

Petrolia to control where pot processors could build

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia councillors want to be ready if cannabis producers come to town. Council decided to have control over where a facility could locate by making companies go through the rezoning process, even if they want to build a processing plant in the industrial area.

Earlier this year, council asked Lambton County Planner Rob Nesbitt to take a look at the town’s zoning bylaws and give ideas on what could be done to control where any cannabis production operation might open. Nesbitt found there are 25 lots of industrial land in the community.

Nesbitt says most municipalities are now limiting production to industrial parks. Some are asking each parcel of land to be given permission for cannabis production. Council decided it would be best to make companies ask for rezoning of the property.

“I don’t see a large greenhouse moving into Petrolia, I don’t believe we have the possibility of having a large grow op here,” says Councillor Joel Field. But he suggested Petrolia could be home to a production facility for edibles.

And he wanted to have some control over where a facility could go. “Then we would have a chance to look at what has been good, what has been positive and build off the experience of neighbouring municipalities.”

Some councillors voiced concern: “If we went (with rezoning) is there any chance the process would be slowed down such that it would hinder our opportunity to have that business come here?” asked Councillor Grant Purdy.

Nesbitt says any rezoning hearing is subject to appeal and that could add a year to the process.

SEE CANNABIS PG 3

LIVESTOCK FARMERS EYE PROCESSING PROBLEMS



PHOTO CREDIT

Beef farmers, like Joe Dickenson of the Oil Springs area, are watching carefully as the processing industry deals with the effects of COVID-19. While processing plants in Alberta have shutdown because workers have contracted the disease, so far Ontario’s beef processors have not. A pork processing plant in Breslau is now closed putting a strain on that industry. See more on the story on page 3.

2020 theatre season could be sidelined by COVID-19

Heather Wright
The Independent

Officials at Victoria Playhouse Petrolia will meet Thursday to figure out if the show can go on.

Artistic Directors David Hogan and David Rogers had already changed the 2020 season as the province shuttered thousands of businesses including theaters. Now they may have to do more.

Monday, the Stratford Festival decided to put the entire season on hold since it is still unclear whether public gatherings will be allowed in the near future as the province tries

to keep COVID-19 under control.

Officials say it means they will have to delay any programming until next year “until we wait for a signal from government that tells us it will be safe for you and all of us to gather in theatres again.”

Tourism officials estimate it will be a \$130 million hit to the economy if there isn’t a season in 2020.

In Petrolia, Hogan and Rogers have been monitoring the situation. The first show of the season had already been bumped to the 2021 season. They had hoped to open the season with On Golden Pond starring Michael Learned and Hal Lindsey in June. But

Hogan isn’t sure that will be possible. The artistic directors plan to meet with VPP staff to figure out where they go from here.

“It’s difficult because this was sizing up to be one of our best seasons,” says Hogan adding “We we’re already selling better than we did the year before.”

Hogan says they have been talking with Learned and Lindsey and both are still available in September if that becomes an option. Otherwise they’re open to coming to Petrolia for the 2021 season, says Hogan.

And he’s remaining positive. “We don’t just want to give it up,” he says. “We’re hoping to have something in September.

brighten up

the Neighbourhood

windows of hope

It's time to brighten up our neighbourhood from the inside out

Send some messages of Hope

more info on page 12

The Independent

Summer events doubtful in Ontario

Heather Wright
The Independent

Premier lays out conditions to get people back to work and how it might happen; but it will take months

Ontario Premier Doug Ford says the plan to reopen the economy is road map, not a time line.

But even without giving any dates, it seems likely things will be far from normal throughout the summer.

Ontario’s economy will open slowly in three stages, but it won’t begin to happen until the number of new cases of COVID-19 slows consistently for two to four weeks.

Ford and a number of his ministers took questions from the media about the plan which gives general guidelines on opening workplaces. It gives no specific time frames nor does it say which businesses will be among the first to open.

Finance Minister Vic Fedeli wouldn’t not even say whether employers would have to limit the number of employees in their businesses when things started to open.

He says the province wants to provide “clear guidance for workplaces; this guidance will come as soon as it is available so employers can begin to prepare.” Fedeli added “we need to create an environment in Ontario where customers feel safe.”

So far, the province says it will first allow some workplaces to open if they can meet current public health guidelines, essential gatherings will be allowed with limited numbers of people, and some outdoor spaces, like parks, will be opened. Hospitals would also begin to offer some non-urgent and scheduled surgeries, and other health care services. The second stage will allow workplaces to open who have “significant

mitigation plans,” more public spaces will open and larger gatherings would be allowed. The final stages would open the rest of the workplaces, and relaxing restrictions on public gatherings.

The government document also adds there will be continual protection of vulnerable populations.

To reopen the economy, Health Minister Christine Elliott says there must be a consistent two to four week decrease in the number of new COVID-19 cases, enough acute and critical care capacity including personal protective equipment and ventilators, and public health units have to be able to notify people of positive test results and isolate them in one day to stop community spread.

Ford says the province is being cautious. “We aren’t going to be rushed into anything,” he says. “We don’t want to go out there and start setting dates, and then we see a spike (in new COVID-19 cases) and we have to start slowing things down. Let’s just get it right.

“I don’t think our lives will ever be the same...our lives have changed,” says Ford.

“As soon as we flatten the curve we can get back to semi normal.”

When Ford was asked if the framework could mean Ontario isn’t open until September, he said he doesn’t have “a crystal ball.

“If we all keep doing what were doing were going to see positive results.”

And he was non-committal to the idea of attending summer festivals, concerts and sporting events. “

“I don’t believe when sports come back there will be a full stadium anywhere; they’ll start with empty stadiums everywhere.”



DEB DEBOER PHOTO

The DeBoer family of Plympton-Wyoming will be crowding around the kitchen table for work and home school until May 31 after the province extended the order closing schools. Murray works for Nova Chemicals sits with his children who attend university, high school and elementary school.

Ontario extends home learning to May 31

The Independent

It will be at least another month of at home learning for Ontario students.

Education Minister Stephen Lecce made the announcement via news release Sunday afternoon without holding a news conference.

He says the extension was based on expert advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and health officials on the COVID-19 Command Table. Officials want schools closed until the modelling for the course of the novel coronavirus to be updated.

If schools reopen May 31, the teachers and staff will be in the school May 20 to prepare.

And it appears there will be no exams if the students head back to class. The new

release says “The Ministry of Education will move forward to replace the remainder of Professional Activity (PA) days and examination days with instructional time, as well as the introduction of an expanded summer learning program that will focus on credit recovery, supports for vulnerable students, and course upgrading.”

The news release continues “Boards are to find solutions at the local level in keeping with this direction while upholding collective agreement obligations.”

Quebec is making plans to bring kids back to class in mid-May, but Premier Doug Ford said Tuesday he’s not willing to chance it.

“No one wants to put our children in harms way and I’m not willing to chance it.

“Let’s wait until the end of May and then well make the determination whether we’ll continue on ...or scrap the school year.”



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LIGHTING UP PETROLIA



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

A Bluewater Power employee works on one of the street lights in Petrolia's downtown Tuesday. Town employees could also be seen taking down Christmas decorations this week in preparation for spring.

Farmers look for help to deal with COVID-19

Heather Wright
The Independent

Farmers are used to managing risk, but they say they need a little extra help managing the hazards of COVID-19.

Four provincial farm groups are asking the province to fully fund the Ontario Risk Management Program.

The province pays 40 per cent of the program cost with producers paying premiums to be involved. But often the program, which is supposed to cover the cost of production in uncertain times, falls short of full cost recovery.

"This crisis has highlighted the fact that the current Risk Management Program in Ontario is inadequate to deal with this kind of acute risk. The program needs to change to provide more support for our farmers against a growing number of unforeseen risks," says Marc Carere, chair of Ontario Sheep Farmers.

This request is only one issue farmers face during COVID-19.

Livestock producers are watching carefully as processing plants in Ontario and Alberta struggle with

COVID-19. Two processing plants - one in Ontario and one in Alberta - are closed this week.

Joe Dickenson, a cattle farmer near Oil Springs, says for now, Ontario can handle its own beef processing, but there are concerns Alberta farmers may look to Ontario if the massive Cargill plant there is closed for an extended period. That would tax the local production.

Ontario pork producers are having a bigger problem. Maaik Campbell, a Thedford producer on the Ontario Pork board, says processing capacity in Ontario has been tight for some time. Some producers have been shipping their animals to the US, but the main plant used there is now also closed because of COVID-19. "If there is no place for the hogs to go, it becomes an animal health concern...when there are more pigs in the barn, there is more stress."

And Campbell says producers have to pay more for processing if the hogs are too large.

The industry has already approached the federal government for a \$20 per animal "just to get us through this."

Petrolia opts for cannabis production control

CON'T FROM PG 1

"Businesses want things hassle free," says Councillor Ross O'Hara.

"They don't want to have anyone oppose it; they are most likely to go to a municipality which would welcome them."

But councillors felt they were limiting the chance of a company like High Park from coming to Petrolia if the cases were not reviewed separately.

Nesbitt says council simply has to be clear as it writes the bylaw what will

and will not be allowed.

"We want to make sure the definition and the regulations support if they wanted to set up a manufacturing operation," he says noting that didn't happen with High Park went to expand into the edibles market in Enniskillen since the greenhouse was zoned agricultural.

A revised zoning bylaw will return to council to allow cannabis production in the community in the next few weeks.

Calls to cut county spending

The Independent

Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley wants to reopen Lambton's budget to find ways to cut spending.

In an email to Lambton Warden Mayor Bill Weber, Bradley says the budget should be reopened, summer employment should be cut, unless it is essential, and that no vacant positions be filled in 2020 unless they are essential.

Bradley also wants staff report back on other ways to save dollars as Canadians face economic uncertainty..

Weber says there are savings already. Cultural services employees are laid off. And he says some of the measures Bradley suggested, including a hiring freeze and filling only essential positions, are already in place.

Normally 34 students are hired, this year only 18 have been offered positions, he says.

"I agree. We need to tighten our belts. I don't believe that we need to re-open the budget," Weber wrote.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS NOXIOUS WEEDS & LONG GRASS

Weeds

Notice is hereby given to all persons in possession of land, in accordance with the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter W.5, Section 3, 16, and 23.

That unless noxious weeds growing on their lands within the municipality of the Town of Petrolia are destroyed throughout the season, the municipality may enter upon the said lands and have the weeds destroyed, charging the cost against the land, plus an administration charge as set out in the Act. (Minimum charge per parcel is \$50.)

Long Grass

By-law 80 of 2008 specifies that "weeds and grass shall not be permitted to grow or stand greater than 20 centimetres (8 inches) in height."


Under Section 9.4 and Section 10, if grass is not kept under 20 cm or 8 inches, the Town after notices is given will cut the property grass at the owner's expense.


Blowing Grass Trimmings to the Roadway

All grass blown onto the roadway during lawn maintenance is not to be left on the roadway or disposed of into catch basins.

The cooperation of all land owners is appreciated.



Mike Thompson
Director of Operations






This Month In Lambton

April 2020



Warden Bill Weber
@LambtonWarden

A Message from Lambton County Warden Bill Weber

To All Lambton County Residents:

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude for all you have been doing during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not an easy time. It is difficult, stressful and rapidly changing.

While we may not know what the future holds or when we will be able to return to our normal lives, what we do know is that the actions of our community as a whole are making a positive impact in the fight against COVID-19.

The kindness and generosity that has been shown by many has not gone unnoticed, and the ingenuity of our community never ceases to amaze me. We are blessed to have such hardworking, forward-thinking residents that have been able to take out-of-the-box ideas and put them into action.

I would also like to extend my thanks on behalf of the community to all of our essential service workers that are keeping our community safe and healthy during this pandemic, and providing us with the services and utilities needed during this trying time. Your hard work is appreciated by us all.

Moving forward, it is important that we continue to take proper precautions by practicing physical distancing, washing our hands and following the directions provided by our health officials.


You can find up-to-date COVID-19 information on the Lambton Public Health website, lambtonpublichealth.ca, and the Province of Ontario website, ontario.ca. The County of Lambton has developed a list of financial supports and other resources that you may be looking for during this time, which you can find at lambtononline.ca/covid-19.

I ask everyone to continue practicing physical distancing and following directions from health officials so we can beat this virus. We will get through this, together.


Be safe, be kind and stay home.

Bill Weber
Lambton County Warden

To read more, go to www.lambtononline.ca



Office of the County Warden
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Editorial

Lambton’s New Deal

In 1933, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt knew his people needed help.

Four years after the stock market crash of October 1929 which wiped out millions of investors on Wall Street, the country was deep in The Great Depression. There was little consumer spending or investment, that meant the factories didn’t have as much to do which led to massive layoffs. Over 15 million people were unemployed and nearly half of the country’s banks had failed.

Roosevelt did something uncharacteristic for Americans - he proposed a form of socialism. The New Deal reformed the financial system and its regulations, created new programs and set a course to physically rebuild the country with public works projects. And, it worked.

Our situation in Canada is really not much different. Even though we have not yet lived through years of economic grief, the pain is deep and it will be lasting. It will be a challenge to get the country back to work and figure out how we are going to pay for the help we are giving people.

This pandemic has shown us the weaknesses in our systems. Our long term care system doesn’t protect the elderly. Our food production chain’s links are weak - when one link chinks, the whole system buckles. And our penchant to spend far more than we earn has left too many people on the brink.

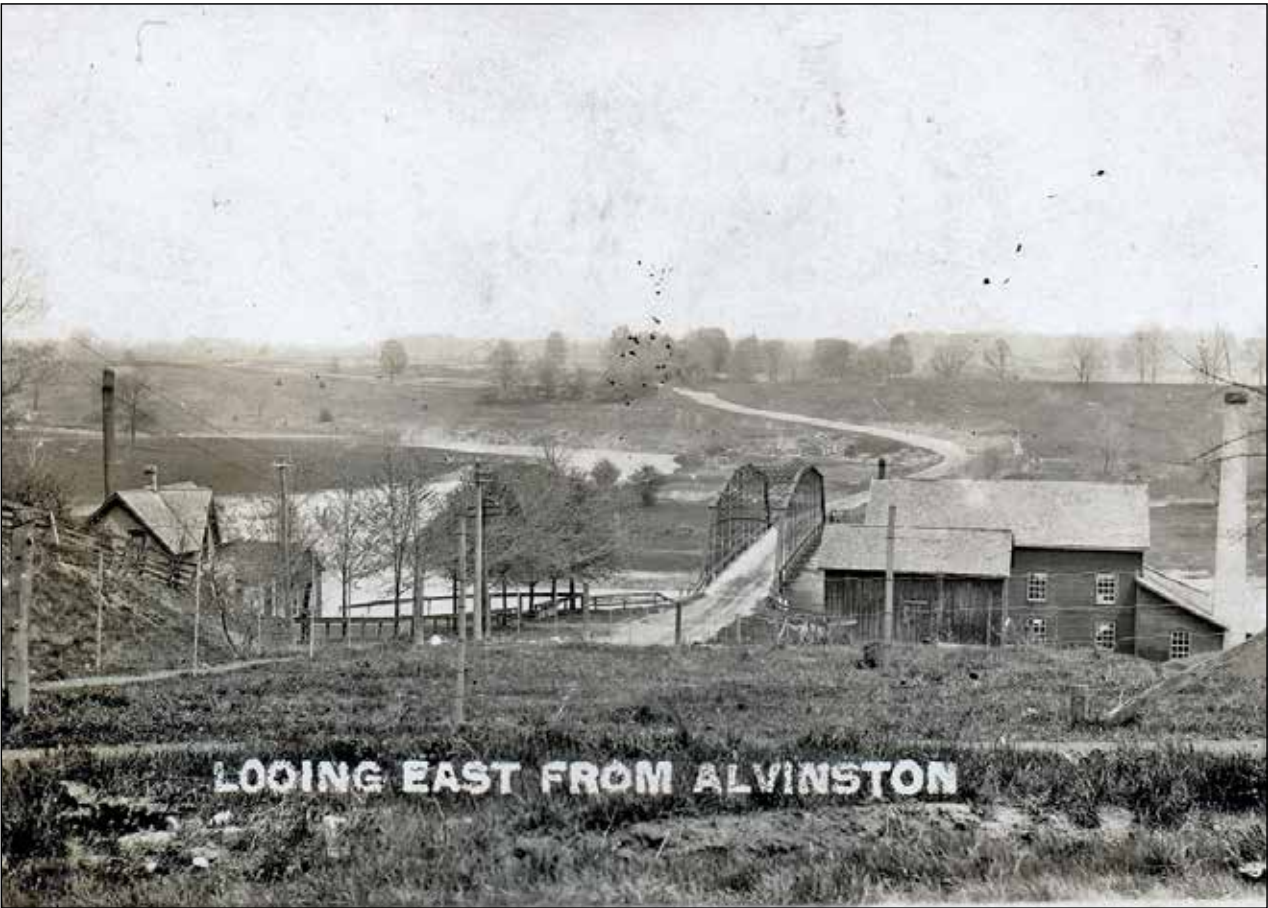
We could be depressed; there are many reasons to be. But, we could also see this as an opportunity. We can use the lessons of the pandemic to make our long term care homes the safe place they should be. We can remodel our food production system to place more emphasis on primary producers instead of big corporate profits, and we could teach this generation and the next the basics of good financial planning.

In Lambton, Sarnia’s mayor wants to reopen the budget to deal with the massive revenue shortfall because of COVID-19. We submit there is a need to find savings, but it is also time to look at how we do business and make changes which will benefit generations to come, not just slash spending.

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



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POST CARD COLLECTION

A glimpse of a long forgotten bridge in Alvinston at the base of Church and Sydenham Streets.

Premier Ford; let us be your long term care army

Dear Premier Ford;

First, thank you for your leadership during the pandemic. It is admirable how you have helped Ontario through this time of massive change.

I also appreciate your willingness to say “The buck stops here” when there are problems. I’ve listened as you are daily asked who is to blame for the problems which are coming to light and you are willing to shoulder the blame, but more importantly to try to move forward to fix the problem.

There is a massive problem that needs to be fixed, a problem that has dogged Ontario for generations. It is long term care. The cracks in that system are wide open for all to see and it is ugly. How could we have let our seniors down like this?

And while I appreciate your government wants to put an iron ring around seniors and that you’ve called for more help, bringing in the army to the worst hit homes, respectfully sir,

you already have an army; the families of the people in the homes.

While I understand the scientific reason for locking down nursing homes, I’m having a hard time reconciling how bringing in more people from the outside - no matter how skilled they are - could do more than a family member.

Take my dad for example. He was admitted to a long term care home in southern Ontario three days before the lockdown. He has dementia and he’s confused. Instead of settling in, he tells us he is in jail. His behaviour is violent and unfortunately, the good people who care for him are getting hurt.

A familiar face who understands him could calm him and defuse some difficult situations.

I’m sure families across this province feel the same way. So, why not turn them into your long term care army. Have families choose just one person who will be able to go into the home,

have them stay in quarantine when they’re not at the home and equip them with the personal protective equipment you would have given to the military.

This long term care army has the most to lose; they’ll do whatever it takes to keep their loved ones safe.

If you are willing to inject new workers into long term care right now, let us be the army.

We are ready to serve and our loved ones in long term care are waiting for us.

Sincerely,
Eli Kok’s daughter, Heather Wright



Heather Wright

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News Media Canada
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Publisher / Editor: Heather Wright
news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Reporters: Alex Kurial

Sales Associates: Demi Krall
sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Classifieds / Graphics: Sarah Hills / Julli Archibald
office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

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Canada

Opinion

Senior feels left behind as life moves online

EDITOR:

In this day and age, some of us seniors feel left out because we cannot afford computer, the internet and everything that is connected with it, like Facebook and texting.

I have a cell phone, but it only will make phone calls and receive them.

I realize we are way behind the times and some seniors are able and willing to afford internet.

I did look into the cost and after buying a tablet and getting the internet, I’m looking at a good thousand, \$1,200 a year. I can do better and eat that for a year and after.

Am I the only one that feels like this? And not really complaining but the radio and TV always say ‘for more information, go to the internet.’

Another thing that is connected is there is no phone book anymore. There

are lots of calls I would like to make for instance, stores, companies, etc, but I don’t know their number.

Could you have a survey to see how bad the situation is?

I realize today, with COVID-19, this is not serious; but I’d like to see what other people say.

Addie
Petrolia, ON

Local grocery store deserves praise during COVID-19

EDITOR:

Please consider this a salute to the Heidi Independent Grocery store in Petrolia.

These are very trying times, with most notably the potential to contact COVID-19 virus. I find the people working there to be most courteous each time I shop there.

You enter the store and a young fellow is cleaning each and every cart as it comes back into the store, several young people are moving about the

store cleaning and disinfecting as they go.

The isles are marked of to accommodate social distancing and when it is busy a traffic director is on duty to help move people through the check out.

The check out is partitioned off and spaces are marked for set back from each other, and the check out attendant is disinfecting the conveyor belt, debit machine etc after each customer.

Several young people are filling

called in grocery orders and each appears to using the latest in safeguards in doing so.

The people their should be proud of themselves the way they are trying to control this disease. At times when they are not really sure of their work atmosphere, and interfacing with the public as they do, they soldier on.

This customer salutes all at Heidi’s, a class act indeed.

Jim Stenton
St. Clair Township

Over 680 Lambton residents make Sunshine List

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Some of Lambton’s smaller communities have made the provincial Sunshine List for the first time, but the people paid the most by the taxpayers continue to be in the health care field.

Each year, the province releases a list of people who earned more than \$100,000 from their taxpayer funded positions. In Lambton County, The Independent has found 686 people who topped that mark. And while some of the salaries are high, this year, some of the top earners received only rate of inflation salary increases.

Michael Lapaine, president and CEO of Bluewater Health, with a salary of \$329,987.99, a two per cent increase from 2018. There were 179 people at Bluewater Health on the list including three vice presidents, who earned about \$180,000.

Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health also made the list; Dr. Sudit Ranade earned \$299,567.24 - that’s up by about 1.8 per cent.

The Lambton Kent District School Board had 273 people hitting the mark. Former director of education Jim Costello - who retired in June - topped the LKDSB list at \$189,803.37. He was followed by seven superintendents, who made between

\$172,000 and \$180,000. Current director of education John Howitt served as superintendent of education in Greater Essex County for half of last year before accepting the role, so was not on Lambton’s 2019 list.

Deborah Crawford, director of education for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, made \$218,056.02. Associate director Amy Janssens made \$188,699.94,. Three superintendents were also on the list making over \$175,000. Ninety five people earned more than \$100,000 at the Catholic board.

Lambton College had 111 people earning more than \$100,000, including President and CEO Judith Morris earning \$264,439.81. She earned about \$9,000 less than 2018.

The Township of St. Clair had eight employees on the list, senior among them chief administrative officer John Rodey at \$151,191.10. Director of public works Brian Black and director of finance Charles Quenneville each made \$132,334.61 in their respective roles.

In Petrolia, Richard Charlebois was the top earner at \$145,418.94. That’s significantly more than his predecessor, however Charlebois is both the CAO and the treasurer.

Plympton-Wyoming had two employees on the list, CAO Carolyn

Tripp earning \$145,750.98 and the treasurer, Norma Roddick-Preece at \$103,752.72. It is the first time Plympton-Wyoming had more than one employee top the \$100,000 mark.

Warwick Township’s CAO, Amanda Gubbels made the list this year as well, making \$100,802.

There were 55 employees of Lambton County on the Sunshine List including the CAO, Ron Van Horne at \$212,974.32 and former treasurer John Innes at \$213,452.

And Brian McDougall, general manager of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority which serves the area, pulled in \$129,049.00 for his work.

Ontario Power Generation’s former CEO, Jeffrey Lyash, topped the 2019 list making \$938,845.89 last year.

Premier Doug Ford made \$208,974 last year while Sarnia Lambton MPP Bob Bailey brought in \$133,217.04 and Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP and Labour Minister Monte McNaughton was paid \$165,851.04.

The province started tracking salaries in 1996 and set \$100,000 as the mark for the Sunshine List. Today, \$100,000 would be the worth of \$164,509.24 with inflation.

There were just under 167,000 people on the list this year, up more than 10 per cent from last year.

Elective surgeries priority post COVID says health minister

Ontario’s health minister says clearing up a backlog of cancelled elective surgeries will be one of the first things done when Ontario starts opening up the economy again.

And Christine Elliott for the first time Tuesday revealed people have died waiting for that postponed surgery.

As the province began to prepare for a feared flood of COVID-19 cases, hospitals began to discharge patients

and cancel elective surgeries to make sure there was enough room in hospital for them.

Bluewater Health was able to reduce its occupancy rate to under 70 percent. It normally runs around 100 per cent.

But all those elective surgery delays have hurt Ontarians, many of whom are waiting for things such as cancer and heart surgery.

Elliott acknowledged to reporters

Tuesday there has been harm done. She received a report which said up to 35 people waiting for cardiac surgery have died since mid-March.

“This is one of our top issues,” Elliott says. But she was quick to add the elective surgeries which have been on hold will have to wait for a while yet. “It will be the first things we do but we have to see the downward trend in (COVID-19) cases.”

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Biosolids could go near Watford cemetery

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lasalle Agri wants to store its biosolid fertilizer across from Watford’s cemetery.

The move came to light as the company filed a complaint against Warwick to the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board earlier this spring. It’s one of three appeals the company has filed. Both Brooke-Alvinston and Dawn-Euphem-ia, who have tried to stop the company from piling the often pungent fertilizer in one spot, are also facing appeals.

All three communities have used zoning bylaws to prevent farmers from storing more fertilizer than needed for the field in one spot.

Warwick has successfully charged Lasalle Agri. The company moved a massive pile of the fertilizer made from human waste at the end of 2019 after going to court.

Now, in documents filed with the NFPPB, the company says it wants to store biosolid fertilizer next to the Catholic cemetery on Nauvoo Road.

Warwick CAO Amanda Gubbels noted in a report to council the township doesn’t have an option to lay charges because Lasalle isn’t storing anything there now. And she says the property is “in a prime location” into Watford.

Mayor Jackie Rombouts was surprised to get the appeal to the board saying Lasalle Agri owners David and Roger Buurma have never come to council on this request or any other.

Rombouts says the township is not stopping any farmer from normal farm practices, adding the normal practice is to use a nutrient management plan to spread manures. “He has stated he doesn’t have to do that because this product is a fertilizer.” It is not clear when a hearing on the issue will be.

SALUTING ESSENTIAL WORKERS



CATHY DOBSON PHOTO

These Plympton Wyoming residents join people all over the world each night at 7:30 to cheer on essential workers during the pandemic. From left, Lucas Paine, 15, Ayleigh Grant, 9, Julianna Grant, 13, James Grant, 11 and Marcus Paine, 13, bang pots and clap outside their Mandaumin Road home. They haven't missed an evening cheer in five weeks.

Your Recycling Bin is Coming!

Attention: Residents of Warwick Township

The **NEW “Wheelie” waste and recycling bins** will be delivered by the Association during the month of May.

They will be delivered at the edge of your property where they should be placed when ready for collection starting **in June**



Also watch for your new collection calendar and **Easy as 1-2-3** instruction flyer coming in the mail. Do not use the new bins until **June**. For more info contact us at 1.800.265.9799 or info@bra.org

Wage increase for long term care as more COVID-19 patients found in Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Health care workers in long term care homes and group homes will be getting a premium for working through the COVID-19 pandemic. Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced a \$4 per hour “pandemic payment” for workers in long term care, retirement homes, assisted living, corrections, home care, youth justice facilities and emergency shelters Saturday. There will also be a \$250 premium per month for the next four months if they work more than 100 hours a month. This means that eligible employees working an average of 40 hours

per week would receive \$3,560. The package was put together by the federal government and the province has put money into it as well, says Ford. “This is to recognize the valued efforts of our front line workers,” says Peter Bethlenfalvy, President of the Treasury Board. “They are saving our lives and we owe them an incredible debt of gratitude; they are putting themselves in harms way to help the most vulnerable.” The premier hopes the four month increase will also help providers attract the staff they need. And Ford called on the federal government to help fix the

problems in long term care. “This pandemic has clearly shown the deeply rooted cracks in our long term care system; the federal government has been a tremendous partner...but we need a sustained commitment...to protect the most vulnerable in the long term care homes.” Meantime, in Lambton County there are now three active outbreaks of COVID-19 in long term care homes. Sumac Lodge in Sarnia is the latest local nursing home to report a case of COVID-19. Lambton Public Health says one staff member tested positive Tuesday. Details of the workers’ condition was not immediately

known. The first outbreak was in Landmark Village in Sarnia – there, another staff member has tested positive bringing the total number of people with the virus to 40 there. Six people who lived at the retirement home have died. Vision Nursing home still has an active outbreak also with three residents and two staff members COVID-19 positive. Public health is in the middle of screening all staff and residents at the 20 long term care and retirement homes in Lambton. Officials have received the results back from 1,895 people, with 178 people testing positive. Eighty-

four people have recovered. There have been 14 deaths in the county. Provincial data shows there have been 154 outbreaks in long term care homes, with 2,491 residents and 1,205 health care workers. Officials say as of Tuesday, 705 people have died from COVID-19 in long term care – that’s out of 951 people lost to the virus in total. There are 25 people in hospital with the virus as of Tuesday – 12 of those have tested positive and 13 others are presumed to have COVID-19. Across the province, there are 239 people in hospital ICUs with COVID-19 – 187 are on ventilators.

Donations on hold

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair Township is warning people who are clearing out their closets in fits of pandemic boredom, their donations may be headed for the trash. St. Clair Township says donations at charity collection bins will likely end up in the dump rather than the intended destination of a needy family. Local bins saw a flurry of dropped off materials this month. Items have been piling up around the bases and creating a potential safety hazard. “It’s sensitive because we don’t want to say ‘get rid of this stuff’, because some families will find it useful,” says St. Clair Clerk Jeff Baranek. “But at the same time we can’t have it just continuing to accumulate there.” The bins are on private property, leaving maintenance to the responsibility of the owners, Baranek says the township will be sending a note requesting the owners help in keeping the area clear. “We’re just going to take the initiative to send the owners a letter and request that if there’s things being left that aren’t able to be donated directly into the bin that they take a minute and either find a place for keeping them or put them into the dumpster.” A sign on the Diabetes Canada bin at Shawn’s Garage in Port Lambton says collection has temporarily been suspended, and asks that people hold onto their donations at home until “life gets back to normal.” The organization’s president Sean Shannon emphasized the point in an open letter to municipalities following the halting of collection from bins on March 23. “We are asking Canada’s mayors, elected officials and municipal staff to help us clear garbage and soiled textiles from our donation bin sites in your community,” the letter reads. “We simply don’t have the resources or funding to clear the waste around all of our bins.”

Trafficking sentence delayed

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Sentencing for convicted sex trafficker Javoll Devon Blackwood has been postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Originally scheduled for April 27, Blackwood’s sentencing date – along with all other cases scheduled for the month of April – has been adjourned until June 3. Ontario courts are trying to deal with cases through teleconferencing however some cases have been delayed. There is a possibility that Blackwood’s case could be moved forward however, if it is deemed necessary. Blackwood, from the Toronto area, was found guilty in March on 11 charges, including trafficking in persons, gaining material benefits from sexual exploitation of a minor, and making child pornography. Blackwood was arrested by the OPP in July 2018 at a Point Edward motel where he was found with two women, one of whom was 17 at the time. Their services had been offered for sale on the internet. Blackwood has remained in custody since his arrest.

A SURE SIGN OF SPRING



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Farmers took to their tractors this week as the weather warmed up to begin preparing the land for spring planting. This farmer was spotted on Marthaville Road Saturday fertilizing the ground.

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Towell wins major US Fellowship

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Dawn-Euphemia’s Larry Towell is one of just two Canadians to win a prestigious fellowship. The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation selected just 175 winners out of an applicant pool of almost 3,000. Of those chosen, only two are from Canada including Towell, who is widely acclaimed for his photography including winning a World Press Association Award. The fellowship started in 1922 and its purpose is “add to the educational, literary, artistic, and scientific power of this country, and also to provide for the cause of better international understanding. Towell’s work fits into that category. Over his career he has photographed and studied Central America, migrant workers from Mexico, the conflict in Palestine and most recently the Ukrainian Revolution. Towell has yet to say what subject he will cover with the Guggenheim Fellowship, but land will be at the heart of it.

His plans to begin travelling and documenting have been put on hold for the time being due to the coronavirus outbreak, but he has plenty to do now. “Everything has been pushed back, but when I’m home, I’m editing, I’m working on my performance, I’m writing, and I’m editing a book dummy,” Towell says. Towell is rehearsing for a planned musical appearance at Leica’s 40th annual Oscar Barnack Award in photography, which Towell himself has won in the past. It is scheduled for the end of September in Germany. Towell is also finishing his book documenting the recent Ukrainian Revolution and conflict with Russia. He’s also re-editing his widely acclaimed book The Mennonites. And he’s planning a feature film on his life’s work. His fellowship project will become a book.



Larry Towell

EROSION FIX PROMISED



ALEX KURIAL PHOTO

St. Joseph’s Parish is promising neighbours it will address erosion concerns on their Corunna property. The lot off Beresford St., has seen much of its shoreline fall away. The seawall has also been breached. “We’ve been in discussions with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) about the issue and an engineering consultant has been hired to complete an assessment of the site and develop plans that will be submitted for approval.” Homeowners have been raising their concerns to the St. Clair Township over the state of the parish’s property. Fears have been mounting that if something is not done to repair the seawall, that the erosion will spread to neighboring properties. The town had recently sent a letter to the diocese requesting that they develop a plan with the SCRCA.

May 24th tradition axed by COVID-19

The Independent

You won’t be spending the May long weekend at a provincial part this year. The province has extended the closure of Ontario’s provincial parks and conservation reserves to May 31 as part of the emergency measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. This means there will be no

camping on what is traditionally the beginning of the summer camping season – the Victoria Day weekend. Provincial parks and conservation reserves will continue to remain fully closed to all recreational activities, said a government news release. This includes car camping, backcountry camping, roofed accommodations, day use opportunities, access points and all public buildings. Reservations for arrivals up to, and including, any further closure extension date will be automatically cancelled and reservation holders will receive a full refund with no penalty. Private sector campgrounds also remain closed.

NOVA BACK TO WORK



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Workers on Nova Corunna’s new \$2 billion expansion project are back on the job. The company laid off 90 per cent of its construction workforce March 23 as it became obviously difficult to provide the right distancing on site to keep workers safe. Company officials say they’ve now set up new protocols for staff including staggered lunch and breaks and handwashing stations around the site. Officials have not said if all of the laid off employees are back yet, the site off Rokeby Line is again busy.

A sincere thank you to everyone who is continuing to care for us, keep us fed, and keep things going during this difficult time.

It is appreciated more than you know.

To those who are isolating at home, thank you for helping slow the spread of the virus.

If you are experiencing difficulty contacting Employment Insurance, or accessing the COVID-19 Emergency Benefits, please contact my Constituency Office.

We are available to assist you with telephone and email enquiries Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please Stay Safe



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✉ marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca

MP Marilyn Gladu
Sarnia-Lambton

www.marilyngladu.com

Construction on hold to save internet

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair Township is pressing pause on some of its planned construction projects to avoid disrupting internet for residents now working or going to school at home.

That includes water main and road reconstruction work on Bentinck Dr. in Corunna, and on Second St. in Courtright.

“We’re going to delay construction a little bit until we have a better indication of what’s going to happen with the social distancing requirements and people working from home,” says St. Clair’s coordinator of engineering Paul daSilva.

“That’s a lot of risk for the municipalities to take on of cutting off somebody’s internet service when they’re working from home. People would be pretty frustrated, that’s their livelihood, and we don’t want to be responsible for that.”

A timeline for the excavation projects will be decided based on how things play out in the COVID-19 crisis.

“We’re going to revisit it at every council meeting from here on out until we have more of a clear indication from upper levels of the government on the way it’s going in terms of getting back to normal,” said daSilva.

daSilva says several construction projects are to get underway though, including paving work, in May.

COVID cost Brooke-Alvinston \$45k so far

The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston officials estimate COVID-19 has cost the municipality about \$45,000 so far.

While many municipalities are not tracking expenses, Brooke-Alvinston’s Treasurer told council Thursday \$25,000 has been lost from rentals at

the community centre and the EarlyON centre. Another \$20,000 has been lost on investment interest and money which would have been generated by penalties and interest to tax and water bills. Council agreed to waive those until the end of May.

The cost of supplying the firefighters with protective gear is not known yet.

CHURCHILL LINE ACCIDENT



DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters had to use the jaws of live to remove a person when a car hit the ditch on Churchill Line Sunday. Lambton OPP have yet to release any information about the crash which happened at noon. It’s not clear how seriously the driver was injured nor what caused the crash.

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This represents 25% of all new cancer cases in women.

5,000 women will die from breast cancer. This
represents 13% of all cancer deaths in women

On average, **72 Canadian women will be diagnosed with
breast cancer every day.**

On average, **14 Canadian women will die from breast
cancer every day.**

**230 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 60
will die from breast cancer**

**Source: Canadian Cancer Statistics 2017: Government of Canada*

**Some women are at an increased risk of developing breast cancer. Women ages 30 to 69 are
considered to be at high risk if:**

- They have a genetic mutation that puts them at high risk for breast cancer
- They have a parent, sibling or child who has a genetic mutation that puts them at high risk for breast cancer
- They have a family history that indicates a lifetime risk of breast cancer that is greater than or equal to 25 percent confirmed through genetic assessment
- They received radiation therapy to the chest before 30 years of age as treatment for another cancer or condition (e.g. Hodgkin lymphoma)

The Ontario Breast Screening program (OBSP) recommends that women between the ages of 30 and 69 who are at high risk for breast cancer get screened with annual mammography and breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). If MRI is not medically appropriate, a screening breast ultrasound may be given instead.

Breast Awareness

Contact your doctor if you notice:

- A lump or dimpling
- Change in your nipple or fluid leaking from the nipple
- Skin changes or redness that does not go away
- Any other changes in your breasts

It is easy to get screened

Women ages 50 to 75 can:

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to cancercareontario.ca/obsplocations

OR

Contact their health care provider and get referred to
a breast cancer specialist

For more information: Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000
Ontario Breast Screening Program: cancercareontario.ca/obsp 1-800-668-9304

Open a business in a pandemic? No problem for Lambton entrepreneurs

Cathy Dobson
The Independent

It takes ingenuity to assume ownership of a business in the midst of a pandemic.

Just ask Amy and Cody Ewing who didn't want to break their commitment to purchase Johnny G's Pizza March 23 even though COVID-19 had shut down the popular pizzeria.

"We made the decision to buy it in early March when we didn't know how severe the pandemic would be," says Amy, 24.

She and brother Cody, 22 - with their father Donald Ewing – bought the business on Petrolia's main street from long time owners Rob and Patty Geerts. Cody worked for the Geerts and knows how busy Johnny G's can be.

But when his family took over, the province had ordered all restaurants shut.

"The prospect of taking over a business with closed doors felt terrible at first," says Cody. "But sales are going up as the pandemic

goes on.

"Honestly, business is getting busier and it's because of the support of the community."

It's also because the Ewings are creative.

One of their first business initiatives was to introduce DIY pizza kits that sell out every week giving families something to do while isolating at home, says Amy.

Five dollars from each sale is donated to charity and Johnny G's has been able to give \$500 to Bluewater Health and \$500 to Makers Against COVID-19.

There are draw backs. They can't open the 18-seat restaurant, they haven't hired the staff they planned and they're limiting their hours. But take-out is booming, with about 80 pizzas go out the door every night.

"That's enough to keep us afloat," says Amy.

"This isn't exactly how we imagined it, but we're in the kitchen making pizzas every night and that's what we wanted," she added.

In Dawn-Euphemia, Brad and Rachel Goodreau also made the leap into small business ownership just as the pandemic moved into full swing in early April.

COVID-19 has meant a delay in opening their new Southwest Paddle Company kayak showroom but otherwise the enforcement of physical isolation is working to their benefit, says Brad. He markets kayaking as a great way to stay six feet apart.

It's even possible the virus has indirectly improved sales, he says. Anglers are anxious to get out on the lake but restrictions related to the pandemic make it difficult to use motorized boats.

In Michigan, there's a ban on motorized boating.

In Ontario, the provincial government has closed recreational facilities including boat ramps and boat docks.

So fishermen are turning to kayaks that "you can still drag over land and jump into," says Goodreau.

He sold eight kayaks his first



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Emma Goodreau helps her dad, Brad, load kayaks onto their truck. The Goodreaus have opened Southwest Paddle during the pandemic.

week of business. "I just sold four more this morning," he says. "This is beyond anything my distributor thought possible."

"It sure is working out for us."

For now, however, the showroom he built on his 50-acre farm sees little customer traffic.

Like Johnny G's, most sales and payment are online.

A furry way to deal with COVID-19

Heather Wright
The Independent

Adam Proulx is like a lot of other people right now.

The Petrolia puppeteer's summer was filled with work, starting with an Unplugged Puppet Party in Collingwood on the March break, a stint in a show at Victoria Playhouse Petrolia and a number of summer festivals.

But that all changed on March 13. "Like most people who work in the arts, Friday the 13th rolled around and it happened to be the day everyone pulled the plug," he says.

His March Break gig was gone, and so was all his other work for the foreseeable future.

"I thought 'well, what do I do?' It was a bit of a helpless feeling. Me, Adam, I'm fine, but you want to feel like you doing your part...and I have a very specific skill set."

Puppetry might not seem like a skill set in high demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, but Proulx had a plan. He had a puppet which he loved – Spencer – and a backdrop from an old show. Proulx got to work and in a couple of days, he had the first episode of Spencer Stays Inside – a YouTube series aimed at kids but with lessons for the adults struggling with questions and emotions during the pandemic.

"Some episodes are just fun, they're just silly – like a dance party," says Proulx. But he's also done a five-part series on understanding emotions "saying I'm feeling angry and being able to put a word on it. That's more heavy handed in the lesson department."

Proulx shoots one episode a day, with Spencer, one backdrop



PHOTO VIA YOUTUBE

Spencer Sparklestein helps children understand why they're staying inside in a YouTube series created by Petrolia Puppeteer Adam Proulx.

and one camera. And the kids have really responded.

Spencer has been getting so much email, Proulx has set up an email account for him.

"The other day, a little girl wrote a message to the flower on the wall, saying 'I hope you like being purple.'"

"It has been so lovely," says Proulx.

"Spencer says, 'have you ever had a time when you were scared?' and Spencer gets a response."

And while he loves the response he's getting, Proulx admits it is a lot of work. "If I had a million other things to do, I wouldn't have made the commitment to do a daily episode."

Even with all the work, Proulx is glad he could bring a little joy to children and their families adding it has brought him joy, too.

"It's wonderful. It has been what has kept me sane through this global dumpster fire we're experiencing."

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Thank you;
Heather Wright
Publisher, The Independent

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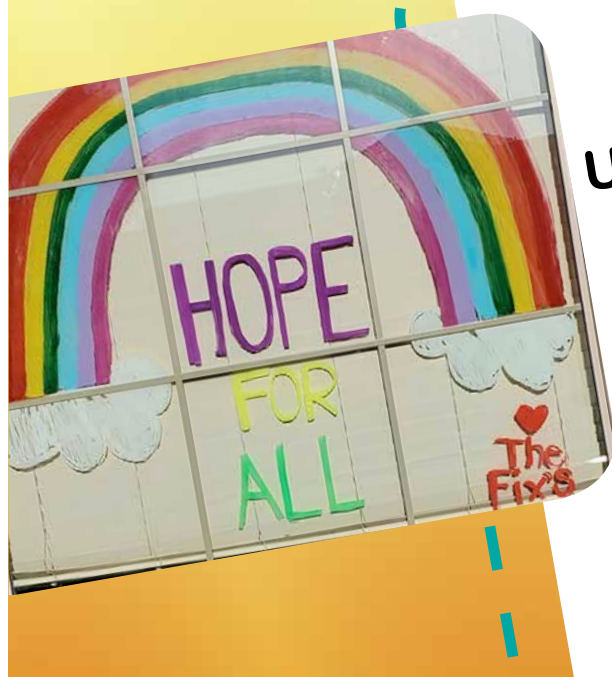
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Sports

Petrolia athlete wins University of Iowa award

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia’s Marissa Mueller has been given a top academic and leadership award at her US university.

Mueller, who earned a scholarship to University of Iowa for her javelin throwing, has been given the Hancher-Finkbine Medallion.

She is one of only two undergraduate UI students to receive a Hancher-Finkbine Medallion this year and is thought to be the first female student-athlete.

The medallion celebrates leadership, learning and loyalty at the university Mueller attends. The award is named for Will Finkbine, who started honouring student leadership in 1917 and Thomas Hancher – an alumni and former president of the university.

Mueller says she was shocked by the award saying she “didn’t think my name would even come up” in a discussion about a student who embodies the core values of the institution. “It’s really cool.”

Mueller first learned she was a candidate in December. She attended a faculty senate meeting.

She was invited to speak about some of the services student athletes receive that help them graduate and how other students might benefit from them.

Out of the blue, one of her professors from the faculty of engineering, asked a strange question – could she simply explain the bio mechanics of throwing a javelin.

“I did not see that question coming,” she laughs. But, under the gold dome of the hall, Mueller demonstrated, talking her way through the answer. And she received a “very positive response” from the crowd.

Later, the professor pulled her aside and told her he wanted to see “how I would respond when I was kind of put on the spot.”

And then, he told Mueller she had been nominated by the faculty for the medallion. “I was shocked and honoured...this is typically an award given to seniors.”

Mueller submitted all the necessary paper work including her resume and a summary of her involvement in the school and community. A couple of weeks ago, officials called with the good



Marissa Mueller in competition for University of Iowa.

news. The award winners were officially announced Wednesday.

Normally, there would be a large dinner and awards night for the Hancher-Finkbine Medallion and several other prestigious awards, however under COVID-19 restrictions, that wasn’t possible this year. But that is okay with Mueller.

“It is incredible to be honoured,” she says adding the honour is one of prestige not a scholarship. “The title in itself is more than I could have asked for; the honour of being named pays more

than a cheque could.”

Mueller is back in Petrolia, finishing her junior year classes online and working out to stay in shape for the next track and field season.

She’s also working on her applications for medical school and studying for the MCATs – the test all students must take to qualify for medical school in the US.

Not official but high school sports appears done

It would appear the latest school closure announcement by the Ontario government is the final death knell for the LKSSAA high school sport this season.

The Ford government said schools across the province would remain closed until the end of May in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19. The spring season typically ends with track and field in early June.

LKSSAA President Jim Stewart said

the group hasn’t made a final decision and likely won’t until it meets again in mid-May. “But, you can do the math,” he suggested.

“Our focus right now is the safety of our students and ensuring they are receiving a quality education during this time,” reads a statement on the association website. SWOSSA and OFSAA spring championships had already been cancelled due to the virus.

Senior ball leagues waiting to see if they can play ball

The Western Counties Senior Baseball League is in a holding pattern for its upcoming season.

“Due to the pandemic it’s unknown when the season can begin,” said the league on social media. “We’re following the lead of Baseball Ontario who at this point has on-field activities postponed until at least May 31.” Typically, the league opens in mid-May depending on weather and field

conditions. The Southwest Middlesex Men’s Fastball League and the Alvinston Aces are also taking a wait and see approach. Their season usually begins in early May.

And, there’s no word yet on the fate of Lambton-Kent Ladies Fastball League season. The nine-team circuit, with teams in Petrolia, Wyoming, Inwood, Enniskillen, Courtright and Corunna.

Jr. B lacrosse hopes for a late spring season

The Ontario Lacrosse Association Junior B League and its members, including the Point Edward Pacers, remain cautiously optimistic that a pared down season can still take place, perhaps in June and July.

Commissioner Dave Vernon encouraged players to stay active.

“The importance of keeping your stick in your hands will become apparent as soon as we return to play. It is also important

to maintain a positive and healthy outlook throughout this situation. While it may seem difficult for us to remain optimistic in the face of the number of changes to our lives in recent weeks, there is always light at the end of every tunnel. Please allow the time, spent with your lacrosse stick each day, to promote health, happiness and strength throughout these difficult times.”

The season was to have started Sunday.

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Helping Hands
of Petrolia & Central Lambton




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



Do you need help with...
picking up groceries?
running errands?

This Public Service Announcement is brought to you by



In Memory

In loving memory of

Bernice Marriott

May 2, 2018

To those who have a Mom,
Love her while you may...
Because we wish with all our hearts,
Our Mom, was here today

Love, Kevin and Bob



In Memory

Kenneth Jardine

Dec. 1, 1938 - April 30, 2014.

Dad remembering you is easy,
I do it every day.
Missing you is the heartache
that never goes away

Grant & Karen Edwards and Families
Neil & Irene Jardine and Families



Services Offered

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

WANTED

TO RENT - Senior Woman looking for an apartment in Petrolia. I have no pets and am a non-smoker. Very good credit rating. Would prefer a 2 BR but will look at a 1 BR. Ground floor with room to park one car. Would like laundry facilities. Must be well kept. Call 519-869-2761

Wanted

Farmland - Younger Farm family looking for an opportunity to moderately expand cash crop acres by sharecrop, rent or lease. **Competitive Rates.** Please call Shawn at Font Farms 519-384-2855.

Notice

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority - The trail systems at all SCRCA conservation areas are currently open to the public, however, those visiting must comply with social distancing practices and should not travel or meet-up with people from outside of their main residence. Trail maintenance may be limited. Please be advised that the SCRCA is prepared to close conservation areas if deemed necessary. These include A.W. Campbell Conservation Area, L.C. Henderson Conservation, Warwick Conservation Area.

Obituary

CAMPBELL
Lloyd



Lloyd died peacefully at Fiddick's Nursing Home, Petrolia on Wednesday, **April 22, 2020.** LLOYD WILLIAM CAMPBELL, formerly of Wyoming, was in his **92nd year.** Lloyd was predeceased by his wife Loreen (nee Taylor)(2015). He will be missed by his step children Gary and Alice Bucke, Morris Bucke, David Bucke and Mary Jane Hill, and Cindy Lee and Mark Johnson and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren who reside in Ontario and Alberta. Numerous nieces and nephews who live in Ontario, B.C., and Scotland. He also will be missed by his wife's family Harold and Linda Taylor, Jean Taylor, and Gerald Smith. He was predeceased by his parents Walter and Jennie Campbell and his brother Morley and Barb Campbell and his wife's eight sisters and one brother. The family would like to give a special THANK YOU to Fiddicks Retirement and Nursing home management and staff for the special care, devotion and love that Lloyd received over the past five years as a resident. You are people that we hold dear in our hearts everyday and will never be able to express our gratitude and appreciation fully for everything you did for Lloyd. Also want to make mention of the people who took time to make regular visits to Lloyd, Pastor Mark, Joe, Don and Edgard. Lloyd was a lifelong farmer in Plympton Township where he and his wife Loreen enjoyed over 40 years of a blessed marriage. Loreen was the love of his life and they worshipped together at People's church. Lloyd was known for his excellent crops and green thumb with a love for gardening. Providing neighbours with a glimpse of beautiful glads, zinnia's, and sunflowers. He had a voracious appetite for all things homemade, tomato soup and cherry pie being his ultimate favourites. He also was at home in the bush where he spent many hours cutting wood. Lloyd's love of Harley motorcycles was never far from conversation with friends and he was quick to get up a game of euchre and never missed weekly volley ball games. Matthew 11:28 Come to me , all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Private family arrangements have been made. Interment will be in Wyoming Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Peoples Church (www.peopleslambton.com) and St. Joseph's Hospice Sarnia (www.stjosephshospice.ca). Arrangments entrusted to Needham-Jay Funeral **www.needhamjay.com**

Death Notices Apr. 21 to Apr. 27, 2020

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

ROBINSON, Lois
Age 73, of Oshawa
Smith Funeral Home

CAMPBELL, Loyd
Age 92, of Wyoming
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

TURNER, Nancy
Age 61, of Forest
Gilpin Funeral Home

PENHALE, Sheridan
Age 76, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

OUELLETTE, Adolphe
Age 90, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, April 25

KELLEY, Thomas Allen
Age 85, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

SUNDAY, APRIL 26


BOUCHARD, Patricia
Age 63, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

WADE, Mary
Age 96, of Forest
Gilpin Funeral Home

MONDAY, APRIL 27

DEPENCIER, James "Jim"
Age 71, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

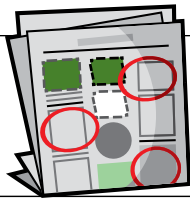
STEVEN, Kenneth
Denning's of Forest



for all classified ads is

Monday at 12 noon
for the paper that prints and distributes Wed-Thurs

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

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 30	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions meat Raffle @ Haywoods	
Apr 30	Petrolia	Petrolia Optimist Meat Raffle @ Crabby Joe's	
May 1-10	Sarnia	Bluewater Anglers 44th Annual Salmon Derby	519-869-2593
May 2	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Meat Raffle	
May 2	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion Meat Raffle	
May 2	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Meat Raffle	
May 3	Sarnia	Musical Acapella Harmony Show	
May 6	Petrolia	Pet	
May 6	Wyoming	Wyoming Lions Meat BINGO	
May 8	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optimist Youth Dance	
May 10	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Mothers Day LEO Breakfast	
May 10	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optimist Club's Mother's Day Brunch	519-898-2946
May 11	Petrolia	Petrolia First Baptist Church Puzzlemania / Games Galore Night	
May 17	Moore-town	Victorian Tea at The Moore Museum	
May 17	Sarnia	Vintage and Fries under the Bluewater Bridges	
May 18	Watford Alvinston	Watford Alvinston Road Race - full refunds will be given to those who pre-registered	
May 20	Camlachie	Bible Study Group at the Camlachie United Church.	
May 27	Petrolia	Petrolia Library's free workshop for legal advise regrading Landlord & Tenant Board	
May 29	Sarnia	ARLANXEO Retiree Dinner Committee	
May 30	Sarnia	Sarnia 3 on 3 Street Hockey Challenge	
May 30	Sarnia	Bluewater Anglers "Kids Training Day"	
Jun 12	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optimist Youth Dance	
Jun 21	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Fathers Day Breakfast & Car Show	
Jun 21	Watford	Watford Annual Yard Sale Day	
Jul 10	Florence	Florence Truck & Tractor Pull	
Aug 7-8	Bothwell	Bothwell Car Show & Optifest	

POSTPONED EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	DATE
Mar 16	Petrolia	St. Paul's United Church Irish Dinner & Concert	TBD
Mar 26	Wyoming	Wyoming Wee Ones Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser	TBD
Mar 29	Petrolia	Petrolia Optimist Run for the Groceries Draw/Event	TBD
Apr 8	Petrolia	Petrolia Community Theatre production of "Sandy Toes & Salty Kisses" NOW Postponed until 2021	
Apr 11	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optimist Club Trivia Night	TBD
Apr 18	Alvinston	The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston Large Item Day – Moved to Fall	
Apr 17	Petrolia	Town of Petrolia Large Item Collection	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	Petrolia	Town of Petrolia Large Item Collection	TBD
May 1	Wyoming	Plympton & Wyoming Agricultural Society Annual Salad Luncheon New Date TBD 519-845-3161	
May 2	Sarnia	Sarnia School of Irish Dance presents "A Celtic Eveing"	TBD
May 2	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Rabies Vaccination Pet Clinic	TBD
May 6	Sarnia	Sarnia The Stampeders - Celebrating 50 Years	Oct 26, 2020
May 22-30	Sarnia	Theatre Sarnia Presents "Grease"	TBD
May 23	Enniskillen	Enniskillen Rabies Vaccination Pet Clinic	TBD
Jun 17	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions FREE Senior Picnic BBQ	TBD
Jun 19	Sarnia	LiUNA "Do it for Sarnia" Block Party	Sept 11 & 12, 2020
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	
Jun 21	Oil Springs	Oil City Cemetery Decoration Day Service	TBD

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 Prebyterian 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

Wyoming United Church

730 Second Street, Wyoming

Due to the COVID-19 virus will be closed until further notice.

We will keep you updated about any changes.

Join Us for Worship - All are Welcome
[Church Office 519-845-3963](mailto:ChurchOffice@wyomingunitedchurch.ca)
Find us on Facebook

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

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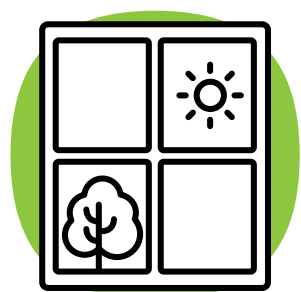
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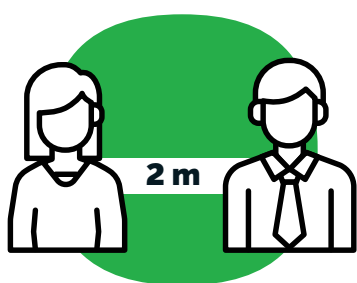
2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Ontario, your efforts to beat COVID-19 are making a difference.

To stop the spread, we need you to continue to:



Stay home when possible



Practice physical distancing of at least 2 metres



Wash hands thoroughly and often

We need your continued determination and cooperation to stop the spread.

COVID-19 can be deadly.

Don't put your family and friends at risk.

Stay home. Stay strong. Save lives.

Learn more at ontario.ca/coronavirus

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