

# A toast to the newlyweds

## VINTAGE VIEWS

By Tim Mosher

*Tavistock and District Historical Society*

The Bauer Hotel in Sebastopol, just north of Tavistock, was a handy location for well-dressed groups to gather following weddings, funerals and almost any activity happening at Trinity Lutheran Church just across the street in this hamlet. On June 17, 1903, eight friends of newlyweds Lisetta Bauer and Peter Brueckner made their way to the Bauer after their wedding. Here they quenched their thirst on the steps of the hotel where the bartender was pleased to provide a secular version of communion.

The majority of the almost 4,000 glass negatives in the Lemp Studio Collection, housed at the Tavistock and District Historical Society, have no names or dates recorded but this one does! Clockwise starting on the left are Henry Kalbfleisch, William Schaefer, Eckhardt Kalbfleisch, Fred Kalbfleisch, John Olies, Conrad Wilker, John Issler and Conrad Grein. The barman is Henry Feick. The name of the little girl on the right was not recorded.

The picture is beautifully posed and lit. Most of the men's hats are on the porch behind them; the fellow on the bottom right is holding his and two have their hats tilted well back. It's likely that the photographer

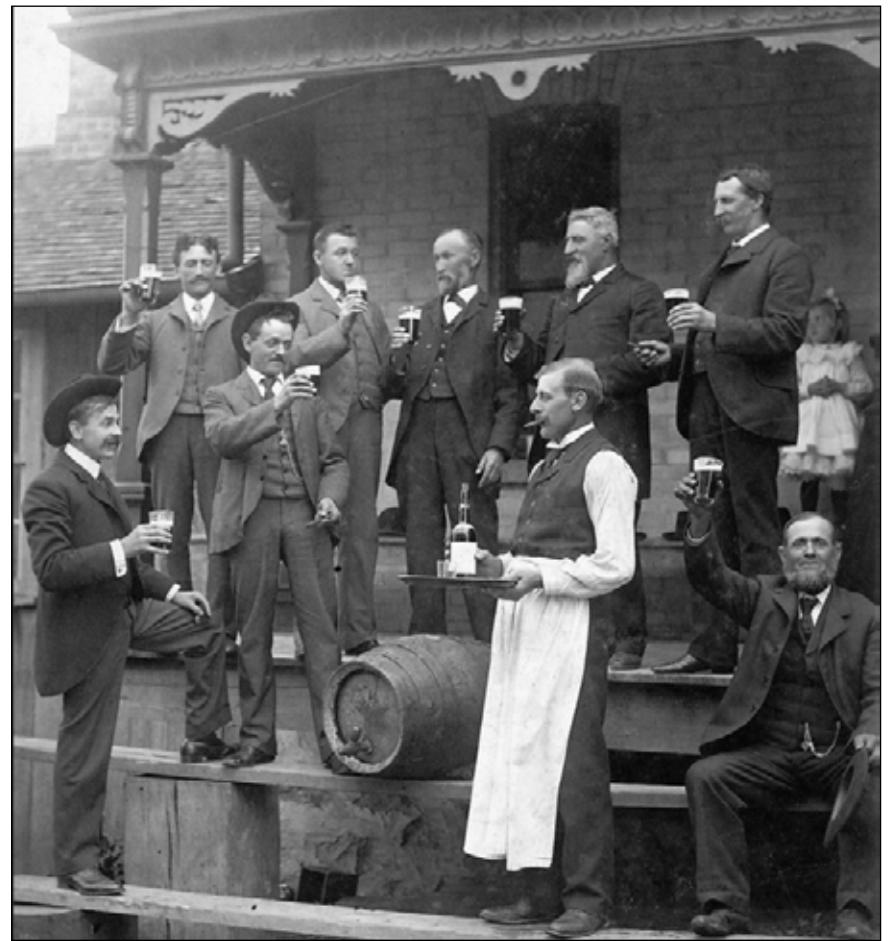
asked the men to do this so as to not have shadows obscuring their faces. The raised glasses and relaxed nature of everyone is a very nice departure from the often-stiff poses of the first 50 years of the photography craft.

This photo was taken two years before John Lemp was in the pharmacy and photo business in Tavistock, so it was likely produced by one of the eight transient photographers, but most likely A. Murry or W. Becker. They both offered photo services in the area during the year of the marriage, 1903.

It's probably a good thing that the groom did not join his companions in the picture. The Bauer Hotel is now a private home.

**This week's History Mystery:** What is attached to the short chain that's hanging from two of the men's pockets? It's very likely that the other men have similar chains, but they're covered by their jackets. This question is for readers up to age 18. Send your answers to [tim\\_mosher@hotmail.com](mailto:tim_mosher@hotmail.com) and include your name, age, community name or rural route number. The first person to forward the correct answer will have this information published in the next edition.

**Last week's History Mystery:** What is the object on the grass silhouetted against the sidewalk in front of the group posing for the camera? The Decew Street home in Tavistock, like most, had a black metal object almost knee high between the sidewalk and the road year-round. A correct answer was not forwarded. The object is a step that people used to alight from a carriage stopped beside it.



(LEMP STUDIO COLLECTION - #5043)

Friends raise a glass to celebrate a wedded couple.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Mountains of garbage under the melting snow

Dear Editor,

As the snow melts and spring arrives, I am disheartened to see the amount of garbage and plastic waste lining our streets, boulevards, parks and reservoirs. As many are aware, single-use plastic containers and food wrappings have become a predominant form of packaging in modern society. What may be less obvious is how much micro-plastic pollution is affecting our environment and our bodies.

Science research has shown that micro-plastics now exist in the air we breathe, the soil we grow our food in, in our body and brains, and throughout the earth's land and waters. The chemicals in plastics affects our hormones, contribute to cancer, slows photosynthesis in plants and injures insect and bird life which humans need for pollination. Plastics themselves are a fossil fuel that contribute to climate warming.

As I walk the streets in my neighbourhood, or drive roads and highways, there is plastic litter on every boulevard and

gutter, in storm-water ditches and clogging the storm drains. When we don't pick up plastic, it gets run over by cars and broken into smaller pieces that may not be noticed. Much of this gets washed into the storm drains polluting our water.

What to do as an individual? Check on your recycling day whether plastic containers have blown out of your bin. Pick them up and help your neighbours out, too. Organize a litter pick-up with your neighbours to clean up a local park, trail, or street. Teach your children about the impact of plastic pollution and the importance of not littering. Avoid single use packaging and bottles.

As Earth Day 2025 approaches, I'd love to hear other initiatives to help sustain the Earth that feeds us.

*Kathy Mostardi,  
New Hamburg*



Mike HARRIS  
MPP KITCHENER-CONESTOGA

519-669-2090  
[mike.harrisco@pc.ola.org](mailto:mike.harrisco@pc.ola.org)

