

LIFE THROUGH THE WINDOW

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'Critical period' for local nursing homes

Heather Wright The Independent

Lambton's public health officials say this is a 'critical period' in the fight against COVID-19 in long term care homes.

April 16, Lambton County announced an employee involved in direct patient care at Lambton Meadowview Villa had tested positive for COVID-19. Jane Joris, general manager of long term care, says the employee started getting a fever at work and was sent home.

It was the second seniors' home to have an outbreak of the virus. Six people at Landmark Village in Sarnia have died of COVID-19.

Lambton's struggles with the respiratory virus in nursing homes is not uncommon. About half of Ontario's seniors homes are dealing with COVID-19 and about half of the 622 deaths recorded by Tuesday were seniors.

When the province started to ramp up testing last week, long term care homes were top of the

In Lambton, Meadowview and Landmark Village were the first homes to have every staff member and every resident tested. Since the test began, the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 at Landmark has jumped from 23 to 34.

But at Meadowview Villa, so far, there have been no other cases reported.

Lambton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, is watching to see if that will change

SEE COVID-19 PG 3



Marleigh Hyatt, 2, smiles at her grandfather, Jim, as he gets a look at her baby brother, Collin, who is in his dad. Dale's arms. Like many others, the Wyoming family has to be content with visits through a window as people try to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Ashley Hyatt submitted the photo as part of our Day in the Life of a Pandemic feature which you can see on pages 7 through 11.

Plea in Enniskillen home invasion

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man who brutally attacked his former Petrolia area boss in his home and an unsuspecting driver in an incident of road rage has been released on bail in Petrolia while awaiting his sentencing hearing.

Allen Bosch, 34, pled guilty to assault and robbery with violence on Friday. The Superior Court of Justice in Sarnia held Bosch's bail hearing by telephone conference.

On June 10, 2019, Bosch, along with three other men, hopped in a car in Sarnia intent on going to a house on the Petrolia Line in Enniskillen west of Petrolia where his former boss lived. Bosch, the court heard, believed the construction company owed him money.

On the way, Bosch – angry

with a slower driver in front of him – stopped his vehicle in the middle of Plank Road to confront another motorist. Bosch got out of the car, opened the other drivers door and repeatedly punched the motorist, who suffered bruising to his left arm and back.

Bosch got back in his car and headed to his boss's house. Inside, Bosch demanded money he claimed he was owed. Bosch punched him several times, the court heard, and stole his laptop, cell phone, jewelry, liquor and some cash, the court heard.

The victim went to check on his 11-year-old son. The two men with Bosch followed him, jumped him and beat him as Bosch was leaving the home.

Bosch did not participate physically in this beating, the statement of facts read into the record said.

SEE HOME INVASION PG 3



HELP REDUCE THE **SPREAD OF COVID-19**



TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19):



Follow the advice of your local public health authority.



Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cough and sneeze into your sleeve and not your hands.



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



Stay home as much as possible and if you need to leave the house practice physical distancing (approximately 2 m).

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of COVID-19 may be very mild or more serious and may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to the virus.



(greater or equal to 38 °C)



COUGH



DIFFICULTY BREATHING

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS



Isolate at home to avoid spreading illness to others.



Avoid visits with older adults, or those with medical conditions. They are at higher risk of developing serious illness.



Call ahead before you visit a health care professional or call your local public health authority.



If your symptoms get worse, contact your health care provider or public health authority right away and follow their instructions.

FOR INFORMATION ON COVID-19:



1-833-784-4397



@ canada.ca/coronavirus

Lambton seems to be mirroring provincial trends

CON'T FROM PG 1

"There are a couple of things we have going for us," says Ranade. "A lot of the restrictions that would have been done only after an outbreak has been declared have actually been done preemptively...well before we knew there were cases.

"So that's something we have going for us."

And Ranade says it is too soon to say whether there will be more cases at Meadowview, considering the incubation period is up to 14 days.

"Right now the focus is to see who is going to be symptomatic over the next couple of days; so this is a critical period for that outbreak."

As of Tuesday, there were 148 people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Lambton. Fourteen people have died. Another 54 people have recovered.

Dr. Michael Haddad, chief of staff at Bluewater Health, says the people working in the COVID-19 are buoyed by those recoveries. And he says it appears Lambton's outbreak has peaked.

"Two weeks ago, when we were in the midst of it, there were 32 patients. Our ICU had about 7 patients who were quite critically ill.

"Many have improved and went home; we also lost some of them. Half of the people in ICU didn't make it.

"It has been a sad couple of weeks. But the trend is in decline.'

Lambton appears to be mirroring what is happening across the province.

Matthew Anderson, CEO of Ontario Health, released a revised model of the number of people getting COVID-19 and how it affecting hospitals and long term care homes Monday. At best, the province expected about 80,000 cases of COVID-19. It seems more likely it will be around 30,000.

"It is starting to look more like the best case," he said.

"Our public health measures are working and we need to keep them working; we need to stay focused on our public health measures."

Anderson says while the amount of cases of the virus in the community is slowing, there is still a lot of concern for people in long term care homes. And officials warn because COVID-19 is deadly for elderly people, there is a concern the death rate in Ontario will continue to climb because of the infections in long term care. So far, 622 people have died, nearly half in long term care.

While the news seems to be hopeful, officials are not ready to open up the economy immediately.

Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, says restarting the economy – including ramping up elective surgeries in

hospitals - will have to be done carefully.

"It will not be like a light switch, onoff; because once we lift it, it will be very hard to come back," says Yaffee.

It was a message echoed by Premier Doug Ford. "Thanks to our collective efforts...we have so far avoided the worst case scenario we were all dreading.

'We have avoided devastation witnessed in the other country...but we're still in the middle of a battle; we're still fighting hard to protect our long term care homes," says Ford.

"We are developing a frame work for the gradual and safe reopening for our

"The health and safety of the people of the province must remain the number one priority.

"We have to be so, so cautious...but we want to give people hope because there is hope.'

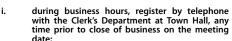
Ford was asked if restrictions in rural communities could be lifted earlier.

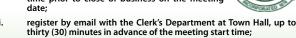
"All it takes is just one person to go visit them with COVID and then it starts all over again," he says.

And Ford urges people to continue following the public health measures like social distancing and handwashing.

"It is very, very difficult to close the economy down..."It is twice as hard to open it up again."

TO ADDRESS COUNCIL DURING AN ELECTRONIC MEETING





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 extent "tour lies is count" 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 $% \left\{ 1,2,...,n\right\}$

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

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

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

1. Dial (toll free) 1-855-703-8985 Canada Toll-free

2. Enter the Meeting ID: For Mon., April 27/20 7pm only: 839 930 333#

3. Enter the Password: 695989#

You will now have access to the meeting. Should you wish to participate by video, please visit www.town.petrolia.ca for the link.

Note: it will be very helpful if you mute your microphone if possible until you

clerksoffice@petrolia.ca

(519)882-2350

Fourteen Bluewater Health employees test positive for virus

Fourteen workers at Bluewater Health have tested positive for COVID-19 – four of those employees contracted the virus in the hospital.

Julia Oosterman, communications chief at Bluewater Health, isn't sure

if the four were involved in direct patient care but she does say none of the 14 employees with COVID-19 are physicians.

"The employees didn't come from ICU, out of ED or COVID unit," says Oosterman.

"That does cause anxiety for the staff for the public and anyone coming into the hospital, because this virus is extremely sneaky."

In long term care homes, if there is even one case of COVID-19, an outbreak is declared even with 14

employees who have tested positive an outbreak has not been declared.

Have a Great Story Idea? Send it to us! email us at: news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Waste Management CLAC ink new deal

The Independent

Petrolia and Watford Waste Management employees have a new contract.

The workers, who are heavy and light equipment operators, mechanics and general labourers at Twin Creeks Landfill and the Petrolia Transfer Station, have a new three year deal. It's retroactive to 2019.

CLAC Local 519 officials say the 18

Bosch and the three other men then drove

back to Sarnia, while the contractor made it

The victim spent several days in the hospital after suffering two skull fractures, a broken nose, three broken ribs, a collapsed

to a neighbors house to call for help

workers will receive wage increases of between 15.5 and 16.5 per cent over the course of the deal, depending on their job classification.

There is also a \$1,000 signing bonus and increases to boot and tool allowances.

"This agreement provides them excellent monetary increases in the face of uncertainty," says CLAC representative Ryan

lung, and a laceration to the eye. He did

Bosch was released, while awaiting

sentencing, under the condition that he stay

at home at all times, with few exceptions. His sentencing hearing is scheduled for

A GUIDE TO PHYSICAL DISTANCING

PHYSICAL DISTANCING (SOCIAL DISTANCING) MEANS KEEPING A DISTANCE OF AT LEAST TWO METRES FROM OTHERS AT ALL TIMES.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING, EVEN IF YOU HAVE:

- NO Symptoms of COVID-19
- . NO known risk of exposure
- Not travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days.



DO YOUR PART TO HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

AVOID DOING THE FOLLOWING:

Going to work, unless absolutely necessary*

Playdates, sleepovers, coffee dates Visitors to your home, except for visitors to your home, except of essential service workers, and individuals providing care or delivering food/supplies. Ensure your maintain a distance of 2 metres

Group gathering, even if outside Playgrounds, busy public parks Gyms, bars, shopping malls

Peak shopping and public transit

Non-essential workers in your home

LIMIT THE FOLLOWING:

Getting groceries (once a week)* Picking up take-out food* Attending essential medical appointments

Picking up medication*

SAFE TO DO:

Greet with a wave from a distance

Go outside - run, bike, walk the dog at least 2 metres away from other people Read, draw, paint, listen to music, dance, play games, watch a movie at home

Cook a meal Group video chats Food delivery services

Online shopping Online learning Virtual tours of museums



FOR MORE INFORMATION:







This Message is brough to you by:

Petrolia men help clear town of Gizmo graffiti

Sept. 9.

Home invasion left contractor battered

The Independent

CON'T FROM PG 1

Crime Stoppers is asking people to keep their eyes open as vandals spray paint GIZMO on buildings in Petrolia

Municipal buildings and privately owned buildings have been being targeted since early this spring. Lambton OPP say the same pattern and design are spray painted all over town on at least 10 buildings.

Crime Stoppers officials say victims of these crimes are stuck with either leaving the unsightly graffiti on the walls or

repainting the entire area which can be

In Petrolia, however, a couple of people have stepped up to help. Metal Wurx Media Blasting Owner, Dave Perrin, got to work to take much of the graffiti on town buildings down over the weekend free of charge.

And Jamie Swart cleaned up more of the unwelcome graffiti on Dufferin Avenue

Crime Stoppers is asking you to keep your eyes open and report what you see at either www.p3tips.com to submit your tip online or call 1-800-222-TIPS(8477).

Editorial

We want to give people hope because there is hope

We are so close - let's not blow it now.

When Ontario's top medical experts released revised models Monday. After sobering figures in early April shocked people into staying home, the new models show the spread of the virus is slowing in the

Basically, health officials say staying home, limiting gatherings to five people, and washing our hands is working.

In early April, officials said in the best case scenario, there would be 80,000 people who would get COVID-19. Now, after public health measures, that number is about 20,000.

Officials had expected the peak of cases in May but here we are in mid-April and they believe, at least in the community, we are quickly headed toward the downward curve.

There is still a big problem in long term care where homes were limiting the use of personal protective equipment by staff and were not aggressively testing.

Officials believe there will be a lot more deaths of the elderly before this is finished.

Still, even the experts were talking in hopeful tones about resuming elective surgeries at hospitals and slowly opening up the economy.

It would have been easy for politicians to slap each other on the backs declaring victory over COVID-19 and say we would all be back to normal soon.

But that's not what happened.

Premier Doug Ford - a man likened to a bull in a china shop before COVID-19 gripped the province - was abundantly cautious saying the government is working on a plan to start opening businesses back up again, but nothing will move ahead without the OK from the top medical experts.

"We have to be so, so cautious," he said. The premier knows we are getting anxious to go back to normal life. But he says we are still weeks away and we have to keep doing what we are doing. So why release these numbers and risk having people breaking the rules? "We want to give people hope because there is hope,"

Let's hold onto that hope and hold the line. Lives depend on it.

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, NON 1R0.

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



Many families helped settle the community of Wyoming. One family - the Minielly's - still live and work in the community. William Minielly, his wife, Elizabeth, and their ten children came to Plympton Township in 1846 and settled on 400 acres of land. The original homestead is still farmed by William's great grandson.

Changing to try to keep ahead of the COVID-19 curve

There are some big changes coming to journalism and some will be devastating to communities across Ontario.

Local journalism - which plays a critical role providing trusted information about what is going on in your community - has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Journalism, by and large, is funded by advertising and when everyone's business is closed, there aren't a lot of advertisers. Advertising revenue has fallen through the floor with losses between 30 and 70 per cent across Ontario. And you see the results already. Just in Lambton County, two of the three independent newspapers have altered their printing schedule. The Independent is the only one still printing every week to keep you informed. But, like everyone else, we're hurting, too. And we're worried about the future.

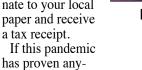
We know there will be newspapers close because of this. But, with a little ingenuity, a little luck and fast thinking by industry leaders The Independent hopes to be one of the lucky ones.

First, we're still working hard to give you the information you need - including who is open and closed and what public services are available.

We're also making it easier to see all that information. We've recently redesigned our website, something that was in the works since January. The new design makes it easier to find what you're looking for and soon, you'll be able to read the entire paper online.

By May 1, we'll be installing a paywall, and for less than you would buy a yearly subscription, you can subscribe online to get up to the minute news and the full version of the newspaper. And lastly, our partners at the On-

tario Community Newspaper Association have set up a website which allows you to support the continuation of local journalism with a donation. The website - www. ocnf.org - allows you to directly donate to your local paper and receive a tax receipt.



Heather Wright

thing, it is that we need accurate, local information now more than ever. We think the changes were making will allow us to continue doing that for our communities.



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Opinion

Staff at Meadowview don't deserve bad press says reader

EDITOR:

I recently heard that the COVID-19 outbreak, at the writing of this letter, is in 104 long-term care facilities in Ontario. The good news is, that means the virus is not recorded to be in 522 facilities in the province.

About a year and a half ago, my wife was admitted to the Meadowview Villa long-term facilities in Petrolia. Yesterday I read the headlines that said, "Lambton Meadowview Villa worker tests positive for COVID-19."

That means at the writing of this article, Meadowview Villa has 182 staff-workers and 125 residents that do not have the virus.

I have visited my wife daily, or at least every other day, for a year and a half and have witnessed a staff that genuinely cares for each and every resident.

Time after time I have watched a residence wander into the office of a nurse who was busy doing some necessary computer work, and with out exception they stopped everything they were doing - with a smile - to help the resident in any way that they could.

Someone told me that one time my wife was sitting in her wheel chair

A worker took her into her office, shared her strawberries with her that she had brought in for lunch. Then she got some earphones for her and set up an iPod to play prerecorded hymns.

My wife was singing louder than she realized and they took a video of her singing and emailed it to me.

In recent days, not being able to visit my wife, they have hooked us up with face-time on their cell phones.

There is a lot of bad press these days about long term facilities.

Perhaps a very small percentage of them deserve it, but let's be careful not to tar and feather everyone with the same brush.

> **Bob Kirkland** PETROLIA, ON







boston fern, fuchsia, million bells \$17ea 12" Mixed Patio Planter

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Back to the books as rural internet speeds dragged down teather Wright connection. Those speeds do not allow number of families who are going

The Independent

The Lambton-Kent District School Board is sending out workbooks to some homes in an effort to continue distance learning in an area where internet is poor.

The board has sent out over 2,200 devices to homes to help with athome learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. But for some families, the devices are next to useless.

"It is a real situation," director of education John Howitt told members of the school board April 14.

There are lots of our students that do not have better than a 3G connection on their phones, or have a dial-up

for some of the activities that we're asking students to do, and that's a real legitimate issue.'

For the many households where the required internet speeds are not currently an option, the district has come up with a series of learning booklets for both elementary and secondary students.

"Our senior admin team and their departments came up with paper booklets that other boards are now beginning to use. They are being developed 10 days at a time, and being shared out to homes who were not able to connect with the internet."

Dawn-Euphemia Councillor Leslea Williams says she's heard from a

without telephone and internet service for hours at a time because the demand is taxing the system.

And she says some families are facing costly overage charges to their current data plans because so many people in the house need the internet for work and school.

Township administrators are also having problems. Clerk Administrator Donna Clermont says there are times the internet speed struggles to hit 1G.

The township is looking at a partnership to bring fiber optics to Dawn-Euphemia, but it hasn't been completed yet.

> with files from Alex Kurial, Local Journalism Initiative

Returning snowbirds won't be allowed in St. Clair camps

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

It's that time of year when the Canadian snowbirds start to return north for the summer, but they won't find a soft landing at a campground in St. Clair Township.

Township council will keep the gates on local campgrounds closed due to COVID-19, so St. Clair snowbirds will need to find a temporary home.

Kendall Lindsay, director of community services, told council Monday he has been receiving several calls a day from snowbirds asking about the status of St. Clair's three campgrounds – Mooretown, Cathcart and Branton Cundick.

The sites are popular resident areas for those returning from the United

States for the warm months. Some live in the US in the winter and then return home to their campsites.

Campgrounds were originally scheduled to open May 1, but with the province's emergency order this has been pushed back to at least May 12.

Municipalities have the option of opening to snowbirds alone while the order is in place.

Lindsay floated the possibility of allowing a certain number into the Cathcart grounds, which could accommodate 12 campers. But he added that there were several issues

"The province has really put it on us to decide who a snowbird is or isn't. My fear is that everybody is going to be coming out of the woodwork to say they're a snowbird and get into the

campground," Lindsay says.

Lindsay is concerned about his staff and the demands this would place on a group that is already stretched thin. St. Clair will not be hiring students during the summer due to the COVID-19.

Any returning snowbird from the United States would have to immediately enter quarantine for a two-week period at the campground as well, as mandated by law.

Lindsay says the OPP would help monitor this, but that it would still be hard for his staff to constantly keep tabs on everyone at the site.

Council decided to keep the grounds closed to everyone for now saying the safety of staff was too important and it would be difficult to determine who was a snowbird or not.

Council will revisit the issue May 4.



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A BIRTHDAY DRIVE BY



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

It took Jacob Welsh a bit of time to figure out the long line of tractors and cars on Marthaville Road near Courtright Line Tuesday was for him. The Lambton Centennial student turned seven April 21. His family and school friends thought it would be nice to give him a parade filled with tractors - one of his favourite things - and cars bearing signs wishing him a Happy Birthday. Jacob had to hold onto his hat in the cold wind, but he seemed to enjoy the parade.

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Aamjiwnaang reopens St. Clair Parkway

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

The St. Clair Parkway north of Lasalle Line is now open for traffic.

The Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Lambton County agreed to close river road April 9 and lasted just over a week after the barriers went up between Lasalle Line and the Suncor Gate on Good Friday.

A notice from the Aamjiwnaang Band Council explained the closure was meant to stop the flow of traffic through the community in an effort to stem the spread of COVID-19. Only local residents and emergency services were permitted access.

While Chief Chris Plain told The Independent he wasn't at liberty to say why the road was closed, he said in a community news letter the road closure was related to a business still operating despite and

emergency order. The province had initially closed cannabis and alcohol shops. There are several cannabis retailers along River Road.

"Aamjiwnaang also listed tobacco and cannabis shops (as) non-essential, which was soon followed by the province and since reversed.

"Aamjiwnaang still considers these businesses non-essential during this time. To ensure compliance, council provided notice of a road closure to restrict the amount of non-essential traffic coming to the community."

The stores along this stretch of River Road are now closed, according to Plain.

"There's still a pandemic in place so we're doing what we can to ensure that traffic is still minimized within the community, much like everywhere else in the country," he says.

Be a Part of

The Guide to Lambton County's Hidden Gems

Are you looking to purchase local food?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Lambton County Farmers are continuing to produce high quality food products for the public.

We are all in this together.

If you are looking for local sources or a producer with products to sell, check out LocallyLambton.com for:

- Flowers & Nursery products
- Fruits & Vegetables
- Farmers Markets
- Farm Gate Markets & Orchards
- Craft & Cider Brewers & Wineries
- Specialty Products





Yes, you can still walk through parks

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

If you're cautious about going outside for fear of breaking rules under the Emergency Act - don't be.

There have been a couple of high-profile incidents in Toronto and Ottawa parks that have sparked a lot of online debate. In Lambton County at least, parks are still open if you are walking through them.

But, officials say, playing on equipment or having a pickup baseball game could land you in hot water and you could face fines of \$750 under the Emergency Act.

Lambton communities have put up signs and taped off equipment to make things obvious

"This means the BAICC (Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre), playgrounds, ball diamonds, skateboard park and dog park," Janet Denkers, clerk-administrator in Brooke-Alvinston, says of what has closed in the town. "Our community has been great in adjusting to these new restrictions and we have had no

real issues with enforcing them at this time."
In Oil Springs officials are making sure no

one uses the equipment. "We've taken the swings down, we've fixed up the basketball hoops such that a ball can't go through them anymore," says Clerk-Treasurer Erkki Pohjolainen

In Petrolia, the parks have signs showing residents the area is closed but officials say it is still okay to walk in the area.

So far, there seems to be very few concerns among municipalities.

The OPP, which enforces the emergency orders, was not available to comment on whether any Lambton residents have been charged with violating the social distancing rules or outdoor recreation closures.

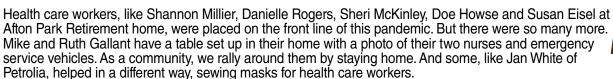
But in St. Clair, the mayor says, people are doing what they can to follow the rules and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

"What I see along the parkway and out in the parks, they're doing a super job," St. Clair mayor Steve Arnold says of his residents and city workers' efforts to observe both the new rules and recommendations.

A Day in the Life of Petrolia and Central Lambton

Our lives have changed drastically during the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 19, our readers documented what their life was like on One Day Here are some of their photos for more,

Here are some of their photos for more, go to www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca







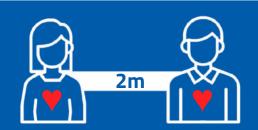
April 19, the day we chose to document, was a Sunday. So, in Alvinston, the Bressette family gathered around the computer to "go to church." Carol Watt and her husband used their TV to get the church experience.

April 19 was also a day for the ordinary. Pat spent time with his workers at his Lambton Developmental Services Home in Petrolia. Bob Bressette had to fill up his car, wearing plastic gloves to protect him from possible exposure to COVID-19. And the Bryans family was protected, too, but for the bees. It was business as usual at Munro Honey in Alvinston.









Stay safe.
Be kind.
We are all in this together.

To All Lambton County Residents:

By practicing physical distancing, washing your hands and following directions from our health officials, you are helping us flatten the curve.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not been easy. It is a scary, difficult situation, that has turned our normal lives upside down. However, our community never ceases to amaze me.

The kindness and ingenuity that has come out during this time is astounding.

People are helping their neighbours, completing random acts of kindness, showing support for local businesses and finding unique ways to make a difference in their communities.

We will get through this together. Stay safe, stay well, and be kind.

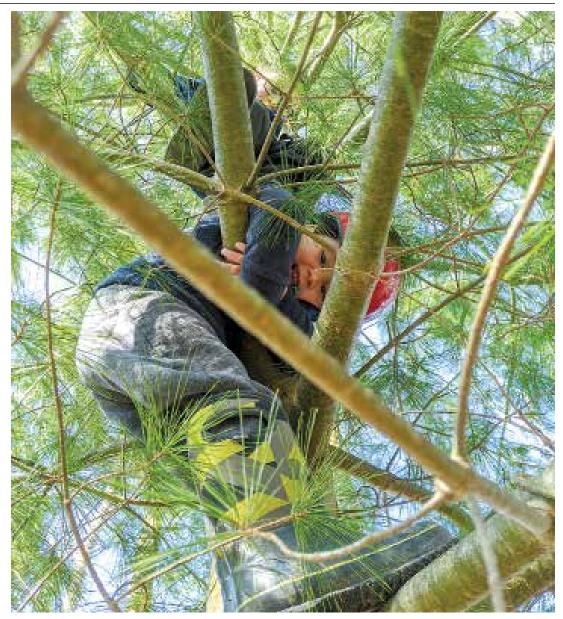
Bill Weber, Lambton County Warden





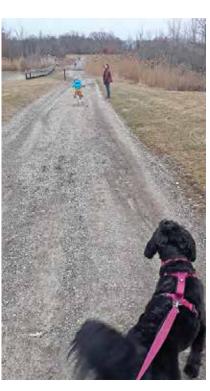


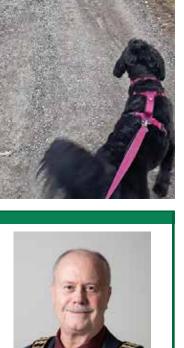




We are taking comfort in long walks in the bush, like Ben and Sandy Dekker at their home in Plympton-Wyoming and Duncan and Callum Edwards with their dog Millie and their Papa, David Harrington, at the Peak of Mosa near Alvinston. Sam Giles played in a tree at the Marthaville Habitat in Enniskillen. The Fleming family went for a walk with their pet at Lorne C Henderson Conservation area and the McLean family spent some time out on their land. Others, like Anthony Sjaarda's time outside includes feeding the goats at Great Lakes Dairy outside of Wyoming.







I am so proud of Petrolia. I am grateful for the outpouring of love and endless support that this community shows one another during times of uncertainty. Thank you to ALL essential workers in ALL aspects of our lives. We see your

-Mayor R. Brad Loosley

sacrifices and hail you all as heroes in our hearts.

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







Gary Hardy and his family in Enniskillen have a new friend to keep them busy. A feral cat in the neighbourhood had kittens on their front porch, left and didn't come back. After hours of waiting for the mom to return, Gary and his wife, Janet, took them in and have been caring for them ever since. The vet says they're doing "quite nicely" and Janet says "as you can see, they get quite upset if you don't feed them fast enough for their liking."





John Wallington of Petrolia walks on his treadmill while watching Leave it to Beaver on April 19. Meabh Fleming were getting some cuddles from their pet bunny rabbits.

We're in unprecedented times as we battle against the spread of COVID-19 and we all have to play our part.

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to self-isolate and staying home as much as possible. It's a small sacrifice to make and, by doing so, you're helping to keep your family and everyone in our community healthy!



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We supported family, either by playing some games like Jeremy, Mali and Sam Giles (top left) or playing Scattegories by phone as Jennifer Hoag does. There were porch visits - Lily Hayter visited the Aldermans in Alvinston. There were lots of group chats with family including the Stevens, (middle left) or celebrating a birthday with Marianne VanderSpek in Rutherford. And some families went above and beyond. Bill and Barb Fell of Petrolia were taking care of their granddaughter, Lydia, above. She's living with her grandparents because her mom works in health care.







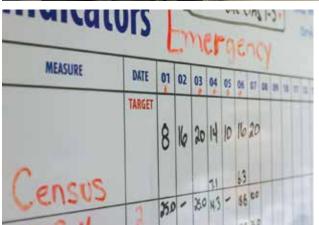


We all became obsessed with food. Little children, like Leiah Sanderson of Dresden and Maverick Garvie of Petrolia learned the fine art of bread making while Karly Campbell delivered a high flying meal to her grandma Mary in Petrolia.



A Day in the Life of CEEH in Petrolia

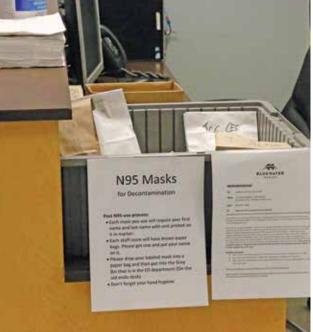




It is nap time at 2 pm on the Complex Continuing Care Unit at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia and it is almost peaceful. Five staff members stop for a few moments to talk about life during a pandemic. They're all dressed in caps and masks something new as they try to keep themselves and patients who wait at the CCC for a nursing home bed, safe. The women are worried, about taking the virus home to their families. But, they are there, taking blood pressure and holding the hands to comfort. It is quiet in emergency room, too. The usually full waiting room holds only one person. There are signs of COVID-19 her,e too. Personal protective equipment hangs at the ready, there are bins to recycle precious N95 masks and the census board shows only half the patients are coming through the ER. But by 2:30 pm, staff smile and say there have been no COVID-19 cases today.



A staff member of the Continuing Complex Care Unit takes a resident for a walk around the floor Sunday April 19. Beth Squire, an RPN, takes the blood pressure of a CCC patient and checks her charts near a sign that says 'Be the reason someone smiles



have some fun







of The Independent or on our website. Send in your photos by April 31!

Independent

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University hopefuls can improve marks

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

Lambton-Kent students pursuing postsecondary education still have time to improve their marks for college and university transcripts – a crucial factor in the quest for admission and scholarships.

With schools ordered closed on March 14, any work completed up until March 13 will be the default mark sent off to universities and colleges for consideration, say officials at the Lambton-Kent District School Board. However, eager students will still have the opportunity to increase their grades.

"If students complete additional work

between now and the end of April that do increase their mark, and therefore their opportunity at post-secondary, we will send out those improved marks," director of education John Howitt said. Howitt also noted that no marks can go below what a student had achieved as of March 13.

Graduating students will still be expected to obtain a final credit for their courses prior to entering post-secondary school.

Students who have not completed the 40 hours of community service or literacy test requirements will not be prevented from graduating.

Similar standards will apply to final marks for non-graduating students.

Oil Springs cancels Funfest for 2020

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

A number of local events have been cancelled in the Oil Springs community as lockdown measures in Ontario remain in effect.

Early casualties of the ban on gatherings in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 include the Spring Cleanup, and the annual Fun Fest. Mayor Ian Veen said even if the festival, which made its return in August

of last year, were permitted to go ahead if social distancing rules were eased, it wouldn't be worth the risk.

"With the Fun Fest, we thought that even if it is over [the lockdown], there is that chance, and we don't want all the kids and everyone being together. We just figured it was better not to have it right now," Veen says.

The verdict is still out on the Father's Day Service, which council said a decision would be made on at their May 5 meeting.



LAMBTON OPP PHOTO

Lambton OPP say alcohol was a factor in a crash on Oil Heritage Line.

Lakeshore man faces charges in roll over

The Independent

A Lakeshore man is facing charges after an accident on Oil Heritage Road.

Lambton OPP, Lambton Emergency Medical Services and the Dawn-Euphemia Fire Department were called to a single vehicle roll over near Aberfeldy Line around 7:25 pm April 16. Police say the driver fled the scene on foot. The West Region Canine and Emergency Response Team were called in to help find the driver. He was found inside a home.

The driver was checked by paramedics, and then arrested for impaired driving.

Aaron Doucett, 24, has also been charged with failing to remain at the scene of an accident.

Secondary teachers have tentative deal with province

The Independent

All of Ontario's teachers' unions now have at least tentative contract agreements with the province.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation and the province announced a tentative deal today – OSSTF was the last union to reach a deal.

So far, no details have been released and likely won't be before the vote.

OSSTF President Harvey Bischof in a news release says the union has been able to move the government on some of "its most egregious proposals.

"While this tentative agreement does not satisfy all of our concerns, we recognize the current environment we are in and the need for students to have stability once this emergency is over.

"Even now, educators continue to do their best for students during this crisis and look forward to welcoming them back to the face-to-face support we know is best for most students," says Bischof.

Education Minister Stephen Lecce also applauded the deal.

"We will remain focused on the government's dual priority of keeping students safe while ensuring the continuity of education," says Lecce in a news release.

"We remain determined to continuously strengthen teacher-led learning and virtual learning for the benefit of our students, and we continue to look to our educators to rise to the challenge and deliver quality education to every child, wherever they may live."

UPDATE ON WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

Delay in Launch of Automated Household Waste and Recycling Collection Program

Due to COVID-19 related delays in shipping of the waste and recycling bins for automated collection, the launch of the Township wide automated collection program has been delayed until Wednesday, June 3rd from the initial launch date in May.

Public notice on further details on bin delivery and launch details will be provided when available.

Household waste and recycling collection in Watford will continue throughout May as per the current program.

Twin Creeks Landfill Closed on Saturdays until Further Notice

Due to steadily decreasing volume, Twin Creeks Landfill will be closed Saturdays beginning April 18th until further notice. Notice will be posted at the scale, depot and main entrance sign.

Aside from the Saturday closure, the hours of operation continue to be the same: Monday to Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Spring Clean Up Day Planned to Proceed

Spring Clean Up Day, scheduled for June 13, 2020 from 7:00 am to 11:00 am, is planned to proceed at this time

- Large waste items can be dropped off at Twin Creeks Landfill such as couches, washers etc.
 Fridges and freezers must have Freon removed.
- Electronic waste items such as televisions, computers etc. can be dropped off at the Public Works Depot at 7923 Confederation Line.

Reminders:

- All property owners in Warwick Township are permitted to use the household waste and recycling drop off location at Twin Creeks Landfill.
- Please do not drop off anything at donation bins during this time. Materials during COVID-19 are not being accepted by any organizations and will end up in the landfill. Save your donations for now to ensure they will benefit the donor organization in the future.

For up-to-date information, visit our COVID-19 Information Hub.3

www.warwicktownship.ca/covid-19



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LCCVI grad named Co-Rookie of the year for Lambton College soccer

Barry Wright

The Independent

Petrolia's Mitchell McAuley has been chosen as co-Rookie of the Year for the Lambton College Lions men's soccer side this

The announcement was made online since the college was not able to hold its annual in-person athletic awards evening due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Mitchell McAuley might be one of the best players we have seen at heading the ball, not because of his size, but because of his will and determination," says the Lions coaching staff Shane Bettridge and Adam Lakey in a statement.

"Going against defenders that often towered above him, his tenacity and desire to get the ball led to him scoring a number of tremendous and timely goals.

"Overall, Mitchell was our leading scorer this year. But more importantly, he seamlessly fit into the team structure, took on whatever role he was asked and

provided an edge and spark that often motivated his teammates."

The LCCVI grad led the Lions with four goals in nine games this season, including scoring both markers in a 2-2 draw against Mohawk last September.

He and his Lambton mates finished sixth this past season with a 3-5-1 record, qualifying for the

OCAA playoffs for the first time in 25 years.

Surrendering a pair of second half goals, the Lions lost 3-1 to Oshawa's Durham College Lords in the first round of the postseason, but were able to hold their heads high as Durham went on to win both the Ontario and Canadian college soccer championships.

Spring sports cancelled or on hold to end of May

The local baseball season in the region is still at least six weeks away after Baseball Ontario extended the moratorium on games and activities until the end of next month.

"Baseball Ontario remains committed to the safety of the baseball community. While the COVID-19 situation remains fluid, we are

continuing to monitor the situation," said the provincial body in a statement this week.

"Based on the guidelines of the provincial government and public health authorities, the suspension of all in-person baseball programs and activities is being extended until May

Meantime, Softball Ontario and the Ontario Soccer Association also have moratoriums in place.

And Wrestling Canada has cancelled all its national events and rescheduled them for 2021.

Several Sarnia-Lambton wrestlers had qualified to compete on the national level this year.

Port Lambton man named college Golfer of the Year

Winning twice and finishing second three times in six tournaments, Brendan Seys of the Wayne State University Warriors has been named the Men's Golfer of the Year by the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Seys is from Port Lambton, and studied in the

Aside from being named Golfer of the year, he was also named to the First team conference all-

Restaurants

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Athena's Restaurant

Crabby Joe's - Petrolia

Fri-Sat 12-9 | Sun 12-7 519-882-4848 · www.crabbyjoes.com

Godfathers Pizza - Petrolia

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star team for the third time.

He had previously been chosen to the second all-star team and was named GLIAC Freshman Golfer of the Year following his rookie season at the Detroit school in 2016-17.

His stroke average of 70.5 over 14 rounds this season led the Warriors. His 54-hole score of 209 at an event in Ohio earlier this year set a record for the lowest three-round score in school history.



Brendan Seys

GM Sinclair leaves Sting

The 10-year marriage between the Sarnia Sting and Nick Sinclair is over.

The team has announced that Sinclair will not return as general manager for the 2020-21 OHL campaign, but will pursue "other opportunities" instead.

Sinclair has been a scout and director of player personnel for the Sting and has spent the past five seasons as its GM. He was also Director of Hockey Operations for one of the three Team Canada entries at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge last season.

Sinclair thanked the current owners - Derian Hatcher and David Legwand - and the past leadership.

"I would also like to thank (former owners) Rob and Larry Ciccarelli for giving me my first opportunity to be a general manager in the Ontario Hockey League back in 2014. I have had the pleasure of working alongside some incredible people during my time in Sarnia."

The Sting has made no comment on the situation other than wish Sinclair the best in his future endeavours.

The team has yet to name a replacement.

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This list is correct to the best of our ability as of noon, April 21, 2020. Should we have missed a business, or your situation has changed we apologize. We advise that residents always call ahead to ensure that the service listed is still available. Thank you for your assistance in adhering to the parameters set out for social distancing and for meeting the requests of our merchants, and for shopping in Petrolia.

COVID-19

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The Independent

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Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 noon

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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

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Card of Thanks



Death Notices Apr. 14 to Apr. 20, 2020

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

McCORMACK, Elsa Age 90, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

HENDRIKSA, Maria

Age 76, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

LESTER. Sharen Age 76, of Sarnia D..J. Robb Funeral Home

RAWSON, W. Clayton

Age 85, of Corunna McCormack Funeral Home **BOURNE**, Arlene

Age 87, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home

THRUSDAY, APRIL 16 KALDEWAY, John

Age 72, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

PALOMBO, Antonietta Age 73, of Sarnia

McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home **ANDERSON**, Maxine

Age 87, of Petrolia Smith Funeral Home

SCOTLAND, Dorothy Age 89, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

COLLINS, Eileen Mary Age 73, of Sarnia Denning's of Forest

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

HORN, Hazel Joan McCormack Funeral Home

KAVANAGH, Patrick Age 61, of Petrolia

Needham-Jay Funeral Home STUBBINGTON, Carl

Age 84, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, April 18 CRUMB, Arnold

McCormack Funeral Home

McBEATH, Jessie May Age 82, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

OAKES, Ann Marie Age 84, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

PEARSON, James Aae 80. of Forest Denning's of Forest

HELWIG, Kenneth Age 88, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

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Card of Thanks

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You have all been amazing in this time and we appreciate all

Sincerely, Lorna

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Farm family looking

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eras, bottles, sealers,

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jewelery, watches, license plates, early furniture, signs, ad-

vertising, pens, mu-

sical instruments, ra-

dios, cups & saucers.

Call Chad Howlett

Word

Classifieds

\$10 plus tax

for up to 40

519-639-9102.

razors,

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insulators,

Card of Thanks



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BOB'S TAX SERVICE 256 Warwick Street, Watford, Personal, Small Farm, Small Business, Rentals, Self Employed, Years, e-filer, Fast Dependable Service, Reasonable Rates, Call Robert Alcock for Appointment - 519-876-2360.

In Memory



In Loving Memory of

March 27,1943 - April 20, 2016

Those we LOVE don't $oldsymbol{GO}$ away.... They WALK beside us everyday. Unseen, unheard,

but always **NEAR**.... Still loved, still MISSED and very dear. Forever In Our Hearts

From your loving husband Bob, Children(Tammy, Pam, Kerri, Scott) and grandchildren

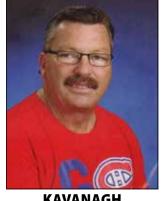
words

Celebration





Obituary



KAVANAGH **Patrick**

Surrounded by family and friends at his Petrolia home on **Friday**, **April 17, 2020**, Patrick Neil Kavanagh passed away at the age of 61. Father to Morgan Kavanagh and Dana (Andy) Bright and their children Raelvnn and Harper. Dear brother to Steven Kavanagh and Michael Kavanagh (Karen). Dear friend to Jolene and Pat Bennett and their children Nathan, Carter and Issabella. Predeceased by his parents William and Frances Kavanagh. Survived by his father's second wife, Ruth-Anne. Pat had a love of classic cars, especially his own 1977 light blue Corvette. He worked at LKDSB as a custodian for the better part of 8 years and loved every minute of it. He was a well known diehard HABS fan and was a member of the Sunday morning Old Timers Hockey team here in Petrolia. Due to the current circumstances, a Celebration Of Life will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, as an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Petrolia Minor Hockey or the Canadian Society (Cancer.ca). Cancer condolences Memories and be shared online at may www.needhamjay.com.





Obituary



BOURNE Vallorie

Vallorie "Arlene" – Died peacefully on **Wednesday, April 15, 2020** at Trillium Villa Nursing Home. Sarnia. ARLENE BOURNE "Flip" (nee Cassan) was formerly of Petrolia and was in her **87th year**. Arlene was the loving wife of the late Roy (Bud) Bourne (1980). She will be missed by her children Heather (Dale) Bourne, Sandra McAvoy, Scot (Michelle) Bourne, and Shawn Bourne; her grandchildren Zachary (Valerie) Russell, Nathan (Alicia) Russell, Jacklyn Russell, Logan McAvoy, Rielle (Alex) Dufour, Leena Bourne, and Billy Bourne; her great granddaughter Vivian Russell; her friend Bob Campbell; her sister in law Maddy Bourne - Pauschenwein ; her best friend Margaret Dee; her many nieces and nephews; and the countless friends who's lives she touched. Arlene is predeceased by her parents Perry and Eva Cassan, her sisters, Mary Stewardson, Sheila McCallum, Margaret Atyeo, and her brothers Fred, Ted, and Harris Cassan. Arlene's favorite saying and one that she lived by was "Those who mind, don't matter. Those who matter, don't mind". She changed our world, with her laughter, food and music. A private family service and interment will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 in Petrolia. A celebration of life for Arlene will be held at a later date. Interment in Hillsdale Cemetery, Petrolia. Expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may made to Heart and Stroke Foundation (www. heartandstroke.ca) or Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (www. Ilscanda.org). Memories and con-

dolences may be shared online at

www.needhamjay.com.

Helping Hands

in Petrolia is a

in need in their

communities.

Facebook Group



to connect willing helpers with those

help with... picking up groceries?

running errands?

This Public Service Announcement is brought to you by

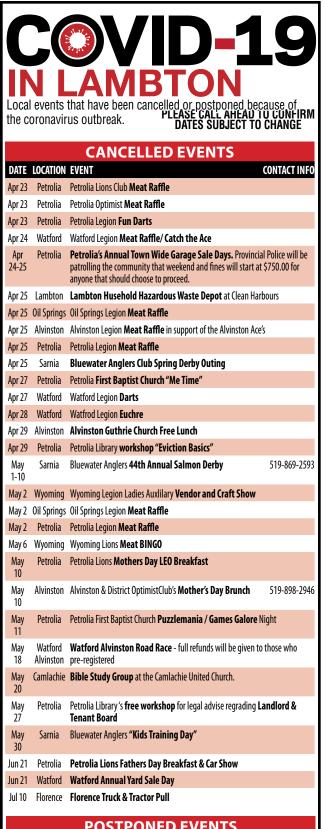
Independent Service Percent and Control Landson

Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 noon

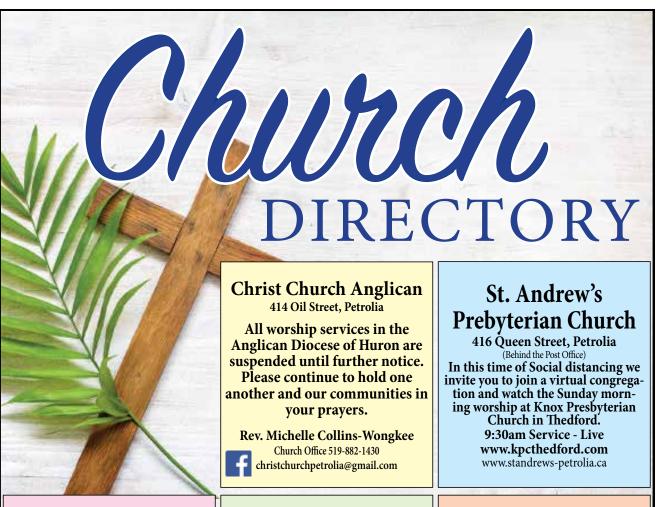


Classifieds

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







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

email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

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

Wyoming United Church 730 Second Street, Wyoming

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
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Stop the Spread COVID-19 can be deadly. Stay home. Save lives.

