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The Citizen

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Celebrating 40 Years 1985-2025

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Flying high

The Lucknow Fall Fair was held over the weekend and the members of the Danceology studio there refused to waste an opportunity to show off all they've learned since last year's fair, performing intricate routines and, in some cases, defying gravity before the very eyes of hundreds of parade-watchers on Saturday morning. The fair was one of three area celebrations over the weekend, with the Brussels Fall Fair happening earlier last week and Clinton's Harvest Fest shutting down the town's main street on Saturday. Read and see more from all three celebrations in the pages of this week's issue of *The Citizen*. *(John Stephenson photo)*

$130,000 nabbed in CH fraud

The Huron Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a recent report of fraud in Central Huron. Total loss from the fraud is reported to be $130,000 in Canadian funds.

On Aug. 30, Huron OPP was contacted by a 55-year-old Central Huron resident who reported losing $130,000 in an internet investment scam between June and August. The victim explained to police that they responded to an online investment advertisement that they viewed on a popular communications application (app). The victim believed that their money was being invested in the stock market and in cryptocurrency.

The victim was promised a high return on their investments and became suspicious when the online suspect demanded more money from the victim.

In late August, the victim realized they had been scammed and called the police.

In 2024, according to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC), fraud reports totalled a staggering $647 million in Canadian victim losses. It is estimated that only between five and 10 per cent of victims report scams and frauds to the CAFC or law enforcement.

How to protect yourself?

• Don't give out your personal information (name, address, DOB, SIN, banking credentials).

• Don't accept friend requests from people you do not know.

• Don't invest your money in platforms provided by people you don't know.

• Be careful who you share images with. Suspects will often use explicit pictures to extort victims into sending more money.

• Protect your online accounts.

• Get more than one quote for home repair work and never feel pressured.

• Never send money to someone you haven't met.

• Don't respond to text messages from phone numbers you do not recognize.

• Learn more tips and tricks for protecting yourself.

NH to submit three Vance Fund apps

By Scott Stephenson
The Citizen

At its Sept. 15 meeting, North Huron Council finalized plans to apply to the Vance Fund, selecting three priority projects aimed at improving recreational infrastructure in Wingham.

The Vance Fund was established through a donation by long-time Wingham residents Leland and Thora Vance. Every year, the Vance Fund provides grant money to capital projects in Wingham, which are distributed annually through the Waterloo Region Community Foundation. This year, $230,000 has been made available - $90,000 of which is designated for Christian church improvements only. The remaining $140,000 is for recreational projects. Any funding that is awarded must be used by Nov. 30, 2026.

A report submitted by Asset Management Co-ordinator Francene Francis outlined three potential projects that are eligible to receive grants from the Vance Fund.

The first is the replacement of the sound system in the North Huron Wescast Community Complex (NHWCC) arena, at an estimated cost of $30,000. Due to safety concerns, the arena's central speaker was removed in January, and has not yet been replaced. In her report, Francis explains that the outdated sound system affects several community groups, including the Wingham Minor Hockey Association, the Figure Skating Club, and the Wingham Ironmen.

The second proposed project is the replacement of the Riverside Park ball diamond lighting, with an estimated cost of $80,000. The lighting system, which is more than 20 years old, has become a safety concern, and increasingly poor lighting is beginning to limit use of the ball diamonds, the report explains. Due to failing bulbs and the unavailability of manufacturer parts, township staff is currently resorting to sourcing second-hand components for maintenance.

The third project involves repairs to the pedestrian walking bridge across the Maitland River, which was formerly a railway bridge. According to a 2024 report by BM Ross, the bridge's north abutment wall is in poor condition and requires re-facing. Additionally, the wooden retaining walls on the southeast corner are actively collapsing and need attention within one year. Estimated cost for these repairs is $40,000. The project has received endorsement from the Wingham Trail Committee.

These three projects will form the township's core application to the Vance Fund for 2025. However, staff have also prepared a list of additional projects that may be submitted if funding allows. These include the replacement of the NHWCC electronic road sign, accessibility upgrades to the NHWCC family changeroom, and the replacement of rink-side and

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'Citizen' wins three CCNAs

In this year's News Media Canada Canadian Community Newspaper Awards, *The Citizen* took home three third-place awards, continuing its tradition of winning or placing nationally in the last decade or so.

First, photographer John Stephenson took home a bronze medal for a front-page picture of the U11 Rep Blyth Brussels Crusaders celebrating a 3-2 overtime playoff win over the Drayton Defenders at the Brussels, Morris and Grey Community Centre. It was published on March 1, 2024.

He was bested only by *The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton* in first place and T*he World Spectator* in Moosomin, Saskatchewan. It was awarded for publications with a circulation of up to 9,999.

Long-time production department employee Joan Caldwell placed third in the Best Ad Campaign category for her work on "Blyth BIA Welcomes New Businesses

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