

Wellesley Is...

December 2009

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Wellesley



**Blaze Razes
Wellesley Residence**

**Wellesley 2009 Citizen
Of the Year Sought**

**Meet Some of Our
Pre-Christmas Elves**

**Seasonal
Lighting Gr\$\$n
With Efficiency**

**Noise Pollution
Purvasive in China**

**Fund Raiser
Opposes
Family Violence**

Celebrate Wellesley

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Making Children Happy

This little one was having a great time with her hot dog and hot apple cider after the St Clements Parade



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Where Are Those Elves?

Board of Trade and Lions Club volunteers do a lot to make us happy. Well, here's some credit for their efforts.



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Where There's Smoke...

Yes, but the fire isn't necessarily where you first thought it was. Perspective is everything.



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Helping the Mayor Dress

Getting dressed in a fire fighters outfit isn't as easy as it might look. The suits are stiff and heavy, so a helping hand is useful.

Wellesley Is... is HYPERLINKED!

We use **hyperlinks** to help you navigate. If we've done our job, every headline on the cover and in the Table of Contents, will be hyperlinked to the story to which it refers. That means that if you click on the story with your cursor, you go directly to that story. Inside the magazine, we have highlighted hyperlinks in blue italics. Some will connect you to a web site, let you send an e-mail or move to another page in the magazine. Click on the *pink* (HOME) arrow in the left margin to come to this page, The Table of Contents.



ABOUT THE COVER

Santa looked great in both the Wellesley and St. Clements parades but daytime parade lighting produces better photo opportunities. St. Clements' Santa got the nod for the cover because his pose was more natural and his suit has such rich textures. The curves in this sleigh work well with the straight edges of the cover.

Cause Unlikely to be Determined

Blaze Razes Wellesley Home

Story by
Larry Kryski
Photos by
Andrew Lillico © 2009



The cause of the fire that destroyed the log cabin on Greenwood Hill Road on December 17, will likely remain undetermined says Wellesley Fire Chief, Andrew Lillico. He says that the magnitude of the fire, which utterly destroyed the structure, makes it difficult, if not impossible to determine burn patterns essential in diagnosing the cause of the fire.

Although the fire department's response time (from the time they receive the dispatch, to the time that they arrive at the scene) was only 5.5 minutes, the fire was already at an advanced stage. Lillico says that it is rare for a fire to progress that far before being spotted during day time hours. But, he says, interviews with the residents did not produce any concerns.

The volunteer fire department answered the call eventually employing all nine pieces of equipment in the township, including three tanker trucks and two pumpers. Forty-two firefighters responded. Lillico says that a minimum response team for Wellesley is at least 12 persons and two fire trucks.

The pumpers were ferrying water between a hydrant on Ferris drive and the fire site.

He described the house as a heavy timber building (log home) with some wood frame and some stone augmenting it.

The cost of the loss for the home and its contents has been estimated at \$240,000. ❖



Photos of the fire on Greenwood Hill Road emphasizes the intensity of the blaze. Because of the fire's advanced stage when fire fighters arrived, they focused on controlling the spread of the fire, protecting in particular the area around the propane tank. No fatalities or injuries resulted from the blaze.



Ferris Drive Resident Thought Bio-Ag was Burning...



Photos © Michael J. Newark 2009

Retired meteorologist, Michael J. Newark, spotted flames (top left photo), December 17, erupting from the vicinity of the Bio-Ag structures on Greenwood Hill Road, as seen from his Ferris Drive residence. The house, distant and on the far-side of Bio-Ag's buildings, was totally destroyed. Bio-Ag was unaffected by the blaze. No one was home when the fire broke out and no body was hurt as the blaze levelled

the structure.

A police vehicle (photo top right) blocks Greenwood Hill Road and re-routes traffic to allow fire crews to respond to the fire. The smoke plume could be seen for miles.

With smoke rising from the fire in the background, a horse and buggy (photo below) finds itself in the way of a Wellesley Fire Department tanker truck, one of three that shuttled water from a Ferris Road fire hydrant to the fire location. ❖



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LETTERS

Letters to the Editor are welcome and must contain the writer's complete name, signature, address and telephone number. E-mail submissions should also include the writer's full name, address and telephone number. Address and phone numbers are used for verification purposes only and will not be published. Writer's name will not be withheld. Wellesley Is... reserves the right to edit, condense or reject letters for matters of good taste or legal issues.

2010

I can't remember ever being happy that a year was coming to an end, but 2009 has left me with that feeling. I can't complain about how life has been treating me this year, but I am certainly feeling the pain and strain of others who have been challenged by their health, by deaths or by their personal economy not fairing well.



Larry Kryski

In some ways, this has been a stellar year for me. I have launched Wellesley Is... and have four issues completed, quite a massive task at times, but it gives a sense of accomplishment. I have had the publishing bug since I got my first printing press for Christmas (a disappointing toy) when I was nine years old.

Launching a digital magazine has had its challenges, but nothing insurmountable. There are moments of frustration, but I see many things beginning to smooth out, while others can ambush the process at a moment's notice such as a 500 GB computer hard drive crashing.

Without a doubt, the best part of starting Wellesley Is... is the people that I have met in Wellesley Township. I have been impressed by the friendliness and sincerity throughout. There are a lot of hard-working individuals that go well beyond the call of duty to do things that improve our community.

Wellesley is a vibrant village and as I learn more about the township while covering stories, I am discovering that this vibrancy is wide spread! This only goes to demonstrate that when people volunteer and 'get involved' things happen that make life here worth experiencing and cherishing. If an outsider were to look only at the activities supported by our small population they could be easily fooled into believing that this is a much larger centre. That speaks bundles.

So how does Wellesley Is... fit into this picture? Into your picture? Being a relatively new resident in the area, I am slowly learning what makes Wellesley... well... Wellesley? I can't define it completely, yet, but I know I'm slowly learning. I appreciate your support and contributions—articles, photos, ideas—that have helped flesh out the magazine. But, how do you want this magazine to grow? What should it tackle? Where would you like it to go? What should I be writing about in December 2010?

As this year comes to an end, we will all be saying good bye in our own way. For some it will be sad. Perhaps sentimental reasons, perhaps tragedy. For others it will be joyful. The future is there for each of us. We can make it what we want it to be, both for ourselves and for family, friends and neighbours.

So don't make New Year's resolutions unless you have a history of following through. Just plan one thing: be a doer. You'll likely get more done and you'll be happier this time next year.

Whatever your upcoming fortunes, I send you the most sincerest wishes that you will have a happy, healthy and fruitful 12 months. See you next year.

—Larry

Oh, and as to my new picture? Please see the story on the Wellesley Fire Department's Open House.

e-mail: larry@spellboundpublishing.com

Silent Night - Carving out time for you

Elsewhere in this issue of the magazine is the fascinating reflection of David Banks on the noisy nature of China. He is a Canadian teacher working and traveling in China.. The racket he describes there sounds exhausting. Reading his



Mavis Kerr

original e-mail a few weeks ago, I thought how fortunate we are to live in our peaceful corner of the world where silence is so readily available. I remember the night I stood in the middle of the intersection of Nafziger and Queen's Bush Rd. at 11 p.m. on a Saturday night in Wellesley and played a silly game with one of my children. There was

safety nor any pedestrians to question our sanity.

That child has long since grown up and fled our local stillness for Toronto, but I remain here, filled with gratitude for the chance to live in such peace.

How important it is to remember the availability of this peace and quiet at this busy holiday season. Social demands run high. Expectations, real or imagined, lurk

everywhere. Many of those expectations come from within ourselves and are unreasonable fantasies of what we think we should be able to accomplish. In an earlier issue I wrote at length on the skill of saying no. Saying no to ourselves is sometimes harder than saying no to others. May I recommend it. Carve out some quiet time for yourself. Take

a walk on a deserted country road or on our local Avon Trail. Claim a couple of hours to yourself to do something you love. When was the last time you did something by yourself for yourself?

If solitude is not the medicine you crave, perhaps there is a relationship with one special person you wish to foster. Plan some one-on-one time for the two of you in a quiet setting where conversation can flourish. Ask him or her to recount the best and the worst moments of the past year. Share your own answers to this question as well. Explore what your hopes are for the coming year. You are likely to end your visit feeling much closer to that person.

Intimacy is sometimes described as sharing what you think, what you feel and what you want. The process of quality time alone enables you to know the answers to those questions for yourself. Only then can you begin to share this knowledge with

others and achieve the feeling of connection that is such a basic human need.

So do I dare to follow my own advice, say no to spending any more time writing this column and instead go spend an hour with my seed catalogue choosing vegetable seeds for 2010. Or maybe I will take a bubble bath. ❖



Nith River, Wellesley Ontario December 2009

Mavis Kerr is a Registered Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice at Southern Ontario Counselling Centre — <http://www.socounselling.com> — in St. Agatha, Ontario. She has lived in the rural countryside just outside Wellesley (close enough to hear the church bells) for 24 years.

Region Of Waterloo Library Announces Winner of iPod Nano Through Download Library

by Lisa Gayhart
Region of Waterloo Library

(Baden, ON) The Region of Waterloo Library announced, November 19, that Nancy Hutter from Elmira Branch Library has won the newly released iPod Nano by using downloadLibrary.

For six weeks, starting September 8, library card holders who downloaded a digital audio book or video from **downloadLibrary** were automatically entered in a draw for a free iPod. Carbon Computing in Kitchener donated the iPod Nano.

Library card holders can check out and download digital titles any time, anywhere by visiting <http://www.downloadlibrary.ca>. From there, they can browse the growing collection of best-selling, new release, children's, and classic titles. Digital titles can be enjoyed on a computer or transferred to supported mobile devices, such the iPod, iPhone, iTouch, Zune, and BlackBerry smart phones. Many audio titles can also be burned to audio CD. At the end of the lending period, titles auto-



Nancy Hutter, left, receives an iPod Nano from Lisa Gayhart. matically expire and are returned to the digital collection. There are never late fees or damaged items. Need a library card? Get one online at www.rwl.library.on.ca or visit your local library branch. ❖



The Loft, Eatery & Pub

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www.thelofteateryandpub.com

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| - Dry Cajun | - Wet Lemon Cajun | - Mild |
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Loft Wings - 65 cents each & Dusted Wings - 75 cents each

(Note: special wing price with beverage purchase & minimum 10 wings – one sauce per 10 wings)

(Plus applicable tax)



WANTED

2009 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



—Pat Bremner
2008 Citizen of the Year

By the Wellesley & District Board of Trade

NOMINATION FORMS AND DROP BOXES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE WELLESLEY CIBC, THE PFEIFER GALLERY AND THE WELLESLEY SERVICE CENTRE. NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY SATURDAY JANUARY 23RD, 2010, WITH THE 2009 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR HONOURED AT THE WELLESLEY AND DISTRICT BOARD OF TRADE VALENTINES BALL, FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2010.

Board of Trade & Lion's Club Volunteers Change Our "Look" Meet a Few of Wellesley's Pre-Christmas Elves



Each Christmas Season, the decorations go up around Wellesley. Do you know who does it? This year's volunteers are (clockwise from above): 2007 Wellesley Citizen of the Year and Wellesley Board of Trade member, Hal Schneider plugs in a set of lights; Board of Trade members, President Jeff Quint, left, assisted by Brian Sauder lift the next decoration for installation. Murray Schlueter, of local blue bird

fame, volunteers his pickup truck and time to deliver the decorations; Nathan Leis, centre, assists Hal in the crane platform while driver Tim Leis watches. Crane use donated by Calvin Schmidt of MWI Silo Systems Inc.; Tree of Light sign and Santa installed by the Wellesley Lions Club; Lions members install the lighted Seasons Greetings sign. From the left: Wayne Schwartz, President Dale Roe, Bob Reid and Bruce Shantz. ❖



Wellesley Apple Jacks with Kids and Cops Present First Hockey Night in Wellesley

On Wednesday, December 30, 2009 the Wellesley Apple Jacks, in conjunction with Kids and Cops, proudly present the first **Hockey Night in Wellesley**.

The evening will be a fun-filled event for the whole family. The hometown Apple Jacks will play host to the Delhi Travellers in what should be an action-packed game.

The evening will include door prizes for kids as well as a mini hockey game between the first and second periods, featuring players from Twin Centre Minor Hockey.

This game will introduce **Teddy Bear Night in Wellesley**. Bring a new teddy bear to the game and toss it on the ice when the Jacks score their first goal. The teddies will be given to children who are spending their Christmas & New Year's season in the hospital.

There will also be a Jacks' fundraising BBQ. Hot dogs and hamburgers along with Wellesley Apple Cider will be available.

Hockey Night in Wellesley is intended to bring families out to enjoy an evening together in a fun and—hopefully—noisy environment and to put a smile on little ones' faces when presented with a Teddy, so generously donated.

For those not associated with Kids and Cops, admission prices are as follows: Adults \$5; Students \$4; 12 & Under \$2.

Come out and be part of the first **Hockey Night in Wellesley**. Puck drop is 7:30 p.m. at the Wellesley Arena. BBQ is 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Hockey Night in Wellesley is geared to all kids (and families) that took part in the annual *Kids and Cops Day*, Dec. 5. The kids range in ages from 4 to 10. The evening will begin with a skate with the Jacks—for Kids and Cops families only—from 6 until 6:50 p.m. All *Kids and Cops* children will

receive a free hot dog and drink at the BBQ. The hockey game starts at 7:30 and throughout the game, draws will be held for the kids. We anticipate filling the place “to the rafters”.

I am assisting Beckei Aplin to make her dream of helping others come true. As many of you know, I am passionate about children, especially sick children. I have a very close friend with leukemia and who also struggled with anorexia. Each time I bring him a gift, I get the joy of seeing an amazing smile take over his face. In my eyes there is no greater sight then the smile of a child. This has lead to me running a teddy bear drive. —Nancy O'Neil

Contact Beckei Aplin
aplin@rogers.com
 or Nancy O'Neil
noneil1822@hotmail.com

REMINDER FOR YOUR WELLESLEY CALENDAR

The Apple Jacks will conduct a bottle drive on Saturday, January 2, 2010. The Jacks will go door to door to collect empty refundable containers—beer bottles, cans and liquor containers—so please save your empties for them. Your support is appreciated.

myCommunity

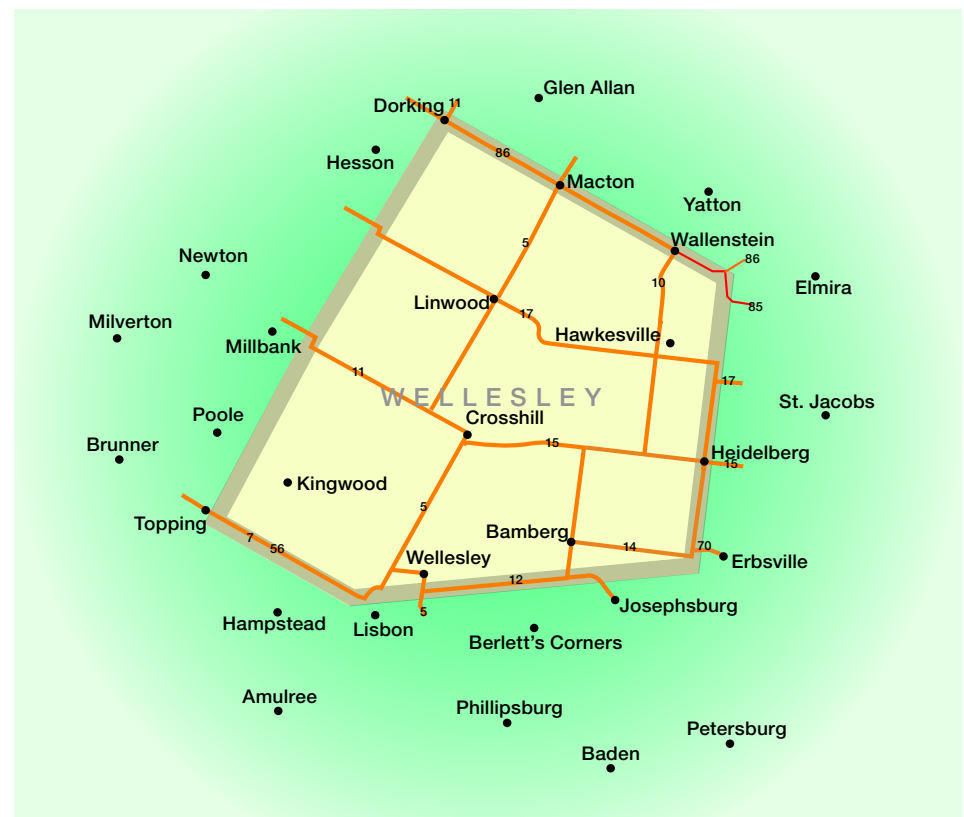
Celebrating a birth, wedding, milestone, anniversary or a move into the Wellesley area?

Call Wendy at
 (days) 519-656-2725

or e-mail wendys@leisfeed.ca
 for a keepsake provided FREE
 in our community.

Wondering Where Wellesley Is... is Going?

Wellesley Is... is aimed at Wellesley Township, in yellow below. The green area covers adjacent townships that interact closely with Wellesley communities and will also be covered by our stories and advertising.



HOME

A Sequel May be in the Works! Fundraiser Opposes Family Violence



*Story & Photos Submitted
by Organizers*



Scenes from Girls Nite Out (Clockwise from top left):
Firefighter volunteers; Serving at the bar; Silent auction;
Pampering station; Massage.

call 519-662-2731 ext 201.

The firefighters and women who attended indicated that they eagerly await the sequel. The Loft continues to receive phone calls inquiring when the next “Nite Out” will take place! To find out what else is happening, visit The Loft at www.thelofteateryandpub.com ❖

A fun night was had in Wellesley at the “Girls Nite Out” event held Saturday, November 14th at The Loft, Eatery & Pub. More than 115 women, from across the region, assembled in Wellesley for the evening. The event raised more than \$1100 for the Wilmot-Wellesley Family Violence Prevention Program. The funds will be used to provide counselling and group support to women from our community who have been affected by domestic violence.

An enjoyable three-course meal was served by our handsome, hardworking Wellesley Volunteer Firefighters. The crowd was entertained by music from ADHD (Ainslie & Doug’s Hyper Drive) and Roger Joycey. There was laughter, dancing, and a chance to connect with old friends and new, as people mingled during the activities. There was also great shopping at both vendor booths and the silent auction. Women had the chance to relax with the pampering stations, chair massage, and the opportunity to have their tarot cards read. Door prizes and silent auction items were donated by the community.

Wilmot Family Resource Centre booth offered information and resources on how to end family violence. They spoke to the audience about the role that neighbours, friends, and families can play in keeping each of us safe.

“We are just thrilled with both the amount raised and with the attention drawn to the fact, that help for women is available right here in Wellesley and Wilmot,” says Karen Dymond, coordinator of the program. “Wilmot Family Resource Centre is thankful to Faith Loft and Amanda Boughner from The Loft for all of their work to organize and host this fabulous event.”

When asked why she chose to host this event, Faith replied “I wanted to create an event for women in Wellesley to enjoy a night out, and also wanted to raise awareness for the important issue of woman abuse,” says Loft. “November is Family Violence Prevention Month, and so it seemed like a natural fit to raise funds for the program through Wilmot Family Resource Centre, who provides local services in our own community.”

For more information on support to end family violence, please visit www.wilmotfamilyresourcecentre.ca/index_files/Familyviolence.htm or www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.on.ca or



COMMUNITY AGENCY OFFERS A NEW PROGRAM FOR WOMEN!

There is a new women's group coming to New Hamburg, called *Money and Making It On Your Own*. This eight-week group will be offered at Wilmot Family Resource Centre on Thursday evenings starting January 21, 2010. Karen Dymond, Wilmot/Wellesley Family Violence Prevention Program Coordinator, Wilmot Family Resource Centre says, "This workshop provides women with vital information regarding choices, options and resources for financial independence. We are thrilled to partner with K-W Counselling Services to offer this workshop in our community." If you are thinking of becoming more independent, would like to gain control of your finances, or would like to meet other women experiencing similar struggles – this group is for you!

The Federal Government has provided funding to allow K-W Counselling Services the opportunity to develop this program for women free of charge. The focus of the program is to increase participants' self-awareness, self confidence and self-sufficiency through their participation in activities. The curriculum includes information about self-nurturing, personal values, money perceptions/myths, goals, money tracking strategies, designing and managing personal budgets, finding ways to reduce personal spending, understanding credit reports, credit cards and consumer rights, financial abuse, family law, and community resources that offer support for families.

The *Money and Making It On Your Own Program* started in September, 2009 and will be continuing until October, 2010 in various locations across Waterloo Region. "This program has been a gift for many of my clients who are separated and now responsible for their family's finances," says

Cindy Hare, Program Coordinator. Graduates have praised the program for their new found confidence, saying, "This program acknowledged

my worth as a person, not just a mom and wife." and "Amazing resources for women of all ages... incredibly valuable experience." ❖

Money and Making It On Your Own



Are you a woman who would like to become more independent?

Would you like to gain control of your finances?

Would you like to meet other women experiencing similar struggles?



Then come to our 8-week group:

"Money and Making It On Your Own" and turn Fear into Hope!

GROUP RUNS:

January 21 - March 11, 2010
from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

LOCATION:

Wilmot Family Resource Centre
1-175 Waterloo St., New Hamburg
ON N3A 1S3

TOPICS:

- Self Care and Nurturing
- Making Household Budgets
- Saving Your Money
- Credit/Creditors
- Goal Setting
- Shopping Tips
- Recognizing Financial Abuse
- Legal Aid/Family Responsibility Office
- Understanding Your Legal Rights

This program is in partnership with Catholic Family Services of Hamilton and funded by Status of Women.



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Counselling
SERVICES

To register contact:
Cindy Hare at 519-884-0000 ext. 220
cindy.hare@kwcounselling.com

Wellesley & District Board of Trade

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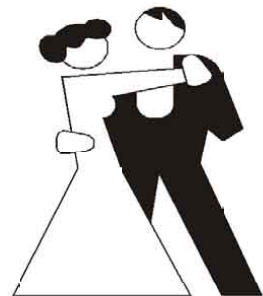
alentine's Ball

Friday, February 12, 2010

KW Khaki Club

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

*Professional Photographer
available for portraits!*



Dance to
"Dianne and the Cavaliers"

Dinner & Dance \$75./couple

Passport to Wellesley Winners Enjoyed Contest

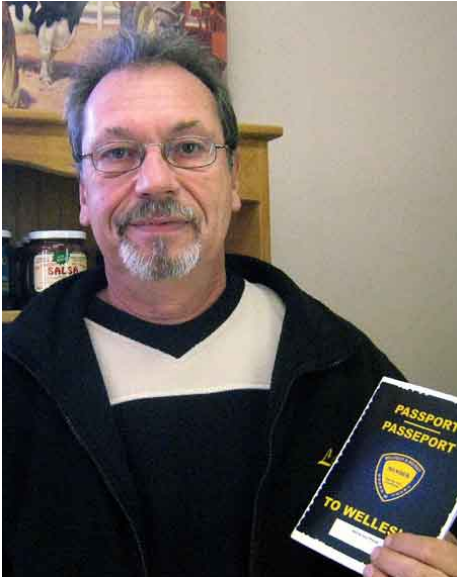
The Wellesley Board of Trade passport program came to a successful conclusion when the winning passports were drawn at the Annual Lions Club Roast Beef Dinner.

The kick off for the promotion was at the Wellesley-North Easthope Fall Fair, Sep 15-16, 2009. The promotion was

open to residents and non-residents of Wellesley. More than 300 passports were distributed. Completed passports were collected October 31.

Business's participating in the Passport Program were: Erb Financial, Wellesley Service Centre, Leis Feed and Supply,

Vibrant Life and Spa, Village Flowers and Gifts, Pfeifer Gallery, Bio-Ag and Greenwood Wellness Centre, Pym's Village Market, Village Market & Grill and U Chill, Wellesley Home Centre, Downtown Video and Wellesley Brand Apple Products.



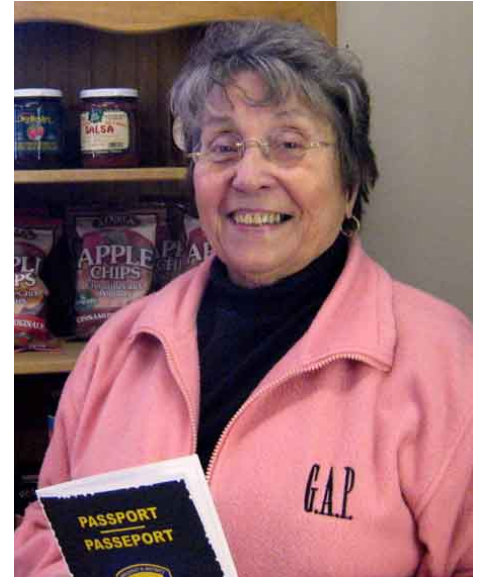
\$250.00 Winner

Wayne Schwartz is from Wellesley. He and his wife heard about the program from Reg and Karen Weber. As a couple, they started and finished the program on the Friday before the draw. Wayne said he had a really good time going to all the businesses.



\$500.00 Winner

Sally Powell is a good friend of Passport organizer Karen Weber's mother. She 'went along for the adventure' because they have been friends 'forever'. She was surprised at winning.



\$250.00 Winner

Yvonne Kitchen is from Brussels. She heard about the program from Marianne at the flower shop. She has already spent most of her winnings at the flower shop.

Heidelberg Resident's Christmas Display Simply Charming



Heidelberg resident, Len Smythe, of 2941 Lobsinger Road, has developed a charming and colourful Christmas display comprising almost 40 inflatable winter and Christmas characters. Some of the units are electrically operated, such as the mail box, which opens and closes, sliding the letters in and out. In addition, he has hung more than 2400 lights throughout the trees in his yard. It shows its charm both day and night.

Wellesley Fire Department Open House Enlightening ...But Fatiguing

by Larry Kryski

Concern about fire is pervasive in our modern life. It is one area where society seems to have learned from history and has actually implemented many ways to avoid triggering fires. But, when fire strikes, it can be terrifying and tragic. The odds are high that you will have some fire-related experience in your life, but with luck and the response of a well-trained fire department, there may be no long-term consequence. Some of us have and will have an experience with a major fire. Mine came as a young child...

Dad, the grass in the field is on fire!” I was a little over three and a half years old and the mounting flames outside our small house on the outskirts of Summerside, Prince Edward Island, were perilously close.

It was about 8:00 a.m. in early March, 1954 and the large field in which our house stood had little or no snow—a rarity at that time of year, so lots of tall, dry grass was showing. My dad, a corporal in the R.C.A.F. had not yet left for work. He was frying eggs and getting breakfast for me and my younger brother, John who was a year and a half old, and my Mom who was assigned to bed rest. She had delivered my sister Judy by caesarian section the week before and was not supposed to do much, especially lifting, which might break her incision open.

At that time, we did not have a garbage pick-up in the area, so we burned our garbage in an earth fire-pit, a short distance from the house. Normally Dad tended the fire, but this morning with the confusion of a new baby, Dad was running behind schedule. He told me to go out and watch the fire, but “don’t go out without your coat on!” I was to let him know if the fire got close to the edge of the fire pit and the morning was windless, at least when he lit the fire.

Unfortunately, I couldn’t reach my coat, so I faced a dilemma: watch the fire, but don’t go out without my coat.

“Dad, I can’t reach my coat!” I shouted, but I don’t think he read it in... the eggs were sizzling and he was distracted by my

sister’s crying.

Again, the instruction to go watch the fire, but make sure I had my coat on. I tried stretching, I tried jumping and I tried hooking it down, but with no luck. As I started back into the kitchen to ask Dad to get it for me, I passed the only window in our small kitchen and all I could see was fire. As a young child, the flames seemed sky-high, but were probably only as high as our single-storey house. I wasn’t scared, but I did experience a sense of shock and disbelief.

Dad rushed to the window, grabbed a burlap (a coarse canvas woven from jute or hemp, used for sacking, particularly potatoes in P.E.I.) bag and ran out to fight the fire. He beat at the flames furiously, but the fire had too much of a head start. Suddenly, neighbours were running from all directions, burlap bags in hand. Someone filled a barrel with water to wet the burlap, which prevented the burlap from igniting, but the fire kept gaining ground in the rising wind. I remember the men’s fear, as they shouted to one another that the fire could reach the band of trees at the top of the slight rise in the field and engulf the turkey farm on the other side.

I watched all this from outside. Then I noticed that a small area was burning near our house and was barely a metre from our oil tank. By this time, the men were too far away to call to over the crackling and sizzling and some were getting hard to see



This outfit would have been great when I was three and a half!

through the flames and the smoke, so I ran inside to tell my Mom. She laboured out of bed and came outside in her nightie to see what I was telling her about. She then hurried back to the kitchen and started filling buckets with water. I offered to carry them for her, but she rushed by me and started dumping them on the fire as it neared the tank. I know she was hurting from the surgery and I remember worrying that she would break her incision open, but fortunately she didn’t.

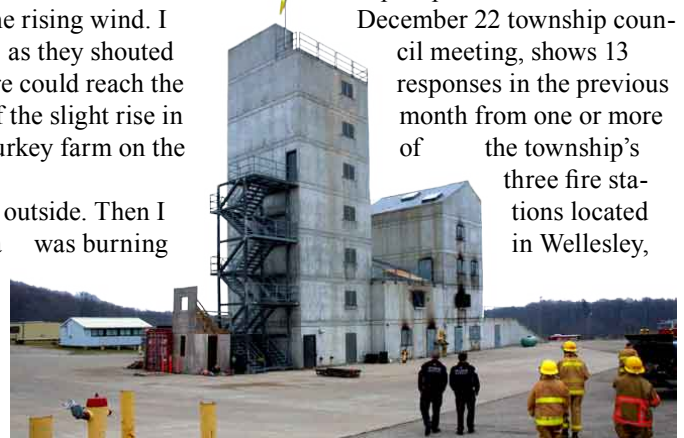
We didn’t have a phone so we couldn’t call the fire department but somehow the message got out, because a fire truck appeared in the lane way across the field. It didn’t take long for the firemen to get the fire under control and you could see the relief in the men’s sweaty soot-covered faces. They were certainly unsung heroes that day, managing to slow the fire until the fire fighters arrived.

That day was the first time I was really aware of the Fire Department and the first time I was able to appreciate the role they play in keeping our society safe.

Fire departments are frequently in the news, especially when a fire is large and dramatic, such as the recent fire on Greenwood Hill Rd. in Wellesley [see story and photos elsewhere in this magazine], but there are lots of other functions that our fire departments perform that rarely make the news yet often involve life-saving or life-enhancing scenarios.

A typical example, taken from Fire Chief Andrew Lillico’s fire department call report presented at the

December 22 township council meeting, shows 13 responses in the previous month from one or more of the township’s three fire stations located in Wellesley,



The training facility, located on Erb St, has a multifunction design. The smoke tower (on left) is used for rope rescue, the centre is the ‘burn building’, right is a “2-storey house”.





Wellesley Fire Chief Andrew Lilloco

St. Clements and Linwood.

Details show that of eight medical type of the responses, six required the administration of oxygen and one required the use of a defibrillator. Two responses were for vehicle collisions, one for a

faulty CO detector false alarm, one to assist another fire department and, fortunately, only one for an actual fire.

We rarely get to see inside a fire fighters day-to-day operation, but on November 15, township council members, senior staff, elected officials and local media members had the opportunity to experience three of those activities.



We learned how to handle a fire hose, how to turn it on and adjust the spray.

Organized by Fire Chief Andrew Lilloco and his three district chiefs, their *Fire Department Orientation Day* started with a short history of fire departments followed by three 'in-the-field' scenarios. This event was held at the Waterloo Region Training & Emergency Services Complex at 485 Erb Street, a sophisticated and complex training facility.

Each visitor got dressed—with assistance—in a full fire fighter's regalia



Part of the exercise was to see the function of a pumper and to drive one! It drives rather nicely. Lots of power.



Yes, we had to go in here. With the door closed and heavy smoke, it was nearly impossible to see. We did have a chance to see the their thermal imaging camera in action. We crawled on our knees toting the hose, saw a sample of how we could use the hose spray to help exhaust smoke from the room and learned about "pencil-ing" a hosing technique used to assist escape if things get critical. Of course we were using our SCBA to breath. Very welcome, I assure you.

which includes heavy rubber boots, pants, jacket, flash hood (provides steam protection to keep the neck and ears from getting burned), helmet, gloves and eventually an SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus which includes a positive pressure breathing unit that fits the face snugly and includes a full face mask).

Senses were besieged immediately: The outfit was so heavy, the fire-retardant fabric so thick and stiff. At first standing felt awkward because the weight and stiffness requires a different effort to move and slightly alters one's sense of balance, especially when leaning. A fire fighters outfit and equipment can weigh 80 pounds, so it does take some adjustment. The standard protective equipment costs \$9000 per fire fighter—\$2500 for the outfit and \$6500 for the SCBA. Within moments, I started to appreciate why fire fighters have to be in such good condition.



Pumpers fill up this porta-tank, a swimming pool-like reservoir. They can be cascaded for more capacity. Each holds 1500 gallons.

Councillor Jim Olender uses the cutting version of the "Jaws of Life" to remove the top of a sedan.

The tool is hydraulically powered and is operated with the thumb. It weighs 50+ pounds.

The lower image is the spreader jaws. Even harder to manage, but nice to have when you need them.



But, before long, we learn to stand, walk and crawl in this heavy uniform and a form of comfort even begins to creep in.

Putting on the air tank and respirator system was the most difficult part, since one has to be familiar with all the belts to tighten, how to turn on the air, and the personal alarm that sounds if a fire fighter doesn't move for twenty or thirty seconds, which might indicate that a fire fighter is down and in trouble.

I began to see how a camaraderie would build between fire fighters.

Although we have just touched on the vast knowledge available about fire fighting, we have at least a basis for a better perspective.

At last, after 57 years, I feel like my experience with the grass fire has come full circle. ❖

[More photos on page 19...](#)



Mayor Ross Kelterborn discovers that even grown ups need help dressing in this outfit.



"Celebrate Wellesley" Theme at Township Community Meeting

Twenty-five community members attended the November 25 meeting held at the Wellesley Mennonite Church. Included in the audience were Township Councillors Jim Olender, Herb Neher and Paul Hergott, who addressed the assembly on behalf of Mayor Ross Kelterborn who was unable to attend.

The theme of the meeting was *Celebrate Wellesley* — the Township — the decision was made to expand the mandate to include the whole township.

Eight organizations made short presentations on new projects or developments in projects underway.

Karla Wilker, Community Health Worker with the Wellesley Township Community Health Centre (WTCHC), explained about progress with the **Seniors Networking Group**, which offers a voice to seniors' concerns and needs in the township. The group provides seniors with an awareness of services available to them locally. They have assembled a printed brochure itemizing these services.

MennoHomes Inc. was created in 2001 as a fully registered non-profit charitable organization. Its sole mandate is to respond to the urgent need for affordable housing. When the two semis—four rental units—are completed in Wellesley's Pond View subdivision, MennoHomes will have created 96 units of affordable housing in its brief history in the Waterloo Region.

With almost \$2 million in donations, including a significant gift of land, MennoHomes has caused nearly \$10 million worth of rental housing stock to be

dedicated towards affordable housing in Waterloo Region. Included in the financing are government grants and mortgages held by the Mennonite Foundation of Canada.

In Wellesley, local trades and suppliers have been participating with discounts, gifts of materials and volunteer labour under the leadership of Project Manager, Murray Leis, a local general contractor and enthusiastic member of the MennoHomes Board.

The four units in Wellesley are for large rural low-German-speaking families. Thirty members of their community came to Wellesley during the Labour Day weekend on a "barn raising blitz" to frame, roof and shingle both sets of semis.

The first two families are expected to move in December and two more in January.

Krista Schott of **Inspiring Minds Early Learning Centre**, reported that the program is now a year and a half old and is providing quality care to 36 families in the area. They offer a positive after school program for children and professional development for home care providers. They



Carrie Siewert, Splash Park Executive Committee Member gives an update on Splash Park Progress: Grants have been applied for and fund-raising has raised \$40,000. They are recruiting volunteers for the project and a pancake and sausage fund-raiser is planned for February 16, 2010 at St. Paul's Church.

also provide Flex-Care, a service for short-term child care, when a family requires child care for any short-term reason.

Sue Martin presented details on the **Mosaic CAPC Wellesley Family Outreach**, which reaches out to low-income families. They are seeking donations from businesses to help support the program and are now offering their services out of the Wellesley Township Community Health Centre. The program has received a rural mini-grant from the Lyle S. Hallman foundation. At the beginning of the school year, their backpack program is set up on a table at WTCHC with various backpacks and supplies. Families get to shop and choose what they want so that their children can get excited about school.

[Continued on page 19...](#)



A dedicated crowd of speakers showed for the November 13 meeting, held at the Wellesley Mennonite Church. From the left: Mike Reay, Alex Smyth, Deanne Shivdyal and Luke Schering spoke on behalf of the Wellesley Youth Advisory Council; Steve Bader spoke for the Wellesley Recreation Services Board; Krista Schott spoke for Inspiring Minds Early Learning Centre; Jeff Quint

spoke for the Wellesley & District Board of Trade; Sue Martin spoke for Mosaic CAPC Wellesley Family Outreach; Karla Wilker, who organized the community meeting, spoke about the Seniors Networking Group and Mike Shipley donated Maple Leafs tickets to be drawn for three Youth Leaders in Wellesley Township between the ages of 13-19 years of age.



“Celebrate Wellesley”

...Continued from page 18

The Wellesley Recreation Services Board was represented by Steve Bader. The board repairs, maintains and provides supplies for the arena in the Wellesley Community Centre. They are planning upgrades to the tennis courts and intend to create a multi-use facility.

They ran a skate park in the arena for two weekends in September 2009. During the four days, 20 skaters and 20 bystanders attended. They are planning to have the skate park available for use throughout the summer of 2010. The Wellesley Youth Advisory Council has been supporting the development of the skate park and used donated funds to purchase four pieces of skate park equipment.

The Wellesley Board of Trade’s Jeff Quint spoke about the many activities that the organization has initiated in Wellesley: The Labour Day Soapbox Derby; The pan-

cake breakfast at the ABC Festival; The annual Valentines Day Ball; The island light fixtures, grass and plants; and the sitting benches placed around town.

The board organized the Wellesley’s Art Round the Pond which draws visitors to town and recently initiated the Passport to Wellesley promotional program, which allows businesses in town to showcase their business.

The Youth Leadership Awards were presented at the meeting. They are awarded to youth that are actively involved as volunteers in the community. To acknowledge their contribution, Four NHL tickets were given to candidates who’s names were drawn at random from the youths nominated. Guests applauded and praised their active involvement. Councillor Paul Hergott, speaking on behalf of the Mayor said that it is important for youth to be involved in the community as “...youth are the future of Wellesley Township. ❖

Seasonal Lighting Displays Gr\$\$\$n with Efficiency

by Jeff Quint
President of the Board of Trade

The Wellesley and District Board of Trade (WDBOT) holiday light displays mounted on the hydro poles around the village of Wellesley have brought holiday cheer to the community as they have done for many years in the past, but this year at a fraction of the operating cost.

Through a generous donation from Waterloo North Hydro, the WDBOT was able to upgrade the old energy-guzzling displays and transform them into energy misers.

The revitalized energy-conscious displays are now fully equipped with Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs that only use 0.35 watts of power per bulb as compared to their predecessors that used a whopping 7 watts of energy per bulb.

The LED upgrades result in an annual energy savings of approximately 95% and reduce the annual cost to light the displays by approximately 90%. So what do all these watts saved add up to? Based on operating the displays for 49 days at approximately 14 hours a day and at a cost of \$0.12 per kilowatt hour, the WDBOT is on track to save approximately \$340 annually in electricity costs. This is money that can be used to repair and revitalize some of the displays and potentially increase the number of displays throughout the village.

In addition, the new LED bulbs are more durable and therefore are not as easily damaged during handling. Last but not least, they last approximately 8 to 10 times longer, therefore reducing the on-going costs of maintaining the displays. Best of all, energy savings are achieved without compromising the look and feel of the festive displays.

The WDBOT and Waterloo North Hydro encourage all village residents to reap the savings of LED seasonal lights thereby reducing their energy consumption and environmental footprint. ❖

...Continued from page 17

Fire Department Open House



Fire Chief, Andrew Lilloco, left and District Chiefs: Frank Karley, Linwood; Dennis Ertel, St. Clements; and Rick Steinman, Wellesley.



Township Clerk, Susan Duke



Our “Team”: (right to left) Diane Lorbetski, Township Director of Finance; Councillor Jim Orlander and Stacey Lorbetski, Diane’s daughter.



Councillor Paul Hergott



HOME

Noise Pollution In China Is Pervasive

Dave Banks retired in 2002 after teaching high school chemistry for 31 years.

While his son and daughter were young, he toured North America with them during their summer vacations, showing them places—famous or not—that most of us may have only heard about. With his children grown and in their own careers, he began a six-month contract teaching English in China in January 2005 then returned for four more short contracts from 2006 to 2008. In Feb. 2009 he returned for three months of travel and returned for the seventh time this September to continue

touring. He has visited a variety of locations around China as well as Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Thailand and Cambodia.

During this period, he has e-mailed back innumerable stories and pictures of his adventures as he learned to find his way around China **alone**.

Now with his Chinese travelling companion, Jiang Liu (pronounced jee-ang lee-you), he continues to cover a lot of territory.

Dave has never been daunted by his lack of knowledge of the local languages or customs, but has plunged in and with wit and intelligence

has met each and every challenge successfully—even being arrested for a passport fiasco caused inadvertently by the Chinese Embassy in Canada.

We learn here about some of Dave's experiences with noise in China.

With China beginning to make itself felt in an unprecedented fashion on the world's economic stage, it seemed opportune to share some of Dave's stories. Dave presents the view of the common person visiting China and has neither business nor political interests there although he does have strong opinions about both.

Photos & Story

© Dave Banks 2009

I have never had much tolerance for excessive noise. As a teacher I used to get on my nerves when students talked during my lessons and yelling in the halls would make me crazy. Crying babies drive me insane and unanswered telephones push me to the point of causing severe property damage. Screaming children in the backseat of a car would throw me into fits of road rage. However, that was nothing compared to what I have experienced in China. Noise here is constant and unrelenting. The only thing I hope for, is that it will diminish to the point where it becomes almost unnoticeable for a while.

Falling asleep and staying that way is one problem I can only solve with good quality earplugs. Evenings are particularly annoying when your hotel is near a nightspot like at the Hump Hostel in Kunming. Outside your window are nightclubs which blare music until the wee hours of the morning. The problem is so severe, the hostel provides guests with free ear protection. There is nothing else they can do.

In Sanya, nightclubs are also a problem but there, noise is compounded by the apparent lack of city by-laws on how late construction can continue. Just west of the Blue Sky Hostel a new hotel is being built. Footings must be drilled into bedrock and the machine they are using makes constant grinding, squealing sounds until after 11:00 p.m. and then begins again at 7:00 am. Out in the countryside, you will likely be serenaded all night by barking dogs followed a couple of hours before dawn by a chorus of roosters. Even in the cities, roosters can be heard day and night.

Construction is the national occupation in China so it is almost impossible to be far from a new apartment, hotel or office complex or some road or bridge construction. Along with the usual hammering and pounding, you can count on power saws, jack-hammers and truck engines delivering materials or removing excavated earth. Extra bricks and concrete are often thrown over the side of the building from twenty or thirty stories up—making a terrible racket as they fall and hit the ground.

Many Chinese women have high piercing voices which they use at full throttle to get your attention over the background racket



Dave wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, China.

and both men and women shout so loudly over their cell phones I wonder why they just don't talk to the person directly. These conversations go on in trains, buses, restaurants and waiting rooms for tens of minutes so everyone gets to hear about each person's private life. Three or more Chinese together automatically makes for an even louder racket as they all speak over each other then break out into uproarious fits of laughter.

People will stand outside your window at any hour—day or night—and have long, loud conversations without any consideration for those forced to listen. In Lijiang, the night of our arrival, we went to bed at 11:00 p.m. and awoke at 3:00 am to extremely loud banging on the hotel gate. Finally, the gate was opened and we were subjected to a fifteen-minute conversation at full volume between the late arrivals and the hotel night porter.

What do you talk about for so long that late at night? "Do you have a free room?" "Yes." "How much is it?" "We charge 120 RMB per night."

"Okay." Done. At 3:15 am you don't need to know what colour the sheets are, the number of times the bed has been slept in or whether you get a free toothbrush and comb.

In public places like waiting rooms, restaurants and even shop-



Barking dogs cause sleepless nights.



HOME

ping malls, attempts to drown out the normal din are made by blaring annoying background music over PA systems at extremely high levels. Forget trying to have a quiet conversation. You can't talk to yourself let alone another person. Even parks have loudspeakers discretely disguised as rocks or hidden behind plants so you can be entertained while to try to get in touch with nature.

Airports are the absolute worst offenders with constant reports of departures and arrivals and if nothing is going on, they continually replay the announcement made ten seconds earlier. The worst part is that each one begins with "May I have your attention please?" as though you could say "No you may not!"

TV is the ubiquitous companion of bored Chinese shopkeepers and restaurant owners. Often while eating, you will have to shout over blaring battle scenes from some historical drama or an even more annoying children's program. In one restaurant, the TV was set loud to entertain kitchen staff working in the next room. We got up and turned it off!

There are vehicles here that look like rotor-tillers. The engine and belts are completely exposed at the front; an open cab follows, then a cargo box sits at the back. These work-horse vehicles haul heavy loads of stone, earth or produce but lack any kind of muffling system. As they pass, you are subjected to loud and constant "Bang, bang, bang, bang." There must be no rules about noise or exhaust emissions as these horrible machines belch out equal volumes of both.

Horns are the worst of the worst. Everyone honks their horns constantly. The average Chinese driver will use the horn more in one day than a Canadian would in a year. "I'm going around a corner!" Honnnnk! "I'm going through an intersection." Honk! Honk! "I'm coming up behind a motorcycle or pedestrian." Honk! "I'm going to pass you." Honk! Honk! Honk! "Get out of my way." Honnnnnnk, honnnnnnk, honnnk, honk!

The honking is constant and incredibly loud. Buses and trucks have horns that are well over the safety level for hearing damage—and they are just as loud inside the vehicle as outside.

A five-hour bus ride means enduring two to three hundred brain-piercing blasts. Motorcycles have a high pitched shriek which they use as they drive up behind you on the sidewalk.

Anti-theft alarms are another major irritant. They are constantly being set off by other noise and then they go on and on before anyone actually discovers they have been triggered. Not only are they loud but they are extremely irritating as they go through an entire series of whoops, whistles and sirens. I have heard these alarms go on for hours in the middle of the night.

Of course China is known for fireworks. In Canada they are a special treat on May 24 and July 1 but then they are gone for a year. In China fireworks are set off at any time of day or night—the opening of a new store, the beginning of a new phase in a construction project, the birth of a child, a wedding, the purchase of a new car and they are not the small packets we see.

I am talking artillery here. Skyrockets will light up the atmosphere while ground crackers may involve 10,000 explosions lasting several minutes and creating an awful mess of red paper in their aftermath.

There seems to be no expectation of quiet in China and bylaws to limit noise seem to be completely non-existent. Where Canadians will respect each other's peace in apartment or hotel hallways or restaurants, the Chinese do exactly the opposite. They don't even consider that another person might be upset by being subjected to their over-the-top voices. Screaming down a hotel hallway at 6:00 am is commonplace in China while it would probably get you a fat-lip in Canada. I guess being one of 1,500 million people forces



The tanker (top) was photographed at a bridge on a highway in Guizhou province. The bridge cannot carry heavy bus and truck traffic. Left of the on-coming truck, is a 'no bus' sign. Bus passengers must exit their bus, carry their baggage over the bridge and get on the bus waiting on the other side. Small trucks can cross but tankers have to transfer their cargos, sometimes by pipes connected from one truck to another. In the far background on the other side, you'll see another tanker. Strange things are done in China! There is no town here. Just a mass of organized confusion. Guizhou Province is very poor and is well know for its terrible roads. Lower photos show other noisy truck styles.

you to make yourself heard and noticed over here but it is really annoying and it wears you down after a few months. I have actually found a couple of places where it is quiet and that is really lovely for a change. However, if you ever do come to China, be sure to bring your earplugs and a set of noise-cancelling earphones for your mp3 player and upload several Offspring tunes. You will need them! ❖



Christmas Tyme in Wellesley

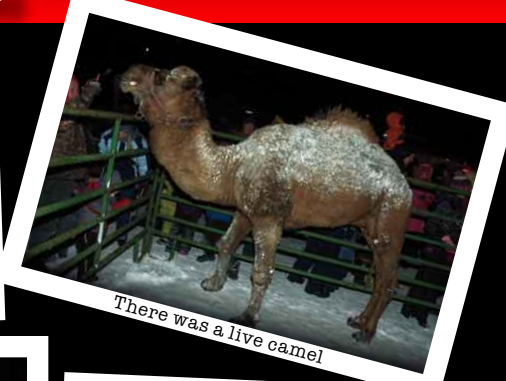
Parade & Tree of Light Activities



Children enjoy the lighted nativity



Wellesley Fire Department
Tree of Light Christmas Carols



There was a live camel



He's coming... He's coming!



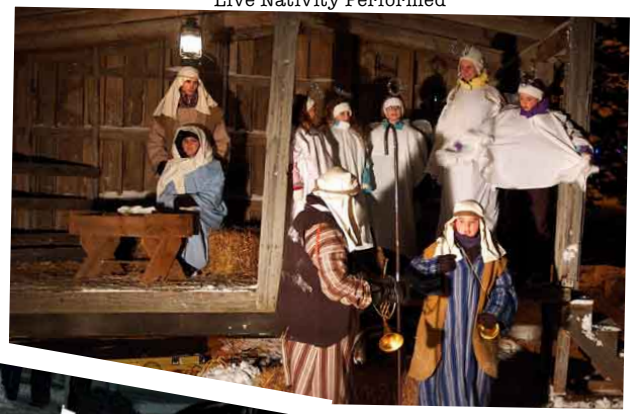
Wellesley Fall Fair Ambassador



Waterloo Region Recycle



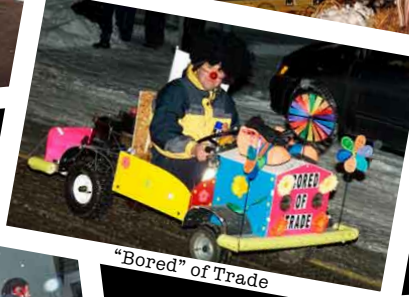
Santa and two happy reindeer



Live Nativity Performed



Happy Helper



"Bored" of Trade



One Amazing Float!



Riding the float

St. Clements Annual Christmas Parade

Parade + Hot Dogs and Hot Apple Cider in the Park—Part 1



St. Clements Annual Christmas Parade

Parade + Hot Dogs and Hot Apple Cider in the Park—Part 2





Mary & Joseph
travel to
Bethlehem

St. James' Lutheran Church 14th Annual
Journey to Bethlehem



The Angel choir concludes the performance