

Guelph Mercury

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Breaking news

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Getting it right

Our accuracy pledge

Nothing is more important to us than accuracy. We always strive to ensure the information we provide is factual and correct. But sometimes we make mistakes, and when we do, we will correct them promptly and prominently. If you see a factual error, please contact the newsroom at 519-823-6060 or by email at editor@guelphmercury.com.

Lottery results

Yesterday's unofficial winning numbers: Pick 3: 4 0 3. Pick 4: 5 6 5 4. Keno: 4, 6, 8, 9, 20, 21, 22, 29, 32, 35, 39, 44, 45, 55, 56, 61, 66, 67, 68, 69. Encore: 9945044.

Ontario Press Council

The council considers specific, unsatisfied complaints about the conduct of the press.

Complaints should go to:

- The Ontario Press Council 2 Carlton St., Suite 1706 Toronto, Ont., M5B 1J3 info@ontpress.com fax 416-340-8724

It's a Skyping kind of a Sunday

I am not a particularly technological savvy person. But I'm not a Luddite either, I fall somewhere in between. I can certainly make my computer work for me. But if the slightest thing goes awry, I panic and call my son, the family computer wizard.

One application I heartily applaud is Skype. Even technophobes can Skype. It is as easy as emailing and it's free! My husband and I Skype our in-laws, who are in their late 70s, every Sunday.

They live in England and we don't see them as often as we would like. A regular Skype call makes them feel part of our lives and has become a necessary communication tool.

Several years ago, we were all hooking up to Skype at the same time. My brother-in-law, who lives in France, but was at the parents' home in England prepared them and their computer for lift off, while we sat in front of ours.

My mother-in-law's face beamed at us through the marvel of our freshly installed webcam, she noticed her image and started fixing her hair. I told her it was too late, we could already see every move she was making, including her messy hair.

I saw my brother-in-law who was talking. But we couldn't hear his voice. My husband told me the sound wasn't working. I remarked on his brother's appearance, saying that he looked awful, really tired. My broth-



MELODY WREN community editorial board

er-in-law glared at me via the webcam, his single digit hand gesture to me indicating he had definitely heard my comment loud and clear. I screamed: "You said the sound wasn't working!"

"They can hear us. But we can't hear them," my husband answered, laughing.

After that rocky intro, we have become Skype regulars with the in-laws. We connect Sundays for a chat, which lasts anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour.

They are avid gardeners. So, they hold the webcam up to the garden, and swing it around (a bit too fast sometimes, making us motion sick) so that we can see all the beautiful blooms, and the abundance of greenery.

We did the same with our webcam, and they couldn't believe how tall our backyard trees had grown since their last visit to Guelph.

My mother-in-law says she feels part of our lives, since we have long face to face conversations. We often make tea, so we feel like we are having a regular chat over a cup-

pa.

For Sunday dinner with our grown-up kids, we put the laptop on the table, and include the in-laws in dinner, asking if they would like more potatoes or more wine, passing the serving dishes toward the webcam so that they are at the table with us.

Everyone takes turns chatting to them, sometimes my brother, his wife, and my niece and nephew all have a turn, so they really feel a part of the gathering.

My father-in-law prefers to sit in the background and talk without being visible to the webcam. He is like the Wizard of Oz, we can hear his voice, and we know that he is there.

They like to travel, mostly cruises, which all require new clothes. So, frequently, my mother-in-law holds up new tops and skirts, and dresses for the next cruise. She also holds-up the brochures for the cruise, so we can see where they are going and the sights they will see.

Perhaps Skype inventors didn't envision this type of use for this application, but the in-laws claim it helps them feel part of things and not so far away.

Similar to families of old gathered around the piano singing after Sunday dinner, you will find ours gathered around the laptop Skyping.

Melody Wren is a member of the Guelph Mercury Community Editorial Board.



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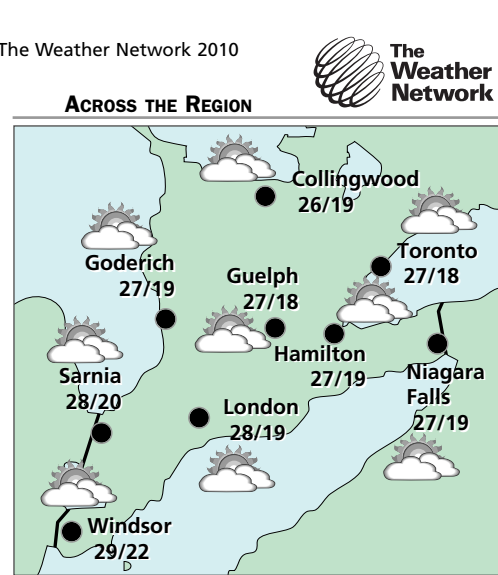
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WEATHER

| ALMANAC | TOMORROW | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|----------------------------|
| Normal High 25.3° Normal Low 13.4° Record High 29.4°/2002 Record Low 7.5°/1983 Precipitation Today's Normals 2.9mm | Variably cloudy H: 27 L: 18 | Partly cloudy H: 26 L: 16 | Partly cloudy H: 27 L: 18 | Showers H: 28 L: 17 |
| CANADA TODAY | TORONTO | WORLD TOMORROW | MADRID | MEXICO |
| Calgary tstorms 19/11 Charlottetown tshowers 25/16 Edmonton tstorms 19/12 Fredericton sunny 28/15 Halifax p.cloudy 28/15 Iqaluit p.cloudy 17/9 Montreal p.cloudy 27/17 Ottawa tshowers 28/17 Quebec C. p.cloudy 26/14 Regina tstorms 26/14 Saskatoon tstorms 23/15 St John's p.cloudy 21/15 | Toronto p.cloudy 30/19 Vancouver m.sunny 20/14 Victoria p.cloudy 18/12 Whitehorse p.cloudy 21/10 Winnipeg p.sunny 31/18 Yellowknife tshowers 22/14 | Amsterdam p.cloudy 21/14 Beijing cloudy 29/26 Berlin p.cloudy 24/17 Brussels rain 20/16 Hong Kong cloudy 34/28 Honolulu p.cloudy 30/23 Jerusalem sunny 33/17 Kiev p.sunny 29/20 Las Vegas sunny 40/26 Lisbon sunny 27/20 London cloudy 23/12 Los Angeles p.cloudy 20/15 | Madrid sunny 34/20 Miami tstorms 31/26 Moscow p.cloudy 37/20 New Delhi tstorms 34/30 Paris rain 21/20 Rome sunny 31/21 Seoul tshowers 31/28 Singapore p.sunny 31/27 Stockholm p.cloudy 20/14 Sydney cloudy 17/12 Tel Aviv sunny 33/26 Tokyo p.sunny 31/28 | |
| | RESORTS TOMORROW | | | |
| | Acapulco p.sunny 34/27 Barbados tshowers 32/26 Bermuda p.cloudy 29/26 Havana p.cloudy 34/24 San Juan cloudy 30/28 | | | |



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