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MAIN STREET

THIS 'N' THAT

This past Sunday started out sunny and cool, turning to rain, then sleet, then snow . . . lots of spring flowers blooming with the buds on the trees beginning to sprout ... don't forget the Great Ride n' Stride Against Cancer to be held Sunday, April 25th ... remember the mailing list for the Tavistock Gazette will be updated the end of the month. Please check your label subscription due date, and if it is marked in red your paper is either due or coming due. Thank you ... have you heard yet, the -World Crokinole Championship will be held in Tavistock on Saturday, June 5th.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Heidi Lamb is 7 today, April 14th; Mallory Keller, 12; Olivia Wagler, 13; and Adam Bleay, 17 ... on April 15 Scott Dietrich is 8; Chantelle Zehr, 14 ... Jeremy Kropf is 2 April 16; Robbie Black, 16; and Jessica Robins, 12 ... on April 17 Kyle Bender is 12; and Glennnda Kaufmann has a birthday ... Brandon Fierling is 20 April 18 ... and on April 20th, Bryn Wagler is 3.

Opti-Mrs. Hold April Meeting

The April meeting of the avistock Opti-Mrs. was held Thursday at the Tavistock Legion with twenty-three members present.

Discussions were had on their upcoming events. The top of the It was their Ladies Brunch which was held on Sunday. Tickets are also available for their 50's Dance to be held on May 1st from Donna Swartzentruber or by contacting any member. President Linda Ruby reported on their role in helping at the Crokinole Tournament of EastZorra-Tavistock on June 5th. After reading the correspondence they had received, they decided to donate money to Hailey Trchsel for her upcoming "missionary" trip to Nicaragua, to the Baby Literacy Program of Stratford, to Tavistock's Block Parent Association, to Tavistock Minor Hockey for team plaques and to Heidi Ziegler on her upcoming Medical Out-Reach trip to Africa where she will be helping with their medical needs.

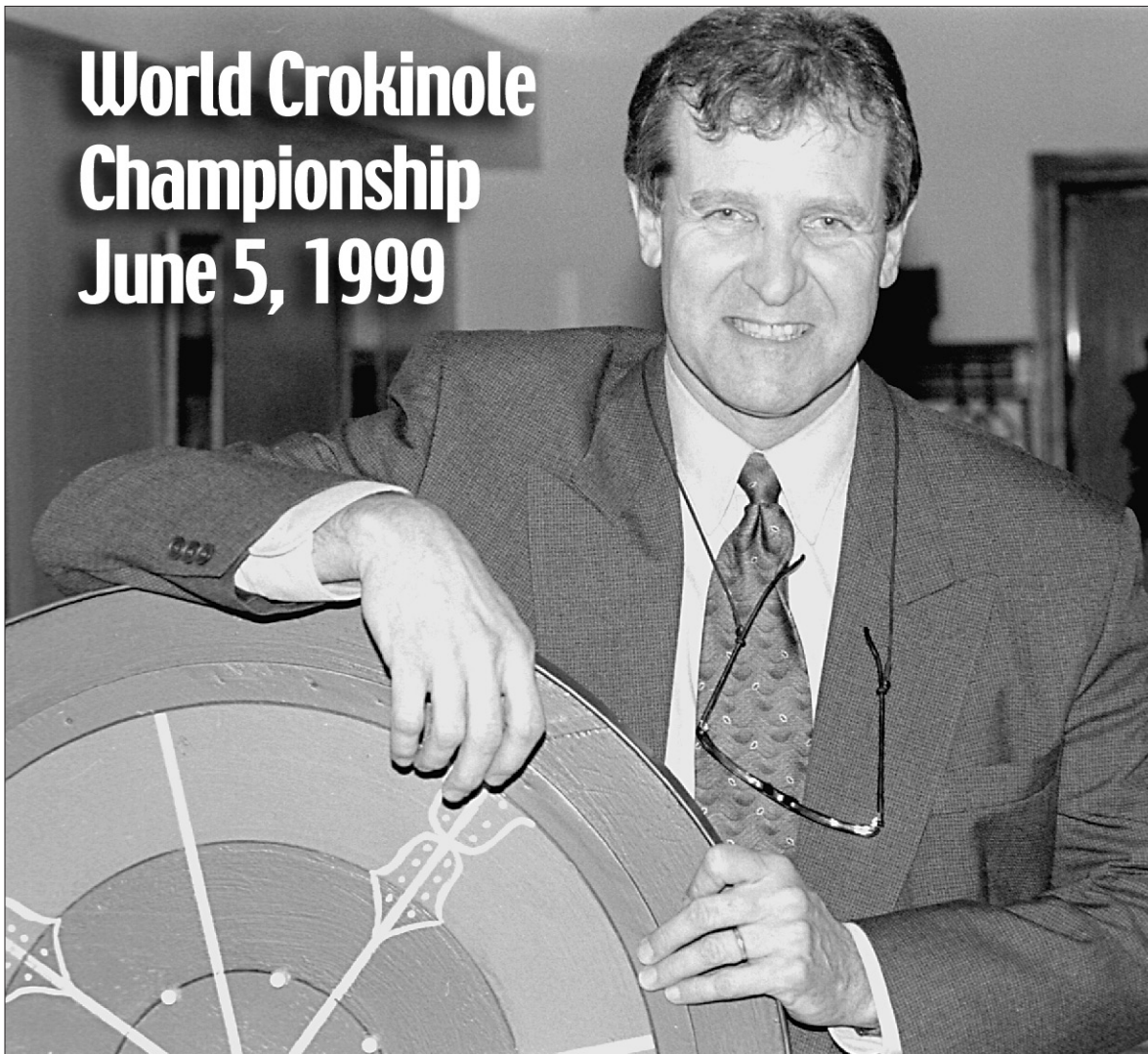
Following the meeting, members had a wonderful time trying on bridal fashions for the Brunch, and a delicious lunch was supplied by Glenna Roth and Kim Ziegler.

Gazette Mailing List Will Be Updated

The Tavistock Gazette will update their mailing list the end of April, reflecting subscriptions paid since January 8, 1999. Please check your mailing label over the next few weeks. If there is a red underline, it means your subscription is due or coming due.

Unmarked labels that have been paid since January 8th have been noted on our master list and will automatically be updated the May 1st revision. Thank you.

World Crokinole Championship June 5, 1999



BILL GLADDING/TAVISTOCK GAZETTE

Wayne Kelly "Mr. Crokinole" of Stratford displays a replica of the Eckhardt Wettlaufer crokinole board, the oldest board in Canada, after the presentation at last Wednesday's Tavistock Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Tavistock Will Host World Crokinole Event

Do you know what's happening in Tavistock on Saturday, June 5th, 1999? That day, Tavistock will host the World Crokinole Championship.

Why in Tavistock you ask? According to "Mr. Crokinole", Wayne Kelly of Stratford, it's only natural because Sebastopol is the home of the oldest known crokinole board in Canada. That gameboard was produced by Eckhardt Wettlaufer in 1875 as a fifth birthday present for his son Adam. And as Sebastopol is a suburb of Tavistock, it's the most likely place to hold such a prestigious event. As well, Tavistock residents have had some experience with crokinole as a tournament is held at the public school each year.

The whole idea of a World Championsh.ip for crokinole is not new. When Mr. Kelly published "The Crokinole Book" in 1988 he was almost immediately recognized as the Canadian authority on the game. He has been interviewed on CBC radio a number of times by Peter Gzowski, as well as a television news spot with Knowlton Nash and Global's Bill Bramah. That year, as Mr. Kelly prepared a crokinole display for the Huron County Museum, curators became enthusiastic and from 1988 to 1995 held an annual Spring Break Crokinole Tournament. However, that 4-day event attracted only about 300 local people. Back in the mid 1970's Mr. Kelly had also encouraged a group in Steinbach,

Manitoba to host a World Crokinole Tournament which lasted only two years. South of the border, in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, the American Crokinole Championships were held in 1994, for one year only. Cambridge Springs is reputed to be the home of the first commercially made crokinole boards c. 1884.

Closer to this area, Waterloo County has always been a hotbed for crokinole. There are many clubs in Waterloo County from Elmira, St. Jacobs, and Mannheim to the Preston Club that was formed and has been operating continuously since 1932. But these regional clubs are not particularly interested in hosting a world event. The Wettlaufer board was acquired by the Joseph Schneider Haus in Kitchener as part of their harvest collection, and a localized spring crokinole event has been staged there since the early 1990's.

Crokinole has purely Canadian roots, if only by tradition, which seem to point to a game that is actually a cross between a British pub game and an Indian board game, with a French name. Derived from the French word croquignole, it means a fillip, or flick of the finger, and, alternatively, a small, hard biscuit. The game was especially popular among rural residents during the winter months.

Mr. Kelly says "Crokinole was predominantly a rural phenomenon. When the harvest was

done and farmers couldn't get on the land, they would bring out the crokinole board in the evening." When Mr. Kelly heard about the Tavistock Public School event involving over 200 people in one evening, he was impressed. He set up a display at Tavistock's 150th anniversary celebration on Civic Holiday Weekend in 1998 and spoke with about 700 people over the 4 days. Former Tavistock Principal Barry Tate of Woodstock was acutely interested in the idea of a world event being held in Tavistock and discussions with 150th chairman Bruce 'Halliday gave Mr. Kelly hope that the village would welcome his idea. Mr. Kelly was invited to speak to the Rotary Club of Tavistock in January and Carl Nicklas made a presentation on his behalf to the Tavistock Recreation Committee a few weeks later. A letter from Township 'Mayor Dave Oliphant offered the moral, if not financial, support of East Zorra-Tavistock Council and a meeting of all interested parties was called in February.

As a result of these first meetings, six committees were formed from about twelve volunteers including public relations, procedures and rules, awards and sponsorship, banquet and registration, equipment and facility management.

The event will be one day only, Saturday, June 5, 1999 at the Tavistock and District Recreation Centre. Crokinole doubles and

cue singles will begin at 10:00 a.m. At 1:00 p.m. the qualifying rounds for junior, intermediate and adult division singles will begin followed by a smorgasbord-style meal in the curling club hall catered by Quehl's Restaurant. The singles semi-finals and finals will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by an awards ceremony at 9:00 p.m. It is proposed to have a limit of 400 registrants for this first championship tournament with a registration fee of \$8.00 for ages 11 and ohler, and \$5.00 for ages 6-10. The registration deadline is set for May 28, 1999. To obtain a registration form write, call, fax or e-mail your request to: World Crokinole Championship, Box 988, Tavistock, Ontario NOB 2R0 or call 655-2102, fax 655-3560 or e-mail: wcc@crokinole.com

It has been announced that \$5,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded with over half the amount already committed from crokinole board manufacturers. According to statistics, between 55 and 60,000 crokinole board were sold in Canada last year. There are seven manufacturers in Canada and others in the U.S. and England. Two companies in Quebec, one each in Hamilton, Burlington and London as well as the local manufacturers like Kraemar Woodcrafts Ltd. in St. Jacobs and area make reliable and affordable boards between \$75 and \$300. Several other manufacturers are building custom-made boards with solid brass posts, surgical latex tubing, hardwood rails angled at 10 degrees inward, and British billiard-quality cloth in the gutter. These board sell anywhere from \$750 to \$1,500 and manufacturers are still scrambling to fill the orders.

Finding enough good-quality boards locally to be used in the tournament is another task that needs to be addressed. Committee members LaVerne Reibling (655-2364) and Carl Nicklas (655-9915) will be taking calls and compiling a list of board donors for the event. If you would like to volunteer in any other aspect of the event; please contact chairman Doris Gladding, at 655-2425.

As June 5th approaches, members of the World Crokinole Championship committee will be busy finalizing the details of the event. The first year will be a challenge in all respects, but with dedicated volunteers and an enthusiastic public response, this could become an annual event, and spark the revival of Crokinole in Canada.

PeeWees Cap Year With Grand Valley Championship

On Tuesday, April 6th, the B. Kropf Forestry PeeWee Reps played game two of the league championship series in New Hamburg. The hosts jumped out to a 2-0 lead early in the game but once Tavistock came alive they came within one in the second frame. Nathaniel Brown scored from Wes Kropf. Late in the third period Michael Albrecht scored from Kropf and Rob McLaren. Tavistock pressed hard but the game ended in a 2-2 tie. This gave each team two points in a four point series.

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