

The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

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‘There is going to be hardship...we’re trying to intervene now’

Heather Wright
The Independent

“There is going to be hardship... we’re trying to intervene now so a lot of sickness and illness don’t happen.”

That from Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, as all levels of government restrict the movement of people to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19.

Officials had been watching the spread of the flu-like virus first in China in December and then across Asia and into Europe. Ontario had its first confirmed case Jan. 25. Health officials kept track of the confirmed cases but March 12, public health officials were finding cases of COVID-19 that they couldn’t trace back to travellers. That meant the virus was spreading in the community.

So, one hour after the Ontario Medical Officer of Health recommended it, the Education Minister ordered all publicly funded schools closed until April 5. Students were heading off on March Break travels and the extra two weeks would likely be enough to find any symptoms from the travellers before they headed back to class.

The announcement led to a flood of communities closing down public facilities.

By Tuesday, the first Ontario resident died of COVID-19 in Barrie and the number of cases in the province was rising rapidly.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Helen Maddox looks at what is left of the paper towels at Heidi’s Independent Grocer in Petrolia. As the World Health Organization and public health officials in Ontario and Lambton County started limiting people’s movement to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, shoppers started scooping up supplies - particularly toilet paper. There is coverage of the impacts of COVID-19 throughout this issue.

Premier Doug Ford had declared a state of emergency. That closed all indoor recreation programs, libraries, private schools, licensed child care centres, bars and restaurants, except for takeout food and delivery, theaters, movie theaters and concert venues.

“We are facing an unprecedented

time in our history,” said Ford this morning during a news conference where reporters called in their questions.

“This is a decision that was not made lightly. COVID-19 constitutes a danger of major proportions. We are taking this extraordinary measure because

we must offer our full support and every power possible to help our health care sector fight the spread of COVID-19.

“The health and well being of every Ontarian must be our number one priority.”

The premier acknowledge that small business owners are

concerned about losing their livelihoods.

“We won’t forget those people,” he says. “We aren’t going to forget anyone. We’re going to spare no expense to protect people’s health and their businesses with their support and the help of the federal government.”

Families worry as nursing homes locked down to protect residents from virus

Heather Wright
The Independent

Jane Joris says so far, Lambton’s long-term care homes have enough supplies and staff to get through the lockdown.

The Ministry of Health ordered all nursing homes into lockdown. That means residents won’t be able to have any visitors unless they are dying.

Joris, general manager of long-

term care in Lambton says the local nursing homes were closed to visitors Friday night. Middlesex County started shutting down its homes Saturday.

The only people coming into the homes from outside will be staff. Joris says they are being screened as they enter.

The elderly are the most vulnerable to the flu-like virus which is a world-wide pandemic. Italy has been hard hit by the

virus. It has the second oldest population in the world. The National Health Institute looked at the 105 patients who had died by March 4. The average age was 81.

In the epicentre of the outbreak, Lombardy, physicians report only two deaths under the age of 50.

“We sure don’t want to get a virus inside the home it would be devastating,” says Joris.

The homes are prepared for a lockdown. Joris says there is

enough personal protective equipment for staff for at least two weeks. And so far, the staffing levels are good. Only one administrator has been self isolating after returning from travelling.

“This is not in our homes, we want to keep it out,” she says. “We need to treat it like the virus is here...we are cleaning like the virus was in the home, we also closed our adult day program so those people have been re-

deployed.”

The lockdown has been difficult for families. “I know it’s the right thing to do so our residents don’t become ill but my mother has been in the nursing home for eleven years and I have been going to see her everyday in the mornings and also in the evenings. I am so upset that I can’t visit my mother for this long,” says Irene da Silva in a post on The Independent’s website.

SEE NURSING HOME PG 2



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Opinion

CAS shouldn't label people as racist

EDITOR:

I am writing in response to the Letter to the Editor dated 12 March 2020 from the Children Aid Societies of Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent executive and staff.

I wish they would stay focused on their remit to protect the children in our community, rather than making political comments about their neighbours in the community they serve.

I absolutely agree that the rights of Indigenous children and young people should include safe homes, safe water, safe places to play, etc. It is atrocious that in this day and age that anybody in Canada does not have safe drinking water. This should be a priority with our federal government to get this issue solved and do it immediately.

CAS does a great disservice to label

“racist” anybody who speaks out about illegal blockades.

If Indigenous children are concerned about the negative comments, that would be your opportunity to comfort them and explain that the comments are not directed at the Indigenous peoples, but rather at the few lawbreaking elders who do not represent the majority of the Indigenous people in the various communities.

We are a land that is governed by the rule of law. It does not matter who was responsible for the illegal blockades, they would have been roundly condemned - because they were illegal - and they were negatively impacting Canadians across the country.

I am shocked and surprised by the judgement shown by our local CAS executive and workers by watering

down the term racist, by applying it to people that they may personally disagree with.

The fact is, people who defend the blockades are against pipelines.

If you somehow thought you were being ‘heroes’ by issuing that letter, you landed so far from the truth.

It brings into question the integrity and perceptive abilities of those watching out for the welfare of our children... if they can't tell the difference between criticism of illegal blockades and real racist attacks against Indigenous peoples.

Please stay within the confines of your legal remit, and refrain from commenting and insulting citizens and tax payers who legally react to lawbreakers.

Bob Maniuk
Petrolia, ON

No visitors at local hospitals, appointments cancelled

The Independent

You won't be able to visit loved ones in hospital in Sarnia and Petrolia for a while.

Bluewater Health announced more restrictions as public health officials work to contain the novel coronavirus.

Julia Oosterman, director of communications for Bluewater Health, in a news release, that only women in labour, children, people in palliative care, intensive care or people requiring accessibility accommodations will be allowed one visitor. And they can only

enter after signing in at the nurse's station and may not be sick.

Oosterman says the hospital will only do emergency and life-threatening surgeries. Only emergent and life-threatening cases will move ahead.

The Pat Mailloux Eye Centre in Petrolia is closed and emergency cases will be performed in Sarnia.

If you have an appointment at any of the clinics within the hospital, including diagnostics and breast screening, it is likely your appointment will be cancelled.

The hospital will be making calls to

reschedule them.

“We will continue to perform surgery on those where time sensitivity is paramount and life-threatening.

“This decision was made collectively with our surgical colleagues and the unanimous belief is that this is a responsible course of action given the current situation,” says Dr. Mike Haddad, the chief of staff.

“While we can not predict how long our current strategy will need to be in place, we will continue to coordinate with our medical colleagues to minimize backlog.”

No COVID-19 cases in Lambton as assessment centre opens

Heather Wright
The Independent

About a dozen people went through the doors of the new novel coronavirus assessment centre in Sarnia the first day it opened.

But by late Tuesday, not one person walking through the doors tested positive for COVID-19 - the flu-like virus which sparked a state of emergency in Ontario.

Bluewater Health has been given permission to open the site by the Ministry of Health.

Officials say people who have been in contact with confirmed cases of COVID-19 and have symptoms or

people who are in hospital or long-term care and retirement homes with severe respiratory illness will be tested.

Officials ask if you think you may have been exposed to novel coronavirus to call their family doctor first. They're best able to determine if you need a test.

If you do, you'll be given the location of the centre and a form for a test. Then you'll be instructed to go home and self-quarantine. You'll get a call with your appointment time.

If you are very ill, you should go to the emergency department.

Officials say the Assessment Centre is not a walk in clinic – both for infection prevention control reasons,

and the need to ensure that the resources required to test and treat COVID-19 are used on the appropriate patients.

“This will keep symptomatic patients out of the Emergency Department so the hospital can remain focused on the highest acute care needs of this community. Only those meeting the testing criteria will be referred. Most with mild or moderate symptoms will continue to be able to self-isolate and recover at home,” says Dr. Sudit Ranade, Lambton 's Medical Officer of Health.

Julia Oosterman, director of communications, says plans are in the works for a site in Petrolia as well.

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Due to the on going situation involving COVID-19 the chief and association have decided to cancel our upcoming firefighters breakfast on April 5th 2020.





HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Helen Maddox talks to some teens in front of empty shelves at Heidi’s Independent. She was talking to them about the panic which led to the empty shelves and how they are living in historic times.

Wisdom on a pandemic in the grocery aisle

Heather Wright
The Independent

Normally when you walk down the toilet paper aisle at the local grocery store, you just need toilet paper. But on Friday, Helen Maddox of Petrolia was standing in front of the empty shelves at Heidi’s Independent Grocer contemplating the history in the making which led to buying frenzy. For a while, she talked to some young people. “I told them to take this in, it may never happen again.” For Maddox and many of her generation, the idea of empty grocery shelves isn’t new. She grew up with stories of the depression as a regular staple of conversation. And, living on the farm in Brooke Township as a child, it wasn’t all that unusual to run out of bread before the bread delivery man arrived at the door. But they would cope just fine. “We’d make baking soda biscuits,” she told *The Independent* as she leaned

on her grocery cart. “I’ve worked in high schools, so I talk to all teenagers,” she says adding “they’re very lucky they didn’t grow up hearing about the depression, about...making underwear from flour bags. That becomes a part of you, it becomes a part of your story.” Maddox has been watching the advance of the novel coronavirus. In January, as it ravaged China, she was talking to Heidi Souddant - the owner of the grocery store - and eerily predicted the empty shelves. “Back in January...I told her if the virus comes here, will you be getting more Purell (hand sanitizer), because people will panic. I never thought of toilet paper,” she laughed. The run on toilet paper across North America has stumped many people. The virus is similar to a cold or flu with respiratory problems - really not a cause to stock up on the white stuff. But Maddox isn’t really surprised at the mad rush to the store.

“I totally understand it. Normally, we don’t have to think of our own survival...when we do get to this we have to think about survival. “We live in the land of plenty, but this is a bit of a wake up call for people. Me included.” Maddox says people become “very aware” that Canadians are “very vulnerable. “We’re still way better off than a lot of places,” she says. But Maddox says what is happening today will be a good point of discussion down the road. “When this (pandemic) is over, maybe people will have a discussion of why not having food security in a country that grows food is a bad idea ... and that 90 per cent of our medicine comes from China.” Until then, Maddox is counting on people working together to get through the measures in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. “There is no point in fear,” she says. “Maybe people will work as a community more.”

Gladu one of three moving on in leadership race

Sarnia-Lambton’s MP says Conservatives tone deaf to pandemic concerns

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu is one step closer to being on the ballot to become the next Conservative leader. But she’s not happy the party is push-

ing ahead with the race as Canadians grapple with the affects of the novel coronavirus. As public health leaders tighten rules around public gatherings, Gladu says her opportunities to meet potential delegates has disappeared and raise another \$150,000 for the party’s entry fee into the race. Leadership candidates Peter McKay and Erin O’Toole have already met the threshold required for the end of March - 2,000 signatures on their nomination papers. Gladu was frustratingly close early this week after scrutineers

disallowed 600 signatures. So she, and other candidates asked the party to delay the leadership race as opportunities for the candidates to reach the party’s deadlines disappeared with the pandemic. It refused. “A COVID-19 pandemic is not an every day event. The party would be more in tune with the rest of Canada if they postponed the event.” Gladu received word late Tuesday she met the 2,000 signature goal, but she says raising another \$150,000 now, will be tough. “This is not the way I imagined it would be.”

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Form 1 Aggregate Resources Act Notice of Application for a Licence

We, Joe & Cathy Rombouts, 7766 Confederation Line, Watford Ontario N0M 1S0 hereby give notice that application has been made for a Category 7, Class “B” Above Water Licence to excavate from a pit of 10 hectares, located in East 1/2 Lot 17, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Warwick, Municipality of Warwick, County of Lambton. Application is for a new pit. The Annual Tonnage Condition applied for is 20,000 or less tonnes.

A detailed site plan and report(s) for the proposal may be examined at the local or county/regional municipal offices or at the district/ local office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Any person(s) wishing to object to this application must send, in writing, their objection with reason(s) to the **Applicant** and to the district/local office of the **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry** at the Addresses below.

Note: E-mail submissions are acceptable however they must contain the objector’s complete postal mailing address where a response can be delivered. E-mail objections which do not contain a postal address will not be considered acceptable.

The Applicant: Joe & Cathy Rombouts
7766 Confederation Line
Watford, ON N0M 2S0
gbexc@brktel.on.ca

and
MNRF: Alymer District
615 John Street North
Aylmer, ON N5H 2S8

The last day on which objections may be files with the **Applicant** and **Ministry** is May 1, 2020.

Note: All information in respect to this application including written objections, the names and address of any objector(s) is available for public review for the purpose of this application under the Aggregate Resources Act. In submitting a written objection an objector consents under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to its disclosure for purposes of the application.

Form 2 Aggregate Resources Act Notice of Public Information Session

We, Joe & Cathy Rombouts, 7766 Confederation Line, Watford Ontario N0M 2S0, hereby give notice that a public Information Session will be held on April 8, 2020 between 2PM and 4PM at the Watford Community Arena, Downstairs meeting room, 61 Centennial Avenue Watford Ontario.

The purpose of the Information Session is to present, to the public, the details of the application for a Category 7, Class “B” Pit Licence to provide details of proposed new pit and operating procedures. The location of the propped pit is located in East 1/2 Lot 17, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Warwick, Local Municipality of Warwick, County of Lambton.

ROOFTOP REPAIRS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS

Contractors were up in the clouds as they made repairs to the roof of Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia Friday. The hospital received \$1.7 million to begin some infrastructure repairs and work crews have been on the roof and under the ground, preparing an area for a new boiler room.

Provincial order shuts down conference in Florence

Heather Wright
The Independent

It was a potential public health problem Dawn-Euphemia didn’t seem to have the power to stop.
But a conference of 150 people at the Dawn-Euphemia Community Centre in Florence was put on hold when Ontario’s premier declared a state of emergency and banned all large gatherings.
Monday, just hours before Premier Doug Ford made the declaration to implement tough measures to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus, Dawn-Euphemia Clerk Donna Clermont told councillors the community centre was booked for the week and about 150 people were expected to

attend the conference including people from the US.
The group rents the facility each year and made the arrangements long before the province recommended people not gather in groups larger than 50 people.
Clermont says she spoke with the organizer twice about the recommendations from the province and Lambton Public Health. Clermont told the organizers there should be a screening process so that no one who had symptoms or had travelled to the COVID-19 affected areas came into the hall. But she didn’t believe they were following public health’s direction.
“The people did not want to cancel and there was no order (from the province) just a recommendation. We don’t have the legal authority to close it down.”
That worried Councillor Mark McGuire. “In a worst case scenario, 10 people come away from there infected.”
Clermont did tell *The Independent* the township considered declaring a local state of emergency - as Chatham-Kent had done Friday - but because “everything else was under control” they decided against that move.
By Tuesday at 8:30 am, the province solved the problem. Premier Ford declared a state of emergency which included an order of any gatherings of over 50 people had to be shut down. Clermont says staff told the organizers the conference would not be allowed to continue.

Nemcek’s bid to lower Brooke-Alvinston taxes fails

Heather Wright
The Independent

A Brooke-Alvinston councillor’s bid to bring down the local taxes failed.
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 and council has a meeting scheduled for March 26 to approve the document..
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 said recently.
Ferguson was interested in finding savings, recognizing it might be difficult. “We’re not looking at doing a lot of big things; we don’t have a lot of fat to cut,” said the mayor.
March 12, Councillor Frank Nemcek floated the idea of putting off some of the costs of a proposed fire hall. “We’re thinking about building a fire hall in Inwood,” Nemcek told *The Independent*. The township estimates a one-bay hall attached to the local library will cost about \$200,000. It’s set aside enough money in reserves this budget to cover the cost.
“I thought, if we don’t put so much of that in reserves, if we need it, we could borrow some money.”
Nemcek suggested even removing \$50,000 from the reserve would cut the proposed five per cent tax increase by about two per cent.
“I thought we could bring it down to the rate of inflation around two-and-a-half per cent.”
Nemcek added it wasn’t even clear whether the new hall would be under construction this year.
But, his idea was rejected.
That disappointed Nemcek who recognizes most ratepayers are facing large increases because the assessment on farmland has increased so much.
And he says other people in Alvinston are having a tough time financially.
“I know how tough it is out there. I volunteer for the food bank every week, a lot of people talk to me and there are a lot of people who are just scratching by,” he says.
“It (a higher tax increase) is not going to break us, but there are a lot of young guys and especially a lot of people in town and they say ‘Frank, we can’t afford another \$50 a year.’
“It doesn’t sound like a lot of money to you and me but...but to seniors it is.”

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Take breaks, ask for help, practice safe lifting techniques and try to avoid repetitive tasks. If your back pain doesn't resolve itself, seek medical advice. Your back will thank you.



building resilience on the farm

Farming and Ranching have unique occupational hazards and stresses. With strong traditions of being an independent occupation, the tendency is not talk about problems or ask for support.

Feeling lonely and isolated is common, but you aren't alone and we can all do things to support each other.

Reach out to those around you. Get involved in your local community, make the time to connect with friends, share information and help grow healthy and resilient agricultural communities.



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FILE PHOTO

Corrections workers have taken COVID-19 screening into their own hands saying the province hasn't implemented its pandemic plan.

Jail workers call for COVID-19 screening

Pam Wright
Local Journalism Initiative

Current emergency measures in place at Sarnia's jail in response to the COVID-19 pandemic don't go far enough says a union official representing the workers.

Some restrictions are in place at the jail aimed at reducing the spread of the flu-like virus. Public visitors are now prohibited and professional visitors are restricted.

Also, people with intermittent sentences, such as serving time on weekends, are being given temporary absence permits, allowing them to serve their time in the community with restrictions.

But union officials say health screening for current inmates is sorely lacking.

The Sarnia jail has a 98-bed capacity and runs at around 70 percent capacity on average.

Ryan Graham, co-chair of the provincial health and safety committee representing correctional and support workers within the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, says workers are taking matters into their own hands by self-screening on an ad hoc basis.

He says health care needs to be more involved.

"Anxiety is through the roof," Graham told *The Independent* Tuesday, adding workers are using a verbal screening tool to gauge the health of inmates but it's not adequate.

"The union is not completely happy with it," he says.

Graham says the onus is on inmates to self-report suspicious symptoms, but notes they may not always do so.

"For inmates, there's no reason to give an accurate account of symptoms as they know they will be isolated," he says.

Graham says physical screening measures should be carried out by a health care professional.

"They (the ministry) need to hire nurses if they don't have one on site," he adds, "They need to be taking temperatures." Graham says workers at the jail are asking for enhanced screening for corrections employees across the province.

According to Graham correctional facilities across Ontario do have enhanced pandemic protocols, but by Tuesday, they have yet to be put in place.

"There's a big push to get the province to implement the pandemic plan but the ministry is reluctant to implement them," he said.

The pandemic has also disrupted legal proceedings at the Sarnia court house resulting in the suspension of normal operations.

A public website updated Tuesday says those having a Provincial Offences Act matter, or family or criminal court appearance in the Ontario Court of Justice between March 16 and April 2, do not need to attend court.

Those having matters in March are

scheduled to appear on June 2.

People with matters in April are scheduled to appear June 3 and those with matters in May are scheduled for June 4.

The website says the new dates will be sent out by mail.

Ontario Superior Court matters are also suspended.

By order of Ontario Chief Justice Geoffrey B. Morawetz, any accused person who has a criminal matter scheduled for "any type of appearance in the Superior Court of Justice between Mar. 17 and June 2, 2020, the matter is adjourned unless otherwise directed by the court."

The site cautions that those facing criminal charges need to keep up-to-date on when their matters will resume. That includes staying abreast of pandemic restrictions, checking appropriate trial websites and consulting with their lawyers.

However, family court remains open and urgent matters, such as child protection cases, will proceed on a prioritized basis.

The website says witnesses; lawyers and jurors should not attend the court between March 17 and May 29, 2020, unless specifically ordered to do so by a presiding judge.

The province says it will use video and other technologies to expedite cases before the courts. The Superior Court says only urgent criminal and family matters, as well as public health and safety matters will be heard in the interim.



Sugar off: Maple syrup events cancelled

Two local firefighters' associations have cancelled their maple syrup/pancake events.

The organizers of the 48th Annual Maple Syrup Festival in Alvinston made the call Saturday based on recommendations from the Ministry of Health, Lambton Public Health and Brooke Alvinston Emergency Management that any mass gatherings above 250 people be suspended until further notice.

Officials said "keeping everyone safe is paramount for our service and anything we can do to prevent anyone from becoming ill, we believe is most important."

The demonstration at AW Campbell Conservation Area of the history of maple syrup and the walk through the sugar bush have also been cancelled.

The Warwick Firefighters Association has also cancelled its breakfast which was slated for March 22.

SUPER MOON



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

A beautiful clear night on March 10 made the mountain ranges on earth’s moon visible to the naked eye. The Supermoon happens when the full moon coincides with the moon’s closest approach to earth. Supermoons make the moon appear a little brighter and closer than normal particularly when they are on the horizon.



OPP PHOTO

Another Windsor driver faces charges in the October 2019 crash south of Oil Springs which killed three St. Clair College students.

More charges in Oil Springs crash

The Independent

Lambton OPP say a second car was involved in the accident that killed three Windsor college students south of Oil Springs.
Another man has been charged.
In October, the OPP, Dawn-Euphemia and Oil Springs fire departments and Lambton EMS were called to the curves on Oil Heritage Line at Aberfeldy Line. A sedan had veered off the highway in the curve and flipped several times into a field on the west side of the road.
Police photographs posted on social media show the car was heading south and missed the bend in the road, heading into a triangular field between Oil Heritage, Aberfeldy and a short side road leading to Aberfeldy.

The three victims were all 19 and from the Indian state of Punjab. They were studying business in Windsor.
Jovanpreet Singh, 22, was charged with three counts of dangerous operation of a vehicle causing death, dangerous operation causing bodily harm, three counts of criminal negligence causing death, criminal negligence causing bodily harm and obstructing a police officer shortly after the accident. He made a brief court appearance in Sarnia March 2, where the court learned he had changed lawyers.
OPP now say another car was involved in “the events leading up to the crash.” Sehajpreet SINGH, 20, of India, was arrested and charged with Dangerous Operation of a vehicle. He was in court March 5 and returns April

Witness watches crash while calling police

A 20 year-old Forest man faces charges after an accident on Forest Road in Warwick township.
A driver called Lambton OPP about a possible impaired driver, but as they were on the phone, the vehicle crashed into the ditch March 7 around 7:30 pm.

On the scene police believed the driver may have been drinking, so they took the man back to the station for Breathalyzer tests.
The Forest man is charged with operation of a vehicle while impaired with drugs and alcohol.





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PER DOZEN



Petrolia Lions Club Presents

Community Spaghetti Dinner

Spaghetti

CANCELED

MEATBALLS

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

4:30PM-7PM

served with

Meat Sauce

Garden Tossed Salad

Garlic Bread

Dessert

\$10 Per Person

Kids Under 10 - \$5

Preschool - No Charge





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 or 519-849-3926.

www.warwicktownship.ca



Sports



Mooretown's Jake Wilkins was one of the hundreds of hockey players in Central Lambton whose season was cut short because of the novel coronavirus response.

‘We thought we could do it’

Mooretown Flags goalie reflects on a season without a championship

Barry Wright
The Independent

It seemed as though the Mooretown Flags were destined for championship glory. And then, the world of sports came to a stop as the rest of the world tried to contain the novel coronavirus.

Jake Wilkins was initially upset when the Provincial Junior Hockey League playoffs were cancelled. The Mooretown overage goaltender says the decision should not take away from the Flags record-setting season. “We will always have that to share,” says Wilkins. “We were an extraordinarily close hockey team.”

Wilkins, along with Brock Perry, Dawson Vautour and Trevor Bogaert had their junior careers ended abruptly when Hockey Canada pulled the plug on all sanctioned events across the country.

The Flags finished second in the PJHL’s Stobbs Division with a record of 33-7,

setting franchise records for most wins, most points, fewest losses and fewest goals against in the process. They had won eight straight post season contests and were preparing to open a best-of-seven divisional final against the first-place Lakeshore Canadiens.

“Obviously, Lakeshore is an exceptional hockey club, but everybody on our team really thought we could do it,” said the 21 year-old.

It still hasn’t fully sunk in that his junior career is over. “Over the next month or so, I’ll probably sink in and become more real,” he added.

Wilkins came to the Flags after a less than memorable rookie season with the Dresden Junior Kings. He set records for most goaltender wins in the Flags’ history, and he matured and gained lifelong friends. “Everyone in Mooretown, from teammates to coaches, and trainers, always had your back even when I wasn’t playing my best. They were amazing. I never once felt doubt from any of them.” Though it’s hard not to think of what might have been, Wilkins prefers to look at the season like a glass that is half full instead of half empty. “It was awesome experience for everyone.”




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THE INDEPENDENT



SOCIAL DISTANCING

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Social distancing is the practice of reducing close contact between people to slow the spread of infections or diseases. Social distancing measures include limiting large groups of peoples coming together, closing building and cancelling events.

AVOID	USE CAUTION	SAFE TO DO
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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Members of the Ontario Champion East Lambton Eagle Novice Reps were on the ice in Watford to congratulate the members of the Ontario Champion East Lambton Atom Reps March 23, 2019. The teams both won provincial championships at home Saturday afternoon. Several local teams will miss out on the Red Hats this year as the season was cut short.

No Red Hats this year for local teams

Barry Wright
The Independent

Several local minor hockey teams has been caught in the crosshairs over the COVID-19 pandemic. Players from a total of seven teams in Petrolia, Mooretown and East Lambton were to have opened their Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) championship series this past weekend. But, all series’ have been called off by the OMHA over coronavirus fears. In fact, the provincial body cancelled all provincial play downs in the wake of decision by Hockey Canada to put an end to all nationally-sanctioned hockey activities. “We recognize the tremendous effort that has been put forth all year by individuals across the country as they participate in Canada’s game,” said Hockey Canada in a

release March 13. “Although it is difficult to process the hockey season ending abruptly, we feel this is the best course of action in order to do our part in keeping our country safe.” Friends and family have reacted to the cancellations on social media with comments ranging from anger to profound disappointment. “I’m fuming,” said one post, while another read “devastation for my 10 year-old and his team.” The Ontario Women’s Hockey Association and the Alliance League of Ontario also brought the curtain down on their season last week, bringing an end to championship aspirations by many other area teams. “So sad... hard to explain to the third year midgets (girls) who have worked so hard and won’t get that chance ever again,” wrote one parent.

Ontario Hockey Federation cancels spring skates

The Independent

The body which oversees all minor hockey in Sarnia-Lambton has called off all Spring tryouts in an effort to do its part of slow the spread of the coronavirus. “The health and safety of all participants in the sport is of the utmost importance to the OHF and its member partners,” said the Ontario Hockey Federation in a statement this week. “As such, tryouts for the 2020-21 season will not be conducted this Spring. Instead

the OHF will provide guidance on when the introduction of the 2020-21 season will begin, subject to the Hockey Canada Board of Directors’ future decision when to reinstate all Hockey Canada-sanctioned activities. “Such introduction will take into consideration ice availability, capacity and other logistics involved in organizing hockey programs.” The federation says it will be in contact with its members when a decision is made to resume sanctioned activities.

Ontario Hockey League will not hold combine

The Independent

Players who had hoped to make additional impressions with Ontario Hockey League teams through the league combine will not get that opportunity this year. In the wake of the rapidly evolving situation as it pertains to COVID-19, the league has decided to call off its annual combine. “On behalf of the OHL we

would like to recognize and congratulate all of the players and coaches who earned an opportunity to participate in the OHL Combine,” the league said in a statement. “The OHL is committed to ensuring a safe environment for all participants and feel that this is the most prudent decision for all involved.” As of press time, the league draft, which is held online, remains a go for Saturday, April 4.

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TOWN OF PETROLIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING A PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petrolia will hold a **Public Meeting on Tuesday, April 14th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Town Council Chambers at 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON to consider a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended.

THE PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT would amend the Town's Zoning By-law 63 of 2017 as it applies to 3 properties described as Lots 46 and 47, Part Lots 42 to 49, Part Holland Street, and Part Brown Street, Plan 16. The subject properties have municipal addresses of 4467 Derby Street, 4469 Derby Street and Derby Street. The properties are located on the south side of Derby Street, between Holland Street and Oil Heritage Road. The intent of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is to rezone the south half of the lots (approx. 0.4 hectare / 1.0 acre.) from "Future Development (FD)" to "Residential - 1 (R1)". The proposed amendment would also add a regulation that requires accessory buildings, structures or uses to be located at least 6 metres (20 feet) from the neighbouring property to the west.

ANY PERSON may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment can be made to Mandi Pearson, Clerk, Town of Petrolia.

IF A PERSON or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the By-law Amendment is passed the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Town of Petrolia to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal.

IF A PERSON or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the By-law Amendment is passed the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

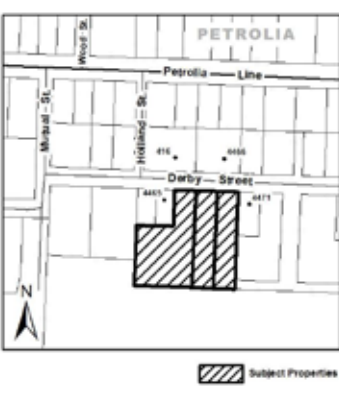

IF YOU WISH to be notified of the passing of the proposed Amendment, you must make a written request to the Town of Petrolia at the address below.

THE KEY MAP shows more particularly the lands affected.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT will be available for public inspection during regular office hours at the Municipal Offices at 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia and at the public meeting.

DATED at the TOWN OF PETROLIA this 10th DAY of MARCH, 2020.

Mandi Pearson
Clerk
Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street
Petrolia, ON,
N0N 1R0
Telephone: 882-2350
Fax: 882-3373



DeGurse wins a pair of GOJHL awards

Nolan DeGurse of the Sarnia Legionnaires won the Outstanding Ability and Sportsmanship Award at the GOJHL Western Conference awards evening Thursday night.

DeGurse led the conference this season with 37 goals and added 31 assists in 37 games this season.

He added another three goals and two assists in a four-game loss to London in the first round of the playoffs.

The Bright's Grove product was also named to the conference's first team all-star squad. He also recorded two goals and two assists in 13 games over the past two

seasons with the Sarnia Sting.

Meantime, Sting draft choice Nicholas Beneteau of the Leamington Flyers was named to the Western Conference all-rookie team and ex-Sarnia goaltender Aiden Hughes shared the Lowest Goals Against Average in the Golden Horseshoe Conference.

He was 28-3 for Caledonia over the regular season with a 1.94 goals against average and a .922 save percentage. Beneteau, 16, played 55 regular season and playoff games for the Flyers this season registering had 16 goals and 42 points before the season was halted.

Local curling season shut down by virus

The three main curling venues in our region have all been closed over the coronavirus.

The season has ended at the Forest Curling and Social Club and the Sydenham Community Curling Club in Wallaceburg, while the Sarnia Golf and Curling has suspended play until April 6 when it will re-evaluate the situation.

Following an emergency meeting on Monday afternoon, Forest Club President Dave McAlpine said the club would close

on Tuesday and all play would be suspended for the balance of the season.

He also noted that the Govenlock Bonspiel has been cancelled and the AGM will be postponed until a later date.

"In these uncertain times we need to offer our support to one another and move forward together" said McAlpine a post on the club's website. In Wallaceburg, the decision was made after consultations with public health and provincial curling officials, according to a social media post.

Forest teen denied trip to provincial curling finals

Vice-skip Grace Elliott of Forest and her St. Pat's teammates will not get an opportunity to compete for provincial girls high school curling supremacy.

After beating Northern in the regional final, the rug was pulled out from the provincial curling championship scheduled for next weekend when the Ontario Government decided to close all publicly-funded schools for two weeks following the March Break over widespread health measures imposed due to COVID-19.

In a statement, OFSAA said it did not take

the decision lightly.

“We want to state that the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, volunteers and all of their families is our first priority,” the statement read

“We are grateful for the hard work, long hours and dedication of all coaches, student-athletes, convenors and volunteer host organizing committees.

“We are fully aware of the commitment and planning of our host organizing committees and the drive and determination of the athletes and coaches”



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alvinston native Krista DuChene crosses the finish line at the Boston Marathon after placing third. DuChene will have extra time to prepare this year because of concerns over COVID-19.

Alvinston native will wait for Boston

Local runners who have already punched their ticket to the 2020 Boston Marathon will now have an additional five months to prepare for the prestigious race.

The Boston Athletic Association (BAA) has rescheduled the event from April 20 to September 14 over health concerns related to COVID-19,

“On matters of public health and safety we take our guidance from the officials entrusted with protecting the public in this area,” said Tom Grilk, CEO. of the BAA. “We understand our role, along with our partners, in ensuring a safe environment for all participants, volunteers, spectators,

and supporters that meets the standards set by those officials,' he added. "The BAA's mission of promoting health through sports, especially running, has guided our organization for more than a century. In collaboration with our many partners, we look forward to welcoming the world to Boston in September in celebration of the 124th Boston Marathon," Grilk said.

Following the rescheduling of the event, this area's most prominent runner posted her thoughts. "Find a reason to smile, be grateful, and know there are better days ahead," said Alvinston native Krista DuChene on Instagram.

[illegible]


Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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Card of Thanks



Thank You

Tom Traichevich

Thank you to the community and friends for all the support that was shown to Tom in the past 5 years. It has been over whelming and appreciated.

Thank you to Bluewater CEE site nursing, radiology and laboratory care who were so compassionate.

To everyone who sent cards, food and attended the gathering, Thank you.

Pat Traichevich,
Darren Traichevich,
Molley Hendra and Family

In Memory

In Memory Of

Roy L. Caley

who passed away on March 16, 1999

If you see my Dad in heaven, he won't be hard to find. He'll be the one to greet you first, for he is one of a kind.

He will sit among the story tellers, for that he does best. He will tell about his life on earth, before he was called to rest.

You know he was our hero, so will you give him a hug or two. Tell him how much we love him, and we will be seeing him sometime soon.

In Memory

FRASER, Ross

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather Ross who passed away 8 years ago, March 21st 2012.

.....

Though his smile is gone forever, And still his hand we cannot touch.

Still we have so many memories, Of the one we loved so much. His memory is our keepsake, With which we'll never part. God has him in his keeping We have him in our hearts.

.....

Miss you and love you Doris, Joan, Dale & Debbie, Kathy, Mark & Candice and families



In loving memory of

BILL McAUSLAN

May 27, 1926 - March 25, 1993

.....

Those we love we never lose

For always they will be Loved, remember, treasured

Always in our memory

.....

Sadly missed and always remembered by Dorothy and Family

NOTICE

POSTPONED - The Open House to Celebrate Joyce Finlayson's 90th Birthday at First Baptist Church in Petrolia on March 22nd has been postponed to a later date.

Solution to Puzzle on Page 5

Answers to this week's

Sudoku

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Card of Thanks

Thank You

The family of the late Edna Mitchell wishes to express their thanks to friends and neighbours for their expressions of sympathy, food, flowers and donations.

We also greatly appreciated the delicious luncheon provided by the ladies of Gospel Hall.

Thanks to the six grandsons who were pall bearers.

Thank you to Steadman Bros. Funeral home for their caring professional services.

Also, thank you to Sumac Lodge and Meadowview Villa for their care and kindness during her stay there.

In Memory

In loving memory of

RON WEED

.....

30 years ago, our beloved and cherished husband and dad, Ron Weed, lost the fight with depression we didn't know he was waging.

In 1990, admitting a mental health struggle was almost impossible, but it doesn't have to be any longer. If you're battling depression, addiction or any other mental illness, reach out, get help. Tell someone. You don't have to do this alone. The world needs you, more than you know, and more than your illness will let you believe. You matter, and tomorrow can be different.

We miss and grieve for Ron every day and know our lives would have been better with him here, if he could have let himself believe that.

We give a sincere thank you to the Alvinston community for your support all those years ago. Your love made a difference in our lives when everything looked so bleak. God bless you all.

Jean, Sean, Patrick and Brian

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Celebration

Celebration of Life

PAOLUCCI

Please join us to celebrate the life of

Corrado (Ken) Paolucci

It will be a very casual gathering to reminisce about Ken's life as we all knew him.

POSTPONED TILL A LATER DATE

Petrolia Times Herald
4156 Petrolia Line
FOR MORE INFO CALL 519-882-0503 or 519-882-0504
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Glenda Paolucci and Family

Coming Event

Lambton County Science Fair

Open to students

Grades 3-12


April 3 & 4 2020

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For information and to register

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Registration Closes March 30th.



Obituary



TOWLE

Faye

Obituary



SUTHERLAND

Reginald "Wayne"

Towle, Faye - Passed away at Lambton Meadowview Villa on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at the age of 80. Dearly loved wife of the late Jim (2008). Loving mother to Jim and Caron Towle of LaSalle and Christine and Frank Michalek of Alvinston. Cherished grandmother to Jordan and Lucas Towle and Frank Michalek (Erin) and Courtney Minten and proud great grandma to Amelia and Joshua. Dear sister to Lyle and Ilah Waters of Sarnia and the late Shirley and the late Jean Paul King and dear sister-in-law to Golden Garland of Kingston. She will be remembered by several nieces and nephews. Faye was a lifetime member of the IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter, Petrolia. She was an avid golfer and enjoyed winters in Florida. **Visitors were received on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 from 5-8 p.m. at Needham-Jay Funeral Home. A private family service has taken place. Interment in Hillsdale Cemetery.** As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made by cheque to the C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceehf.ca) or Margaret Stokes IODE. Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com

Help Wanted



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Help Wanted



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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

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

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LIONS INTERNATIONAL

Death Notices Mar. 11 to Mar. 17, 2020

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 KINGDON, Joseph Age 28, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home McPHAIL, Harley Age 62, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home FLEMING, Janette Age 82, of Lambton Steadman Brothers Funeral Home KING, Catherine Age 90, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	THURSDAY, MARCH 12 SUTHERLAND, Reginald "Wayne" Age 77, of Sarnia Steadman Brothers Funeral Home LEYSTRA, Frank Age 84, of Sarnia McCormick Funeral Home FRIDAY, MARCH 13 DIGNARD, Deborah Age 66, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home	TROTTIER, Roger Age 81, of Sarnia Needham-Jay Funeral Home MORDEN, Minnie Age 87, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home FANGEAT, Aime "Tim" Age 88, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home EDGAR, Jack Age 91, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home	SATURDAY, MARCH 14 TOWLE, Faye Age 80, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home POPOWICH, John Age 86, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home SUNDAY, MARCH 15 MICHENER, Margaret "Elaine" Age 76, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
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Church DIRECTORY

Please check with your local Church to insure worship and any other actives are still running

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
Find us on Facebook



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Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis. Equivalent weekly payments are for informational purposes only. Annual kilometer limit of 20,000 km, \$0.16 per excess kilometer. \$3,200 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is \$10,887. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and applicable fees, levies, duties and, except in Quebec, dealer fees (all of which may vary by dealer and region) are extra. Option to purchase at lease end is \$37,727. [‡] Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles purchased and delivered between March 3, 2020 to March 31, 2020. Total value includes \$10,000 Non-Stackable Credits (tax exclusive); applies to cash purchases of new 2020 Silverado Crew Cab RST models at participating dealers in Canada. \$10,000 total value; (tax exclusive; includes \$2,000 cash delivery allowance, \$6,500 non-stackable cash credits, \$500 option package discount and \$1,000 RST bonus). By selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing this \$10,000 credit which will result in higher effective interest rates. [¥] Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles purchased and delivered between March 3, 2020 to March 31, 2020. Lease based on suggested retail price of \$32,628, towards the lease of an eligible 2020 Equinox LT FWD Blackout Edition. Bi-weekly payment is \$158 for 48 months at 1% lease rate (1% APR) on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. The \$79 weekly payment is calculated by dividing the bi-weekly payments. Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis. Equivalent weekly payments are for informational purposes only. Annual kilometer limit of 20,000 km, \$0.16 per excess kilometer. \$2,800 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is \$18,486. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and applicable fees, levies, duties and, except in Quebec, dealer fees (all of which may vary by dealer and region) are extra. Option to purchase at lease end is \$14,356. [Ⓐ] To qualify for the Costco Member Pricing, you must be a Canadian resident holding a valid driver's license, have been a Costco member since January 2, 2020, or earlier and must: (1) Register with Costco to receive your non-transferable Authorization Number; (2) Present the Authorization Number to a participating dealer; (3) Retail purchase, finance or lease an eligible new or demonstrator in-stock 2020 Chevrolet: Equinox (excl. LS); delivered from January 3, 2020, to March 31, 2020. In addition, to receive a \$500 Costco Shop Card by email, submit a redemption form to Costco within thirty (30) days of vehicle delivery and complete a Costco member satisfaction survey. 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Offer is subject to change without notice. Void where prohibited. Costco and its affiliates do not sell automobiles nor negotiate individual transactions. [®]: Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. ^Q Whichever comes first. Limit of four complimentary Lube-Oil-Filter services in total. Fluid top-offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc., are not covered. See the Warranty Booklet or your dealer for details. [∞] Whichever comes first. ^Δ Visit onstar.ca for vehicle availability, coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services and connectivity vary by model and conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. 4G LTE service available in select markets. Requires active connected vehicle services and a data plan to access the vehicle's built-in Wi-Fi hotspot. Accessory Power must be active to use the Wi-Fi hotspot. Data plans provided by AT&T or its local service provider. Credit card is required for purchase.