



Black History Month - Diana Braithwaite, left, and Chris Whiteley are scheduled to perform at the Wellington County Museum and Archives on Feb. 8. *Community News file photo*

Braithwaite, Whiteley to perform in Aboyne

ABOYNE - Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whiteley are coming to the Wellington County Museum and Archives on Feb. 8 in celebration of Black History Month, taking place in February.

"Did you know that some of the very first settlers to Wellington County were Black Canadians?" museum officials ask. "Or that by 1850 over 2,000 Black Canadians had settled here, building farms, churches, schools and lives?"

Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whiteley will perform *Sugar and Gold - The Story of the Underground Railroad in Canada*.

Braithwaite is a direct descendent of escaped slaves in the Queen's Bush settlement, which was located, in

part, in what is now Mapleton Township.

At its peak in 1840, the Queen's Bush settlement was home to about 2,000 black settlers, almost all escaped slaves and immigrants from the United States.

It was the largest concentration of black settlers in Ontario, encompassing an area about 12 miles by eight miles, in what would become Woolwich and the southern portion of former Peel Township.

Sugar and Gold - The Story of the Underground Railroad in Canada is a presentation of history through multi-media that uses images and songs to tell the inspiring and uplifting stories of the Underground Railroad.

Braithwaite and Whiteley

created and have presented *Sugar and Gold* over the course of 14 years, educating and inspiring new generations through their interactive musical storytelling.

Afterwards visitors can take a step back in time to the early 1800s as they experience the amazing stories of black Canadian pioneers of Wellington County in both the Queen's Bush and the Pierpoint settlement.

From 2 to 3pm, staff will be available to tell stories from local black history. For more information call 519-846-0916 ext. 5224 or email kyles@wellington.ca.

Tickets cost \$15 (HST included) and can be purchased at the museum or by calling 519-846-0916.



Auction for 4-H

4-H fundraiser - A live auction to support local 4-H clubs was held during the Wellington County Cattleman's Association (WCCA) annual general meeting on Jan. 17 at the Alma Bible Church. ABOVE: A farm tractor replica donated by Premier Equipment is auctioned off by board member Jordan Burns and president Rob Unsworth. LEFT: Jack Chaffe, right, was the high bidder on a Canadian Flag donated by Perth-Wellington MP John Nater for the auction.

Photos by Jennifer Goertzen

Mapleton council briefs

Wallenstein cemetery expansion approved

ARYN STRICKLAND REPORTER

MAPLETON - Council has approved a zoning amendment request to expand the Olivet Mennonite Church on the fourth line in Wallenstein.

A 0.54 acre parcel of land will be severed and merged with the existing abutting church and cemetery.

"Originally the property was zoned institutional and then

with the merged parcel portion would have been agricultural, but we were requesting here to have the entire property as site specific so that it's specific to the cemetery use not any other industrial uses in the area," said Wellington County planner Jessica Rahim at the Dec. 10 meeting.

"We have no concerns with the application."

New gym coming to Drayton
A new fitness facility is com-

ing to the Drayton Industrial Park.

Council received a rezoning application to permit the construction of a 6,300 square foot building at 25 Industrial Drive in Drayton.

Currently the land is vacant and zoned general industrial.

Developers also plan to double the size of the building in the future to create additional commercial/retail rental spaces.

"This application here is to resolve subject lands from industrial to a site specific industrial zone ... we have no concerns with the application," said Rahim.

Councillor Marlene Ottens asked whether there would be a path for foot traffic walking from the nearby PMD Arena to the new gym.

"Because of its proximity to the arena there had been talk way back about putting access like a walking path. So let's say parents dropping the kids off at hockey practice could walk to the gym," said Ottens.

"There's currently a right of way in the site plan," confirmed Moorefield Excavating representative Jason Jack.

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Arnold has faithfully used his analytical and number skills to make countless decisions in his management role at Mar-Span, as well as laying the numbers aside many times to make decisions from the heart for the sake of someone in a less fortunate situation.

On behalf of the management team and all the staff, Mar-Span appreciates your contribution and commitment to the company and looks forward to more years of working together.