

GOING DOWN



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Workers from Schouten Excavating watch from around the corner as the first parts of an historic block of Watford is demolished Tuesday. Watford Investment Group bought the block of derelict buildings in the fall of 2019. It plans to build a new block of buildings with the anchor tenant being the Township of Warwick. Front St. from Nauvoo to McGregor will be closed to traffic, likely until Jan. 24 to accommodate the demolition.

Town ordered to release Baron’s severance package

Heather Wright
The Independent

More than two years after Petrolia’s top administrator left his job, residents will finally hear details of the agreement which led to his departure.

But an adjudicator for the Information and Privacy Commission has ruled the Town of Petrolia does not have to release the investigators report explaining exactly what happened and which led to Manny Baron leaving his job. But taxpayers will find out how much it cost them.

In Oct. 2017, *The Independent*, in a series of articles, revealed that the then-chief administrative officer owned two buildings which were being used by the town. He didn’t disclose that to council and in the case of the former youth and seniors centre, Baron was issued \$5,000 payment for rent and had town staff work on the buildings according to information obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

SEE PETROLIA PG 3

Oil Springs, P-town celebrate as Hunters win gold

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dick Hunter says he’s never seen his son so emotional.

The Oil Springs man - father to hockey greats Dale and Mark - watched as his sons led Team Canada to a stunning come from behind win over the Russians to claim World Junior Gold.

The outcome of the Christmas tournament didn’t seem very promising when the squad lost its very first game to Russia 6-0. Hunter talked to Mark - who is the

juniors’ general manager - after that loss. He says Mark was “ a little discouraged there. But those things happen.”

Mark - in an interview with The Independent Tuesday, says the team was humbled by the loss. “That humility came out; we knew we all needed to double down and get better because the Russians were playing at a hell of a level.” He says the disappointed team heard all the criticism from fans, and hockey enthusiasts, and “dealt with it the right way” digging in and getting better.

And then, just like a good movie, the Canadians and the Hunters had a chance to avenge the loss, in the gold medal game no less.

Dick Hunter was at home in Oil Springs, gathered with family and friends to watch the game.

“It was nerve wracking when we got down 2-0 there,” Dick says “When you get down to the Russians, that’s never good.”

And he says the Russians were a tough opponent.

But Canada’s game started to turn when the puck rebounded off the legs of Connor McMichael to

get Canada within one. “Some-times, you get bounces,” says Mark “and that was one heck of a bounce.” McMichael, he says, has a history of having “good things happen for him in front of the net.”

Then, injured captain, Barrett Hayton had a blistering shot that found the back of the net to tie things up at three.

“It was really amazing how well he played in the situation he was in...it showed a lot of drive and passion to be a part of that game,” says the general manager.

SEE HUNTERS PG 2



KAREN COOK PHOTO

Dick Hunter watching the gold medal game.

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Phair remembered as the man liked by everyone

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lorne Henderson - Lambton’s former MPP known for his ability to remember everyone’s name - once said John Phair knew more people than he did.
That, according to Phair’s close friend and Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey - is quite a statement. The former councillor of both

Enniskillen and Petrolia council died Jan. 5 after a brief illness. He was 71.
Bailey has known Phair for years. It was the long-time Conservative who convinced Bailey to run for the MPP’s position. Phair had run for the Conservatives in the 2000 federal election.
“We were debating about the 2007 provincial election and he challenged me; ‘Why don’t you

run?’ I said, ‘Oh god!’”
Phair won the debate and then actively campaigned to get him elected.
Bailey says he talked to Phair almost every day, asking him about issues he faced or looking for information about things going on in the area. “He was a gentleman,” Bailey said choking up. “A good friend and a gentleman.”
SEE PHAIR PAGE 3



John Phair, pictured here with Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott in 2014 is believed to be one of the only people to serve in both Enniskillen and Petrolia.

Hunters bring home World Junior gold and inspire Canada and their hometown

CON’T FROM PG 1
Hayden had faced criticism after failing to remove his helmet when the Russian national anthem was played in that 6-1 loss - he said he was lost in the moment and simply forgot.
“He wanted to do his best for the fans across the country, and he did.”
Then Akil Thomas headed for the Russian’s net, controlling the puck as he slid in front of the goalie and steered the puck into the net for the go-ahead goal with just 3:58 left in the game.
“There was a purpose for Dale putting him out there...he knew he had the capability of scoring a big goal in a big moment because he had done it before in midget and junior hockey,” says Mark adding Thomas was calm and didn’t seem nervous at all. “He made it look easy - when he got that chance, he knew what to do with it.”
Dick Hunter says his rec room exploded after Thomas’ goal. “We had’er full here and they went wild...the grandkids all went wild.”
A picture by family friend Karen Cook shared around the country captured Dick’s pride - giving his boys the thumbs up.
Mark says those last moments of the game were “pretty amazing.

“I was counting down the seconds...I wanted to make sure I saw zero before...I started celebrating.”
The joy of that big win exploded in Central Lambton and across Canada.
“That’s what happens when you put a real hockey guy behind the bench. Gold,” said one Twitter user.
“What a game for Canada, what a game for the Hunter boys, what a game for #PetroliaProud! Congratulations Dale and Mark Hunter and all of Team Canada ... we are so proud of you here at home!” wrote the Petrolia Minor Hockey Association on Facebook moments after the win.
At the Hunters’ old elementary school - Lambton Centennial - students were dressed in red and white - anything with a Canadian symbol on it - Monday to honour the men who used to play in the same gym and grew up to win gold for Canada.
And they signed cards for the brothers and posed for a picture to mark the occasion.
Mark and Dale were back in Oil Springs Tuesday. Mark says they looked at all the cards and photos from Centennial students. “That was very cool.”
And went to see Dick before



Lambton Centennial students dress in red and white to celebrate the World Junior gold medalist Mark and Dale Hunter. The Oil Springs men who went to Centennial led the junior team to victory in the Czech Republic.

heading to London to deal with the OHL trade deadline. It was only a quick visit. Dick told him he was proud. But he forgot to ask if the pair would be bringing the World Junior Cup to Oil Springs and Petrolia in the future.
Mark told *The Independent*

that’s something he’s going to try to arrange, because he knows Oil Springs and Petrolia fans would enjoy it.
Dick also didn’t ask about that moment Dale had behind the bench moments after the win.
The coach is generally stoic,

rarely cracking a smile, but as the time ran out, there were tears in his eyes and a big smile on his face as he hugged the coaching staff.
“That’s the first time I’ve ever seen him get that emotional,” says Dick.

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Here's How It Works: Level: Advanced
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Petrolia ordered to release Baron’s severance

CON’T FROM PG 1

Town council hired an investigator, John Fleming to review what happened. When Fleming finished his report, town council passed a motion accepting the resignation of Baron.

The day after council officially ended its association with Baron, *The Independent* filed a Freedom of Information (FOI) request asking for the investigator’s report, Baron’s resignation, which according to council documents came by email, his severance package and his original contract. The town denied access and *The Independent* appealed to the Information and Privacy Commission.

In mediation, the town and Baron did agree to the release of the administrator’s contract, but the rest of the matters were heard by an adjudicator.

The town argued, in part, that the Fleming report and the email containing Baron’s notice to leave his position should not be released because the report was part of employment-related matters - an area excluded by the Freedom of Information Act. Baron agreed.

The Independent argued that publicly then-Mayor John McCharles said the \$14,000 report from Fleming was an operational review of the entire staff - which under the act can be released.

The Independent also argued that it was in the public’s best interest to release the severance agreement.

The town and Baron also argued the severance package should not be released to protect personal privacy and because it contained advice and recommendations to the municipality which can be exempt. The town added *The Independent’s* assertion that the public had an interest in the severance agreement did not apply because “there has been wide media coverage and debate surround the matter and that disclosing the small amount of information remaining at the issue would not serve the public interest,” according to the adjudicator’s order.

More than two years later, on Dec. 19, the adjudicator released his decision. Steven Faughnan reviewed all the documents and ruled the report by Fleming and the email setting out the terms of Baron’s departure were part of an employment record and were used by the town in dealing with Baron’s future; so they did not have to be released.

But, he ruled the facts of the severance agreement - save any details which may have been found in the investigator’s report - were in the public’s interest. The town will have until Jan. 30 to provide the documents to *The Independent*.

Publisher Heather Wright has mixed feel-

ings about the ruling.

“While I’m pleased the adjudicator agreed it is the public’s best interest to see the details of the former CAO’s severance package, it is still troublesome that taxpayers of Petrolia will never have a full accounting of how someone in the highest levels of government was able to so clearly break the town’s own rules, enlist the help of staff, receive cash through official channels and still not have any answers from their elected politicians how that was able to happen. Nor will taxpayers know if the loopholes that led to this situation have been closed preventing any future problems,” she says.

“It’s also disheartening that the current members of council - many of whom publicly stated they wanted the information released during the election campaign - have been silent on the issue since taking their seats at the council table.”

The adjudicator’s ruling also revealed at least one inconsistency with what members of Petrolia Council told the public in 2017.

In the wake of Baron’s departure, all of the council statements - including the motion passed by council - stated Baron resigned. However the town’s own lawyer in the FOI appeal said the administrator was “terminated” because of the results of the report.

Baron also had a say in the FOI appeal, however he asked his submissions not be shared with *The Independent* out of concerns for his privacy.

In Faughnan’s ruling, his reasoning becomes more apparent.

Although the adjudicator did not elaborate on Baron’s specific concerns, the former employee argued that under Section 13 of the act, the town could refuse to disclose the information “whose disclosure could reasonably be expected to seriously threaten the safety or health of an individual.”

“I acknowledge that the matters he (Baron) sets out are of concern to him and his family,” says Faughnan, adding Baron mostly was concerned about the release of the investigators report - which he ruled would not have to be released.

And the adjudicator says Baron “failed to provide sufficient evidence” to withhold the severance agreement for that reason.

About two months after Baron was fired, he became the CAO of Mapleton, where he continues to work today

The OPP charged him with breach of public trust in March 2018.

The case was resolved in Sept. 2018 after Baron participated in the Direct Accountability Program. He admitted an administrative error and gave a \$1,000 to the Petrolia Community Foundation. In exchange, the crown withdrew the breach of public trust charge.

Mooretown wants to be Hockeyville

Heather Wright
The Independent

Could Mooretown be the next Hockeyville? Officials with the Moore Sports Complex Renewal Committee hope so.

They’re encouraging residents to nominate the community in the Kraft Hockeyville contest which is on now in the hopes of winning \$250,000 toward the \$35 million revitalization of the complex.

St. Clair Township Councillor, Tracy Kingston, is a member of the committee. She says the group is getting ready to launch a number of fundraisers for the massive project. Kingston hopes the hockey community will get on board the social media campaign and boost Mooretown into the running for the cash and the chance at an NHL game

played in the local arena.

Kingston says the committee wants to try everything to reach its stated goal of \$5 million. St. Clair council agreed to foot \$5 million of the bill through taxes and reserves. The community has also applied for a federal and provincial grant for about \$25 million. Those grants should be announced before the spring.

“We can’t do this on our own so we have to try everything we can,” says Kingston.

The redevelopment plan includes an NHL sized rink as well as a secondary ice pad, a new gymnasium, pool and expanded fitness centre. The complex has had a number of problems including with the roof. There also concerns about an old direct expansion ammonia system -the last of its kind in the province, which needs to be replaced.

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Editorial

The public still deserves an answer

There are many things that are disappointing about *The Independent's* appeal to the Information and Privacy Commission.

As it states in our front page article, *The Independent* has been working for over two years to try to obtain documents relating to the dismissal of Petrolia's former CAO. His departure came after the paper reported his ownership of two buildings being used by the town. It was never disclosed he owned them. He received public money for rent and used town staff for renovations of the building.

The council of the day hired an investigator to look into the matter. When his report was given to council, Baron ended up without a job.

But the taxpayers will never get to see what the investigator found - how one administrator was allowed so much leeway that he was able to buy buildings and use them for town purposes, using tax dollars without anyone ever questioning what was going on. That's a shame.

What should have happened back in 2017, is councilors should have been straight with taxpayers. They should have said the CAO had been fired for his actions - not resigned as council proclaimed. They should have provided at least a summary of what the investigator found - admitting that something went wrong and telling taxpayers how it was fixed. But that didn't happen.

Instead, this newspaper spent countless hours trying to make the case for the public and waiting endlessly for the privacy commission to render a decision. We had hoped we could share that information in time for the municipal election - alas the report arrived about a year too late.

There is something wrong with a system that isn't fully transparent to the people who pay the bills, that allows request for information to take years to resolve and thousands of taxpayers dollars to hide.

We believe the current council could still make an effort to explain all this, now that the "legal" issue is solved. It could, at the very least, explain how procedures have changed to make sure no administrator could ever do this again.

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca. You can also deliver letters to *The Independent* at 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia or drop them in the mail at *The Independent*, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0. *The Independent* reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity. All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

Our Story



PHOTO PROVIDE BY BEV SHAW VIA THE DRESDEN VIRTUAL HISTORY GROUP

This beautifully detailed photo is taken in Florence in Dawn-Euphemia. The date of the Hadden photo is unknown but is captioned "A beauty spot in Florence."



The Independent

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Plympton-Wyoming taxes climb 2.5 per cent

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming taxpayers will have to open their wallets a little wider. Council has approved a \$13 million operation and capital budget - increasing taxes about 2.5 per cent. That works out to \$15.83 for every \$100,000 a house is valued. The median home price in Plympton-Wyoming is just under \$400,000 meaning the tax bill before any increasing assessment fees, will go up \$63.32. Treasurer Norma Roddick-Preece told council the budget contains about \$1.3 million for two new fire trucks. The town recently received word the insurance company would be paying out \$365,000 for a Wyoming truck which fell into a creek during a call. Chief Steve Clemens says there were too many variables to ensure the pumper could be fixed. A committee is already investigating a replacement vehicle for the Wyoming truck. The new equipment means the fire department's spending increased six per cent - among the highest in the municipality. Roddick-Preece says there will also be a significant increase of about \$100,000 in the planning department this year. Much of that comes from the need for several studies. Roddick-

Preece says the official plan will have to be reviewed again, council has asked for a renewable energy study focusing on the changes made to the wind turbine legislation and how it affects the projects already in the community. There are also some major capital projects planned. The roof at the Camlachie Community Centre is slated for replacement at a cost of \$50,000. The town has also applied for a grant to renovate washrooms there to make them accessible. Chief Administrative Officer Carolyn Tripp estimates the bill for that will be well over \$100,000. There are plans to make the administration building in Wyoming more accessible, including washrooms, the seating in the council chamber and providing hearing devices in the meeting room for those who need them. Another \$52,000 has been set aside for the town's proposed health and wellness centre. The town has acquired the old TD Bank and plans to make it a community hub, inviting health care providers to the building to provide services for residents. The building is expected to cost the town \$2,000 and \$50,000 is set aside for any renovations. Plympton-Wyoming plans to use \$1.94 million from reserves for its capital needs



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Plympton-Wyoming's budget session Tuesday marked the return of Councillor John Schenk. Schenk had a stroke in the fall and has missed several months of council meetings. He entered the council chamber just as the meeting was to begin, to a standing ovation from members of council and staff. The councillor, who always actively contributes to budget discussions, didn't disappoint. He took issue with a number of statements, particularly about Mayor Lonny Napper's suggestion to borrow money to improve more roads.

- most of that will go toward the two fire trucks. The town will continue to increase funding to roads - spending over \$2.5 million this year alone. There is concern about a 39 per cent increase in the town's insurance this year. The treasurer will be explaining the issues which led to the \$100,000 plus increase during council's regular meeting Jan. 9. The St. Clair Region Conservation budget is also up 39 per cent. Council discussed each section of the budget for about three and a half hours before approving it with only minor changes. "I think it is a pretty solid budget," says Mayor Lonny Napper. "It meets our needs and what we didn't use last year goes back for taxpayers next year."

SIU probes Lambton OPP's actions in Corunna incident

The Independent

The Special Investigations Unit is looking into an incident in Corunna. On Jan. 3, the Lambton OPP issued a news release

saying the SIU has been called in to investigate an incident in Corunna before Christmas. On Dec. 21, police were called to a home in the community. A 41-year-old

man was taken into custody charged with trespassing. The man was taken to hospital after he said he was hurt. The SIU was then notified since all cases of injury in police custody are investigated. OPP say they won't be giving any more details until after the SIU investigation is complete.

Phair had deep knowledge of politics, local history and farming

CON'T FROM PG 2

Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott agrees saying Phair "thought pretty deep on everything. He took a lot of time on issues. Once he made up his mind, he wasn't afraid to voice his opinion and it was always well thought out." And Marriott says Phair was respected. "When I thought about him, it was that quiet, solid, levelheaded demeanor of his and he was liked by everyone." Phair's interested extended beyond politics. He was a history buff and could answer just about any question about his communities oil history anyone had. Former Petrolia Councillor, Liz Welsh, who served with Phair in Petrolia and is also a local historian, says he was one of her most favourite people. "He was just so interested in all of our history and all the people who made the history. He was genuinely passionate about it. He always wanted to share that; he didn't keep it to himself." Welsh says Phair would hear an interesting historic item and start researching, even planning vacations to look deeper into what he'd found. "He was always accurate - he would fact check everything." Dave Hext knew first hand about his near photographic memory of local history. The local historian would have breakfast with Phair and Martin Dillon - who curates

the Petrolia Heritage website. They would discuss some obscure fact of the area over a meal and then head out exploring. Hext vividly recalls one trip to Florence where they followed a road which was once a path made by the Indigenous people. "He knew anybody and everybody in Lambton County. He had a wealth of knowledge. If I asked him about someone, he would have a file on them." Hext says Phair also had a website for some time called Hard Oil News, which told the regions stories. The historian, will be missed, says Hext. "He's like the father you wish you would have found out more about him and what he knew." Phair is also well known in farm circles. He was a freelance journalist for farm papers in Ontario for years, travelling all over Canada and the United States to report on the latest innovations in the industry. Phair also covered local community events, including in the pages of The Independent. While his heart was in Petrolia, he had been living in Sarnia for some time. Family members say his greatest joy was is grandchildren. Phair would sometimes bring one of them along on assignments as his photographer. Visitation for Phair will be held Friday at Needham-Jay Funeral home. The funeral will be Saturday at 2pm.

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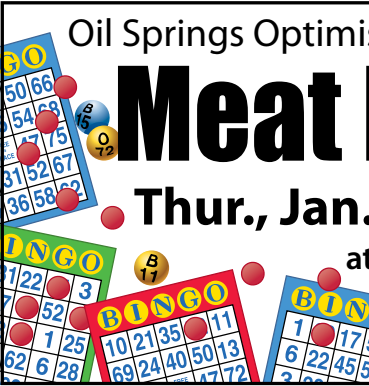


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Marilyn Gladu, MP
Sarnia-Lambton



Alzheimer's Disease in Canada

Over 747,000 Canadians are living with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

About Alzheimer's and Dementia

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia, an overall term for conditions that occur when the brain no longer functions properly. Alzheimer's causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior. In the early stage, dementia symptoms may be minimal, but as the disease causes more damage to the brain, symptoms worsen. The rate at which the disease progresses is different for everyone, but on average, people with Alzheimer's live for eight years after symptoms begin. While there are currently no treatments to stop Alzheimer's disease from progressing, there are medications to treat dementia symptoms. In the past three decades, dementia research has provided a much deeper understanding of how Alzheimer's affects the brain. Today, researchers are continuing to look for more effective treatments and a cure, as well as ways to prevent Alzheimer's and improve brain health.

10 Warning Signs

1

Memory loss affecting day-to-day abilities

Forgetting things often or struggling to retain new information.

2

Difficulty performing familiar tasks

Forgetting how to do something you've been doing your whole life, such as preparing a meal or getting dressed.

3

Problems with language

Forgetting words or substituting words that don't fit the context.

4

Disorientation in time and space

Not knowing what day of the week it is or getting lost in a familiar place.

5

Impaired judgment

Not recognizing a medical problem that needs attention or wearing light clothing on a cold day.

6

Problems with abstract thinking

Not understanding what numbers signify on a calculator, for example, or how they're used.

7

Misplacing things

Putting things in strange places, like an iron in the freezer or a wristwatch in the sugar bowl.

8

Changes in mood and behaviour

Exhibiting severe mood swings from being easy-going to quick-tempered.

9

Changes in personality

Behaving out of character such as feeling paranoid or threatened.

10

Loss of initiative

Losing interest in friends, family and favourite activities.

Visit www.alzheimer.ca for more details on warning signs.

Finding Out if it's Dementia

Several conditions can lead to symptoms of dementia, such as Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia. Signs of dementia are unique to each person, but some of the common symptoms include:

- Decline in memory, reasoning and communication skills
- Gradual loss of the skills needed to carry out daily activities
- Confusion

Some treatable conditions can produce symptoms similar to dementia, for example, vitamin deficiencies, thyroid disease, sleep disorders, alcohol abuse or depression. Similarly, other possible causes of confusion include poor sight or hearing. Because of this, it is important to arrange for a full medical assessment if you notice any changes in abilities or behaviours.

Sports

Hunter brothers win Canadian gold

Barry Wright
The Independent

Dale Hunter and Mark Hunter of Oil Springs have added to their hockey hardware with gold medals from the World Junior Hockey Championship.

The brothers received the honour after Canada roared back from a 3-1 deficit to beat Russia, 4-3 in the final in the Czech Republic Sunday. The win avenged a 6-0 setback to the Russia in the preliminary round.

Akil Thomas of the Niagara IceDogs took his place in Canadian junior hockey lore with the game-winning goal late in the third period. He used his speed to win a race to a loose puck and slipped the puck past the Russian goaltender for the golden moment.

After 20 years at the helm of the London Knights, Dale Hunter took full advantage of his first opportunity as head coach of the national junior squad.

“I am so proud of this group. The resiliency they showed throughout the tournament is a tribute to the quality young men they are,” said Hunter to the



Dale and Mark Hunter

Ontario Hockey League website after the triumph. “This group dealt with everything from injuries to illness to penalties, and they found a way. They bought into the system and gave everything they had for the team. We had a tremendous coaching staff and I was very proud to be a part of it.”

Mark Hunter was the general manager of the team, while former Sting Alan Letang was an assistant coach. Letang is the head coach of the Owen Sound Attack of the OHL.

Team Canada will defend its title at the 2021 World Junior affair this December in Edmonton and Red Deer, Alberta.

SILVER SLIDE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

It was a rough ride for the home team during Mooretown’s Juvenile Silver Stick. The Flags lost all three of their games including this one against the Cayuga Stars who topped Mooretown 6-1. West Niagara won the B Division championship. Ajax, Centre Hastings and New Hamburg claimed the other division titles.



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THE HEART OF THE CHAMPIONS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The East Lambton Eagles are the Earle Trevail Regional Silver Stick champions. The Eagles beat West Lorne 4-3 in overtime. West Lorne took a penalty with 1:41 left and the Eagles capitalized scoring the winner and claiming the C championship in Petrolia. During the celebration, one unidentified member of the team, reaches out to the West Lorne goalie to show appreciation for his play in the final.

Flyers win one-goal game

The Independent

The Petrolia Flyers hit double digits in the win column with a 3-2 win over Essex at the Greenwood Recreation Centre.

Keegan Watson's power play goal at 11:39 of the third period was the eventual game-winner Thursday. It was his first goal of the campaign.

Curtis Helps and Michael Vanek also scored for Petrolia.

Jakob Knowles blocked 21 shots for the goaltending victory.

A night later in Dresden, Knowles and his mates had a 1-0 lead very late in the third period only to have the Junior Kings score twice in 36 seconds to skate away with a 2-1 victory. Knowles made 32 saves in taking the tough loss.

Clay Dolbear was the lone

member of the Flyers to find the back of the net.

Petrolia is now 10-17-3 and in eighth place in the Stobbs Division, but only a point behind Dresden and Blenheim for sixth and only five points worse than Wheatley for fifth place.

The Flyers have all but clinched a playoff berth. They are 14 points better than last place Wallaceburg.

Although, the Thunderhawks have not been mathematically eliminated, they would all but need to run the table in its last eight games to knock Petrolia out of the postseason.

Petrolia is at home to division-leading Lakeshore Thursday and take on the Admirals in Amherstburg Sunday. Wallaceburg is hosting the Admirals in a PJHL Outdoor game this Saturday in Windsor.

More Silver Stick on tap

North American Silver Stick championships will be decided this weekend in North Lambton and Port Huron.

The East Lambton Eagles and Lambton Shores Predators are both competing in the Pee Wee C division at the Forest Finals, while the host Predators are the only local team in the Midget C portion at the tournament which sees games played in Forest, Thedford and Watford starting Friday.

Meantime, the Lambton Jr.

Sting Pee Wee and Bantam squads, with Central Lambton representation on both teams, are competing at the AAA tournament in Port Huron.

That event begins Thursday.

Several local teams are competing at the North American Final in Pelham.

East Lambton and Mooretown are both competing in the Atom-Squirt AE division, and the Petrolia Oilers are playing in the Midget House League division.

Squires silenced by Thunder

The Petrolia Squires have now lost three straight games and eight of his last nine contests following a 9-3 home ice loss to Tillsonburg.

The Squires have now lost five straight home games and are 5-13 overall in the senior hockey circuit this season. They play their final home game of the regular season this Friday against Milverton.

Petrolia's last three games of the regular season are on the road. Save for changes to the standings due to protests, the Squires have already been eliminated from playing in the "AA" playoffs. They are nine points behind eighth place Durham with just four games remaining.

The top eight teams in the 14-team league play for the AA trophy, while the bottom six teams compete for the A title. Petrolia and Milverton are tied for 11th place with ten points each.

did you have
a new addition
to the family
in 2019?

get ready to brag,
we will feature the
"Babies of 2019" in
our January 23rd issue.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD

Babies of 2019

Congratulations
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The Scottish Rite Club of Sarnia
invites you and yours to

Robbie Burns
NIGHT

Petrolia Legion Hall
Saturday, January 25²⁰²⁰
ROAST BEEF DINNER
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COCKTAILS 5:00 pm | DINNER 6:00 pm
Traditional Burns Supper Program
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Proceeds to support the Charitable Projects of
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Celebration



Please join us to celebrate

50th Anniversary

Mike & Sylvia
Edgar

Sunday January 12, 2020
Open House • 1-4pm
Wyoming Legion
493 Erie St. Wyoming

Wanted

Farmland - Younger Farm family looking for an opportunity to moderately expand cash crop acres by sharecrop, rent or lease. **Competitive Rates.** Please call Shawn at Font Farms **519-384-2855.**

For Rent

4670 CHURCHILL LINE - near Wyoming 3 bedroom house. Central air, additional charge for pets. Available Jan 1, 2020. **\$975/Month.** Grass & Snow Removal included. Cal 519-383-4404.

Notice

MEADOWVIEW VILLA AUXILIARY: **50/50 DRAW WINNER** of \$1,000 was Marsha Harris of Sarnia. Ticket Number 1857.

NOTICE

CAT OWNERS in the **CARDINAL CRESCENT AND SURROUNDING AREA.** Due to the number of nosiness cats straying onto my porch, any that are caught will be put in the control of the animal shelter. Any and all cost involved will be those of the owner. Ann Kelman.

For Sale

Fold-a-Cover fits GMC short box 2014-2018. **Weather Tech crew cab** floor mats front & back. Package price \$500. Can view Mon-Fri. 7am to 4:30 p.m. 280 Centre Street, Petrolia. Next door to Carquest.

Wanted

WANTED TO BUY - Old items - cameras, bottles, sealers, insulators, razors, pottery, toys, Coleman lanterns, sports items, comic books, jewelery, watches, license plates, early furniture, signs, advertising, pens, musical instruments, radios, Shelley china. **Call Chad Howlett 519-639-9102.**

Employment

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Valid Driver’s License

Be able to work days, evenings and weekends

DUTIES:

The main responsibility of the position is to operate the Warwick Community Arena and Hall.

The position maintains and operates all equipment at this facility. The position collects fees from patrons, deals with the general public and promotes the use of this facility.

Written resumes will be received until 12 noon on Monday, January 20, 2020
Resumes can be submitted by mail to Township of Warwick, 6332 Nauvoo Road, R.R. #8 Watford, Ontario N0M 2S0, by fax to (519) 849-6136, or by email to watfordarena@warwicktownship.ca

For further information on this position, please contact Amanda Gubbels,
CAO/Clerk, Township of Warwick

www.warwicktownship.ca



Celebration

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NEIL & JEAN ARMSTRONG

on your

60th

Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations Mom & Dad


Love from your family.





JANUARY 9, 1960

JANUARY 9, 2020



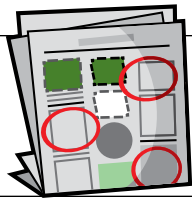
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Obituary



GUDZ
Sandra Emily

On **December 25, 2019** at Bluewater Health in Sarnia, Sandra Emily Gudz (nee Dodds) passed away peacefully in her sleep. Beloved wife to Ed for 50 years. Loving mother to Jonathan (Yuka) Gudz, Garret (Joanne Graham) Gudz, Amanda Pieraldi (nee Gudz). Proud grandma to Shogo and Kento, Micah and Camilo. Dear sister to Carole Nixon, Betty Low-Clarke and much loved daughter-in-law to "Nanee" Ollie Gudz. She will be fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews and cousins. Predeceased by her parents, Edward and Dorothy Dodds. Sandy was actively involved with St. Philip's Parish, and also volunteered much of her time with the Holy Rosary CWL. She was the past president of the Wyoming and District Soccer Club, initially joining because of her grandchildren's involvement. Sandy quietly and humbly championed everything she set her heart and mind to. She was a visual artist, a gardener, and consumer of great literature. But most of all, Sandy was one of Lambton County's most dedicated teachers with a passion for literacy, volunteering in her retirement right up until this past fall. "Your mother taught me to read" is something her children hear from strangers everywhere they go. So, if you grew up in Petrolia and you're reading this, Sandy Gudz says "You're Welcome". **Cremation has taken place. A Catholic Mass and a celebration of Sandy's life will take place in the spring of 2020.** In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society (www.cancer.ca) or the charity of your choice. Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com



In Memory

LUCK - In loving memory of Harry who passed away 20 years ago
January 8, 2000
Though his smile is gone forever, And his hand we cannot touch. Still we have so many memories, Of the one we loved so much. His memory is our keepsake, With which we'll never part. God has him in his keeping We have him in our hearts.
Missed by wife Nellie, Pam, Mark, Adam & Mandy Core

Obituary



SAUNDERS
Edward Daryl

At his home in Petrolia on **December 29, 2019**, Edward Daryl Saunders passed away at the age of **58**. Loving son to Joy Trapp and the late Russell Saunders (1984). Dear brother to Joanne Hoekstra. He will be remembered by his niece and nephews, Candace Hoekstra (Chris Ristau) and their children Rhett and Adeline, Russell Hoekstra and his son Cashius and Mitchell Hoekstra. Ed worked for Lanxess since he was 18 until his retirement a few years ago. He loved being outdoors, camping and biking and like every good Canadian, he loved playing and watching hockey. Cremation has taken place. **A private family service has taken place at Wyoming Cemetery.** As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation (www.heartandstroke.ca) or CMHA Lambton Kent (lambtonkent.cmha.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com

Obituary



MILLS
Robert "Bobby"

"Bobby" - Passed away at C.E.E. Hospital, Petrolia on **Friday, January 3, 2020**. MERVIN ROBERT "Bobby" MILLS Jr., of Petrolia, was in his **63rd year**. He was the son of the late Mervin and Coralie (nee Clements) Mills. He will be missed by his sister Beth (the late John) Kewley and his nieces and nephews Tom and Terri Kewley, Lillis and Mike Huybers, Marion and Rick Davis, and Stu and April Kewley and their families. **A private family interment will be held in Hillsdale Cemetery, Petrolia.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Diabetes Canada (www.diabetes.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com.

Obituary



CHARLTON
Cathryn Mary

Peacefully on **Friday, January 3, 2020**, Cathryn Mary (nee Ross) Charlton, passed away at C.E.E. Bluewater Health Petrolia at the age of **69**. Beloved wife of the late Michael Arthur Charlton who passed away in 2010. Cathy will be missed by her brother John Ross and his wife Sharon of New Hamburg, Ontario. Special aunt to Ian (Amy), Brian and Meghan (Eric). Great aunt to Alice, Hazel, August, Faye, Lucas and Sophia. Cathy had a love for nature especially horses, cats and birds. Special thanks to Dr. Butler and the palliative care team at the Petrolia Hospital. **Cremation has taken place and a private family interment of ashes will take place at a later date.** Memorial donations may be made to the Humane Society. Arrangements entrusted to the D. J. Robb Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, 102 N. Victoria St, Sarnia, ON, N7T 5W9. Memories, photos or messages of condolence may be shared at www.djrobb.on.ca

Obituary



SITZES
Kenneth Percy Lee

Kenneth Percy Lee - Age **81** passed away **Friday, December 20, 2019** at his home in Oil City. Beloved Husband of Barbara Sitzes for 54 years. Loving father of Brian (Cynthia), Kevin (Bonnie), Wanda (Randy) Peer. Grandfather of Austin, Kyle (Sarah Harkness), Courtney, Brayden, Carson. Survived brother of Norm (late Wilma) Sitzes and sister Lila (Ernie) Calhoun and in-laws Les (Debbie) Davis, Ken (Dot) Davis, Marguerite (Richard) White, Connie (late Lee) McDonald. Predeceased by parents Stan and Vinnie Sitzes and siblings Norma Sitzes, Elsie Harris, Olive Boyes and Leta Sitzes. Remembered by many nieces, nephews and cousins. Ken was a member of Lambton Shrine Club - Mocha and Motor Corp, a Past Master of Alexanda-Inwood Masonic Lodge No. 158. Sympathy may be expressed through donations to Shriners Hospitals for Children (cheques only) or St. Joseph's Hospice, Sarnia.

Obituary



PHAIR
John

John - Passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on **Sunday, January 5, 2020** at Bluewater Health, Sarnia. JOHN PHAIR, of Petrolia, was in his **71st year**. John is survived by his daughter Lisa and Mark Blayney and their son Mathew and his son David and Andrea Phair and their children Liam and Mackenzie. He will be missed by his brother Bill and Ann Phair, his sister Bonnie Reid, and nieces Allison Phair and Erin Lukasiewicz. John was an active member of his community serving on the councils of both the Town of Petrolia and Township of Enniskillen and was on the board of Lambton-Kent District School Board. John was a significant supporter of the PC party, running as a candidate in the 2000 federal election. He was also a member of numerous local organizations, including, Alexandra Lodge A.F. & A.M., Royal Canadian Legion Br. 216, and Dawn-Euphemia Historical Society. John was a freelance writer who was published in numerous publications on the topics of local agriculture, history, and current events. **Visitors will be received on Friday, January 10, 2020 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 4059 Petrolia Line, Petrolia where the funeral service will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Alexandra Lodge will conduct a service Friday at 6:30 p.m. A private interment will be held at Lakeview Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Masonic Foundation of Canada. Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com.

Card of Thanks

Kind Gesture in Wyoming - Special thanks to the stranger who paid for our lunch. My sister, her friend and I went to Bobbi's Restaurant at Christmas time. We all had a hamburger and a glass of water. We went to pay for it and Jessica said that it was already paid for by the man who just left. We were shocked, his kind and nice gesture will always be remembered. Thank you so much for your caring and giving ways. We really appreciate what you did for us!

Card of Thanks

Lambton Central Petrolia Optimist
Annual Angel Tree Committee
would like to say "Thank You" for your continued support of our Angel Tree.
Donations this year went to Petrolia Food Bank and the Community Life Centre.
Also a big THANK YOU to Broker Link Insurance in Petrolia for taking care of our tree.
You may view the list on our website
www.lcpetroliaoptimist.org
or on our Facebook Page
<http://www.facebook.com/lcpositimists>

Card of Thanks

The family of the late Ken Sitzes would like to extend a sincere thanks to family, friends and neighbours, for the food, cards, monetary donations, floral tributes, messages and visits.
To Dr. Butler and staff, ProResp, LHIN and VON, especially Amanda, Heather and Lance. To the Masons who attended the service and to Rev. Gord Simmons for the funeral service.
To Pallbearers Kyle, Brayden, Austin, Carson, Bruce and Dean and honorary Pallbearers, Wayne, Dick and Jim and Flower Bearers, Courtney and Sarah.
Thank you to the Oil Springs Church Ladies for providing lunch for us and thank you to Adam and Mark Steadman for all of their guidance at this difficult time.
Barb, Brian, Kevin, Wanda & Families

Card of Thanks

The family of the late Corrado "Ken" Paolucci wish to extend our sincere thanks for the many acts of kindness, floral arrangements, cards, messages, phone calls, food, condolences and memorial donations. We wish to thank Dr. Mather, staff of Lambton Meadowview Villa, C.E.E Hospital of Bluewater Health for their many years of excellent care of Ken.
Steve Mailloux and staff at Needham Jay, thank you for your compassion and guidance during this difficult time. in early spring we will have a Celebration of Ken's life for family and friends.
Glenda Paolucci and Family

Card of Thanks

Thank You
The family of the late Joyce Kelly would like to express our sincere appreciation for the kind expressions of condolence, food brought to our homes, floral tributes, and memorial donations. Thank you to everyone who attended visitation and the funeral mass, especially members of the Margaret Stokes Chapter of the IODE.
Thank you Dr. Wang and the nurses and staff of CEE Hospital for your compassionate and excellent care, and to Heidi McNabb, Lyndsay Cumming, and Courtney Hyatt for cheerfully assisting Mom in fulfilling her wish that she remain at home.
We would like to express our appreciation to all who organized and participated in the funeral mass, to the St. Philip's CWL for hosting the luncheon, and to Steven Mailloux and the staff of Needham-Jay Funeral Home for your kind assistance and guidance.
Mom would have been deeply touched by the outpouring of support, as are we.
The Kelly Family


Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words
Stop in at the office 9a-5p Mon-Fri
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Notice



PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING

The Town of Plympton-Wyoming is accepting applications from persons interested in serving on the **Property Standards Appeal Committee.**

Interested individuals are encouraged to submit an application form for the position which can be found on our website

www.plympton-Wyoming.ca
(under My Plympton-Wyoming / Volunteer)
or at the Municipal Office.

Applications are to be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 20th 2020.

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Answers to this week's

Sudoku

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2	6	8	3	9	7	4	5	1
1	5	3	4	2	8	6	7	9
6	4	9	8	1	3	5	2	7
3	1	5	7	6	2	9	8	4
8	2	7	5	4	9	3	1	6

Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

of events

Events are listed FREE for non-profit groups in Petrolia and Lambton County (space permitting).
To be included in this listing email the required information to office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca Subject: FREE EVENT LISTING.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Jan 10	12-6pm	Forest	Forest Legion Spaghetti Dinner supporting 2020 Silverstick \$10 per person	519-786-5357
Jan 10	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle/Catch the Ace	519-876-2360
Jan 10	7pm	Petrolia	St.Philips Parish Card Parties	519-882-4840
Jan 10	7:30pm	Sarnia	The Sarnia Rock & Fossil Club will be holding its monthly meeting at Twin Lakes Terrace Retirement Home.	519-869-2003
Jan 11	9am	Petrolia	The Lambton Outdoor Club is hiking at Lorne Henderson Conservation Area.	www.lambtonoutdoorclub.org
Jan 11	1pm	Petrolia	Euchre at St. Paul's United Church from 1-4pm \$5/person. Door prizes and light lunch.	
Jan 11	3-5pm	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle • Catch the Ace • 50/50	519-786-5357
Jan 11	3:30pm	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Meat Raffle in support of "On the Edge Synchro" with Catch the Ace at 6pm	519-898-2100
Jan 11	4-6pm	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion Meat Raffle. Everyone Welcome • 10 Meat Draws \$20 for 3 Chances at 10 Draws or \$2 per Draw	519-834-2537
Jan 13	7pm	Petrolia	Puzzlemania & Games Galore @ First Baptist Church. Puzzles, Mats & Games provided/bring your own. FREE.	519-882-2480
Jan 14	12Noon	Alvinston	Lambton Elderly Outreach Diners Club at the Alvinston Legion. \$10/person	
Jan 14	7pm	Sarnia	Bluewater Chordsmen Guest Nights at All Saints Anglican Church, corner of Charlotte & Vidal	226-402-3060
Jan 15	9:30am	Camlachie	Bible Study Group at the Camlachie United Church. No registration required. Discusses about The Book of James	519-899-4720
Jan 15	12Noon	Corunna	Lambton Elderly Outreach Diners Club at the at Wellings of Corunna (180 Bunker Ave). \$10/person	
Jan 15	1-4pm	Petrolia	Kenny J & Friends Musical Jumboree at the Petrolia Legion	519-882-1557
Jan 17	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle/Catch the Ace	519-876-2360
Jan 18	9am	Sarnia	The Lambton Outdoor Club is hiking at Perch Creek in Sarnia.	www.lambtonoutdoorclub.org
Jan 18	12Noon	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Pool Tournament.	519-898-2100
Jan 18	3-5p	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle • Catch the Ace • 50/50	519-786-5357
Jan 18		Watford	Watford Legion Annual Chicken Barbecue. \$15 per person. Tickets Available at the Legion Lounge	519-876-2360
Jan 21	7pm	Sarnia	Bluewater Chordsmen Guest Nights at All Saints Anglican Church, corner of Charlotte & Vidal	226-402-3060
Jan 22	2-4p	Sarnia	Parkinson's Support Group at Clearwater Arena Topic: "Staying Safe"	519-337-5330
Jan 24	12-6pm	Forest	Forest Legion Spaghetti Dinner supporting 2020 Silverstick \$10 per person	519-786-5357
Jan 24	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle/Catch the Ace	519-876-2360
Jan 24	7pm	Petrolia	St.Philips Parish Card Parties	519-882-4840
Jan 25	3-5p	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle • Catch the Ace • 50/50	519-786-5357
Jan 25	3:30pm	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Meat Raffle in Support of Brooke Central Snack Program with Catch the Ace at 6pm	519-898-2100
Jan 25	4-6pm	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion Meat Raffle. Everyone Welcome • 10 Meat Draws \$20 for 3 Chances at 10 Draws or \$2 per Draw	519-834-2537
Jan 25	7pm	Petrolia	Oral Heath Care with Inuit People at First Baptist Church. Speaker: Cheryl Sinclair. Free. Light Refreshments.	519-882-2480

Church

DIRECTORY



Christ Church Anglican

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

Service at 11am

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Rev. Michelle Collins-Wongkee

Church Office 519-882-1430

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St. Paul's United Church

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Rev. Susan Cameron

10:30am Service

Nursery • Sunday School

Church Office: 519-882-1390

stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net



First Baptist Church

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

10:30 am Church Service

Pastor: Alex Craig

Church Office 519-882-2480

email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com

www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

Find us on Facebook!

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St. Andrew's Prebyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

10:00 am - Worship

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Community Corner

COMMUNITY DONATION



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Four groups received grants from the Petrolia Community Foundation during the Town of Petrolia’s New Year’s Levee. Wayne MacFarlane and Jane Anema of the Petrolia Community Foundation presented \$500 to New Life Church’s Life Centre to buy winter coats, \$1,500 to the Central Lambton Family Health Team to run nutrition and cooking programs, \$1,000 to the Petrolia Y to buy life jackets and items for the aquafit programs and \$1,000 to Shoppe Like Charlotte to help publicize the group’s 10th anniversary.

THIRTY YEARS SERVICE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Brooke-Alvinston Mayor Dave Ferguson congratulates Public Works Manager Randy Hills on his 30th anniversary working for the municipality.

SILVER SCHOLAR

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Josey Marks was given the Rev. Canon George Menzies Memorial Scholarship during Petrolia Silver Stick. Marks is attending Western in general sciences. Marks was given the award by Anne Jacques - Menzie’s daughter - and David Hewett the co-sponsor of the award.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Petrolia North Enniskillen Fire Chief Jay Arns and Deputy Chief Brian Clark accepted a \$1,500 donation from Enbridge Gas. The company donates to fire departments along its pipeline corridor.

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Charlotte's Corner

Addiction Services Program & Withdrawal Management Services Satellite Clinic

In collaboration with Bluewater Health’s Addiction Services program and Withdrawal Management Services, Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital (CEEH) of Bluewater Health began a satellite clinic office for those services in late 2019.

The clinic is located in the Emergency Department on the first floor of the Petrolia hospital and is available on Mondays from 9:00 am to noon.

The new outreach clinic is available to individuals with substance use concerns (any substance). Services include one-on-one support, assessment and referral, and distribution of safe use supplies.

“Our mandate is to serve people aged 16 and older, however we will see individuals younger than 16,” said Donna Morreau, Professional Practice Supervisor & Interim Addiction Services Manager, Bluewater Health. “Our team can provide information to anyone about substance use and options for support at Bluewater Health and in the community. They are also able to consult with hospital staff in Petrolia, both in the Emergency Department and inpatient units, who have questions/concerns or would like to be supported in conversations they are having with patients about substance use.”

Family support and gambling addiction counselling is also offered by the Addiction Services team in Sarnia, and Withdrawal Management staff on site at CEEH can provide information about those services, as well as referrals for any mental health issues.

If you or someone you know would like to book an appointment, please call 519-464-4400 (extension 5370) or the HOPE line at 519-332-4673. In addition to scheduled appointments, the clinic will also see patients on a walk-in basis and/or inpatients as needed during the clinic days/hours listed above. Please check in with Patient Registration in the Emergency Department when you arrive at the Petrolia hospital.

If you have questions about CEEH of Bluewater Health, please reach out to us at communications@bluewaterhealth.ca