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PAGE 20



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SUN.  
1°  
-3°

VOLUME 24 | ISSUE 50

**DECEMBER 26, 2019**

## REGION OF WATERLOO

# Region looks at future of Blue Box

*Province launches consultation  
process in producer-pay shift*

BY STEVE KANNON  
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

It's not until after the holidays that we realize just how wasteful they can be, in the literal sense, as garbage bags, recycling boxes and green bins fill to overflowing.

Changes are coming to the packaging and recycling industries, but that won't be reflected at area curbs later this month when extra bags and evergreen trees get put out for collection.

Zero Waste Canada estimates Canadians generate 545,000 tonnes of waste from giftwrapping and shopping bags each year, along with six million rolls of tape used to wrap presents, part of a 25 per cent increase in household waste that comes with the holiday season.

In Waterloo Region, dealing with that extra stream of garbage falls to director of waste management Jon Arsenault's department. It'll be business as usual this year, but he's now involved in the provincial consultation process launched this month to implement what's known as extended producer responsibility. The goal is to make industry pay the full costs of recycling.

RECYCLING | 05

## LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM



Volunteers at Floradale Mennonite Church spent several months putting together this miniature Bethlehem diorama for the season of Advent. The project was spearheaded by the worship committee, including Pastor Jim Loepp Thiessen and his wife, Ingrid Loepp Thiessen. [VERONICA REINER / THE OBSERVER]

# Cutting red tape to create more housing options

*Woolwich to loosen planning regulations in line with province's call for more housing*

BY STEVE KANNON  
skannon@woolwichobserver.com

A provincial push to increase housing stocks means Woolwich will be loosening its own rules to allow the likes of duplexing single-family homes, adding rental space and creating income streams for homeowners.

The Ontario government this fall amended the Planning Act to allow for the creation of accessory dwelling units,

requiring municipalities to follow suit, manager of planning Jeremy Vink told councillors meeting December 17.

That will require the township to alter its zoning bylaws and to ease restrictions on parking, for instance.

The first step is to launch the consultation process, with a formal public meeting to be held in the new year, as councillors approved moving ahead with that course of action.

In keeping with the intent of the pro-

vincial changes, the goal is to increase the number of long-term rental units, not short-term situations like Airbnb, said Vink.

Woolwich is looking at allowing up to two additional units, which are to be accessory to the main dwelling unit.

"To limit the units so that they remain accessory, it is proposed that both units should not exceed 40 per cent of the total floor area of the dwelling, up to a

HOUSING | 05

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Dan Galloway



Lesa Martin



Lisa Demerling



Margaret Schuiling

25 Years



Tammy McBay



Kathy Service



Susan Densmore

20 Years



Pat Nowak



Kari Ryan



Dave Ryan



Monica Shantz



Mark Bannon



Julie Diebolt



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15 Years



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Peggyann MacMillan



Stephen Lewis



Mike Benjamins



Carole-Anne Mighton



Chad Buchan



Chad Buchan



Chad Buchan

10 Years



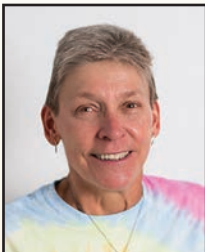
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Glen Marshall



Jennifer Austin



Laurie Brubacher



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Julie Ribble



Marnie Hamilton



Debbie Martin

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Diann Hollebrandse 1980  
Mike Shantz 1984

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Judy Bell 1985  
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Dave Speir 1986  
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Heather Aguiar 1988  
Judy Charles 1988  
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Dan Galloway 1989  
Lesa Martin 1989

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Carole Yari 1991  
Joan Orser 1992  
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Kevin Pfeiffer 1993  
Caren Watchorn 1993  
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Pat Nowak 1994  
Kari Ryan 1994  
Dave Ryan 1994  
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Tina Hanley 1995  
Bob Dobson 1995  
Deanna Batchelor 1996  
Darlene Shantz 1996  
Doug Snoddy 1996  
Joan Winkler 1996  
Laura Kerr 1997  
Marleigh Sack 1997  
Mike Sanderson 1998  
Derek Martin 1998  
Jane Leung 1998  
Tammy Martin 1998  
Christine Weigel 1998  
Jen Bettke 1998  
Kelly Smith 1998  
Lynn Martin 1998  
Roxanne Schott 1998

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Kathy Service 1999  
Susan Densmore 1999  
Salena Booth 1999  
Martin Kent 1999  
Peggyann MacMillan 1999

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Mike Benjamins 1999  
Carole-Anne Mighton 1999  
Nancy Miller 2000  
Sandy Snider 2000  
Danielle Shaw 2000  
Cathy Armstrong 2000  
Adam Straus 2000  
Mark Shanks 2000  
Dan Nguyen 2000  
Donna Martin 2001  
Sarah Hunt 2001  
Lea Pender 2001  
Jacqueline McKinnon 2001  
Shauna Schiel 2001  
Sheryl Oke-Infanti 2001  
Gabrielle Hoffmann 2001  
Keri Straus 2001  
Julia Martin 2001  
Monika Rath 2002  
Sheila Evans 2002  
Andrea Doherty 2002  
Janey Frey 2002  
Kristy Allen 2002  
Shirley Barry 2002  
Jennifer Meyer 2002

15+ Year cont'd

Sarah Lareau 2002  
Rosemarie Simon 2003  
Cindy Erb 2003  
Lisa Plant 2003  
Brian Kinnear 2003  
Evelyn Downey 2003  
Chad Buchan 2004  
Sharon Biro 2004  
Julie Diebolt 2004  
Ryan Welsh 2004  
Bev Waters 2004  
Glen Marshall 2004  
Jennifer Austin 2004

10+ Year Members

Sylvia Bertram 2005  
Susan Goetz 2005  
Mark Duke 2005  
Jen Shoemaker 2005  
Danielle Mullin 2005  
Patsy Pond 2005  
Tim Waters 2005  
Denise Koepke 2005  
Bernita Scarlett 2006  
Cal Bussey 2006

10+ Year cont'd

Paul Topp 2006  
Chris Nezy 2006  
Gloria Bauman 2006  
Barb Grosz 2006  
Lukus Shea 2006  
Heidi Mathers 2006  
Brenda Poole 2006  
Matt Desmeules 2006  
Lynda Hatesohl 2006

10+ Year cont'd

Robyn Shoemaker 2006  
Diana Menary 2006  
Steve Tarasko 2007  
Claudie MacAskill 2007  
Jenette Hackbart 2007  
Lissa-Marie Brossard 2008  
Ryan Desjardins 2008  
Miranda Habschied 2008  
Dianne Benninger 2008

10+ Year cont'd

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# PAGE THREE

## ELECTRONIC FARE SYSTEM

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## ST. MARY'S FUNDING

St. Mary's General Hospital will receive up to \$7.4 million to redevelop its Heart Rhythm Centre. Through this project, the hospital will add new electrophysiology and ablation services to the existing cardiac program to reduce wait times, the province announced last week. St. Mary's will also receive nearly \$750,000 in additional funding to help support roof replacements and upgrades to generators.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

The federal and provincial governments delivered one of the first components of a stimulus package this week, announcing a major investment in municipal infrastructure. This week, Ottawa and Queen's Park signed off on an extension of the Gas Tax Fund agreement. Between 2010 and 2014, the federal government will hand Ontario municipalities \$2.9 billion earmarked for municipal infrastructure projects.

From the Dec. 27, 2008 edition of The Observer

# Region sees growing pains with EasyGO

BY STEVE KANNON  
[skannon@woolwichobserver.com](mailto:skannon@woolwichobserver.com)

The Elmira circulator bus continues to operate free of charge, but if it becomes a permanent fixture it'll have to be integrated into Grand River Transit's fare system. A decision is still a year away, giving the region more time to work out the bugs.

The EasyGO fare card has certainly had its share of glitches since being rolled out this summer in conjunction with the launch of light rail transit. That was to be expected with any new system, says the region's director of transit services.

"We're doing pretty well, but we didn't start out too well," admitted Peter Zinck, pointing to problems that were both systemic, including software issues, and related to individual kiosk machines.

Since rollout, there have been software upgrades, as well as improvements to the hardware, he said.

Many of the issues were related to ease of use, including installing card-holders on the machines to ensure users are less likely to get transfer errors in putting money on the cards.

The region has been

working with the supplier, Scheidt and Bachmann, to work out the bugs, said Zinck.

The company was last month awarded a \$650,000 contract to provide parts to service the machines over a five-year period. There's also a \$360,000 per year deal with provide maintenance for the electronic fare management system.

In dealing with glitches, Scheidt and Bachmann are drawing on their work with fare systems in other cities, including Ottawa and London, Ont., said Zinck, noting the supplier has "stepped up" to address the concerns.

"They've got some learned experience from other places," he said, pointing to the card-holder upgrades as an example. "That's a case of something they've learned elsewhere."

The region is looking to integrate its entire system to the EasyGO system, making it seamless whether riders are using the LRT, buses or the BusPlus system, such as the New Hamburg route rolled out in Wilmot Township. The smaller vehicles have been equipped with handheld fare-card readers, for instance.

That would likely be the system employed if

the Elmira circulator bus becomes a permanent service. Currently operated by Kiwanis Transit under a twice-extended pilot project, the local shuttle service makes a five-kilometre loop through Elmira time to coordinate with the GRT route 21 scheduled stop outside the township administrative office at Church and Maple streets.

If the service is made permanent, Kiwanis Transit would "definitely" make a bid to continue operating the route under any request for proposal (RFP) the region might issue, said manager Cheryl Fisher. The current pilot project runs through December 2020.

Bidding on the contract would mean providing a bus and other equipment meeting the specifications of the RFP, she added.

Woolwich ratepayers are currently hit with an \$80,000-a-year special levy to fund the circulator bus, with a regional report earlier this year predicting that number would more than double to \$173,000 if the service was placed under the auspices of the GRT.

Currently, the service sees an average of 1,200 to 1,300 riders per month,

TRANSIT | 05



Cheryl Fisher demonstrates the EasyGO system set up at the Kiwanis Transit office in Elmira. [STEVE KANNON]

# Woolwich to move ahead with planning for rebuild of Breslau drain

BY STEVE KANNON  
[skannon@woolwichobserver.com](mailto:skannon@woolwichobserver.com)

The average Breslau homeowner is facing a bill of \$2,000 to \$5,000 as Woolwich moves ahead with plans to repair the municipal drain that runs through the north and east sides of the village.

If the project goes ahead, all of the properties in the 600-acre catchment area will be assessed a scaled portion of the estimated \$2.1 million cost. The township itself will be responsible for about half the cost, with development properties on the hook for almost a third. Residential

properties make up about an eighth, with costs to be assessed based on the likes of lot size.

Following a preliminary report December 17, councillors agreed to move ahead with a full report that will provide more details about costs, assessments and the scale of the

work.

Known as Breslau Municipal Drain No. 1, the drain dates back to 1953 and hasn't been well maintained in the intervening decades. Much of it is falling into disrepair, and alterations over the years, including the development of the Elroy Acres subdivision

in the 1960s, have made parts of it inaccessible.

The township's investigation into the state of the drain stems from petitions it received from property owners in the drainage area. That forced some action, including the hiring last November of K. Smart Associates to do a prelim-

inary report, the findings of which were discussed December 10.

The engineering firm's Joel Miller said extensive consultations were carried out with property owners, with many reporting flooding or water concerns, reflecting the poor state of

DRAIN | 04

# Happy New Year!

From all of us at the Observer  
Joe, Donna, Steve, Patrick, Veronica, nik & Cassandra

WE LOOK  
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2020!

## Happy Holidays!

The Observer office will be closed Friday, December 20 at noon and will re-open Monday, December 30th.

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■ **DRAIN:** Next report will have more details, costing

**FROM 03**

the drainage system.

“Over the years sections of the drain (both ditch and tile portions) have been relocated or modified to accommodate commercial and residential development in multiple locations. At present, portions of the drain cannot be properly accessed for maintenance. Broken tiles, root intrusion and pipe flushing are issues that require ongoing maintenance by the drainage superintendent,” he said in the report.

He noted the assessment for repairs would be levied on all properties in the catchment area, including ones where there are no apparent drainage issues.

The drain’s watershed is quite large, Miller noted, encompassing 605 acres. The work proposed in his preliminary report includes 920 metres of open ditch work and 1,890m of new storm pipe covering a large swath of area east of Woolwich Street.

The estimated assessment range for commercial properties varies from \$2,500 to \$13,000 per property. Estimated assessments for development properties range from \$20,000 to \$400,000 per property. The majority of residential properties have estimated assessment amounts in the range of \$2,000 to \$5,000, his report notes.

While the costs have raised concerns from some residents, many have called for the work to be done given the ongoing flooding of properties, particularly in the low-lying areas of the Elroy Acres subdivision.

Addressing councillors last week, Bill Southern, who owns four properties in Breslau, called for the township to go ahead with the work given current drainage woes.

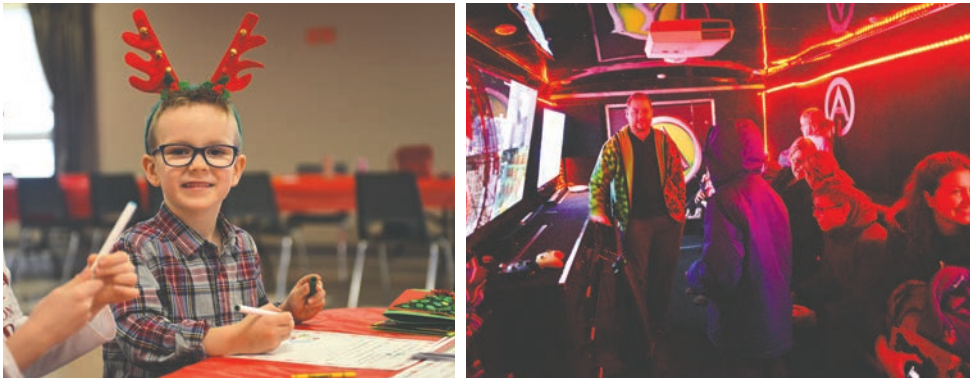
“There’s no question in my mind that there’s an issue in the village, the subdivision,” he said.

John Roes, president of Breslau Properties, one of the future development sites facing elevated costs, welcomed the work.

“It will prove to be a solution for all parties, going forward,” he said, adding that his company is doing its own engineering work on the site, including hydrogeology, and is willing to share the data with the township.

In response to a question from another resident, director of infrastructure services Jared Puppe said work on the drain would not overlap or impeded any future extension of sanitary sewers to the Elroy Acres subdivision. The drain is a pressing issue, he added, while the timing of municipal services is up in the air; when it explored installing services a decade ago, the township met with resistance from residents due to the cost, deciding to leave any revival of the idea up to the residents there.

■ **GROW WITH WOOLWICH**



The Maryhill Knights of Columbus hosted a children’s Christmas Party on Dec. 8. Helpers included Bonnie Jackson, Franca Haley (pictured) and Marie Malcolm. The event featured Santa Claus, fresh popcorn, and a computer games trailer from Game Asylum. [VERONICA REINER / THE OBSERVER]

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| Mon Dec 30             | 9 - 6  |
| Tue Dec 31             | 9 - 12 |
| New Years Day - Closed |        |
| Thurs Jan 2            | 9 - 7  |
| Fri Jan 3              | 9 - 7  |
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## ■ RECYCLING: Province has launched three working groups, looks to have preliminary framework in place by May

FROM 01

cling packaging materials, standardizing what's collected under the Blue Box programs Ontario-wide.

Announced earlier this year, the switch would see producers taking full responsibility in a three-year phase-in between 2023 and 2025. The consultation process that started with meetings this week gets things rolling.

It's early days, notes Arsenault, with many details to be worked out. The province is looking to have a framework in place by the end of the year or early in 2021.

The region is taking part in municipal workshops hosted by the province, part of the consultation process. Two other parallel groups, one for the producers and the other for those involved on the processing side of recycled goods, will meet separately before coming together closer to the May 2020 timeline for a policy paper to be released,

he said.

At that point, there will be more details, Arsenault surmises.

"They're working on a specific framework. It's definitely very complex."

The working group for producers involves representatives from businesses that design and make the products and packaging that go in the Blue Box, such as brand-holders, manufacturers, and relevant trade associations. The working group for municipalities involves representatives from the municipal sector, which currently deliver Blue Box services and the working group for the circular economy sector involves the waste management industry and companies that use Blue Box materials to manufacture packaging, explained Marc Peverini, a senior policy analyst with the Resource Recovery Policy Branch of the Ministry of the Environment, Conser-

vation and Parks.

"Members of these working groups were chosen to represent a broad cross-section of stakeholders who have interests in the new producer-led Blue Box system," he said in an email.

The region, as with other municipalities, has welcomed the transition to producer-pay, as taxpayers are currently on the hook for half of the cost of recycling programs. Along with shifting the tax burden, making the producers responsible should lead to less packaging, less waste and more standardization of packing materials to make them recyclable, he said.

That's the position staked out by Jeff Yurek, minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, in announcing the Blue Box shifts and calling for the launch of the consultation stage.

"Transitioning the Blue Box Program to full pro-

ducer responsibility will promote innovation and increase Ontario's recycling rates while saving taxpayers money," he said in a statement. "This shift is a big step towards diverting waste, addressing plastic pollution and creating a new recycling economy that everyone can be proud of in Ontario."

While the details have yet to be worked out, the region has been making some changes of its own in anticipation of the new policy. Among them, aligning its current waste management contracts to fall within the 2023-2025 timeline.

With the curbside collection contract running until March 24, the region recently extended two other contracts to match that timeline: a deal with Niagara Region to take fibre material (paper, boxboard) that had been scheduled to expire in 2020, and one with GFL, which runs the recycling centre at the landfill site, which had been set to expire the following year.

The moves were made so that the region isn't constrained by contracts during the transition period, Arsenault explained. "We have contracts coming up in that three-year window – we're doing our best to position ourselves for the changes."

The municipality is also about to launch an analysis of all the options and scenarios that could

play out, from the region getting completely out of the recycling business to essentially a status quo, with full funding coming

from producers to pay for the existing services.

"We're going to look at all the potential outcomes," he said.

## ■ WINTRY WEATHER IN EFFECT



Floradale firefighters responded to a single-vehicle collision Dec. 19 on Floradale Road, near the Peel townline. Two people suffered minor injuries. (JOE MERLIHAN / THE OBSERVER)

## ■ HOUSING: Municipalities have to conform to provincial push for flexibility

FROM 01

maximum of 90 square metres. Additionally, it is proposed to limit the number of bedrooms for each accessory unit to two bedrooms," said Vink in his report to council.

With such conversions making a single-family home into a de facto multi-residential unit, which would typically demand parking behind the building line, the township will have to change

its parking regulations, recognizing that driveways will remain the standard parking. The provincial guidelines now allow for stacked or tandem parking, which would be prohibited under the township's current rules.

"The zoning bylaw requires parking to be behind the building line. This means the required parking is in a garage, or to the side or rear of the dwelling. Many properties

are not able to provide that second parking space behind the building line without stacking the vehicles, which prevents the creation of the accessory dwelling unit," said Vink in the report.

He noted the township will have to take steps to prevent people from simply converting more of their front yards to parking. With that in mind, the plan is to add a zoning regulation to restrict driveway width

such that it not exceed the greater of 50 per cent of the width of the front yard, or more than half of the total area of the front yard.

The move to add more accessory dwellings was welcomed by Coun. Scott McMillan, who noted the changes would provide more housing, and allow homeowners some income to help with the mortgage.

"We need to go in the direction of more affordable housing," he said.

## ■ TRANSIT: Region expected some glitches, now working to sort them out

FROM 03

with the region expecting boardings to drop by a third when fares are introduced.

For now, ridership remains strong, said Fisher. From January through October this year, about 14,000 boardings, of which some 1,100 were transfers to or from GRT route 21. Kiwanis Transit was able to shift about 1,250 rides from its specialized service to the circulator bus in the

first 10 months of the year.

Current levels amount to about nine boardings per hour of operation.

"It's doing very well. We are very pleased with the numbers, as is the region," she said. "The community has embraced it."

Kiwanis Transit has an EasyGO kiosk at its Industrial Drive location. There's been discussions about installing one at the township administrative build-

ing, which is the connector point between the Elmira bus and route 21. The township previously sold tickets before the switch to electronic fares, and people still come in looking for tickets, said director of finance Richard Petherick.

While there has been talk of kiosk, the region hasn't indicated any timelines, he added.

At the region, Zinck said improvements are always

in the works, with seamless integration a key goal.

"One system, one fare. We're moving to that. Sometimes we [miss] – it's a fairly complex system in a variable environment," he said.

Among those complexities will be dealing with the first winter season under the new system, particularly the outdoor kiosks at the LRT stations.

"That will be a learning curve for us," said Zinck.

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**Environmentalist David Suzuki on the climate that exists in the wake of the COP25 event in Madrid**

## THE MONITOR

Nearly 60% of Canadians are concerned about falling victim to fraud this holiday season; 47% claim to have been targeted by a financial fraud attempt, while 63% of those who made purchases online through social media channels have fallen victim to fraud. Some 56% of those concerned about falling victim to fraud over the holidays have fallen victim before.

**Scotiabank survey**

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■ OUR VIEW | EDITORIAL

# SNC-Lavalin case reveals corruption at many levels

**S**NC-Lavalin's guilty plea to fraud charges both vindicates the stance of former justice minister Jody Wilson-Raybould and brings to something of a close the issue that smeared Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

None of the issues at play can be put to rest, however.

The political saga was instructive, though not novel. Trudeau was on one level looking to minimize any blowback from legal action and possible financial impact on a Quebec-based company with thousands of employees. There was still a federal election on the horizon when the scandal broke, and politicians are nothing if not self-serving when it comes to protecting their own electoral hides.

More troubling, though, was the insight into the lobbying efforts and payoffs that led to

hidden changes that would have given Lavalin and other corrupt offenders a free pass had not Wilson-Raybould remained so principled. One of the biggest outrages should have been the lobbying system, which must be abolished along with most campaign donations – to be fair, the Canadian system is nowhere near as corrupt and immoral as the free-for-all in the U.S. – if democracy is to be preserved.

Worse still, SNC-Lavalin's bribery and shading financing are simply business as usual, and this week's plea and resultant \$280 million fine are unlikely to change that.

In this specific case, the company admitted that between 2001 and 2011, \$47,689,868 was directed to Saadi Gadhafi. In exchange for the payments, Saadi Gadhafi used his influence as the son of

the Libyan dictator Muammar Ghaddafi to secure construction contracts for the benefit of SNC-Lavalin.

The money was directed through two companies, both of which listed Riadh Ben Aissa, former vice-president and president of SNC-Lavalin, as the sole beneficial owner.

Additionally, amounts totalling \$73,582,219 were paid through the representative companies to Ben Aissa and to Sami Bebawi, former president of Lavalin, for their personal benefit. Ben Aissa pleaded guilty in Switzerland in 2014 to corruption of foreign public officials, disloyal management of funds, fraud and money laundering in relation to these same events. Bebawi was found guilty last week of fraud, corruption of a foreign public official, laundering proceeds of crime and two counts

of possession of proceeds of crime by a jury in Quebec.

It's clear to see why the company was lobbying hard to have all of that swept under a rug. Its efforts weren't undertaken to foster the public's best interest.

That's true of pretty much all corporate lobbying. Things aren't as bad in Canada as they are in the U.S., but that's not saying much. Canada has stricter regulations against corporate lobbying than is the case to the south, where Congress long ago sold out to the highest bidders.

Just like the farce of integrity and accountability, Canadian laws governing lobbyists are rife with loopholes and ambiguities designed to keep the practice going while giving some lip service to regulating the industry.

Governments essentially pave the way for secret and unethical

practices. Even what rules do exist are routinely flouted, bypassed and ignored.

A useful first stage in undoing the unethical lobbying industry would involve making the entire system transparent. If the process was entirely out in the open, at least we'd know who was lobbying the government ... and we'd have an idea what they were trying to sell, typically against the public interest. Right now, we don't have a good idea of the scale of that bad influence.

More transparency would have exposed the shady deal-making going on with Lavalin's lobbying efforts. Actually useful anti-lobbying rules – essentially anti-corruption measures – would have avoided much of the scandal. Better still if the government automatically prosecutes and punishes corporate crooks.

■ GLOBAL OUTLOOK

## Deadlock at Madrid, Aussie firestorms

**“**The point of no return is no longer over the horizon,” warned UN secretary general António Guterres as the 25th climate summit (COP25) opened in Madrid two weeks ago, and the multitude of delegates from more than a hundred countries presumably understood what he meant. But they ignored it anyway.

The ‘point of no return’ arrives in the mid-2030s, when the rising emissions of greenhouse gases (they are still rising, not falling) pushes the amount of carbon dioxide equivalent in the atmosphere up past 450 parts per million. At 450 ppm, CO2 drives the average global temperature up past +2°C (2 degrees higher than the pre-in-



**GWYNNE DYER**  
GLOBAL AFFAIRS

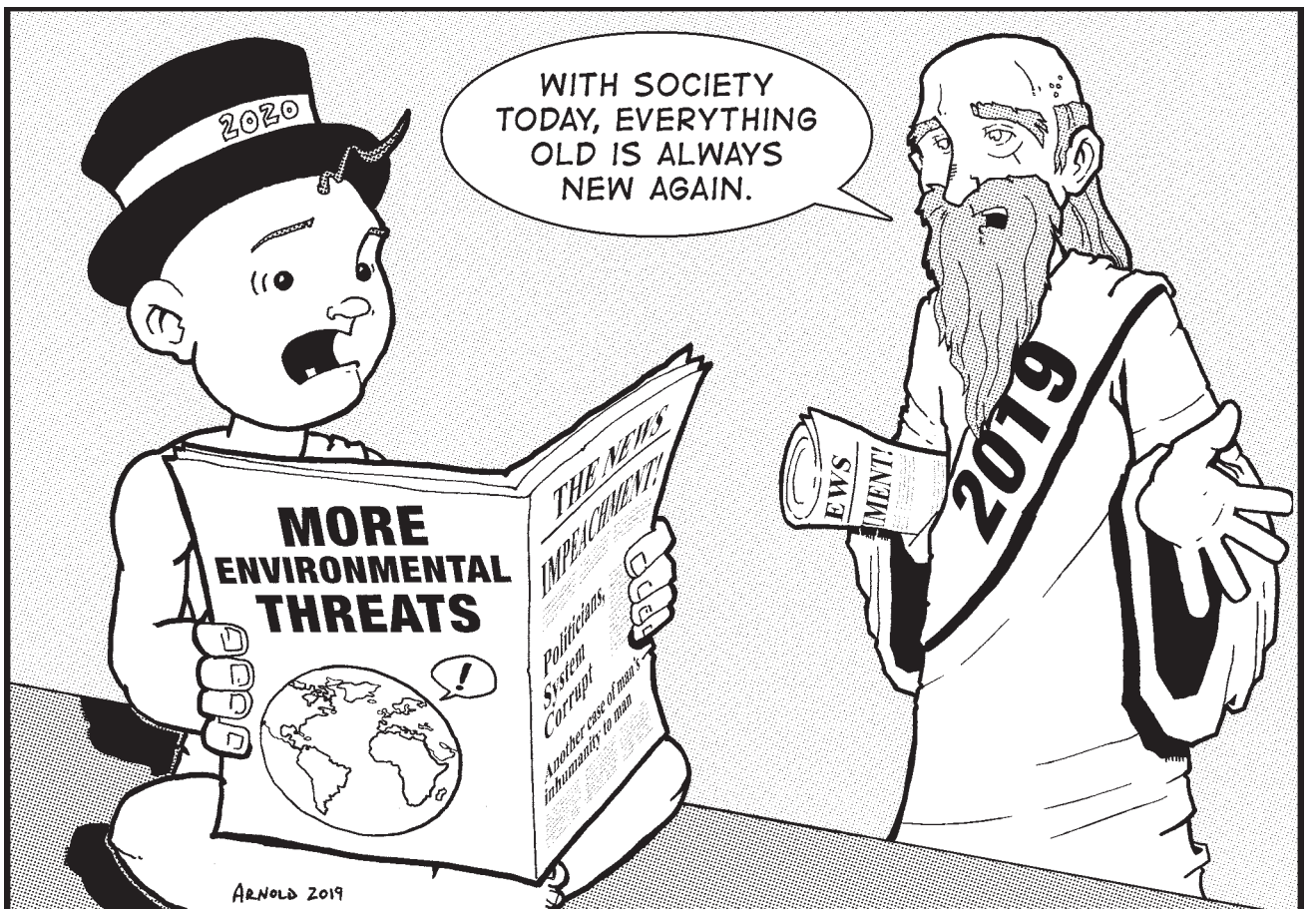
dustrial average) and into runaway.

In diplomatic-speak, what happens then is ‘dangerous climate change,’ but that is actually happening already, with carbon dioxide at 405 ppm and average global temperature ‘only’ 1.1°C higher. We are seeing firestorms in Australia, rising sea levels, catastrophic storms and melting glaciers.

What happens at 450 ppm is that the two degrees of warming caused by hu-

**DYER | 07**

■ THE VIEW FROM HERE | SCOTT ARNOLD



Plus ça change ...

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## LOCAL VIEWPOINT

# Tech and regulations can only go so far in blocking scammers

Along with traditional crimes associated with the holidays – shoplifting, stealing from vehicles and mail theft – technology has brought us a bevy of new scams. You can count on internet ripoffs to abound, along with telemarketing fraud, for instance.

You can also count on your Christmas downtime to be assaulted by telemarketers, particularly of the scammy variety. That's where the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's latest rules come into play. As of last week Canadians are to have a call-blocking system that better protects themselves against unsolicited and illegitimate calls, with telecommunications service providers required to comply.

The goal is to block what's known as caller ID spoofing in which callers misrepresent themselves to perpetrate a fraud or to trick you into answering the phone so they can make their pitch. The spoofing sees caller IDs altered to match the first 6-digits of your telephone number so that it looks like a local call, perhaps from a neighbour in your area, also known as 'neighbouring.' Likewise, the caller ID may display your own telephone number, also known as 'mirroring.' The caller ID may display the number of another individual and/or organization (i.e., pose as a recognizable brand). Or the caller ID may be altered to represent a number that cannot be dialled within the telephone network (e.g. 123-456-7890, 999-999-9999, etc.), the CRTC warns.

Under the new system mandated by the federal agency, calls with caller ID information that either exceeds 15 digits or does not conform to a number that can be dialled will be blocked before reaching your phone.

"Canadians need to have the

right tools to manage nuisance calls. With the implementation of a call blocking system, calls that are malformed will be stopped within the network. At the same time, we are working with the industry on other tools to better protect Canadians from nuisance calls, including a process to alert them when the caller ID has been spoofed," says Ian Scott, CEO of the CRTC.

Crooks and scammers will undoubtedly find end-runs around the new provisions, just as there's are workarounds for the "do not call" lists (DNCL). The online world is an even bigger strike-and-counter game to keep consumers safe.

While the new anti-spoofing measures come with fines for those found guilty – \$1,500 for individuals and \$15,000 for



telemarketing companies – telemarketers who violate the DNCL rules operate in the same environment, with fairly limited repercussions.

Either the government isn't willing to follow through on legislation that saw millions of Canadians sign up for the national DNCL, or the CRTC, which runs the program, is being extremely lax. Or both, which does seem to be the case.

To those of us facing those

calls that usually comes as we're sitting down to dinner – Do you want your carpets cleaned? New windows? Trash hauled away? – the solution is simple: ban such calls outright, impose crippling fines and enforce them vigorously. That would represent a major shift in government policy: doing something that Canadians actually want, instead of finding new ways to waste money and inconvenience us.

Critics, largely those in the telemarketing field, naturally oppose such a move, claiming it would put some companies out of business – the industry is worth some \$18 billion, employing almost 300,000 people. That may be a concern, but it is irrelevant to the argument: like so-called spam e-mail, unwanted calls clog up a resource the

consumer pays for himself and interferes in receiving valued information. The phone is an essential tool: people shouldn't have to deal with unwanted calls if that is their desire, nor should they have to resort to technical screening tools to do so.

The government's own studies show 80 per cent of us find telemarketing calls annoying, with more than 60 per cent in favour of the registry.

When the current legislation was introduced, it was immediately lambasted for its looseness and loopholes, critiques that have proven to have been well founded. The list was essentially neutered from the start.

A better idea? Make the practice of telemarketing illegal – that includes any and all groups – and allow the industry to create a "do-call" list: anybody who wants such calls can sign an agreement explicitly allowing the annoyance. In that way, the costs are borne directly by the industry, and everyone is automatically covered, with no need to opt out.

Sweeping changes and severe penalties offered up at no cost to taxpayers is the only useful course of action in what would otherwise be a public relations stunt doomed to backfire.

But incremental steps are as much as we can expect, with scammers, fraudsters and the most annoying telemarketers undoubtedly already developing workarounds. The technology battle is difficult to win, and legislative measures by any one country fruitless in the face of the global reach of determined crooks.

Of course, simply ignoring the phone and hitting the hang-up button is the last and best defence, paying no heed to phone scammers and unscrupulous hucksters. Now, if only it were so easy to avoid them online.

LEFCOURTLAND | JACK LEFCOURT



## ■ DYER: With every government's deliberate inaction, we're definitely on the road to the point of no return

FROM 6

man beings trigger natural processes ('feedbacks' or 'tipping points') that also cause warming – and once they start, human beings cannot stop them. The Big Three feedbacks are the loss of the Arctic Ocean's sea ice cover, the melting of the permafrost zone, and the release of vast amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> by the warming world oceans.

Guterres called it 'the point of no return' because after that we lose control. The warming will then continue even if human beings eventually stop all of their own emissions. We will be trapped on an 'up' escalator that delivers us into a world three, four, even five degrees hotter than the

pre-industrial average.

That is exactly where the World Meteorological Organisation predicts we will be by the end of this century if current promises on emissions cuts are kept, but no more is done. Long before the end of the century that would mean the collapse of food production in the tropics and the sub-tropics, famines and huge refugee flows, mass death.

They never spell these things out at the climate summits, but almost everybody there knows them. And yet, once again, they failed to produce a deal that moves the process forward. The best that can be said is that they stopped a concerted attempt by the biggest emitters, led by

Brazil and Australia, to gut the proposed rules for a global carbon market.

How can they be so blind to their own long-term interest in survival? The answer, alas, is that our evolutionary past of human beings has not made human societies good at long-term thinking. Moreover, human politics is dominated by those whose interests will be advanced or damaged by what the government does right now, not in 15 years' time. Take Australia, for example.

Australia is the driest continent, and as the heat mounts (much of the country is expecting temperatures in the low to mid-40s C this week) the number and scale of bushfires has exploded. The biggest

blaze, in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, has already burned more than 400,000 hectares and is still growing.

But Australia is also the world's biggest exporter of coal, mostly to China and Japan. Coal-mining only employs 38,000 Australians, but it brings in a lot of money, some of which inevitably ends up as political contributions that link the industry with all the Australian political parties.

That's why, two years ago, Liberal (i.e. conservative) politician Scott Morrison brought a lump of coal into parliament. It was 'clean' coal, in the sense that it had been lacquered so that it wouldn't dirty people's hands. Morrison

passed it around to his parliamentary colleagues saying "Don't be afraid, don't be scared, it won't hurt you. It's coal."

ScoMo (as the Australian media have nicknamed Morrison, presumably because it sounds a bit like 'scum'), is now prime minister, and as the country burns he continues to deny any link between burning coal and global heating. He offers his "thoughts and prayers" to the victims of the fires, but insists that climate change is only one of "many other factors" in fuelling the bushfires.

Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack takes an even more robust line, dismissing climate change as a concern of "raving in-

ner-city lefties." That will not endear him to the hundreds of families who have been burnt out, but there are millions of families who have not yet lost their homes, so this may still be a viable political position.

Of all the major emitters, only the European Union is taking its responsibilities seriously. The rest range from deeply conflicted countries like China and Canada, both aware that climate change is an existential threat but both hugely dependent on fossil fuels, to the outright deniers like Australia, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

So one by one, we are missing all the exits on the Highway to Hell.

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## FOUNDER'S PASSING

The Elmira Sugar Kings are marking the passing of one of the team's founders. Claude Forler passed away Dec. 1 at the age of 95. In 1971, he and his brother Gerry, along with a group of local sportsmen founded the hockey club.

## ROCKING DONATIONS

Looking for a last-minute donation opportunity as 2019 winds down? The Elmira & District Curling Club's rock sponsorship program runs through Dec. 31. The club is looking to replace its aging rocks, arranging through the National Sports Trust Fund – Ontario to collect funds in support of the project, with tax receipts for charitable contributions. [www.elmiracurlingclub.ca](http://www.elmiracurlingclub.ca)

# League recognizes contributions of three Sugar Kings

*Elmira players pick up GOJHL Player of the Month honours for offense, defence and goaltending*

BY VERONICA REINER  
vreiner@woolwichobserver.com

In addition to their first-place position in the standings, the Elmira Sugar Kings have plenty of reasons to celebrate. The team swept through the Midwestern Conference's Player of the Month Awards for November, a feat recognized last week.

Forward Jeremey Goodwin was named Offensive Player of the Month, while his brother Kurtis Goodwin won for his defensive prowess. Rounding things out, Dawson Rowe was the Goalie of the Month.

"It was great to win all three awards from the league," said head coach Rob Collins. "We were proud that we were well-represented this month."

The Greater Ontario



Jeremey Goodwin was named offensive player of the month for the GOJHL's Midwestern Conference, while Kurtis Goodwin took defensive honours, and Dawson Rowe was recognized for as goaltender of the month.



Junior Hockey League (GOJHL) recently unveiled the selection. The offense award recognized Jeremey Goodwin's contribution of 10 goals and 45 points in 30 games.

The Sugar Kings are a

strong offensive team, averaging 4.18 goals per game versus the league average of 3.48. They also spend less time in the box, an average of 18.58 compared to the league's 19.8.

Forward Kurtis Good-

win was recognized for his defensive awareness and accountability. He has 22 points in 33 matches, with three shorthanded goals among nine total.

As a team, Elmira only allows 2.18 goals per game,

compared to the league average of 3.48, making for a solid defence.

Dawson Rowe won Goalie of the Month, having posted a record of 7-4-0, including two shutouts. He has a GAA of 2.06 and a

save percentage of 0.893.

The Sugar Kings are also superior in the special teams section, attaining a higher chance to capitalize on a power play (22.29% versus the league's 18.349%), a higher penalty kill percentage (89.71% compared to 81.54%) and more shorthanded goals (seven, compared to league average of five).

"It was a good night for the Sugar Kings," said Collins of the awards.

He noted it was their third month in a row that the Sugar Kings achieved the Defensive Player of the Month, with Carter Lennon and Harrison Toms picking up previous awards.

Each player was presented with a small plaque for his accomplishment.

## NOT-SO-GREAT OUTDOORSMAN

# The goodwill clause is one of the joys of Christmas

For the outdoors man and woman, Christmas is a time of great joy – and not just for reasons normal people might think either. Sure, we enjoy the eggnog and Christmas cake, the religious celebration, the trees, lights and decorations, the gifts and gift-giving, and even the carols.

All those things are fantastic, but for the most part, we outdoorsy types tend to enjoy the little, less commercial things even more. For instance, the Christmas season gives us snow for tracking and a landscape so beautiful that you could put it on a postcard. There's also ice forming on the lakes,

ducks in their best plumage and the promise of a host of winter activities in the great outdoors.

But what really makes the season special for us is the "peace on earth, goodwill towards man" clause. The advantages this clause provides is fairly common knowledge among veteran hunters and anglers, but I think a little explanation might be in order for those who are just getting into the sport.

"Peace on earth, good will towards men" is a simple, even wondrous phrase that can be turned to your benefit. It is full of good intent and kindness and, if you say it sincerely enough, it has a

better than average chance of stopping simmering anger cold.

That means, it gives the outdoors person a lot of leeway when it comes to doing things that might not be acceptable at other less joyous times of the year, such as at dinner parties.

Take, for example, something as simple and wholesome as practicing with your goose call. Clearly, this is a thing that needs to be done every day or so to keep sharp, preferably in the early morning when your vocal cords are rested. Yet, despite this, your spouse, most non-hunters, anyone you take long drives with, peo-



ple on the train, or others at the wedding or library, seem to lose all reason when it comes to the subject.

That's why we are so lucky the phrase "peace on earth, good will towards man" is at our disposal.

Frankly, it provides a bit of a Christmas miracle. For even unreasonable people will put down that umbrella or broom when

you remind them of "peace on earth, good will towards man" clause that we are all supposed to abide by the Christmas season. Oh, sure, you might need to repeatedly remind them as you dodge or run, but eventually, the message sinks in, just as the spirit of the season intended.

This message also comes in handy when you walk into the house with a new fishing rod, ice auger or firearm that was not anticipated and approved by your better half. Or when asked you why you decided to regale your spouse's co-workers with an hour-long tale of squirrel hunting at the

office Christmas party?

The point here is we get a lot of leeway at Christmas because, generally, it is the most wonderful time of the year and, specifically, because of "peace on earth, good will towards man" clause. And you would be remiss if you didn't use this to your advantage.

But like all Christmas presents, there's something in it for everyone. My own spouse proposed that we add tofu and kale to the Christmas dinner menu. And, after I voiced my opinion, she had the last words.

They were "peace on earth, goodwill towards man."

# GOT SCORES?

We'd love to share them in the next sports section. **Submit them online.**



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DOING SWIMMINGLY IN ELMIRA



The WMC played host to a swim meet on Dec. 12, bringing in students from EDSS, SJAM, HHSS and KCI. Jocelyn Raben of EDSS was among those named MVP at the meet. [VERONICA REINER]

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PHOTO CREDIT: DAN CONGDON

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## SKATING WITH THE KINGS



Young fans got to mingle with the Elmira Sugar Kings following a Dec. 15 game at the WMC, seeking autographs from players such as Anthony Azzano (7), Brett Allen (23), Dawson Rowe (31) and Owen O'Donnell (22). [COLIN MERLIHAN]



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Old Chestnuts Song Circle presents Gathering Sparks Jan. 18 at The Registry Theatre, as musical friends Eve Goldberg and Lane Lewis return with their sweet harmonies and beautiful songs. Their inclusive approach embraces folk, pop, blues and gospel influences, tastefully played on acoustic guitar, piano, accordion, and ukulele.

[www.registrytheatre.com](https://www.registrytheatre.com)

## ALL ABOUT MOZART

The Kitchener Waterloo Symphony presents three performances of Mozart: Drama and Beauty at the Centre In The Square Jan. 17 and 18. Pascale Giguère, concertmaster of Les Violons du Roy, leads the orchestra in an all-Mozart program that highlights the famous composer's dramatic and complex side. In one of only two minor-key piano concertos that Mozart composed, Ukrainian pianist Serhiy Salov shows off his glittering technique.

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Heather Lumsden-Ruegg, Momoka Matsui, Colton West and Elizabeth Gagnon in a scene from the Ballet Jörgen production of *The Nutcracker: a Canadian Tradition*, on stage in Kitchener for two shows Saturday.

[JORDAN CAIT / CAIT MEDIA GROUP]

### ON STAGE

# Traditional story maintains the holiday vibe

*Ballet Jörgen's performance of *The Nutcracker: a Canadian Tradition* has become an annual staple at Christmastime*

BY STEVE KANNON

[skannon@woolwichobserver.com](mailto:skannon@woolwichobserver.com)

Travelling far and wide with his ballet company, Bengt Jörgen sees a resurgence in audiences for performing arts, the result of young people wanting to get out and take in live shows.

Live performances are shared cultural experience, said the artistic director of Ballet Jörgen, noting that younger people, particularly millennials, are focused on having experiences.

"Performing arts, live shows are a shared event. And there's real events, not just digital," he said. "It's a very humanizing process that leaves you warm."

"I encourage everyone to get out there and enjoy ... live experiences."

That advice would certainly apply to Ballet Jörgen's stop in Kitchener Saturday, when *The Nutcracker: a Canadian Tradition* appears on stage at the Centre In The Square for two shows.

The annual post-Christ-

mas performance is now a tradition, ongoing for almost a quarter-century. It's the traditional *Nutcracker* story, but set in a Canadian context, moving from its German setting to the lake-front areas that inspired the artists who became the Group of Seven. Klara and the *Nutcracker Prince* are still front and center, but inhabit a world that includes a wintry schoolhouse in Bisset, Ontario (a locale used by the artists) circa 1912 and the wetlands of Algonquin Park. It's a

Canadian landscape filled with snowflakes, Mounties, and charming woodland creatures.

Choreographed by Jörgen to Tchaikovsky's familiar score, this distinctly Canuck adaptation evolved from a collaboration with the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, which has allowed three of the great 20th century Canadian landscape artists to be featured: Franklin Carmichael (*Church and Houses at Bisset*, 1931), Tom Thomson (*Snow in the Woods*, 1916)

and L.L. FitzGerald (*Trees and Wildflowers*, 1922).

In addition to the traditional *Nutcracker* characters, this version has added loons, birches, dragonflies, beavers and squirrels, among others.

The company is in the midst of its longest stretch of *Nutcracker* performances, having had its first show of the season November 14 and running through January 4. That comes on the heels of a busy year that saw Ballet Jörgen launch *Anne of Green Gables* –

The Ballet.

There's some synergy between the two shows given the early-century timeframes. The dancers have a great deal of experience of evoking a time through their movements, Jörgen notes, adding great dancers can tell the story through their movements in time with the music, he said.

"Dance is a very communicative form," he said. "Our dancers are the best at that in Canada."

With *The Nutcracker*,

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John Ziegler's Weberlyn Crescent home in Conestogo is a popular stop for those on a Christmas lights tour of the area.

[COLIN MERLIHAN]

NUTCRACKER: Production looks to evoke a period and a mood through ballet's communicative dance

FROM 11

Jörgen updated the choreography last year, and is fine-tuning it this season as the company has welcomed new dancers, including principals who are new to the Christmas classic.

“For them, it’s the first time they’ve done this show, so it brings a new energy to the shows,” he said.

The fast-paced nature of the ballet makes it a favourite for families. The Nutcracker is often the first – and sometimes only – ballet people get out to see. That works just fine for Jörgen, who is happy to see people get out for live performances of any kind.

With that in mind, the key is to deliver the kind of experiences people are looking for, Jörgen notes. Judging from audience reactions, The Nutcracker is doing just that, he added.

“We have a lot of laughs and the beautiful dancing, and a lot of happy people,” he said of the audiences.

The Nutcracker: a Canadian Tradition dances on stage for two performances December 28 (2 and 7 p.m.) at the Centre In The Square. Tickets are \$30-\$82, available from the box office by calling 519-578-1570 or online at [www.centreinthesquare.com](http://www.centreinthesquare.com).



Klara with her nutcracker, and Daniel Da Silva and Momoka Matsui are Lord & Lady Birch.

[SUBMITTED]

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# RURAL CONNECT

■ LOOKING FORWARD

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## THE EGG IS IN THE NOG

'Tis the season for eggnog producers, with December being peak time for sales. From 773,000 litres in September, the numbers grow to 988,000 in October before jumping to 3.9 million litres in November and 5.9 million litres in December.

## SUPPORTING 4-H

The Farm Credit Canada (FCC) 4-H Club Fund will contribute \$100,000 in grants to 206 4-H clubs, districts and regions across Canada in 2020, supporting local clubs' initiatives, with the ultimate goal of empowering youth to be responsible, caring and contributing leaders that effect positive change in the world around them. The FCC 4-H Club Fund awards up to \$500 to local 4-H clubs every year.

# AgScape launches campaign to fill the shoes of tomorrow's agriculture leaders

Jim McMillan considers himself fortunate. He operates a cash crop and market garden farm with his son Ian in Wainfleet, Ontario and unlike many producers and aging farmers, Jim knows who will fill his shoes when he retires.

"Other producers aren't so lucky, and I wonder who is going to carry on the business of providing safe and nutritious food for generations to come?" said Jim.

That's why he has been a long-time supporter of AgScape, a charitable organization that delivers curriculum-linked agriculture and food learning materials and programming in classrooms across Ontario.

"We need to get the word out to all students about the opportunities available to them in all aspects agriculture. AgScape is doing the groundwork to spread agriculture and food literacy in classrooms to help ensure a sustainable and prosperous industry but they need support to reach more students."

Jim is hoping that Ontario farmers and producers will follow his lead and donate to AgScape's, province-wide fundraising campaign which runs now until December 31.

"Fill the Shoes of Tomorrow's Agriculture Leaders" aims to raise much needed funds to support the development and delivery of hands-on programs to help youth learn about the agriculture and food sector and encourage them to



Jim McMillan has a succession plan with his son Ian in place, but he's a long-time supporter of AgScape and its programs to develop the next generation of farmers. [SUBMITTED]

pursue exciting agriculture careers.

"With Ontario's agriculture industry on track to having more than 40,000 vacant jobs by 2025, this begs the question of who will fill the shoes of today's farmers, food scientists, production managers and equipment mechanics? The answer depends on whether we are able to engage students about these

careers that lie ahead," said Glenna Banda, AgScape's executive director.

"We need the help of businesses and individuals in the agri-food sector to ensure that agriculture education gets into Ontario classrooms. Through their financial contribution, they will support us to connect youth to the innovative and thriving world of agriculture and food, and

to ignite their interest in careers to ensure a strong future for the industry."

AgScape has been working hard to build relationships and trust with Ontario schools. Since the start of the 2019-2020 school year, more than 500 Teacher Ambassador Program lessons have already been requested.

"The demand for our programs is higher than

ever. But the reality is that we need financial support to keep up with the demand and to reach more students. We are grateful to be partially funded by OMAFRA but we need additional funds so that we can grow our capacity to support these teachers who want curriculum-linked agriculture and food education in their classrooms," said Banda.

## Training, equipment, and teamwork combine to save youth trapped in corn

Grain entrapment is a growing concern on farms and in grain handling facilities. Grain entrapment happens quickly and is often fatal. That's where the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association's (CASA) BeGrain-Safe program comes in. BeGrainSafe works to save lives through awareness and training. Last month, grain rescue training and knowledge, the proper equipment, and teamwork all combined to save the life of a 14-year-old girl trapped in corn.

It was just a regular fall day in the municipality of Leamington when the call for emergency services came in. Leamington, the "Tomato Capital of Canada," nestled along Lake Erie, is an agricultural, manufacturing, and tourism hub. Although known for its greenhouses and tomatoes, farmers also produce crops like corn and soybeans that contribute to the overall diversity of Leamington's agricultural industry. It was on one of these diverse operations that a young teenager entered a gravity wagon filled with corn and quickly became entrapped.

Mike Ciacelli, Leamington's deputy fire chief, describes the call.

"It was approximately 4 p.m. when a call for fire-fighter services came in. There had been an incident involving a gravity wagon and a young teenager," explains Ciacelli. "She had

**RESCUE | 14**

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## ■ RESCUE: Preparation is key, as there's no predicting when a grain-entrapment emergency will develop

FROM 13

been watching the corn unloading when she went in. As soon as she screamed, her family and the other workers knew she was in trouble."

Jumping into action, the people on site stopped the flowing corn and immediately called 911.

Ciacelli says that when Leamington's Fire Services got the call, he immediately thought of his colleague, fire inspector Derrick Clark. Clark had just attended CA-SA's BeGrainSafe Firefighter Grain Rescue Training Course.

"I called Derrick immediately," recalls Ciacelli. "I knew he had taken the BeGrainSafe training, so I wanted his advice."

"I was harvesting corn at the time when Mike called," says Clark. "And I knew that the best bet for a successful rescue was to secure the proper equipment to get her out safely."

When Ciacelli arrived on the scene, the girl was mostly under the corn.

"All I could see were her eyes, her nose, and the tip of one of her elbows popping out of the corn." On-site were paramedics and police.

Someone suggested opening the door to get the corn moving again. However, after talking with Clark, Ciacelli knew this wasn't an option.

"She was stable. EMS had managed to get her an airway, she was conscious, and a family member was pushing corn away from her face, so I knew we had the time to get the proper equipment there."

A call went to the Kingsville Fire Department, (one of Leamington Fire Services' mutual aid partners in Essex County) to ask for their silo kit.

"They've had this kit for

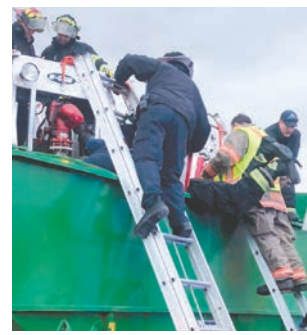
10 or 12 years, and they've never used it in a live scenario," says Ciacelli.

Clark suggested that while waiting for the silo kit to arrive, Leamington firefighters start to build a temporary cofferdam around the girl using what they had on hand to keep any more corn from flowing in on her.

"We started pulling boards and even old honey and fruit stand signs to use," remembers Ciacelli.

When Kingsville Fire Department's technical rescue team arrived with the silo kit, they started building a cofferdam with their panels around her.

"She was up against the side of the grain cart," says Ciacelli. "They could only do a half-moon shape around her. Because of the bars in



Firefighters use a silo kit and other items on-hand to build a cofferdam around the 14-year-old grain entrapment victim. [PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE CIACELLI]

the grain cart, the cofferdam panels weren't exactly lining up. We ended up using the boards and signs to help fill the gaps."

The Leamington fire department used their aerial truck to light up the scene, and firefighters used small pails to remove the corn from around the girl. "All in

all, 24 firefighters, four police officers, and two paramedics attended the scene. It was quite the light show," says Ciacelli.

After approximately 45 minutes, firefighters removed enough corn to pull the girl out safely.

"I was amazed," says Ciacelli. "She climbed down the ladder on her own. She went to the hospital, but she was fine. It was a good day."

Ciacelli and Clark credit the proper equipment, teamwork, and training for the rescue. "I hope that more firefighters in our area can get this training," says Ciacelli. "I was happy to be able to call Derrick for his advice. As a command officer, I'll take advice from someone smarter, with more knowledge than I have."

"The training taught me how quickly grain entrapment happens," explains Clark. "Remaining calm, shutting down the equipment, and getting the rescue equipment can make all the difference."

For more information about the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association's BeGrainSafe program, visit [casa-acsa.ca/begrainsafe](http://casa-acsa.ca/begrainsafe).  
By Robin Anderson for the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association.

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# Action needed now to address crisis in farmers' mental health

If there's one thing that Canadian farmers need in 2020 and beyond, it's better access to mental health care.

Sure, there are a lot of other things they need – good weather, higher prices and an end to trade wars, to start with.

But if farmers have worse mental health than the rest of the population, and we're relying on them to produce our food, is there anything more important than trying to help them get better?

Evidence is mounting that the problem is worsening. Ever since Canadian farmers' mental health was identified and quantified as an issue by University of Guelph researcher Andria Jones-Bitton and her team in 2016, farmers have been standing up like never be-

fore to tell their stories of anxiety, depression, stress and other mental health woes.

Other studies in the UK, the U.S., Australia, Finland and Norway concluded with similar findings. Poor farmer health affects their families, their livestock, and their overall ability to produce food.

And that's bad timing, considering we're counting on them to not only keep Canadians fed, but the rest of the world too. Canada is the fifth largest exporter of agricultural products.

Now, a research team led by Jones-Bitton have new findings, just published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. It's the first study ever to separately explore risk factors for the three components

of burnout among farmers – that is, exhaustion, cynicism and low professional efficacy.

It turns out that in response to a survey of more than 1,000 farmers across Canada, 12 per cent could be classified as burned out. Almost 45 per cent were on the road to being burnt out. They are overwhelmed as a result of the work they do.

To me, that's shocking.

In their paper, Jones-Bitton and researchers from Guelph (population medicine master's student Briana Hagen), York University (psychology professor Stephen Fleming) and Laurentian University (social work professor Sandra Hoy), write that the status quo is concerning not only for the affected individuals and their families, but also for the farming sector, given



potential associated risks to Canadian agriculture via lowered productivity.

So, what's to be done?

Well, at Guelph, Hagen and Jones-Bitton are leading the development of a new farmers' mental health literacy training program to offer help. Measures are starting to emerge from the province to offer support. Farmers have acknowledged the problem and are offering peer-to-peer support as well.

And while that is an excellent start, something

bigger, unified and long term is needed – like a brain trust that has the umph to address the source of farmers' mental health woes.

That initiative might be a centre that can develop strategies that lead to a system change. Jones-Bitton and her co-authors say their study results "serve as a call to action for increased farmer supports to decrease work demands and increase resources, particularly through addressing systemic issues related to workload and via positive family, friend, community, and industry support and engagement," they say.

That is an awesome and perhaps overwhelming undertaking. If weather, trade and prices have your back against the wall, and you're feeling isolated and over-

whelmed, how do not only get a grip, but actually kick back and make change? How do farmers come to be valued for their vital work and for the quality of their essential contributions?

Collective action from academics, farmers, health care professionals and government is a must. Failure to address the situation is tantamount to ignoring one of the worst mental health realities in our country.

A national centre for farmers' mental health is my New Year's wish for Canadian agriculture. Maybe you can't change the weather, or Donald Trump, or world prices for commodities. But you can help people deal with these matters when the chips are down.

And let there be no doubt – the chips are at rock bottom.

## New supports to improve soil health, water quality

To mark World Soil Day earlier this month, the governments of Canada and Ontario launched a \$5.75-million, multi-year project to help the province's farmers strengthen environmental stewardship, enhance water quality, improve soil health, and better protect the environment.

The On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM) project will support a host of new activities to be carried out with farmers and other partners to make our agri-food sector greener and more competitive. Funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership ONFARM will build on environmental stewardship achievements in the agricultural sector by:

- Developing a comprehensive, science-based method to measure soil health in Ontario.

- Measuring the effectiveness and impact of agricultural best management practices aimed at reducing nutrient run-off on farms.
- Working with farmers to gain evidence and awareness of how to improve productivity, soil health and water quality.
- Establishing applied research and monitoring sites to facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge transfer and capacity-building among industry professionals.

"Canadian farmers are responsible stewards of the land, and our government is working side-by-side with them to improve soil and water quality and take action against climate change," said federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau in a



Agronomy inspector collects a soil sample for analysis. [STOCK PHOTO]

release. "These new initiatives will help farmers ensure the environmental sustainability of their farms for generations to come."

"On World Soil Day, we recognize the vital importance of water quality and soil health for farmers today and in the future,"

said Ernie Hardeman, Ontario minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "Through the ONFARM project, we'll help farmers continue their environmental stewardship efforts and work to grow their businesses sustainably."

The Ontario Soil and

Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) will deliver the programming for the governments through to the end of the Partnership in 2023. ONFARM will build on other environmental protection initiatives supported by the Partnership and delivered by the OSCIA, such as

the Environmental Farm Plan and the Lake Erie Agriculture Demonstrating Sustainability initiative.

ONFARM also supports and leverages other related actions with industry targeting improved soil health, such as the 4R Nutrient Stewardship program and the pending work of the Ontario Soil Action Group. The project will also support the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.

"OSCIA is very excited to be part of this long-term soil health and water quality research project," said Les Nichols, president of OSCIA. "We applaud plans for a coordinated network of sites across the province that will involve farmers in project development and management decisions. It's a terrific example of the seek-test-adopt philosophy that guides our on-farm applied research efforts."

## Happy Holidays!

The Observer office will be closed Friday, December 20 at noon and will re-open Monday, December 30th.

The Observer will publish December 26 and website activity will be lightly monitored throughout the holiday as staff enjoy time off with friends and family.

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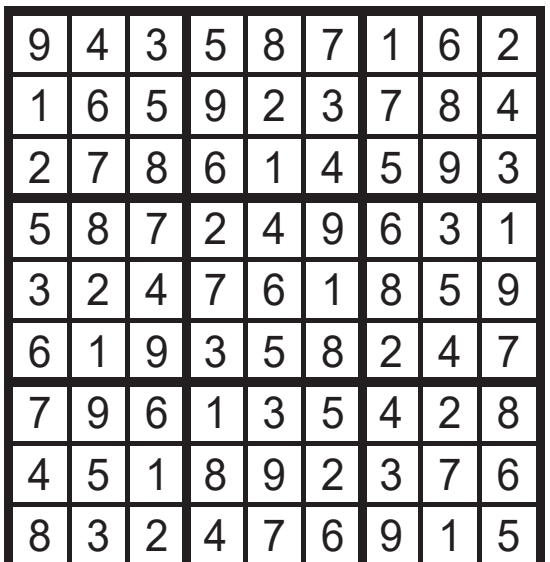
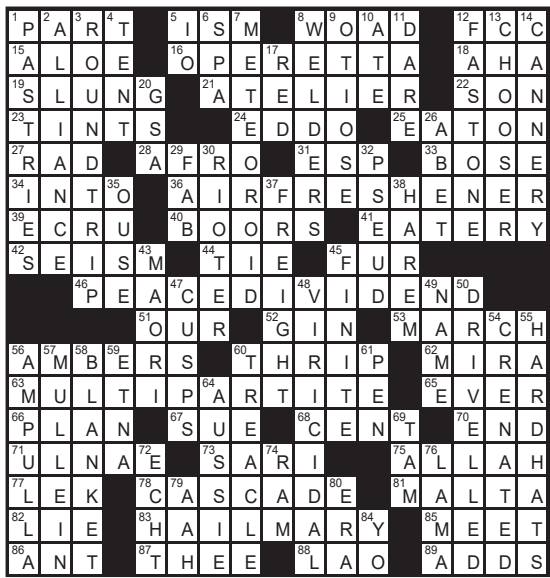
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**Holiday Hours at the Woolwich  
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Office Hours for 2020**

**Thursday, December 26:** Office Closed  
**Friday, December 27:** Office Closed  
**Monday, December 30:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday, December 31:** 9:00 a.m. – Noon  
**Wednesday, January 1:** Office Closed  
**Thursday, January 2:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, January 3:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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.

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### LONG-TERM CARE

The province last week announced the launch of consultations with the long-term care sector to assist the government in the design of a minor capital funding program. The ministry will be hosting two consultation sessions in January 2020 and will be accepting written feedback from long-term care sector stakeholders at [lrc.info@ontario.ca](mailto:lrc.info@ontario.ca) until Jan. 31.

### AUTISM SHIFTS

The Ford government says it's adopting the Ontario Autism Panel's key recommendations for a needs-based autism program. The program recognizes that every family's experience and needs are different, and that children and youth on the autism spectrum have different levels of need at different points in their lives.

# Floradale PS seeks new playground

*It will take a village ... and municipality to raise money to replace play structure deemed unsafe, as school explores funding options*

BY VERONICA REINER  
[vreiner@woolwichobserver.com](mailto:vreiner@woolwichobserver.com)

Going inclusive and safer comes with a \$34,000 price tag as parents at Floradale Public School look to raise money for a new playground.

The new equipment they've got their eyes on would sit beside outdated structures that have been deemed unsafe for younger students. The new playground would provide an inclusive atmosphere accessible to kids of all ages, as there is currently no playground for the kindergarten students, organizers say.

The fundraising effort is spearheaded by parent council members Azalea Carlaw and Kendra Whitfield-Ellis, with help from school principal Shawn Thompson.

Thompson said that the need arose after a change in legislation that occurred several years ago.

"There was a new law put into place about four or five years ago that there has to be a certain height for kids to be able to go on ... so that they're able to jump from one part to another," said Thompson, noting that height requirement is four feet.

He noted that this change affected numerous schools across the province, including during his time as a principal at Linwood Public School. The playground there was replaced in 2017 after a report said that the former structure had drops too high for younger students to play on safely.



Floradale PS Grade 6 students Leah Kuepfer, Mercy Steenbergen and Isabella Moes hang out at the school's outdated playground.

[VERONICA REINER / THE OBSERVER]

The effort to replace the Floradale equipment has been a long time coming, according to Carlaw, whose oldest child has attended the school since 2014. She said that a quick change in staffing – particularly the sudden passing of principal Andrew Beddoe – made it difficult for administrators to fully focus on the need for a new playground.

"I believe the playground has always needed an upgrade," said Carlaw. "The [kindergarten students] usually play on the tarmac, ... which is kind of detrimental. Play-based learning is integral for child development, so we want to have something out there

that all the kids can use."

Now, the project is finally starting to get into motion. The organizing committee solicited three quotes and concept drawings, then narrowed the choice down to two.

From those two playground concept drawings, the Floradale PS students voted for which structure they liked best. Students in all 13 classes voted overwhelmingly in favour of a mainly plastic and metal structure designed by Newmarket-based playground equipment supplier Blue Imp.

"It was different because it was a climbing structure," said Thompson,

noting that seeing the final product helped to build student enthusiasm for the project. "This was climbing, webs, things like that. So something completely different that they liked."

The real challenge will be coming up with the money, as the Waterloo Region District School Board does not financially assist with playground equipment. Furthermore, Floradale PS is among the smallest schools in the Waterloo Region with just some 250 students and 16 staff members. The majority of the students are of Mennonite background and "don't believe in fundraising," said Carlaw.

The total cost will be \$33,900: \$21,573 for the equipment, \$960 for shipping, and \$7,920 for installation. The parent council made their case to Woolwich council earlier this month, requesting \$10,000, but no final decisions have been made yet. In the meantime, they have been asking businesses and individuals in the community for any funds that they can provide, looking at provincial grants that may be able to help, and considering fundraising avenues such as a year-end barbecue.

"The support from the community has been amazing," said Carlaw. "We've already got \$7,120 in

sponsorships, and we have only been canvassing businesses for about a month now. We're working hard."

The decision for whether or not council funding will be made in January, when councillors set the 2020 budget.

"Typically, we don't invest because we have such an infrastructure deficit on our own, so we don't usually invest in private property," said Woolwich recreation director Ann McArthur. "So, council will have to deliberate that ... whether it's important to make a contribution, not fully funding."

The lifespan of an aver-

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BRAIN FOOD

# Rats can be trained to drive a car, inviting comparisons

**Q. “Baby face, you’ve got the cutest little baby face,” the song goes. New science reveals that the power of cuteness goes way beyond babies and parents. How so?**

A. Cuteness – associated with a large head, large eyes and a small nose – was once thought to trigger a hardwired, primarily maternal, caregiving response, says Gemma Tarlach in “Discover” magazine. “Chubby-cheeked babies, wide-eyed puppies and wobbly kittens: We know cute when we see it. We’re still learning, however, what it does to our brains and behavior.” Here are the results of some studies monitoring the brain activity of adults viewing images of infant faces: #1. Cuteness features trip “our reward motivation wires, leading

us to want to pay attention to, and care for, an infant, even if not our own.” #2. In the “emotional part of the brain,” also linked to reward-motivated behavior, “images of unfamiliar infant faces activated this area in the brains of women and men, parents and nonparents, in a mere one-seventh of a second – a near-instant response that’s atypical.” #3. This rapid response time also triggered an area of the brain associated with survival behavior and responding to threats, priming parents and nonparents alike to be “on their A-game” when there’s a baby around. As one researcher put it, “I think that cuteness encourages us to help socialize children who are not our own, and that this was a revolutionary behavior that helped us to develop

the cooperative skills and collaborative abilities that make us human.” **Q. Rodents are known to recognize objects, press bars and find their way around mazes. What more sophisticated task were they able to master?** A. The rats learned to drive a specially designed car, constructed of a clear plastic food container with an aluminum floor, three copper steering bars and wheels, reports Alice Klein in “New Scientist” magazine. Standing on the floor with paws gripping the bars, the rats completed an electrical circuit that moved the car forward. Kelly Lambert and her team at the University of Richmond trained six female and 11 male rats



to drive a car in a four-square-metre arena, rewarding them with food when they executed the correct moves. As the food was placed at increasingly distant points, “they learned to navigate the car in unique ways and engaged in steering patterns they had never used to eventually arrive at the reward,” Lambert says. An added bonus: Based on measured stress hormone levels, driving seemed to relax the rats.

**Q. Word lovers, how well versed are you with the**

**following Biblical allusions: “Apollyon,” “corbie messenger,” “land of nod” and “Magdalene”?** A. “Apollyon,” from Greek “apollynal,” (to destroy), means one who destroys, or is another name for the Devil, introduced as “angel of the bottomless pit” in the Book of Revelations, says Anu Garg on his “A.Word.A.Day” website. “A messenger who does not arrive or return in time” is a “corbie messenger,” alluding to the raven (“corbin”) that Noah sends off from his ark atop Mt. Ararat. The raven fails to return, but a dove dispatched later does come back. Next, from the Genesis story of Cain and Abel comes “land of nod”: After Cain kills his brother, God curses him to be “a fugitive and a vagabond,” and he goes to dwell in

the land of Nod, east of Eden. In Hebrew, “nod” is the root of “to wander,” so going to the land of nod implies going wandering. “Jonathon Swift used ‘nod’ as a punning reference to sleeping, as in ‘to nod off,’ when drowsy.” Finally, “magdalene” means “a penitent woman, particularly a reformed prostitute,” after Mary Magdalene, a follower of Jesus. But the connection is erroneous, Garg says. In 581, Pope Gregory I conflated an unnamed sinner with Mary Magdalene, but not until 1969 did Pope Paul VI correct the error. Yet, “Mary Magdalene forever remains identified as a former prostitute in popular culture.”

Bill is a journalist, Rich holds a doctorate in physics. Together the brothers bring you “Strange But True.” Send questions to sbtcolumn@gmail.com

ON THE MENU

## Getting creative with that leftover turkey

So Christmas has come and gone already – does seem to come quicker every year. If you’re like me you always end up with lots of turkey lying around because you never really know for sure who’s going to show up for Christmas dinner. It’s always a treat to make those fresh turkey sandwiches the next day and smother them with gravy, and if you’re feeling ambitious on day two, a pot



of homemade soup goes a long way. Once you’re into day four or five, the turkey starts to lose its charm. You could go with a pot pie or an a la King, but a

great way to make something different fresh and delicious is to turn it into a gourmet pasta. This recipe even uses up your extra cranberry sauce (I’ve still got some at the very back corner of the fridge from Thanksgiving), which gives the pasta a unique pink colour and a touch of tang and sweetness. You’ll notice the turkey is called “previously cooked” instead of “leftover” as I don’t want to hurt the tur-

key’s feelings. A great tip is to time the cooking of the noodles with the sauce so that they get tossed immediately in the sauce without rinsing them. Then they’ll cling to the noodles much better. Enjoy!

### Post Holiday Turkey Fettuccini

1 lb previously cooked turkey meat, cut in strips

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 small onion, minced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 250g mushrooms, sliced
- 2 Tbsp. cranberry sauce
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 2 oz white wine
- 500 ml heavy cream
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 1 pkg. fettuccini noodles
- Parsley

1. Sweat onion, garlic, mushrooms in olive oil and season.
2. Add wine and cream and allow to reduce.

3. Meanwhile cook pasta in plenty of boiling salted water for 7-8 minutes.
4. Finish sauce with cranberry sauce and parmesan.
5. Drain noodles and toss in sauce – serve immediately.


Chef Bruce Duff is the operator of “Chef Duff at RiverSong” Banquet hall, Café and Culinary Centre just outside of St. Jacobs, which hosts private events, banquets, team building and cooking classes and also run breakfast and lunch in the café from Wed. – Sat; info@chefduff.ca.

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**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27**  
■ FREE SKATE AT THE ST. JACOBS ARENA FROM 1:30 P.M. TO 3:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**  
■ FREE SKATE AT THE ST. JACOBS ARENA FROM 12:30 P.M. - 1:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 30**  
■ FREE SKATE AT THE WOOLWICH MEMORIAL CENTRE, Elmira, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
■ NEW YEARS PARTY AT THE ELMIRA LEGION. 8 P.M. TO 1 a.m. \$25 per person. DJ and lunch provided.

■ FREE SWIM AND SKATE AT THE WOOLWICH MEMORIAL Centre, Elmira. Swim from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Skate from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Facility will be closed at 4 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 2**  
■ FREE SKATE AT THE WOOLWICH MEMORIAL CENTRE, Elmira from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 3**  
■ FREE SKATE AT THE WOOLWICH MEMORIAL CENTRE, Elmira, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8**  
■ SENIORS' COMMUNITY DINING. COMMUNITY CARE Concepts invites you to join us for lunch, fellowship and entertainment at Calvary United Church, St. Jacobs at noon, \$12. Call 519-664-1900 by noon Jan. 6 to sign up.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9**  
■ SENIORS' LUNCH CLUB. COMMUNITY CARE CONCEPTS invites you to join us for a light lunch and fellowship at the Breslau Community Centre at noon, \$7. Call 519-664-1900 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. His topic- The West Montrose Bridge Spanning Seven Generations. Ken is a member of the Bridge Keepers in West Montrose. Coffee, tea and a delicious snack are served. 2 dollars admission.

■ EVERGREEN FOR SENIORS, 10:30 A.M. AT WOODSIDE Church, Elmira. "Understanding Funeral Planning" Monty Steenson, Devotional: Pastor Jonathan Brubacher, Acapela Singers- Gloria, Lena, Ken & Ray. Suggested donation: \$7.00 includes hot lunch.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15**  
■ SENIORS' LUNCH CLUB. COMMUNITY CARE CONCEPTS invites you to join us for a light lunch and fellowship at Wellesley Community Centre at noon, \$7. Call 519-664-1900 by noon on Jan. 13 to sign up.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20**  
■ SENIORS' LUNCH CLUB. COMMUNITY CARE CONCEPTS invites you to join us for a light lunch and fellowship at Woolwich Memorial Centre at noon, \$7. Call 519-664-1900 by noon Jan. 16 to sign up.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22**  
■ SENIORS' COMMUNITY DINING. COMMUNITY CARE Concepts invites you to join us for lunch, fellowship and entertainment at Linwood Community Centre, noon, \$12. Call 519-664-1900 by noon on Jan. 20 to sign up.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25**  
■ SPAGHETTI DINNER & SALAD BAR AT THE ELMIRA LEGION. 2 sittings, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchase in advance at the Legion or call 519-669-2932. Adults \$10, children 5- 0 yrs \$4, under 5 yrs \$2.

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/](http://ads.observerxtra.com/event-listing/).

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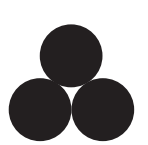
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# ■ PLAYGROUND: School's unique character adds fundraising challenge

**FROM 20** age playground is about 15 years. This is not the first time a local school has come forward to ask for funding for a new playground, as Riverside PS requested \$18,000 back in 2018 to go towards the construction of an all-naturalized playground. Woolwich council ultimately decided that the community was responsible for raising the money, as is the case with similar recreation projects. It took about five years to raise the full \$96,000 to move forward with it, in Riverside's situation. However, this ask is substantially smaller, said McArthur.

"Council is kind of cautious about setting some precedent," said McArthur.

"What we do with one school, and not with another school kind of thing."


The township is also looking at replacing the community playground in the hamlet, so it's facing its own budget constraints. With that in mind, Coun. Larry Shantz suggested looking at some the possibility of shared resources.

If all goes well for them, the group's goal to get the project finished within the next year or two. Carlaw said that anyone who wished to donate could make it out to the Waterloo Education Foundation Inc. (WEFI) with the memo Floradale PS, which would allow them to provide a tax receipt. Alternatively, cheques can be made out to Floradale PS.

**OBSERVER SUDOKU**

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

**HOW TO PLAY:** Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once. Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. Numbers are preplaced to get you started.



**TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY**

## NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY

Intention to Adopt a Budget

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Township of Wellesley, after having reviewed the draft municipal budget for the year 2020, intends to pass a By-law with the intent to adopt a budget pursuant to Section 290 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended. The passage of the By-law to implement the adoption of the budget will be given consideration at the regularly scheduled meeting on January 7, 2020, commencing at 6:45pm in the Council Chambers, 4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill. Should you wish to address Council or if you require further details or information, please contact Grace Kosch, Clerk, Township of Wellesley at (519) 699-3946 or email: [gkosch@wellesley.ca](mailto:gkosch@wellesley.ca)

SANTA STOPS IN ST. JACOBS FOR BREAKFAST



The St. Jacobs Optimist Club hosted its 15th annual Breakfast with Santa Dec. 15. Face painting by Cleo the Clown, entertainment by the Chord Spinners, a nutritious breakfast and appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus were all part of the family-friendly event. [VERONICA REINER / THE OBSERVER]

OBSERVER CROSSWORD

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  |    | 8  | 9 | 10 | 11 |    | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    | 17 |    |   |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |
| 19 |    |    |    | 20 |    |    | 21 |    |    |   |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |
| 23 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 24 |    |   |    |    | 25 | 26 |    |    |
| 27 |    |    |    | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    | 31 |   | 32 |    | 33 |    |    |    |
| 34 |    |    | 35 |    | 36 |    |    | 37 |    |   |    | 38 |    |    |    |    |
| 39 |    |    |    |    | 40 |    |    |    |    |   | 41 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 42 |    |    |    | 43 |    | 44 |    |    |    |   | 45 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    | 46 |    |    | 47 |    |    |    | 48 |   |    |    | 49 | 50 |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |    | 51 |    |    |    | 52 |   |    |    | 53 |    | 54 | 55 |
| 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |   | 61 |    | 62 |    |    |    |
| 63 |    |    |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    |   |    |    | 65 |    |    |    |
| 66 |    |    |    |    | 67 |    |    |    | 68 |   |    | 69 |    | 70 |    |    |
| 71 |    |    |    | 72 |    | 73 |    | 74 |    |   |    | 75 | 76 |    |    |    |
| 77 |    |    |    | 78 | 79 |    |    |    | 80 |   |    | 81 |    |    |    |    |
| 82 |    |    |    | 83 |    |    |    |    |    |   | 84 |    | 85 |    |    |    |
| 86 |    |    |    | 87 |    |    |    |    | 88 |   |    |    | 89 |    |    |    |

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

ACROSS


1. Actor's goal
5. Belief
8. Old timey blue dye
12. TV monitor?
15. Gel plant
16. Little opera
18. They say the sun always shines on tv (80's pop)
19. Cast
21. Artistic environment
22. "My boy"
23. Salon supply
24. Taro corm
25. Big name in stationery
27. Tubular!
28. \_\_\_\_-American
31. Psychic power
33. Indian physicist, speaker
34. Dig it
36. If it's supposed to smell so good, why does it smell so horrid?!
39. Average colour of the cosmos, go figure
40. Horrid people
41. Mess
42. Earthquake
44. 20-20, e.g.
45. It's a wrap
46. Return on the end of
- war
51. Possessively add -y to flip meaning
52. Scourge of the Victorian working class
53. Walk rigidly
56. Yellow road lights
60. Black sap sucker
62. Actress Sorvino
63. Composed of many, but the -ite is kind of redundant, no?
65. Always for after
66. Agenda
67. Boy called
68. Copper
70. Armageddon
71. Arm bones
73. Also Eastern wrap
75. Object of many prayers
77. 100 qintars
78. Grand waterfall
81. Gozo Island is part of it
82. Fabrication
83. Catholic prayer
85. Group, up, swap
86. Leaf cutter
87. To the last I grapple with \_\_\_\_ (Star Trek quote)
88. \_\_\_\_-tzu
89. Checks out with up

DOWN

1. Fancy baking
2. Union
3. Orbit
4. Pup shelter
5. Turned to a heifer by Zeus
6. Place of escape
7. Would be meteor
8. Metal stickers
9. Idle
10. H, st, g
11. Bell the cat
12. Also the furious one
13. Picker
14. Where the peaches get packed, a factory downtown
17. Eye colour
20. Fed. property manager
26. To help the nefarious
29. Absolutely marvelous
30. Someone who's tired of protesting peacefully
32. Pretentious sort
35. Yorkshire river
37. What the train carried, ironically
38. When female animals share a mate
43. Native New Zealander
45. The universe could be this, but still not have an edge
47. Point where curves meet
48. Bug killing
49. Would a rose smell as sweet by another?
50. Talked nonsense
54. Scalloped
55. Construction crew
56. Two-handed Roman flask
57. Verbascum
58. Cover all solution
59. "Empedocles on \_\_\_\_" (Matthew Arnold poem)
60. Mollasses
61. Animal area
64. Steve Irwin, for one
69. Scots cap
72. Authentic and typical
74. You batter with it, ironically
76. Dalai \_\_\_\_
79. Ooh follower
80. Time defined by something
84. Hey!

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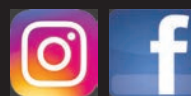
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