

Friendly, Experienced & Passionate legal representation with high integrity from your local, full service law firm

Waters, Hastings & Grainger
Professional Corporation

21 Arthur St. S., Elmira | 519-669-1641 | whglaw.ca
China's wrongs makes the right choice on tech an easy one

In an emergency, the good thing about a dictatorship is that it can respond very fast. The bad thing is that it won't respond at all until the dictator-in-chief says that it should. All the little dictators who flourish in this sort of system won’t risk their positions by passing bad news, and there’s little risk of being blamed for delay outweighs the risk of being blamed for the emergency in the first place.

You can see how this works if you consider China’s response to the emergence of nCoV-2019 (novel coronavirus) 2019), a new viral threat potentially as serious as the SARS virus of 2003. Some things it has done well, but others it did very badly, and the odds are that the virus will spread globally and is now probably even more dangerous.

The local health authorities in Wuhan, the 11-million-strong city in central China where the virus first appeared, spotted it on December 31, when only a few dozen cases had come to their attention. That’s as fast as you could ask, and they promptly shut down the seafood and wild game market where the victims caught the disease. Score: 9

But the virus has already spread to over 100 countries and there’s still no hope of controlling it. Some companies are realizing that doing business in China has some serious drawbacks, including using the diaspora (including students) as spies, persistent cyber attacks, intellectual property theft, espionage, lobbying, currency manipulation, attempts to buy up foreign assets and related fraud. Not to mention the moral issues of dealing with an authoritarian regime willing to inflict its ill intentions on everybody, including its own people.

Given China’s increasing authoritarianism and its more aggressive stance globally, it simply makes sense to prevent it from taking part in the rollout of new telecommunications technology. Huawei stands accused of stealing technologies and being subsidized by the communist government to aid in the spread of its equipment as a means of spying on a large scale.

Western intelligence agencies have flagged China as a major counterintelligence threat. Worries about economic espionage abound, with such investigations by the FBI in the U.S., for instance, predominately involving China. Caught up in a dispute with China, Canada has plenty of reasons to re-evaluate the costs, most of them negative, of doing business with the authoritarian regime. That said, the time for the West to have avoided getting entangled with China would have been some 20 years ago, before the massive influx of cheap plastic crap and the technology boom that really enabled widespread spying.

The spat touched by the arrest Meng Wanzhou shines a light on what is a most unhealthy relationship. Leaving aside the trade imbalances—a big part of the U.S.-China rift, with China just now—there remains a long list of concerns, including using the diaspora (including students) as spies, persistent cyber attacks, intellectual property theft, espionage, lobbying, currency manipulation, attempts to buy up foreign assets and related fraud. Not to mention the moral issues of dealing with an authoritarian regime willing to inflict its ill intentions on everybody, including its own people.

Of course, all of this is tempered by the desire for profit, which is what drives the likes of Walmart to outsource jobs there—some 400,000 between 2001 and 2013 alone—and to invest billions of dollars. Governments and corporations see the prospect of a huge market and instantly lose the ability to discern right from wrong—an affliction that goes well beyond China, of course.

Some companies are realizing that doing business in China has meant intellectual property theft, mandatory transfer of proprietary technology (subsequently stolen) and foreign ownership restrictions that are seldom matched back on home soil. Getting off the made-in-China ride now will be more difficult than we hadn’t opened Pandora’s Box in the first place. That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try.
If you’ve been watching any of the Trump impeachment proceedings and deemed it little more than a spectacle, you’d be right. But that’s rather the whole point.

There’s little chance the Republican-dominated Senate will vote to remove Trump, no matter how clearly unfit for office he is. The spectacle lies in Mitch McConnell’s bunch finding ways to prevent the truth from being aired and moving to a vote as quickly as possible while trying not to look too complacent in the cor-

Equally as compelling is watching the defenders of Trump, from within the U.S. Congress all the way down to the man-on-the-street interviewers, sporting a red MAGA hat or otherwise. As these party viewers here, we can only gaze in wonder at the lies and ignorance on display.

The lying and ignorance aren’t byproducts of the current parti-
san divide prompted by Donald Trump, whose corruption and crimes began long before his march to the Whitehouse. What we see today is just the growth of a longstanding propaganda model in politics, one especially cultivated by Republicans.

As with right-wing parties in general, the Republicans know their policies are harmful to the majority of citizens, so they rely on ignorance (in large supply), fear-mongering and divisive lan-
guage to foster a base. They’ve also turned to unlimited dark money to sway the gullible and buy votes, gerrymandering, vot-
er suppression and stacking the courts. Combined with localized voting rules and an Electoral College voting system that both seem unconstitutional, they’ve managed to win power.

Demographics don’t bode well for the Republicans, though they use the racial angle as fuel to shift shifting both fear and di-

With decades of underhand tactics under its belt, the party will stop at nothing to con-
sider isolating the city, and the regime has down, and the regime has

car various factions that actually harm them. Congress is the product of proof of declining standards, which the political people did

There are often compli-
cating factors. The spread will be far faster if the virus can pass from one person to another in the air. It will be much harder to isolate the people carrying the virus if they become infe-
cious before they develop visible symptoms. But the methods available to slow or stop the spread are still the same: identify car-
riers and isolate them.

Now, back to what happened in China. The medical people did their best; the political people did not. It was two more weeks before the city of Wuhan was cut off from the rest of the country and the world. Lunar New Year, the biggest holiday in China’s calendar, was coming up fast, but nothing was done although half the popula-
tion goes home for a visit at this time every year.

Now Wuhan is in lock-
down, and the regime has even extended the New Year holiday by three days to keep people where they are a little longer. That doesn’t really help people still have to go home even-
tually, and Wuhan’s mayor, Zhou Xianwang, admits that five million people left the city for the New Year celebrations. But it looks

decisive. Score: 2 out of 10. Zhou didn’t dare advo-
cate isolating the city, and neither did anybody else, until the Great Panjan-
drum Himself had spoken. President Xi Jinping finally spoke January 25, saying that China faces a “grave situation,” and now the system is racing to do what it should have been done two weeks ago. Too bad, but this pan-
demic (if that is what it becomes) will probably be on the same scale as the SARS virus, and that is not really horrific; deaths in the high hundreds or a few thousand worldwide.

The mortality rate among those who catch it appears to be about two per cent, compared to one per cent for ordinary seasonal in-
fluenza. And ordinary flu

kills about 400,000 (mostly elderly) people every year. But one of these days something like the 1918 influenza virus that caused the ‘Spanish’ influenza will emerge again. That killed around 50 million people worldwide. And the international community only a quarter of what it is now.

Since Chinese food maybe be a prime source of dangerous new ‘flu-related viruses, the Chinese government has been scatterbrained in its ability to contain them ear-
ly. The Chinese doctors will do their duty, as always, but it would be nice if Chi-

Evidence and facts irrelevant to many in Trump impeachment
Siblings rake in the medals in Costa Rica

BY VERONICA REINER

Two local martial artists have returned from an international competition with plenty of hardware to show for their efforts.

Breslau’s Hannah and Ethan Wright were part of the Canadian National Martial Arts Team that traveled to Costa Rica for the 2020 International Congress of Martial Arts tournament (iCoMA).

Thirteen-year-old Hannah won five gold medals in weapons, forms, point fighting, musical extreme forms, and synchronized weapons with partner Lesi McGunn Barclay. She also scored one bronze medal in chambara.

Her achievements earned her the triple crown title, awarded to those who snag three or more gold medals at the event. This is her second straight year with a triple crown win. “This is one of my favourite events and it’s a great way to start the year,” said Hannah. “I’m proud of how I did and can’t thank all my coaches enough for everything they have done for me.”

Ten-year-old Ethan came home with one gold in the fighting category, two silvers in weapons and forms kata, and one bronze medal in chambara (foam sword fighting).

“I did a new form for the first time and it went really well,” said Ethan. “I’m going to be working on it more with Sifu Julian and Sifu Silvana and competing more this year.”

Hannah and Ethan were part of the 18 competitors from Shamuon Generation Martial Arts in Waterloo and HotShot Athletic in Cambridge that travelled with coaches Sibok Tom Shamuon, Sifu Lorenzo Saavedra, Sifu Julian Shamuon and Sifu Silvana Shamuon on January 8.

The tournament took place January 5 at the Riu Guanacaste conference centre in Costa Rica. Overall, the Canadian team cleaned up, bringing home 43 golds, 33 silvers and 23 bronze medals along with seven triple crown wins.

The siblings have been to plenty of tournaments in the past, but felt that this one was particularly special as they were accompanied by their grandfather Randy Adams and his partner Sonya Jenkins. The family got the chance to have a little vacation time in the sunny Costa Rican weather after the tournament was all wrapped up.

“It was awesome to have them there to watch me compete and to spend time with afterwards,” said Hannah. “I really enjoyed fishing later in the week with my grandparents.”

Ethan has even kept the competitive streak up since, participating in the Arctic Challenge in Warren, Michigan January 18. He brought home bronze medals in weapons, forms, and point fighting.

Both martial artists are travelling to Chicago last Thursday for a NASKA (North American Sport Karate Association) awards banquet. Hannah received the National Champion award in Traditional Weapons, as well as landed in the National Top 10 for Traditional Forms, Point Sparring, Creative Forms, Extreme Weapons, and Extreme Forms. Ethan scored top 10 in Traditional Weapons, Traditional Forms and Point Sparring.

Exploring the roots of woodpecker envy

T he other day I watched a pileated woodpecker do exactly what I typically do after reading a Trump tweet. Yet, as it was banging its head against a tree, I couldn’t help but envy that particular bird and admire woodpeckers in general.

Call me naïve, but I couldn’t help but think this bird was doing something this particular species does to get its way. What have woodpeckers got that I don’t have? I mean, other than a beak and wings, of course.

Like all outdoorsy types, I have had plenty of opportunity over the years to observe woodpeckers banging their heads against trees. But rather than feel superior, I have come to the conclusion that they have it all figured out. I can’t do it without a helmet.

Also, I have a carefree life that allows them to fly anywhere, without extra baggage charges, line-ups, and airport delays. And forget Yelp, they find a good sound of a woodpecker tapping on the tree bark beside your ear. Also, if you ever wondered why Tree Bark camo is avoided by some hunters, you can blame bad experiences with woodpeckers. Of course, no one will ever tell you they had a bad woodpecker experience, but it happens more times than you’d think. Which brings me to another point – for the purposes of clarity and complete understanding, never call them peckers.

This is a mistake beginning birders sometimes make in an effort to sound overly familiar with the species. If you don’t see their heads against trees, you might wonder why you couldn’t help but envy that particular bird. I also envy the fact that they only eat grubs and bugs that they capture and lap up with their tongues, which, sounds gross, but is still far preferable to eating kale or tofu.

My affection for woodpeckers might come as a surprise to most bowhunters out there. You see, woodpeckers and bowhunters have a complicated relationship.

This is primarily because nothing ruins a good tree stand nap like the sudden sound of a woodpecker tapping on the tree bark beside your ear. Also, if you ever wondered why Tree Bark camo is avoided by some hunters, you can blame bad experiences with woodpeckers. Of course, no one will ever tell you they had a bad woodpecker experience, but it happens more times than you’d think. Which brings me to another point – for the purposes of clarity and complete understanding, never call them peckers.

This is a mistake beginning birders sometimes make in an effort to sound overly familiar with the species. If you don’t see their heads against trees, you might wonder why
Two more wins see Kings solidify hold on conference lead

Elmira posts victories on the road in Listowel and Waterloo to wrap up January with a new streak

BY VERONICA REINER
veronica@woolwichobserver.com

The Elmira and District Curling Club hosted the ‘Men’s Striploin Classic’ at their facility Jan. 24-26.

**THE SCORE**

**WOLLIWICH WILDCATS**

Novice: Major Novice A
Jan 26 vs Centre Wellington Fusion

HOME: 7 VISITOR: 2
GOALS: Kael McRobb (2), Grayson Schimus (2), Aranelle Weiss, Bentley Widmer
ASSISTS: Tyrell Snelling (3), Grayson Schimus (2), Hayden Vincent (2), Lian Weiss, Aranelle Weiss, Owen Misener, Bentley Widmer, Jackson Vogel
Shutouts: N/A

 Atom: Major Atom A
Jan 27 vs Brampton 45s

HOME: 2 VISITOR: 2
GOALS: Kael McRobb, William Krubally (2), Jordan Martin, Matthew Kochut, Colton Sinclair, Jordan Martin, Colton Brazeau
ASSISTS: Colton Brazeau, William Krubally (2), Jordan Martin (2), Colton Sinclair (2), Nolan Martin

**PeeWee A**

Jan 23 vs Center Wellington

HOME: 3 VISITOR: 3
GOALS: Connor Goebel, Gavin Sager, Owen Weppeler
ASSISTS: Brooks Lehtonen, Austin Roth, Spencer Miller

**PeeWee AE**

Jan 24 vs Caledon

HOME: 3 VISITOR: 4
GOALS: Connor Goebel (2), Wes Ariken
ASSISTS: Spencer Miller

**PeeWee LL3**

Jan 27 vs PeeWee LL3

HOME: 5 VISITOR: 3
GOALS: Adam Short, Noah Strauss, Nolan Martin, Kael McRobb, William Krubally (2)
ASSISTS: Aranelle Weiss, Owen Misener, Bentley Widmer, Jackson Vogel
Shutouts: N/A

**MUCH AT “STEAK” AT CURLING CLUB**

‘The Men’s Striploin Classic’ wrapped up Jan. 26 at the Elmira and District Curling Club. The event featured 64 teams competing in four age groups.

The Elmira and District Curling Club hosted the ‘Men’s Striploin Classic’ at their facility Jan. 24-26.

**THE OBSERVER**

**LOCAL SPORTS | 11**

Elmira player Brett Allen during game action on Sunday against the Siskins in Waterloo, where the Sugar Kings posted 5-0 win.

VERONICA REINER

There was no scoring in the first frame, but tension did rise a little bit as witnessed by the handful of penalties doled out. The Kings got rolling again in the third, however. J. Good-
Jacks post three-game unbeaten streak

After tying Ayr 3-3, Wellesley bests Woodstock 5-3 before running over Delhi 20-1

BY VERONICA REINER

On Saturday, the Applejacks weren’t gracious hosts to the Navy Vets, though things started off rather dicey. Woodstock opened the scoring with an unassisted power play marker at 0:03. Woodstock made it 2-0 a few minutes later on a goal from former Applejack Reade MacInnes.

Trailing into the third, the Jacks kept their cool. Zach Ribeiro (McCombs, Commisso) put the Applejacks on the board at 3:37. Cousineau followed up shortly after at 5:54, with assists going to Conner Bradley and Carson Wickie. Commisso (McCombs, James Ranson) joined in on the scoring frenzy at 13:08, and gave Wellesley the lead for the first time.

The final period was relatively quiet, save for a handful of penalties. Austin Cousineau (Gianfranco Commisso) potted one more for Wellesley at 16:59, giving the visitors a comfortable 3-0 lead heading into the third.

But the final frame was all about the Centennials, who rallied to come back with a vengeance. Their first goal came at 3:40, followed by another marker at 7:21. Another goal just over a minute later made it 4-3.

There was no more scoring in regulation, sending the two teams to overtime. That solved nothing, as neither team was able to find the net, not even when Wellesley took a two-man penalty. It was 3-3 when all was said and done, Ayr having outshot the Jacks 38-33.

On Sunday, the Applejacks found themselves on the receiving end of a 5-3 loss to the Woodstock Navy Vets, with the Jacks getting up assists.

The Wellesley Applejacks celebrate a goal during a home game against the Woodstock Navy Vets on Saturday. They emerged victorious 5-3. (VERONICA REINER / THE OBSERVER)
Let’s keep the local economic engines firing? We want to shine a light on new local enterprises.

Online: ads.observerxtra.com/tips

The St. Jacobs Business Improvement Area (BIA) plans to spend $157,400 this year, a figure that matches revenues as outlined in the 2020 budget approved this week by Woolwich council. Spending on tap includes beautification ($53,317), events ($27,319), marketing ($28,750) and administration ($45,850).

Companies are becoming less secretive about their books with employees. Some 77% of workers in Canada are interested in hearing about their organization’s financial performance. And a majority of CFOs (88%) said their company regularly shares this data with at least some staff; 48% give updates to all workers.

Robert Half survey

A Waterloo Region startup aims to provide a new type of shopping experience, particularly those in rural communities.

Shop Together is a social-buying app that features discounts when purchasing with a group. The products, which range from household products, cosmetics and food items, are then delivered to the customers’ door.

The e-commerce app was co-founded by three University of Waterloo graduates – Jacqueline Chan, Jayanth Kottapalli and Sumit Pasupalak – while they were still in school together. Other team members joined in, including Neha Choudhary marketing and community, iOS lead developer Bastien Ravalet, and lead android developer Florian Do.

Chan said that she had been inspired to create the app in early 2019 through an Elmira Buy & Sell Facebook group.

“There’s a lot of Facebook Buy & Sell groups and I actually bought something from the Elmira Facebook group and I was seeing that a lot of other people wanted the product,” explained Chan. “Obviously I didn’t sell that product but I thought ‘What could I sell there that people would be interested in?’”

After seeing the traction posts can pick up on these online groups, the idea of selling a discounted item over the Buy & Sell stayed with her for a while. To try it out, she purchased almonds on sale at Walmart.

“So I thought, ‘why not just save the trip for everyone? Let’s just buy these and see who else would be interested.’ I got 40-50 replies in just a few hours, just from these almonds,” said Chan.

The soft launch took place October 1, and has seen more than 5,000 downloads since its inception. Their key demographics include millennial moms, wellness enthusiasts, and professional women on the go.

Because of its potential to save rural residents a trip to the city grocery stores, it has seen popularity in smaller areas, said Choudhary.

“It’s grown in areas like Bloomingdale, Elmira, and even outside of Woolwich Township. We saw it popular in Elora, New Hamburg, all the way to Bluewater in Bayfield,” said Choudhary.

“We were seeing that populate, and then somehow..."
When food and farming gives you that “O Canada” feeling

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is on the hunt for a marketing agency to promote Canadian food and agriculture for the next five-ish years, offering $25 million. Ottawa’s decided that through a national get-to-know-Canadian-food campaign, it wants to build consumer confidence and pride in Canadians who farm and fish and highlight the advantages of buying the food they produce.

“Consumers in Canada can be extremely proud of Canadian producers, who continue to innovate to meet the growing demand for food, while finding solutions to challenges such as environmental sustainability,” says federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau. “The campaign should tell the story of Canada’s agri-food sector and reach audiences on an emotional level in order to instil pride and confidence in the country’s food systems.”

Her search is bound to attract a lot of interest – governments pay their bills, and the assignment will be as fascinating as it is challenging.

For example, we know from the writings of Canadian food pioneers like Elora’s Anita Stewart that Canada is a regional food nation. We are a collection of local food developments. What’s local in parts of Quebec will be alien to parts of Manitoba. What’s local in parts of BC will be alien to parts of Saskatchewan. What’s local to us here will be alien to parts of Windsor. What’s local and unique in St. Boniface is an anomaly in Steinbach. It’s all part of our rich food culture ... and if indeed promoting it in multiple ways is a risk, then it’s a risk worth taking.

Here’s why. If the marketing company with the winning bid is smart, and I’m sure it will be, the national and provincial campaigns could benefit from each other, by coordinating their efforts and making sure they’re not duplicating efforts.

There is ample Canadian food to promote; there’s no need for such a high-profile campaign to cover paths that are already being blazed.

Rather, it’s an excellent opportunity to find new ways to tell the stories behind foods and ingredients that have made regions like Woolwich Township renowned. People want to know who is behind those local foods and ingredients. And that points squarely to farmers.

But there’s another angle. Research by the Guelph-based Canadian Centre for Food Integrity shows Canadians’ biggest concern is the rising cost of food.

So as part of these national feel-good stories, how about explaining ways that Canadian farmers keep the price of food down, through the many approaches they take to produce it? It’s an aspect of food production seeped in history and prevailing to this day. Farmers have always been pressured to keep their costs down, mainly by those further down the value chain. Farmers have found research and technology to be one of their biggest allies; even though it costs money, the returns in lower costs of production help keep their part of the value chain in check, while simultaneously ensuring safety and quality.

This approach might help Canadians understand farmers’ contribution to addressing what keeps them up at night. The biggest part of their food dollar is not going to farmers. Not even close. The national campaign will do a service to local food. I look forward to seeing it roll out and reading details about the successful marketing company’s plan.

SHOPPING: App provides option of shopping alone or creating a group order

FROM 13

with that, transactions it was taking it back to Kitchener-Waterloo... or vice-versa, passing it back into those areas.”

The app itself features elements of well-known social media apps, such as the Facebook timeline and Instagram profile. That was intentional, said Kottapalli, to give users a sense of familiarity, as well as encourage a social atmosphere while browsing.

“When we actually thought about it, it’s already built into people’s mindsets. There’s a social aspect to shopping; if you see a great deal, you’ll likely tell your family and friends,” said Kottapalli. A user has the option when viewing a product to buy alone, or create a group order, usually with someone in the area who wants the same item for a discount.

Each user has a profile that can be connected to their Facebook or simply to their phone. Their profile, which can be viewed by any other user, lists the amount of money saved, each product purchased, and their “followers” and “following.”

The Shop Together staff purchase their products directly from Canadian suppliers, such as the Toronto based wholesale bakery, New Moon Kitchen. This is why they are able to offer products at a lower price.

While the majority of products featured are unique and unconventional, the most purchased items so far are everyday essentials, such as toilet paper.

“Other corporations such as Goodness Me! charge money for putting the product on the shelf itself, and that’s what makes the prices get crazy high,” said Kottapalli. “For us, the shelf is on the app. You’re not paying the premium – if you know that you wanted to get this product, then you have a cheaper option to get this product on the platform.”

Staff opt to use local couriers to deliver products to the door, preferring to go that route over the likes of Canada Post.

The Shop Together app can be downloaded for free on the app store or Google Play.

One of the best advertising opportunities of the year is booking advertising now.

The 2020 guide to the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival

The guide is distributed Region-wide and available to festival attendees in full-colour.

Book an ad and introduce your local business at the BIGGEST local event of the year.

Call Donna Rudy for rates and details at: 519-669-5790 ext04 drudy@woolwichobserver.com

The Shop Together app is available free on android and iOS.
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
Hand embroidery artist, illustrator, and designer Sarah Godfrey is the 2020 Schneider Haus artist-in-residence, where she’ll continue her passion for exploring colour and texture with work that draws from nature and folklore. Her work has gained a large online following. She will be developing educational materials for other creative people and sharing her knowledge through workshops and do-it-yourself resources.
www.schneiderhaus.ca

EARTHY BEAUTY
The Waterloo Chamber Players, the Waterloo County Teachers' Choir and local duo Erso will be performing a concert together Feb. 29. "For The Beauty" celebrates the Earth and its environment with music from classical to original, with all proceeds going to support Communities for Conservation and Music In Schools. The show is set for 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, 49 Queen St. N., Kitchener. Admission at the door is “pay what you can.”

Winnipeg Wind – Ed Miller, Gary Ferguson, Richie Sarlo, Brian Witmer and Vern McDonald – are set to play the Commercial Tavern tomorrow (Jan. 31).

They know a thing or two about classic rock
Group of veteran musicians have a new band in Winnipeg Wind, which plays Jan. 31 at the Commercial Tavern

BY STEVE KANNON
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

The band may be relatively new, but the players themselves have decades of experience with local groups, and a following thanks to time with the likes of Major Hoople’s Boarding House and Copperpenny.

Under the banner of Winnipeg Wind, the five veterans of the scene will take to the stage at the Commercial Tavern in Maryhill on January 31.

Named for a song they penned by the same name, Winnipeg Wind features Ed Miller on drums, Gary Ferguson on keyboards, Richie Sarlo on guitar, Brian Witmer on bass and Vern McDonald on guitar. All five contribute vocals to the effort.

“We have a lot of four- and five-part harmonies that we’re always working on,” said Miller. “Everyone writes, sings and plays well.”

The band members all have lengthy résumés, and have worked with each other over the years. About a year ago, they came together to form the new project.

“We all know each other through the years. It’s worked out really well,” he said of Winnipeg Wind. Miller was part of Major Hoople, and has also played with the likes of Bobby Curtola and Kelly Jay of Crowbar. Ferguson has enjoyed stints with Hour Glass, Little Caesar and the Consuls and Ash Mountain. Sarlo’s played with Bo Diddley and Screwage, while Witmer had been with Project People, Evil Roy Slade and Larry Mercey. McDonald’s credits include Copperpenny, Yukon, Katz (Lulus House Band) and the Black Forest Band.

With so much experience under their belts, all of the players are now in it for the music, pure and simple, says Miller.

“Everyone’s been playing for so long, there are no egos involved. “We’re having so much fun doing it,” he said. For this week’s show in Maryhill, the band will be on the classic rock train – with a name like Winnipeg Wind, they’ll have to be a tribute to some native sons such as The Guess Who. The set list will include some originals from the band and its members.

With a new single on the way, there are no egos involved.

“We’re having so much fun doing it,” he said.

Given the band members’ long history, they’ve got a built-in following who keep track of the live shows.

“There are people who come out to see us whenever we’re playing,” said Miller, adding the guys appreciate the effort they make.

Winnipeg Wind performs at the Commercial Tavern January 31. Tickets are available at the venue, 1303 Maryhill Rd., or by calling 519-648-3644. For more information, visit www.commercialtavern.ca.
HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING AT SCHNUER’S GROCERY or The Corner Store Linwood. 3 full days per week. Call 519-897-2600.

PART-TIME HELP WANTED experienced farm helper needed, to maintain small orchard, starting in April 2020. Farm in Milton, one hour from Elmira. Paid each day in cash, $400.00 per day. 3 bedroom house available. Telephone: 905-876-2600, fax 905-819-8379.

WORK WANTED

CLEANING LADY AVAILABLE. 519-664-3007

HELP WANTED

FOR SALE

SHOP RACING-CARTS COMPRESSORS

Shop/Moving/Storage carts from $39. Racks from $55, Pallet Racks $120 and up, Pallet Truck $995

Compressors: Tecumseh model AE9423EC +10-45 degree. 115 volt 81 amp, gas R22 $200 each.

Compressor: Copelametic 575 volt 3 phases 6.3 am $1700

Call 519-654-2554 | Waterloo

INFRARED SPACE HEATERS

SUNPAC Natural gas 34,000 BTU, black, like new. 2 available $895 each ($1900 new)

Call 519-654-2554 | Waterloo

HELP WANTED

Classified Ad - Text Ads

RESIDENTIAL: $9.00 per 20 words

Commercial: $15.00 per 20 words

Order Online: ads.observerxtra.com/classified-residential

Order Online: ads.observerxtra.com/classified-commercial

Classified Advertising

Classified advertising will be accepted in person, email, phone or fax during regular office hours. All classified advertising are prepaid. Ask about the Service Directory, Real Estate and Family Album advertising. Observer advertising rates, policies and specifications are available at: ads.observerxtra.com/media-kit

SMALL ADS, BIG IMPACT. THE OBSERVER CLASSIFIED ADS

GET YOUR BOOK INTO PRINT! WE DO SIGNS OF ALL KINDS!

$29.99 Our Everyday Low Price!

500 FULL COLOUR BUSINESS CARDS

• Retro Squeezies
• Car Magnets
• Corporate Buzzers
• Flyer Stands
• License Plate Holders
• Coasters
• T-shirts
• Magnets
• Keychains
• Fridge Magnets
• Door Hangers

Call for a copy of our Idea Guide for a full listing of available products

$129.95 Specializing in Posters, Banners & Trade Show Booths

WE DO SIGNS OF ALL KINDS!

Retractable Banners

These banners are excellent for trade shows and presentations

• They are affordable, light-weight, durable and easy to set up

Includes padded carry bag • Full colour, single sided

M&T Printing Group is Ready to Serve You

675 DAVENPORT RD., WATERLOO • 519-804-0017

www.mtprint.com

We’re still located at: • 907 Frederick St., Kitchener • 265 Webster St., Waterloo • 125 Sheldon Dr., Cambridge • 21 Malcolm Rd., Guelph

Office also in London, Brantford, Welland and Goderich

NEWSLETTERS

Get Your Message Out and Keep Prospects Informed

We have the tools to help you

• You have the tools to help

We have the tools to help

Call Today To Get Started!

$1500

$299

$129.95

$1500

$299

$129.95
\[
\text{PUZZLE SOLUTIONS}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
8 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 2 & 1 \\
1 & 5 & 7 & 4 & 6 & 8 \\
2 & 6 & 9 & 7 & 1 & 3 \\
4 & 8 & 6 & 3 & 9 & 7 \\
5 & 7 & 1 & 8 & 2 & 6 \\
6 & 1 & 3 & 8 & 5 & 2 \\
7 & 4 & 8 & 1 & 7 & 9 \\
9 & 6 & 5 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\
\end{array}
\]

**KINGS:** Two more to start last month of regular season

Win scored at 11:20, with Waters and Carter Lennon picking up assists. McMah- 
non (J. Goodwin, Waters) kept the momentum going at 14:26 to make it 4-0. 
Du- 
becki scored the team’s fifth goal at 17:48, with final goal at 17:48, with assists going to Black and 
Liam Burke.

With the Siskins unable to find the back of the net, the game ended as a 5-0 vic-
tory for Elmira. Shots were 38-22 in favour of the Kings, with netminder Greg Bras-
sard posting the shutout, his sixth of the season.

Now that the regular season is starting to wind 
down, Elmira has a demonstrat-
ated track record of excellence, consistently 
remaining atop the confer-
ence standings.

This contrasts their 2018- 
2019 season, which saw the Sugar Kings finish fifth place 
in the regular season and 
eliminated in the first round of playoff. So what changed 
for the Junior B team?

“The reason for the big-
gest turnaround for the 
success of the team ... I 
believe this wholeheartedly, is practice habits. We work 
much harder in practice 
than we did last year. Habits 
are formed in practice, and 
shown off in games,” said 
Collins.

The Kings roll into February 
with a pair of games this 
weekend. In Brantford Sat-
urday night to take on the 
Bandits, they return home 
to face the Brampton Bombers.

Game time is 2 p.m.
**OBITUARY**

**Martin, David J.**
Peacefully passed away on Monday, January 27, 2020 at St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph, at the age of 69. Beloved husband for 46 years of Connie (Rudy) Martin of Elora. Dear father of Terry (Laura) of Drayton and Kris (Natalie) of Elora. Loved Papa of Tommy and Lucian; Arlyn and Noah. Brother of Betty (Don) Clemmer of Elmira, brother-in-law of Pat (Steve) Errey of St. Jacobs and Jim (Marg) Rudy of St. Clements, and son-in-law of Dorothy Rudy of Waterloo. Lovingly remembered by his nieces, nephews, and their families. Predeceased by his parents Edgar B. and MaryAnn (Weber) Martin, father-in-law Sidney Rudy, and nephew Jeff Clemmer. Visitation will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2020 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Dreisinger Funeral Home, 62 Arthur St. S., Elmira. A funeral service will take place on Friday, January 31, 2020 at 2 p.m. at Woodside Bible Fellowship, 200 Barnswallow Dr., Elmira. Cremation will follow. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Barnswallow Place Resident Council would be appreciated and may be made through the Dreisinger Funeral Home, Elmira.

**Rau, Arlene Eleanor (nee Bauer)**
Passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at Barnswallow Place Care Community, Elmira, at the age of 88. Cherished mother of Tracy and Doug Winslade, Brad Rau, Chris and Steve McCullough. Loved grandmother of 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Dear sister of Jean Brevers. Predeceased by her husband Ron Rau Sr., children Ron Rau Jr., Bonnie Wright, Cheryl Rau, Wallace ‘Bimbo’ Rau, two grandchildren, parents Norman Bauer and Marcela (Brenner) Heimpel, son-in-law Bill Wright, and daughter-in-law Vicky Rau. At Arlene’s request, cremation has taken place. There will be no funeral home visitation or funeral service. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Barnswallow Place Resident Council would be appreciated. A family service took place on Monday, January 27, 2020 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. in the funeral home chapel, then to Elmira. A family service took place on Friday, January 31, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at Dreisinger Funeral Home. 62 Arthur St. S., Elmira. A family service will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 2 p.m. at Woodside Bible Fellowship, 200 Barnswallow Dr., Elmira. Cremation will follow. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Barnswallow Place Resident Council would be appreciated and may be made through the Dreisinger Funeral Home, Elmira.

**Kocher, Ronald Herbert**
Peacefully passed away on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at Grand River Hospital, at the age of 76. Ron, of Linwood, was the beloved husband of Marion (Walter) Kocher for 53 years. Loved brother of Patricia Fehrenbach, Bernice Steenbeker, Marjorie Krulkowski, Edward (Shirlie) Kocher, Orville (Sharon) Kocher, Douglas (Judy) Kocher, and Gary (Cheryl) Kocher. Ron will be fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews, and Marion’s family. Ken (Sharon), Anne (Bill), Marg, Betty, Karen (Gary), Donna (Maynard), and David, and their families. Predeceased by his parents Lawrence and Rossetta (Klein) Kocher, and siblings Sally Reiling, Joseph, Harold (Flick), Floyd, Lawrence Jr., Sonny, and Shirley (Shaky). Ron was co-owner of Rich Craft Interiors in Waterloo for over 30 years. He was very active in his community with many years of service to the Linwood Rod and Gun Club and the Linwood Lions Club. At Ron’s request, cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Grand River Hospital Foundation or The War Amps would be appreciated.

**OBITUARY**

**Weber, Leona M.**
Passed away peacefully on Friday, January 24, 2020 at her residence, RR 1, West Montrose, at the age of 92. Wife of the late Herman Weber (1990). Mother of Alice (Wayne) Martin of Elmira, Marlene (Cleason) Frey of West Montrose, Leroy (Gloria) of Conestogo, Richard (Erla) of West Montrose, and Fern (Earl) Martin of Elora. Remembered by 20 grandchildren and 60 great-grandchildren. Survived by her sister Alice Frey, sister-in-law Lorene Martin, and brothers-in-law Clare Martin and Oscar Weber, Predeceased by her parents Alvin and Leah (Martin) Martin, brothers Earl Martin and Oscar Weber, and sisters-in-law Hannah Weber, and Jean Martin. Cremation will take place on Sunday, January 26, 2020 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Dreisinger Funeral Home. 62 Arthur St. S., Elmira. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 2 p.m. at Woodside Bible Fellowship, 200 Barnswallow Dr., Elmira. Cremation will follow. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Groves Memorial Hospital Foundation,ergus, or St. Joseph’s Health Centre Foundation for Palliative Care would be appreciated. A special thank you to all the doctors, nurses and caregivers for their compassionate care through his lengthy journey.

**OBITUARY**

**Lichty, Robert ‘Bob’**
Peacefully passed away on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at St. Mary’s Hospital, Kitchener, at the age of 86. Beloved wife and best friend of Sherry Lichty of Elmira for over 42 years. Loving father of Erika (John) Pinkerton, and Chris (Tammy). Cherished grandpa of Dakota, Makenna, Kiera, Delaney and Liam. Brother of Gerald (Debbie), Roger (Kathy), and Joyce Lichty, Son-in-law of Shirley and the late Norman Caudle. Brother-in-law of Bob (Kim) Smith. Lovingly remembered by his nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents Orvie and Dolly Lichty, father-in-law Roger Smith, and brother-in-law Jeff Smith. At Bob’s request, cremation has taken place. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2020 from 1-3 p.m. at the Dreisinger Funeral Home, 62 Arthur St. S., Elmira with a reception to follow. As expressions of sympathy, donations to St. Mary’s General Hospital Foundation - Cardiac Care Unit would be appreciated. Special thank you to Bob’s devoted nurses and caregivers for the exceptional care provided.

**OBITUARY**

**Schoemaker, Karen**
Passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 26, 2020 at her residence in St. Jacobs, at the age of 90. Predeceased by her husband Ron Schoemaker (2018). Loving mother of Flip (Melissa) Schoemaker, Patricia (Kevin) Klein, and siblings Sally Reiling, Joseph, Harold (Flick), Floyd, Lawrence Jr., Sonny, and Shirley (Shaky). Ron was co-owner of Rich Craft Interiors in Waterloo for over 30 years. He was very active in his community with many years of service to the Linwood Rod and Gun Club and the Linwood Lions Club. At Ron’s request, cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Grand River Hospital Foundation or The War Amps would be appreciated.

**Small ADS, Big Impact**

**BOOK AN AD: ads.observerxtra.com/ads**

**Planning a special event?**

**Get the word out!**

**BOOK AN AD: ads.observerxtra.com/ads**
Community rallies to support Elmira man fighting brain cancer

What started out as an effort by friends and family of BJ Goodwin has become an expanded fundraising effort.

The community is rallying to support a Woolwich man diagnosed with brain cancer.

Local families, friends, and businesses have been raising money for BJ Goodwin, his wife Missie, and their two young children. The funds will cover the multitude of unexpected costs associated with the health issue, including the 30 radiation treatments and chemotherapy necessary to treat the cancer.

“I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else. This is an awesome community,” said Goodwin, who has been off work since he found out about his diagnosis on November 18.

It all started from a bottle drive that was organized by family friends Julie Weber, Don Schlupp and Andy Schlupp. Other helpers included Jesse Schott, Jordan Schott, Ryan Weber and Alex Luft.

The group went around town – making close to 100 stops – collecting beer cans, liquor/wine bottles and cash donations on January 25. When it was all said and done, over $7,000 was raised from the bottle drive alone to support the Goodwin family.

But just how did the cause become so well-known? BJ and Missie are long-time members of the community, having both attended EDSS.

“I know probably half the town from growing up, because I’ve always been here. I grew up in Conestoga but I’ve always been in Elmira because all my friends are here,” said BJ. “So that’s the thing, I’ve always been here.”

“I work in town. I’m a hairdresser so there’s that, too,” said Missie. “We didn’t even do very much ... it really took off on Facebook,” she said of the community response.

Ever since the word got out about the bottle drive, the cause picked up traction – Elmira brewpub Rural Roots dedicated one tap (Here We Go!) on January 25, for instance. One dollar from every pour was donated to the Goodwins.

On February 15, the band Under Surveillance will be playing live at Rural Roots. There will be a $5 cover charge, with all the money going towards the Goodwins.

The Elmira Pita Pit put out a donation box on the counter, with the proceeds going towards the Goodwins.

Their children are also well-incorporated into the community, attending Riverside Public School in Elmira. Missie said that many parents of children who go to Riverside P5 helped to support the cause.

“It’s crazy how a small town comes together. The support has been absolutely amazing,” said Missie.

The couple said that they have also found so-lace through Liam Moyer’s family. Liam Moyer is a Grade 11 EDSS student who was diagnosed with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, a form of cancer that affects white blood cells in the bone marrow. As the two families are undergoing similar situations, the Moyer family is helping the Goodwins through this difficult time.

Both BJ and Missie noted that it was the community that really took the initiative.

“Our friends put it together because I didn’t ask for anything. I’m not a greedy person that way,” said BJ. “It felt weird at first, but now it’s nice because Missie is now able to take off and go to the doc-tor’s with me.”

The story starts back in 2011, when BJ was first diagnosed with a brain tumour after he suffered a stroke at age 27. The MRI showed a spot on his left temporal lobe. Following this, he was sent to a spe-cialist in London when he found out. Because of the tumors small size, the specialist recommended regular MRIs and checkups to observe any growth.

Over the next few years, the tumor slowly grew; in the spring of 2016, the special-ist recommended brain surgery. The entire tumor was removed so that chemo and radiation weren’t needed. Life went on as normal until the latest diagnosis – the specialist noticed changes in his MRI in November 2019. He will now need at least 30 treat-ments to fight the cancer.

Friends have also launched a GoFundMe page to support the family, having raised over $6,000 thus far. It can be accessed at www.gofundme.com/f-supporting-bj-and-miss- sy-goodwin.
COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5


SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

★ MARYWILL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND CWL VALENTINE Supper at Maryhill Heritage Park Community Centre. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. There are two seatings, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.Rolled ribs, ham, mashed potatoes etc., followed by coffee tea and dessert. Tickets are $20 per adult and $12 for children 11 years old. 5 and under free. Advance tickets only by phone 519-668-3394. Doug Zenger 519-684-2936, Jackie Peacock 519-623-5194.

★ TRIVA CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY WOOLICH Community and Montoboro Busy Busy Lions. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Prizes, cash bar, snacks. Advanced Registration only by Feb. 19 yr or older. $20 per person/150 team of eight. More info or register wcbusybusylions@gmail.com if you are able to join us.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

★ SENIORS' COMMUNITY DINING AT CALVARY UNITED Church, St. Jacobs. Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for lunch, fellowship and entertainment. Call 519-664-9600 by noon Feb. 10 to sign up.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

★ ESSAY CONTEST FOR SENIORS. 10:30 A.M. AT WOODSIDE Centre. Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for a light lunch and fellowship, $7. Call 519-664-9600 by noon Feb. 10 to sign up.

★ SENIORS' LUNCH CLUB AT BRESLA COMMUNITY Centre. Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for a light lunch and fellowship, $7. Call 519-664-9600 by noon Feb. 10 to sign up.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

★ FLORADALE FAMILY FUN DAY AT FLORADALE MENNONITE Church. Fun for the whole family from 9 a.m. to noon, featuring a live animal show by “Hands on Exotics” at 11 a.m., bouncy castles, balloon animals, games and more! Free admission.

★ WOOLICH GARDENERS PRESENTS JANET COX (JOHNS NURSERY) “Organic Landscaping and Gardening for the Birds & Bees” at Trinity United Church, 7 p.m. Please bring in door for non-members. Donations of $5. Public welcome.

★ SNOWSHOEING ON THE GRAND VALLEY TRAIL, AT 11 A.M. (family day). Join Lisa for a snowshoe hike on a section of the Grand Valley Trail. Meet at 550 Eyrecrest Rd. We will gather there and head north to the trailhead. Parking is suggested on the side of nearby Hopewell Creek Road. This hike should be about 1.5 hours. If weather does not permit snowshoes, we will plan to hike. This trail is single track, not gravel. It is not suitable for strollers. Children are welcome but should be able to hike trails with non, 3-5 yrs old. There is no rain date for this hike. Please contact Lisa at 519-648-9675 to confirm meeting time and location.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

★ SENIORS’ LUNCH CLUB AT WELLESLEY COMMUNITY Centre. Community Care Concepts invites you to join us at noon for a light lunch and fellowship, $7. Call 519-664-9600 by noon Feb. 10 to sign up.

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 ads.observerxtra.com/event-listing/.
Even medical dissection goes virtual

Q. For almost a millennium, human body dissection has been a cornerstone of medical education, but change is now on its way at a few U.S. medical schools. What’s changed?

A. Cadaverless anatomy curriculum, in which students “will probe the human body using three-dimensional renderings in virtual reality combined with physical replicas of the organs and real patient images,” says Bahar Gholipour in “Scientific American” magazine. Traditional approaches have limitations, including the length of time it takes to dissect a cadaver, the inaccessibility of some body parts, and the mismatch between the textures and colors of an embalmed cadaver’s organs and those of a living body. Also, for new medical school programs, it costs several million dollars to build a cadaver laboratory and requires additional funds to care for the donated bodies.

By donning VR headsets or augmented-reality goggles, students can examine an organ from all angles, connecting structure with function by watching a beating heart, for example, and can also add the entire circulatory system to better see relations among structures. But in a virtual body, depth perception may be hard to develop and students will not see bodies’ natural anatomical variations. Also, they may “lose the emotional, even philosophical impact of working with a cadaver, commonly seen as a doctor’s first patient.”

Thus, the question remains as to whether students learn as well using digital tools. But after nearly a millennium of human body dissection in medical education, a historic transition may be emerging.

Q. Word lovers, let’s have a little fun with these “silly-sounding” Americanisms from Aau Garg’s A-Day.

Q. What is SnotBot and how is it helping researchers monitor ocean health?

A. A four-propeller drone about the size of a toaster oven, SnotBot is flown just above a breaching whale to collect its exhaled breath condensate – a.k.a. snot. “Whale snot contains an enormous amount of biological information, including DNA, hormones, and microbiomes. Scientists can use that information to determine a whale’s health, sex, and pregnancy status, and details about its genetics and microbiome,” say Bryn Keller and Ted Willke in “IEEE Spectrum” magazine. Previously, to collect such information, researchers would “zoom past a surfacing whale in a boat and shoot it with a specially designed crossbow to capture a small core sample of skin and blubber.” SnotBot makes the process less stressful for both whales and researchers.

The drone also has a high-resolution camera that reveals the whale’s overall shape and size and often provides unique identifiers from tail fluke structure and markings. As apex predators, wide-ranging migration patterns, humpback whales are an excellent early warning system for environmental threats to the ocean as a whole. “Thanks to Project SnotBot, we’ll be able to find out – accurately, efficiently, and at a reasonable cost – just how the health and numbers of whales in our oceans are trending,” says Keller.

Bill is a journalist, Rich holds a doctorate in physics. Together the brothers bring you “Strange But True.” Send STRANGE questions to oddcurious@gmail.com.
THIS WEEKS DEALS!
JAN 30 - FEB 2  4 DAYS ONLY!

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

VINYL
CLICK VINYL PLANKS 6MM THICK
.99¢/SQ FT

TILE
12" X 24" PORCELAIN TILE
.99¢/SQ FT

GLASS AND STONE BACKSPLASH
$1.99/PER SQ FT
REG 8.99

LAMINATE
12MM THICK LAMINATE
$1.57/PER SQ FT
REG 3.99

CARPET
2-TONE FRIEZE CARPET
$1.49/PER SQ FT
REG 3.99

RUGS
5'X7' SHAG AREA RUGS
$49.99/STARTING FROM

HARDWOOD
ENGINEERED 5" WIDE X 3/4" THICK HARDWOOD
$3.99/PER SQ FT
REG 8.99

TILE
MODERN GRAY LEDGESTONE
$4.99/PER SQ FT
REG 8.99

LAMINATE / HARDWOOD STAIR TREADS
STARTING FROM $35.99 EACH

MDF PRIMED WHITE BASEBOARDS
3 3/8"  $67.99
5 1/4"  $157.99
5 1/2"  $167.99