



COVID-19 economic crunch hits Petrolia

Theater season cancelled, at least three downtown businesses close doors

Heather Wright
The Independent

The economic after shocks of COVID-19 are hitting Petrolia hard.

In a matter of days, at least three downtown businesses closed their storefronts as May 1 rent came due and the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia announced its 40,000 patrons would not be coming to town as the season was cancelled because of the pandemic.

Thousands of businesses across Canada are closed as health authorities try to reduce the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus. The federal government has set up billions of dollars in subsidies to help unemployed workers and businesses, Most retail businesses remain closed.

Premier Doug Ford has also hinted it is unlikely there will be any large events this summer.

Artistic Directors David Hogan and David Rogers and the staff of Victoria Playhouse Petrolia have decided there is no way to move ahead with the 2020 season because of the uncertainty around COVID-19. Hogan and Rogers had already moved the first show of the season to 2021.

Each summer up to 40,000 people attend performances at the historic theater and pump up to \$1.6 million into the regional economy according to statistics from the Town of Petrolia.

Hogan says they have been carefully watching the provincial directives and planned to follow them to the letter of the law, but they were also concerned for their patron's health. "Our gorgeous seniors; we're not going to put them in harms way – not at all."

SEE PETROLIA PG 2

A MOBILE BIRTHDAY PARTY



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Hailie O'Brien of Florence would normally be celebrating her birthday with her friends from the Grade 6 class, but the pandemic made that impossible. So Saturday, her family and friends drove by her home on the main street throwing balloons and wishing her a Happy Birthday. The practice of celebrating by car parade has drawn some criticism but Lambton OPP say it is okay to continue the events, as long as people follow the rules. See story pg 5.

Plympton-Wyoming fire trucks cost jump 18.7 per cent

Heather Wright
The Independent

The cost of Plympton-Wyoming's fire trucks have gone way up.

Council has approved a contract to buy two custom made pumpers from ResQtech Systems Inc. for \$1,603,500. That's an 18.7 per cent increase from the \$1,350,000 approved to spend just two months ago.

The township started looking for two new pumpers in late 2019. One was planned for the Camlachie station to replace an aging vehicle. The other was needed after an accident near Reece's Corners in September. The pumper tipped into a creek after an unstable bank gave way as the crew tried to

make its way to a stolen pickup on fire in a cornfield.

In January, Fire Chief Steve Clemens came to council with two bids for the fire trucks, one from Dependable Emergency Vehicles in Brampton and one from ResQtech Systems which sells Rosenbauer America trucks from its Woodstock location.

In February, Fire Chief Steve Clemens brought a report to council saying Dependable's submission package met the minimum standards to be opened and recorded.

But Clemens tells *The Independent* the submission price was not based on the specifications listed in the request for proposal for the design and performance of

the Custom Pumpers.

The report doesn't say what Dependable's price was however Clemens provided *The Independent* with the tender opening report showing the company's proposal - which didn't meet the specs - was for \$1,042,086.

ResQTech's bid was \$1,549,000.

Council asked the chief to go back to ResQTech and negotiate an agreement for not more than \$1,350,000. April 29, Clemens came back to council with a new proposal with a price tag of \$1,603,500 - 18.7 per cent higher than ResQTech's original bid.

"A purchase agreement had not been fully negotiated prior to the onset of COVID-19."

SEE FIRE TRUCK PG 2

We've Launched our New Website



Our newly redesigned website is now easier to navigate, faster and more intuitive.

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

petrolialambtonindependent.ca

COVID-19 cash crunch claims businesses

CON'T FROM PG 1

The VPP plans to move the entire season, including On Golden Pond with Michael Learned and Hal Lindsay to the 2021 season. They ask people to “hold on to their tickets, because they will be honoured in 2021.”

The pair are also hopeful the Christmas shows planned for 2020 will move ahead, however plans will be made to change those dates if necessary also.

“It’s difficult because this was sizing up to be one of our best seasons,” Hogan tells *The Independent*.

“We we’re already selling better than we did the year before.”

But he added they remain hopeful because “we will be together again, one day.”

While there was no way around the closure, Mayor Brad Loosley says it is going to hurt.

“I do know that this is going to have an impact on them,” he says. “The theater brings in 40,000 people (a year); if half stay for lunch, that’s a lot of people and that’s a lot of revenue.”

Loosley says often the restaurants are crowded patrons in the summer months.

It is not clear whether Lambton County residents

patronizing those restaurants will be enough to keep restaurants viable. “Can they ride it out? I hope so.”

And while restaurants are likely to feel the squeeze because of lack of tourists, other businesses are feeling the pinch.

Inkworks Tattoo Studio closed its doors as of May 1. Hub International is moving its Petrolia office to Sarnia as of May 22.

And two storefronts will be open as Circle Studio moves to an online business model.

Brigitte Taylor made the announcement in a newsletter to her members Friday.

“With business closed, no relief and still no unforeseeable lift in the next coming months, for close proximity meeting space we cannot financially continue to hold onto the physical spaces of Circle Studio,” writes Taylor.

Circle Studio operated out of two downtown storefronts offering group fitness sessions to its members including yoga, pilates and pound programs.

Taylor says they will be selling the studio’s equipment. But she will still have an online presence with her classes on Circle @



There will soon be four more vacant storefronts in Petrolia's downtown. Hub International is moving its office back to Sarnia. Circle Studio is closing its two locations and Inkworks Tattoos closed May 1.

Home.

The mayor is aware of more business trying to continue on, but he says whether that happens will have a lot to do with how fast the province begins to reopen the economy. He’s hoping that will happen soon.

“It is hard for small town who are always competing with the malls,” Loosley says adding Petrolia has done well to keep a viable downtown in the past.

But what should be done in the future to keep the downtown viable as



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

storefronts close? “There is no magic answer to that question...I still think the

people in Petrolia still realize our downtown and our local people are to try

to support them...I hope they can ride it out a little longer.”

Fire trucks cost jumps 18.7 per cent

CON'T FROM PG 1

Clemens’ report goes on to say the exchange rate increased dramatically in that time frame because of the economic uncertainty.

From February to April, the Canadian Dollar sunk from 0.72 cents on the US dollar to about 0.61 cents on the US dollar - that’s a 14 per cent increase. That means about \$218,409 of the increase could be attributed to the increasing exchange rate.

“Due to the increased cost due to the US dollar exchange rate a purchase agreement for the fire department’s pumper requirements/needs within the council approved amount is not possible without major changes to the specifications like the consideration of commercial chassis versus the current custom chassis,” Clemens says in the report.

He also indicated some items had been removed from the pumpers as he negotiated the new price, however they were not listed.

Councillors had some questions about the deal.

“It’s a significant increase of \$280,000,” says Councillor Bob Woolvett who is the chair of the fire board.

He was quoting a figure from the fire chief’s report which placed the increase at \$280,760.

“I get it is the difference in the dollar but I don’t think it is a \$280,000 difference in the US dollar. I’m not a mathematician,” says Woolvett.

The original cost of the trucks - \$1,549,000 - went up \$35,091 on top of the exchange rates.

Woolvett added he wondered if there had

been items added to the trucks instead of removed.

“I don’t have anything else to say about it because I don’t have the specifics.”

Councillor Netty McEwen also voiced concern.

“We’re not talking about 25 cents, we’re talking about a significant amount of money and I wonder if this motion is premature and we should be looking at it.”

“This includes everything that the firefighters wanted,” says Clemens.

“This is least amount of money being spent on US tax dollar exchange,” he said adding the deal included less than 50 per cent of the US exchange rate.

“Rather than rather bringing it down, we’re back to what we started with,” said CAO Carolyn Tripp. “They’re holding their price, not paying the exchange rate as well as not getting everything we wanted.”

Tripp said the purchase agreement could go back to the fire board but “any additional delays or changes could end us costing us more.”

Mayor Lonny Napper added the company had promised the cost of the trucks would not go any further.

The additional cost of the two trucks will go into the fire budget in 2021.

The trucks will be custom built and brought to the town in 395 days.

The tender documents call for a one year time frame.

Council agreed to the move with Councillor Gary Atkinson casting his yes vote saying “as long as we don’t buy any more fire trucks in the next 10 years...I don’t want to hear anymore about fire trucks.”

A MESSAGE FROM THE PETROLIA LIONS

First we would like to thank all the front line workers during this Corona Virus pandemic. To all the people that continue to support our food chain. To all the people that continue to supply much needed PPE to the front line and to the community for practicing safe hygiene and distancing, with all your help we will make it through this bad time in history!

Now we would like to take some time to let you know what our Service Club has been doing towards this fight against the Corona Virus.

- We have shut down all our Club Activities until safe to start fundraising again.
- We have started to have Zoom meetings to discuss important issues that have arisen.
- We have emptied our 3 freezers and donated the contents to the Inn of the Good Shepherd for their Soup Kitchen.
- We have made a \$500.00 donation to the Petrolia Food Bank.
- We have made a \$500.00 donation to the Oil Springs Food Bank.



Receiving Cheque is Robin Shepherd from the Oil Springs Food Bank from President Charlie Conrod, Petrolia Lions Club along with Ila & Chris Kimble.



Barb & her Granddaughter helper Miss Lydia making masks ! (“Life Skills Training”)

A donation of \$300.00 was made to Barb Fell Handcrafted Bags to make Face Masks for Bluewater Heath, Seniors and anyone that asked for one.

Much of the material was in stock waiting to be used in her Bag making for upcoming Art & Craft Shows that will not likely happen! 200 masks made so far.

Any sewers that would like the pattern, please e-mail Barb. b.fell@cogeco.ca

We are all in this Together

PETROLIA LIONS
SERVING SINCE 1932



Local farm leader says aid ‘a drop in the bucket’

Heather Wright
The Independent

Emery Huzska says a new federal aid package for farmers is a ‘drop in the bucket’ of what is needed. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the aid which includes money for food processors and buying up food stocks that can’t be sold. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture has said a \$2.5 billion bailout was needed. Trudeau told reporters Tuesday morning this is the “initial announcement” of aid. Huzska like many others, is facing a cash crunch. He has about 8,000 bushels of corn he’s waiting to ship to the local ethanol plant. The Florence farmer is counting on the shipment to help pay the mortgage. But, like many other farmers in the region, he’s not clear when he might ship that corn because local ethanol plants have slowed to a crawl. Demand for the additive for gasoline is low because fewer people are driving in the COVID-19 pandemic. The Grain Farmers of Ontario - which Huzska is a member of - more than half

of its 28,000 members are worried they will not be able to cover their 2020 planting costs. Ninety per cent expect their income will drop and this at a time when food security is a big topic. “I do not think the public, or the government, fully comprehend the impact of COVID-19 on grain farmers. Shutdowns at processing plants, decreased demand from a suffering retail sector, stalled markets and customers deferring contracts until who-knows-when are putting our industry in jeopardy,” said Markus Haerle, Chair, GrainFarmers of Ontario in a news release. “Ontario grain farmers are taking tremendous risks to put a crop in the ground this year, and if they don’t receive support or see a dramatic turnaround, their farms may not survive, and that’s everyone’s food supply that will suddenly be in danger,” Haerle said. Huzska says there are government loan programs, but all of that cash will eventually have to be returned. He adds the federal announcement will help the hard hit livestock industry

but leaves grain farmers out in the cold. Huzska says it is time for the province to step up as well. “We have a solution and it is in line with some government promises in the last election,”he says. The Conservatives promised \$50 million more for farm support programs in June 2019. “Enough is enough Mr. Hardeman (Ontario’s agriculture minister) do the job or get out the way and let someone else do it.” Huzska says the federal government needs some “creative thinking” and long term solutions. “We need methodical planning, not just knee jerk reactions...All that COVID-19 did was expose the pending issues ...that grain farmers for years have been ringing the bell about. “Food has received a lot of lip service from the provincial end but it doesn’t excuse the fact they had ample time to do something about this in advance.” Grain Farmers of Ontario is asking governments to improve the programs put in place to help farmers if their businesses are in a loss position because of this

pandemic, the response to it, and the recovery plans. It’s a call backed by the NDP which wants the province to remove the cap on the Risk Management Program and to direct Agricorp to expand coverage. It was wanted increased meat processing facilities. Huzska says this package doesn’t come close to delivering that. “Food matters and the government just doesn’t seem to get it. The package is \$7 per Canadian and one third of that went to processing companies,” he says noting three companies have control of all processing in the country. “In reality, how much support to agriculture did he give...at the end of the day, it is a drop in the buck and there is zero support for grain farmers.” Huzska adds it shows how “out of touch” political parties are with the way the food system in this country actually works. “The Canadian Federation of Agriculture brought out \$2.6 million - a real number for a real problem in agriculture. “This was less than a 10 per cent response.”

COVID-19 claims two more Lambton nursing home residents

Heather Wright
The Independent

The CEO of Vision Nursing Home says two residents have died of COVID-19. Heather Martin confirmed the two latest victims of the novel coronavirus in Lambton were residents of the Sarnia Home. They had been diagnosed April 23, when an outbreak was declared at the non-profit home. Martin says two staff members had left work after feeling ill. They were tested around the same time as Lambton Public Health began its mass testing of nursing homes. All 207 staff and residents had just been swabbed when Martin says they received the news. “It was a shock at the end of the day; we had just finished the whole building...and then we got the call from the health unit...there were staff off work already from the building,” she says. “We had our fingers cross that we had caught it in time.” Martin says the other two residents who tested positive for the virus are being monitored. One is doing well and the other is being closely watched, she says. So far, there have been no new cases, and Martin says the home could be out of the outbreak by this weekend if that continues. “It’s been very hard,” says Martin of the deaths and dealing with the outbreak. “I don’t have a lot of words that I can say; it breaks our hearts that this is

happening. We’ll get through it. “If anything gives you inspiration it is that the staff have stepped up to give so much of themselves to care for the residents.” Martin says about 10 workers have moved away from their families and into bachelor apartments at Vision so they can safely care for the residents. Lambton Public Health says as of late Monday there were 192 cases in the region – three more than Sunday. Public Health officials say three long term care homes are still dealing with outbreaks, Landmark Village, where 40 people were diagnosed with COVID-19 and six people have died, Sumac Lodge and Vision Nursing home. Meantime; the chief of medicine at Bluewater Health says the number of new COVID-19 cases seems to have stabilized. Bluewater Health has just nine people who have tested positive in the Intensive Care Unit – two are on ventilators according to Dr. Michael Haddad in a video released earlier this week. Fourteen others are in the COVID-19 unit who are waiting for test results. “This is down from our peak a week ago, when we had a total of 32 hospitalized patients, 11 of them who were critically ill,” Haddad says because of the community effort, the hospital system was not stretched for resources as many had feared. “Hospital occupancy is at 60 per cent, due to collective effort of the community...we seem to have stabilized the number of new

cases in the community and that took the pressure off the hospital dramatically.” Haddad says officials are watching for a “sustained decline” in the number of cases before ramping up services at the hospital including elective surgery. But while the number of patients continues to decrease, there is still concern for spread in the community. If you’re heading to the doctors when Ontario starts allowing offices to open again, you’ll need to wear a mask. Officials from the Central Lambton Family Health Team, in a social media post, says the province’s new updated guidelines for primary care settings recommends clinics encourage patients to wear their own mask – when possible – to office appointments. It offers the patient protection without further depleting personal protective equipment, according to the statement. It’s asking patients to wear a mask – which can be homemade – to appointments. Officials say if you don’t have a mask, one will be provided to you. Meantime, Plympton-Wyoming Deputy Mayor Muriel Wright suggested everyone leaving their house to wear a mask. “We need to be cautious in our own municipality of protecting our own citizens and our own businesses by maybe promoting the masks,” she told council. CAO Carolyn Tripp said that sort of discussion would take place on a county-wide level.

3DS

EATS & TREATS

516 692 9999

Wed. - Sun.
4-8pm

CURBSIDE
PICKUP
ONLY.

519-692-9999

6203 Fansher Road

FLORENCE, ONTARIO

TO ADDRESS COUNCIL DURING
AN ELECTRONIC MEETING

i.

during business hours, register by telephone with the Clerk’s Department at Town Hall, any time prior to close of business on the meeting date;

ii.

register by email with the Clerk’s Department at Town Hall, up to thirty (30) minutes in advance of the meeting start time;

iii.

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.

iv.

all persons registered to present verbally to Council, will be called upon by the Clerk during the appropriate portion of the meeting agenda. The Clerk will identify the presenters name an address and state “your line is open”

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

i.

once the Head of Council opens the opportunity, please state your name, address and topic, before proceeding

ii.

if more than one person comes forward, the Mayor will note the order in which Council will be addressed;

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

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

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

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

2. Enter the Meeting ID: **For Mon., May 11/20 7pm only: 625 227 744#**

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 are called upon to speak.

clerksoffice@petrolia.ca


(519)882-2350

PRO-TAX

PROFESSIONAL INCOME TAX SERVICES

• Personal • Small Business
• Rentals

Joanne Jamieson



By
Appointment
Only!

NEW CRA DEADLINE:
JUNE 1

Pick Up and Delivery Available

519-882-2966

jam_jo11@hotmail.com

3927 Petrolia Line

Opposite Meadowview Villa

www.protaxpetrolia.com

Editorial

Food security should be a priority

The numbers are staggering. The Grain Farmers of Ontario say half the farmers in this province don't know if they can find the money to start this year's crop. Ninety per cent expect to lose big money this year. They're worried about the lack of markets as ethanol plants - one of the main recipients of corn in this area - and livestock farmers need less grain in 2020. No one is driving and meat processing industry is in the thick of the problems with employees contracting the virus. That's likely to slow the need for grain as well. What would it look like if half the farmers didn't plant a crop this year? You can bet a \$4 loaf of bread would be considered a steal. And you can bet there would be a lot of farm families losing their land. So why did this announcement from the Grain Farmers of Ontario barely cause a whisper of concern? Skeptical journalists will say part of the problem is the news release was issued on a Friday - the desert where all news releases go to die. But that is likely only a small part of this.

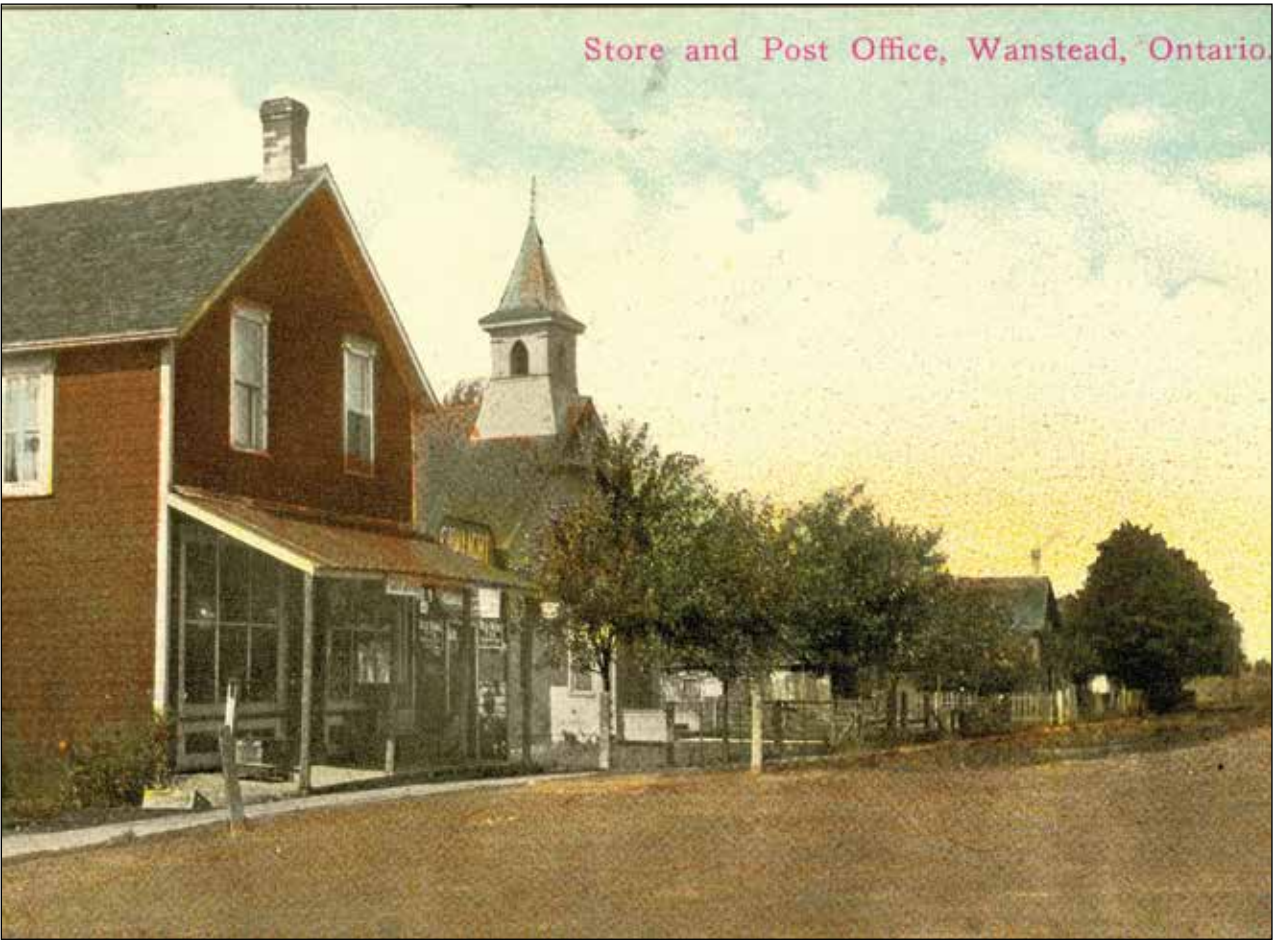
A better possibility is the amount of news being generated now. Even the all-news channels have a hard time catching up. How much attention is this going to get in a situation like that? But, we are saddened to point out, the more likely reason is the lack of understanding of agriculture's importance to Canadians and the people who lead them. In all of Canada, there are only 592,975 farmers - that's just 1.7 per cent of the population according to Statistics Canada. That's not a lot of votes if you're a politician looking for the biggest vote bank for your buck.

COVID-19 has shown the cracks and strains in our food production chains. Store shelves without products, meat packing plants without workers and grocery stores limiting just about everything should be enough to concern people. So far it hasn't. It's time for politicians to wake up. Let's hope people in the halls of power in Toronto and Ottawa start paying attention soon or there will be a lot fewer farmers and a lot of hungry Canadians.

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



A view of the once bustling community of Wanstead. In the foreground is the general store which was at one time owned by Ralph Annett. St Paul's Anglican Church was down the street. Today, the general store building remains however the church does not.

It's time for a filter check as we tough out COVID-19

I should never speak my mind. I should rephrase that; I should never speak my mind without engaging my internal filter. It would save me a lot of heartache and self guilt. I have a long history of this although I like to think I have upgraded my internal filter a number of times over the past few decades of my life and have learned to express concern without being a jackass. But I think I failed today. Someone came to me with a problem and their solution and instead of trying to be supportive, I made it about me. It did affect me, but my worries about the problem should have remained part of my internal conversation. Instead it slipped out of my mouth and I regret it. I think it is something that is happening to more of us right now than usual.

Let's face it, even if things are going okay for us personally, the world is in chaos around us - this pandemic has made us rethink everything we do and has given us a lot of time to think about it, too. I see the frustrations bubbling on social media. Everyone has an opinion about everything - which really isn't new. What's more prevalent is the desire to be right all the time - it is as though we have nothing better to do than to pick apart someone's argument for fun. It can get pretty ugly sometimes. It's like our collective filters have disappeared. Experts say that's not unusual. We're all just trying to get through this thing and it's not over yet. Some mental health experts even say the "trauma" of COVID-19 will have lasting effects.

It's all because we didn't really have time to prepare for all this; the job losses, economic consequences of that and the major changes in the way we do even the simplest things, like talking to parents and grandparents - it's enough to make you dizzy if you think about it. I'm trying to give myself a break about my lack of judgement. I'll apologize and try to do better. And maybe I can find someone to check my filter.



Heather Wright

www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca

The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0 • 226-738-0728

Subscription Rates: \$55.00/year within 50 kms of Petrolia Post Office
\$65.00/year outside of 50 km radius \$75.00/year other provinces
(HST included on all prices) Subscriptions are non-refundable

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

The contents of this newspaper are protected by copyright. No material from this edition may be reproduced without expressed written consent of The Independent of Petrolia & Central Lambton

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

Proud host of the Local Journalism Initiative

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada

TRAGEDY AT KIMBALL AND PETROLIA LINE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

At least one person has died after an accident at the corner of Kimball and Petrolia Line in St. Clair Township. Police, paramedics and the St. Clair firefighters came to the corner May 4 after a gravel truck and an SUV collided at the intersection around 12:30 pm. One person was pronounced dead at the scene. Another driver had life-threatening injuries. The passenger in the SUV was also injured. By press time, May 5, Lambton OPP had released no further information about the crash nor the condition of the other victim.

Waterville layoff continues until at least May 18

Heather Wright
The Independent

Workers at Waterville TG will be off the job until at least May 18. And union officials say when they return, it will be a massive change. Six hundred employees were first laid off March 20, when management said through a news release the move was for the maximum protection of their employees as well as the public as the COVID-19 pandemic first began to unfold. The workers were supposed to be back on the job by March 30. The lay-off was then extended to April 6 and then another week after that. At Easter, the workers got the news they would be back on the job Thursday, April 30 to make enough auto parts for the car companies which are expecting to start

production May 4, according to Daren Brown, the plant chairman for UAW Local 251. But the workers won't be going back for at least two weeks, says Brown. "The layoff has been extended further. Latest dates are May 18 and May 25. Brown says the company plans to stagger the opening with about a quarter of the staff returning May 18. "Different customers starting back up at different times," he says. The rest of the employees would return May 25. But Brown is quick to note that could change again depending on the Big Three Automakers time tables. "There is always a possibility of start being put off again," he says. When the workers do return, Waterville will look a lot different. Brown

says the company has been taking a lot of time to make sure the workers will be at a safe distance from each other to continue the social distancing which is required to stop the spread of COVID-19. "I have been on a plant tour last week that took three hours," he says. Members of the Health and Safety Committee say first hand some of the new safety measures including one way traffic in all possible areas including for pedestrians. There are cleaning stations in many areas including hand sanitizer, floor and walls now bear tape showing safe distance measurements and there is "lots of plexiglass at work stations," he says. "It is going to be a massive change for team members to become accustomed to upon return,,"

Alvinston man miffed at timing of bylaw blitz

Heather Wright
The Independent

Greg Hillyard says the timing couldn't be worse for Brooke-Alvinston to enforce its pool fencing bylaw. The Alvinston area man received a letter in the mail recently saying his above ground pool doesn't comply with the town's bylaw and needs a fence. The letter, signed by Clerk Administrator Janet Denkers, tells him his pool must be fenced by May 22, one month after the letter was written. If he doesn't, the letter says, he could face fines of about \$125 for a number of different infractions. Hillyard admits he "just went nuts" when he saw the letter. "I have no problem bringing it up to code - we could argue whether it is reasonable to have a fence around an above ground pool, but short of running in the next election and changing it, the bylaw is the bylaw." But Hillyard says the timing is not good. With the country in the middle of a pandemic and businesses every where struggling, asking people to pay for a fence - estimated at \$400 - and a \$250 building permit is likely to stretch some people's ability to pay. "My wife and I are in an financial position...that we can do this. We have the means although it is going to kick

our ass, the building permit alone is \$250." But Hillyard says Denkers told him there was a blitz to find pools without fences and 15 others received the same letter. "I can bet there are some people who will have to chose between paying for the building permit or buying groceries this month." And he says the timing is bad. It's planting season for farmers so finding the time in the next month to put up the fence might be difficult. And Hillyard is not even sure he could hire someone right now because he's not sure fencing is considered an essential service. Both Councillor Frank Nemcek and Mayor Dave Ferguson suggested there may be room to give an extension but Hillyard says no one put it in writing. Ferguson tells *The Independent* says town staff did investigate to find pools without fencing which has been required since council passed a bylaw in 2011 - five years after the province mandated fences for pools. He says the blitz was not at the direction of council. "Sooner or later it is the job of staff to make sure all bylaws were up to date...At no time when the inventory was taken did anybody trespass. It was all done from the roadside," he says. Some of the people who have received

the notice were concerned the municipality had to trespass to examine whether the pool had a fence or not. When questioned about the timing of the letter - during a pandemic when obtaining contractors or building supplies may not be as easy and money may be tighter than usual - Ferguson says the letters had to go out sometime especially since the pool season is coming soon. Ferguson adds the municipality and Lambton County building officials are not difficult to work with "if initiative is shown" by the homeowner to try to get the work done. "Nothing is automatic. Initiative has to be shown, progress has to be shown...Everybody is at home. Everyone has telephones...there are different hardware stores that are open. "You can be getting pricing from contractors; things can be shown that you are getting ready to do this ... showing an honest effort and some documentation." Hillyard suggested that the building fees be waived so people can get the fences up - Ferguson didn't answer that request directly saying only the bylaw is meant to keep everyone safe. "The bylaws were recommended by the pool associations and the firemen's association; because if there is a fire, you could go into a pool with the full bunker gear on."

Emery Huszka
Dealer - Florence ON,
226-373-6244

Julie Maw
Dealer - Courtright ON,
519-384-2281

Dave Foulon
Dealer - Tupperville ON,
519-683-2136

Dave Emery, Territory Manager
South Lambton ON,
519-360-6072

Kirk Van Will, Territory Manager
North Lambton ON,
519-899-3255



www.maizex.com

4488 Mint Line,
RR#2 Tilbury, Ontario
N0P 2L0



Support the Local Businesses
Who Help Support
Our Community



RBC Dominion Securities Inc.



Goal-based investing

Are you on track to meet your financial goals? Find out now with a complimentary discovery meeting with Taylor Wales of RBC Dominion Securities.

Taylor can be contacted confidentially at 519-337-3195 or taylor.wales@rbc.com.

For more information, visit www.taylorwales.ca.



Wealth Management
Dominion Securities

RBC Dominion Securities Inc.* and Royal Bank of Canada are separate corporate entities which are affiliated. *Member-Canadian Investor Protection Fund. RBC Dominion Securities Inc. is a member company of RBC Wealth Management, a business segment of Royal Bank of Canada. © / ™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. Used under licence. © 2020 RBC Dominion Securities Inc. All rights reserved. 20_90631_MSI_001

Petrolia  Dentistry



There's a home for
healthy, attractive smiles
in your neighbourhood

Looking for a dentist close to home?
Petrolia Dentistry offers dentistry for the whole family, from cleanings and exams to natural looking fillings, crowns, bridges & more.
With convenient hours and a clean modern office, you'll feel completely comfortable.

Dr. Mike Hoben
Dr. Rudha Al-Rohani
Dr. Rebecca Phillips

519-882-0520

430 Albany Street • petroliadentistry.com

THANKS FOR THE THANKS



PHOTO CREDIT

The staff at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital say the thanks they received for doing their job has been a bit shocking. The hospital staff has been receiving praise and gifts for being on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic. Registered Practical Nurse Emily Anjema says everyday she would come into the hospital and another person or business had dropped off lunch for the entire staff. “As scary as it was in the beginning, we were still working and that sat heavy with me,” says Anjema. Anastasia Carron, the interim manager of rural health care, agrees. “It was shocking. This is our job. This is what we do every day. It’s not something special or thank worthy; it’s not that we aren’t grateful, it is just shocking.” So Anjema felt hospital staff should help those who were being economically affected by the pandemic. She put out a box for donations to the Petrolia Food Bank and collected cash donations. Monday, Anjema and Carron handed over a box of food and over \$700.

Heritage Heights sold

The Independent

It appears Petrolia’s historic golf course will be in new hands this summer. Joe and Jenna Gorzeman – of Crabby Joes and the soon-to-be built Kingswell Hotel – posted a video on the Heritage Heights Facebook page of a golf cart tour over the greens last night. “This is about as official as it gets right now,” the social media post says adding a news release would be coming soon. The club has a long history. It was built as a private six-hole course by Jacob Englehart – one of Petrolia’s oil barons – in the 1890s. Then it was called

Glenview. In 1922, it was bequeathed to the Town of Petrolia. A new clubhouse was built in 1965 and a curling rink in 1969. By 2001, the course expanded to 18 holes around the Glenview Estates. In 2014, it was sold to Chris and John Williams. By the spring on 2019, they were facing hard choices. A Facebook post at the time said they had hoped to sustain the operation by developing more lots along the course but that didn’t happen. “We have given a lot of money and effort into improving the course and



clubhouse with the goal of trying to maintain a break even position,” the post read. So, in April, Randy Singh purchased the course. The Gorzeman’s are currently working on the grounds and clubhouse. It’s not clear when the club will reopen.

St. Clair says no to new Wilkesport tower

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

First there was too little competition, now there appears to be too much. St. Clair Township Council Council has turned down an internet company which wanted to expand into Wilkesport. Xplornet had proposed a 45 metre (147 foot) lattice tower at 1622 Baby Rd. - the Wilkesport Community Centre - with the intention of provid-

ing wireless internet service to clients in the area. Monday night, councillors raised the point that there are already plans to bring fibre optic internet to the area over the next year through a partnership with Cogeco. Another tower may over-saturate the market, and leave the town with a little-used eyesore if customers opt for the fibre-optic route. There was also concern of the tower’s immediate proximity to the road, should it ever fall over.

THE #1

REASON FOR READING

PRINTED COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS IS

LOCAL NEWS

Source: News Media Canada

ORDER BY PHONE

No Contact Delivery

OR Curbside Pick Up

always in bloom

FLOWERS, SILKS 'N' GIFTS

Send some love this ...

Mother's Day

Sunday May 10th

- Fresh Bouquets
- Greeting Cards
- Patio Pots
- Dish Gardens

4183 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-882-9034

www.alwaysinbloom.ca

Credit Card Orders Gladly Accepted By Phone

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

in the

Townships of Dawn-Euphemia and Enniskillen to

Destroy Noxious Weeds

Under the Weed Control Act. R.S.O. 1990, Chapter W.5 Section 3, 16, 22 and 23 you are requested to destroy all noxious weeds on your property. If weeds are not destroyed, the Act allows the municipality to enter upon the said land(s) and have the noxious weeds or weed seeds destroyed charging the costs to the landowner.

All properties within the Townships of Dawn-Euphemia & Enniskillen are hereby requested to be in compliance with the Weed Control Act by the 6th of May, 2020 and throughout the growing season.

Township of Dawn-Euphemia

Donna Clermont, Administrator-Clerk

519-692-5148

Township of Enniskillen

Duncan McTavish Administrator-Clerk

519-882-2490

County of Lambton

Duane McKay Weed Inspector

1-866-324-6912

OPP say birthday parades okay but they won't join

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The birthday parades and drive-by salutes will keep on rolling in Lambton County, as long as social distancing guidelines continue to be followed.

The issue was raised last week at the county's Emergency Control Group Update meeting, due to concerns from the Ontario Provincial Police.

The OPP stressed that any traditional parades were not allowed due to the provincial Emergency Act order limiting gatherings to five people or less.

Regarding the popular birthday parade and salute to health care

worker convoys that have sprung up, the OPP said that while "any circumstance that has potential to draw a crowd should be avoided," they will not be taking action against them.

They will however no longer be taking part in these events, a change in policy from early last month when the OPP were active participants.

The police force says that due to operational reasons they were unable to maintain participation. The OPP instead switched to posting signs of support around various communities to show their support to front-line workers.

Bill Weber, warden for Lambton County, says that during

discussions with the OPP they raised concerns about people on lawns coming up to cars in the convoy to chat.

"It's not recommended," Weber said of the drive-bys. "There's other ways to show support for those front-line workers that are safer."

"When we get all through this and we get everybody safe again we'll have parades and celebrations. But right now it doesn't help with social distancing."

Last week the city of Burlington banned vehicle parades of more than five cars, citing public safety and difficulty in maintaining social distancing.



ALEX KURIAL PHOTO

Lambton OPP are opting for signs to show support for front line health care workers instead of joining parades.

Province gives guide to start up

The Independent

The province has prepared guidelines for 60 sectors of the economy to help prepare for reopening. That includes posters available to drive home the safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 like this one for the agriculture industry.

You will see a lot of plexi glass and floor markings as Ontario opens up for business in the next few weeks.

The provincial government released guidelines for 61 different sectors on how to prepare for reopening.

Much of the advice is the same as what we've been hearing for the past six weeks, employees should frequently wash hands, keep six feet between themselves and the customers, limit the number of people at a workplace by staggering shifts and doing only critical work, limiting the number of suppliers coming through the store and laying out a plan for movement through the store or business, like grocery stores have by placing markings on the floor.

There is also specific guidelines on how to keep workplaces safe with intensive cleaning measures.

The province is also suggesting each employer have health screening for workers. And in some industries, recommends giving employees their own hand sanitizers to use.

Labour Minister Monte McNaughton also says 58 more inspectors will be hired to keep workers safe.

The new inspectors will join the hundreds of existing provincial labour inspectors on the ground from the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) and the Ontario College of Trades (OCOT), and communicate COVID-19 safety guidelines to essential workplaces or enforcing emergency measures, including physical distancing and the closure of non-essential businesses.

McNaughton told reporters the inspectors will be helping the sectors follow the rules but will eventually have the authority to fine people under the Workplace Health and Safety Act.

Plastic to be banned

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The Lambton-kent District wants to make single use plastics a thing of the past.

The initiative comes following an October 2019 board meeting in which it was decided that "the board explore ways to phase out and reduce single use plastics and produce a report outlining what steps are doable with recommended timelines." Catalysts for this movement included increased awareness of negative environmental impact, the federal government's plan to enact a similar ban as early as 2021, and the neighbouring Greater Essex school board having established a plastic reduction plan of their own.

It is estimated that only around 10 per cent of plastic waste is recycled in Canada each year, with more than three million tonnes thrown away.

To achieve this goal, the board resolved to establish a committee to prioritize what elements of the district's plastic use can be eliminated, and how they can go about achieving this. The committee will be complemented by engagement with stakeholders as to why this move is important, as well as a financial breakdown of what any changes would cost.

Currently, the district's heaviest use of single use plastics comes through garbage bags, 713,900 of which were purchased during the last school year. 230,000 gloves were purchased, along with 10,152 water bottles.

Director of education John Howitt says safety will come first and emergencies some plastic may have to be used.



Don't believe everything you see.

Is this a credible **S**ource?
Is the **P**erspective biased?
Are **O**ther sources reporting the same story?
Is the story **T**imely?

You can SPOT and stop fake news online by asking four simple questions.

HOW TO
SPOT
FAKE NEWS ONLINE

www.spotfakenews.ca

Thank You

FRONTLINE WORKERS!

LiUNA!

LABOURER'S INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA
LABOURER'S LOCAL 1089 **SARNIA**

Pipeline under St. Clair almost done

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Enbridge’s is on the final phase of the underwater pipeline connection to the United States.

The gas company had been welding a pipeline that would run deeper underwater than the existing one as part of the repairs to Line 5.

Shell Canada’s property along the LaSalle Line has been the site of the work to piece together numerous 40 foot segments of pipeline, which started in October. All told it added up to a 685 metre segment that has now successfully been pulled from the Canadian side to Michigan across the St. Clair River. The project is estimated to cost around \$20 million.

Enbridge senior advisor of community relations Ken Hall says the process was an impressive engineering feat.

“The first milestone was digging the new bore hole underneath the river. We used a horizontal directional drill to blow a hole underneath the river from the American side to the Canadian side. And then we pulled the pipe back through that hole on Wednesday,” Hall says. Following the welding, the pipeline also had to undergo a pressurized water test before being placed.

“River crossings can be challenging, and that’s why it’s a milestone because we did

it with no incidents, issues or problems. The pipeline can get stuck when you’re pulling it through the hole, so you’re always concerned about that. But we had no problems at all, so we’re all very happy.”

Next up for Enbridge is connecting this segment of pipe to their facility on Plank Rd. “What we’ll do is tie in valves on each side of the river, and connect it to the pipe that goes into Michigan and the pipe that comes from the river up to our terminal,” Hall says.

He expects this final phase of the pipeline connection project to be completed around the end of June.

The existing underwater pipe remains in place for the time being. Serving as the oil supplier for refineries in the area, Enbridge will need to schedule a temporary outage (lasting around 72 hours) to complete the connection.

Hall says COVID safety regulations brought extra challenges, but the project went off safely with nobody getting sick. “We did all the work with social distancing, which is challenging when you’re building something. We’re really happy with the safety that’s been applied to this project, in what are obviously very abnormal conditions for everyone. Being able to do the work with that extra challenge, we’re really proud of the accomplishments so far.”

Alvinston food bank founder dies

The Independent

One of the driving forces behind Alvinston’s food bank has passed away.

Pat Copeland died Sunday, April 26.

Copeland was among the people who started the Alvinston Food Bank in 2017.

At the time, she said, one in three people at the Petrolia Food Bank were from her community

and a local food bank was needed. It continues to provide help in the community every other Wednesday.

Copeland was also active in her church, Hope United, including being involved in the summer camps and vacation bible school. For many, she was the friendly face at the arena’s canteen for years.

Copeland, who most recently lived in Oil Springs, was 67.



Pat Copeland



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Lorne C Henderson will not be open for campers Victoria Day weekend.

No May 24 camping at conservation areas

The Independent

There will be no camping on the May long weekend in local conservation areas this year.

The St. Clair Region says A.W. Campbell, Lorne C. Henderson and Warwick Conservation Areas to recreational seasonal and overnight campers will remain closed to campers until May 31.

Previously, the opening had been delayed

from April 24 to May 14.

“The SCRCA understands the frustration and disappointment our visitors may have with this decision, but the health and safety of our communities and staff is of paramount importance,” says Brian McDougall, general manager of the conservation authority. “The opening of the camping season will be determined based on the guidance of health officials.” The provincial parks are also closed to May 31.

SCENIC SIDEWALK



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Joseph Burlingham works on a chalk outline of Charlene Burlingham in Crescent Park in Petrolia Saturday. The Burlinghams and the Hepplers spent hours decorating the entire sidewalk with encouraging words, rolls of toilet paper and drawings

LOOKING FOR VENDORS

2020 DATES

May 16 through October 10

7:30 a.m. – noon

396 Fletcher Street (behind the Library)

OPENING POSTPONED, WATCH FOR NEW DATE!

For more info please call (519)882-2350 or visit <http://town.petrolia.on.ca/residents/farmers-market/>

Sports

Fulcher recovering from surgery in Brigden; working to get to next level

Heather Wright
The Independent

Kaden Fulcher is working hard to make it to the next level of pro hockey.

The Brigden goalie talked to students at Lambton Centennial School in their internet classroom Tuesday about his rise through the ranks of hockey from Mooretown to the Detroit Red Wings.

Fulcher has been playing with the Toledo Walleye - the AA farm team of the Detroit Red Wings however he’s been out with an injury since October.

Fulcher had surgery two-and-a-half months ago to shave a bone growth from his hip. “It’s a surgery a lot of guys have,” he says.

He was just beginning his rehab when the pandemic started closing borders. He returned to Brigden with instructions for his workouts in hand and then met with his doctors via video link to check his progress.

Fulcher says the players are in summer mode right now but he has his mind set on moving up the ladder of professional hockey, closer to the NHL.

He says Toledo is a “really good

East Coast organization but the next step is the first affiliated team, the Grand Rapids Griffons.

“I’m trying to work my way up.”

Fulcher has already had a taste of the big leagues; last year, he was called up by the Detroit Red Wings for a handful of games. It was an experience he won’t soon forget.

“It was surreal coming from Brigden, Ontario and coming from humble parents,” he says. “Wow, this is unbelievable stepping on the ice with the best players in the world...it is surreal that a kid from Brigden is on the ice with them.”

Fulcher says he only made it there because his dad instilled in him the importance of hard work.

“My dad taught me to work hard for everything you want in life,” he says.

“It didn’t matter what I did...as long as I was working hard at what I was doing, he and mom would be proud of me and I would go somewhere.”

Ironically, while Fulcher loves hockey as a teen he didn’t make the LCCVI high school squad.

He tried out in Grade 9, but there were other Grade 12 students who deserved the opportunity, he says.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students from the Grade 5/6 class at Lambton Centennial School had a chance to talk to Kaden Fulcher about hockey and some of the most important things in life including working hard for what you want.

By Grade 10, he had been drafted into the Ontario Hockey League and that meant he couldn’t play high school sports.

If he could have, Fulcher told the students, he would have played

basketball.

Right now, Fulcher is working hard on his rehab and spending time with his German Shepherd whom he loves like “a son.”

And he’s waiting to hear how

hockey will be affected by the ongoing pandemic.

Right now, he’s not expecting to cross the border for any mini camps, but hopes to be back in the US soon with his skates on.

Peer Rookie of the Year

Barry Wright
The Independent

Carson Peer was surprised to the point of being speechless when he was named Rookie of the Year by the Sarnia Legionnaires for the 2019-20 season.

“I didn’t expect it at all,” said the Oil City product when the announcement was made online last weekend.

The Grade 11 student at LCCVI had seven goals and six assists in 49 regular season games in his first season with the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League club. He added two assists in four playoff games against the top-rated London Nationals.

The Lambton Jr. Sting graduate said the speed of the game, both mentally and physically, was the main difference in moving up from minor hockey to Junior B.

“It’s a lot faster and there are stronger players out there,” he said. “You’ve got to make smarter decisions.”

Despite not being able to workout at a gym due to COVID-19 precautions, the 16-year old is running five kilometres every day and trying to access online workouts to stay in shape during the offseason.

Peer, who attended the OHL Combine in 2019 but was not drafted, hopes to receive an invitation to the OHL mini-camp later this summer. He says Sarnia, Niagara and Sudbury have shown an interest to this point.

“That’s my plan--to play in the OHL.” But, if that doesn’t happen, Peer could be counted on to contribute more offensively in his sophomore season with the Legionnaires. “We’re losing a whole bunch of guys from this year,” he said. “I’m pretty sure we’ll be a really young team next year.”

Elementary sports officially done

The Independent

With schools across the province closed until the end of May, the Lambton Kent Elementary School Athletic Association has made the logical, but difficult decision to shut down the rest of the spring sports season.

LKESAA directors were informed by email yesterday.

Track and field and soccer were on the spring calendar; with the latter

being moved to the spring from the fall as a trial this year. Organizers had hoped to wrap up the basketball season after the March Break, but never got a chance due to COVID-19 restrictions.

“It’s unfortunate for both staff and students alike who look forward to participating in school sports,” says Petrolia association director Steve McGrail.

“Here’s hoping things calm down and we can look forward to school sports when we return in the fall.”

SPORTS TIP? CALL 226-738-0728

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Annual Vegetation Management Program

Every year, CN is required to clear its right-of-way from any vegetation that may pose a safety hazard. Vegetation on railway right-of-way, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to trackside fires and impair proper inspection of track infrastructure.

As such, for safe railway operations, the annual vegetation control program will be carried out on CN rail lines in the province of Ontario. A certified applicator will be applying herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 16-foot gravelled area). All product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be fulfilled.

At this time, we expect that the program will take place from May to October 2020.

Visit cn.ca/vegetation to consult the list of cities as well as the updated schedule.

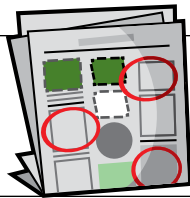
Safety is a core value at CN and in the actual context of the COVID-19 pandemic, our employees and contractors are taking all measures to stay healthy and to protect the communities in which we operate. For more information, please visit cn.ca/covid-19-update.

For more information, please contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.

cn.ca

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

Real Estate

FARMS FOR SALE

Brooke - 100 Acres/Building Site - Tiled, Level Fertile Soil

Watford - 127 Acres, 114 Ac. W. Bare Land, Tile, Fertile Soil

Brooke-Alvinston - 100 Ac/bldg. site/wooded/Sydenham River

Collingwood - 95 Acres, 70 ac. workable (building site potential)

Watford - 24 ac. bare land, residential/development

FARM TO BE SOLD BY REAL ESTATE TENDER

DAWN-EUPHEMIA - 100 Ac/bldg. site/wooded/60 +/- Workable

TENDERED TO BE SUBMITTED BY NOON MAY 15TH, 2020

(Being sold subject to sellers' reserve price)

CALL FOR DETAILS

Thinking of selling your farm?
Call us today to discuss many ways
of marketing your farm!

SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

7963 Egremont Road, Watford • 519.849.6783 www.shanahanrealty.com

Leo Shanahan Sales Representative

Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Fax: 519.849.6683

In Memory

In Loving Memory of

Ray Lewis

who passed away
one year ago on May 7, 2019.

A Dear Husband, Step-father,
Grandfather & Great Grandfather

You are always on our mind,
no matter what we do,
and the memory of those Happy Days
Which we spent with you.

Forever loved and missed
Helen & Family

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**

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.**

Death Notices Apr. 28 to May 3, 2020

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 28 HALL, Judy Age 69, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home GOWRIE, Harold "Pete" Age 82, of Brigden Steadman Brothers Funeral Home CARSON, Norma Marie Age 84, of Point Edward McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home	FRIDAY, MAY 1 PERLMAN, Frederick Age 96, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 DUNLOP, Don Age 57, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home WILES, Nore Ann Age 91, of Point Edward McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home DEBOER, Froukje "Frances" Age 92, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	SATURDAY, MAY 2 MURRAY, Melissa Age 43, of Arkona Denning's of Forest POOK, Christian Age 47, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home SEYBOLD, Erika Age 84, of Forest Denning's of Forest
THURSDAY, APRIL 30 KRISTIANSEN, Gail Age 75, of Grand Bend Gilpin Funeral Home MILLER, Thomas Age 79, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home	SUNDAY, MAY 3 FARR, Theresa "Terri" Age 59, of Ipperwash Gilpin Funeral Home SCOTT, Grant Age 78, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home BRESSETTE, Florence Betty Age 80, of Oneida Denning's of Forest LALONDA, Margaret Age 89, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

WANTED

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

Coming Events

LOC Online Presentation Series - The Lambton Outdoor Club has an outline presentation series on **"Newfoundland Once in a Lifetime"** on **Friday May 8, 2020 from 2pm - 2:45pm** at NO FEE. Register by 8am on May 8th. For more information and to register go to **www.lambtonoutdoor.com**

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.

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.**

Coming Events

Relay At Home - This year, we have reimagined Relay For Life into Relay At Home – a new, fun and interactive way for you to Relay online from the comfort of your home and respect physical distancing. Participants of all ages are welcome to attend the online event on **June 13 from 7 – 9 p.m. EST.** Relay At Home will have interactive activities for all ages and feature the hallmark components from our in-person events to help celebrate survivors and remember those we've lost to cancer. Donations will support people living with cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Register today at www.relayforlife.ca/sarnia**



Notice

Petrolia Farmers' Market - The open-air Petrolia Farmers' Market, scheduled to open Saturday, May 16, 2020, will be **delayed** while staff work with vendors to make changes to safety protocols and work with Lambton Public Health to limit social gathering at the site. Once the new regulations and layout have been tested and Lambton Public Health approves the changes, we will open for the season. A new starting date will be available soon, residents are thanked for their patience as we navigate these changes.

Notice

LAMBTON COUNTY LIBRARY WEBSITE - IT'S HERE! Lambton County Library has launched our NEW website! It provides users with an improved experience and the ability to quickly access essential information, including programs, online resources, hours of operation, and the library catalogue. Take a moment to check it out.

Helping Hands

of Petrolia & Central Lambton

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

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

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

This Public Service Announcement is brought to you by

Deadline

for all classified ads is Monday at 12 noon
for the paper that prints and distributes Wed-Thurs

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
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 13	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Euchre	
May 14	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Club Meat Raffle @ Haywoods	
May 14	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Fun Darts	
May 14	Petrolia	Petrolia Optimist Meat Raffle @ Crabby Joe's	
May 16	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Meat Raffle	
May 17	Mooretown	Victorian Tea at The Moore Museum	
May 17	Sarnia	Vintage and Fries under the Bluewater Bridges	
May 17	Sarnia	Lambton Outdoor Club North Sydenham River Paddle Trip	
May 18	Watford Alvinston	Watford Alvinston Road Race - full refunds will be given to those who pre-registered	
May 19	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Dabber Meat Bingo	
May 20	Camlachie	Bible Study Group at the Camlachie United Church.	
May 20	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Euchre	
May 27	Petrolia	Petrolia Library's free workshop for legal advise regrading Landlord & Tenant Board	
May 29	Sarnia	ARLANXEO Retiree Dinner Committee	
May 30	Corunna	Corunna Legion Open Jam Session	
May 30	Sarnia	Sarnia 3 on 3 Street Hockey Challenge	
May 30	Sarnia	Bluewater Anglers "Kids Training Day"	
Jun 5	Petrolia	Victoria Playhouse Petrolia 2020 Theater Season	
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	

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 Postpoined until 2021	
Apr 11	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optimist Club Triva 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
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	Enniskille 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 Optmist Club's Cowboy Breakfast has been moved tio August 30, 2020	
Jun 21	Oil Springs	Oil City Cemetery Decoration Day Service	TBD

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

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

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

email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com

www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

Find us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia

Business & Service Directory

The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

Demi Krall Sales Associate

4156 Petrolia Line

Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

Phone 226.738.0728

sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

BOURQUE RENOVATIONS

Formerly Bourque Woodworks

Additions - Renovations
Kitchens & Baths
Trim Work - Custom Carpentry

329 Centre St., Petrolia

www.bourquerenovations.com

519-882-3344

Advertise your business or service here for as little as

\$29.50 per week.

Call and find out more 226-738-0728

GB Excavating

Excavating/Septic

Steve Greer

Owner

4396 Nauvoo Rd.
Watford ON
N0M 2S0
519-494-1855

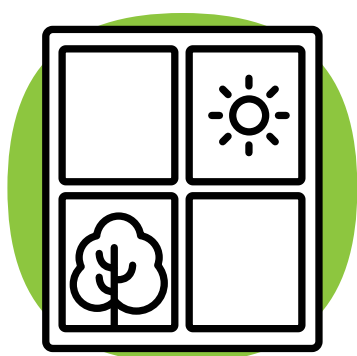
gbexc@brktel.on.ca
gbexcavating.ca

519-882-3344

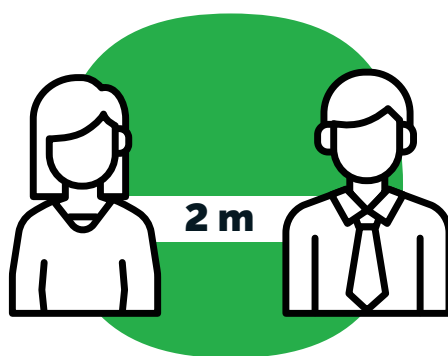
2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario 