

# The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

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## BLITZ-ED



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The OPP dog Blitz helped track down a London man who is charged with stealing a pickup truck in Dawn-Euphemia. The chase drew lots of attention in Petrolia's downtown Monday morning. For more on the story see page 3.

## Water line break at CEEH underlines needs for infrastructure cash

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Bluewater Health officials say they were prepared to move patients at the continuing care unit at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital after a water line broke.

The Sunday incident is a sign of some of the major issues with the old infrastructure at the Petrolia hospital according to Julia Oosterman, communications director with Bluewater Health.

Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters were called to the hospital, twice, after an alarm sounded.

Oosterman says a joint in a water pipe broke.

"In the breaking of the joint, water went everywhere and triggered a sprinklers," she says. That automatically triggered a call to 9-11.

Oosterman says the firefighters and Bluewater Health staff brought everything under control in less than an hour. But they were also prepared for the worst.

With aging, fragile patients in the continuing care wing, hospital officials were concerned.

"There were people on the standby ready to take patients out

of the area if we couldn't get the heating back on," she says.

"We were lucky it wasn't a frigid, frigid night and it didn't take long to get fixed.

"It will happen again," Oosterman says.

"This is a much older building and were not...exaggerating when we talk about the infrastructure needs of this facility."

Two years ago, hospital officials shocked Petrolia councillors when they said the needs were dire and a power failure could shut down the hospital for weeks.

CON'T ON PG 6



BARRY WRIGHT PHOTO

Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters were called to CEEH twice Sunday after a water line which is part of the heating system broke.



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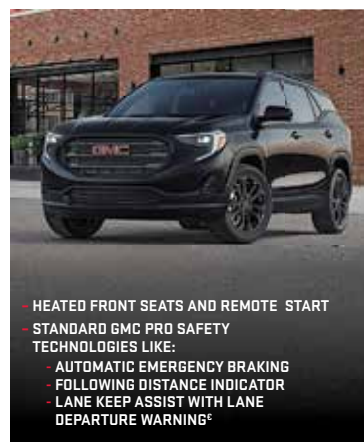


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# Wyoming residents may launch investigation into fire dismissals

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Angry Wyoming residents plan to launch their own investigation into what led to three senior firefighters being dismissed. About 45 people picketed in front of the Plympton-Wyoming municipal office nearly a month after the three were dismissed. Since then five other Wyoming volunteers have resigned or retired in protest of the move by Chief Steve Clemens. Clemens told The Independent there had been two investigations at the department. He reviewed the findings and took action. Clemens, administration and council have refused to explain what happened saying it is a personnel issue which under provincial law is to be kept private. Council did issue a press release assuring the community the Plympton-Wyoming department is strong and is able to protect the community even with eight fewer firefighters. The unsigned news release also said council backs the fire chief and the town's administrator who came under fire for the move.

Kim Searson is one of the people concerned about what happened. She and other supporters of the department sat through an hour long fire executive meeting. When the meeting adjourned, one of the people in the crowd asked if the committee would let people ask questions. Carolyn Tripp, chief administrative officer, says people can address the committee as a delegation. That request has to be made the Thursday before the meeting takes place. As the crowd continued to press to be heard, Councillor Bob Woolvett, who chairs the fire committee, told the crowd he's always open to hearing from community members but "if it has to do with labour relations I'll tell you straight up front, not



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Some of the dozens of protestors at the municipal building in Wyoming before the fire board meeting Monday.

regarding labour relations, absolutely not." Tripp agreed; "Just like any other business, we can't talk about HR issues," she told the crowd. Searson was upset. "As residents of Wyoming we are not stopping," she told Woolvett. Searson wants to hire a private firm to do an independent investigation into what led to the dismissals and how it is being run. "We're certainly not going to resolve this here tonight...we have policies and procedures we have to follow," Woolvett told the group.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Lambton OPP search a man after Blitz the police dog found him on Centre St. He was wanted in the theft of a pickup truck from Dawn-Euphemia.

# London man charged after Petrolia chase

The Independent

A London man is facing a number of charges after a daylight arrest in downtown Petrolia. Lambton OPP say they had a call on Cameron Road in Dawn-Euphemia Monday morning. About an hour later, another call came in about a vehicle matching the description of the Dawn-Euphemia truck. The driver was stealing gas. Around 10, officers found the vehicle – a four-door red GMC Pickup – on Robert Street at a car wash. There was a man standing with it. When the officer tried to arrest him, he fled on foot.

The Canine Unit and the Emergency Response Team were called, and LCCVI officials were told to keep students indoors. Blitz – the four-legged member of the Canine Unit – tracked down a man on Centre St. across from the Tim Horton's parking lot just after 11 am. He was arrested and placed in 1 of the 10 cruisers in the area. Kenneth Lewis, 39, of London is charged with resisting arrest, escaping custody, theft of a motor vehicle, theft under \$5,000, possession stolen property, operation of a vehicle when prohibited, and two bail violations.



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# Editorial

## Let's talk about the VPP plan

We are interested to see if the Town of Petrolia will bring its \$9.2 million plan for renovations to Victoria Hall to the people soon.

The town recently went to Lambton County Council to try to secure a \$1 million grant over five years to refurbish the historic building which houses Victoria Playhouse Petrolia. The plan includes about \$3 million in accessibility improvements, including two elevators - one for patrons to get to the balcony and one for backstage.

While accessibility is important, Lambton councillors didn't agree with the town's premise that the plan should be supported because VPP is a regional tourist attraction. While there is no doubt that the theatre is a tourism driver, it doesn't follow that the town's redevelopment plan should be supported. After all, we don't really know what it is. And we're not really sure the powers that be do either.

So far, town officials have spoken about what they would like. To use the word refurbish or renovate is understating what will be done. The interior of the building will fundamentally change, turning the council chambers into a larger area for patrons to enjoy a beverage. The town also talks of building an entirely new office space beside Victoria Hall in place of the current rehearsal hall. Staff has said the town will work closely with heritage experts to preserve national heritage site. They have also said the old and the new may be connected with hallways, which makes one wonder how true the plans will be to the historic building.

Taxpayers have not had a say on whether Victoria Hall needs this overhaul or whether spending a more modest sum to make it accessible would be better. The idea just reappeared, two years after many councillors said Victoria Hall should remain the seat of local government.

It's time for council to layout the concept fully and then get public input on it. Council should also explain what it is going to do if it gets a generous federal/provincial grant for over 70 per cent of the cost which it has already applied for, if taxpayers think the \$9.2 million plan changes the character of the beloved Victoria Hall.

## Letters to the Editor

*The Independent* welcomes Letters to the Editor.

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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 FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

Bear Creek was obviously a very popular place to hang out, even when the oil wells dominated Petrolia's flats. This photo shows a number of tree forts along the edge of the creek with the oil rigs in the background.

## Learning to live without bleach wipes during COVID-19

I needed bleach wipes. I use them to clean my bathrooms, one of the yuckiest jobs on the planet. I find them helpful because I can just throw them away instead of rinsing the rag out, like my mom used to do.

So, I wandered into a supermarket - a really big supermarket - late Saturday night. I wasn't familiar with it so I wandered around looking for the bleach wipes. When I finally found the aisle the bleach wipes are supposed to be in, there were few to be found. There were a couple of over-priced packages of the name-brand wipes that the Dutch girl in me would not buy on a bet.

The two lonely packages were alone on the long white shelving unit that once held the cheaper varieties I wanted.

It was late and I was tired, so I looked at the shelves for a moment

before it dawned on me - of course COVID 19.

If you haven't heard about COVID 19 or the novel coronavirus, you may have been lost at sea.

Then again, if you were on a cruise ship, you would know a lot about this fast moving, flu-like bug. The cruise ships seem to breed the bug.

COVID 19 is a new strain. There is no vaccine. And that's making health officials nervous.

It started in China and it has spread fairly rapidly. Tuesday, one of the 60 or so people infected in Canada died.

Over 100,000 people world wide have been sick and hundreds have died.

And the nightly newscast leads with the story, spending half of the broadcast talking about the what's happening, what you can do and what ifs of the illness.

The facts are simple. COVID 19 is like the flu in many ways - it's a respiratory infection and older people - over 80 - are the most likely to die from it.

The rest of us are likely just to be sick. Public health officials say the best defense is washing your hands and staying home when you're sick.

Instead, we panic and buy all the bleach wipes in southern Ontario.

I'm quite certain I won't get COVID 19. I may however catch something from my un-bleached bathroom.



Heather Wright



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# Opinion

## Farm group wants minimum distance for cannabis

**EDITOR:**

Since the legalization of cannabis in 2019, the national conversation has been dominated by stories of the new sector's rocky start.

Business analysts, industry producers and retail owners have all identified causes for the sector's failure to thrive, from hype-driven business models to supply problems to black market competition.

Any new sector is bound to experience growing pains, and cannabis in Canada is likely to make for popular case studies in business schools for years to come.

But on the ground in Ontario, many rural residents have serious concerns about how this new crop is reshaping our landscape.

Cannabis-growing operations are affecting the quality of life for those living nearby.

Neighbours have been negatively

impacted by the light, sound and smell pollution resulting from this industry.

That's why the CFFO has asked Ontario's agriculture minister, Ernie Hardeman, to establish minimum distance separation policies for cannabis-growing operations.

One year in, Ontarians living near cannabis greenhouses, including CFFO members, are voicing concerns about the negative effects on their well-being, particularly during harvesting, when the cannabis odour is pervasive.

It's evident that farmers and rural residents living near cannabis facilities want resolution.

In areas such as the Niagara region, for example, communities are banding together to demand workable solutions from government.

But current federal and provincial regulation gaps have put undue pressure on rural municipalities to respond to residential complaints.

CFFO suggests that provincially-established minimum distance separation policies could go a long way toward resolving public concerns.

Regular farming practices in more traditional commodities are already governed by minimum distance separation rules. Cannabis facilities present an altogether different level of disruption, so it's reasonable to establish specialized minimum distance separation policies for the sector.

Understandably, government has been focused on business and safety regulations, but the well being of rural communities also demands attention. CFFO encourages government to adopt regulations that will bring Canada's newest agricultural commodity to order.

**Marie Versteeg**  
**Christian Farmers**  
**Federation of Ontario**

## CAS condemns racism after rail blockades in Canada

**EDITOR:**

As organizations entrusted with the responsibility of supporting the safety and well being for the children and young people in our communities, the Sarnia Lambton Children's Aid Society and the Chatham-Kent Children's Services are very alarmed about the negative reaction being displayed by many non-Indigenous individuals in response to the protest by and in support of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs. These hurtful, harmful, misinformed and racist reactions are being seen online and being experienced in person.

As Canadians and as agencies that employ Indigenous people, partner with First Nation, Inuit and Metis communities and serves indigenous children and families, we strongly denounce racism both in its individual expression and in its system of control and domination

The Child Youth and Family

Services Act specifically stats that; "Systemic racism and the barriers it creates for children and families receiving services must continue to be addressed."

We work actively alongside our Indigenous partners to support the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well being of their children. Racism undercuts that work in each aspect of well being.

We recognize the rights of Indigenous people as set out in various Indigenous, provincial, federal and international laws as well as in their inherent jurisdiction of their children. Indigenous children and young people have the right to safety as defined by their world-views, cultures, heritages and traditions. This includes safe homes, safe water, safe places to play, the safety to protest when they feel their rights are being violated and safety from the devastating impacts of individual and systemic racism.

A Canada that is committed to reconciliation with indigenous peoples must recognize these rights and work together to dismantle the racism that is impacting them and their children on a daily basis. We call on other organizations and individuals to publicly denounce the racism.

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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## HONOURARY COUNCILLOR



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Nick Monsour was given a seat around the Lambton County Council table during budget talks March 4. The Sarnia man has been attending both county council and Sarnia City Council meetings for six decades. Warden Bill Weber made him an honorary councillor just before the session began. Monsour, a retired 94-year-old engineer commended councillors for listening to each other during debates. "That's the key, you must all work together."



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## Lambton considers energy from waste plant

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts believes there is big money in garbage and Lambton should take advantage of it.

She was one of the majority of council members who agree the county should look at being a host to an energy from waste plant.

There are about six energy from waste plants in Canada - about 1,000 in the US. They turn municipal and industrial solid waste into electricity and heat for industry to use or for heating.

Proponents say it is an ecologically sound, cost effective way of waste reduction and energy creation.

Sarnia City/County Councillor Margaret Bird championed the idea. "Waste is a huge issue," she says adding as landfill space is eaten up, it will be even more pressing to find alternatives.

"Man has traveled round to space and the landed on the moon and we still have landfills," she told councillors. Bird adds energy from

waste plants are "widely recognized as technology that can mitigate climate change..."

"No waste is ever wasted." Sarnia City/County Councillor Brian White agreed.

"It is the opportunity for our municipality to get into the business and earn a little extra revenue."

Rombouts - whose community hosts the largest landfill in the province - is also keen on the idea.

"There is big money in garbage right now and I agree with Councillor Bird the sooner we get started the better."

Rombouts says it takes 10 years to work through the Environmental Assessment process.

"At a minimum it takes 10 years to get things off the ground."

She added the Twin Creeks Landfill could be a good partner saying Waste Management continues to increase the amount of waste it accepts.

County staff will investigate the idea and bring the findings back to council.

## TWO INJURED ON MANDAUMIN



OPP PHOTO

Two people were injured after a pickup truck rolled on Mandaumin Road in St. Clair Township. Lambton OPP went to Mandaumin Road around 1 pm and found a pick up truck on its roof and the people had been thrown from the vehicle. Both people were taken to hospital with minor injuries. Police believe the truck hit the shoulder, the driver over corrected and the vehicle went into the ditch, rolled onto its roof and struck a hydro pole. As the vehicle rolled, the passenger was ejected. The road was closed for two hours while the hydro lines were repaired.

## Bluewater Health officials say infrastructure in better shape now, still needs work

### CON'T FROM PG 1

Since then, the province has provided about \$1.3 million in emergency funding to help deal with the aging infrastructure and Oosterman says it has helped.

"We are not in the truly catastrophic state we were in a year-and-a-half ago."

Since receiving the provincial cash, the sewer systems, gener-

ators, water lines, and electrical panels have been renewed.

"In the next few months we'll be completing preparation of the area for the new boiler room," she adds.

And, Oosterman says Bluewater Health will be heading back to the province for more cash.

Originally, officials were looking for \$5 million to upgrade CEEH's

infrastructure, so Oosterman says it is likely the hospital will look for \$3 to \$4 million to complete the needed work.

"We're grateful a lot has already been done," she says. "But this (breakdown) does not come as a total surprise."

"While it is a little frustrating (to wait for funding) we're hopeful we can continue to work with Queen's

Park ...

"We're building an infrastructure foundation...that is so strong we can build on top of it for the whole new redesign of the hospital."

The province has already committed \$7 million to a 25 year plan to completely renew the campus, starting with a redesign of the emergency department.

"While we all want to see a

new ED because that is what the average person can see, what is so critical is that we are able to run the hospital and not evacuate people because there is no heat."

Oosterman says Bluewater Health will likely apply for more infrastructure funding in May.

It can take months for the provincial government to review the applications.

### FARM FOR SALE BY TENDER

**Estate of Jean Poland** invite tenders for the purchase of:

#### PARCEL #1:

5524 Shiloh Line, known as the Home Farm  
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100 acres more or less, 97 workable, systematically tiled  
1½ frame house with detached garage

#### PARCEL #2:

3178 Oakdale Road, known as the Glen Rae Farm  
Legally described as W ½ Lot 28, Concession 5  
Township of Enniskillen, County of Lambton, PIN 187066  
11 acre bareland parcel, randomly tiled, paid  
water service at road

#### For tender forms & other particulars contact:

Erin Rankin Nash  
Ferguson Patterson Professional Corporation  
360 Queens Avenue London, On N6B 1X6  
Phone : 519 -963-0162 ext 6  
Email: erin@fplaw.ca

**Tenders accepted until 12:00 p.m. on March 24, 2020**

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.



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# Lambton turns down Petrolia's \$1M grant

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia's bid to get financial help from Lambton County taxpayers to renovate Victoria Hall has failed.

The town is looking to raise \$9.2 million to make the building accessible, create more space for the bar area and add a new office beside the historic building to house council chambers. Officials have said the project includes two new elevators - one for patrons and one to make back stage accessible - and more washrooms.

Last month, officials asked Lambton County councillors to approve a grant of \$1 million over five years for the project saying it is a regional facility which brings tourist to the entire county. It was a refrain Mayor Brad Loosely repeated during the March 4 county budget meeting.

County councillor's major financial decisions at budget involved grants requests including Petrolia's \$1 million ask and a five year plea for \$10 million from Bluewater Health.

Loosely told councillors Victoria Playhouse Petrolia draws about 40,000 patrons per year including 90 tourist buses. "That generates about \$6 million in the community," he says.

"I can't state enough how important the elevators and additional washrooms are to attract more people to the heart of the county."

But councillors were roundly opposed to the move.

Sarnia City/County Councillor Mike Stark says other theatres have found creative ways to raise money for their renovations. "It is important that all cultural facilities are supported however there is a limit," he says noting Sarnia's Imperial Theatre took out a line of credit for its renovations.

"The VPP should have done, and probably is, looking at alternate means of financing." Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley agreed saying "The county is becoming a bank of choice."

Other politicians were worried about the implications of giving funding to the town for a capital project.

"This sets a dangerous precedent," says Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts. "Other communities have large capital projects that attract tourism. If this goes through," she said before the vote, "we're building a new recreation centre and we would be in line next year."

Rombouts won't have to get in line. Council turned Petrolia's request down.

The Forest Kineto Theatre, which was looking for \$75,000 for its accessibility renovations, was also turned down. And councillors also put a stop to a \$10 million grant for Bluewater Health - at least for now.

Hospital officials asked for the public support over 10 years saying there were major needs at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia, a new withdrawal management unit will soon be built and the cancer care unit needs upgrades.

While the items are important, Bradley says, Bluewater Health officials didn't give enough specifics to hand over \$10 million. "I don't see this as a pressing need," he says. "They need to define to us what the costs are going to be and what is still needed."



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Petrolia plans a \$9.2 million renovation of Victoria Hall including a new rehearsal hall which would also house council chambers.

The costs they have given us are so general - just give us \$10 million."

Stark agreed. "This is not an endless pit of money," he says.

Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott was among the majority of councillors who want Bluewater Health to clarify what is needed. "If it had said \$300,000 for Petrolia ...I would have supported that."

Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Lonny Napper disagreed.

"We had a little problem and we fought for years to save our hospital in Petrolia. It's very important to support it."

Loosely also wanted to see the \$10 million approved for Bluewater Health saying the needs are great.

"What people aren't remembering is there is still another \$5 million just to bring up the electrical equipment alone," says Loosely.

"It's very important to have that hospital function."

"It's unfortunate that maybe it wasn't clarified enough what needs to be done...but Petrolia needs that work done."

County councillors also asked staff to layout a policy for what sort of things the county will contribute to - particularly from municipalities.

Loosely says that would have been helpful for the town when looking for money for the VPP project. "They need to tell us if you're going for a grant it has to meet a certain criteria but the county didn't do that," says the mayor.

And he questioned the premise that giving money for Victoria Hall renovations would lead other municipalities to ask for county money for recreation facilities. "You cannot compare our theatre to a parks and recreation facility; this has a huge spinoff in the region," says Loosely.

Tourism Sarnia Lambton, in its 2018 annual report, says sports events are

the largest driver of tourist to the region generating half of \$63 million of tourism dollars each year.

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## The Corporation of The Village of Oil Springs Summer Position(s)

The Village of Oil Springs will be accepting applications for summer employment with the Municipality in the Public Works Department.

The position(s) is subject to receiving funding from Canada Summer Jobs therefore applicants must be aged 15 to 30 years. A valid G or G2 Driver's License is required. Experience with Microsoft Excel and Word would be an asset.

The employment opportunity is from:

- May 11 to August 28, 2020 (may be subject to change)
- July 6 to August 28, 2020 (may be subject to change)

Interested applicants may submit their resumes with a cover letter until 4:00 p.m., Monday, April 20, 2020 to the attention of:



**Erkki Pohjolainen, Clerk-Treasurer**

Village of Oil Springs  
4591 Oil Springs Line, Box 22  
Oil Springs, ON N0N 1P0  
Email to: info@oilsprings.ca

The Village of Oil Springs is committed to providing accommodations for people with disabilities and will make accommodations if required. We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used for the purpose of candidate selection.

– ADVERTORIAL • MARCH 2020 –

## Charlotte's Corner



## Lambton Elderly Outreach is Here to Assist You

Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) offers support services in Petrolia and surrounding Lambton County communities to seniors over the age of 60 and those over the age of 18 who have a disability. These services include: Home Help staff who will cook and clean for you, Personal Support Workers who provide assistance with personal care, and the Caregiver Respite and Support Service which gives caregivers the chance to focus on themselves while one of LEO's Personal Support Workers provides assistance.

LEO's Volunteer Transportation and Van

Transportation Service can drive you where you need to go. The transportation department includes a Non-Urgent Stretcher Van for those requiring that level of care.

Their Meals on Wheels volunteers will deliver hot or frozen meals to your door (financial subsidies are available), or if you reside in Petrolia one of the LEO volunteers will shop for and deliver your groceries through their Grocery Shopping program.

LEO's Friendly Visiting and Diner's Club programs provide social opportunities and their Forever Fit Program will help keep you physically active.

They also provide Home Maintenance services to take care of lawn maintenance, snow removal or other small repairs.

"Lambton Elderly Outreach is a not-for-profit agency that has served Lambton County since 1970," said **Bill Yurchuk**, LEO Chief Executive Officer. "Our staff, board members and volunteers are committed to delivering excellent community support services that enable people to live with dignity and independence. We are proudly celebrating 50 years of service this year!"

For information on any of these services or to join LEO as a volunteer call 519-845-1353 or go to [lambtonelderlyoutreach.org](http://lambtonelderlyoutreach.org)



*If you have questions about CEEH of Bluewater Health, please reach out to us at [communications@bluewaterhealth.ca](mailto:communications@bluewaterhealth.ca)*

## Lambton passes on 3.42 per cent tax increase

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott has voted against a number of Lambton County budgets in the last five years.

He's a firm believer in keeping any tax increases to the rate of inflation.

So this year, when Lambton County Council passed its \$220.7 million budget without making any changes with a 3.42 tax increase, it was a bit of a surprise to see Marriott vote in favour.

But he says he's satisfied Lambton County staff have done all they can to keep costs low.

"As I have been known to say in the past, if we had no downloads (from the province), we would be at two per cent," Marriott told *The Independent* after the March 4 budget session.

County Treasurer Larry Palarchio 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.

That's driving the \$3.5 million increase in spending.

Palarchio says "1.37 per cent of this increase is strictly due to provincial government downloading."

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 recently.

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.

Councillors took about an hour-and-a-half to go through the two-inch high budget binder.

Much of that time was spent

on dealing will grant requests. (See story on page 7.)

Councillors asked a number of questions but made no suggestions to trim spending.

Marriott says there was much to be done because the main reason for the increase is a reduction in provincial funding. "It's kind of hard to argue with staff because without the downloads it (the 2020 budget) would have been at the rate of inflation," he says.

"I sometimes wonder if the downloads are as big as they say they are; I think sometimes they (county staff) even have a hard time knowing the real numbers until the end of the year."

And there is concern of what is to come; the province brings down its next budget March 25 and it could have even more impacts in Lambton.

So, Marriott believes, this budget is as good as it gets for now.

"What we have in front of us is what it is, I would have liked to see it lower," he says.

## Optimist hope to build pavilion with grant

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston is stepping back from applying for a lucrative local grant and backing an application from the Alvinston Optimists instead.

Each year, the municipality looks for items within the budget which might be eligible for the Alix Foundation grant. It's given to Lambton county communities and service groups for projects which improve life in the area.

The Optimist have been working for several years on a project to improve the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community

Centre. At first, it included indoor renovations, a new canteen and an outdoor pavilion. But as the costs of the project rose, the club decided to build a pavilion only for now. It will include two accessible washrooms.

Optimist building committee head Les Douglas recently came to council to say the group is ready to start construction this spring and it's banking on getting a grant from the foundation to reach its goal of raising 75 per cent of the costs which are around \$300,000.

The club, with the help of a grant writer paid by the municipality, has already applied for a federal and provincial grant

for the project. Douglas told councillors he wasn't getting a "warm fuzzy feeling" they would be successful.

Mayor Dave Ferguson suggested the municipality and the Optimist apply for the Alix Foundation grant together with up to \$80,000 going to the pavilion project and the rest to the renovations of the arena's community centre and hall.

But, Clerk-Administrator Janet Denkers says council and the service club decided not to make a joint application for the funding. The municipality won't apply for a grant this year, hoping to give the Optimist a better chance, she added.

## Oak wilt is next big tree problem

Heather Wright  
The Independent

David Nisbet says oak wilt is the most immediate threat to Ontario's forests.

The manager at the Invasive Species Centre says the disease is already causing problems in Michigan.

"It's been found 500 meters away from Windsor Ontario...it is so close to our shores we really need to take action now to protect our oak trees.

Nisbet says it is deadly. "It will kill a red oak tree in as little as four weeks." Emerald Ash Borers - another invasive species which has taken out thousands of trees in the region, takes up to two years to kill a tree.

Nisbet says oak trees are found all over Ontario, particularly in urban areas.

"There are a lot of street trees that are oak and they're popular in municipal parks. The acorns feed squirrels so they're important ecologically."

Nisbet has been able to follow the

path of oak wilt through Michigan where arborists have been dealing with the invasive disease for a number of years.

He says they've been successful in stopping it in some places.

"Oak wilt will spread through root connections through the ground, so if they can break those connections..with the infected tree, you can stop it." Nisbet says in Michigan, arborist are digging trenches around infected trees to separate the root systems and give the other trees a chance.

He recently told members of the Southwest Woodlot Association in Alvinston the best protection against the disease is to plant a number of different species so one type of disease won't wipe out the entire tree canopy.



David Nisbet



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## Risk of COVID 19 low in Lambton

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Lambton Public Health officials say the risk of getting the novel coronavirus here is still low.

The health unit is monitoring the situation as the number of cases across the province continues to rise.

“At this time, the virus is not circulating locally. However, given the global circumstances, Ontario is actively working with municipal and health partners to plan for the potential of local spread,” says Lori Lucas, a supervisor at public health.

Lambton County councillors recently voiced concern about how the community would handle an outbreak of COVID 19. Sarnia City/County Councillor Mike Stark was concerned with funding cut backs to the tune of \$900,000 from the provincial government, local health agencies might not have the resources they need.

“I wanted to voice my concern to this potential - you don’t want to raise alarm either because you (public health) seem to have it well under control,” says Stark.

“The province deals with it by bringing doctors to the microphone but ...it never talks about the financial cost.

“We’re going to be presented with a huge bill (when this is over) but there is not going to be anyone else there to fund it but us.”

Andrew Taylor, general manager of public health, says there is money set aside in the

county for situations like this which could be accessed quickly. He added it would be likely the province would reimburse governments after the fact.

And Taylor says public health has a plan in place to deal with any new disease. It was used during the SARS outbreak and concerns about H1N1 influenza in the last decade.

Public health also urging businesses to make plans to protect their workforce.

A few prevention measures include: inventory of resources and access points for hand hygiene and disinfectant of surfaces promotion and education of frequent hand hygiene, cough/sneeze etiquette, and social distancing including staying home when sick.

Individuals at work, school, in the community and at home are encouraged to practice these measures to reduce the spread of illness.

Those with COVID-19 may have little to no symptoms. You may not know you have symptoms of COVID-19 because they are similar to a cold or flu. Symptoms may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to COVID-19.

Symptoms have included: fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and pneumonia in both lungs.

Seek medical attention immediately if you have severe symptoms. Learn more about when to see a health care provider, visit [LambtonPublicHealth.ca](http://LambtonPublicHealth.ca).

## OPP looks for other victims

The Independent

A Sarnia man is facing nine sex charges after a three-month investigation in Lambton County.

OPP began the investigation after receiving a complaint in January about young people being sexually abused.

OPP investigated and have charged

Terrence Grant, 50, of Sarnia with nine charges including sexual assault, sexual interference and sexual exploitation.

Police say they’re still investigating and are urging anyone else who may have been in contact with Grant to contact police or Crime Stoppers.

## Meth seized in traffic stop

The Independent

Two Central Lambton residents are facing drug charges after a traffic stop in Dawn-Euphemia.

Lambton OPP stopped a car on Edys Mill Line Wednesday after noticing the driver, who was wanted by police.

Two people were in the vehicle. The driver was arrested for the outstanding warrant. Police found

methamphetamine in the car.

The passenger was then arrested. Jacob Tessier, 27, of Oil Springs has been charged on the outstanding police warrant and with possession of a controlled drug. Ericka Jackson, 22, of Warwick Township has been charged with possession of a controlled substance and failure to comply with bail conditions.

## Petrolia using electronic bid system

The Independent

Petrolia is going digital for some of its contracts.

The town has set up an account on the bids&tenders digital platform for what officials are saying will be high-value goods and services.

Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing and communications says using the online system will streamline the process and may reduce the time spent on organizing bids and tenders by about 35 per cent.

Potential suppliers will apply for jobs directly on line and the bids are stored on the platform.

“We are confident that it will offer

more suppliers the opportunity to participate in the bidding process,” says Ellsworth in a news release. The town will begin using the online tool for this summer’s major construction project, Wingfield Street.

Companies who want to bid on the project can create an account on bids@tenders. They’ll receive automatic notification of new opportunities.



Laurissa Ellsworth



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### TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### Customer Service Assistant (1 Position)

Position will be responsible to assist with customer service at the Township Office, take payments and provide support for general reception. Work will also include various administrative duties such as research, filing and records management to support operations.

#### Parks and Recreation Labourers (3 Positions)

Parks and Recreation Labourers will assist with grass and grounds maintenance, cleaning and setting up facilities, special events, watering flowers and supporting summer programming. Successful candidates will work 30 to 40 hours per week and be required to be available during evening and weekends.

#### Position Requirements - Customer Service Assistant and P&R Labourers:

- Full time student in the past academic year and returning to full time studies in the fall of 2020
- Completed their 2019/2020 school term
- A valid Ontario driver's license (Class G of G2)
- Be between 15 and 30 years of age,
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents or have refugee protection status under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- Legally entitled to work in Canada
- Will not have another full-time job.
- Be able to work days, weekends and weeknights during the period May 11th to August 28th, 2020 (Dates subject to change)

#### GIS/Administrative Technologist (1 Position)

Under the direction of the Public Works Manager/Drainage Superintendent, the GIS/Administrative Technologist is responsible for assisting in the implementation of new and enhancing existing GIS mapping. This includes working with, and coordination between, various departments within the Township of Warwick including Information Technology, Public Works/Drainage Department and Planning Department.

#### Position Requirements - Customer Service Assistant and P&R Labourers:

- Experience with the use of Geographic Information Systems
- Diploma in Geographic Information Systems is beneficial
- Experience with utility (plan/profile) drawings
- A valid Ontario driver's license (Class G of G2)
- Be between 15 and 30 years of age,
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents or have refugee protection status under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- Legally entitled to work in Canada
- Will not have another full-time job.

**Application Deadline: 4 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020**

**Written resumes for all positions will be received until 4 pm on Friday, April 3, 2020 and should be addressed to: Township of Warwick, 6332 Nauvoo Road, R.R.#8 Watford, Ontario, N0M 2S0 or fax to (519) 849-6136.**

E-mail submission of resumes and questions on positions can be submitted to the Township of Warwick at [messelment@warwicktownship.ca](mailto:messelment@warwicktownship.ca) or 519-849-3926.

[www.warwicktownship.ca](http://www.warwicktownship.ca)



# Sports

## Flags vs Habs in the final

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

The top two teams in the PJHL Stobbs Division during the regular season will play for the divisional crown beginning Friday night in Lakeshore.

The regular-season champion Canadiens will host the Mooretown Flags in the Essex County community to open the best-of-seven affair.

Game two is at the Moore Sports Complex on Saturday night at 7:30.

The Habs advanced with a five-game series win over Essex after sweeping Blenheim in the first round.

Mooretown swept Dresden and Amherstburg in each of the first two rounds of the playoffs.

The Canadiens won the regular season banner with a mark of 36-4.

The Flags finished 33-7.

Lakeshore is the two-time defending playoff champion. Mooretown has not won a championship since capturing the league and provincial title as a member of the Great Lakes Junior Hockey League in the late 1980's.

The Canadiens won all three games against the Flags in Lakeshore this season and the teams split two games in Mooretown with the Flags prevailing 6-3 earlier in the season and Lakeshore winning on the final night of the regular season when the Flags rested several of their regulars.



## STICK IT TO 'EM



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Petrolia Oiler Bantams gave it their all in game seven against Ayr Saturday. After coming off a big win on the road, the Bantams weren't able to overcome the Flames losing 3-1 in the deciding game of the semi final.



**ROCK THE RINK MARCH 21 & 22**  
**PETROLIA MIDGETS V ENNISMORE**  
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## 4 REASONS FOR ORTHOTICS

There are some situations that require extra foot support.

### ONGOING FOOT PAIN

It's important to have a thorough assessment to rule out certain issues. When serious issues have been ruled out, orthotics can be beneficial by removing pressure and stress from painful areas.

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While orthotics don't correct a fallen arch, they can reposition structures in the foot to improve biomechanical function and reduce change of injury. There are a few different conditions that contribute to, and are aggravated by fallen archs such as plantar fasciitis, hallux valgus and arthritis.



### YOU STAND FOR LONG PERIODS AT YOUR JOB

If you are spending long periods of time on your feet, you will need extra support because your muscles will fatigue. It's important to move around and give your feet a break.

### DIABETES

If you suffer from diabetes, you have an increased risk of corns and calluses, especially if your foot alignment is altered. Orthotics can be helpful in reducing these key pressure areas of the foot.



[www.lambtonchiropractic.ca](http://www.lambtonchiropractic.ca)

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### 2020 GREEN LEADER PROGRAM Launch

In partnership with Waste Management of Canada and the Town of Petrolia

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2020

The newly launched "Green Leader Program" is part of Waste Management and the Town of Petrolia's ongoing efforts to encourage the development of local community engagement and environmental solutions that build sustainable communities. The program is centered around a grant opportunity that is available to applicants living, working and learning in the Town of Petrolia or benefitting Petrolia and its residents.

Waste Management and the Town of Petrolia are inviting businesses, organizations and institutions to apply for this funding opportunity. The program is inclined to support initiatives that highlight the following Sustainability Goals:

Our Planet Goal: Waste Management will offset four times the greenhouse gas emissions we generate through our operations by 2038.

- Understanding the importance of the environment, the program supports organizations and programs that preserve and/or enhance natural resources and/or help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Our People Goal: Waste Management will help make communities in which we live and work safe, resilient and sustainable.

- Waste Management is a local Town of Petrolia business that is an integral part of the communities we serve. To help make our communities better places to work and live, we concentrate on initiatives that support employees, enhance our environment, promote education and improve the livability of our communities.

Applicants may request up to \$15,000 in program/project funding. This funding is a one-time, non-repayable, fully funded grant. Applications will be reviewed by a committee and announced April 22, 2020 (Earth Day). Applications are due by April 3, 2020.

Questions? Please contact us at [lfurtado@wm.com](mailto:lfurtado@wm.com) and [dmenzies@petrolia.ca](mailto:dmenzies@petrolia.ca).

**APPLY BY APRIL 3, 2020**

To begin the application process, visit:

<https://www.wm.com/about/community/charitable-giving.jsp>

## Midgets play for the Red Hats

Friends and family of the Petrolia Oilers will take the 400-plus kilometre jaunt to Ennismore this weekend to begin the OMHA Midget B championship series against the Eagles.

Game one is in the Peterborough-area community Saturday at 7:30, followed by a second game on Sunday at 2:30.

Games three and four are scheduled for the Greenwood Rec Centre on Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22 at 7:30 and 3 pm respectively.

The Oiler Midgets are the lone Petrolia club left competing for the Red Hats.

The Bantams were eliminated by Ayr last Saturday, losing 3-1 to the Flames in a fifth and deciding game of its semi-final series.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Midget Oilers were working the boards against Simcoe in the semi-finals. The team takes on Ennismore for the Red Hats starting Saturday.

## Eagles begin championship hunt

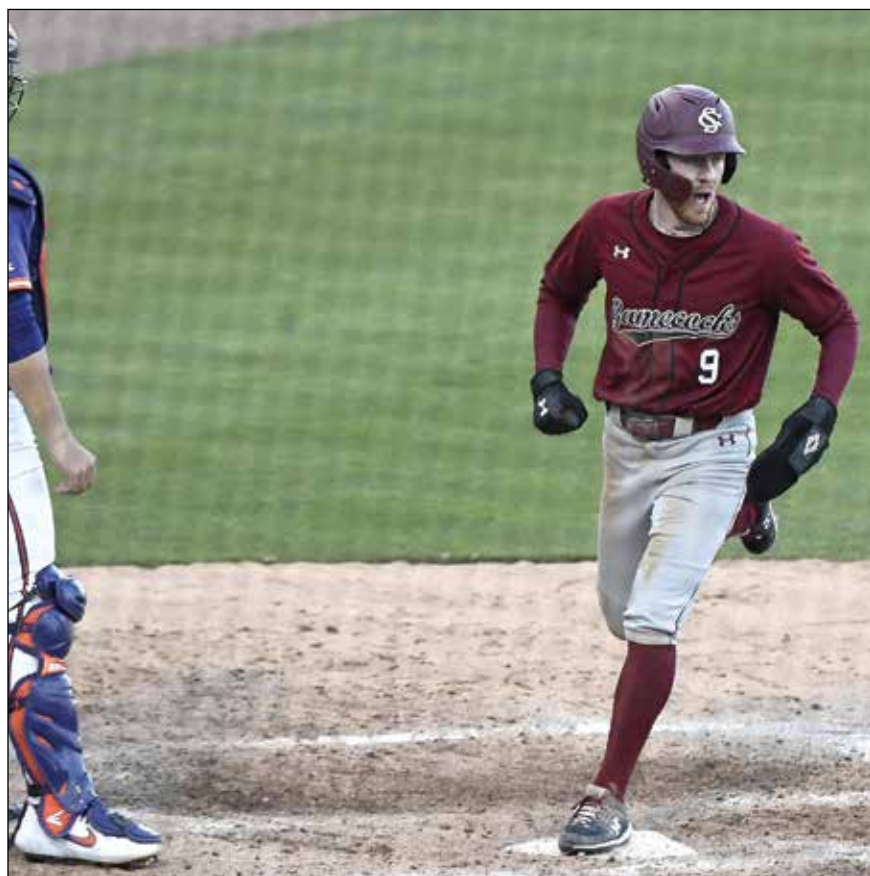
The East Lambton Atom AE squad opens its OMHA final against the Mariposa Lightning this weekend with a pair of home games.

The Eagles host game one on Saturday in Alvinston at 4 pm and then entertain the Lightning in the second game on Sunday in Watford at 3:15.

Meantime, the East Lambton Bantam open their C final against Minto in Palmerston on Saturday afternoon. They host the second game on Sunday in Watford at 4:30.



And, the East Lambton Atoms and Pee Wees and the Mooretown Atoms have all qualified for OMHA championship sets, but dates for the latter three series have yet to be released.



GAMECOCKSONLINE.COM PHOTO

Wyoming's Noah Myers made his mark in a three-game sweep over Cornell in US College baseball.

## Myers has solid week for South Carolina

Noah Myers played a large part in a three-game sweep by South Carolina over Cornell in NCAA college baseball last weekend in Florida.

The Wyoming product had two hits, including a triple, three runs scored, two RBI and three stolen bases.

The former LCCVI speedster has now been successful on all seven stolen base attempts this season. He has started nine of 13 games for

the Gamecocks, batting .242 with a double, two triples, three RBI and a dozen walks.

South Carolina is 11-4 on the season.

Myers was taken by the Blue Jays in the Major League Baseball draft last summer after a record-setting year with Wabash Community College, but decided to continue his collegiate career with South Carolina instead of signing with Toronto.

Not sure why  
**BUSINESS IS SLOW?**



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The Independent  
*Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton*

Call the office at 226-738-0728 or contact: Dawn Sperling, sales representative sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca



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## LOOKING FOR VENDORS



**2020 DATES**

May 16 through October 10

7:30 a.m. – noon

396 Fletcher Street (behind the Library)



For more info please call (519)882-2350 or visit <http://town.petrolia.on.ca/residents/farmers-market/>



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Riley Brown of Brigden, Billy Bourne of Petrolia and Drew Pepper of Brigden will be competing with The North Baseball team in Europe this spring.

## Three local ball players heading to Europe

It will be an experience of a lifetime for Riley Brown, Drew Pepper and Billy Bourne.

The three - from Brigden and Petrolia - have been chosen to play for The North Baseball - a varsity level team playing in Europe's largest baseball tournament in May and June.

Bourne saw an application for Finkstonball on line. He told his teammates at Lambton College and Pepper and Brown also applied. The three were accepted. The tournament is played in Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland. Over 1,500 players from 22 different countries will be on hand.

The trio are all excited about the level of competition and the fact there are international scouts watching.

"I don't have my sights set too high to

play in Europe. I'm definitely not a semi-professional player. It's cool to be able to say I played international ball," says Bourne.

Pepper played in the US in the hope of getting noticed when he was a young. He's hoping there may be an opportunity for him in Europe. "I'm hoping maybe there is going to be something there for me. If I had the chance to (play in semi-pro ball) it would definitely be a big decision to make."

For Brown, the trip is also a chance to find out more of his family history. His grandfather was in the military and he is looking forward to seeing the sites of major battles.

And he says it will be great to be with his Lambton Lions teammates. "It's pretty cool were all going together."

## Camlachie twins have Top 10 OUA finish

Kelly and Kristy Hodgins helped the University of Windsor women's 4 x 200 metre relay team to a sixth place finish at the national university track and field championships in Edmonton.

The Northern grads, from Camlachie, finished in a time of 1:40.97, less than two

seconds from a medal position.

Their time was about a second and a half slower than their fourth place finish last year.

The twins were also part of the Lancers seventh place finish in the 4 x 400 metre final. That's one position higher than 2019.

## Lambton wrestlers hit top six at provincials

Brianna Fraser of Bright's Grove and Braeden MacDonald of Courtright were both medalists at the Ontario High School Wrestling Championships in Sault Ste. Marie.

Fraser won gold and MacDonald collected a bronze. Both attend St. Pat's in Sarnia.

Meantime, several other area athletes were top six podium finishers.

Florence brothers Riley and Wesley Crummer of UCC in Chatham placed fifth and sixth in their respective weight classes, while Corunna's Paige Dickson from St. Pat's finished sixth in her category.

Eduardo Olaya of LCCVI also competed at the provincials, but did not crack the top six.

## HEADING TO PROVINCIALS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Alvinston Ice Angels are among the best pre-Novice synchronized skating teams in Ontario. The Ice Angels have qualified for the provincial championships in Belleville on March 29.

# NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Jam • Manwich • Soda Crackers • Small Soups • All Canned Veggies • Canned Potatoes • Side Kicks • Canned Fruit Large And Small • Mixed Canned Meats • Instant Potatoes • Dry Pastas • Rice • Canned Pasta • Cake, Cookie And Muffin Mixes • Cookies • Pancake Mix & Syrup • Baking Supplies • Jello Mix • Mr Noodles • Juice Crystals • Household Cleaning Supplies • Laundry Pods / Detergent Etc • Lunch Snack, Snack Foods

**Any items not listed are accepted, if you use it in your home our clients will use it in theirs**

The Corporation of the Town of Petrolia is seeking

## 2020 SEASONAL STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

DEPARTMENT	POSITION	START DATE	END DATE
Fire	Jr. Fire Prevention Assistant	May 11	August 28
Fire	Fire Education & Safety Assistant	May 11	August 28
Public Works	Public Works Labourer*	June 29	August 28
Public Works	Cemetery Labourer	May 11	August 28
Parks & Rec	Parks Labourer	May 11	August 28
Marketing	Farmers' Market Coordinator	May 11	August 28
Theatre	Sound & Light Technician	May 11	August 28
Theatre	Lead Stage Hand	May 11	August 28
Theatre	Ushers	April 28	December 31
Theatre	Bartender	April 28	December 31
Finance	Financial Analyst	May 11	August 28
Heritage	Historical Research Assistant**	May 27	August 16

### 2020 TERM EMPLOYMENT

Theatre	Technical Crew	April 1	October 31
Theatre	Wardrobe Associate	April 1	October 31
Theatre	Box Office Associate	April 1	October 31

Applicants must be returning to Post-Secondary or \*Secondary education in fall of 2020  
\*\* in addition ,must meet Young Canada Works campaign qualifications and application, please see <https://young-canada-works.canada.ca/Account/Login>

Resumes clearly marked **noting the position** you are applying for, may be submitted to:

Town of Petrolia,  
411 Greenfield St., Petrolia, Ontario N0N 1R0  
petrolia@petrolia.ca

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

**Seasonal Employment:** no later than **12 noon** Friday, March 27, 2020

**Term Employment:** no later than **12 noon** Friday, February 28, 2020

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.

# Community Corner

## PANTHERS FOOD HELP



The members of the Florence Lodge 196 made a donation to Lambton Centennial School's Snack Program. Pictured are Principal Todd Hayward (left) and Jerry Burns (right) of Florence Lodge 196.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Women in Petrolia gathered Friday for the International World Day of Prayer. The service, at St. Paul's United, was written in part by women in Zimbabwe. Among those in Petrolia were Barb Stewart, Jenny Sayer, Marion Henderson, Bonnie Elliott, Gini Newman, Debbie Freeman, Jean Bradshaw, Marianne Terpstra and Janet Collier.

## Petrolia paints the town yellow and purple

Petrolia will be full of bright and vibrant purple and yellow flowers this summer.

That's the colour scheme chosen by Petrolia In Bloom - the committee which cares for the town's flower

beds, hangers and pots. An online poll came up with the two colours.

Volunteers interested in helping the Petrolia in Bloom Committee plant the plugs for the 2020 season are asked to call Chairperson, Jean

Windover at (519)882-0120.

Parks Department summer students assist the volunteers and the Petrolia in Bloom Committee with watering and weed maintenance particularly downtown.

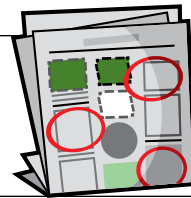
# AD CENTRAL

EXTEND YOUR REACH - ADVERTISE PROVINCIALLY OR ACROSS THE COUNTRY!  
*For more information visit [www.ocna.org/network-advertising-program](http://www.ocna.org/network-advertising-program)*

ADVERTISING	FINANCIAL SERVICES	BUSINESS OPPS.	MORTGAGES	VACATION/TRAVEL						
<p><b>REACH MILLIONS OF CUSTOMERS IN ONTARIO WITH ONE EASY CALL!</b></p> <p>Your Classified Ad or Display Ad would appear in weekly newspapers each week across Ontario in urban, suburban and rural areas.</p> <p>For more information Call Today <b>647-350-2558</b>.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #eee; padding: 2px;"><b>WANTED</b></p> <p><b>CAR COLLECTOR SEARCHING ...</b> I want your old car! Porsche 356/911/912, Jaguar E-Type or XKE. Tell me what you have, I love old classics especially German and British. Whether it's been in the barn for 25 years, or your pride and joy that is fully restored. I'll pay CASH. Call David 416-802-9999.</p> <p><b>FIREARMS WANTED FOR APRIL 18th, 2020 LIVE &amp; ONLINE AUCTION:</b> Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Militaria. Auction or Purchase: Collections, Estates, Individual Items. Contact Paul, Switzer's Auction: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, <a href="mailto:sales@switzersauction.com">sales@switzersauction.com</a> or <a href="http://www.switzersauction.com">www.switzersauction.com</a>.</p>	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">                 \$\$ CONSOLIDATE YOUR DEBT NOW \$\$             </div> <p><b>HOME OWNER LOANS FOR ANY PURPOSE!!</b></p> <p>Pay down other high interest debt! <b>Bank turn downs, Tax or Mortgage arrears, Self-Employed, Bad Credit, Bankruptcy - We Can Help! Even in extreme situations of bad credit.</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;"><u>Borrow:</u></td> <td style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;"><u>Pay Monthly:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">\$50,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$268</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">\$100,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$537</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>LARGER AMOUNTS AVAILABLE</b></p> <p><b>!!Decrease monthly payments up to 75%!!</b> Based on 5% APR. OAC</p> <p><b>FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY NOW BY PHONE OR ONLINE:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1-888-307-7799</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.ontario-widefinancial.com">www.ontario-widefinancial.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ONTARIO-WIDE FINANCIAL</b> 1801347inc FSCO Licence #12456</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>!! WE ARE HERE TO HELP !!</b></p>	<u>Borrow:</u>	<u>Pay Monthly:</u>	\$50,000	\$268	\$100,000	\$537	<p><b>ATTN: ONTARIO INVENTORS!!</b></p> <p>Need Inventing Help? Call Davison!!</p> <p><b>Ideas Wanted!</b></p> <p><b>CALL DAVISON TODAY:</b> <b>1-800-256-0429</b></p> <p><b>OR VISIT US AT:</b> <a href="http://Inventing.Davison.com/Ontario">Inventing.Davison.com/Ontario</a></p> <div style="background-color: #eee; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;"> <b>STEEL BUILDINGS</b> </div> <p><b>STEEL BUILDING SALE ... "BIG BLOWOUT SALE - ALL BUILDINGS PRICED TO CLEAR!"</b> 20X23 \$6,249. 25X27 \$7,334. 28X29 \$7,877. 30X31 \$8,965. 32X31 \$9,863. One End Wall Included. Pioneer Steel 1-855-212-7036 <a href="http://www.pioneersteel.ca">www.pioneersteel.ca</a></p>	<p><b>DECLINED BY YOUR BANK? WE CAN HELP!</b></p> <p>1st, 2nd, 3rd MORTGAGES Debt Consolidation Renovations, Tax Arrears Mortgage Arrears, Debt problems</p> <p><b>CONSOLIDATE YOUR DEBT NOW!!! CUT MONTHLY PAYMENTS UP TO 75%</b></p> <p>No Income, Bad Credit Bankruptcy, Proposal Power of Sale Stopped!!!</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">FREE APPRAISALS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CALL US FIRST FOR A FREE CONSULTATION</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1-800-282-1169</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.mortgageontario.com">www.mortgageontario.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Licence #10969)</p>	<p><b>Celebrate the Beauty and History of Canada's Rivers</b></p> <p>4 - 7 night calm water cruises on a replica steamboat Meals, attractions, and entertainment included</p> <p><b>Departures: Kingston, Ottawa, Quebec City</b></p> <p>Ask about our special Spring Savings rates</p> <p>Request our complimentary brochure</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CALL 1-800-267-7868</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com">www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">253 Ontario St., Kingston, ON (TICO #2168740)</p>
<u>Borrow:</u>	<u>Pay Monthly:</u>									
\$50,000	\$268									
\$100,000	\$537									

**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

## Real Estate

**SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE** **FARM TENDER**

**100 ACRE FARM TO BE SOLD BY REAL ESTATE TENDER**  
on March 16th at 12:00 Noon

Address: Legal Description - N 1/2 LT 22 CON 1 BROOKE; BROOKE-ALVINSTON  
Part Lot 22 Cameron Road, Brooke-Alvinston  
Please contact Leo Shanahan, Sales Representative, Shanahan Realty Inc. for more details and Tender Form at 519-849-6684

FARM SALE SUBJECT TO SELLERS RESERVE AMOUNT.

## Rentals

**HALL RENTAL** - The Perfect Place for your bridal shower, stag & doe, wedding reception, anniversary, banquet, birthday party or whatever the celebration. **Petrolia Lions Hall**, 541 Huggard Street, Petrolia. Licensed Under LCBO. WiFi Available. Competitive Prices and Catering is Available. Call 519-882-3626 for more information and leave a message.

## Rentals

**Wyoming Lions Club RECEPTION HALL RENTALS** - 554 Main Street, Wyoming. Fully licensed by AGCO, up to 150 seating capacity and wheelchair accessible. Now With Wifi. Book for your upcoming wedding, anniversary or business meeting. For bookings and information call 519-845-0011 or 519-845-3333.

## Celebration

**Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday** to **Joyce Finlayson**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1:30-4:00pm**  
**First Baptist Church, 418 Greenfield St. Petrolia**  
Best Wishes Only

## Solution to Puzzle on Page 5

Answers to this week's **Sudoku**  
Brought to you by: **519.882.1290**  
4146 Petrolia Line Petrolia  
**BrokerLink** Auto/Home/Business Insurance

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

**DEADLINE** for all classified ads is **Monday at 12 noon** for the paper that prints and distributes Wed-Thurs

## In Memory

In memory of **ROBERT L. Dobbin**

*A dear husband, father and grandfather with much love*

*Your life was a blessing, Your memory a treasure ... You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure You are loved, You are missed, You are remembered*

*With much love*  
Coleen, Len, Patti, Lynn, Tracy and families

## In Memory

In loving memory of a wonderful husband, dad and papa - **Paul Gaborko** who passed away 5 years ago on **March 15, 2015**

*A beautiful memory dearer than gold, Of a father whose worth can never be told. There's a place in our hearts No one can fill. We miss you Dad And always will.*

Forever missed by Wife Emily and family  
Karen, Gayle, Andrea & Mike H

Dear Papa ♥  
We love you so much  
Emily, Connor, Sara, Melanie

## Coming Event

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BR#216**  
**ST. PATRICK'S DAY Stew Dinner**

**MARCH 17, 2020 | 5-7PM**

STEW, ROLLS, COLESLAW, DESSERT, COFFEE, TEA, PUNCH  
Adult \$12 | Children 6-10 years \$5 | 5 and Under FREE

PETROLIA LEGION • 4129 GLENVIEW ROAD • PETROLIA

Tickets available for purchase at the bar.  
Thursday 3-6pm • Friday 4-6pm • Saturday 2-6pm  
or call 519-882-1201 or 519-882-1557 to reserve

## Coming Event

Oil Springs Optimists  
**Meat Bingo**  
Thur., Mar. 19 @ 7pm  
at the Youth Centre  
4517 Victoria St Oil Springs

## Services Offered

**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.

## For Sale

**HOUSE 4 SALE**

3 bedrm, det garage, fenced yard, new roof, new windows, 5yr furnace (gas)

**577 BROOKE ST. WYOMING**  
519-383-3002

## Help Wanted

**TREASURER "In Training" WANTED**

The Petrolia and Enniskillen Ag. Society is looking for someone with experience to shadow our current Treasurer and eventually take over the position.

We are a non profit organization. This position does receive a small honorarium.

Send any questions or resumes to demikrall@gmail.com

## Coming Event

**Lambton County Science Fair**  
Open to students  
Grades 3-12  
**April 3 & 4 2020**  
at Lambton College

For information and to register  
www.lambtoncountysciencefair.ca  
Registration Closes March 30th.

## Coming Event

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BR#216**  
**EUCHRE TOURNAMENT**  
FUNDRAISER  
**MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>**

LUNCH AT 12NOON  
GAMES BEGIN AT 1PM  
EVERYONE WELCOME

PETROLIA LEGION • 4129 GLENVIEW ROAD • PETROLIA

## 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

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

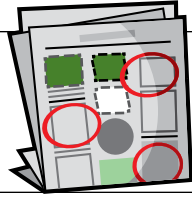
## Help Wanted

**HERITAGE HEIGHTS GOLF CLUB** in Petrolia

**LOOKING TO HIRE:**  
Kitchen Staff  
Grounds Crew  
Pro Shop  
Servers

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

*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
Mar 13	4:30-6:30pm	Petrolia	<b>Fish Dinner</b> at St. Philip Parish Hall hosted by Knights of Columbus. \$20 pp+ 12-5 years \$10 - under 5 FREE	519-882-0961
Mar 13	7:30pm	Sarnia	The <b>Sarnia Rock &amp; Fossil Club's Meeting</b> at Twin Lakes terrace Retirement Home. Speaker: May Hong.	519-869-2003
Mar 14	3:30pm	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Br 249 <b>Meat Raffle</b> in support of the Alvinston Ice Angels. Followed by Catch the Ace at 6pm.	
Mar 14	1pm	Petrolia	<b>Euchre</b> at St. Paul's United Church from 1-4pm \$5/person. Door prizes and light lunch.	
Mar 15	1-3pm	Sarnia	<b>JNAAG: Family Sunday Drop In</b> - Personal Polaroids	jnaag.ca
Mar 15	5-7pm	Oil Springs	Oil Springs United Church <b>St. Patrick's Celebration</b> "Irish Stew" and home made biscuits. Free Will Offering.	519-834-2207
Mar 18	9:30am	Camlachie	<b>Bible Study Group</b> at the Camlachie United Church. No registration required. Discusses about The Book of James	519-899-4720
Mar 18	12 Noon	Corunna	<b>Lambton Elderly Outreach Diners Club</b> at the at the Wellings of Corunna (180 Bunker Ave). \$10/person	519-845-1353 Ext 258
Mar 20	7pm	Petrolia	St. Philips Parish <b>Card Parties</b>	519-882-4840
Mar 21	10am-4pm	Point Edward	Bluewater Anglers <b>Hatchery Open House</b> . Under the Bridge. See how we raise fish. We are well stocked this year with Rainbow, Brown trout and Salmon.	519-330-6515
Mar 21	12 Noon	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Br 249 <b>Pool Tournament</b> . All Welcome. Followed by Catch the Ace at 6pm	
Mar 21	4-6pm	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion <b>Meat Raffle</b> . Everyone Welcome • 10 Meat Draws \$20 for 3 Chances at 10 Draws or \$2 per Draw	
Mar 22	10am-4pm	Point Edward	Bluewater Anglers <b>Hatchery Open House</b> . Under the Bridge. See how we raise fish. We are well stocked this year with Rainbow, Brown trout and Salmon.	519-330-6515
Mar 22	1-3pm	Sarnia	<b>JNAAG: Family Sunday Drop In</b> - Imaginary Me	jnaag.ca
Mar 22	4:30-6:30p	Camlachie	United Church <b>Roast Beef Dinner</b> . Roast Beef, Potato, Vegetable, Roll and Homemade Pie. Adults \$18, Kids 6-10 \$8, Under 6 FREE. Limited Tickets Available. 519-899-4720 or Audrey 519-542-7089	
Mar 23	9:30a-4pm	Sarnia	<b>Mental Health Laws &amp; Advocacy</b> : Supporting Family & Friends of Those with Mental Health Challenges. 109 Durand Street. Register at staff@lmwcc.ca or call 519-344-5602	
Mar 24	8-4pm	Watford	48th Annual <b>Pancake Day</b> at the Watford Fire Hall 510 Ontario St. Pancakes & Sausage \$8 • Pancakes \$6	
Mar 24	5-6pm	Sarnia	London Road West United Church <b>Ham &amp; Scalloped Potato Dinner</b> Adults \$15, Children 5-12 \$5, Under 5 FREE	519-869-6281
Mar 24	7pm	Inwood	Shiloh-Inwood United Church <b>Eucher Card Party</b> at the Inwood United Church. Light Lunch. Funds to: Canadian Food Grains Bank	

### 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
Wed	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

## Death Notices Mar. 3 to Mar. 10, 2020

This information is provided as a community service. For detailed information, please refer to the funeral home website listing.

<b>THURSDAY MARCH 5</b> <b>STILTZ, Lois</b> Age 82, of Alvinston Vanheck Funeral Home - Alvinston	<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 7</b> <b>SMITH AKIENS, Edna</b> Age 54, of Parkhill Gilpin Funeral Chapel - Forest	<b>MITCHELL, Edna</b> Age 98, of Oil Springs Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels	<b>BORODY, Peter</b> Age 102, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
<b>MAXFIELD, Margaret "Marg"</b> Age 85, of Forest & Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	<b>LOUKS, Kenneth</b> Age 79, of Bright's Grove Smith Funeral Home	<b>SUNDAY, MARCH 8</b> <b>CORE, Kelly</b> Age 50, of Wyoming Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels	<b>MONDAY, MARCH 9</b> <b>STEELE, Margaret</b> Age 72, of Wallaceburg D.J. Robb Funeral Home
<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 6</b> <b>PETERS, Jane</b> Age 87, of Watford Denning's Funeral Home - Watford	<b>DUKE, Mary</b> Age 83, of Sarnia & Chatham Needham-Jay Funeral Home	<b>BROTHERS, Robert "Jeff"</b> Age 58, of Watford Denning's Funeral Home - Watford	<b>BROWN, Jean</b> Age 87, of Lambton Shores Gilpin Funeral Chapel Forest
<b>JONES, Georgina</b> Age 93, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home	<b>WEIR, Maureen</b> Age 85, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	<b>HERBERT, Patricia</b> Age 72, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	
	<b>CHALMERS, Dora</b> Age 92, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	<b>DOREY, Alice "Ilene"</b> Age 95, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	

# Church DIRECTORY

**Christ Church Anglican**  
414 Oil Street, Petrolia  
**Service at 11am**  
*Coffee & Fellowship after 11am service,  
All are welcome!*  
**Rev. Michelle Collins-Wongkee**  
Church Office 519-882-1430  
christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com



**St. Andrew's  
Presbyterian Church**  
416 Queen Street, Petrolia  
(Behind the Post Office)  
**10:00 am - Worship**  
Church School • Nursery  
*Coffee & Fellowship After Service*  
www.standrews-petrolia.ca

**St. Paul's United Church**  
4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street  
**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!  
www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia

**Wyoming United Church**  
730 Second Street, Wyoming  
Join Us for Worship - All are Welcome  
**Sunday Worship 11am**  
**Sunday School 11am**  
Church Office 519-845-3963  
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# LOCAL MAPLE SYRUP Festivals

## ALVINSTON

### A.W. CAMPBELL MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

A.W. Campbell Conservation Area  
8477 Shiloh Line - Brooke-Alvinston

Weather cooperating, visitors may have an opportunity to taste sap straight from the tree. Hands-on displays will be available for visitors to experience the pioneer sugar bush lifestyle. After the demonstrations, there are beautiful trails to explore.  
Admission to the Conservation Area is \$5.00 per car.

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 21**

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 22**

**10AM - 3PM**

## WARWICK

### 48TH ANNUAL ALVINSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION' PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Brooke Alvinston Inwood Community Complex  
3310 Walnut Street

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 22**

**9AM - 1PM**

### 37TH ANNUAL WARWICK FIREMAN'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Warwick Fire Hall  
7074 Egremont Road

Adult - \$8 • 12 & Under - \$5 • Preschool - FREE

50/50 Draw at 1pm  
Tickets Available at breakfast

Proceeds to Camp Bucko  
Burn Camp for Kids



## WATFORD

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 24**

**8AM - 6PM**

### 48TH ANNUAL PANCAKE DAY

*Hot off the griddle with  
fresh local maple syrup*

Watford Fire Hall, 520 Ontario Street

Pancakes and Sausage \$8  
Pancakes and Syrup \$6