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Students, teachers in at home school until May 1

Heather WrightThe Independent

Students of all ages will be learning at home until at least May 4.

What that at home learning looks like will depend a lot on the teacher according to the director of education of the Lambton-Kent District School Board, John Howitt.

Tuesday Education Minister Stephen Lecce extended the school closing order until May.

In a news conference, he said he's still hoping to salvage some of the school year.

"What we know today, based on the advice of Ontario's Medical Officer of Health ...there needed to be an extension of the order," he says adding "Given the fluidity of the situation...we have an obligation to continue...We're going to ensure learning takes place irrespective of the circumstances. Should we need to extend the school year, based on the medical advice...we will do so.

"If we can save some of that year, we should and we will."

Lecce says the ministry is working with boards of education and

ing with boards of education and teachers to give the best possible education at home in trying circumstances. That includes getting laptops into the hands of students who don't have them.

The education minister also promised more support to parents who have children with special educational needs. "They will get the support they need."

That's one of the big concerns of Laurel Liddicoat-Newton. She's the head of the Lambton-Kent Elementary Teachers' Federation



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

It was hard to tell who was happier to see the convoy of teachers from Lambton Centennial School travelling down Rokeby Line Tuesday morning, the students or their parents. The Ventre family was at the end of their driveway to greet the teachers as the convoy made its way on a two-hour route which went by almost every home of students attending the school. Teachers decorated their cars with signs including ones which said 'Panther Pride' and 'We Miss You!' Olivia and Joshua Ventre admit they miss there teachers a lot, too. They made a sign to say thank you as the teachers drove by. And mom and dad, Rachel and Luca, say they miss the teachers even more. The family has been working on maths and sciences and Olivia's Grade 7 class has been meeting with Google classroom. That online interaction will be ramped up April 6 as teachers and students prepare for another month at home.

of Ontario. She's worried some students will be left behind as online learning continues.

"We are extremely concerned about our students and families that do not have access to

electronic technology or internet and have asked our LKDSB Superintendents what their plans are to address those needs," she

The gap in internet services in

rural areas is widely document.
The federal and provincial governments have committed hundreds of millions of dollars to

bring fiber optic internet to areas

which need it however many of

the projects won't be completed until the end of 2020 or even 2021. Service in the rural areas of south Lambton is notoriously bad.

SEE HOWITT PG 3

COVID-19 in Petrolia seniors building; three deaths at one Sarnia retirement home

Heather Wright The Independent

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to the novel coronavirus.

All four of the Lambton residents who have died of the respiratory virus have been over 80. And in Petrolia, the movements of seniors

in a downtown apartment building were restricted after a resident tested positive for COVID-19

Lambton Public Health didn't confirm the specifics of the Petrolia case, but seniors tell *The Independent* public health officials called people at Queen Victoria Place two weeks ago asking if they

had attended a luncheon at the building's activity room March 16. Those who had, were told to self isolate until March 30.

Public health officials did not respond to a question about whether there were any other cases at the apartment building.

Another retirement residence,

Landmark Village, is the centre of the COVID-19 storm in Lambton.

Three of the four people who have died of COVID-19 in Lambton lived in the home.

Lambton Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, announced Monday four people have died of the virus in the area. Three were residents of Landmark Village in Sarnia – a retirement home where residents live independently, but have a lot of social time together, including meals. Ranade says public health has been working with officials there.

SEE SENIORS PG 3





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Seniors take the brunt of COVID-19 in Lambton

CON'T FROM PG 1

'We're asking them to reduce social exposure...in this case, we're asking them to bring trays to people's rooms...We are supporting them to do the best they can to isolate their residents."

Ranade says there have been at least six cases of COVID-19 in the retirement village including a person in

But it is seniors who bear the brunt of COVID-19 in Lambton. Ninetyone per cent of the 39 people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Lambton are over 60 and 42 per cent are over 80.

Ranade says some of the 39 cases confirmed by Monday can now be

linked to a group traveling in Europe. Some of the others are linked to a family group and a faith community gathering.

The contact with the COVID-19 carriers was made before public health officials started warning people to limit social gatherings in early March.

"They all tell us that after the ban on social gatherings, even before the ban on gatherings...including faith communities, they were limiting their visits voluntarily."

Public health officials continue to look for contacts to the people who have tested positive.

And officials are warning seniors in

particular to be vigilant.

Ranade says seniors living in

complexes or apartment buildings should be careful.

"Please stop the use of the communal facilities. Perform physical distancing, only have interactions that are necessary. The Medical Officer of Health in Ontario urgently asked people over 70 to self isolate. Where seniors can do so, we encourage them to do so. They may need to go out and get medicine but please, eliminate the use of the communal spaces."

Bluewater Health, meantime, says of the 23 confirmed cases have been hospitalized. Seventeen people are still in care in Sarnia.

Another 16 patients are being treated for the virus, but their test results have not come back yet.

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Howitt expects bumps but 'we'll get through it'

CON'T FROM PG 1

"Equity needs to be fully addressed around access, equipment, environment and teaching and learning expectations. We look to the LKDSB to address this fairly and the ministry to facilitate this responsibly.

"Many believe we are widening the gap for our students by doing all learning online and we need to shift our role to supporting families and their needs as best as we can,' Liddicoat-Newton adds.

"Numerous students are not going to learn under these conditions and the mental health of our students, their families, our teachers and educators is most important right now.'

The director of education for the public board says staff are working hard to meet everyone's needs in a difficult time.

"To the best degree possible, it will be teacher led learning," says Howitt adding teachers know their students best. And they know the challenges the families will have with technologies. "In rural areas, it won't solely look like online learning," he says. "Just

saying there will be online learning is unrealistic and will create deficits to students who don't have access to the same degree as others...not everyone of their students will have consistent access to a device and the internet."

Howitt says teachers will be taking that into account and will likely use a combination of telephone calls, texts, emails and online chat.

'We have to considerate of that, taking into account that if students are struggling with a concept, they may need direct contact with a teacher.'

Liddicoat-Newton says superintendents have worked with teacher consultants and principals by phone or electronically. Principals also talked with teachers by phone and there will be virtual staff meetings this week to discuss the plans moving forward.

Teachers will also have a chance to get back into their classroom to retrieve their course materials.

"Boards will be making arrangements for teachers to enter schools in a careful and cautious manner in order to retrieve their materials," she says.

"The ministry has confirmed with health officials that this process is safe. Social distancing requirements will be followed."

Teachers and students begin more formal lessons - whatever they may look like - April 6. Howitt says it will likely take time to work out all the

"If this closure continues on, we will be better at this the longer it continues.

"What we start with on April 6 will be the beginning; we'll learn some lessons...this is new for a lot of us, and we'll get through it.

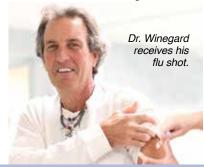
At the St. Clair District Catholic School Board, Director of Education Deb Crawford told parents through a letter there is a new online parent learning hub. Crawford added board officials were reaching out to parents to figure out what technology they need and how they will get it to them. "We will find ways to support learning opportunities for students who do not have internet access."

She added the minister has said "no student will lose the opportunity to graduate as a result of the pandemic."

- ADVERTORIAL -CHARLOTTE ELEANOR **ENGLEHART HOSPITAL** BLUEWATER HEALTH

Charlotte's Corner COVID-19

An important message from the Medical Director of Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital of Bluewater Health, Dr. Charles Winegard



As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed a lot of what we are doing from an operational perspective at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital (CEEH) of Bluewater Health. These changes may be in place for several more weeks (or months) to come. Emergency and life-threatening surgeries will be performed at the Sarnia hospital, and the Pat Mailloux Eye Centre is closed at this time. In the Petrolia hospital, procedures and clinics are open for urgent/emergencies cases only, all elective lab and x-ray tests are cancelled until further notice, and no visitors are permitted in the hospital.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no COVID-19 testing at CEEH of Bluewater **Health**. If you feel you need a test or have any questions, please contact your primary care provider or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000). You can also use Telehealth Ontario's self-assessment tool online at https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0.

of breath or another true emergency (signs of stroke, heart attack, etc.) please consider other options than the hospital. For non-emergency illnesses or injuries please consult your primary care provider, the closest walk-in clinic or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000).

If you have a respiratory illness of any kind, please stay at home and self-isolate for two weeks. If you have travelled outside of Canada (even for those short trips over to Port Huron to buy groceries), you are also now

this time, there is no specific treatment for this virus. Antibiotics do not work.

We are all getting restless as we practice physical (social) distancing, and this is especially hard for children but please do not engage in sleepovers, play dates, parties, or gatherings of five or more people. Find other ways to entertain yourselves and enjoy this much-needed family time.

This pandemic demands we all take extreme precautions and do our part to flatten the curve.

If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 please consult your primary care provider or contact Lambton Public Health at https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/. You can also get the latest information on Bluewater Health's website at www.bluewaterhealth.ca or by following Bluewater Health on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

We will get through this, together!

Editorial

Support Local Journalism

There is a grim count being taken in the newspaper world; a count of how many newspapers decide not to print at one of the most critical moments in our history.

The COVID-19 global pandemic is sending a tsunami through our economy. In just a matter of days, more people have applied for Employment Insurance - 1.6 million - than have received it since 1945. All of those people have lost their jobs as public health officials force businesses to close so workers can remain at home and stop the spread of the virus which is deadlier than anything we've seen. It's necessary but it is painful.

The federal and provincial governments have generous programs - a benefit for workers to get \$2,000 a month to make it through the layoffs, a wage subsidy of 75 per cent for employers to keep on workers.

But for many newspapers, it may not be enough. The entire industry has been teetering on the edge of a cliff for some time. The advent of the internet age wasn't handled well by the newspaper industry when they started giving things away for free on line. Big companies like Facebook and Google loved that. It drove their business. It filled up their news feeds, and they didn't have to pay a red cent for it - not even taxes to the federal and provincial governments.

So now, as COVID-19 ravages the economy, what was left of newspaper revenues are evaporating in thin air. During the first week of the pandemic shutdown, a half dozen weekly newspapers decided not to print. Several big media companies laid off hundreds of workers. All in a time when journalist are needed to tell you the facts and to hold governments accountable as they take away personal freedoms and spend enormous amounts of cash.

There is something that can be done; support local journalism. The feds can do that by starting to tax the big guys who have had a free ride for far too long and start spending your tax dollars with Canadian companies. And local governments can get their message out using local newspapers - reaching people they can't reach with the Internet. And they can encourage local business to do the same. We're all in this together, let's do our best to make sure everyone,

Letters to the Editor

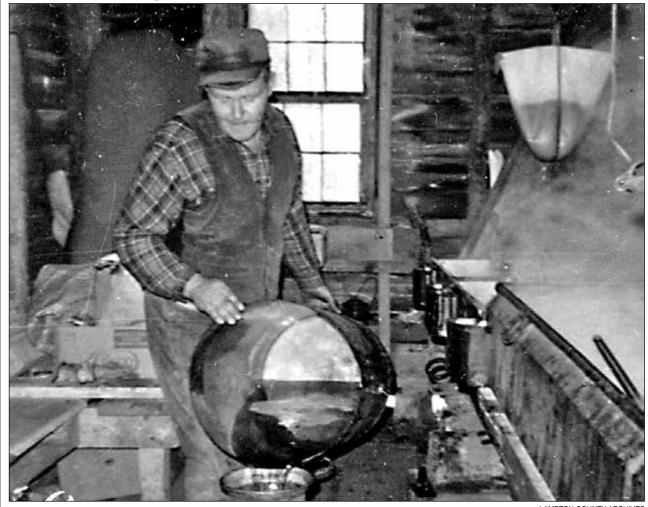
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The Independent reserves the right to edit letters for brevity

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

Our Story



Pictured is Franklin Fuller of Warwick Township making maple syrup. This image is part of the Warwick Township History Committee Collection at the Lambton County Archives.

The annoying and enriching changes of COVID-19

Like you, all my regular routines have gone to pot during these crazy times we live in. It's annoying, enriching and a little enlightening, too.

We are all - or at least we should all be - staying home as much as humanly possible to limit our contact with other people. The idea is if you're not around other people, you won't catch the novel coronavirus and spread it to someone else.

Newspapers are an essential service so I'm still at work, but it is so different. The doors to our offices are locked. We don't see our customers right now, we just talk to them over the phone. Little things, like my morning trip to Tim Hortons has been interrupted since I don't want to wait in a drive thru line and they won't take my refill cup. I bought a little coffee maker for the office that works just fine thank you.

I'm bringing a lunch more often because there is limited options available right now - I still eat lunch out - just not as often.

All this is saving me some cash which brings a smile to this Dutch girl. But the changes haven't all brought smiles. I can't visit my dad in the nursing home except virtually. It's better than no contact, but still tough. I hate to say it, because I know all the measures are for workers safety, but all the new security/health protocols can make me feel like someone to be feared at some of the places I frequent. Not a pleasant feeling.

And all this distance leaves little room for privacy or a personal touch. I was at the bank recently and had to wait six feet away while the clerk worked on my business deposit. As I waited in the bank line, I couldn't help

but think about all those people who will soon be visiting the bank because they have no money. Will they be able to lean in so they don't have to share their pain with the entire bank? This is tough for everyone. I know people in contact with the public worry about their health, but



Heather Wright

those doing business should also get some consideration. I hope banks will consider putting up some plexi glass to provide some opportunity for people to speak privately in a difficult time.



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Nova's expansion construction workers laid off

Heather Wright The Independent

Ninety per cent of construction workers on Nova Chemicals \$2 billion dollar expansion in St. Clair Township are being laid off.

Company officials say the health and safety of employees, contractors and community remains a top priority it navigates the COVID-19 pandemic.

"To reduce the risk and exposure of COVID-19, we have been adjusting construction work on our new polyethylene facility and Corunna cracker expansion projects. We are further adjusting activities and will temporarily focus on only critical equipment lifts, and delivery and setting of critical modules, equipment and materials," said in a news release issued Friday.

That means about 90 per cent of the workers will be off the job. The construction was expected to employ between 800 and 1,000 people at its peak. It's not clear how many people are working on the construction right now.

"At this time, it is too early to say what impact COVID-19 will have on our overall construction schedule. We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust site activities as needed.

"A phased ramp-up will be considered at the appropriate time to allow for the safe completion of construction activities," the news release stated.

"The decision to pause was not made lightly. But we feel strongly that this shift allows us to keep worker safety



Nova Chemical officials say only critical equipment lifts will continue at the \$2 billion expansion for now.

and wellbeing at the forefront while continuing to progress our businesscritical construction projects."

The construction which does continue will comply with COVID-19

mon areas and maintaining physical distancing guidelines, enhancing cleaning of common and high touch areas. Workers will also be screened coming

into the site.

protocols including restricting com-Plants turn to health screening to stop COVID-19

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

There is a new health and safety measure at some of the big petrochemical companies in Lambton

Temperature checks for employees on the way into the largest plants have become routine as Canada tries to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The petrochemical plants are essential services under the orders issued by the province.

Suncor and Imperial have reduced their staff on-site to essential workers and sent some non-essential workers home to do their jobs.

Those still at work at Imperial Oil and Suncor, workers arriving at the gate have their temperature checked. A fever is one of the first signs of the novel coronavirus.

It's just one of the many steps being

Imperial Oil operations in Sarnia include a refinery, chemical plant and research centre employs around 1,000. Kristina Zimmer, public and government affairs manager, says there are a number of changes including a limit on non-critical maintenance and projects to promote social distancing.

Non-essential employees are working

On site, Imperial has added portable hand washing, increased cleaning and removed tables from the lunch rooms so employees stay two meters apart.

"As this is a rapidly evolving situation, we are closely monitoring government guidance and protocols and doing our best to ensure these measures are implemented," says Zimmer

Suncor's Sarnia refinery has adopted similar measures.

"Emphasizing the importance of physical distancing on site, and ensuring this by changing seating, removing common area gathering places and organizing the essential workforce into smaller groups," have been part of the plan says Suncor's Erin Rees, senior advisor of media relations.

Suncor has also reduced on site staff to essential employees only, established protocols for employee health monitoring for all operations and maintenance personnel entering

Mark Mathewson is the president of Unifor Local 848 which represents more than 200 workers at Shell's Sarnia Manufacturing Centre.

'Every control room has been given an increase to their Lysol wipes and hand sanitizers (supplies). Being that we have the chemical plant that makes IPA (isopropyl alcohol used to make hand sanitizer and antiseptics), we have made sure that each control room has straight IPA to use in spray bottles to disinfect areas.

'We've divided our maintenance crews into two different crews so we can have one crew on at a time.

"We've increased the janitor's work hours to help keep things clean."

Mathewson added workers were also maintaining the recommended two metres of personal distancing.

"We've postponed things that we can, but all the routine work is still happening.

Where we've had situations where people needed to quarantine, people that were not showing any symptoms have stepped up and worked extra in order to keep the business running," Mathewson says.

Mathewson has been encouraged so far by the response from workers. "We're an educated work force, our people understand the new requirements put on them to both practice in the plant and out of the plant, socially and at work.

"They've done a good job of adhering to these new practices and communicating those to their family and friends in order to help stave off and minimize the risk. I'm proud of





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Shell employees clear after virus scare

Plant officials told employees to self-monitor after contractor tests positive

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

Shell Canada says none of their employees developed COVID-19 symptoms after a contract worker tested positive for the deadly virus.

The worker was on site at the centre between March 11 and 13, though he did not show symptoms and there is not confirmation as to when he tested positive. The man was visiting from outside the

The company informed the workers who had been in contact with the man and asked them to self monitor for any COVID-19

"Based on the Government of Canada Public Health Management, we have taken all necessary actions to keep our people safe. This included notifying employees who may have worked with this individual and asking them to self-monitor for symptoms," said Tara Lemay, media manager for Shell Canada.

Shell did not contact the Lambton County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, upon learning of the test result.

He adds if Shell had called first, public health would have worked with its partners out-of-province to track down if the worker had actually tested positive, when and



Shell officials say there were no cases of COVID-19 at the Sarnia plant two weeks after a contract worker who tested positive was in the plant.

other details which could have been used to decide whether employees at Shell should have gone home to self-isolate for 14 days. Ontario Health is currently investigating the case.

Lemay says Shell used guidelines from the Public Health Agency of Canada in determining its response. "Because the individual was not symptomatic at site, the no monitoring or action required. So we asked our Shell Sarnia employees to selfmonitor out of caution," says Lemay.

As of the end of the self-monitoring period of COVID-19 connected to anyone working



PHAC risk assessment is low or no risk with

on March 27, there were no positive cases at the manufacturing centre.



A biosolid fertilizer pile on Hale School Road in Dawn-Euphemia with Long Creek swollen behind it Sunday. Neighbours are concerned about the fertilizer made from human waste piled near the creek.

Biosolid pile not moving for a while

Heather Wright The Independent

Three Lambton County municipalities are facing hearings at the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board.

And the hearings mean a pile of biosolids in Dawn-Euphemia, which was supposed to be removed by March 20, isn't going anywhere for a while.

Mayor Al Broad says a numbered company has filed for a hearing at the Normal Farm Practices Board against the municipal bylaw limiting the stockpiling of fertilizer.

Neighbours started voicing concern in February when Lasalle Agri started bringing truckloads of the fertilizer which has be approved for use by the federal and provincial governments.

The Buurma family owns the land and Lasalle Agri which markets the biosolids fertilizer. Officials with the company told the township the fertilizer was for eight, 150-acre farms they were renting. But the stockpiling of fertilizer of any kind isn't allowed under the township's zoning bylaws. Council gave the Buurmas and Lasalle Agri until March 20 to move the pile. It is still there today and Broad isn't sure how long it will be there. He says a hearing will have to be held before anything happens. The Normal Farm Practices Board has suspended hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is not clear when any hearing might be held.

Warwick Township and Brooke-Alvinston have similar zoning bylaws. Those municipalities were also served with notice of the hearing.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

How to self-isolate

Follow the advice that you have received from your health care provider. If you have questions, or you start to feel worse, contact your health care provider, Telehealth (1-866-797-0000) or your local public health unit.

Stay Home

- Do not use public transportation, taxis or rideshares.
- Do not go to work, school or other public places
- Your health care provider or public health unit will tell you when it is safe to leave



Limit the number of visitors in you home

- Only have visitors who you MUST see and keep the visits short. Keep away from seniors and people with chronic medical conditions
- (e.g. disease, lung problems, immune deficiency).



Avoid contact with others

- Stay in a separate room away from other people in your home as much as possible and
- use a separate bathroom if you have one.

 Make sure that shared rooms have good airflow (e.g. open windows).



Keep distance

Wash your hands

- If you are in a room with other people, keep a distance of at least two metres and wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth.
- If you cannot wear a mask, people should wear a mask when they are in the same room



Cover your coughs and sneezes

- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hand. Throw used tissues in a lined wastebasket, and wash your hands. Lining the wastebasket with a plastic bag makes waste disposal easier and safer.



Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available

Wear a mask over your nose and mouth Wear a mask if you must leave your house to see a health care provider Wear a mask when you are within two metres of other people.



You can also access up to date information on COVID-19 on the Ontario Ministry of Health's website: ontario.ca/coronavirus

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Gladu's leadership bid ends

Sarnia-Lambton's MP pulls out of race, then party suspends it

Heather Wright The Independent

Marilyn Gladu says nothing surprises her about the Conservative Party. And Sarnia-Lambton's MP doesn't mean that in a good way.

Gladu bowed out of the race for the Conservative Leadership after it became apparent she wouldn't be able to meet the party's markers for fundraising during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gladu had publicly asked party officials to suspend the leadership race a week before she quit.

The MP and several others in the race said COVID-19 made it impossible for candidates to go out and meet prospective supporters. Gladu said it was tone deaf for the party to continue when the country was in the throws of the pandemic.

But the front runners, Peter McKav and Erin O'Toole, said the race should continue.

Gladu announced the end of her campaign and then days later, the leadership committee suspended the entire campaign saying COVID-19 made it impossible to continue.

She believes that move was deliberate.

"They didn't want me in the race," she says when asked if she was surprised by the sudden turn of events. "Nothing surprises me in the Conservative Party.

"I was a serious contender in this... everyone agrees. This says specifically they didn't want me on the ballot."

"The party waited for the qualifying date so we couldn't get on the ballot," Gladu tweeted that day "and the next day postponed the race. Message

Gladu says there were a number of problems with the party throughout her campaign.

The party's leadership committee rejected hundreds of signatures on her nomination papers even though phone numbers were provided and it would have been simple, she says, to cross reference them against party membership lists.

Then, Gladu went to Elections Canada to see if she could finance some of her campaign personally in the short term to get her into the next phase of the race. Elections Canada said yes and wrote a letter approving the move.

The party rejected the plan and appealed to Elections Canada to have the decision overturned.

As she pondered what was next, O'Toole reached out to help with the cash crunch, but it was too little too

Once she had withdrawn from the race, both McKay and O'Toole reached out to her, she suspects to try to bring her and her supporters onside.

As it turns out, Gladu says she won't endorse either of them. "When I started this race, I didn't see

anything that wasn't the same old same old. That's still the way it is today, so I'm not going to vote (in the leadership race.)"

And she says the experience with party leadership "does change my future view of my involvement with the Conservative Party."

Gladu says there were lots of wonderful experiences as she criss-crossed Canada and she's proud of the campaign she ran. But she will be glad to turn her full attention towards working for the people of Sarnia-Lambton.

And she won't seek the leadership again. "This was it," she says. "I offered myself to the country – I think I have the best policy and I had the ability to grow the party

"It is clear I don't have the support in caucus, in the party or across the country so I will not do it again," she says.

CLOSE

To help stop the spread of covid-19, By order of the Government of Ontario, under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act; all outdoor recreational amenities, such as sport fields and playgrounds are CLOSED effective March 30, 2020.

This emergency order includes:

all communal or shared, public or private, outdoor recreational amenities everywhere in Ontario, including but not limited to playgrounds, sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, off-leash dog parks, beaches, skateboard and BMX parks, picnic areas, outdoor community gardens, park shelters, outdoor exercise equipment, condo parks and gardens, and other outdoor recreational amenities. Green spaces in parks, trails, ravines and conservation areas that aren't otherwise closed would remain open for walkthrough access, but individuals must maintain the safe physical distance of at least two metres apart from others. Ontario's provincial parks and conservation reserves remain closed.

Thank you for your assistance.

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



POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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 Bylaw 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

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

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

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





PETROLIA

Alvinston rodeo postponed

Heather Wright

The Independent

The Alvinston Pro Rodeo is being postponed.

In a Facebook post Saturday, the head of the organizing committee said the event would be held Aug. 28 to 30 instead of Father's Day weekend as planned because of concerns about the

"With the help of Rawhide Rodeo Company, the Alvinston Pro Rodeo has established itself on the International Professional Rodeo Association circuit was one of the best rodeos and we're going to do everything in our power to bring our community an extra special instalment this year," said Dan Cumming.

"The format for the rodeo will remain the same," he tells *The Independent*. "Unfortunately, our free performance that we presented to over 900 school children last year is off the table.

"It's unfortunate that we've had to move the date because it was truly amazing to see all of the kids filling the grandstands and loving the show... We had big plans for our school

day this year, hoping to expand to an 'Agriculture in the Classroom' exhibition.'

And Cumming isn't sure if all the top competitors will be there, considering how travel has been restricted because of COVID-19.

"If our way of life has not been restored by a certain point in time, then we will need to make the decision to cancel the event altogether. Of cours none of us wants to see that happen," says Cumming.

While the chair is excited the rodeo will return, he admits the timing might be a little tight. The rodeo is only a month before the annual fall fair, which the group also organizes. He says were a little worried about volunteer burnout but decided to go ahead.

"Our rodeo committee is passionate about the event and we decided it was worth digging deep to try to preserve it," he says.

"We have a full month between the events and I know that this group of dedicated volunteers is very capable of accomplishing anything they set out to do together.'

Petrolia made shields in demand

Heather Wright

The Independent

Alex Billings has health care workers

The Petrolia man and three others he recruited through various Facebook interactions are building face shields with 3D printers in Petrolia.

The former air force traffic technician who retired after being diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder had a couple of ideas for useful items once the novel coronavirus pandemic took hold. He offered up door openers on The Independent's Helping Hands in Petrolia page. Then, he started looking for people to help make face shields, an important part of the personal protective equipment required by health care workers.

Chris Martin, Terrie Boddaert and Eric Curragh came on board in the last couple of days and now are making both lightweight and heavier face shields.

"For the light weight version of the face shield we should be able to produce between 100 and 150 per day," he says.

"The heavier face shields the we can produce take about four hours to produce per frame. We are focusing on the lightweight ones at this time as they are quick to deploy and will produce the bigger ones on demand."

And there has been some demand, Billings says.

'We have head requests for them from pharmacy workers and organizations like Lambton County Developmental Services because they are light and slide on for people that just need that extra layer is a great option.

"The heavier mask you would see in an area like the ICU at the hospital where you more likely to get bumped into or need the extra protection.'

Billings, who is also in charge of his young family, has been working overtime to get as many of the face shield produced as possible in a time where there is a global demand for personal protective equipment.

"I think I've been averaging about three hours of sleep in the last three or



Alex Billings wearing one of the lightweight face shields he and four others are making.

four days."

It may be draining, but Billings says the work is important.

"If I was out there I would hope someone would have my back," he says of the health care workers dealing with the epidemic.

"I have friends and family working in ICUs that have to go home to their spouses and children and I want to make sure they make it home to them... "When we get the flu or break a leg we take don't think twice if a nurse or doctor will be there to take care of us. Yet right now, there is a very real risk - and we have seen it all around the world - that there is a high chance that they will get sick and some will die.

"So for me, it is essential to do everything in my power to support them and keep them safe and healthy and let them know they are not alone

And there is a sense of urgency since industry can't meet the demand right

"It takes time to retool a factory to produce something new so there is going to be a gap between when or hospitals and front line workers run out of PPE and when those retooled facilities and start shipping out again. With 3D printing, we can fill that need right now on an as needed basis.

If you would like to help or are in need of equipment, Billings says you can contact him at lcmacovid@gmail.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act **ONTARIO REGULATION 73/20** ORDER UNDER SUBSECTION 7.1 (2) OF THE ACT

Whereas an emergency has been declared pursuant to Order in Council 518/2020 (Ontario Regulation 50/20) on March 17, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. Toronto time pursuant to section 7.0.1 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (the "Act");

And Whereas the criteria set out in subsection 7.1 (2) of the Act have been satisfied;

Now Therefore, an Order is made pursuant to subsection 7.1 (2) of the Act, the terms of which Order are the following:

- Any provision of any statute, regulation, rule, by-law or order of the Government of Ontario establishing any limitation period shall be suspended for the duration of the emergency, and the suspension shall be retroactive to Monday, March 16, 2020.
- Any provision of any statute, regulation, rule, by-law or order of the Government of Ontario establishing any period of time within which any step must be taken in any proceeding in Ontario, including any intended proceeding, shall, subject to the discretion of the court, tribunal or other decision-maker responsible for the proceeding, be suspended for the duration of the emergency, and the suspension shall be retroactive to Monday, March 16, 2020.

Items under the Planning Act

At this time under direction of the above noted regulation in consideration that *Planning Act* matters are subject to an appeal period, all Planning Act matters currently before the municipality are suspended. This includes, but is not limited to Zone Amendments, Official Plan Amendment, Minor

- Current applications 1. 4467/69 Derby Street and 2. 413 Albany Street, in the process of public meeting schedule for Monday, April 14, 2020 have been <u>postponed</u>. Once a re-schedule date has been able to be determined, public notification will occur.
- Pre-Liminary applications, will continue to be draft reviewed. These applications will proceed to a public meeting once regulations permit. If you are in the process of a draft application for a *Planning Act* related item, please contact Rob Nesbitt at rob.nesbitt@county-lambton.on.ca to submit an electronic copy of the application.

During this ever fluid time of change, we understand your concerns and possible frustrations. It continues to be our goal to provide the best service possible to our residents, developers and business' alike as we navigate these waters together. Rest assured, that when permittable, we will work in helping you to achieve your compliances, and progress your projects.

We thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Dated at Petrolia, this 26th day of March, 2020.

Mandi Pearson Clerk/Operations Clerk

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

What you need to know to help you and your family stay healthy.

- Only visit an assessment centre if you have been referred by a health care professional.
- Avoid non-essential travel.
- Monitor for symptoms after travel.
- Avoid large gatherings.
- Be prepared, but avoid panic stocking.
- · Caring for those who are ill? Take precautions.
- Clean high-touch surfaces regularly.
- · Order your prescription medication.
- · Practice cough and sneeze etiquette in transit.

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.

Hospital answering staff equipment concerns

Heather Wright

The Independent

Bluewater Health officials say they have a good supply of personal protective equipment on hand to deal with the novel coronavirus, if it is used at the right time.

Fears are mounting the medical supplies like N95 masks, face shields and gowns will run in short supply as the number of COVID-19 cases rises. There is a global shortage of the equipment. In London, 11 nurses refused to work because felt they didn't have the equipment to work with.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to buying \$2 billion worth of equipment - including ventilators when they can get them.

Julia Oosterman, chief of communication at Bluewater Health, says staff is concerned about the amount of protective equipment available, but she says the hospital has a good supply on hand.

But she says, staff needs to be properly trained to know exactly what they need.

"There are certain standards for certain procedures, for example the high super safe standard, you need to have if you're doing really invasive procedures, if they're bodily fluids on them. If everyone wears that level of protection all the time, we will burn through that PPE incredibly quickly."

To make sure everyone understands what they need, Oosterman says they are appointing champions to go through the hospital and answer every question workers have about their personal protective equipment.

Oosterman says they want to "lead with science instead of fear" even though she knows the fear is real.

"It is critical for our staff to stay safe, if they can't feel safe, there is a problem...

"We have a dual purpose here, next to keeping our patients safe...we have a duel priority of keeping our staff safe."

Ontario 🕅

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Fire ban in Dawn-Euphemia

Dawn-Euphemia has issued a fire ban. The township's fire chief, Don Ewing, in a news release, imposed the ban after his volunteer department and a neighbouring department were called to an open burn. "Dawn-Euphemia Fire Department and neighbouring fire departments are getting dispatched out to the scene putting firefighters and their families unnecessarily at the risk of exposure to COVID-19."

The fire chiefs in Warwick and Watford

are also warning self isolating residents to make sure they have a burn permit it they're cleaning up the yard, mentioning the concerns about COVID-19 and

social distancing for firefighters called out to a home to check up on a fire.

The permits can be purchased online.

Province rolls out COVID-19 help

The province has rolled out \$17 billion in new funding and tax deferrals to deal with the fall out of COVID-19.

Finance Minister Rod Phillips delivered a financial statement this week to deliver the details.

The government has set up a \$1 billion COVID-19 fund for emerging needs, \$594 million to deal with existing capacity issues, \$341 million for 1,000 acute care and 500 critical care beds and additional assessment

Public health funding is increasing \$160 million.

That cash will also be invested in virtual care and TeleHealth - which has been swamped with calls since cases of the flulike virus began surfacing in Ontario.

The province is also investing \$75 million for personal protective equipment and medical supplies in hospitals.=.

There is also \$3.7 billion to support Ontarians directly.

Families with kids under 12 will get a onetime payment of \$200 per child and \$250 for children with special needs. Some of

that money also goes to reduce power bills. \$9 million will go to expand Low-income Energy Assistance Program.

The province says there will be more money available for Emergency Assistance through Ontario Works and will enhance funding to social service non-profits like food banks, homeless shelters, churches and emergency services by \$148 million.

There is six months of Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loan and interest accrual relief for students. And there will an additional \$26 million to Indigenous communities, including emergency assistance for urban Indigenous people in financial need, and costs for health care professionals and critical supplies to reach remote First Nations

The province is also going to allow business to defer tax payments over six months to improve cash flow. That is estimated to be worth about \$10 billion.

The province is increasing the number of businesses exempt from the Employer Health Tax. That will cost about \$355 million.



Village of Oil Springs COVID-19 UPDATE

The Oil Springs Municipal Office will remain closed to the public until further notice.

Please call (519) 834-2939 M-F between 9:00 am - 5:00 pm or email oilsprings@ciaccess.com if you have questions.

Public Works emergencies can be called into (519) 339-8106

The tax interim installment due March 29 has been extended to April 29, 2020. No penalty will be charged for outstanding taxes on April 1, 2020.

The water/sewer utility bill due April 15 has been extended to May 15, 2020.

Anyone wishing to pay by cheque, can leave their cheque in the drop box to left of front door. Receipts will be issued upon request. Payments for taxes and water can also be paid at your financial institution or online.



ARE NOT FLUSHABLE! Please dispose of them in the

garbage - not in the toilet.

Issuance of dog tags will be extended from April 30 to May 30,

DOG TAGS

2020. After May 30, the fee will be doubled.

For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit: https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus



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? running errands?

If you are unfamiliar with Facebook ask a friend of family member for help. For those that don't have Facebook call The Independent at 226-738-0728 and we'll assist you in finding a willing helper.

This Public Service





FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear Residents

The past couple of weeks have been a time of great uncertainty and daily changes to the way we live, work, complete daily tasks and socialize. With each day come change, and with each change comes new challenges for each of us to continue with what we consider to be a normal life. It is up to you, the residents of Petrolia to continue to do your part when it comes to flattening the curve in our community

Some updates for the next couple of weeks in Petrolia:

- Heidi's Your Independent Grocer is working with The Rotary Club of Petrolia and the Support Operations Response Team (SORT) to make grocery deliveries available to Petrolia residents in addition to the online order and pick up option. To schedule this service and to learn more about it, please call (519)882-2121.
- M & M Food Market is providing a Click and Collect service for online ordering. Residents are asked to call for delivery if required (519)882-4316.
- Hogan Pharmacy continues to provide delivery, and you are asked to call (519)882-1840. Lambton Pharmacy continues to also provide services but ask that you call upon arrival (519)882-0650.
- Many restaurants are open for take-out and delivery only, it is encouraged that you call for hours of
- The re-zoning meetings scheduled for April 14, 2020 have been postponed to a date to be determined.
- The Town of Petrolia Council Meeting scheduled for April 14, 2020 will proceed using a conference call platform. This is a new, provincially adopted method to conduct Council Meetings during times such as these. Information regarding how the public can access this meeting will be published soon. Please check https://petrolia.civicweb.net/Portal/ for details.
- Following the guidelines set by the government of Ontario, our playground and sports fields are closed. Gatherings of five or more persons are prohibited under Provincial order. This is being strictly enforced.
- Stay home. Please use physical distancing guidelines of six feet between you and other residents. If you don't live with them: don't visit them. Now is not the time for social coffees, playdates or quick visits. Now is the time that we are called upon to protect one another and to prevent the spread in our community and

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all continued good health.

Mayor R. Brad Loosley, Council & Staff



Corporation of the Town of Petrolia 411 Greenfield Street, P.O. Box 1270 Petrolia, Ontario, Canada NON 1RO town.petrolia.on.ca

Abuse likely to escalate during COVID-19

Cathy Dobson
The Independent

The COVID-19 pandemic is creating ideal conditions for a significant increase in domestic abuse, says the executive director of the Women's Interval Home of Sarnia-Lambton.

Angie Marks is urging residents throughout the county to watch for red flags that abuse is occurring and victims need help.

If you suspected that a neighbour, friend or family member may have been experiencing abuse before the pandemic began, don't forget about them now, she says.

There's a chance abuse has escalated with job loss, financial stress and isolation.

"It is so much easier for an abuser to isolate a victim now," says Marks.

The pandemic has closed many of the places like churches or Ontario Works that victims often use to escape. They no longer are able to take refuge with friends or family who might otherwise help.

And children in an unhappy home no longer have school to use as a "safe place.

"We know the severity of abuse is going to increase. We are concerned that women, children, men too, are at grave risk because their safety net is gone," says Marks.

Until mid-March, the 24-bed Women's Interval Home in Sarnia was operating at capacity for two years. But that all changed on March 13.

"That's when things got real," said Marks. Women at the Interval Home were suddenly concerned about communal living and many moved out.

Two found their own apartments, two went to live with friends. "Sadly, one reconciled with her partner," says Marks.

But the exodus didn't last long. Last weekend, five women sought shelter. That's more than most weekends and may indicate that the pandemic is causing abuse to increase already, says Marks.

She and her staff have quickly prepared for higher intake in the coming weeks.

To facilitate physical distancing, residents no longer use common space or share bathrooms at the interval home. Meals are delivered to each bedroom.

"We are making it safer for both our residents and staff," says Marks. New screening processes take place at the Interval Homes' door and we maintain a safe distance between staff and clients."

An undisclosed community partner has provided space off site so that the Interval Home is able to space out its clients, yet operate with the same number of beds.

Marks said the Interval Home and the local Sexual Assault Survivors' Centre will not close during the pandemic, although some staff hours will likely be reduced.

That's because

group counselling is suspended and other staff-driven group activities cannot take place because of physical distancing.

Phone and online counselling will continue during the pandemic, however face-to-face services are suspended. The Women's Interval Home has a 24-hour crisis line at 519-336-5200 x 0.

Meanwhile, the federal government indicated this week that organizations like the Women's Interval Home may be in line for extra federal funding to meet the rush for services that experts are anticipating.



Angie Marks

Brcoke Telecom

• PETROLIA LOCATION • TEMPORARILY CLOSED

AVAILABLE TO SERVE YOU BY APPOINTMENT

Watford & Inwood

Locations

at the Bankby Mail

BILL PAYMENTS

can made made...
• through our **Website**

Olease Stay Safe

Please contact us for support with any of your services 519-844-2160 or WWW.BROOKETEL.COOP

The Corporation of The Village of Oil Springs

Summer Position(s)

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

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

The employment opportunity is from:

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

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



Erkki Pohjolainen, Clerk-Treasurer Village of Oil Springs 4591 Oil Springs Line, Box 22 Oil Springs, ON NON 1P0 Email to: info@oilsprings.ca

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

Waterville employees out til April 6

The Independent

TG Waterville workers in Petrolia will be off the job for another week.

March 20, the auto parts maker said the company's customers decided to cease their operations to be part of the effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 so the company joined them. Waterville employees were to be off work until March 30.

"We are aware that this measure has

SIGN OF SPRING

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 general manager.

Daren Brown, the chair of United Auto Workers Local 251, says the 473 people have been told they will be off work until April 6.

The workers have been told to apply for Employment Insurance.

NEWS TIP? 226-738-0728

POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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 6:30 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 a property described as Part Lot 12, Concession 10; Lots 10 and 11, Plan 44; Part 3, RP25R5756; and Parts 1 to 3, RP 25R 7485. The subject property has a municipal address of 413-415 Albany Street. The property is located on the west side of Albany Street, south of Petrolia Line. The intent of the proposed amendment is to rezone the property from "General Commercial (C1)" to "Residential - 3 (R3)". The proposed amendment would allow redevelopment of the property for a single-storey apartment building.

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.

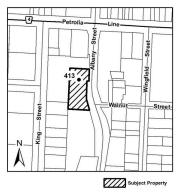
THE KEY MAP shows more particularly the lands affected.

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, NON 1R0 Telephone: 882-2350 Fax: 882-3373





HEATHER WRIGHT PHOT

Lambton County roads workers we keeping busy this week, taking down hundreds of meters of strategically placed snow fence. These workers were removing fencing at Courtright Line near Oil Heritage Road March 25.















April is Daffodil month, when Canadians rally together to support and remember those affected by cancer. But this year COVID-19 has changed our world in unprecedented ways and the beloved Daffodil Campaign is no exception.

For the first time ever, to ensure the safety of those we serve, we are suspending all face-to-face fundraising activities. This will almost certainly result in a significant drop in donations, directly impacting Canadians with cancer.

People with cancer are among the most vulnerable because of their compromised immune systems. Their care and well-being is our highest priority.

Your support of the Canadian Cancer Society COVID-19 Emergency fund during Daffodil month will enable us to keep our phones and online support available during this time and all year round.

Donate

Donate to the Canadian Cancer Society COVID-19 Emergency Fund

People with cancer are among the most vulnerable because of their compromised immune systems. Your support will help keep phone and online support available to them during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

We need your support now more than ever to help Canadians affected by cancer.



Over the Phone: 1-888-939-3333



Online: www.cancer.ca



For more information on Cancer or to volunteer contact
The Canadian Cancer Society
www.cancer.ca

LOCAL OFFICE
Canadian Cancer Society, Sarnia-Lambton
County Community Office
Phone: 519-332-0042
Email: lambton@ontario.cancer.ca

Volunteers in Pt. Lambton/Sombra step up

Cathy Dobson

The Independent

About 70 volunteers are helping residents in the Sombra/ Port Lambton area to cope with the isolation and restrictions brought on by COVID-19.

Need help getting groceries? Want a friendly voice to talk to on the phone? How about a free homemade bowl of soup delivered with zero contact to your doorstep?

Those are just some of the needs that Jenn Baker's volunteer community response team is meeting.

"We're getting a lot of requests for help and a lot of volunteers willing to do the job," says Jenn Baker, a Port Lambton educator who came up with the idea.

Many seniors are calling in for assistance but all are welcome, especially those with mobility challenges, those with young children, or compromised immune systems.

"My favourite part of all of this is our wellness checks," says Baker.

Her volunteers are regularly calling older residents to find out if they need groceries and ask how they are doing physically and emotionally.

Baker isn't sure how many are signed on for wellness checks but local churches, the Knights of Columbus and concerned

neighbours and friends are forwarding lists of people who would appreciate check-ins.

"Many people are living on their own and they are feeling sad," Baker says. "Their church is closed and they can't visit with family and friends.

"I received a call for help from one elderly man late the other night and he is feeling so

"I'm glad we can be there for him.'

Baker said lending a sympathetic ear goes a long way but her volunteers are not experts.

However, Pastor Doreen Hewitson of Port Lambton United Church and psychotherapist Maritza Rodriguez have offered to speak to anyone in distress during the pandemic.

"I think it's going to last longer than people realize, probably months not weeks, and it will become so much harder to keep people in a positive frame of mind at home," Baker says.

"That's where we really want to help.'

Some of her volunteers, including kids, have formed a cheer squad and are posting positive messages on windows and sidewalks.

Baker herself was greeted with a message from some younger children on her

driveway this week that read "You are so nice. You have a nice house. You have nice trees."

"It was so cute," she says. "It made my day. It really was a highlight to see that these little kids wrote that for me.'

The volunteer community response team is also available to do dog walking, yard work, small maintenance jobs and deliveries in the Port Lambton, Sombra and Wilkesport areas.

Soon, the group will be starting a special project pleading with local residents to stay at home and flatten the curve.

Baker is distressed by the number of people who "don't get it" and are congregating in local parks and other places outdoors without social distancing.

"I've also heard reports of Snowbirds not isolating once they are back. I want to make a personal appeal to do the right thing.

"I believe we all have a responsibility here. We are either helping or hurting. There's no in-between," she

To contact the COVID-19 volunteer community response team, join the Our Port Lambton Community facebook page or call Jenn Baker at 519-330-5422.

Thank you to all who are practising social distance and self isolation.

Thank you to those working to continue to keep us fed and healthy.

Be safe!



MP Marilyn Gladu Sarnia-Lambton

marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca

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Helping Hands

Helping Hands in Petrolia

Do you need help with... picking up groceries? small chores?

running errands?

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

This Public Service



Kettle and Stony Point closes off community

First Nation sets up check points on road to limit access and spread of virus

The Independent

Kettle and Stony Point is closing off its community to visitors after one member of the community tested positive for COVID-19.

"We do want to assure the community that health officials have directed all close contacts to self isolate immediately," says Chief Jason Henry in a release to community members.

Henry and council issued a letter to cottagers in the community asking them to stay home during the pandemic.

"We value our relationship with cottagers who come into the community to vacation and support our local businesses," says Henry.

"However, during this COVID-19 outbreak, the region simply doesn't have the capacity to absorb any increase in demand for health services, emergency services, food and other supplies.

"We ask that they respect our efforts to protect the health of our community members." The Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association is reminding cottagers essential services from hospitals to grocery stores in cottage communities may not be able to deal with a surge in population. Health units everywhere recommend avoiding all nonessential travel.

The Kettle and Stony Point council also closed four roads leading into the community and set up health check points on Indian and London Roads.

Trained community members wearing personal protective equipment are screening anyone entering the community, asking them a series of questions about their health and activities that might have exposed them to COVID-19.

Most of the businesses in the community have closed down and the First Nation has set up food distribution at the Hillside school. Thursdays have been set aside to deliver to the elders of the community.

"We still have plenty of food supplies in the community, so no one is going hungry."

Tuesday, Henry travelled to Wheatley to get gill nets for communal fishing to help during the pandemic.

The council also imposed a fire ban and, like the rest of the province, limited gatherings to just five people.

Henry says it is a difficult time, particularly for the businesses which shut down, but it is the best thing to do for the

"We need to hunker down and prepare to ride this out.

"Ŝtick together, stay unified. Be good to each other, care for each other..check in on each other," he says in a video to community members.

"We are a social people, so the longer we are alone, the darker the day can get."

that he gave his only Begotlen Son, whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Clothed in purple, a twisted crown roughly placed on His head, Mocking, striking, spitting, stripped to Golgotha He was led. Black hands of a Cyrene, were extended to bear His cross, Between two robbers He hung, a 'ransom' for the lost.

Above His head, the accusation, Jerus King of the Jews' read, "If you're the Son of God, come down", the blasphemers said. He opened not His mouth, but a 'somber' darkness filled the land, A cry of dereliction, the burden of humanity's sin, was in His hand.

The Holy of Holies & the Holy place veil, was split in two, Jesus sacrifice opened the Heavens, so boldly, man could pass throu. One 'irrevocable' breathe, in His 'Holy' presence we stand, Death forever defeated, holding 'no' Eternal 'victory' over man.

When you reach the end of your journey, and reflect upon your life, Will your soul 'soar' in freedom or 'agonize' in strife? You see, a Repentant' heart is required, a turning from our selfish ways, Confessing our sin brings 'forgiveness', inviting Jesus to the Lord, every-day.

Dear Lord Jesus, "thank-you" for the price that you paid for me. Because of the sin in my life, I find myself separated from you. I ask for your forgiveness and invite you into my heart, to be Lord of all the areas of my life. Thank-you for the "gift" of salvation and the assurance of an eternal home in Heaven with you. Amen

This Easter message is presented by Grogan, Watford

Park equipment and sports fields latest closures

Premier Doug Ford is closing most parks and outdoor recreational facilities to try to stop the spread of COVID-19. And he's extended the restrictions already in place

until April 13.

Monday night, the province closed playgrounds, sports fields, beaches, basketball and tennis courts, off-leash dog parks, skateboard and BMX

parks, picnic areas, outdoor community gardens, park shelters, and outdoor exercise equipment. You can still walk through parks, staying two meters from others.

Sports

OFSAA calls it a season: local season still hangs in the balance

Barry Wright The Independent

The latest victim of the coronavirus is the spring high school sports season, at least as it pertains to schools qualifying for provincial championships

"As we continue to cope in these challenging times with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is with great disappointment that we announce the cancellation of the remaining 2020 spring OFSAA championships and festivals," said OFSÂA President Nick Rowe in a

statement Tuesday.

"As we endure this uncertain coronavirus health crisis, OFSAA will continue to follow the direction of public health experts and government agencies. We eagerly look forward to when we can safely get back to the classroom and when sport returns to our school communities," he added.

Rowe also thanked studentathletes, coaches, convenors and volunteers for their effort in shaping the sports season to this point in the school year.

The spring season in Lambton-Kent could still move forward, according to LKSSAA President Jim Stewart.

"Nothing has been decided yet," noting the Lambton Kent group will meet next Tuesday to discuss the situation.

But, with schools across the province now closed until at least May 4, timing could be an issue, he added.

The spring sports season in Lambton-Kent typically includes rugby, soccer, badminton and track and field.



BRUCE SMITH PHOTO

Justin Porteous clears 1.88 m at the LKSSAA Track and Field Championships last year.

Flags win Stobbs awards

The Independent

Max Steeves and Garrett Miller have won year-end awards for the PJHL's Stobbs Division.

Steeves was named the MVP of the division, while Miller was tabbed as the top defenceman.

Steeves had 23 goals and 65 points in 38 games, while Miller contributed 25 goals and 30 assists in 39 games.

Steeves joined the

Flags this season following two seasons in the OJHL with Orangeville and Brampton.

Miller, in his third season with Mooretown, shattered his previous career high of 12 points set during his rookie campaign in 2017-18. Both are eligible to return to the Flags next season.

The Petrolia Flyers did not receive any awards.

Local players named to OCAA All-Academic rolls

LCCVI grads Courtney McKellar and Chantal DeVlugt have both been honoured with OCAA All-Academic Awards for their proficiency in both athletics and academics.

Players must attain an Honours level in the classroom to be on the list.

McKellar, from Alvinston, led the Oshawa-based Durham College Lords to a silver medal in the Ontario College Softball Championship, while DeVlugt, from Wyoming, won bronze in the OCAA women's volleyball tournament with the St. Clair College

Saints from Windsor.

McKellar hit. 391 for the Lords this past season with five doubles, a triple and a dozen RBI in 17 games.

DeVlugt led the Saints in kills with 153 and total points with 181.

acrosse starts late

Minor and junior lacrosse is the latest sport to have its season impacted by COVID-19. În a statement this week from the Ontario Lacrosse Association, it's been determined that the season across the province, including Sarnia and Wallaceburg, wont start for at least another six weeks.

"It has become evident that the postponement of all in-person lacrosse

activities will extend until at least May 15, pending further provincial directives and updates," said the statement. "We appreciate your continued patience and flexibility as we wait to deliver lacrosse in 2020."

Tryouts and the regular season for the Point Edward Pacers and Wallaceburg Red Devils Junior "B" squads were originally scheduled to begin this month.

Hoover up at OHL draft

At least one mock draft rates Josh Hoover of the Lambton Jr. Sting as a second or third round pick in the OHL Priority Selection this Saturday.

The event will be held online. Hoover had 10 goals and 20 assists for 30 points in 34 regular season and playoff games for the Junior Sting this past season. Meantime, three other members of the Junior Sting could also be selected.

Austin Harper is rated as a mid-round selection, while Landon Hookey and Dylan Dupuis could both be taken in the late rounds of the 15-round proceeding.

North Bay and Niagara have the first two picks in the draft. The Sarnia Sting choose third.

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th Not1ces Mar. 24 to Mar. 30, 2020

This information is provided as a community service.

For detailed information, please refer to the funeral home website listing.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Denning's of Forest

Age 73, of Sarnia

DOAN, Helen

Age 80, of Sarnia

D.J. Robb Funeral Home

DONAGHY, Jean

ANDREW, Colin

Age 85, of Petrolia

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Age 97, of Sarnia

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

CHURCHILL, Alfred

Age 84, of Wyoming

Needham Jay Funeral Home

Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

Smith Funeral Home

BUTLER, Sharron Age 73, of Kettle Point

L'HEUREUX, John

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

GUENETTE, Brandon Age 25, of Sarnia

Smith Funeral Home ACKER, Carmen Age 74, of Sarnia

Smith Funeral Home FENN, Carolyn

Age 78, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

GUNN, Shirley Age 93, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

CULLIGAN, Joseph Doran Age 91, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

THRUSDAY, MARCH 26

ROSS. Bruce Age 75, of Watford Denning's of Watford

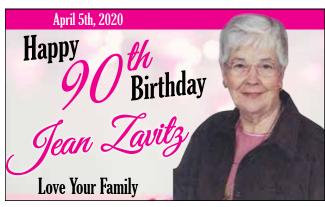
PAUL. Blanche Norma Paul Age 89, of Sarnia Denning's of Forest

SHAW. Ada Laurene Age 90, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

ELDRIDGE, Nora Leona Age 75, of Point Edward D.J. Robb Funeral Home

LAUSMAN, Elizabeth Age 86, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home

Celebration



In Memory



In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather & great-grandfather. ROBERT

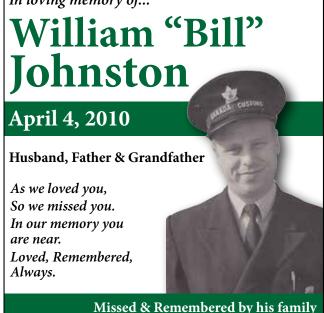
who passed away 27 years ago, March 30, 1993.

Time slips by, but memories stay, Quietly remembered everyday. Happy thoughts of times together, Memories that will last forever.

> Always loved & remembered by Dean & Family

In Memory

In loving memory of...



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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.



In Memory

M^c**CALLUM**

In loving memory of our father, grandfather, great grandfather

Elwood, March 29, 1998, our mother, grandmother, great grandmother Lucille, May 16, 1971

and our sister Lou-anne, April 12, 2017 (also a mother & grandmother)

Loving memories we will never forget Sadly missed along life's way With silent thought & deep regret We think of you every day No longer in our lives to share

But in our hearts you will be there.

Forever Loved & Sadly Missed by Gary & Judi Sherry & Randy Wayne & Mary Lynne Kevin & Cheryl Cathy & Tony Jim & Denise Maureen & Ron Souzanne & Mark and families

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

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Obituary



ANNETT Betty Marie

Betty Marie of Watford and formerly of R.R.#1 Bothwell, formerly passed away peacefully at Strathroy General Hospital on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at the age of **93**. Daughter of the late Clancy and Mary (McIntyre) Butler. Beloved wife and best friend of the late Wallace Annett (2014). Loving mother of David Annett (Lynn), Jim Annett (Kathryn) , Archie Annett, Rob Annett (Joanne). Loving grandma of Craig, Scott, Beth, Marie Bergsma (Bryon), Christina, Graham, Barbara, Duncan, Clancy, Christie, and Maggie. Great grandma of Emmitt, Lila, and Eloise. Dear sister of Jim Butler, Mary Kathryn Winder (Jim), and sister-in-law of Norman White. Predeceased by sister Laura McGuire (late Bill), sister Geraldine White, sisterin-law Beverley Butler, sister-in-law Doris McIntyre (late Bert), Robert Annett, brother-in-law brother-in-law Donald Annett (late Anna), sister-in-law Norine Snobelen (late Murray), sister-inlaw Florence McIntyre (late Elgin), sister-in-law Marie Goldhawk (late Donald). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. **Due to Covid-19 Precautions,** there will be a Private Family Service. Interment in Shetland Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to the Badder & Robinson Funeral Home, 211 Elm Street, Bothwell. Those wishing to leave an expression of sympathy are asked to consider by cheque the Bothwell United Church or Charity of Your Online condolences Choice. and donations may be left at www.badderfuneralhome.com.

Help Wanted/ Employment

Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston SUMMER STUDENT POSITION

The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston will be accepting applications for summer student employment with the Municipality in the Parks and Recreation Department.

The position is subject to receiving student subsidy funding therefore applicants must be returning to post-secondary school for the fall 2018 semester and meet the other requirements of the Province of Ontario's Summer Jobs Service Program. A valid G or G2 Driver's Licence is required. The employment opportunity is from May 1, 2018 to September 1, 2018 (may be subject to change).

Interested applicants may submit their resumes until 4:30 pm Tuesday, April 3, 2018 to the attention of:

Janet Denkers, Clerk Administrator Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston 3236 River Street: P.O. Box 28, Alvinston, ON NON 1A0

Email to: jdenkers@brookealvinston.com

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



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Church Office 519-882-2480 email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

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