

Council behind chief in exit of eight Wyoming firefighters

Heather Wright
The Independent

Wyoming residents waiting for answers on the departure of eight firefighters won't be getting any.

Plympton-Wyoming council - in a news released issued after two private meetings about the dismissal of three senior firefighters and the resignation and retirement of now five others in protest - says its fire department is strong. But it says nothing about the circumstances which led to the departure of now eight members of the Wyoming station.

On Feb. 11, The district chief, lieutenant and a 26 year-veteran firefighter were dismissed by Plympton-Wyoming Chief Steve Clemens. Clemens said a private human resources firm had been hired in December to start an investigation. That probe led to another investigation. Clemens says he reviewed both investigations and then let the members of the fire service go.

Clemens wouldn't say what the specific issue was, but did say the investigation centered on issues concerning the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Multiple sources have told The Independent the firefighters were given no specific reason for their dismissal.

A day later, four other firefighters criticized the move and announced their resignations and retirements. Last week, another long-time firefighter retire in protest.

All the firefighters involved have declined comment at this time.

On Friday, just before the municipal office closed, the town issued an unsigned news release.

"Mayor (Lonny) Napper and council are confident in the abilities of the fire department, fire chief and chief administrative officer," reads the news release.

SEE NAPPER PG 2

IN THE PROVINCIAL SPOTLIGHT



DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

Brooke Sinclair, seen here through the lense of a camera, was ready for her close up as a film crew came to LCCVI recently to interview the Grade 12 student who won the prestigious Marion Drysdale Award from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. Sinclair submitted a poem she wrote about Indigenous singer Buffy Sainte-Marie. It was a school assignment where students had to find someone who inspired them and write a poem. Sinclair says at the time Saint-Marie was singing and politically active "it was not common for women to have that kind of a voice or for an indigenous person to have a voice...She brought out issues people needed to talk about that weren't being talked about then," says Sinclair. The teen, who is considering a career in the sciences, says she's not normally good at writing. "I find I work better if I'm kind of passionate or inspired. I thought this was something other people should know about." Sinclair's story will be shared at the OSSTF convention in Toronto in March. She'll be on hand to accept the \$1,000 scholarship.

Armstrong suggests Inwood fire hall not needed

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston Councillor Jamie Armstrong says the municipality may not need an Inwood fire station.

He made the comments during a Feb. 12 budget meeting but was not available for comment Tuesday. According to the min-

utes, the councillor expressed concern about the possible tax increase and suggested "the removal of the fire service from Inwood."

All the other councillors spoke against the move, as did Mayor Dave Ferguson and the fire chief who said he was concerned about removing the fire service from Inwood and what impact it would have on a service agreement with Dawn-Euphemia.

The municipality has budgeted \$165,000 in capital costs for the Inwood department.

The town doesn't have a hall since it couldn't reach a lease agreement with the Inwood Firemen's Association last year. A new building is expected to cost about \$200,000 but the cost will be offset by the sale of the rescue truck.

SEE INWOOD PG 2

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DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

Plympton-Wyoming firefighters on the scene of a fire on Eleanor St. off Lakeshore Road in the Highland Glen area. The chair of the fire board says the response proves the fire department is strong despite losing eight firefighters in the last two weeks.

Napper: “no doubt” Wyoming safe

CON’T FROM PG 1

The released confirms there were two, third-party investigations at the Wyoming station as well as an Internal Fire Department Review.

The release says both council and staff saw the investigations reports and “the municipality has since made staffing changes and, as per municipal policy, cannot comment publicly on personal (sic) human resources issue of staff, past or present.

“We have and will continue to take the safety and security of all staff in our town extremely seriously,” Chief Administrative Officer Carolyn Tripp is quoted as saying in the news release provided by the

municipality.

There have been three recent protests outside of town hall of between a dozen and 45 people asking for an explanation of the dismissals of the three senior firefighters.

One of the organizers, Conner Weed, expects the council chamber will be filled with people seeking answers at its next meeting March 2.

Former fire chief Mike Vasey also has voiced concerns about the experience which has left the department and what burden that lays on the firefighters who are left.

Plympton-Wyoming, according to the news release has 53 qualified firefighters available for calls.

“I’ve been an elected official in this community for 32 years and when it comes to my confidence in our fire department’s fire safety and preparedness, I’m sleeping just fine at night.

“Our community is safe, there is no doubt in my mind,” Napper is quoted as saying.

Councillor Bob Woolvett, the chair of the fire board, echoes Napper.

“Just yesterday (Feb. 20), there was a large structure fire in the Highland Glen area and our team responded with more than 33 firefighters to battle the blaze,” Woolvett says in the release.

He adds there was at the same time, a team ready to receive calls in Wyoming.”

Inwood will have station, but smaller

CON’T FROM PG 1

Ferguson says council was surprised by the suggestion considering Armstrong had wanted council to sign a five-year lease agreement for the former Inwood hall a few months ago.

And Ferguson says the rest of council believe there is a need for an Inwood station.

“We need a presence in Inwood, we need a new building,” says Ferguson.

But the mayor admits Inwood won’t have the same fire presence as 2019. “We’re looking at how can we reconfigure (Inwood) to have costs savings. What do we really need there and have some cost savings. I’m not a fire chief, but

we would like to keep a presence in Inwood; it will not be as large as it was before.”

Just before the new year, the equipment at the Inwood fire hall was removed when the town and the association failed to reach an agreement. Ferguson say the trucks and gear is being stored in the Alvinston area. “There is no equipment to respond with in Inwood,” he says adding the Brooke Fire Rescue “can be there in very adequate response times.”

But he doesn’t want that to become a permanent thing. “If I’m sitting in Inwood and nothing happens, great. But if I’m sitting in Inwood and there is a medical

distress call, what then? It’s always that one time. You have to balance that with the costs and what sort of people (firefighters) we have.”

Brooke-Alvinston has set aside \$200,000 for a hall which is expected to be an addition to the Inwood Library. Some of the costs will be offset by selling the rescue truck which was purchased about five years ago. The 2020 budget shows the department expects to sell it for about \$50,000.

Ferguson says there will be no fire equipment in Inwood for the foreseeable future, saying it may be 2021 before construction begins on an Inwood fire hall.



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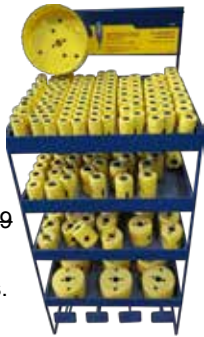
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LAMBTON EMS PHOTO

There is little information about an accident on Kimball Road north of Petrolia Line Saturday before 7 am. Lambton OPP found a car resting on its side in the ditch. St. Clair Fire was called in to remove the driver and the province’s emergency helicopter service - Air ORNGE - came to the scene to take the driver to hospital with what police termed non-life threatening injuries. Police have not released any more information about the crash.

Dawn-Euphemia not ready to ban biosolids

Nicole Vanrabaeyns
The Independent

Residents hoping to stop the use of human biosolid fertilizer in Dawn-Euphemia don’t seem to be getting a lot of support for their cause.

Municipal councillors instead say they are doing their best with the township’s bylaws to get rid of a pile of the fertilizer on Hale School Road.

Officials first started receiving complaints in early February as Lasalle Agri started bringing in the fine pellets and piling it on a piece of land farmed by Roger Buurma. Buurma’s brother, David, operates Lasalle Agri.

Eight formal complaints have been sent to the municipality since the company began bringing the product in.

Dawn-Euphemia Council on Feb. 3, ordered staff to write to the company to give it until March 20 to remove the pile. According to township bylaws, farmers can only stockpile the amount of fertilizer which would be used on the farm.

Feb. 18, residents packed the Dawn-Euphemia council chambers to voice concerns not only about the pile of fertilizer but the use of the biosolid based product in the community.

Clerk Donna Clermont told the standing room only crowd the township has eight official complaints but neither the Ministry of the Environment nor the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has any rules to govern the fertilizer.

“It is sad our own means of enforcement is our own bylaw.” Clermont says the biosolid fertilizer has been approved for use in the province by and is regulated by both the federal and provincial government, however they have no specific regulations about the storage of the fertilizer.

Brad Goodreau is representing a group



FILE PHOTO

Biosolids being stored on Hale School Road.

of concerned residents. He told council, “I love capitalism, the law, farming, and my neighbours.” He found in his research it is not a safe product and it is all in the labelling.

“We are not comfortable taking it from Michigan and putting it in our own back yards.”

Clermont says there are no laws which would stop the movement of the product from Michigan to Dawn-Euphemia.


Mayor Al Broad - who works in the agriculture industry - says he doesn’t have a problem with using it, but stock piling to this extent is not okay.

“When the federal and provincial ministry say it is not a problem, it is hard for council to stop you,” says Broad.

The mayor is concerned about the potential for the product to run off into nearby Longs Creek. Only half of the fertilizer pile is covered and it sits at the top of a slope which leads to the creek. Broad has said that could be a problem as the spring rains begin.



However, the St. Clair Conservation Authority hasn’t expressed concern about it. “The obvious is sitting in front of them and they don’t want to touch it,” he says.


Broad hopes that by taking the route of enforcing local zoning bylaws, as nearby Warwick Township did last year, Dawn-Euphemia will be able to get Lasalle Agri to remove the pile soon.



This Month In Lambton

February 2020



Warden Bill Weber
@LambtonWarden

Keeping Immunizations Up-To-Date

Lambton Public Health has mailed suspension orders to students whose immunization records are still not up-to-date with the health unit. The deadline to update immunization records is March 2, 2020.

Reporting your child’s immunizations only takes a few minutes using one of the following options:

- Online: lambtonpublichealth.ca
- Email: immunization@county-lambton.on.ca
- Phone: 519-383-8331 ext. 3594 or 1-800-667-1839
- Drop off: 160 Exmouth St., Point Edward (Front and Exmouth streets)

If your child is in need of an immunization you can contact your health care provider or attend one of Lambton Public Health’s Immunization Clinics on February 28 or March 2 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Lambton Public Health, 160 Exmouth Street, Point Edward.

For more information contact Lambton Public Health at 519-383-8331 ext. 3594.

2020 Household Hazardous Waste Day Events

Bring your household derived hazardous waste to one of the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Day events and it will be disposed of by experts, at no cost to you!

Household Hazardous Waste Day events will be held at Clean Harbors Canada, 4090 Telfer Road, St. Clair Township from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday March 28, April 25, May 30, June 27, September 28 and October 31.

For more information visit lambtononline.ca or call 519-845-0801.

One Book Lambton

Lambton County is coming together to celebrate Canadian authors and their storytelling through One Book Lambton.

On Oct. 25, 2019, One Book Lambton announced its title selection for the 2019-2020 year: *The Reason You Walk* by Wab Kinew.

Visit your local library today to borrow *The Reason You Walk*, or borrow an e-book or e-audiobook with your library card using the CloudLibrary app or the Libby app.


One Book Lambton will host various programs and events throughout Lambton County to explore the themes of *The Reason You Walk*. For a full list of One Book Lambton programs and events, visit onebooklambton.ca.

March Break at Lambton Heritage Museum


From March 16 to 20, children will have an opportunity to use tech gadgets at the Museum from the Lambton County Library MakerSpace program. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. daily, school-aged children can create their own buttons or magnets using the button maker and learn to program an Ozobot, a pocket-sized robot!

In addition to the special March Break programming, Museum visitors will be able to explore the tundra swan migration exhibit. Mid-March is usually a good time to spot tundra swans; you can visit returnoftheswans.com for daily migration updates.

To read more, go to www.lambtononline.ca



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Editorial

Wyoming deserves answers

It is not really a surprise that Plympton-Wyoming’s leaders are releasing no information about the dismissal of three senior firefighters in Wyoming. It falls handily under the heading of human resources and can be kept - legally - from the public eye.

On Feb. 11, three senior leaders in the Wyoming department were dismissed. Multiple sources have told *The Independent* a formal reason was not given.

The dismissal led to another five senior firefighters resigning or retiring. They questioned the move.

All this has created concern in the community - enough concern for up to 45 people to take up the cause and picket in front of town hall. That’s something we would wager has never happened before.

The public concerns range from what impact the departure of eight firefighters with extensive experience has on the local hall, and whether the investigation into the incident was fair.

A news release issued by someone at town hall confirms there were investigations, but doesn’t say who conducted them and if they were under the Occupational Health and Safety Act as the chief has said.

In the same news release, council declared its strong support for the department and said it is more than able to handle what comes its way.

There can be no doubt the departure of 13 per cent of any organization at one time will have an impact. Council should admit that but have a plan for the public which includes how and when new people will be recruited and trained and when a new district chief will come on board to lead the process. So far, no one is saying that.

And, while what led to the dismissals of the firefighters can only be revealed by the firefighters, who conducted the investigations, what it cost is legally allowed to be released - just ask the Town of Petrolia.

The news release issued by the town was a poor attempt to shut down public concern. It’s disappointing town officials - included elected politicians who were contacted by *The Independent* - choose not to speak on the matter at all.

Wyoming residents deserve more than that on an issue that is this important.

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



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POST CARD COLLECTION

A photo of the old Masonic Temple in Oil Springs. It was built in 1855 and according to this photo, was remodelled in 1906. It stood until the 1990s at the corner of Oil Springs Line and Elizabeth Streets. The new Mason Hall was built on Victoria Road, just a stones throw away.

Parents need to get involved in education labour problems

For months now, the provincial government and the unions representing teachers and educational workers across the province have been at odds.

The teachers’ unions say they’re standing up for the rights of children in the classroom. They’re widely opposed to larger class sizes, cuts to special education, a decreasing number of educational assistants available for kids who need them. They’re also opposed to making high school students take courses on line saying some students are not able to learn in that environment. It would also spell an end to about 10,000 teaching jobs.

The government says the union is simply looking for more money. The Conservatives imposed a one-per cent pay cap on all provincial employees, including teachers. The unions are looking for a 1.9 per cent (inflation

rate) increase.

They’ve also gone to court saying the imposed wage increase is against their collective bargaining rights.

There has been all kinds of rhetoric about the issue and a number of false claims have been made by the government.

Both sides say parents are behind their position. Several polls show that the government doesn’t seem to be winning any friends taking on the teachers with support favouring the teachers unions.

And while there have been polls, there hasn’t been a huge outcry from parents about the impasse. Some have written personal notes of support, but when you peruse social media, the biggest parental reaction seems to be one of confusion as to when their children will be out of class because of a rotating strike.

Both sides seem to be at an impasse

and we believe it is the voices of parents which will get the two sides moving toward a settlement.

Talk to your child’s teacher and your local MPP to find out where they stand. Understand what is really going on in the classrooms from both points of view.

Then, decide what you want your kid’s education to look like. And tell both the teachers and the government. Maybe then they can work together to find a resolution to this education uncertainty.



Heather Wright



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Opinion

Wyoming residents wants fire department answers

EDITOR:
Firefighters possess a multitude of qualities designed to capture the public’s trust while contending with the dangers and extremely demanding nature of their work.
We can consider ourselves very fortunate when our elected officials exhibit a fraction of the same qualities as our firefighters.
In the wake of the recent staff departures, the Feb. 21 media release by His Worship Mayor Napper, town council, and CAO Carolyn Tripp, I suppose, was to comfort town residents that they are safe as much as it was telling onlookers to move on. It worked up images for me of Lieutenant Frank Drebin yelling “nothing to see here” as the background erupted into explosive panic.
The main purpose of a media release is to promote something significant and specific, and to do so clearly.
CAO Carolyn Tripp is quoted, “we will continue to take the safety and security of all staff in our town extremely seriously.” So seriously, that their media release wants the reader to understand it was a several months long independent investigation by a third party.
However, for me that’s where it is less clear.
In a Feb. 13, published news article, Chief Clemens told *The Independent*, the Occupational Health and Safety Act investigation was conducted by a private human resources firm. The two are not the same and town policy allows for both. Which is it? Who

conducted the investigation? Why does it matter?
It matters because the Occupational Health and Safety Act attempts to strike a balance of fairness for victims and the accused violators by the mandating of proper investigations, that must be objective, conducted by a competent investigator, not directly involved in the complaint.
Likewise, the person overseeing the investigation and the results, must not be directly involved in the incident or complaint.
The investigator must thoroughly interview both the victim and the accused. The accused must be given the opportunity to respond to the specific allegations and both victims and accused must be provided with the written results of the investigation.
Hypothetically, the boss can’t simultaneously be a victim or an accused, and oversee an investigation.
Was it a competent investigation? Were the accused interviewed? Did the accused have an opportunity to respond to the specific allegations? Did the dismissed firefighters get a copy of the written results of the investigation?
With two closed (to the public) council meetings last week, council emerged also confidently declaring their trust in Chief Clemens and Carolyn Tripp with the media release. Council’s trust had better be based on a thorough understanding of, and compliance with proper investigations and safe workplaces under Occupational Health and Safety rules as the rules apply equally to mayor and

council.
These duties of fairness are to ensure that bad employers are not weaponizing the Occupational Health and Safety Act by fabricating a convenient way of terminating employees.
At the moment, the ambiguity on whether the investigation was conducted by a human resources firm or an independent third party is troubling.
I acknowledge it is completely appropriate for an employer to reserve comments on the specifics of human resource matters but the question, who conducted the investigation(s) and its costs, seems to fall into the category of the public’s right to know.
Furthermore, I challenge town councillors to prove just how seriously they take their Health and Safety obligations so claimed in their media release.
It’s not too late to demonstrate a fraction of those aforementioned qualities by ensuring the investigation meets the legal standard. Town policy allows for it because the law requires it.
My sense is that all these details will eventually be understood. Only then, will residents get to decide whether or not town council’s judgement is worthy of our continued confidence.
A confidence shaken and not shared by the many firefighters who have already voiced this by their resignations.

Kim Searson
Wyoming, ON

We make the same mistakes over again to our peril

EDITOR:
“Where have all the flowers gone?”
If you’re old enough, you’ll know this song doesn’t end well.
It rather descends into a spiral of increasingly dire responses, until we arrive back at the beginning and make the same mistakes all over again.
The same could be said for how we as a society are carrying on. Getting more now is our universal MO, and pretending anything is more important is attacked as living in a fool’s paradise.
Only a fool, after all, would tell a gas company employee they’d be better off with a field or forest than a new pipeline.
With quality of life long since abandoned as an unattainable fancy,

we are left with metrics like cars, houses and swimming pools to calibrate the quantity of our success.
Even as the CEOs of fossil fuel companies quietly plead for carbon taxes and increased regulation – seeing a level playing field as the only way forward in a global market – their workers and hopefuls decry these measures as an existential threat to the “good life” they feel they are owed.
In our own community, it is truly remarkable to see how quickly politicians who campaigned to make things right are reverting back to the same old same old.
Swearing to uphold transparency, they close the book on discussion long before the most salient facts can be discovered. By you and me at least.

Who needs to know what shenanigans the town’s former top bureaucrat engaged in when he’s been paid to go away?
Who needs sidewalks if they will increase costs to the Holy Developers, even if the cost is less than a percentage point and will be entirely absorbed by the purchaser?
And who cares about trees when your name is Country View?
The name of the game, after all, is money and so long as it changes hands we can all breathe easy. Until we can’t, that is.
“Oh, when will they ever learn?”

Brenda Cummings
Oil Springs, ON

Irony that Country View Estates may lose a piece of the country

EDITOR:
The “Tree Saving Plan” (described in the article in *The Independent* “Petrolia removes condition to save trees” Feb. 20, 2020) may look good on paper, but its purpose is defeated if Petrolia town council can override it for every

developer who comes crying the blues.
Thankfully, Lambton County still requires that an environmental impact study be done before any trees are cut down. Indeed, there would be a devastating impact on the birds, animals and plants that call the

woodlot their home.
“Countryview” Estates – a truly ironic name for a subdivision that may lose a precious piece of nature in its backyard.

Karen Carter
Petrolia, ON

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HELP ON HIGH



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Firefighters from the Petrolia/North Enniskillen fire department were using their skills as firefighters and handymen Feb. 18. The department worked with town officials to place a film over the glass on the Rose Windows in the clock tower at Victoria Hall. The work took about two days with firefighters using the new aerial ladder to reach the windows.

Elementary teachers to hold info pickets

The Independent

You may be seeing elementary school teachers out on the picket line more often, but students won’t be getting any time off because of it.

The Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario is changing its job action, urging teachers to set up 20 minute information pickets each day instead of closing down schools.

Friday, students across the province were out of class as all four of the major teaching unions in the province walked out to back contract demands in the long-standing dispute with the provincial government.

About two million students were left at home for the day as the teachers’ unions marched on Queen’s Park and set up protests in front of local schools and board offices.

The provincial government maintains the job actions are hurting kids and are motivated by money.

The Conservative government is mandating a one-per cent public sector pay increase, which includes the teachers. The unions of all the major teachers unions have taken the province to court over the move saying it violates their right to collective bargaining.

Elementary teachers walking the picket line Friday say they have already lost two per cent of their yearly pay trying to convince the province not to increase class sizes, cut special education, decrease the number of educational assistants in the classrooms and require two online courses for high school students to graduate.

On Monday Union leadership called for the province to return to the bargaining table. There haven’t been talks with public elementary teachers since Jan. 17.

ETFO president, Sam Hammond, announced public elementary teachers would stage information pickets for 20 minutes a day and focus on political action. Teachers will follow their agreed to scheduled activities, but not fill in if an



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Elementary and secondary teachers were on picket duty together at the Lambton-Kent District School Board office in Sarnia Friday as the entire school system in Ontario was shutdown by a one-day strike.

occasional teacher isn’t available to take a class.

“ETFO members will not be using their personal funds to pay for classroom and education-related expenses.”

The union head says teachers often buy supplies like books, paper, technology and furniture, out of their own pocket because school boards don’t provide the money.

“These are items that should be covered by the Ministry of Education and school boards, but aren’t.

“Hammond says the teachers will be encouraged to contact their local MPP and write letters to highlight some of their classroom concerns.

And, he says, if a new contract isn’t reached in two weeks, the strike will escalate. Hammond wouldn’t rule out a full-scale strike.

The province negotiated with English Catholic teachers Monday. Those talks broke off without a deal. The union says it will wait to see if a mediator believes there is a chance of reaching a deal.

FARM FOR SALE BY TENDER

PARCEL ONE:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: West one-half of Lot 25, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Dawn, County of Lambton

OWNER: Ivan Borden Evans

ACREAGE: 103 acres more or less

PROPERTY: This property is vacant, with a 15 acre wood lot, and has frontage on a paved road with access to municipal water and natural gas.

LEASE/EASEMENTS: The title to this property is subject to a natural gas storage agreement in favour of Enbridge Gas, together with related easements, which generates annual income in the amount of \$8,000.00.

LOCATION: The premises are situate on the east side of Cuthbert Road, along the south limit of Bentpath Line, and will be identified by signage on the property.

PARCEL TWO:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: East one-half of Lot 25, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Dawn, County of Lambton

OWNER: Ivan Borden Evans

ACREAGE: 103 acres more or less

PROPERTY: This property is vacant, has frontage on a paved road with access to municipal water and natural gas, and is well tiled.

EASEMENTS: The title to this property is subject to pipeline easements in favour of Enbridge Gas and Lagasco Inc.

LOCATION: The premises are situate on the west side of Robinson Road, along the south limit of Bentpath Line, and will be identified by signage on the property.

TERMS OF TENDER:

Sealed tenders, which need only identify the parcel for which the tender is being submitted, the tendered price and contact information, will be received by the undersigned until 4:30 p.m. on March 20, 2020, with the highest, or any, tender, not necessarily accepted. No deposit is required with the tender, but the successful tenderer will be required to enter into an agreement of purchase and sale without conditions, except as to title, by March 27, 2020, and submit a deposit of \$10,000.00 at that time. Transaction to close on or before April 24, 2020, with vacant possession on that date. The properties are being sold in all respects in an “as is” condition.

Interested parties may contact the undersigned to obtain any further information.

IVAN BORDEN EVANS
c/o JAY A. JOHNSON, SOLICITOR
TAYLOR DELRUE
40 QUEEN STREET SOUTH, P.O. BOX 459
TILBURY ON N0P 2L0
TELEPHONE NO. 519-682-0164

Lambton county taxes could rise 3.42 per cent

Heather Wright
The Independent

Taxpayers in Lambton are facing a 3.42 per cent county tax increase. County Treasurer Larry Palarchio introduced the \$220.7 million document Feb. 19 to county councillors. That’s a \$3.5 million increase in total spending over 2019. Palarchio says one of the biggest pressures facing the county is downloading from the provincial government. The public health unit’s budget alone increased over \$907,000 just because of the changes the province made to the funding of some programs. Warden Bill Weber says the county must pay 30 per cent of the costs of mandatory programs which used to be paid in full by the province. Palarchio says “1.37 per cent of this increase is strictly due to provincial government downloading.” “The provincial downloading that has taken place in recent months will have a significant impact on this year’s budget deliberations,” said Lambton County Warden Bill Weber in a news

release. “The draft budget presented to County Council shows commitment to maintaining core programs, services and investments in infrastructure, while carefully working to balance the changes being felt by communities across the province.” Palarchio says staff was able to limit spending to a 1.3 per cent increase. “Our costs are lower than inflation,” he told county councillors. And he says the county is getting a little extra revenue. Because property values are increasing and new homes are being built, Lambton has seen its biggest increase in assessment growth in five years. Palarchio says that will amount to almost \$800,000 in new money. The county has steadily been increasing the cash it puts into reserves to be used later. In 2019, it socked away an extra \$4 million to help repair the aging infrastructure in the county. The 2020 budget calls for \$12.1 million to be placed in reserves, but another \$11.7 million will be taken out to pay for much needed capital

projects. Palarchio says the county is quickly facing a cash crunch to pay for aging roads, bridges, public housing and public buildings. In a report to councillors, the treasurer says Lambton will need another \$2.8 million to \$6 million in the “short to mid-term future.” That would mean a “significant tax increase” between 3.5 and 7.5 per cent. Councillors meet March 4 to discuss the budget and there is the potential that 3.42 per cent tax increase will go up. Bluewater Health is asking for \$1 million in funding for each of the next 10 years. Petrolia is looking for \$200,000 a year for the next five year to help fund a planned \$9.2 million renovation of Victoria Hall. And Forest’s Kineto Theatre is looking for \$75,000 from the county for its accessibility and refurbishment project. If councillors approve all the requests, it would add another \$1.25 million to the budget, increasing taxes by another 1.3 per cent.

High Park adding new drying facility, parking in Enniskillen

The Independent

High Park Farms is building a new drying shed at its Lasalle Road facility. The cannabis producer Tilray set up shop in the greenhouse facility in 2018. Most of the renovations to turn the former pepper facility into a cannabis operation have been inside the building. But High Park recently obtained a building permit for a new drying facility which will be built at the back of the existing 13 acres of greenhouses. Duncan McTavish, clerk of En-

niskillen, says the building is valued at over \$2.3 million. The renovations underway now will also include a 230 spot parking lot behind the facility and a new holding pond. High Park is also hoping to add a production line for cannabis edibles including candy and chocolates in Enniskillen. It’s appealing a decision by township council which blocked the production in the agriculture zoning. The majority of councillors felt the edible production was a commercial use. The com-

pany argues it is a natural extension of the agricultural use of the property and an allowable. A hearing at the Local Planning Advisory Tribunal is expected this year. Meantime, neighbour Trevor Brand is asking the township to consider passing a noise bylaw. Brand says with the constant traffic and use of air conditioners, the facility has become more like an industry and a noise bylaw would help limit the constant noise. McTavish expects to have a report for the next council meeting on the issue.

Five per cent tax increase proposed

The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston councillors are hoping to reduce a proposed five per cent tax increase, but the mayor says it won’t be easy. Treasurer Steve Ikert introduced the \$4.46 million operating and the \$1.98 million capital budget in January and a public meeting on the budget was held Feb. 12. So far, no significant changes have been made. Mayor Dave Ferguson says the municipality faces a tough job. It lost another \$94,000 in provincial funding

this year. That accounts for 3.33 per cent of the five per cent increase. There are also hikes in insurance rates, the OPP contract and the levy for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. “Anything you add on for the cost of living (price increases), it ends up in the five per cent range,” he says. Ferguson says council will continue looking at the budget for a couple more weeks, hoping to find some savings. “We’re not looking at doing a lot of big things; we don’t have a lot of fat to cut,” says Ferguson.

Petrolia, WM looking for green projects

Petrolia and Waste Management are looking for ideas which will improve the environment. The company is putting up at least \$15,000 in grants for ideas which will lead to the reduction of waste in the community in the Green Leader Program. The ideas have to reduce greenhouse gases in the community or make Petrolia a safe and sustainable place to live. Ideas have to be submitted by April 3 with the winner announced April 20 - Earth Day.

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THE PETROLIA & NORTH ENNISKILLEN FIRE DEPARTMENT
IS CURRENTLY RECRUITING FOR

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & SUPPORT OPERATIONS RESPONSE TEAM MEMBERS

Volunteering with the Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Department is both challenging and rewarding. It will require a very high level of dedicated service to the community and a willingness to always help others.

GENERAL OUTLINE:
Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment

This position will require that you respond to all emergencies when called upon. Specifically, you will respond to the following: all hazards, fire emergencies, technical rescue including high angle, structural collapse, confined space, machinery, water, hazardous materials, medical emergencies to provide emergency patient care and assistance, motor vehicle emergencies, other specialized emergencies and calls for public assistance. In addition you will be required to assist and provide public safety education, fire inspections, develop pre-fire emergency plans, engage in training activities on a regular basis and maintain fire apparatus, equipment, and stations.

Support Operations Response Team Recruitment

This position will require that you respond to emergency incidents in a support capacity for Petrolia North Enniskillen Fire Department Firefighters mitigating an emergency incident. Responsibilities will include operating an on-scene rehabilitation sector including medical monitoring for all persons on the emergency incident, set-up and provide shelter from weather, SCBA cylinder changes, establish decontamination sector. This position also closely ties in with the Emergency Management Plan for the Town of Petrolia requiring significant support and operations for many aspects of emergency management. Other responsibilities of the SORT member will include medical standby for Town of Petrolia events. The Support Operations Team is also occasionally deployed to neighbouring municipalities for support during emergency incidents and medical standby at events.

REQUIREMENTS, Preferred Skills, and Preferred Certifications:

- 18 years of age or older and legally entitled to work in Canada;
- An Ontario secondary school diploma (Grade 12) or equivalent;
- Willing to obtain Standard First Aid certificate and a valid CPR for Health Care Providers (Level HCP) certification. Offered in-house.
- NFPA 1001 Level I & II certification an asset, must be willing to obtain.
- Firefighter positions require Valid Class “DZ” driver’s license with a satisfactory Driver’s Abstract;
- Ability to attend meeting and training nights, weekends, and holidays;
- Ability to understand and communicate clearly in English, both oral and written;
- Ability to cope in high stress situations;
- Ability to work as a team member;
- Ability to obtain and provide a satisfactory vulnerable sector criminal record search (to be submitted at time offer is accepted).
- Must be physically fit to handle the sustained, intense, physical effort often required to perform these duties

Interested applicants are invited to visit www.town.petrolia.on.ca to view a detailed description, and additional information on requirements when submitting an application, including supporting documents:

Deadline for applications is no later than **4 pm Tuesday March 3rd, 2020**

Applications & Supporting Documentation clearly marked:
Volunteer Firefighter or Special Operations Response Team
to be directed in confidence to the attention of:

Jay Arns, Director of Protective Services/Fire Chief
Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street
Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0 petrolia@petrolia.ca

We appreciate the interest of all those who respond; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Information obtained through this posting is collected for candidate selection only and is protected by the Municipal Freedom of Information Act. The Town of Petrolia is an equal opportunity employer committed to inclusive, barrier-free recruitment and selection processes and work environments. We will accommodate the needs of applicants under the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) throughout all stages of the recruitment and selection process. Please advise the Clerks Department to ensure your accessibility needs are accommodated throughout this process.

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Sports



Flyers forward Nick Burgess takes a glove to the face in Petrolia’s 6-1 loss to Amherstburg Feb. 20. The Flyers were ousted from the playoffs but say the Admirals used an ineligible player.

Flyers call foul as playoff run ends

Barry Wright
The Independent

The curtain came down Sunday on the most successful playoff season for the Petrolia Flyers since the franchise relocated from Alvinston. But, it didn’t end without controversy.

The Flyers protested the Admirals use of an ineligible player in the deciding game.

According to the Flyers, the league agreed the player didn’t qualify, a request to have the seventh game replayed was rejected.

Flyers general manager Dennis Meston characterized the decision by the commissioner as “gutless” and “a joke.”

He says the league’s explanation is the player was given the green light to play in error by both the PJHL and the Ontario Hockey Association and that the player did not impact the game.

Meston says league rules say a player can not affiliate with a team if he has played ten or more games during the regular season.

He says the player in question

played 14 games during the regular season for Wheatley.

Amid disappointment with the league ruling, Meston said management was proud of the strides the team made this season, including taking the third-seeded team to a seventh game.

On the ice Sunday, Josh Jamieson and Keegan Watson scored 26 seconds apart in the first period to give the Flyers a brief 2-1 lead in game seven of the divisional quarter-final in Amherstburg.

But the Admirals rebounded for the next five goals on their way to a series-clinching 9-5 victory.

Brenden Bouvier, Curtis Helps and Eric Marsh also scored for the Flyers. Helps and Marsh were playing the final game of their junior careers.

Jakob Knowles took the goaltending loss surrendering eight goals by the middle of the second period.

He was replaced by Tyler Richardson who made 12 saves on 13 shots.

Knowles had made 40

saves last Saturday in a 2-1 home ice victory for the Flyers to force the decisive game.

Marsh had the game-winning goal in that contest and also drew an assist on the other Petrolia goal from Clay Dolbear.

Dolbear scored twice and Knowles turned aside 48 shots as Petrolia beat the Admirals, 3-1 in the Essex County community in game five Feb. 20

Lancers fight for LK title

The Lambton Kent Boys A-AA high school hockey title will be awarded this week in Petrolia. The LCCVI Lancers will entertain Dresden’s Lambton Kent Composite Cardinals Wednesday at Greenwood. Puck drop is 2

pm. The Lancers advanced to the championship contest with a 9-0 home ice romp over Chatham-John McGregor in the semi-finals last week, while Lambton Kent Composite punched its ticket to the final with a 2-1 win over Great Lakes .



Nashlea Brogan
Doctor of Audiology

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- CORUNNA** - 348 Lyndoch Street
Thursdays, 9:30-12:00PM
- PETROLIA** - 4130 Glenview Road
Thursdays, 1:00-3:00PM

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HANDS UP



DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

Brett Hecimovich is blocked at the net as Sarnia’s Great Lakes won the rubber match with LCCVI in Petrolia capturing the Lambton-Kent Senior Boys basketball title with a 54-49 triumph over the Lancers. The two teams had played twice during the regular season with each winning on its home court. There wasn’t much to choose between the two teams with the three games being decided by a collective margin of 19 points.

Flags look to sink Admirals in round two

The Independent

The Mooretown Flags will welcome the Amherstburg Admirals for game one of the PJHL Stobbs Division semi-final series Wednesday night.
Game time at the Moore Sports Complex at 8 pm.
The Flags won three of five regular season games between the two squads, but the losses to the Admirals came on home ice. Mooretown advanced to the semi-finals with a four game sweep of Dresden in the first round.
Game two is Thursday in Amherstburg. The Flags are home Saturday for a 7:30 start, and are in Amherstburg Sunday for a 7 pm game.
The other semi-final will feature Lakeshore against Essex. The Canadiens swept Blenheim in the first round of the playoff. The 73’s rebounded from losing the first two



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Flags easily eliminated Dresden in four straight games.
games to Wheatley in the quarter-finals to beat the Sharks in six games.

Lancer wrestlers win at SWOSSA

Eduardo Olaya followed up his Outstanding Male Wrestler trophy at the recent Lambton Kent Wrestling Championships by winning the same trophy at the SWOSSA Wrestling Championships in Windsor.
He defeated an opponent from Windsor’s Vincent Massey to capture top honours in the 61 kg final. He was one of two Lancers to crack the top three at the regional event.
Megan Jaques was third in the girls 83 kg weight class.
Tristan MacLachlan of North Lambton finished second in the 51 kg final, while Eagle teammates Bow Ruzik and Shadeye Pusey both finished third in their respective final bouts.
The provincial championships will be held in Sault Ste. Marie, March 2-4.



NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF A ZONING BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Petrolia passed By-Law No. 11-2020 on the 10th day of February, 2020, under Section 34 of the *Planning Act*.

THE ZONING BY-LAW AMENDS the Town of Petrolia’s Comprehensive Zoning By-law 63 of 2017 by changing the zoning on lands described as Part Lots 7 and 8, Plan 14. The subject property has a municipal address of 4110 Petrolia Line and it is located on the north side of Petrolia Line, between Kerby Street and Eureka Street. The Zoning By-law Amendment adds a veterinary establishment as a permitted use on the property.

THE KEY MAP shows more particularly the subject lands.

APPEALS to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in respect of the By-law may be made by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Petrolia a written notice of appeal, **not later than the 1st day of March, 2020**, setting out the reasons for the appeal and accompanied by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal fee made payable to the Minister of Finance.

IF A PERSON or public body did not make oral or written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the by-law was passed; the person or public body is **not entitled to appeal** the By-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. **Only individuals**, corporations and public bodies may appeal a by-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

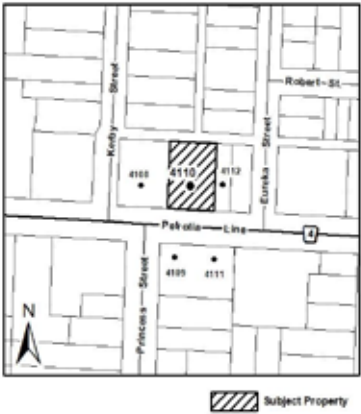
No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to Town of Petrolia Council or, in the opinion of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

A COMPLETED COPY of the By-law is available for inspection during regular office hours at the Town of Petrolia Municipal Office at **411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON**

DATED at the TOWN OF PETROLIA this 11th DAY of February 2020.



Mandi Pearson
Clerk
Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street
Petrolia, ON,
N0N 1R0



Join us at the Lambton Ontario Provincial Police Public Safety Meeting

March 10, 2020 - 7:00 PM - Plympton-Wyoming Fairgrounds

595 Main St Wyoming ON

Featuring Constable Katie Hill, Lambton OPP’s Media Officer

Topics will include, but are not limited to:

- Protecting farms from burglary
- Farm invasions (activists)
- Road safety

All Welcome!

CONTACT US BY MARCH 9, 2020 to RSVP:

☎ 519.344.7858 🌐 lambtonfederation.ca/March10 ✉ info@lambtonfederation.ca

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/94204053861>

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Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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Card of Thanks

Thank You

I want to thank everyone for their birthday cards and well wishes for my 60th birthday held at Crabby Joes. Instead of gifts, my friends & family generously donated \$315 and 2 totes full of groceries to the Petrolia Food Bank.

Jim Krall

Card of Thanks

Thank You

I would like to thank the nurses staff and Dr.Wong, for the great care in the hospital and also my friend who pop in and out and give me rides when needed.

Rose O'Toole

In Memory

McNALLY

In loving memory of a sweet little girl.

CASSIE LYNN McNALLY

who left this earth for heaven at the tender age of 5-1/2 yrs on February 27, 1987

The fact that you're no longer here will always cause us pain but, you're forever in our heart Until we meet again

Always remembered with love By Rick & Rita, Rick Jr & Lindsey, Brittney & Shawn and Gabriella

Help Wanted

SECRETARY WANTED

We have an immediate opening for the position of **secretary** for the Plympton Wyoming Agricultural Society. This is a paid position. Please submit resumes in confidence by February 29th via email to gla1@execulink.com

www.plympton-wyomingfair.com

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.

WANTED

DOG/PUPPY - Looking for a small dog or puppy for a loving home. i.e. jack russel, beagle, puddle or similar size. 519-491-1574.

In Memory

Lucan

In loving memory of our dear friend

Kristel Leighann Lucan

who left us to be with Jesus 33 years ago, February 22nd, 1987, when she was 5 1/2.

As time unfolds another year Kristel, in our hearts, we keep you near We find comfort knowing you and Cassie are together One day we'll join you in Heaven forever.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by Jim, Marie and family.

McNally

In loving memory of a precious daughter, sister and aunt

Cassie Lynn McNally

The angels took her home to Heaven 33 years ago, February 27th, 1987. She was 5 1/2.

Cassie, not a moment goes by, That we don't think of you. But God has blessed us with the strength Each day to make it through. Our hearts still ache with sadness, and often tears still flow. We miss you more than words can say And wonder why you had to go. But when we get to heaven, everything will be all right. You'll be in our arms again. And we will hold you tight. Until then we know that Jesus Has you safely in His care. We are sending hugs and kisses With all our love, in every prayer.

We love and miss you more each day sweetheart - Daddy, Mommy, Candice, Chris, Maleah, Braxton, Alayna, Celina, Charity, Shane, Levin, Atticus and Shepherd

In Memory

Lucan

In loving memory of our precious daughter, sister and auntie,

Kristel Leighann,

who passed away at the tender age of 5-1/2 yrs old on February 22, 1987

The sands of time will never wash away the love that we have for you. Your sweet memory will remain FOREVER in our HEARTS, Even though the years go on without you You will always be apart of our family Remembered by us all

Loved and missed beyond measure, forever and always Kristel.

All our love, Dad & Mom, Rick Jr & Lindsey, Brittney & Shawn and Gabriella

In Memory

In loving memory of a dear granddaughter, niece and cousin

Cassie Lynn McNally

who passed away 33 years ago on February 27, 1987

Loving Memories never die, As years roll on and days pass by. In our hearts a memory as kept, of the one we loved and will never forget.

Always loved and remembered by Grandma Deanie & the Jardine families

Notice

BOB'S TAX SERVICE - 256 Warwick Street, Watford, Personal, Small Farm, Small Business, Rentals, Self Employed, Prior Years, e-filer, Fast Dependable Service, Reasonable Rates, Call Robert Alcock for Appointment - 519-876-2360.

Coming Events

DAWN-EUPHEMIA

FIREFIGHTERS BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 1st from 9am-12noon

at the Rutherford Fire Hall.

Adults \$8, Children \$5

Everyone Welcome.


Obituary



McCALLUM
Margaret Teresa

With great sadness, the family of Margaret Teresa McCallum (nee Banovsky) passed away at the age of **92** years. Born in Chesley Ontario, the daughter of the late Stephen and Pauline Banovsky (nee Duris). Beloved wife to the late Dalton "Duck" (2001), the special mom to Sheri Bernier of Sarnia, and the special grandma to Megan Bernier (Craig Rebrey) and Taryn Bernier (Jeff Paulley) and friend John. She will be fondly remembered by her sisters-in-law Teresa Banovsky and Jean McCallum, and many special nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her siblings, Mike Banovsky, John (Sue) Banovsky, Mary (Paul) Dulak, and Annie (Gus) Voytek and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law of Dalton's family. The family would like to thank Margaret's neighbours for their friendship and care and also the special care from Diane and Steve Reed. She will be greatly missed by the community in which she adored, on LaSalle Line. **A mass celebrating the life of Margaret will take place at St. Philip's Parish in Petrolia on a future date. Interment of cremated remains will follow in Oil Springs Cemetery.** As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to St. Philip's Parish or C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (ceehf.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com

Card of Thanks

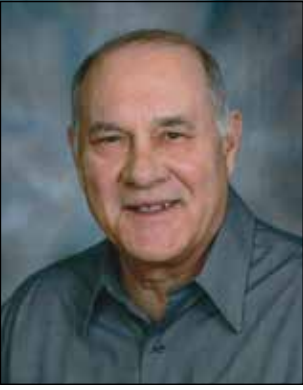


FOURNIE

The Family of the late Bob Fournie would like to thank relatives and friends for their words of comfort, card, flowers, donations and food following Bob's passing. Special thanks to the paramedics and the doctors and nurses who were in emergency at C.E.E that night. Also thanks to Mark and Steadman Funeral Home.

Audrey Fournie & Family

Obituary



TRAICHEVICH
Thomas

With Saddened hearts, Thomas Traichevich, **83**, of Petrolia, passed away on **Sunday, February 23, 2020** at Bluewater Health, Sarnia. Tom was born in St. Thomas Ontario on December 29, 1936 to immigrant parents, Sofia and Metodia "Mike" from Macedonia. Employment with MIG engineering brought Tom and Pat (nee Ptolemy) to Petrolia to raise their family. He was the loving father and grandpa Tom to Darren (Bernice) Traichevich and their children Kyla and Mitchell, and Molley (Tim) Hendra and their children Joey, Emma and Blake. Tom found many lasting friendships through his love of golf, his participation with the Petrolia Old Timers Hockey team and the Squire Two Pitch Ball team. His challenges did not deter him from social affairs, grandchildren's hockey games or trips uptown to observe the reconstruction of Petrolia Line. He was the loved brother to the late Steve (the late Ethel) Traichevich of St. Thomas, the late Mitch (Gloria) Traichevich of St. Thomas, and Angie (Bob) Millar of Windsor. He was the favourite brother-in-law to Ross (Connie) Ptolemy and was an adored uncle to many nieces and nephews. **Family and friends are all welcome to a casual gathering celebrating the life of Tom, taking place at the Petrolia Legion, from 3-6p.m. on Thursday February 27, 2020.** As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to War Amps or the C.E.E. Hospital Auxiliary. Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com.

Help Wanted



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GOLF CLUB in Petrolia

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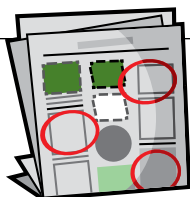
Grounds Crew

Servers

Kitchen Staff

Send resume to jjisber@gmail.com or call 519-312-2072

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

Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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
Feb 27	7pm	Sarnia	The Sarnia Tech Community's February Networking Event at 100 Christina St N. Gust Speaker: Jonathan Bennett www.sarniatech.ca	
Feb 27	6:30pm	Camlachie	Huron Shores Optimists Club BINGO at the Camlachie Community Centre, with proceeds to the Plympton-Wyoming Museum.	
Feb 28	8-12pm	Wyoming	Pickin' n Fiddlin' at Wyoming Legion. Donations to Wyoming Soccer. All musicians & public welcome. dbuckingham@hotmail.ca	
Feb 29	3:30pm	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Meat Raffle in support of Brooke Central School Sports Equipment with catch the Ace at 6pm	519-898-2100
Mar 1	1-3pm	Sarnia	JNAAG: Family Sunday Drop In - Fly Away Bird	jnaag.ca
Mar 3	9:30am	Camlachie	Coffee & Conversation at the Camlachie United Church. "Your thoughts and needs during your grief journey."	519-869-2102
Mar 5	12 Noon	Port Lambton	Lambton Elderly Outreach Diners Club at the Port Lambton Community Centre. \$10/person	519-845-1353 Ext 258
Mar 6		Sarnia	Sarnia Lambton Parkinson's Care Partner Support Group Meeting at the Strangway Center	519-336-3286
Mar 6	1pm	Petrolia	World Day of Prayer at St. Paul's United Church. Wheelchair accessible.	519-882-1390
Mar 6	2pm	Wyoming	World Day of Prayer Service at the Wyoming United Church (730 Second St.)	519-845-3618
Mar 6	6-11pm	Wyoming	First Friday at Wyoming Legion feat. Demi Krall.	519-845-0072
Mar 6	7pm	Petrolia	St. Philips Parish Card Parties	519-882-4840
Mar 7	12Noon	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Br 249 Euchre Tournament . All Welcome.	
Mar 8	1-3pm	Sarnia	JNAAG: Family Sunday Drop In - Threaded Collage	jnaag.ca
Mar 10	12 Noon	Alvinston	Lambton Elderly Outreach Diners Club at the Alvinston Legion. \$10/person	519-845-1353 Ext 258
Mar 10	7pm	Inwood	Shiloh-Inwood United Church Eucher Card Party at the Inwood United Church. Light Lunch. Funds to: Canadian Food Grains Bank	
Mar 11	12 Noon	Petrolia	Lambton Elderly Outreach Diners Club at the Lambton Meadowview Villa. \$10/person	519-845-1353 Ext 258
Mar 14	3:30pm	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Br 249 Meat Raffle in support of the Alvinston Ice Angels. Followed by Catch the Ace at 6pm.	
Mar 14	1pm	Petrolia	Euchre at St. Paul's United Church from 1-4pm \$5/person. Door prizes and light lunch.	
Mar 14	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	
Mar 15	1-3pm	Sarnia	JNAAG: Family Sunday Drop In - Personal Polaroids	jnaag.ca
Mar 18	9:30am	Camlachie	Bible Study Group at the Camlachie United Church. No registration required. Discusses about The Book of James	519-899-4720
Mar 18	12 Noon	Corunna	Lambton Elderly Outreach Diners Club at the at the Wellings of Corunna (180 Bunker Ave). \$10/person	519-845-1353 Ext 258

CLUBS AND REGULAR EVENTS

DAY	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Mondays	1:15p	Oil Springs	Social/Euchre @ Oil Springs United	226-307-0929
Mondays	7:00p	Watford	Watford Legion - Fun Darts	519-876-2360
2nd Mon	7:00p	Petrolia	Margaret Stokes Chapter IODE Meeting	519-882-2073
Tuesdays	4:30p	Petrolia	TOPS Weight Loss Support @ Meadowview Villa	
Tuesdays	7:00p	Watford	Watford Legion - Progressive Euchre	519-876-2360
Tuesdays	7:00p	Petrolia	Petrolia Toast Masters @ St. Andrews	519-882-0946
2nd Tues	7:00p	Petrolia	Meadowview Villa Card Party	519-845-1198
E/O Tues	12noon	Wyoming	P-W Agricultural Society Lunch & Euchre	519-845-3661
Weds	7:30p	Oakdale	IOOF Euchre Card Parties @ Oakdale Hall	
3rd Wed	1-4pm	Petrolia	Kenny J & Friends Musical Jumboree @Pet Legion	519-882-1557
Thursdays	11am	Sarnia	Parkinson's Exercises @ Strangway Centre	519-337-5330
Thursdays	5:30p	Petrolia	Lions Meat Raffle @ Haywood's	519-882-8728
Thursdays	6:00p	Petrolia	Optimists Meat Raffle @ Crabby Joe's	519-882-1255
Thursdays	6:30p	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion - Dart Night	519-882-1557
Thursdays	7:00p	Watford	Watford Legion - Cribbage	519-876-2360
1st Thurs	11am	Sarnia	Parkinson's Support Group @Strangway Centre	519-336-3286
3rd Thurs	7:00p	Oil Springs	Optimists Meat Bingo @ The Youth Centre	519-834-2152
Fridays	9:00a	Brigden	Brigden United Church - Mom & Tots Drop In	519-892-3151
Fridays	6:00p	Watford	Watford Legion - Meat Raffle & Catch the Ace	519-876-2360
2nd Fri	Noon	Wyoming	Wyoming Burns Lodge - Mens Card Parties	519-899-2264
4th Fri	Noon	Wyoming	Wyoming Rebekah Lodge - Womens Card Parties	519-899-2264
E/O Fri	7pm	Oil Springs	Srs. Card Parties @ United Church	519-882-4697
3rd Sat	1-4pm	Sarnia	Sarnia Legion "Jam at the Legion" Open To All	519-328-0964

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Coming Events

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christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com

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St. Paul's United Church

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Rev. Susan Cameron
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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
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Sarnia faces uphill battle in round one

Statistically, the Sarnia Legionnaires are in tough against the London Nationals in the opening round of the Greater Ontario Hockey League playoffs.

The Nationals won the conference with a record of 42-5-3, while the Legionnaires lost its last four games and seven of its last nine to drop to eighth place with a mark of 17-29-4.

London averaged three more goals per game than Sarnia and surrendered two goals less per game and the Nationals won all five games against the Legion this season.

But all that means nothing as both teams return to square one for the first game of the best-of-seven conference quarter-final Wed. (Feb. 26) at Western Fair Arena.

Game two is at the Sarnia Arena on Thursday at 7:10 pm.

The other quarter-final series have Strathroy, with Petrolia minor hockey products Carson Perry, Blake Hull and Bayly Fryfogle in its lineup, taking on St. Marys.

Leamington goes up against Komoka and Chatham skates against LaSalle.

Three Oiler squads begin OMHA semi finals

The Petrolia Oiler Midget Rep squad travels to Simcoe Thursday for the opening game of its six-point OMHA semi-final series.

Game two is at Greenwood on Saturday evening at 6:10 pm.

The Midgets advanced with a 6-3 triumph over Lambeth last week.

Meantime, the Petrolia

Bantams and Midget AE's open their semi-final this Friday at home each against the Ayr Flames.

The Bantams play at 8, followed by the AE's at 9:30.

The Midget AE's moved on with a 5-1 win over South Huron last week.

The Bantams had previously beaten Lambeth in the quarter-finals.



Flag Atoms one win from OMHA finals

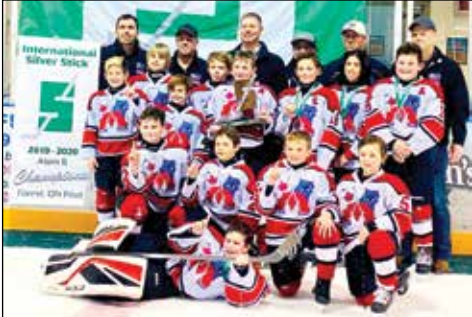
The Mooretown Atoms can advance to the OMHA Atom B championship series with a victory in Simcoe this Saturday afternoon at 12:30.

The Atom Flags are up four points to none in the semi-finals after 4-0 and 2-0 victories last weekend.

If a fourth game is necessary, it'll be played in Mooretown on Sunday afternoon at 3:55 pm.

The Flags have won eight straight games and 12 of its last 13 contests dating back to the Regional Silver Stick tournament in Alvinston in late December.

Mooretown is 41-5-3 overall and is ranked



The Mooretown Atom Reps

third in the province in his classification, according to Myhockeyrankings.com

Lots of OMHA playoff action in Eagle's Nest

The East Lambton Atom AE squad will be the first to have a chance to reach its OMHA final this week when they host Bayfield/Clinton/Hensall Wednesday in Alvinston. Game time is 7 pm.

The Eagles are up two games to none following 3-1 and 4-0 triumphs last week.

After sweeping Belmont in the quarter-final, the East Lambton Midgets open a semi-final series in Delhi Wednesday before hosting game two on Friday at 8:30 in Alvinston.

The East Lambton Bantams are at home to Hagersville in its semi-final series opener on Friday at 7, also in Alvinston.

Elsewhere, the Pee Wee "C" advanced

to the final four with an 8-5 win over Lucan last weekend.

They'll travel to Oshwegon Saturday before hosting game two in Watford on Sunday at 4:15 pm.

The Atom C team opened its semi-final with a 6-3 victory over Six Nations.

The Eagles play on the road Saturday and then host Six Nations for game three on Sunday in Watford. Puck drop is 3 pm.



COMMUNITY CORNER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students were imaging a world without boundaries for the annual Alvinston Optimist public speaking contest. Audrey Minten took the top prize with Charlie Verhoeven taking second. They move onto the regional contest in March. Pictured here are Frank Nemcek, chair, Evelin Brown, Addison Nemcek, Charlie Verhoeven, Audrey Minten and John Koolen, the Optimist Club president.



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