

The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

Vol. 7, Issue 30

Newsstand Price \$1.50 per week

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Only 100 Lambton tests for COVID-19

Heather Wright
The Independent

There have been only 100 tests done in Lambton County on people suspected of having the novel coronavirus.

And the Lambton Medical Officer of Health says its a direct result of a world-wide shortage of COVID-19 test kits.

There are lots of rumours on social media about suspected cases in the Petrolia, Central Lambton area, but so far none of the tests have come back positive. Lambton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Sudit Ranade says there has been a backlog of testing provincially as well.

Over the weekend, an audio clip of Petrolia paramedics talking about a person with COVID-19 hit social media. Ranade says what people heard was paramedics talking about someone they were treating as a possible novel coronavirus patient.

Paramedics screen each person as they attend them, asking about their respiratory health and travel history. If they fail the test, the paramedics take all the precautions they would as if the person had tested positive. "They are treating people who have respiratory symptoms as someone with COVID-19," says Ranade. "There are a number of people who right now have a fever and cough, but they don't have COVID-19."

"We haven't had any positive cases coming back, when they come back, you'll hear about it."

However, public health officials are making plans assuming, the virus is already in Lambton County. Ranade says London, Chatham-Kent and Michigan all have confirmed cases already. "With our regular traffic patterns, it is likely here," he says.

But Ranade says without extensive testing, it is impossible right now to know for sure.

So far, there has been 60 tests done at the dedicated assessment centre in Sarnia.

SEE TESTS PG 3

ISOLATION IN NATURE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

A man takes a walk along at the boat launch at Highland Glen in Plympton-Wyoming. People across Petrolia and Central Lambton took advantage of the sunshine Sunday to find an isolated spot to get some fresh air. Public health officials want Ontario residents to stay home and only go out when necessary for the next 14 days as part of the effort to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Waterville, Huron Web layoff workers due to COVID-19

Heather Wright
The Independent

The economic impact of the fight to slow the novel coronavirus is tightening its grip.

Two large companies laid off employees, Waterville TG in Petrolia sent nearly 500 workers home for a week and Huron Web Print and Graphics laid off 73 people without a clear date of when they will return.

In a news release issued Friday, Waterville TG officials say our customers have decided to temporarily cease their operations in order to participate in the worldwide collect-

ive effort to stop the spread of COVID-19.

So Waterville employees will be off work until March 30. Up to 500 people work at the plant.

"We are aware that this measure has significant financial impacts, and we are working to find alternatives to try to reduce the impact on our employees," says Marie-Douce Pellerin, Human Resources GM. "My management committee and I are not making corporate decisions anymore, but we are ensuring that each of our decisions assures the maximum protection of our employees and of the population,"

adds Benoît Tétreault, the Waterville TG President.

Down Oil Heritage Line, Huron Web Owner Chris Cooke says an unprecedented loss of business led to the layoffs March 19.

Huron Web prints flyers in the US market and many of its customers are large grocery chains. When the United States government started to ask people to stay home to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus, people headed to the grocery stores and started buying up products. The industry soon realized it didn't need to advertise.

SEE LAYOFFS PG 2



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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Construction workers at hospitals are among those workers who have been declared essential services.

MOH surprised by essential list

Heather Wright
The Independent

Ontario sent more people home in the effort to slow the novel coronavirus, but many people, including Lambton’s medical officer of health, were surprised by just who is essential to the economy.

Monday afternoon Premier Doug Ford announced all non-essential business must close by Tuesday at 11:59 pm for the next 14 days. Monday evening, the government released a long list of what is considered essential.

Among those on the list included the obvious, anyone who has anything to do with getting food on your table, restaurants doing food delivery and take out, newspapers, and anything agriculture related since farmers are getting ready for spring planting.

Other essential services included beer and liquor stores, hotels and motels, taxis and all kinds of construction workers, including those working on projects at local hospitals, financial services including the stock

market, mining and resource companies, petroleum companies, real estate agents, environmental companies including well driller and pesticides applicators. In all, the list has 74 categories.

Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, was a bit surprised so many groups are deemed essential.

“The list is much longer than I thought it would be,” he says. “But it reflects the interconnections of what we do.

“I would think it would be a hard task to sit down and say what is essential and what’s not and overtime, that list might get shortened.”

Online people seemed most surprised, too. “So, what exactly is considered non-essential. Looks like everything is staying open. I don’t see any differences,” says Lucy Matheson.

The province is also asking business that can operate remotely to do so. Many businesses are setting rules on social distancing as they continue to operate.

Layoffs at Huron Web, Waterville

CON’T FROM PG 1

“The grocery stores kept calling and calling and calling saying they did require inserts and wouldn’t need inserts for two three four weeks...because there is such a run on stores on both sides of the border, they didn’t need to advertise,” says Cooke.

“Nor is there (a need) in the foreseeable future.”

Cooke says a million dollars worth of business evaporated in two days. That led to the difficult decision to lay 73 employees off Thursday.

“In 29 years, I have never seen anything like this and I have never been in a position like this.”

Cooke says the plant will continue operating on a reduced staff.

“The good news is we intend to stay in business,” says Cooke. “I have always said we intend to be the last one (printer) standing, so we are going to operate with a skeleton staff.”

“We’re in uncharted territory here and I’m not sure what the long term is,” says Cooke.

For now, 18 people will stay on and print weekly newspapers - including The Independent.

At least one US newspaper has already said it won’t print, choosing instead to go online for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis.

And Cooke is not sure how many community newspapers will survive this seismic shift in the economy.

“This is unprecedented....I don’t think everybody is going to get through the other side.

“Most of the weekly newspapers we print are going to print, one weekly newspaper that is not going to print this week or the week after,” he says.

“The ones that aren’t financially strong there is a potential they won’t come out the other side.”



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Power rates cut in half for 45 days

The Independent

The province is axing the time-of-use power rate structure for the next 45 days. It's a move Premier Doug Ford says should cut families power bills in half as people self isolate and children are home from school. Normally, consumers pay between 14.4 and 20.8 cents per kilowatt hour from 7 am to 7 pm. After that it drops down to 10.1 per cent. For a 45-day period, the government will standardize the rate 10.1 cents-per-kilowatt-hour. This reduced price will be available 24 hours per day, seven days a week to all

time-of-use customers, who make up the majority of electricity consumers in the province. The discount will be applied automatically to electricity bills without the need for customers to fill out an application form. "We are providing much-needed relief to Ontarians, specifically helping those who are doing the right thing by staying home and small businesses that have closed or are seeing fewer customers," said Premier Doug Ford in a news conference Tuesday. "By adopting a fixed, 24/7 off-peak rate, we are making things a little easier during these difficult times and putting more money in people's pockets for other important priorities and necessities."

SPECIAL DELIVERY



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Brian Egan, a member of the Wyoming Lions Club, was loading his SUV with groceries Saturday. He and other members of the club are taking turns making deliveries to people who aren't able to get out during the novel coronavirus isolation period. People who have just returned from vacation or who aren't feeling well, can call in to Charlie Visscher at the Wyoming Foodland to arrange the delivery by the Lions members. They're also delivering supplies from the Wyoming Pharmacy and Hardware Stores. The volunteers simply leave the items in an agreed place and never make physical contact with the customers. The Wyoming Lions are one of many groups helping out. In Petrolia, the Rotary Club is providing delivery Heidi's Independent Grocery store. The Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Department's Support Operations Response Team is providing support for the group.

Tests for COVID-19 limited in Lambton

CON'T FROM PG 1

Ranade says another 40 test have been done by other health care providers. "That's changing every day because we are doing more tests everyday. And we're still waiting for lab results," he says. The province is ramping up lab capabilities. A laboratory in Hamilton is now able to test for COVID-19 and it appears to be making a dent in the backlog. Numbers released by the province showed a marked increase in positive cases Tuesday. For now, Ranade says Lambton health officials are limiting who receives the test. "The whole health care system is looking around for the supplies," he says. "We wish

we did have the tests but for now, we have to be more practical about who gets the testing and that's out of necessity." Ranade says people concerned they may have the virus can go to the Ontario government's self assessment site and then, if they have symptoms, they can call their health care provider. That could lead to a referral to the assessment centre. He adds most of the testing is being done when critical patients arrive in the emergency department. Ranade says in all but the most serious cases, health care providers are telling the ill to stay home until their test results have come back.

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- Reminder to place all napkins, paper towels and tissues securely in waste bags. Some of these items are appearing in recycling.
- Waste bags can be placed on top of blue boxes to limit blowing items and keep material as dry as possible.

OTHER TIPS TO PREVENT BLOWING RECYCLING:

- Place heavier recycling items on top of the lighter items.
- Do not place plastic bags, Styrofoam or take-out coffee cups in the blue box. These items are not acceptable and are often seen blowing around.
- Keep items below the rim of the blue box, there is less chance of items blowing out if it is not overflowing.

Editorial

Stay Home

Most days in our busy lives, many of us wish for a quiet day at home. We want time to unwind and relax. In the time of the novel coronavirus - we have lots of time just to be still.

Unfortunately, not everyone thinks they should. And frankly - it is going to cost lives.

As you're aware, the province closed schools for three weeks and restricted restaurants to providing only takeout or drive through food services. Companies were asked to figure out ways employees could work from home all in an attempt to keep people away from other people and stop the spread of the flu-like virus which has already infected almost 2,035 people by Monday and killed 24 across the country.

The real concern by public health officials was all of those people coming back from March Break.

Public health officials issued several warnings for travellers to go straight home and stay home for 14 days - no travelling around for groceries or visits with family.

There are a number of people who simply ignored those warnings. They apparently feel this isn't serious.

It is. People will die because travellers, who don't feel sick now, will go and do what they want when they want.

And that's why you should stay home, too.

You don't know if that person in the Tim Horton's line is just back from Florida or has been back for 13 days and now is starting to feel sick.

You could very easily pick that virus up and spread it around to even more people - and the most vulnerable of our population, our seniors.

It is no doubt exhausting to be isolated. It is frustrating not to go the places we normally go. It will be for some people far more than they can bear financially. (There are federal programs that will help. You can research them online while you are in isolation in your house.)

And for some, the strain on their mental health will be devastating. Reach out to them however you can but at a distance.

If we do stay home, we will save lives. It is that simple.

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor.

Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca

You can also deliver letters to *The Independent* at 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia or drop them in the mail at *The Independent*, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0.

The Independent reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity.

All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

Our Story



LAMBTON COUNTY ARCHIVES PHOTO

This photo is of Brand's Drive-Inn on the north side of Petrolia Line. It was a favourite spot for burgers, fries and soft ice cream. The building still stands today and is a family home.

Journalism vital in the fight against COVID-19

It has been a dizzying couple of weeks as we try to adjust to life avoiding the novel coronavirus. And, like many of you, I'm wondering what the future holds.

Our world has been turned upside down by a virus that has spread around the world and killed thousands.

There is no cure for the virus. Our actions are the only thing that can stop it. As you've heard over and over again, stay home, stay about six feet away from people, cough and sneeze into your elbow and only go out for essential services - like your groceries.

You really won't have a choice but to only go out for essential services. The province announced Monday, all non-essential businesses would be closed for 14 days.

If you work in a beauty salon, make auto parts or work the retail sector, you will be joining a whole lot of other people in self-isolation Wednesday.

There are a whole lot of people feeling a little put out that what they do isn't deemed essential. I get that. People right now are deemed heroes for doing their job and to be said that what you do isn't important stings a bit.

I've been feeling a bit like that. A journalist friend of mine has a needle-point that says Journalism; It's a tough job with insane pressure and crappy pay. On the other hand, everybody hates you.

Looking at the poll numbers in the US, where the president is giving inaccurate information daily but people still believe he's doing a better job than journalists, it has a ring of truth.

But, I believe with my whole heart the news industry is essential to beating the novel coronavirus. We need professional journalists to sort through the massive amount of information that changes by the second, other-

wise we will be relying on some guy named Fred, who is sitting in his basement in his sweatpants spinning tall tales and speculating on Facebook and Twitter.

So, here is my commitment to you; *The Independent* will keep you informed in print as long as possible and on-line despite a brutal economic outlook. We'll keep working the phones and, if the province agrees, heading out on the streets, so you know what is happening in your community. Hopefully, our informed readers will be part of the solution. Stay well friends.



Heather Wright



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News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

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Bracing for the impact of COVID-19 layoffs

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sandra Hartman expects there will be a lot more people visiting the Petrolia Food Bank in the next few weeks. The manager says it won't take long for people in the service industry - who have been laid off as businesses close to try to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus - to run out of cash. Then, she says, they'll need some help. "Right now, what I'm hearing from the people I know, is we're all getting by. But the longer this goes on, the more people will be in need. "Things are getting harder because more things are closing and people are being told to self isolate." When the food bank opened March 16, there were 30 adults in need with 15 kids to support. Hartman expects April may be the most difficult month. The federal assistance programs are expected to reach Canadians in May. And she says it won't be easy for those workers to ask for help. "Even with so many people in our community not working, it is going to be hard enough to walk through that door." Increased traffic is only one of the affects of the flu-like virus in the community. Hartman, like many others, is worried about what she will be able to get to stock the shelves. "It's difficult getting product right now," she says. "People are stockpiling items. I don't think people know what affect that has on others including food banks."

Hartman says recently she went out to get some things for the food bank and could only find half of what she needed. And she is also conscious of buying up large amounts of items. "I don't



FILE PHOTO

Sandra Hartman of the Petrolia Food Bank believes there will be a spike in the number of people needing help. She believes laid off service workers waiting for Employment Insurance in May will be turning to the food bank for help.

want to be stockpiling either." The food bank has changed the way it does things during the pandemic. All the volunteers are wearing gloves. Families are being asked to send just one person to the office. Anyone with any symptoms won't be let in. Hartman says families are being given a food box but for now, won't be able to come in and make their own food selections. Even though the food bank is preparing boxes for its clients, Hartman says any donations are welcome right now.

"We will need anything and everything. Sooner or later, it's going to be used," she says Any food donations that are coming in the door are going into 'quarantine' for a week to ensure if the virus was on the packaging, it would have died. Hartman says right now, volunteers are serving everyone they can but it isn't clear whether the food bank will be able to deliver to homes if people are sick and in need of support. "We will help as much as we can with food because that's a stressor."

Social services says financial help is available here

Heather Wright
The Independent

Valerie Colasanti wants Lambton County residents to know there is help to get through your personal cash crunch. The general manager of social services says as more people run out of cash after being laid off during the pandemic, her department is finding ways to make it easier to apply for and get either short-term relief or Ontario Works benefits. "We anticipate we will see more people as closures continue," she says. "There are lots of people who don't

have money in the bank for more than a couple of days." With the "sheer volume" of people applying for the federal emergency aid, Colasanti expects there will be a wait to receive benefits and that is where the county can help. Colasanti says right now, they will help people over the phone without taking the paper work normally required for Ontario Works. She says that can be dealt with later. Social services can also provide a two-week emergency cheque "until EI comes in," she says. Workers can also help find ways to deal unpaid power bills.

"There is assistance through Hydro One," she says adding there are a number of resources staff can direct clients toward to deal with their financial issues. And for the first time, people will be able to apply for help online through the county's website. Colasanti is expecting a lot of people to be turning to Lambton for help so her department has stopped providing employment programs for now so more people can provide help directly to new clients. Right now, the office is closed to walk in clients, but Colasanti says people can call 519-344-2057 help.

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Back home and alone: vacationers return to isolation and restrictions

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dwayne Smith wasn't expecting to be home so early. And he certainly wasn't expecting to have to ask for help to get his groceries when he returned. But that's exactly what was happening Saturday morning at Smith's Churchill Line home in Plympton-Wyoming. He and his wife had been in Florida for some time enjoying their winter getaway in Lakeland with hundreds of other snowbirds. His dad, Harold, was also there with his mom and everyone was enjoying themselves. Then, Harold's wife had a medical emergency. She was treated well in a hospital there, but had to return to Ontario for further treatment. Harold went home with his wife but Dwayne stayed. Then, concern about the novel coronavirus began to surface. Soon, Ontario's schools were closing for three weeks and Smith's daughter was hoping her parents would help with child care when she went back to work. Smith was scheduled to return to Ontario April 3, but as the situation changed minute by minute, Smith decided to head home. "My wife thought if we were going to get sick, it would be better to be sick here." He says they were concerned it might be tough to get back into



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Harold and Dwayne Smith visit with each other, from a distance after Dwayne returned from Florida this week.

Canada and by then, Smith's mother was back in the hospital, so they made their way home. They made it safely, but for 14 days, the couple will be at home, alone, popping out into the garage to pick up the groceries dropped off by the Wyoming Lions volunteers, but not going much farther. That's exactly what Lambton Medical Officer of Health, Dr.

Sudit Ranade wants. He urging people returning from March Break to self-isolate to stop the spread of the virus. He says this is a critical time to keep it in check. Ranade says public health has been getting complaints about vacationers returning home and going out in public. He's urging people to handle those situation with kindness.

"Shaming people is not going to help. Talk to them saying 'I'm concerned about your health, I'm concerned about my health and the health of my family and friends.' They need to know...but do it with kindness." Smith believes the regulations are "a little bit of overkill" but he's complying with them so he and his wife can take care of the grand-

children. For Harold, the restrictions because of COVID-19 are also difficult. His wife is back in the hospital in Sarnia and with new restrictions around visitors, she is alone. "She's really down about it," says Smith as he visits at a distance with his son. The couple has been married 60 years and are rarely separated.

Helping Hands

of Petrolia & Central Lambton

Helping Hands in Petrolia is a Facebook Group to connect willing helpers with those in need in their communities.

Do you need help with...
picking up groceries?
small chores?
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Staff is available by phone and e-mail during normal business hours Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 519-845-3939. Please go to our website at www.plympton-wyoming.ca for more information and visit our COVID-19 webpage and subscribe for important updates. We also suggest every resident signs up to MyCNN for the latest updates in Lambton County.

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Municipalities, local service club helping people get supplies they need

The Independent

Warwick’s Council and businesses are also working together. Both McLaren Pharmacy and Watford Foodland have started taking orders and payments over the phone.
Both businesses have partnered with the township and members of Warwick Council will deliver

ordered goods to residents between 4 and 6pm daily.
Warwick Township has also created an information hub for residents.
The idea is to give people in the community up-to-date information about the community.
“When dealing with a crisis like this one, information is the key to keeping everyone calm and level

headed,” says Mayor of Warwick Township Jackie Rombouts.
“We are dedicated to keeping our site up to date and as accurate as possible so that no one needs to panic due to false information.”
Warwick asks the community to help ensure the online COVID 19 information hub is up date. Submit updates on local services and business offerings by contacting

the Township by phone at 519-849-3926 or e-mail to info@warwicktownship.ca.
In St. Clair Township, the local Optimists are stepping up to help during the pandemic.
Optimist member Tracy Kingston says members of the club will be working with the Corunna Foodland to deliver groceries to those who aren’t able to get out

themselves either because they are ill, in self isolation or simply are worried about going out.
Kingston says the store will take the orders and payment will be made with credit cards.
Volunteers will deliver the items right to the front door, leaving them in a prearranged spot and not having any contact with the people inside the home.

Watch for damage to businesses: OPP

If you’re closing your business because of the novel coronavirus, the OPP has some tips for you to keep your property safe.
The idea, say officials in the West Region, is to make your property less attractive to thieves.
Police suggest removing all valuables from storefront displays and also taking all the cash from the tills, leaving it open with the cash tray out and visibly empty.
Officer suggest you make sure your alarms are working and that your contact lists are up-to-date.
Post on your doors and windows that the building is monitored by an alarm company and that no money is kept on the premises.
They also suggest asking people to call the OPP if they notice any damage.
Police also suggest:
• Clean all windows and floors prior to leaving and note when you’ve done so (have a log) as this will help investigators should there be a break-in
• Consider a surveillance system which can be monitored remotely by phone/online
• Consider putting a laminate on all

windows/glass to discourage and help prevent easy entry
• Keep some lighting on inside to help with video surveillance and consider lighting on timers if possible
• Ensure all doors and windows are locked and secure
• Ensure all exterior lighting works and is on - consider motion sensor lights as another option
• Remove anything on the exterior which could be used to gain entry to your premises including bricks, ladders, poles, and construction materials
• Regularly check the building and keep track of when you check, have a log, but go at different times
Police say like your home, if it looks cared for and looks like someone is home or around regularly, thieves will move on to other locations
Police are also asking neighbours and residents to keep an eye on closed businesses and call police if they see any damage.



Village of Oil Springs Coronavirus Update

The Village of Oil Springs is continuing to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19, at this time we will be CLOSING The Village Offices until March 30, 2020.

The Dog Tag deadline has been extended from the original date of April 30, 2020, until May 29, 2020.

We are all in this together. With everyones corporation we can get through this.

WAWICK UPDATE COVID 19



We want all of Warwick Township to know that you are not alone during this difficult time.

We appreciate everyone’s co-operation in strictly adhering to the social distancing guidelines set out for us from the best medical expert advisors. Warwick Township is going above and beyond to protect our staff and residents from this dangerous illness. Please do your part as well.

Together we will get through this. Even if from a distance.

The Township has created a web portal for local information on businesses and service levels.
Visit warwicktownship.ca/covid19 for regular local updates.

Refer to Lambton Public Health for up to date information on COVID 19 at lambtonpublichealth.ca.

TOWN OF PETROLIA Closures & New Business Hours

Your guide to Petrolia business's hours and operations during this Public Emergency.

Restaurants

Actor's Casual Dining
OPEN TAKE OUT ONLY
Mon-Thu 11:30-2:30 | Fri 11:30-7 | Sat-Sun 4-7
4211 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0400 • www.actorscasualdining.ca

Athena's Restaurant
OPEN TAKE OUT ONLY | 11 - Dinner Time
4375 Petrolia Line • 519-882-1998 • www.athenasdiner.business.site

Bud's Family Pizza
OPEN | FREE DELIVERY | Mon-Wed 3-8:30 | Thr 10 - 12, 3-9:30 Fri 10-9:30 | Sat 3-9:30 | Sun 3-8:30
436 Albany St • 519-882-0000 • find us on Facebook

Coffee Lodge - Petrolia
OPEN TAKE OUT ONLY
Mon-Thu 6-8 | Fri 6-7 | Sat 7-5 | Sun 8-30-4
4119 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0633 • www.coffeelodge.ca

Crabby Joe's - Petrolia
CLOSED
4236 Petrolia Line • 519-882-4848 • www.crabbyjoes.com

Godfathers Pizza - Petrolia
OPEN TAKE OUT ONLY Delivery after 4pm
Mon-Thu 11-10 | Fri-Sat 11-12 | Sun 11-10
4204 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0550 • www.godfatherspizza.ca

Helen's Hideaway/Haywood's Tap & Grill
CLOSED
4196 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0300 • find us on Facebook

Heng's Chinese Restaurant
CLOSED
4148 Petrolia Line • Petrolia • 519-882-1050

Johnny G's Pizza Premium Pizza Plus
CLOSED
4108 Petrolia Line Unit #1 • 519-882-2000 • find us on Facebook

Munchies
OPEN TAKE OUT ONLY | Mon-Sun 6-8
4206 Oil Heritage Rd • 519-882-1000

Petrolia Street Bakery
OPEN ONLY BREAD AVAILABLE | no Desserts
Mon CLOSED | Tue-Fri 10-4 | Sat 10-3 | No walkins
4224 Petrolia Line • 226-932-0344 • find us on Facebook

Petrolia Pizza & Subs
OPEN TAKE OUT ONLY | Mon-Thu 11-8 | Fri-Sat 11-9
4170 Petrolia Line • 519-882-1886 • www.petroliapizza.com

Staffy's Sandwiches
OPEN TAKE OUT & DELIVERY | Mon-Fri 11-6 | Sat 11-4
4159B Petrolia Line • 519-881-1712 • find us on Facebook

Subway - Petrolia
OPEN | Mon-Fri 7-12 | Sat 8-12 | Sun 9-10
4111 Petrolia Line • 519-882-4215 • www.subway.com

The Cottage
CLOSED
4190 Petrolia Line • 226-738-0881 • find us on Facebook

Tim Hortons - Petrolia
OPEN DRIVE THROUGH ONLY | 24 Hours
4160 Petrolia Line • 519-882-4774 • www.timhortons.ca

Wise Guys Inc
Open TAKE OUT & FREE DELIVERY| Online Ordering
Mon-Thr 4-8 | Fri-Sat 4-9 | Sun 4-8
4108 Petrolia Line • 519-882-7499 • www.wiseguysinc.ca

Retails

Always in Bloom
CLOSED
4183 Petrolia Line • 519-882-9034 • www.alwaysinbloom.ca

Behind the Grin Tattoo
CLOSED
4208 Oil Heritage Rd • 519-331-4893 • find us on Facebook

Back Room Tattoos
CLOSED
4239 Petrolia Line • 519-328-9381 • find us on Facebook

Brooke Telecom - Petrolia
CLOSED | Phone Assistance Available
4172 Petrolia Line • 519-844-2160 • www.brooketel.coop

Cash & Carry Feed Bin
OPEN | Mon-Fri 8:5-30 | Sat 8:30-1
4349 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0166 • www.cashncarryfeed.com

Choice Dollar 1-2-3
OPEN
4141 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0532

Circle K - Petrolia
OPEN | 24 Hours
4111 Petrolia Line • 519-882-2640 • www.circlek.com

Family Discount Depot
CLOSED
4219 Petrolia Line • 519-882-4885 • www.familydiscountdepot.business.site/

Gray's Flowers & Gifts
CLOSED
4347 Petrolia Line • 519-882-1330 • www.graysflowersandgifts.com

Grandis Jewellers
CLOSED
4230 Petrolia Line • 519-882-1320 • www.grandisjewellery.com

Guild Chocolates
CLOSED | Deliveries only April 4 & 10
4180 Petrolia Line • 519-331-3444 • www.guildchocolates.com

Heidi's Your Independent Grocer
OPEN | 7-8am Seniors Only Shopping
Mon-Fri 7-8 | Sat-Sun 7-6
Delivery Available 519-882-2211
4136 Petrolia Line • 519-882-2211 • www.yourindependentgrocer.ca/

Juce Computers
OPEN | Mon-Fri 9:30-5:30 | Remote Service Only
4109 Petrolia Line • 519-882-2121 • www.jucecomputers.com

Lambton BMR PRO
OPEN & Doors Locked | Mon-Fri 7:30-5 | Sat 8-12
Pick up outside store or Delivery
4497 Progress Dr • 519-882-3080 • www.bmr.co

LCBO
OPEN | Mon Closed | Tue-Sun 11-6
4353 Petrolia Line • 519-882-2010 • www.lcbo.com

Leisure Lane
CLOSED | Phone Assistance Available
4229 Petrolia Line • 519-882-2311 • find us on Facebook

M&M Food Market
OPEN | Online Ordering | Mon-Sat 9-6 | Sun 11-5
Order by Phone| Delivery in town if necessary
4119 Petrolia Line Unit 2 • 519-882-4316 • www.mmfo.odmarket.com

Mr. B's
CLOSED | Phone Assistance Available
4227 Petrolia Line • 519-882-3111 • find us on Facebook

Past & Present Antiques
CLOSED
4166 Petrolia Line

Petrolia Home Hardware
OPEN for Phone Orders Only | Mon-Sat 9-4
4120 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0920 • www.homehardware.ca

Petrolia Mercantile & Tea
Please Call First
4192 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0238 • find us on Facebook

Sew Crafty
CLOSED
4159 Petrolia Line • 226-738-0463 • find us on Facebook

Sitek & Company
CLOSED | Phone Assistance Available
4223 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0706 • find us on Facebook

Sitek Tailor Shop
CLOSED | Phone Assistance Available
4223 Petrolia Line • 519-882-3111 • find us on Facebook

Specialty Rubber Stamps
Retail CLOSED | Service Ontario 1-800-267-8097
4178 Petrolia Line • 519-882-1905 • www.specialtyrubberstamps.com

Stitcharie
CLOSED
4247 Oil Heritage Rd • 519 918 2226 • www.stitcharie.com

St Vincent de Paul
CLOSED
4187 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0541

The Bargain Shop
OPEN | Mon-Sat 10-5 | Sun 12Noon-5
4141 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0057 • www.thebargainshop.com

The Beer Store
OPEN | No Recycling | Mon-Thu 10-6 | Fri 10-7 | Sat 10-6 | Sun 12-5
4355 Petrolia Line • 519-882-1920 • www.thebeerstore.ca

The Local Shoppe
CLOSED
4207 Petrolia Line • 519-882-1479 • find us on Facebook

The Olde Post Office
CLOSED
4189 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0747 • find us on Facebook

The Olive Tree
CLOSED
4211 Petrolia Line • 519-882-4499 • www.theolivetreepetrolia.com

The Vapory
CLOSED
4110 Petrolia Line Unit 1 • 226-348-8273 • www.vapory.ca

Victorian Country Flowers
CLOSED
4174 Petrolia Line • 519-882-4451

Weiland Meats
OPEN | Mon-Fri 10-5 | Sat 9-3:30
4209 Petrolia Line • 519-882-8767 • find us on Facebook

Western Boot Corral
CLOSED
4207 Petrolia Line • 519-882-4609 • www.westernbootcorral.com

Windover Nurseries
CLOSED | Email/Phone Orders | Orders can be picked up
4662 Petrolia Line • 519-882-0120 • www.windovernurseries.com

X-Cel Wines
OPEN | Limited Hours Call First
4373 Petrolia Line • 519-882-1121 • www.xcelwines.com

Services

21 Shell & Variety
OPEN | Mon-Fri 6-9 | Sat 7-9 | Sun 8-9
4496 Petrolia Line • 519-882-1630 • www.shell.com

BDO Canada -Petrolia
OPEN | Drop Off ONLY | Mon-Fri 8:30-5
4495 Petrolia Line • 519-882-3333 • www.bdo.ca

Brokerlink Insurance
Phone Assistance Or E-mail ONLY
4146 Petrolia Line • 519-882-2470 • onwserviceteam@brokerlink.ca

Caldwell Banker Real Estate - Petrolia
OPEN | By Appointment Only
4217 Petrolia Line • 519-331-8335 • www.coldwellbankersouthwest.ca

Canada Post - Petrolia
OPEN | Requesting that mail be dropped in outside box
4129 Petrolia Line • www.canadapost.ca

CIBC Bank - Petrolia
OPEN | Mon-Fri 10-4
4130 Petrolia Line • 519-882-1357 • www.cibc.com

Co-Operators Insurance
OPEN | Phone Assistance Only | Mon-Fri 9-5
4247 Oil Heritage Rd • 519-882-4880 • www.cooperators.ca

Digital Ink
CLOSED
4351 Petrolia Line • 519-331-4208 • www.digink.ca

EXIT Realty
OPEN | By Appointment
4137 Petrolia Line • 519-882-4400 • www.336exit.com

Focus Financial
OPEN | By Appointment
4237 Petrolia Line • 519-433-0101 ext 106 • Mike Bryans

H&R Block - Petrolia
OPEN | Drop Offs Only
399 Eureka St • 519-491-3115 • www.hrblock.ca

Heritage Esso
OPEN | Mon-Fri 6-8 | Sat 7-8 | Sun 8-8
4495 Petrolia Line • 519-882-3228 • www.esso.ca

Hub International - Petrolia
Phone or Email Assistance tara.palominos@hubinternational.com
4212 Petrolia Line • 519-882-5831 • www.hubinternational.com

John Duff Limited
CLOSED
210 Tank St • 519-882-0740 • www.johnduff.ca

Johnny Shoemaker
CLOSED
399 Eureka St • 226-372-0205 • find us on Facebook

MacFarlane's Chevrolet Buick GMC
CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC but still here to help | Mon-Fri 8-4
4229 Petrolia Line • 519-882-1090 • find us on Facebook

Manulife Securities
Phone Assistance Only
4111 Petrolia Line • 519-882-4384 • www.manulifebank.ca

The Independent
CLOSED | Phone Assistance Only | Mon-Fri 9-5
4156 Petrolia Line • 226-738-0728 • www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Petrolia Bluewater TKD
CLOSED
4210 Petrolia Line • 519-882-3523 • www.petroliabluewatertkd.ca

Petrolia Enterprises
CLOSED
339 1/2 Centre St • 519-882-2711 • www.petroliaenterprises.ca

COVID-19

Stories of COVID-19 in Petrolia and Central Lambton

Life has changed drastically in the last week; these are the stories of a few people affected by the massive changes caused by the novel coronavirus.

Heather Wright
The Independent

Normally, Al Broad has just three things in common with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. They're both men; they're both politicians, and they're both Canadians.

This week, they share one more thing in common. They're both in isolation. The mayor of Dawn-Euphemia went to Cuba with a group of friends in mid-March. At the time, people were talking about the novel coronavirus, but the only travel restrictions were to China and Italy.

But it wasn't long before the group was watching Canada bat-ten down the hatches to stop the spread of the virus.

"We were picking up bits and pieces on Facebook. It was interesting watching from a different country. When we got to Cuba, there wasn't any concern about the virus. The odd person at the airport had a mask, but nothing of any significance."

"Wednesday and Thursday, the masks came out at the resort because there were Italian tourists...When we went back through the airport Saturday almost everybody had a mask."

When they flew into the Hamilton airport, Broad says the information was limited. "We came home and after listening to the news, it was pretty obvious what the best thing was self isolation...we definitely didn't want to pass anything along to anyone vulnerable."

Since he's been home, the township declared a state of emergency and closed its doors to the public. Broad says staff and other members of council have helped make sure things have gone as smoothly as possible while he stays at home.

Some of the neighbours have noticed the mayor was staying put. Someone put up a podium and a sign with 'Mayor's Address' on it. "It gave me a good chuckle in a time where there is lots of stress."

Dawn Sperling was at her computer Tuesday, trying to figure out if she could take advantage of some of the new federal programs to help people laid off because of COVID-19.

For the last year, Sperling has been working as a sales associate at Grandis Jewellers. Over the last couple of weeks, as Canada came to grips with the flu-like virus at the center of the pandemic, she was still working. The shop had stopped doing watch repairs, but they

were still working.

But as the economic impact of other shutdowns took hold, business began to slow. Reg and Maureen Grandis decided to close until the pandemic fears eased.

That left Sperling without a paycheck and spending time looking for cash through government programs.

"Glen (Sperling's husband) is working at home so I have to stay out of his way. I have some craft projects that I should have started years ago, a dog who needs walking. My goal is not to spend all day in front of the TV."

And Sperling has to figure out the online schooling for her son, Eddie, who is in Grade 7.

Sperling doesn't like being out of works but says "I'm a survivor, Glen is working full time. We'll be okay."

Elleka Belet brings an extra set of clothes with her to work right now.

The Petrolia native, now living in Samia, is a nurse. Usually she works with people recovering from orthoscopic surgery. Now, she goes where she is needed. Most likely, that will mean she will encounter people who have COVID-19.

Belet feels ready to help, but admits, health care workers are nervous. "You can tell there is a heightened anxiety in the hospital"

We're advocating for each other, and the well being of each other, we want to make sure were safe."

Public officials have been asking for donations of personal protective gear for health care workers, fearing a huge wave of patients will exhaust supplies. Some manufacturers are also making equipment to bridge the gap.

Belet says hospital workers are better prepared for the virus after surviving the SARS outbreak. Her university professors lived through it and passed along tips to get through a pandemic.

"They told us 'You do want to protect yourself, there are times you can't really predict your meeting someone who you don't know if they have it or not."

"Take precautions...do whatever is comfortable and safe for you."

For Belet, that means extra precautions outside of the hospital, too.

"I bring an extra set of clothes and I change out of my scrubs when I'm coming home. That way there is less of a chance of bringing anything home with me."

"It is something I want to do so I don't bring it into my home."

And when she returns to work, she'll be carrying more clean clothes and a bit of apprehension. "I've been off three days and I'm going back in tomorrow, what am I going into," she says adding she's not even sure what unit she will be working on . And since a health care worker was diagnosed with COVID-19 "I am hyper aware of what I am doing."

Stephanie Redick loves working with the elderly. In the world of COVID-19, there are times of fun and heartache.

Redick is a personal support worker at Meadowview Villa in Petrolia. The nursing home, like every other nursing home across the province, is locked down. The elderly and ill can no longer have family at their side.

Some, whose families visit daily, are

aware something has changed, but few can understand the craziness outside the walls of the nursing home. It's up to Redick and her coworkers to keep the residents busy and help their live to continue as normal.

There are extras. Redick says staff help residents talk to family by FaceTime or Skype. And she says, they just take time to be with them.

"We'll curl their hair, sit and watch movies with them if we have a moment...hang out with them a bit, just walk with them in the hall, have funny conversation, and laugh," she says.

But it is not always easy and light. "We are a long-term care facility, we still have people passing; that's being the biggest struggle as a PSW. You have to be that extra; you don't want them to be alone."

"That has broke our heart."

Stacy Gordon misses her kids. Not her own children - she's at home with them building up their basic skills as they wait to return to the classroom.

Gordon misses her students at Lambton Centennial School. She's one of thousands of teachers across the province at home, waiting for the isolation from the virus to end. It's hard for her to be at home.

"To be honest, I am uncomfortable with this. It is a scary time and I would rather be back in the classroom with my kids."

There, she could talk to them and help them understand what is going on. "There are actually some fantastic website suggestions on the board website about how to talk to the kids about COVID-19."

"Personally, being honest, factual and reassuring would be an important start to the conversation with my kids."

Christina Webb's goal is to make life as normal as possible.

The personal support worker has been on the job at Fiddick's in Petrolia for 17 years. The residents, she says, are like family. That's important right now, when their biological family are not allowed into the home. Elderly people are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

For many, especially those who have dementia or Alzheimer's, nothing much has changed. And with the world changing quickly outside Fiddick's doors, Webb and her coworkers try to keep it that way. "Being a PSW is a calling.... we go in every single day to look after these people because we care. It is definitely not for the money, or glory. We have sore backs and some days leave in tears. We spend more time with (them) than our own families, they become our family too, and we take care of them as if they are our very own."



Stephanie Redick



Stacy Gordon



Elleke Belet



Dawn Sperling

Phone: (519) 882-2350 • Fax: (519) 882-3373
411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0
townpetroliaon.ca



*This list is correct to the best of our ability as of noon, March 24, 2020. Should we have missed a business, or your situation has changed we apologize. We advise that residents always call ahead to ensure that the service listed is still available. Thank you for your assistance in adhering to the parameters set out for social distancing and for meeting the requests of our merchants, and for shopping in Petrolia.**

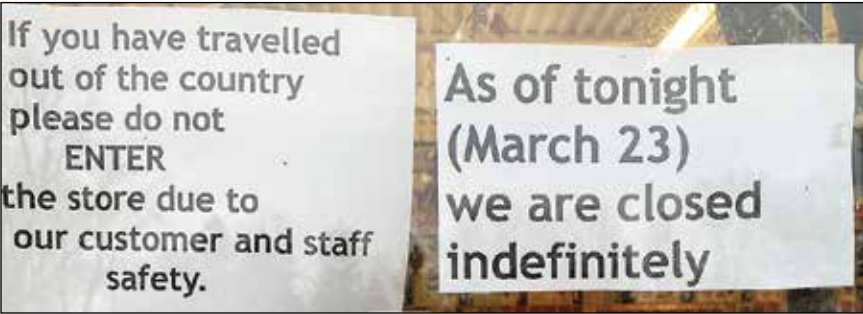


Signs of the Times

Messages of hope and pleas to follow health warnings were everywhere in Petrolia and Central Lambton this week

Above a woman walking to Wyoming Foodland is reflected in the sign at Paul Marley Pharmacy which says “We stayed at work for you. You stay at home for us.” At Kettle Point, a masked gorilla gets in on the message to keep your distance, as did the Plympton-Wyoming Fire Department in Wyoming. Businesses urged people to wash their hands and buy takeout to support restaurants who could no longer serve customers inside. And someone put messages of thanks in front of several Petrolia businesses including Hogan’s Pharmacy on Monday night.

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS



SKY HIGH REPAIRS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Workers from Doktor Masonry in Wyoming were high over Petrolia March 17 as they worked on the historic St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The work is continuing throughout the week.

Teacher tentative deal draws criticism

The Independent

Some of the details of a deal between the Ontario government and Catholic teachers are trickling out and high school teachers are voicing concern.

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' and the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario have reached deals after months of labour unrest.

Teachers said the labour dispute was about cuts to education and Education Minister Stephen Lecce said teachers only wanted a larger wage increase.

"We remain focused on landing further deals, to provide stability and certainty to students, parents, and educators," says Lecce.

It is the OECTA deal that is raising

eyebrows. The Toronto Star is reporting the three-year deal will mean up to 320 more teachers will be in the classroom, with teachers getting a one per cent wage increase and improvements to benefits. But class sizes will inch up to 24.5 students on average and 23 for secondary schools. There will also be two mandatory elearning classes that parents could opt out of after talking with the guidance councillors.

All unions fought against increasing class sizes and any mandatory elearning during the rotating walkouts this winter. There are calls on social media from members of other teaching unions to members of OECTA to reject the agreement saying it is more important to keep class sizes low and avoid online classes altogether.

More restrictions on who can visit hospital

The Independent

Bluewater Health is further restricting who can be in the hospital with sick family members.

Bluewater Health is further reducing visiting to ensure a safe and secure environment for patients and staff. Only labouring mothers, paediatric patients, people having surgery, or patients who are end-of-life may have one consistent visitor.

The designated visitors will be screened for symptoms and recent travel, and are required to check in at the nurses' station. Until now, anyone staying the hospital could have one consistent visitor.

"We recognize the impact of isolation for patients and families, and are doing whatever we can to help patients and loved ones stay connected throughout these restrictions.

"We are offering patients other tools to stay busy as we implement best practices to manage anticipated surges in patient volumes due to COVID-19," says Shannon Landry, the hospital's chief nursing executive.

Staff will help patients connect to family with Skype, FaceTime and telephone calls either with their own devices or with devices from the hospital. Bedside TV programming will be offered free of charge for now.

Takeout guide

DUE TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION
THE DINING ROOM
AT JOHN'S RESTAURANT IS **NOW CLOSED**



WE WILL BE MONITORING
THE SITUATION CLOSELY
AND ADJUSTING AS NECESSARY. **Be Safe!**

JOHN'S RESTAURANT
REMAINS
Open
FOR
TAKE OUT ORDERS
PLEASE CALL AHEAD AT
519.542.9821
TAKE OUT HOURS 9AM-7PM
SKIP THE DISHES
IS DELIVERING

3DS
EATS & TREATS
516 692 9999

NEW HOURS:
Wednesday till Sunday
4-8pm
TAKEOUT ONLY.
519-692-9999

6203 Fansher Road
FLORENCE, ONTARIO



Sitara
INDIAN CUISINE

Delivering for
orders \$50
and up
\$10 delivery
charge for
orders in
Petrolia

519-491-5650 sitarasarnia.com



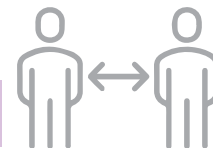
STAFFY'S
SANDWICH SHOP

519-381-1712
4159 PETROLIA LINE
Sandwiches • Salami • Smoothies
Pepperettes • Jerky • Catering

CALL IN
your
SANDWICH
ORDER
We'll have it
waiting for
you or we
deliver to
your door!

With the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic our office hours have been reduced. We are currently treating acute care and emergency patients only. Please check our website for our up to date hours. Call us anytime if you have questions or concerns.

SOCIAL DISTANCING



AVOIDING CROWDED PLACES AND NON-ESSENTIAL GATHERINGS

AVOIDING COMMON GREETINGS, SUCH AS HANDSHAKES

LIMITING CONTACT WITH PEOPLE AT HIGHER RISK
e.g. older adults and those in poor health

KEEPING A DISTANCE OF AT LEAST 2 ARMS LENGTHS
(approximately 2 metres) from others, as much as possible

REMEMBER TO

- wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching your face
- cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm
- avoid touching surfaces people touch often



www.lambtonchiropractic.ca

Lambton
Chiropractic Centre

431 King Street, Petrolia
519-882-1880



Dr.Storozuk



Dr.Martyniuk

McNaughton, Bailey part of slimmed down sitting

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton County’s two MPPs were among a handful of politicians at Queen’s Park when legislation to help Ontarians during the novel coronavirus pandemic was past.

Just 24 MPPs, 12 Conservatives, 8 NDPs, two Liberals and the leader of the Green Party were at Queen’s Park for an unprecedented sitting March 19.

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP and Ontario’s Labour Minister, Monte McNaughton, introduced a bill which ensures workers will keep their jobs if they need to self-isolate, quarantine or recover from the novel coronavirus. It also eliminates the need for a doctor’s note to be excused from work. The move is meant to free up time for medical professionals as the number of people infected with COVID-19 rises.

The slimmed-down legislature also passed a bill which would allow municipal councils to hold meetings via teleconferencing. It’s a measure which should allow municipal government to continue doing business if members are sick and minimizes contact with other people in a time public health officials are trying to stop the spread of the disease.

Both bills passed unanimously.

“It was mission critical to get this done,” McNaughton says noting the opposition parties had input before the bill was presented and unanimously passed. “We need to project calmness to everyone out there. We need to allow families to see the government will be with them every step of the way until COVID-19 is defeated.

“It is incredible to see the country united; the province is united; all levels of government are working together; every political party of every stripe is working together and it is vitally important it continues ...because there is going to have to be a lot of action in the future.”



Both Lambton MPPs were part of a slimmed down sitting at Queen’s Park

Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey was also in the legislature when MPPs sat at least three seats away from each other. “It was very momentous to be there and to realize the importance of what we were doing.”

The legislature has recessed until the end of March, but both Bailey and McNaughton say the work will continue.

McNaughton says there are daily cabinet meetings and ‘command table’ meetings led by the Health Minister. He also has two calls a week with 100 union leaders and two calls a week with 100 business leaders to get their lay of the land during the pandemic. Everything is being done by phone right now.

Bailey is also fielding a lot of calls, mostly from constituents who are concerned and are looking for information. “A lot of people are uncertain; people are asking us questions and that gives us the opportunity to find the answer. But there are no face-to-face meetings; so far it seems to be working out pretty good.”

And while people are concerned, Bailey says he’s glad to see people visiting elderly neighbours and offering to help out.

PLEASE DO NOT
FLUSH ANYTHING
EXCEPT
TOILET PAPER

Please do your part, and DO NOT FLUSH these items!

- Fats, Oils & Grease
- Food, Coffee Grounds
- Disposable Diapers
- Washcloths, Hand Towels & Rags
- Tampons & Applicators
- Hair from cleaning your hairbrush/comb
- Sanitary Napkins/Maxi Pads
- Cotton Balls & Q Tips
- Paper Towels
- Condoms
- Cleaning Wipes & Personal Wipes of any kind
- Bandages
- Unused Medications
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If you have symptoms, take the self-assessment at ontario.ca/coronavirus. Or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 (TTY: 1-866-797-0007) or your public health unit.

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Sports

Local basketball star reflects on what might have been

Barry Wright
The Independent

This was the season that everything appeared to be falling into place for Petrolia's Abby Whiteye and her teammates at Eckerd College.

The Florida school had just knocked off the top seed from Tampa, 75-69 to win the Sunshine State Conference title and were preparing to open play in the NCAA South Regional Tournament two weeks ago when it was cancelled over health concerns related to COVID-19.

"I was really disappointed," said the Northern Collegiate grad. "But, I felt worse for the seniors on our team," noting that four players from their small nine-person roster, including players from Spain and New Zealand, had their college careers come to an unexpected and abrupt end. Eckerd had won 11 straight games and was 24-5 overall when the season ended.

Whiteye started all

29 games for the St. Petersburg-based school this season averaging 11.1 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. She was in the top 20 in the conference in scoring, rebounds and shooting percentage and cracked the top 10 in three-point shooting, steals and minutes played per game.

She was also named to the Sunshine State Tournament all-star team, averaging 18 points per game including a career-high 27 points in the quarter-finals.

Whiteye doesn't expect to be returning to the sunny south any time soon.

"I'm almost certain they (classes) will be just online for the rest of the year."

In addition to her studies, she will stay sharp with home-based workouts and looks forward to the 2020-21 season, albeit she admits it will likely take on a very different look. "It will definitely be a rebuilding year." She expects to be called upon by her coaching staff to provide leadership to younger players during her upcoming senior season.



IHL.COM PHOTO

Dale Hunter, seen here behind the bench of the London Knights, and his brother, Mark, won't have a chance to compete for the Memorial Cup.

Hunters will not have chance at Memorial Cup

The Independent

Dale and Mark Hunter of Oil Springs and their London Knights would have gone into the Ontario Hockey League playoffs after winning the Western Conference crown during the regular season as one of the favourites to win the league championship, but the dream of perhaps hoisting the Memorial Cup in late May is now over. The three major junior hockey

leagues in Canada, including the OHL, cancelled their playoffs Monday meaning for the first time in its 102-year history, the Memorial Cup will not be awarded.

"This is a very difficult decision," says OHL Commissioner David Branch. "In times like this, the safety of our players, officials, staff, fans and the general public is paramount. The environment that we currently find ourselves in is much more important

than the game of hockey, and we all have a part to play in getting through these difficult times together. At the appropriate time, when it is safe to do so, our players look forward to returning to the ice in our passionate hockey communities to assist in the overall healing process.”

The Sarnia Sting would not have been part of the postseason. They finished last in the Western Conference and did not qualify.

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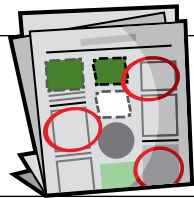
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Coming Events



IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter
Famous Butter Tarts
POSTPONED
Pickup Dates: April 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16
Pick Up Time Between 12:30pm and 3:00pm
To Order call Carol at 519-882-1684 or contact an IODE member
No calls after 9:00pm

Postponed until a later date due to COVID-19

Celebration

HAPPY 85TH BIRTHDAY
March 29th
Marie Sheppard
Best Wishes & Lots of Love from your Family



In Memory

In Memory Of
Roy L. Caley
who passed away on March 16, 1999

Love, Ann and Lyle Moffatt, Joan and Doug Caley, and Debbie and Bert Bork & families

If you see our 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.

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Obituary

LUKER
Lorne Keith

Lorne Keith Luker passed away on **Monday March 9, 2020** in Courtney, B.C. at the age of **81**. Beloved husband of Laurel (Thibodeau) for 59 years, dear father of Lee (Bev), Lawrence (CindyAnn) & Lorna (Patrick) Snoek, grandfather to Eric, Nathan, Cody & Makayla. Predeceased by his parents Alonzo & Valerie Luker, brothers Earl (1989), George (2008) & Ray (2015) sisters Grace (late Ron) Hookey (2016) & Zelma (George) Horvath (2016). Survived by sister Jean (Leo) Bradshaw & brother Roy and sister-in-law Karen (Gary) all of Petrolia, sister-in-laws Patricia (England) & Anita (Trenton) & brother-in-law George (Windsor). Lorne is also survived by many nieces & nephews. Lorne was born and raised in Petrolia and attended Maude & Central elementary schools & P.D.H.S. (LCCVI). He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1958 and retired after 30 years of service. Lorne was posted in bases in Canada and Germany and took every opportunity to explore his surroundings. In retirement he spent many adventuresome trips traveling and geocaching. **Cremation has taken place and a family service will be held at a later date in Ontario.**

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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.

Obituary



MCDONALD
Mavis

Died peacefully at Bluewater Health, Sarnia on **Saturday, March 21, 2020**. Born in Windsor, the daughter of the late Clarence and Nellie Smith, MAVIS ELLEN McDONALD, of Petrolia, was **95** years of age. Mavis predeceased by her husband of 52 years Donald (2005). She will be missed by her sons, Shaun (Nanette) of Sarnia and Timothy of Strathroy, her grandchildren Kylie McDonald, Grayson McDonald, Laura McGregor-Hayes, Liam McDonald, her step grandchildren Alyssa Ooijevaar and Brandon Ooijevaar, her great grandchildren, Finley and Ella Hayes and Ashton McDonald, daughter-in-law Carol McGregor, and foster son Brian Wolfe. She was predeceased by a foster son Edward McGregor. Mavis was the sister of the late Marjorie (the late Tom) Davie, the late Irene (the late Harold) Willson, the late Vivian (the late Vaughn) White, the late Millie (the late Marvin) Harknes, the late Clarence (Elaine) Smith, Larry (the late Kay) Smith, the late Joyce (Elbert) Heath, and David (Carolyn) (the late Shirley) Smith. **A private funeral service will be held for immediate family. A celebration will be held to honour Mavis at a later date. Interment will be in Wyoming Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to World Accord (<https://worldaccord.org/>) or Heart and Stroke Foundation (<https://www.heartandstroke.ca/>). Memories and condolences may be shared on Facebook Mavis McDonald ~ Sharing Thoughts and Memories (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/536766687251738/>) and online at www.needhamjay.com.

Help Wanted



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

Send any questions or resumes to demikrall@gmail.com

COVID-19
IN LAMBTON

Local events that have been cancelled or postponed because of the coronavirus outbreak.
PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CANCELLED EVENTS				
DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO	
Mar 26	Watford	Watford Legion Cribbage	519-876-2360	
Mar 26	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Darts	519-882-1557	
Mar 26	Petrolia	Petrolia Optimists Meat Raffle at Crabby Joe's	519-882-1255	
Mar 26	Sarnia	Parkinson's Exceres @ Strandway Centre	519-337-5330	
Mar 27	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle	519-876-2360	
Mar 27	Brigden	Brigden United Church Mom & Tots Drop In	519-892-3151	
Mar 27	Wyoming	Pickin'N Fiddling at the Wyoming Legion	519-845-0072	
Mar 28	Watford	48th Annual Pancake Day at the Watford Fire Hall		
Mar 28	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Meat Raffle		
Mar 28	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion Meat Raffle	519-834-2537	
Mar 29	Sarnia	Lambton Concert Band "Conductors Choice"		
Mar 30	Sarnia	Lambton Wildlife "Insects" at YMCA Learning Centre		
Mar 30	Oil Springs	Social/Eucher at the Oil Springs United Church	226-307-0929	
Mar 30	Watford	Watford Legion Fun Darts	519-876-2360	
Mar 31	Alvinston	Brooke-Alvinston Ag Society Meat BINGO at BAICCC		
Apr 1	Wyoming	Wyoming Lions Meat BINGO	519-845-0072	
Apr 2	Pt Lambton	Lambton Elderly Outreach Diners Club at the Port Lambton Community Centre	519-845-1353 Ext 258	
Apr 2	Petrolia	Petrolia Optimists Meat Raffle at Crabby Joe's	519-882-1255	
Apr 3	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle	519-876-2360	
Apr 3	Brigden	Brigden United Church Mom & Tots Drop In	519-892-3151	
Apr 3	Alvinston	Alvinston Optimist Youth Dance		
Apr 4	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Euchre Tournament		
Apr 4	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion Meat Raffle	519-834-2537	
Apr 4	Alvinston	Brooke-Alvinston Skating Club Carnival		
Apr 4	Sarnia	Sarnia Historical Society/Sarnia Legion presents Norm Christie: Masters of War. At the Sarnia Legion. FREE	519-328-5009	
Apr 5	Petrolia	Petrolia and District Skating Club Ice Show		
Apr 6	Oil Springs	Social/Eucher at the Oil Springs United Church	226-307-0929	
Apr 6	Watford	Watford Legion Fun Darts	519-876-2360	
Apr 7	Camlachie	Coffee & Conversation at the Camlachie United Church. "Your thoughts and needs during your grief journey."	519-869-2102	
Apr 8	Petrolia	Lambton Elderly Outreach Diners Club at the Lambton Meadowview Villa. \$10/person	519-845-1353 Ext 258	
Apr 8	Sarnia	Classics Meet Jazz at Sarnia Imperial Theatre	519-869-4024	
Apr 10	Wyoming	Wyoming Lions Good Friday Breakfast	519-845-0072	
Apr 10	Sombra	Good Friday/Easter Cantata at the Zion Free Methodist Church (2951 Bentpath Line Beaver Meadow) FREE EVENT.	519-864-1511	

POSTPONED EVENTS				
DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	DATE	
Mar 22	Warwick	Warwick Firemans Pancake Breakfast	TBD	
Mar 26	Wyoming	Wyoming Wee Ones Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser	TBD	
Mar 29	Petrolia	Petrolia Optimist Run for the Groceries Draw/Event	TBD	
Apr 8	Petrolia	Petrolia Community Theatre production of "Sandy Toes & Salty Kisses" NOW Apr 15-18		

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 Legion Community Centre/Recreation Centre/Arena
FOR MORE INFO CALL 519-882-0503

Glenda Paolucci and Family

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



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NOTICE

FREE TAX CLINIC CLIENTS
If the Petrolia Library closes and You use the Petrolia & Wyoming free tax clinic there or at my home contact Jane.
519-882-0835 or janemteskey@gmail.com
but please remember we have till April 30th and if you do not owe hang on to your papers. It is better our seniors do not take to library and wait, for your safety. I will still do the best I can for you.

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.**

Death Notices Mar. 18 to Mar. 24, 2020

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

BRITTON, Douglas
Age 64, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

BOURASSA, Pauline Marie
Age 92, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral home

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

WILES, Anna
Age 89, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

McWATTERS, Stanley Thomas
Age 91, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

BRISSTTE, Carter Jay
Age 14, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

CHALMERS, Robert
Age 56, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

BORODY, David Philip
Age 67, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

GRONDIN, Monique
Age 85, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

McDONALD, Mavis
Age 95, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

BARRY, Richard Dale
Age 71, of Forest
Denning's - Forest

LACASSE, Irene
Age 94, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

Church DIRECTORY

Christ Church Anglican
414 Oil Street, Petrolia

All worship services in the Anglican Diocese of Huron are suspended until at least April 8th. Please continue to hold one another and our communities in your prayers.

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)

In this time of Social distancing we invite you to join a virtual congregation and watch the Sunday morning worship at Knox Presbyterian Church in Thedford.

9:30am Service - Live
www.kpcthedford.com
Coffee & Fellowship After Service
www.standrews-petrolia.ca

St. Paul's United Church
4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

We will be closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 virus.
Please Stay Safe!
Rev. Susan Cameron

10:30am Service
Church Office: 519-882-1390
stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

First Baptist Church
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

SERVICE SUSPENDED until further notice in compliance with Ontario Corona Virus meeting guidelines

Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
fbcpetrolia@gmail.com
www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

Find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia

Wyoming United Church
730 Second Street, Wyoming

Due to the COVID-19 virus. We hope to start services again on April 5th. We will keep you updated about any changes.

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More Sports

BASEBALL DREAMS POSTPONED



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Three local ball players who had hoped to compete in Europe later this spring as part of The North Baseball program will have to wait a year to do so. The trip for Riley Brown, Billy Bourne and Drew Pepper to Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland has been postponed to 2021 due to health concerns over the coronavirus. It was originally scheduled from May 25-June 7. Although the program has not posted anything on its social media platforms, family post indicate trio has been guaranteed a spot on next year's squad.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The East Lambton Eagle Atom AE's are one of six local teams who missed out on the OMHA finals when the season was cancelled.

OMHA may recognize play off finalists

The success of minor hockey teams from Petrolia, Mooretown and East Lambton could still be acknowledged in some shape or form by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association.

The Petrolia Midgets, Mooretown Atoms along with Atom, Atom AE, Pee Wee and Bantam squads from East Lambton had all reached the provincial championship round. But, all OMHA games were cancelled earlier this month when Hockey Canada

pulled the plug on the season due to health concerns over COVID-19.

Responding to a question on its website, the Ontario Minor Hockey Association says it has not yet decided if teams that reached the championship round in each division will receive red hats, medals and banners for their seasons.

"This is still being determined," said the OMHA.

Bothwell rec group slowed by COVID-19

The chances of the Bothwell Area Recreation spring season starting as scheduled early next month is al but nil, according to BARAC spokesperson Bob Hamilton.

The season was to have kicked off with ball hockey and pick-up lacrosse the week of April 6. "The facilities in CK are all still

closed," he said. "So we can't start until they are opened up."

Hamilton offered his thanks to those who are anxiously waiting for the new season to begin. In the meantime, he posted on the BARAC Facebook page, "please follow health officials recommendations and get this terrible virus shut down."

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Social distancing means avoiding contact with others to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and can include:

Avoiding non-essential trips in the community

Limiting, postponing or cancelling gatherings

Working from home where possible

Conduct meetings virtually

Keeping kids away from group settings

Avoiding visits to long-term care homes and other care settings

Keep a distance of 2 metres from others when going for walks or shopping for groceries.

Lambton Public Health

Get the latest COVID-19 updates at:
LambtonPublicHealth.ca