



Twenty per cent of COVID-19 cases in rural Lambton County

Heather Wright
The Independent

“You should presume it is there.”

That from Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade after health officials released limited information about what communities have been hit by the novel coronavirus for the first time.

Eighty per cent of the people who have tested positive for COVID-19 are from Sarnia and Point Edward, according to public health statistics. Eight people have died of the respiratory illness including two in Central Lambton.

Reporters and some community leaders have been pressing Ranade to reveal exactly where the cases of COVID-19 have been occurring, however he consistently has said public health has to protect the privacy of the people involved. But with 86 people confirmed to have the virus as of Tuesday, Ranade says public health can break down, in very general terms,

where the cases are occurring. Eighty per cent are classified as urban - Sarnia and Point Edward - with 20 per cent in the county.

“There is definitely a rural component of this, I don’t think any community should be presuming its not there,” says Ranade.

“Our ability to tell you (where the virus is spreading) lags behind because of testing... You should presume it is there.”

Ranade says each death and even each case of the virus is a “tragedy for our families and shows that we are not immune.

“This is part of a global fight.”

Lambton County Warden Bill Weber says everyone needs to do their part and stay at home to stay safe.

“I know there are nurses and doctors who are afraid for what is coming... we need to have the support of everyone, we need everyone to follow the recommendations and regulations,” he told reporters Tuesday. “The message still has to be that everyone stays home and stays safe and follows the rules.”

CLEAN TEAM



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

A worker at Heidi’s Independent in Petrolia disinfects at the front door of the store Monday night. Grocery stores and their workers are at high risk of exposure to COVID-19 and some chains are going public with any cases within the store. **SEE STORY PG 3.**

Petrolia woman who died of COVID-19 leader in community theatre

Heather Wright
The Independent

Joe Agocs has no idea how his wife contracted COVID-19.

The Petrolia woman was one of the first in Lambton County to be diagnosed with the virus. Lynda Agocs died Saturday.

For some time, doctors thought Lynda was having a reaction to a new medication to diabetes. But 11 days ago, the 69 year-old woke up in their apartment at Queen Victoria Place, struggling for

breath saying she needed to go to the hospital.

Joe helped her into their car, took her to Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital and dropped her off at the door. Because of the restrictions around people in the hospital, Joe couldn’t go inside with her. Eleven days later, she died at Bluewater Health, one of the latest victims of the respiratory virus which has now killed eight people in Lambton.

Lynda Agocs loved to travel and bake for her grandchildren and

spending time with her friends, many of whom she made through the theatre. She and Joe had been part of the Petrolia Community Theatre for years, Lynda working behind the scenes, Joe taking roles in local productions.

They went to Sarnia working with the community theatre, Lynda, off stage, working on costumes and props, Joe taking roles in the productions, something he says Lynda shied away from. “You would have to have a gun to get her on stage,” says her husband.

Eventually, the pair spent most of their time working with the Sarnia Little Theatre. Lynda joined the board of the Western Ontario Drama League as a director and over the last year, served as its president.

In January, Lynda went back to the stage, working with a friend on a community theatre production as the stage manager.

Lynda had also been diagnosed with diabetes and Joe says she was working hard to get the symptoms under control through diet and

medication. Doctors tried a new medication, but it was making her sick. So she was prescribed something to calm her stomach and it seemed to be helping, but she was tired, sleeping 18 to 20 hours a day.

Then, Lynda was so short of breath, she was taken to hospital. She called Joe after seeing a doctor saying it looked like pneumonia. As she became worse, Lynda was taken to hospital in Sarnia where she was put on a ventilator.

SEE AGOCS PG 3

Celebrate

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SUNDAY

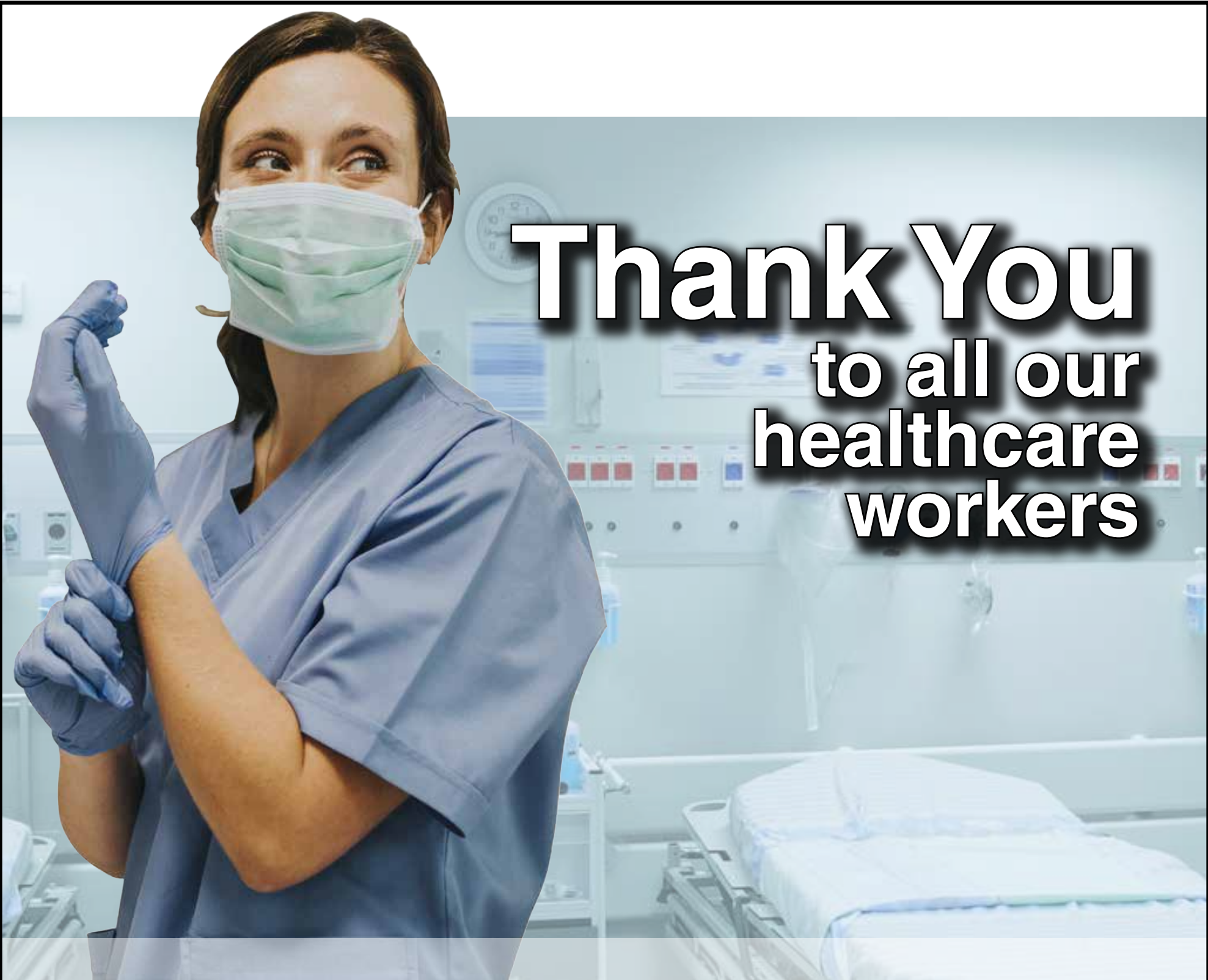
APRIL 12

AT 11AM

MORE INFO
ON PAGE 10

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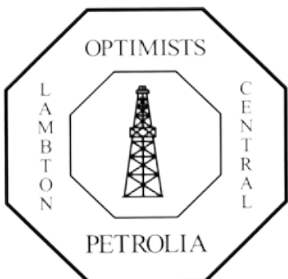


Thank You to all our healthcare workers

Healthcare workers are doing everything they
can to care for our community.

We need you to do one thing for them:
STAY HOME

This message is brought to you by:



Local grocery worker positive for COVID-19

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sobeys Canada says a worker at Watford Foodland has tested positive for COVID-19. It's a sign of the increased risk grocery store employees take on the job and its prompted the union which represents many in the industry to push for the changes you now see when you walk through your local store.

Sobey's is the parent company of Foodland. On it's corporate website, the company now reports when an employee has tested positive for the novel coronavirus So far, across the country, 28 employees have tested positive since March 28, including an employee in Watford who last worked in the store March 22. The case was reported April 1.

The majority of the employees who have tested positive are in Quebec.

The company is not giving out personal information about the individuals, except for the last day they worked.

The company's website says; " If one of our teammates tests positive for COVID-19, we will follow the direction of public health every step of the way. We will close and deep-clean as directed by public health.

"We will work closely with public health officials to investigate the teammate's known points of contact and recent shifts. To keep stores safe, we will notify all teammates who require self-isolation for two weeks.

"We will always do everything we can to keep our teammates and customers safe."

The company adds where required, it communicates with customers who have

shopped in the impacted location, with store signage, outlining steps to manage the situation.

Lambton Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, isn't sure about the legalities of Sobey's releasing this information, however, he says public health wouldn't release this information unless there was some direct advice – that's different from the stay at home, social distancing and hand washing guidelines already in place – to give to people who may have had direct exposure to the worker.

Terry Deelstra is the communications officer for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, which represents thousands of grocery store workers across Canada. He says members want to be alerted when there is a problem.

"We don't necessarily want to single people out and name and shame them, but we want to make sure other employees and the public is informed....and make sure all the proper methods, recommended by public health, are followed."

Deelstra says grocery stores have a "particular challenge" because the public is still coming in to get food. The UFCW, he says advocated for things like the plexi-glass shields at the checkouts and proper protective equipment and training for the workers.

That, he says, they protect the seniors and vulnerable who still need to get groceries.

Deelstra says it has not been easy, particularly when it comes to getting the protective gear for grocery workers.

"This is a world-wide pandemic and we're working as much as we can to protect our members, given the circumstances."

Lambton College set to help out if virus spreads

Heather Wright
The Independent

The gym at Lambton College will turn into a hospital if the number of people with COVID-19 increases dramatically in Lambton.

Bluewater Health and the college announced Monday it had turned the schools gymnasiums into a 150-bed field hospital.

It's part of a provincial call to action for the next level of the pandemic.

Bluewater Health Communications Chief Julia Oosterman says right now, the hospital

is at 55 per cent capacity, so the overflow hospital won't be needed yet.

There are 40 beds in the COVID Unit at the hospital now with 300 total in the Samia site. They can add an additional 84 beds.

Oosterman says people with COVID-19 would stay at the hospital, since it is the best equipped to handle acute care.

Non-COVID-19 patients would be moved to the Lambton College location if it is needed.

"Our hope is we do not need to move any patients to the Lambton College site, but we have to be ready for the worst case," says Bluewater Health CEO Mike Lapaine.

Agocs, local theatre leader, dies

CONT' FROM PG 1

Eventually, she wasn't able to move her limbs and her kidney's were failing.

Thursday, Joe and his children talked to her by video conference to say goodbye. She passed away Saturday.

Joe says the family is "buffaloed" how she got the virus.

No one in their family or friend group at Queen Victoria Place ever showed any signs of COVID-19. They did come in contact with some people who had travelled internationally, but they had been in isolation for 14 days before then.

Agocs says it seems to have happened "randomly.

"It really doesn't matter," he says adding what is important now is that people understand how easily COVID-19 can be spread and that while some people have milder symptoms - like he suffered over the past two weeks in quarantine - others will die.

"I just wish everybody would be more

vigilant," Agocs says.

"People may feel okay and say 'I'll suffer the consequences myself.' That's not the problem...they could be infecting unsuspecting people, vulnerable people."

The Agocs family, like so many others, were not able to gather to share memories of Lynda and grieve together because of the rules on physical distancing and only having 10 people at a funeral.

Her husband says Lynda didn't want a funeral anyway. A memorial service will be planned. That, says Joe, will have to wait until "this is all over and it is safe to be out again...to get back together in groups...I have no idea when that will be."



Lynda Agocs

Warwick Township “Homestyle” Maple Syrup Festival

Sunday, April 12, 2020

You're Invited!

Many people across Canada have been disappointed over the past few weeks as event after event has been cancelled due to the coronavirus. Well we at Warwick Township are not going to let anything stand in our way of coming together as a community.

That's why we have decided to partner with the Watford Optimist, the Watford Rotary and both the Watford and Warwick Firemen's Associations to bring you the first ever Warwick Township "Homestyle" Maple Syrup Festival!

On Easter Sunday, April 12th, residents from across Warwick Township are welcomed to their own kitchen tables to enjoy some delicious, locally made maple syrup on us. All we ask in return is for everyone who joins in this celebration to please post photos of themselves and their families enjoying their pancakes to social media and email to whatsup@warwicktownship.ca so that we can share each and every delicious moment on our website.

Let's flood Facebook and Twitter with photos as well and show the world that although we may be physically separated, we are never alone here in Warwick Township and nothing will stand in our way of coming together as a community. Use the hashtag #WARWICKisSWEET

Anyone who needs pancake mix to enjoy this event, and who is unable to go to the store to purchase it themselves, can contact Jackie Rombouts by calling or texting your address to 519-464-3634.

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Editorial

Always look for the helpers

“When I was a little boy,” Fred Rogers of the famous TV show Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood was quoted as saying, “and I would see scary things on the news, my mother would say to me ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’”

Mr. Rogers would be proud of Petrolia and Central Lambton because we’re finding lots of helpers in one of the most difficult times in modern history.

With a virus killing thousands around the world, restrictions on our movements, many people losing their jobs and income, it would be easy to become depressed and become negative. But as you can see from the pages of our paper, there are lots of people who are looking to help.

From the single dad who started who shaped an army of hobbists into a manufacturing force, delivering hundreds of face shields to health care workers and others in need to women armed with sewing needles making masks so health care workers have something to protect them from a deadly virus.

And there are people trying to lift our spirits by picking up a guitar and sharing their musical talent with their neighbours.

There are also a lot of unsung helpers - neighbours helping elderly neighbours get groceries and offering a little wave or a note to someone stuck inside.

There are also helpers in some of our most vital institutions right now; health care workers are finding solutions to problems no one ever thought we would have; teachers are reaching out to students to see how their doing and what they need to do some school at home, so their entire year isn’t lost.

And the federal government is getting money into the pocket of the people who have been financially effected.

Normally, this sort of thing would take months or years to organize; now it moves in minutes, hours and days. It may not be perfect, but is incredible to see the speed government can move when needed.

If we can do all this, we can stop the spread of this virus. Let’s all be helpers and do our part.

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

It is a familiar sight even today at the corner of Petrolia Line and King Street. It was then the Techumseh Hotel, which included a coffee shop and dining room. In later years, it became The Squire which was the local watering hole where legendary tales began.

Parents now teachers should raise good humans first

There are lots of people giving shout-outs to lots of heroes during the global health mess we find ourselves in.

Of course, there are health care workers - nurses and doctors in our hospital putting themselves in the middle of a room with highly-contagious COVID-19 patients - often holding their hand as they die alone.

Firefighters and paramedics walk into homes to treat people in emergencies not always knowing all the facts.

There are personal support workers in the nursing homes trying extra hard to make every day normal for seniors who don’t why family can’t visit.

There are grocery store clerks who have to deal with people who still don’t know enough to stay home if they’ve returned from vacation.

And there are teachers, trying to string together a brand new way to teach students in a matter of days

instead of the years it has taken to bring courses together normally.

But as we tip our hat to all of these people for the good work they’re doing for us, we should spare a thought for parents because their job is not easy either.

First, they have to be good parents and you know that can be a tough job to start with. Now, aside from having endless patience and administering the proper amount of justice in the home, parents have to try to make life as normal as possible when the whole world is upside down. I can remember the meltdowns my kids had about a missing toy; that’s child’s play now.

Parents must explain the unexplainable. It is so important to make kids feel secure and loved and that’s awful hard when you don’t feel secure either. And on top of all that, they’re expected to become surrogate

teachers - a job everyone is now seeing isn’t as cushy as we’ve been led by some to believe.

Parents, we see you. And I’m going to pass along some advice I’ve seen from educators. Don’t worry about becoming the perfect teacher, make sure your kid knows they’re safe and loved. In the end, that will do them the most good when we return to normal life.

It’s better to raise a good human who can weather storms, than having a straight A student.



Heather Wright

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

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Canada

Lambton face shield group sees painful truth of virus

Heather Wright
The Independent

Alex Billings now has an army of helpers and supporters creating protective face shields for health care workers.

The Petrolia single father started making items useful for dealing with the novel coronavirus on his 3D Printer in mid-March. After a story in The Independent, Billings had three others come on board, Chris Martin, Terrie Boddaert and Eric Curragh. Now about 10 people are working on building light and heavy weighted shields.

“We have produced 969 light face shields and 147 heavy face shields,” as of Monday night says Billings. “Some are still awaiting supplies to be fully assembled and we have delivered 304 light weight and between 50 and 70 of our heavy face shields around the county.”

Billings says some of the shields are being used in the community in places like Lambton County Developmental Services and Hogan Pharmacy. And some, after some adjustments, are now being used in the intensive care unit at Bluewater Health Sarnia.

“We had to make a few adjustments to the length of the clear plastic shields that are destined for the ICU in Sarnia as they have special requirements for use but once those where met we where given the approval to provide them to the hospital in Sarnia.”

Billings says the volunteers are working all out to make as much of the protective equipment as they can to fill the gap until Ontario’s manufacturing community gears up to produce

medical supplies.

“We coordinate using a site called Slack or by phone call. We are using Google sheets to input what is needed from the community so we can track where everything needs to go and everyone in the group has access to see what is needed and can update the numbers as face shields are produced and delivered.

“Everyone is normally checking in through the day to see who has what materials available so we can get it all into one place to be assembled and sent out for delivery.

“We try and limit how often we have to enter the community and typically have very little contact with the receiver to limit our exposure to illness.”

Billings says they’re putting a lot of effort into getting the work done.

“Some of us are still putting in easily 15 to 18 hour days and others can only dedicate a few, but everyone helps out to the best of their ability.

“We have seen a lot of demand for what we are able to do and had an amazing amount of help from local businesses that have been supporting our efforts to help our frontline workers and despite the long hours and hard work from our team without the support of those businesses and organizations we would not be able to do what we are doing on the current scale we are running.”

Billings says they are getting donations from all over, including the Forest Legion Auxiliary, Manley’s Office Supplies, KKP - which has been donating the clear plastic and cutting it for the shields. Local unions are also

stepping up with cash as are service clubs and businesses.

Billings says it is a tremendous amount of work but he’s proud to be helping out.

“It can be a truly amazing experience at times. I have reconnected with old friends, I have seen members of the local community band together for a common cause and fill a need that is extremely urgent in a very short amount of time.

“The whole team is very supportive of each other. There are members from all walks of life and professions united to protect our front line workers and that is something very special to be apart of.

“At the same time, we get a rare glimpse into the human impact of the current pandemic and how it is affecting people on a very deep personal level.”

And he says they see how this virus is affecting people. “We receive e-mails daily from members trying to protect vulnerable family members that are under going cancer treatment, cries for help from those with family in retirement and care homes afraid that their loved ones will get sick asking if there is anything we can do to help. Nurses on the front lines in the ICU with young children at home who have to report to work praying that they don’t bring this home to their families.

“For as much joy and energy that is generated from being a part of such an amazing group being apart of it also gives us a very real glimpse into the often painful and very emotional truths that are playing out on a daily basis throughout our community.”

Campfires still allowed in most Lambton communities

A new provincial fire ban has a lot of people asking if they can have a fire in the backyard – the short answer in Petrolia and Central Lambton is yes .

The Ministry of Natural Resources put a fire ban in plan for land in their legislated regions – but southwest Ontario is not part of the legislated area.

Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Chief Jay Arns says residents can still have

a recreational fire in their backyards, as long as it isn’t too windy and there is a source of water to put it out. You can also still have a barbecue or grill going.

In Central Lambton, Dawn-Euphemia has a fire ban currently in place. It still allows recreational fires however open air burns are banned. Oil Springs imposed a ban Monday

On Friday Warwick Township, Brooke-Alvinston, St. Clair and Plympton-Wyoming all allow burning, including recreational fires right now.

Warwick, Brooke-Alvinston, Petrolia and St. Clair have a permitting process for open burns which you can find on their municipal websites and recreational fires at press time were still permitted..

OPP to handle complaints about COVID-19 rule breakers

If you have worries about neighbours social distancing or businesses opening their doors when they shouldn’t, Lambton OPP will be able to help.

The Town of Petrolia initially set up a tip line to take complaints about people not following social distancing rules or breaking regulations under the Emergency Orders by the province. But late Tuesday, they learned the OPP will be investigating complaints, not local bylaw officers.

“Should residents have concerns

about someone not following physical distancing protocols, open businesses deemed non-essential or other issues, they are requested to contact the Ontario Provincial Police to report less serious incidents online at opp.ca/ reporting. For non-emergencies call 1-888-310-1122.” says Town Clerk Mandi Pearson in a news release.

The OPP says education and awareness are the preferred options to handle complaints but they do have the authority to issue Provincial Offences

Act tickets which start at \$750.

Police will investigate if there are more than five people in an area, or if someone is breaking quarantine, at the request of a screening officer.

Police say If you wish to file a report regarding a non-essential business remaining open, contact the OPP, call 1-888-310-1122.

If you wish to file a report regarding non-compliance under the Quarantine Act, contact https://health.canada.ca/

St. Clair makes changes yard waste collection, COVID-19 enforcement

St. Clair will be contracting Lambton County for enforcement of the provincial decision to limit groups of people to five or fewer during the current crisis.

The fine could be \$880 for anyone who disobeys the order.

There will be no burn ban in St. Clair as of this time. Yard waste collection for the spring 2020 season has been

cancelled due to new COVID related rules at the Sarnia compost yard. Residents are advised to place yard waste in the regular garbage. The St. Clair trail will open next week with new signage outlining social distancing protocols for users.

The St. Clair Township council meeting was held by telephone conference on Monday afternoon, in

what may turn out to be the first of many such councils held in this format due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Electronic meetings were made possible in the province after Ontario passed the Municipal Emergency Act, 2020 in March.

“Just be patient, we’ll do our best and get through this,” mayor Steve Arnold said to start the meeting.

- **Emery Huszka**
Dealer - Florence ON,
226-373-6244
- **Julie Maw**
Dealer - Courtright ON,
519-384-2281
- **Dave Foulon**
Dealer - Tupperville ON,
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TO ADDRESS COUNCIL DURING AN ELECTRONIC MEETING



- during business hours, register by telephone with the Clerk’s Department at Town Hall, any time prior to close of business on the meeting date;
- register by email with the Clerk’s Department at Town Hall, up to thirty (30) minutes in advance of the meeting start time;
- all presentation materials, or correspondence to be presented to Council, must be provided in a written format, received by the Clerk no later than 4:30 PM the day of the Electronic Meeting.
- all persons registered to present verbally to Council, will be called upon by the Clerk during the appropriate portion of the meeting agenda. The Clerk will identify the presenters name an address and state “your line is open”

We encourage all those who wish to address Council during an Electronic Meeting, to do so pursuant to the process outlined above. Those that are not able to register in advance, will be granted an opportunity during the appropriate portion of the meeting agenda, only when called upon by the Head of Council

- once the Head of Council opens the opportunity, please state your name, address and topic, before proceeding
- if more than one person comes forward, the Mayor will note the order in which Council will be addressed;

All rules of decorum and process of addressing Council through the Mayor will remain in place.

Only persons registered in advance, will be able to present a letter or document to Council. This item is to be received in advance at the Clerks Office, by 4:30 PM the day of the meeting. All other addresses to Council are to be oral.

If You Would Like To Participate In The Council Meeting from your home or office, the following steps will help you participate


- Please dial (toll free) 1-866-305-1460
- The code that you will need to enter is: **4568110#**
- You will now have access to the meeting.

Note: it will be very helpful if you mute your microphone if possible until you are called upon to speak.

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Industrial construction stopped as part of new rules

The Independent

Premier Doug Ford is sending industrial construction workers as the province reveals just how hard the novel coronavirus could hit Ontario in the next few months.

Dr. Peter Donnelly, the CEO of Public Health Ontario, says between 3,000 and 15,000 people could die before the novel coronavirus pandemic is over. That’s with the measures the province have already taken.

Without intervention to keep the public home and reduce contact between people, Donnelly says up to 100,000 people would have died.

Donnelly says public health measures so far have made a difference, adding everyone needs to stay focused on

staying home, stopping the spread, and staying safe by practicing physical distancing when making necessary trips to the grocery or drug stores and frequently washing your hands.

“If we all do a good job, we all stick to these measures, we can get between 3,000 and 15,000 (deaths).”

And he said further restrictions including closing down more workplaces, could improve the prospect of controlling the virus.

Right after Donnelly’s news conference, Ford said “if this doesn’t give a wake up call, I don’t know what does.”

Ford ordered industrial construction sites to close by 11:59 pm Saturday. Only necessary infrastructure at hospitals or on transportation projects

will continue. Ford says there will also be no new residential construction starting.

The premier says the remaining construction sites will face “the highest level of scrutiny.”

The province has hired 60 more inspectors, Ford says adding so far 583 inspections and five sites have been shut down. “We will not hesitate to shut down more because the health and safety of all Ontarians is my number one priority.”

Hardware stores also face new restrictions. They must now operate as delivery or drive up services.

Ford says he’s hoping the new restrictions will make people stay home but he’s willing to crack down. “Everything is on the table.”

Warwick to enforce no alcohol rule after arena damage

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Township councillors are cracking down on a men’s hockey league after damage at the Watford Arena.

In a report to council, Treasurer and Deputy CAO, Trevor Jarrett, says there was a lot of clean up and damage after the final night of the Sunday Night Men’s Hockey league.

“The losing team displayed the utmost in poor sportsmanship and proceeded to trash their dressing room,

upstairs at the arena and the men’s bathroom after failing to win the championship. Although the mess to the dressing room of trash being thrown everywhere but the into the garbage receptacle – all dressing rooms were left in poor condition relative to other evenings – and the men’s washroom had a trail of vomit across the floor.

Everything was cleaned by staff but upstairs three tables and a chair had to be replaced because they were damaged beyond repair.

Jarrett’s report says the bar was closed when one of the team became

unruly adding the teams had brought beer into the dressing rooms - which is prohibited.

Council agreed to work with the league to deal with the issue, including invoicing the damaged items to one player who claimed responsibility and banning the person from township facilities for a year.

The league will be billed for another four hours of cleaning, and will meet with the league and the team involved to place the members on a warning.

Township will also enforce the no-alcohol policy in the dressing rooms.

Dawn-Euphemia to look at taking over Shetland park

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia is going to look at taking ownership of Shetland Conservation Area.

That comes after a title search turned up the property isn’t registered to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

Township officials received a letter requesting financial help to have the land legally registered as SCRCA property after a title search by a neighbour’s lawyer found the authority doesn’t hold the title on the land.

Mayor Al Broad suggested it might be the perfect time to explore whether the township should purchase the park. It already runs the campground and

makes a modest profit according to Treasurer Scott Gawley.

Dawn-Euphemia pays about \$11,000 a year to the conservation authority to maintain the campground along the banks of the Sydenham River and extra for additional repairs.

Township staff will prepare a report on the potential costs of taking over the Shetland land for council.

Petrolia’s town wide garage sales cancelled this year

If you were looking forward to Petrolia’s Annual Town Wide Garage Sale Days, you’ll have to wait for next year.

Town officials and the Volunteer Business Group which coordinated the event, have cancelled the rite of spring.

It is part of the effort to stop the

spread of COVID-19 and maintain physical distancing. Hundreds of people normally pack Petrolia’s streets of the event, prompting bylaw enforcement officers to issue parking tickets to people blocking roads.

Town officials say bylaw enforcement officers and the OPP will

be on the lookout for people setting up sales that weekend and will fine issue \$750 under the Provincial Offences Act if they fine them.

Large Item pickup has also been postponed – a new date hasn’t been confirmed.

Three charged after bin break-in near OPP station

Three people, including a Petrolia woman, are facing charges after taking items from a clothing donation bin at a local gas bar across the road from the OPP station.

On March 30, around 10 in the morning, Lambton OPP noticed three people taking items from a donation

bin on Oil Heritage Road at the Shell 21 gas bar.

They stopped and started talking with the trio about the bags which had been removed from the bin. Police noticed another bag with what appeared to be methamphetamine. Three suspects were taken across the road to the OPP

detachment.

Caylie White, 37, of Petrolia Gerrit Brower, 32, and Wyatt Brown, 21, both of Strathroy face four charges including possession of methamphetamine, dried cannabis and stolen property.

They’ll be in court June 3.

St. Clair’s municipal newsletter going online after printing problems

Residents learned that they will not be seeing The Beacon for a while, at least in its physical form.


The community newsletter is produced by the municipality once a month to let people know about what is going on with local groups and council.

Staffing issues at the printing press, along with a shortage of events in the next few months that account for a sizeable portion of the newsletter, led council to recommend the publication move to an online-only format for the months of May and June.

Concerns were raised about residents

without internet access, leading to a decision to look into taking out ads in local newspapers and to find strategic places around town to post timely notices for things such as waste pickup so residents can stay informed.

It’s not clear when the newsletter might return.

TOWNSHIP OF DAWN-EUPHEMIA
2020 MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD


The Township is now receiving applications for the \$1,000 “Municipal Scholarship” awarded to one student of Dawn-Euphemia, that is pursuing a full-time post-secondary education in a government-related, firefighting technology or agricultural field of study.

The application is available online at www.dawneuphemia.ca or by contacting the Municipal Office (519) 692-5148.

Deadline for submission is April 30th.

**NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

We encourage you to please donate locally!



The Petrolia Food Bank intends to remain open each Monday as it is permitted. We are a few volunteers that are doing our best to help those in need especially right now.

We are currently looking for:
Spaghetti Noodles, Canned Tomatoes, Soda Crackers, Hamburger Helper, Side Kicks, Snack Foods, Granola Bars





Monetary donations can be mailed to 4156 Petrolia Line Unit 1, Petrolia ON N0N 1R0 or through the mail slot at the front of the building.

Please try to donate to local food banks in your area, we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for all the continuing support.

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Under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMPCA) the Town of Petrolia has been advised that the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) will act on complaints received from residents regarding:


NON-COMPLIANCE AS RELATED TO COVID-19 ORDER

SHOULD YOU HAVE CONCERN:

- Report less serious incidents online at opp.ca/reporting
- For non-emergencies call 1-888-310-1122
- In case of emergency, call 911.


MORE INFORMATION:

- All parties gathering can be charged
- Parties must identify themselves when asked
- Failure to comply with an order during an emergency and/or failure to identify yourself fines start at \$750 plus fees



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Petrolia women take up their sewing needles to help during the pandemic

Cathy Dobson
The Independent

Petrolia seamstresses are in high gear producing masks to combat the spread of COVID-19, especially now that public health officials say that non-medical masks can help.

Toni Arts, owner of Alteration Arts by Toni, said she has already produced more than 400 cotton masks and won't stop until she runs out of materials.

Arts was motivated to begin sewing free masks weeks ago after a friend who is a critical care nurse at London's University Hospital said she fears shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE).

"She said she's afraid they will run out," says Arts. "She asked if I

could sew some masks to use as a last resort."

Arts immediately went to work. "Every day, I start making them right after I have my coffee and I don't stop until supper time," she says. She's been giving them away mostly to personal support workers and home care workers for a donation of \$5 to \$10, money she uses to buy more materials.

"And pretty much everyone working at Heidi's (Your Independent Grocer) has one too," she says.

Another local seamstress, Bea Coulombe, says she was motivated to begin producing masks in mid-March after hearing from a woman who works at Bluewater Health in Petrolia.

"She works in the x-ray department and said there are not

enough masks to go around," says Coulombe.

She has voluntarily sewn about 100 for hospital workers and another 200 for others who have asked.

"They aren't medical grade but they will at least stop you from touching your face, especially when you're out and about," says Coulombe. "It all helps a little bit."

Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer, said Monday that using masks in tandem with social distancing measures will help limit the spread of the deadly virus.

Previously, Canadian public health officials did not recommend masks for anyone except health care professionals.

Tam stressed that wearing a non-

medical mask doesn't necessarily protect the person wearing it. Instead she said non-medical masks reduce the chances of respiratory droplets coming into contact with others or landing on surfaces.

Coulombe said a Toronto area nurse contacted her recently to ask for 100 masks because they didn't have enough PPE.

"I have to say I am burned out right now," Coulombe says. "But I got some new supplies today and will continue to make a few more masks."

Volunteers on Facebook at Power Stitch Designs and The Sewing Army are also making masks during the pandemic.

The owners of Sewlutions, a Wyoming apparel company, have put some of their business supplies



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Masks in progress by Bea Coulombe

out on their front lawn encourage volunteers making masks to take what they need or donate extras they have.

A sweet alternative: Warwick hosts 'homestyle' maple syrup festival Sunday

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Township is going to spread a little sweetness around the community without breaking any physical distancing rules.

It's holding a homestyle maple syrup festival Sunday.

The two maple syrup festivals in Watford and Warwick scheduled in

March were cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Jackie Rombouts says the Watford Optimists wanted to do something for the community to replace the popular events.

"They were upset it was cancelled; they wanted to do something and that got the wheels turning," says Rombouts.

"We thought, we can still do it,

we just can't do it all together."

So, Rombouts and the Optimist worked with the maple syrup supplier and soon volunteers will be delivering 250 millilitre bottles to every resident in the township.

Rombouts says volunteers who will be screened for COVID-19, will take training in physical distancing, then deliver the maple syrup right to resident's mailbox

after wiping it down with a disinfectant.

Rombouts says township residents will be getting information about the event in their mailbox.

There will be a pamphlet which says "have a sweet Sunday on us, share your photos of everybody enjoy pancakes with syrup...with the hashtag Warwick is Sweet.

"It's just to have fun and let the

community know we're all in this together."

And there will be a gentle reminder to residents about staying safe.

"We're going to encourage social distancing in a nice way...we're all staying at home but nothing is going to stop our community from enjoying a maple syrup homestyle festival."

College students want fee reduction

Colleges say online courses safe, no refund for courses coming

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Mary Furlan says college students should be getting a tuition break.

The Lambton College student started a petition seeking a partial refund of tuition fees for the winter term.

But the institution has no plans to offer a refund of any sort.

As of Tuesday morning more than 2,800 people had signed Furlan's [change.org](#) petition.

All college and university classes moved online in mid-March, but Furlan, a nursing student, is worried about the quality of the education.

"There was one teacher who actively engaged students in having online classes, one teacher who recorded her lectures, and the rest of them said here's the power points, it's all self-study," Furlan says.

"It's different learning. When you're able to listen to the teacher they don't always just say what's on the slide, they give extra information or something that will reverberate with you so you can remember the information better."

The nursing program also involves a four-week placement for students, for hands-on learning in hospitals. That's been cancelled.

In an email addressing the issue, Lambton College president Judith Morris cited the shift of all colleges in Ontario to online instruction. "The safety and security of our students was paramount in our decision to move in this direction," Morris wrote.

"In addition to remote delivery, we took

immediate action to determine the needs of our students, which has resulted in food drops, access to laptops, and to bursaries sponsored by the College and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities."

"The 24 colleges in Ontario and the colleges in British Columbia have all agreed there will be no refunds for the delivery of curriculum remotely, which is allowing thousands of students to safely complete their semesters and programs in exceptional circumstances,

"To be clear, Lambton College will not offer refunds or partial refunds for the 2020 winter semester as a result of remote delivery."

The Lambton College website says other fees, like parking, residence and meal plans, are being adjusted for refunds.

Some Ontario colleges say the refund for those extra fees will amount to about \$300.

Furlan says she understands these are exceptional circumstances, but is hoping there can be some wiggle room, adding not all schools have been clear about what refunds will be available.

"There's hundreds of thousands of college students who have been affected by this. Certainly not all of the colleges have been forthcoming, or said let's work with you and try to figure out how to A: get the best value for your money and B: get some money back into your pocket," Furlan says.

Furlan is also concerned about the future implications the abrupt changes will have. "People will need to be able to make up the experiences where they can, and maybe they'll put more emphasis on subsequent years.

"It's easier when you're in year one to make up the experiences in year two, three and four," she says.

"But I feel bad for students in year four. They may not have this confidence that they would have had if this had never happened."

Fundraisers on hold for upgrade

Alex Krual
Local Journalism Initiative

The drive to renew Moore Sports Complex in St. Clair Township has ground to a halt.

The fundraising for the planned \$35 million expansion has stopped due to the effects of COVID-19.

The municipality has applied to get about 77 per cent of the project funded by the federal and provincial government under a new infrastructure grant. So many municipalities were looking for cash, that it has taken longer than expected to announce the projects receiving funding.

And that was before the world slowed to a crawl because of the novel coronavirus.

"It's put everything on hold for now," says St. Clair Mayor Steve Arnold. "One of the things that has been really affected is that we had a number of fundraising activities our community group had put together over the past month, and the next two months, and those things have all been cancelled for now because of the provincial and federal regulations and the recommendations from the Medical Officer of Health."

The Spring Renewal Gala on April 18 and the Raise the Rink fundraiser on

May 1 were cancelled. With physical distancing guidelines expected to be in place for weeks, it is not known when the fundraisers will be rescheduled. The Moore Sports Complex Renewal Committee plans to raise \$5 million dollars for the project.

As for the sought-after government grants, Arnold says that it will be a few months before the decision is made on those as well.

"The last time we talked to Minister (of Infrastructure Laurie) Scott, she told us that it would be mid-summer before those announcements were done. There was one billion dollars put in that fund and she had 11 billion dollars in asks. So, less than 10 per cent of the people are going to get any money," says Arnold.

Arnold is hoping that the safety aspect of St. Clair's pitch will carry the weight to land the renewal among the projects selected.

"We've worked hard to make sure our case is known. We have a direct ammonia system on the arena, which is one of the last ones left in the country. So from a safety perspective, we know we have to do that work.

"Everything else will get done in time. The arena project will move forward eventually."

Municipalities drop interest on late fees

Municipalities in Central Lambton are hoping to provide some financial relief during the COVID crisis.

Dawn-Euphemia, Plympton-Wyoming and Warwick Township are removing interest on tax bills and overdue fees to help residents who have lost their jobs during the fight against the novel coronavirus. Some also cut interest on overdue water and sewage bills until the end of April.

Warwick suspended interest until May 30.

"I don't think May 30 is enough," says Councillor Wayne Morris. Treasurer Trevor Jarrett says council can suspend the fees further if necessary.

Petrolia council meets Tuesday to decide if it too will suspend interest fees.

Enniskillen Township went a different way, deferring the April tax installment until May.

Singing through the pandemic; new online group features local artists

Cathy Dobson
The Independent

In a world practicing isolation, thousands of Lambton residents are coming together through the gift of music.

So says Pete Pakalnis of Wyoming who is finding that a new online Facebook group called The Quarantine Sessions is a great creative outlet to share with his 17 year-old daughter.

The Quarantine Sessions was started by Kevin Churchill, a Lambton County employee and guitar player who says membership is growing by nearly 1,000 a day. In just two weeks, it’s attracted more than 13,000 members.

“I am overwhelmed by the numbers involved in this,” says Pakalnis.

He and his daughter Karina, who is in her final year at LCCVI, have performed together in the past at the Legion and for fundraisers. So when they began to go “a little stir crazy” in isolation, they pulled out their guitars and recorded some classic rock from Guns N’ Roses, Led Zeppelin and Tom Petty.

The response to their Quarantine Sessions posts has stunned the father/daughter duo.

“We had hundreds of likes and comments,” says Pakalnis. “In all honesty, the support we are getting is giving us a really good feeling.

“It’s some positivity in these times when we all could use it.” Churchill is impressed by the variety of people posting. He estimates about 80 per cent are from the local area while the rest are discovering Quarantine Sessions in every province in Canada and as far away as the UK and Europe.

“It’s crazy. We’re hearing from people who, in my opinion, should have a record deal, they’re that good,” Churchill says. “We’re also hearing from musicians just starting out and finding an audience for the first time.”

Demi Krall is a singer/songwriter from Petrolia who plays regularly in bars throughout Lambton County.

She’s isolated on her own during the pandemic and says sharing her music on Quarantine Sessions keeps her connected.

“A lot of my gigs have been cancelled and this is a cool way to still show our art,” Krall says. “It’s cool to know someone’s watching.”

“If there’s one thing everyone has in common, it’s music and this really is bringing everyone closer together,” she says.

Churchill said The Quarantine Sessions started out as a single recording that he posted online. His brother-in-law James Miller is also a musician and did the same.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pete Pakalnis and his daughter Karina, 17, of Wyoming are some of the musicians featured in the Facebook group The Quarantine Sessions.

“James suggested I start an online group and I thought maybe since everyone’s gigs have dried up, a few buddies would like to post, then that would be it.”

By now, hundreds of solo acts, family combos and bands have posted everything from their

favourite covers to coronavirus-inspired originals.

“I saw (longtime Sarnia artist) Jim Chevalier post a live stream and later comment on a young person’s song after they mustered up the courage to try to find their voice,” says Churchill. “Jim

offered such encouragement. That positive feedback is so valuable,” he says. “I feel that we’re really filling a void.”

Churchill’s Facebook group is The Quarantine Sessions – Connecting Through Music.

Yes, your internet is a little slower now

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

If you’re internet seems slower than normal, you can, at least indirectly blame COVID-19. Systems are strained as people work and go to school from home and local politicians are hearing about the issue.

Ontario schools have been ordered closed until at least May 4. And the number of people working from home swelled when the province ordered more businesses to close last week.

“The biggest problem is everyone is trying to download education materials for the kids,” says St. Clair Mayor Steve Arnold. “But the utilities are doing the best that they can at this time.”

Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Alan Broad hears the same concerns.

“With all the extra people being home internet speeds are definitely slower than what they were in the past,” says Broad. “We’ve got some providers that are pretty good. Some others are trying. But for the most part in rural Dawn-Euphemia, our internet services are somewhat challenged, especially with all the people and students and parents being home.”

Even before the mass exodus back home, rural Lambton has had internet issues.

St. Clair Township will see some relief by the end of next year as fibre broadband service will arrive in more than 1,700 premises through Cogeco under the SWIFT (Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology) broadband expansion project. Highland Glen, Kettle Point and Lambton Shores are also set for fibre upgrades.

Broad hopes that Dawn-Euphemia will soon be on SWIFT’s list of targeted communities. Cogeco and the township took

part in an “internet speed test” in December to assess the state of broadband access in the area.

Internet providers, like Brooke Telecom in Central Lambton, say they’re doing their best to meet demand.

“We do have customers that have requested speed upgrades, and we are working to accommodate those. We’ve seen an increase in traffic, which is pretty normal across the board,” says Brooke Telecom General Manager Geoff Greening.

“Many of our customers are served on fibre so it’s not that hard to increase the bandwidth for customers. They’re fairly fortunate that they can fairly easily upgrade their speeds.”

Big streaming services like Netflix have cut the broadband speed needed as well, and that is making a difference to customers.

Greening says he isn’t worried that Brooke will have to take measures made by providers such as TekSavvy based in Chatham-Kent, which has laid off workers and increased rates.

The company has altered their installation policies guiding new customers through self-installation rather than entering homes and risking infection.

Cogeco says the company is maintaining service now and in the months ahead.

“Cogeco Connexion has invested heavily in its fibre-broadband infrastructure over the past years to build bandwidth capability and to achieve high levels of reliability and redundancy,” Anastasia Unterner, senior manager of Cogeco communications and public relations says.

“This allows the network to accommodate increased levels of demand during this time, especially as work-from-home arrangements become increasingly necessary.”

REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

WASH YOUR HANDS

1

WET HANDS

2

APPLY SOAP

3

RUB HANDS PALM TO PALM

4

LATHER THE BACKS OF YOUR HANDS

5

SCRUB BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS

6

RUB THE BACKS OF FINGERS ON THE OPPOSING PALMS

7

CLEAN THUMBS

8

WASH FINGERNAILS AND FINGERTIPS

9

RINSE HANDS

10

DRY WITH A SINGLE USE TOWEL

11

USE THE TOWEL TO TURN OFF THE FAUCET

12

YOUR HANDS ARE CLEAN

This Message is brought to you by:

Sports

LKSSAA not ruling out sports, yet

Barry Wright
The Independent

Despite, the provincial body shutting down all high school sports championships and festivals for the remainder of the spring sports season, the Lambton Kent Secondary School Athletic Association is leaving the door open to an abbreviated season

should students be able to return to class next month.
“If we go back to class on May 4, we’ll see what happens then,” said LKSSAA President Jim Stewart following a meeting on Tuesday.
“We’ll play it by ear.”
The provincial government has shut all schools in the province down until at least May 4 to help slow the spread

of the novel coronavirus throughout Ontario. “Whatever happens, our number one concern is the safety of our students and staff,” said Stewart.
If a shortened local season does proceed, he is not certain if SWOSSA championships would proceed.
The spring sports season in Lambton Kent typically includes soccer, badminton, rugby and track and field.

Sting brass expects big things from top pick

The Independent

Sarnia Sting General Manager Nick Sinclair thinks his first round choice could eventually be an OHL scoring champion.
“He’s a special player, with elite skill level,” said Sinclair after taking Max Namestnikov with the third overall choice in the Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection. The 16-year old brother of ex-London Knight and now Colorado Avalanche Vladislav Namestnikov had 53 goals and 128 points in 59 games and was a whopping plus 117 on the season for the highly-touted Detroit Honeybaked squad.
The teen has hockey roots with father

and two uncles having all suited up in the NHL.
When speaking of Sarnia’s second round pick choice, Sinclair was drawn to the intelligence of 6’3” rearguard Matthew Morden.
“He’s a big defenceman with really good movement and mobility,” said Sinclair of the Toronto Titans captain who was selected 34th overall. The GM also has high hopes for power forward Ryder McIntyre. He was selected in the third round from the Ajax-Pickering Raiders.
“He has good size and good patience with the puck,” says Sinclair.
The club took fliers on three Americans in the mid to late rounds. Undersized rearguard Seamus Casey

from Florida is expected to play for the US National Development Team this coming season, while his Florida Alliance teammate Gavin Brindley has agreed to terms for this season with Tri-City of the USHL. Casey is also committed collegiately to the Michigan Wolverines. The other pick was Zach Filak who has a commitment to Michigan State.
When asked if there was a player that could fly under the radar come training camp, Sinclair pointed to blueliner Liam Eveleigh. He was taken in the sixth round from the Waterloo Wolves.
“With the game plan we had in place, we’re happy with how things turned out,” said Sinclair at the conclusion of the 15-round draft.

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			5	3				

Here's How It Works: Level: Intermediate
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Plympton-Wyoming’s Harper with Sting

Austin Harper was one of four members of the Lambton Junior Sting to have their named called at the OHL Priority Selection on Saturday.
The Plympton-Wyoming product was selected in the tenth round by the Sting. “He’s a buzz-saw type of player,” said Sarnia General Manager Nick Sinclair. “We’re happy to have him.”
Harper had 23 goals and 28 assists in 39 regular season and playoff games with

the Junior Sting and added two assists in four games as a call-up with the Sarnia Legionnaires.
Jr. Sting teammates Landon Hookey and Caleb van de Ven were both selected by the Soo Greyhounds, while Josh Hoover was taken by the Sudbury Wolves.
Jr. Sting Minor Midget Head Coach Brad Riley said he was “proud and happy” for the four players and wished them well in their future hockey careers.

Port Lambton swimmer training for university

Barry Wright
The Independent

Shona Branton is hoping the coronavirus can be conquered by September. That’s when the Port Lambton swimmer is scheduled to take her place on the University of Western Ontario swim team roster after recently signing with the Mustangs.
“I’m definitely keeping my fingers crossed,” says the 17-year old. “We have no idea right now what’s going on or even if we are going to be able to go to school in September with everything that’s going on.”
The member of the Sarnia Rapids Swim Club chose the London-based school over the University of Ottawa, Sudbury’s Laurentian University or even swimming on a collegiate level in the US, in no small part because of their coach, Paul Midgley. His teams have had consistent success at the provincial and national level since he took over as head coach of the Mustangs nearly two decades ago. Branton was drawn to Midgley because he has the same caring attitude as her Sarnia Rapids coach Sue Weir.

“She’s amazing--the greatest coach I could have ever asked for,” said Branton, noting that their relationship is much deeper than just the pool. “I feel comfortable going to her about anything.”
Branton had a solid performance at the Ontario Swimming Championships that qualifying her for the now cancelled Canadian Olympic Trials. But she sees a silver lining. “I feel like next year I’ll have a better shot because I’ll be training with people (at Western) who will be pushing me.”
And, although scheduled classes are still five months away that training has already begun for Branton participating in daily FaceTime workout sessions offered by the university.
The three-time provincial high school swimming medalist representing Wallaceburg District Secondary School has been told to train hard since her coach expects her to hit the podium as a Mustang.
Branton would also like to represent Canada at the next World University Games in the summer of 2021.
“I think that would be really great,” she added.

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Card of Thanks



Thank you

The family of the late Betty Annett want to express our appreciation to all those who offered support and kindness through phone calls, cards and food. Special thanks to Brookside Retirement Living staff for the wonderful care they provided for Betty over the past 8 years, to Rev. Annalee Kerr for her lovely memorial service and to the staff at Badder Funeral home for their help in this challenging time.

The Annett Family

In Memory


In Loving Memory of

Ray Freer

A Dear Husband, Dad, Grandpa & Great Grandpa who passed away so suddenly on April 17, 2013.

As we loved you so we miss you
In our memories you are near
Loved, remembered, loved for always
Treasured with love sincere
You are where you cannot see you
And your voice we cannot hear
Yet we know you walk beside us
Never absent, always near.

Forever loved and missed
by Kay & Family



Obituary

AGOCs

Lynda

On April 4, 2020 at Bluewater Health in Sarnia, Lynda Gale Agocs passed away at the age of 69. Beloved wife to Joe. Loving mother to Lisa (Blaine) McQueen, Joe Agocs, and Angela (Greg) Walker and proud grandmother to Lana and Liam McQueen, Anabel and Stella Agocs and Maddie and Hannah Walker. Dear sister to Sandra (Dennis) Webb, and Greg (Cathy) Mosienko. Predeceased by her parents Harry (1986) and Casey (2007) Mosienko. Generous in spirit and kind in nature, Lynda donated both her time and talents to her local community and beyond. She had the good fortune to extensively travel the globe, enthusiastically sharing culture and gifts. She enjoyed discovering new friendships and fine chocolate. Her real passion was at home providing baked and knitted treats for her beloved grandchildren. Lynda was the happiest when she was entertaining friends and family. She will be greatly missed but memories of her will provide a glimmer joy during this sad time. Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will take place at a later date. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Bluewater Health (www.bwhf.ca/donate), Sick Kids Hospital (www.sickkids.ca) or the charity of your choice. Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com

WANTED

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

Sudoku Answer

Answers to this week's


Sudoku

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

Christians around the world are marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ Sunday, but in Canada, we won't be gathering in churches because of the current novel coronavirus crisis.

And, in some communities, you may hear your local churches ringing their bells, too.

ON SUNDAY
APRIL 12
AT 11AM

HEAD TO
YOUR PORCH

To sing

THE CLASSIC
EASTER HYMN

Christ the Lord
is Risen Today

Celebrate

CHRIST RESURRECTION

TOGETHER BUT APART

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER
- BUT APART -

Spread the message of Hope

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Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words
Stop in at the office 9a-5p Mon-Fri
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Death Notices Mar. 31 to Apr. 7, 2020

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

MACKENZIE, Linda
Age 66, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

VANIOT, Joseph Andrew
Age 57, of Wyoming
Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

WRIGHT, Carolyn Ann
Age 72, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

CORMBEEN, Jean Victoria
Age 83, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

TYMSTRA, Anne
Age 85, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

JONES, Charlotte
Age 88, of Point Edward
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

MCEVOY, Christopher
Age 34, of Lambton Shores
Denning's of Forest

BAXTER, Paul
Age 57, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

WRIGHT, Grace
Age 85, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

GRAVELINE, Dennis
Age 75, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

TERVO, Gwendolyn Joyce
Age 85
Denning's of Forest

VANDERWAL, John
Age 89, of Wyoming
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

DOUGLAS, John
Age 70, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SHEPHARD, Joan
Age 85, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

AGOCs, Lynda
Age 69, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

GRAY, Alan Albert
Age 87, of Sarnia/Courtright
Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

HANICZ, Irene
Age 92, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home



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
Apr 9	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Club Meat Raffle at Haywood's	
Apr 9	Petrolia	Petrolia Optimist Meat Raffle at Crabby Joe's Bar & Grill	
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
Apr 10	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optimist Club's East Egg Hunt	
Apr 10	Petrolia	Petrolia Knights of Columbus Fish Dinner	
Apr 10	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Easter Egg Hunt	
Apr 11	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Meat Raffle	
Apr 13	Petrolia	First Baptist Church - Puzzlemania/Games Galore	
Apr 15	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Open Euchre	
Apr 16	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Club Meat Raffle at Haywood's	
Apr 16	Petrolia	Petrolia Optimist Meat Raffle at Crabby Joe's Bar & Grill	
Apr 18	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Meat Raffle	
Apr 18	Petrolia	First Baptist Church "Wild Wild West Event"	

POSTPONED EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	DATE
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 Postponed until 2021	
Apr 11	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optimist Club Trivia Night	TBD
Apr 17	Petrolia	The Optimist Club of Lambton Central - Petrolia Annual Spelling Bee	TBD
Apr 28	Petrolia	The Victoria Playhouse Opening 2020 season has been postponed until June 2, 2020. Please contact the VPP with questions 519-882-1221	
May 1	Wyoming	Plympton & Wyoming Agricultural Society Annual Salad Luncheon New Date TBD 519-845-3161	
Jun 17	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions FREE Senior Picnic BBQ	TBD
Jun 19-21	Alvinston	Alvinston Pro Rodeo has been moved to August 28, 29 & 30, 2020 www.alvinstonprorodeo.com	
Jun 21	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optimist Club's Cowboy Breakfast has been moved to August 30, 2020	

Church DIRECTORY

Christ Church Anglican

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

All worship services in the Anglican Diocese of Huron are suspended until further notice. 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

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.

Join Us for Worship - All are Welcome

Church Office 519-845-3963

Find us on Facebook



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