

## Petrolia cuts capital projects to balance 2020 budget

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia will delay capital projects to help deal with a deficit created by revenue shortfalls during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Administrative Officer, Rick Charlebois, submitted a report to council about the measures taken to deal with the fast-paced changes brought about by COVID-19.

The report says even with cancelling the season which puts a stop to most of the spending, Victoria Playhouse Petrolia, has a \$151,000 deficit.

The report shows with the cancellation of the season, the VPP will spend \$1,259,033 less than anticipated since there are no performers to pay and sets to build.

Any costs already incurred will be transferred to the 2021 season. The \$151,000 deficit will be covered by the VPP reserve.

Charlebois says the town is also anticipating some financial help from upper levels of government for the theater.

The town has also delayed about \$184,000 in projects, everything from holding off on putting up a new entrance sign on Oil Heritage Road near Waste Management, to delaying the engineering work for Victoria Hall's \$9.2 million renovation pegged at \$100,000.

SEE ROADS PG 2

## FIREFIGHTERS SUITING UP



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Petrolia North Enniskillen firefighters remove personal protective equipment at the scene of a medical call recently. It's part of the department's COVID-19 protocols. See more on page 3.

## Judge says injuries to son sentence enough after tragic accident

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia judge says a Central Lambton man had already been punished enough after a tragic accident which seriously injured his son.

Justice Anne McFadyen gave the man a conditional discharge in court May 25 after he was charged

with criminal negligence causing bodily harm. There is a publication ban to protect the identity of the child.

On Sept. 14, the man and his family and friends were burning brush on his property. They began to experiment, blowing up small bottles with gunpowder, before making a homemade potato gun.

After multiple unsuccessful

attempts to launch a potato out of a steel pipe, additional gunpowder was added. The pipe exploded, launching pieces everywhere including hitting the man's son.

The boy was taken to hospital with serious injuries life-long injuries.

"This has been one of the most difficult things my family and I have ever gone through," the

man said through tears as he was sentenced.

Both the man's lawyer and the Crown Attorney agreed with the conditional discharge.

"It was an accident, but obviously a negligent accident that caused extreme difficulties to an important person in the accused's life," Crown Attorney David Nicol said.

Justice McFadyen agreed saying much of the punishment had already occurred the day of the incident, and the suggested sentence, including nine months of probation, was appropriate.

"Certainly the background to this matter is extremely tragic. (The accused) and his family will live with the consequences of his actions that day forever."

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# Road work may be halted to balance Petrolia budget

CON'T FROM PG 1

The plan also calls for all road repaving - valued at \$454,062 - to be put on hold. Charlebois says the plans will remain in place, and if the federal and provincial governments roll out infrastructure programs to get people working again, the town will apply for funding to complete the work.

One project which will move ahead is the reconstruction of Wingfield Street. Work there is expected to begin in July.

And there will be at least one area where spending increases. The town plans to spend about \$13,883 in marketing to put together a plan to promote local merchants who have been deeply affected by the two month shutdown and the shuttering of the theatre for the summer. Restaurants and shops are expected to feel the effect since 40,000 tourists will be staying home this year.

Charlebois says the staff has already started tracking costs related to COVID-19 and plan to apply for any special funding to help cover the extras.

The report also gave an indication of when the municipal administrators think the province will open up some key assets. Charlebois report suggests that minor hockey and figure skating will be up and running as usual in the fall and his plan assumes the community recreation centre, run by the Y, will reopen in July. He based that on the fact other provinces plan to open gyms in June.

None of the councillors commented on the directions the administrator had already taken and Councillor Marty Souch, who was going to ask for a similar report at Monday’s meeting, says he’s satisfied the administrators have done what is necessary for now.

# Meadowview facing another case of COVID-19

Heather Wright  
The Independent

A Petrolia nursing home is again facing a COVID-19 outbreak. And again, it is one employee at Lambton Meadowview Villa who has tested positive for the respiratory virus. Jane Joris, general manager of long term care for Lambton, says they learned Monday a staff member has COVID-19.

The person last worked May 19 and had not been in contact with any staff or residents since the symptoms developed.

Joris says the staff member was going through a routine health check and complained of a headache - one of the rarer symptoms of COVID-19.

“So the nurse said to the person, ‘you should go get tested and don’t come back until you’re feeling better or we hear about your tests though.’ So they did go get tested. I don’t know what day the person was tested. I sure hope it wasn’t the 19th because we didn’t get the results until yesterday (Monday) night.”

Joris says some of the testing results from the home can take a long time to be reported particularly if the person tests negative.

Joris says the staff member is recovering and if all goes well, and no other cases are detected, the home will be out of the outbreak by next week.

Lambton Public Health declares an outbreak in the home even if only one person tests positive for the virus.

But Joris says in the time of COVID-19, that doesn’t change a lot of what they do.

“The only thing that really changes is we won’t be doing any admissions....because we have all kinds of precautions in place already all the time.”

Joris admits it does raise the anxiety level a bit inside the home, adding that anxiety is always at a low level for staff right now.

“We’ve been really trying to check in with people and I sort of believe that this is kind of a new normal - the directives and the infection control stuff is it’s a new way we do things and that’s just the way we do it now.”

The administrator adds the staff member had no contact with patients or staff the day the symptoms were reported, so no one is in isolation.

Joris knows that doesn’t make the outbreak any easier for families who have not been in the home to see the residents for over two months.

“I’m sure they’re afraid and when they get that phone call or that email that they probably think, ‘oh, my goodness, what’s gonna happen next,’ and without that direct contact with people, it’s gotta be hard.”

In April, another employee tested positive, however the virus did not spread within the home which has 125 residents.

Joris says they are working with public health for the same outcome this time.

“Our priority is ensuring the continued health and wellbeing of our residents, their families and our staff.”

There are now four nursing homes in Lambton with active COVID-19. Recently Vision Nursing Home in Sarnia has dealt with 42 cases and six deaths in its facility.

Make your own granola bars full of carrots, apples and oats. Good for breakfast or lunch boxes, or anytime you need a high-energy treat. Instead of nuts, substitute dried cranberries, coconut, chocolate or butterscotch chips.

## Ingredients

- 2 cups (500 mL) quick-cooking rolled oats
- 1 cup (250 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1 cup (250 mL) grated Ontario Carrots
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) diced Ontario Apple (skin on)
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) each roasted unsalted sunflower seeds and toasted chopped walnuts
- 2 tsp (10 mL) ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt
- 1 Ontario Egg
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) canola oil

- 1/3 cup (75 mL) each Ontario Honey and packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla

## Directions

Line a 13 x 9-inch (3.5 L) baking pan with foil, leaving 2-inch (5 cm) overhang at each end; grease foil. In large bowl, combine oats, flour, carrots, apple, sunflower seeds, walnuts, cinnamon and salt. In medium bowl, whisk egg, oil, honey, sugar and vanilla until blended. Pour over dry ingredients and mix until thoroughly combined. Spoon mixture into prepared pan,

press firmly into an even layer with a spatula. Bake in 375°F (190°C) oven for about 30 minutes or until lightly browned around the edges and firm to the touch. Let cool completely in pan on rack. Using foil overhang as handles, remove from pan and transfer to cutting board. With large knife cut into bars. Store covered in the refrigerator.

## Tip

Freeze wrapped bars in an air-tight container. Thaw at room temperature for 15 minutes or pack frozen into lunch box.



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# Talks to bring families back to homes underway

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The head of Lambton’s long term care division says there are discussions underway at the provincial level to find a way to allow families back into nursing homes to support their loved ones.

On March 16, the province locked down all long term care homes to stop the spread of COVID-19 to the vulnerable population. Even so, nursing homes across the province have been fighting to keep the virus at bay. More than 70 per cent of the people who have died of COVID-19 in Ontario have been in long term care homes.

Tuesday, the province released a damning report from Canadian military personnel who have been working in five of the hardest hit homes in the Greater Toronto Area. The premier pledged Ontario’s Chief Coroner would look into the deaths there and forward his investigation to police to see if criminal charges should be laid.

But there also have been calls to allow families to return to the homes and Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade thinks it should be considered.

Ranade says there are residents who are “really suffering from not seeing their loved ones and that is important to consider. I have always been a strong supporter to a humane approach to the situation which includes getting people to see the loved ones.”

But he says some basic questions have to be answered, including is there enough personal protective equipment to give to visitors and would it be an occupational health and safety risk for staff.

Ranade says the public has to adapt and start to live with COVID-19. “We know that there is transmission despite these things (strict measures including lock down)

“It is time to think about how do we incorporate this into our lives.”

Jane Joris, the head of long term care in Lambton,

says there are discussions taking place in with Public Health Ontario officials about how families can return. At least one of the options under consideration is visiting outdoors to lessen the possibility of COVID-19 entering the homes - its a tactic Manitoba is using.

“Everybody recognizes how difficult this is for families with people in residence,” says Joris.

“We are worried about people’s emotional health. And we have upped our social work staff as well as recreation staff so even though we can’t do group activities, we’re making sure that people have a little bit of socialization every day in some way, shape or form.

“But we are worried about people, there’s no question about that.”

During a news conference Tuesday, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath was asked if it was time to push for families to be allowed back into long term care homes, particularly since many are concerned after hearing the report from the military.

“If we valued support of family members we would find a way to gown them up and get them in there,” she told reporters.

“But I can’t even put that in my mind right now, these practical solutions.”

Instead, Horwath called for the resignation of the Long Term Care minister saying the government knew how bad some nursing homes were. And she called for a full public inquiry into Ontario’s nursing home system. Premier Ford has committed to an independent commission, focusing on the problems around COVID-19. He says the solutions could be put in place faster then.

Horwath disagrees. “An internal investigation is not what people deserve, it keeps everything in the back rooms, ...everything cleansed by the government.

“We need a full public inquiry of not only COVID-19 but on entire long term care system.

“The public interest has to be the top priority,” she says.

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# Firefighters suit up for medical calls

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Lambton County firefighters are not going to as many medical calls as usual.

But when they are, at least some of them are wearing a whole different type of uniform.

Across the county, the standards have changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Petrolia/North Enniskillen Chief Jay Arns says medical calls have for some time made up more about 80 per cent of the calls firefighters attend. Now, with new guidelines for COVID-19, medical assist calls are well below 50 per cent.

Right now, Arns says anytime firefighters go to any call, they put on surgical masks in the trucks since they are in close quarters and can’t be six feet apart.

At the scene, two members will dress in what is basically the fire department’s hazardous materials protective equipment and head into the building first to see what is going on.

“We treat it more like a haz-mat scene,” says the chief. Personal protective equipment is expensive and equipping two firefighters immediately and calling in others only if they are needed preserves their supplies, he says.

At a recent medical call on Petrolia’s main street, firefighters in haz-mat suits came out of the building and removed their equipment and tossed it into a garbage bag to be disposed of. Bleach wipes and sanitizer could also be seen nearby for the firefighters to make sure they followed protocols.

Even the way the department debriefs after an incident has changed; everyone stays well apart as they dissect what has happened

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Firefighters in haz-mat suits help at a medical incident in downtown Petrolia recently. Two firefighters now dress in full protective gear when answering medical calls due to COVID-19.

at a fire or accident and what can be done better.

While the procedures are a little more time consuming and the situations more dangerous because of the possibilities of COVID-19, Arns says firefighters are still willing to serve.

“We put it out there at the beginning of this if anyone is not comfortable they should speak up,” he says noting some people have vulnerable family members to care for. “We were not mandating firefighters attend in any way shape or form. But everybody is still coming in for calls.”



This Month In Lambton

May 2020





Warden Bill Weber

@LambtonWarden

COVID-19 Updates

You can find the latest information on program changes and closures of County facilities at [lambtononline.ca/covid-19](https://lambtononline.ca/covid-19).

For local COVID-19 updates, please visit [lambtonpublichealth.ca](https://lambtonpublichealth.ca).

Collecting COVID-19 History

Lambton County Archives is inviting you to share your voice and your experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that these events are documented on a local level. We see the kindness made by caregivers, neighbours, and essential service providers first-hand while learning how important physical distancing is at this time.

If you live or work in Lambton County, you can participate by documenting your personal experiences and donating these materials to the Lambton County Archives for preservation for future generations. This can be through letters, photos, journal entries, or a simple email telling us about your experiences.

To submit your materials, email Archivist Nicole Aszalos at [nicole.aszalos@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:nicole.aszalos@county-lambton.on.ca) for a donation form. You can submit your contribution and completed form via email to [nicole.aszalos@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:nicole.aszalos@county-lambton.on.ca).

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Severe Summer Weather

As warm weather approaches, Lambton County residents can expect the seasonal return of severe thunderstorms.

If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning, which is why Environment Canada advises “when the sky roars, go indoors”. Once sheltered, stay there for at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder.

For more information on preparing for severe weather this summer, visit [EmergenciesLambton.ca](https://EmergenciesLambton.ca).

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Canada



# LCCVI grads missing the milestones

Heather Wright  
The Independent

It could have been a picture any one of the 146 LCCVI grads had taken. Stephanie Williams stood on her family’s porch with the dog, posing for photos in her prom dress. But like so many other Ontario seniors, the dress never made its debut. The end of the in-class school year also spelled the end to a lot of celebrations for high school graduates. No prom, no tractor day, no track and field meets, no graduation and no face-to-face time with friends who they shared their academic life with. “It’s a hard pill to swallow sometimes,” says Maddy Nemcek, the co-president of student council at LCCVI. For people like Kevin McGrail - the other co-president - those final moments of competition will be missed. “Just before March Break, there was badminton tryouts and I was looking forward to that.” McGrail had not played in his early high school years and wanted to be on the team this year. For others, track meets would have been a highlight “A lot of people are there for the social aspect,” says McGrail. “You don’t have to tryout to be on the track team, and it is a big team, everybody is together and more than anything we’re missing the community aspect of it. We were one big family and everyone is supportive during the meets,” says Nemcek who had been in track before. It’s hard for Nemcek’s dad to watch. Greg is also the principal of LCCVI and he feels the loss of the senior year keenly. “The kids are very disappointed but were trying to keep them connected” through video conferencing during class time. And the principal says it is weigh-

ing heavily on some students who are having a hard time getting motivated to finish their year. “We’re just trying to get them across the finish line,” he says. “For some it is unbelievable and so hard.” And he says some of the students have added pressures of working in essential services like grocery stores or they’re caring for younger siblings who are also home and learning on line. But LCCVI is doing its best to mark this important occasion in the seniors’ lives. Nemcek says graduate signs have been ordered and will be delivered to each home so people can see just who is part of the graduating class of 2020. “We’ll put some of them on the lawns of the school in November when we hopefully are able to do grad,” he says. “I want to flood the front lawn of the school.” Student council is also trying to encourage the seniors, using social media to spark memories of the past four years. Tractor Day will be marked this year as students from local farms take pictures of themselves beside the tractor they had planned to drive to school for the annual event. Maddy Nemcek is hopeful something can be planned for prom in future but adds “It’s difficult to open up the closet and look at the prom dress you didn’t get to wear.” As tough as missing the milestones is, Nemcek and McGrail say seniors are facing other tough choices. The pair say many of their friends are trying to figure out if they’re going to college and university this year. McGrail has been accepted to Lambton College in the trades but is worried he may end up doing much of the work online.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Stephanie Williams poses in her prom dress, as the family dog photo bombs her, on the day the LCCVI senior would have joined her friends for a night of fun. Nemcek plans to go to university, however many of her friends still haven’t made up their mind. “They’re working through deciding if it is the best move for them and others, they want to start university....” “Some people want to start the next chapter of their lives, no matter what it looks like.”

## Petrolia and Warwick open up parks for public use

The Independent

Both Petrolia and Warwick Township have reopened some of their parks for public use. But you will still have to keep your distance and stay away from the crowds.

Officials in Petrolia say almost all of the parks can be used for passive recreation like walking or biking. There are no washrooms available to the public right now and officials ask that people keep six feet from others and not have groups larger than five. In Warwick, most parks have the

same restrictions including the track, tennis courts and ball diamonds. And officials say kicking a ball or playing catch with a small group is okay. Warwick isn’t opening its splash pad or BMX track yet. And play equipment is off limits still in both municipalities.

## Greenfield Street reconstruction will have to wait until at least 2021

There is just not enough time to get the Greenfield Street reconstruction going in 2020. That’s the word from Petrolia’s administrators. Mayor Brad Loosley

asked town staff to look at the idea recently saying it would be perfect timing since there will be no theater traffic on the street this year. But Mike Thompson, director of

operations, says the project was planned for 2021 and there is simply not enough time to get the planning complete for this year.

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# Lambton opens COVID-19 to all

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Lambton County residents can now get a test for COVID-19 if they want one.

Bluewater Health says assessment centres in Petrolia, Sarnia, Walpole Island and Grand Bend will test anyone who feels they may have been exposed to the virus - even if they don't have a referral.

"Testing is an important part of an overall strategy to combat COVID that includes public health measures - please ensure you continue to maintain physical distance, wash your hands frequently and stay home if you are unwell," said Lambton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, in a news release Tuesday announcing the increased testing.

Just two days before, Ranade admitted the pronouncement by Premier Doug Ford that anyone could be tested left public health scrambling without a plan. Lambton Public Health officials say the assessment centre logged 62 calls - with the third most asked question being 'Should I get tested?'"

And during a presentation to Lambton County councillors, Ranade suggested that mass testing may not be the answer to the COVID-19 problem.

Last month, the provincial government ordered public health units to test all residents and staff in long term care homes. The novel coronavirus has taken its toll in long term care homes in the province with over 1,400 residents dying - about 80 per cent of the people in the province who have died.

There are outbreaks in over 190 long term

care homes now, including three in Lambton County.

Dr. Sudit Ranade told members of county council Wednesday morning that all long term care home residents and staff in the area have been tested for COVID-19. Out of over 1,360 residents tested, only five people were found to have COVID-19. Ranade says 1,426 staff were tested and only one health care worker was found to have the virus.

Ranade says that while the current COVID-19 is helpful when someone has symptoms, it may not be the best tool to test for the presence of the virus in large settings.

"The value of this test as a screening tool and (for) people who don't have symptoms is starting to become suspect, because you would hope that you would get a lot of cases for your effort of testing all of these folks, and we're really not finding that outcome right now," he says.

"I think it's just important to take a bit of stock of volume of testing that is required just to find one case of disease and then to think very carefully about whether or not such screening is warranted because it really does only provide you with a snapshot in time, and it's not really an ongoing mechanism of surveillance," says Ranade.

The medical officer of health adds that when someone in long term care has symptoms of COVID-19, they are able to test them and receive the results back quickly so they can be isolated.

Ranade says public health will next begin to test at child care centers on the orders of the provincial government.

# Half of COVID-19 patients at Vision are staff

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Lambton's medical officer of health isn't sure having health care workers stay on site has been 'beneficial'

Dr. Sudit Ranade is not surprised the number of people infected with COVID-19 at a Sarnia nursing home is still rising.

Lambton Public Health says 22 residents and 20 staff members have now tested positive for the virus which has hit seniors particularly hard. Six people at the home have died from COVID-19 making it the deadliest outbreak in Lambton.

Originally, officials from the home said the people with COVID-19 were confined to one wing of the home but Ranade believes it has spread beyond that now.

Health care workers in the home stayed in the facility hoping to care for the residents and containing the virus. Ranade, Lambton's medical officer of health, isn't sure that has helped.

"There's very limited evidence that rehousing or moving a group of people who are health care providers outside of their existing home and into a shared setting is a beneficial idea in terms of limiting the community's spread. So at this time, we don't think so. Certainly, intuitively, it might make sense, but we don't necessarily think that there's a lot of evidence," he told reporters recently.

Ranade says while public health provides support, it does not go directly into the home. But he does say basic infection control practices will be important to stop the virus from spreading.

"It really does come back to the basic infection prevention and control practices, making sure that people are doing them

appropriately, using PPE (personal protective equipment) correctly and consistently, and ensuring that they have adequate environmental cleaning," he says.

He adds its important to continue using good infection control practices even when people are not directly involved in care.

Recently, the province passed legislation which would make it easier to take over a nursing home in crisis because of COVID-19. Ranade says there are not set standards as to what that would entail and public health hasn't received clear regulations from the province. He expects that would be a decision made by the Health Minister.

And while the number of cases at Vision is inching towards the largest outbreak in Lambton at Landmark Village, Ranade isn't sounding the alarm bells.

"Once an outbreak takes hold in a home, we expected to get worse before it gets better," says Ranade.

"Just because a home is in the upswing of an outbreak, it doesn't mean I'm inherently worried... just the sheer numbers are not that surprising to me because we saw what happened in Landmark, for example.

"I think there are some homes that have been very successful and keeping cases down. And I think the question becomes what makes the difference between those kinds of homes and the homes where this spread?

Ranade suspects once the pandemic has eased, public health officials will look at the reasons some homes which were able to deal with COVID-19 effectively. "One is organizational dynamics and capacity, two is issues around staffing and the third is going to end up being infection prevention control and implementation. That's my guess."



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# Oil Museum redesign gets a big boost from Alix grant

**Alex Kurial**  
Local Journalism Initiative

The Oil Museum of Canada redesign project has been given a major boost thanks to a grant from the Judith and Norman Alix Foundation.

The site - which opened in 1960 - preserves the site of the first commercial oil well in North America dug by James Miller Williams in 1858.

The National Historic Site tells the story of Lambton County’s contributions to the development of the world’s oil industry. It is the centerpiece of the Oil Heritage Conservation District, and showcases the jerker system pioneered by Canada’s first oilmen.

But the exhibits are in need of an update and the museum has been working on the Visitor Experience Project to modernize the space.

The \$81,100 donation help bring the museum and its story into the 21st century with a number of up-to-date amenities.

“The site itself is 60 years old, and some of the components of that oil story are original to the establishment of the museum,” Lambton County general manager of cultural services Andrew Meyer said. “So we are looking to enhance the site with more interactive learning experiences, really focusing in on the science,

technology, engineering and math areas in terms of how we design it.”

The goal is to encourage visitors to interact with the displays instead of just looking, says Meyer.

“We have a lot of school and other tours, and we really want to enhance the educational experience at the site. So that is a key driver for sure,” Meyer says.

Interpretive signs will provide greater detail into both the background and technical workings of artifacts at the museum.

These new signs will also hone in on the STEM related components of the oil industry, highlighting the history of oil innovation in Lambton County while also showing how the science, technology, engineering and math fields can help the Lambton economy move forward, both in oil and other sectors.

There will also be new artifacts for visitors to explore.

The total cost of the project was expected to be around \$450,000

The foundation grant compliments a capital investment by the county, which will allow for several maintenance repairs to be completed.

The county will fix the roof, heating, ventilation, air equipment, lighting, windows and doors, among other areas.



SUBMITTED DRAWINGS

A birds eye view of the plans to redevelop the Oil Heritage Museum in Oil Springs. Work is expected to begin this fall.

“The whole building is getting a refresh,” said Meyer.

Work on the Visitor Experience Project is expected to begin in the fall, although it is not known if the museum will be open by that time.

“The County is grateful for the support of The Judith and Norman Alix Foundation with the redevelopment of this important

National Historic Site”, says Meyer.

“This funding builds on the Alix family’s strong legacy of support for cultural institutions in the community, and will allow us to re-imagine how we share the story of Lambton’s proud oil heritage.”

In addition to the Oil Museum, the Judith and Norman Alix

Foundation made donations to a pair of Sarnia organizations: \$100,000 to the Inn of the Good Shepard for the purchase of food and other essential supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic, and \$90,000 will be given to Pathways Health Centre for Children in Sarnia to refurbish their therapeutic pool.

## Seasonal campers can stay overnight

The Independent

Campers rejoice – the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is beginning to allow overnight camping again starting June 5.

“We are extremely excited to welcome our seasonal campers back to our campgrounds,” said Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas at the SCRCA in a news release.

There will be changes include the closure of all swimming pools for the 2020 season and reduced recreational facilities.

“We are also keeping our washrooms and showers closed for the time being,” added

Wilcox. “We ask that our campers use the washroom facilities in their trailers until further notice.”

Seasonal campers stay overnight at the A.W. Campbell, Lorne C. Henderson and Warwick Conservation Areas on June 5. An email will be sent to seasonal campers providing additional details on opening procedures and a new fee schedule that accounts for changes to the camping season.

Overnight camping is on hold until at least June 10th.

Overnight camping will open, officials say, when permitted by the province and when all necessary safety precautions are in place.

## Interest relief extended in Petrolia, Warwick

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

The Town of Petrolia is extending its relief measures for home owners.

The municipality, like all others in the region, began waiving interest rates on things like late property taxes, water bills and unpaid invoices when the economic impacts of the lock down to prevent the spread of COVID-19 became clear.

Those measures were set to expire May 31. But councillors agreed to extend the provisions until the end of June.

“Both of our federal and provincial counter parts are trying to help people as best they can,” says Councillor Grant Purdy.

“I think it is really imperative that we do the same to the best of our ability.”

Rick Charlebois, the town’s Chief Administrative Officer says Lambton County administrators have been talking about “what everybody is doing in terms of temporary financial relief measures” so they can keep in line with other communities.

Warwick Township has already extended its relief measures to the end of June as well.

## St. Philip’s gets new heat pumps and controls

There may not be kids in the classroom but you will see activity at Petrolia’s St. Philip’s School.

The St. Clair District Catholic School Board has hired Bill Hoekstra General Contracting to replace two existing heat pumps in the school with a roof top unit.

The work will also include the replacement of all the building controls system according to board officials.

The company had the lowest bid for the work, \$325,877.

The project at the elementary school will be completed over the summer.

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# Province willing to go to bat for farm aid: GFO director

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The local director of the Grain Farmers of Ontario says a hardball video seems to have done more good than harm.

The GFO released the video after the federal government introduced a \$251 million aid package for the industry. Critics said it did more to help the meat processing industry than farmers. And the GFO said there was nothing but loans in the package for the grain and oilseed farmers of the nation. They're concerned about planting a crop they don't know if they will be able to sell. And they're worried with the US government throwing billions at agriculture south of the border, soon cheap American goods will flood the market leaving Canadian farmers vulnerable.

"Farmers are putting everything out there to put the crop in the ground not knowing whether we are going to break even at the end of the year, knowing that the demand is still there for the product, but with the politics of the situation - the US has given 19 billion with a B dollars to their farmers and those farmers are going to produce and what they have extra, they're going to dump over the border onto our side while we watch helplessly," says Emery Huzska - the local director of GFO.

The ad, which starkly laid out the concerns, caused a stir on social media with even farmers asking if the ad had pushed the boundaries.

But Huzska says it has actually made



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Farmers near Wyoming plant a field on Churchill Line. The Grain Farmers of Ontario is hoping the province will begin pushing for more federal funding for the industry.

an impression on some of the province's top leaders.

"After talking with our own farmer members and hearing how concerned we are looking forward and at what is to come and after all the polite and professional approaches we've made we have had zero attention," he says.

"Billions of dollars have been handed out and nothing given the grains and oil seeds industry.

"We decided it was time to knock on the door really loud and let the feds know, folks, you're giving out money to all sorts of wonderful things; agriculture should be one of the first things."

Huzska says GFO leaders were able to talk with Premier Doug Ford and convince him to be an advocate for farmers when talking with the federal government during frequent teleconferences.

Huzska says the organization wants the federal government to take a good hard look at the safety nets in place for agriculture. "All we ask for really when it comes down to it is not a handout, it is a backstop of a fully funded Risk Management program and recognition that the food system needs to be on equal footing."

## PANDEMIC PLANTERS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Watford Horticultural Society wasn't about to let a pandemic get in the way of its annual plant sale. The club put out dozens of plants on Nauvoo Line May 16 and asked gardeners to choose their plants - while keeping a distance from others - and then pay in the honour box at the table.

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## HELPING FEED THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

A man walks by the fence of a Wyoming day care center which has become a makeshift food depot. Ann Marie Belanger wanted to make sure school children who aren't in the classroom are getting enough to eat. So the Wyoming woman has started putting out groceries on the fence of the Wyoming Wee Ones Day Care. Local public schools have a snack program that provides breakfast and school snacks to children who don't have enough to eat. But the students have been out of school since mid-March and that worries Belanger. "I know that the snack program at the school has been quite well used. I've always been worried about those kids that use a snack program through the summer and now all this time of school. I've wondered how they're doing." She's left out the bags of non-perishables for anyone to pick up. A teacher at the public school has also distributed some of the groceries to families in need. Local businesses who have heard about the project have also donated cash and groceries to help out. The grocery bags, which are free for the taking, will be there between 7 am and 10 am each weekday.

## Big cats to leave Lambton Shores June 2

**Alex Kurial**  
Local Journalism Initiative

The big cats of Lambton Shores need to be removed by June 2.

Justice John A. Desotti delivered the deadline Tuesday in the Ontario Court of Justice in the ongoing saga, which has now dragged on for more than a year.

Lambton Shores passed a bylaw banning exotic animals after Mark and Tammy Drysdale announced they would open the Roaring Cat Retreat in the municipality, which would have featured lions and tigers.

"In my view the clock is now ticking in respect to removal of the animals," Justice Desotti said. "I consider this to be a hard time frame."

The Drysdales had said it would take two weeks to construct the cages necessary to move the animals, but couldn't finish the job because of COVID-19 restrictions. Desotti had previously said there may be risk associated with such construction, but with restrictions easing in Ontario the judge is confident the work can now go ahead.

Analee Baroudi, representing Lambton Shores, said the municipality was pleased with the decision "as long as it's going to be a firm and final deadline." After that date, it's clearly understood that the municipality will be moving immediately for a contempt motion if the animals are not removed," Baroudi said.

The Drysdales say they will have the cats moved by the June 2 deadline.

## Man apologizes for his role in Sarnia drug bust

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

A Windsor man says he's sorry for bringing fentanyl into the Sarnia community.

Owen Cazes, 28, plead guilty in Sarnia's Ontario Court of Justice on May 20 to drug possession and weapons charges following a raid on a Sarnia home last October.

Upon entering the Cobden St. home, Sarnia Police discovered Cazes with a machete, a modified metal bat, and fentanyl. Cazes was on bail and under six separate prohibition orders at the time of this arrest.

"I'd like to apologize to the community for having these drugs in the community," Cazes said right before his sentence was passed.

Justice Deborah Austin sentenced Cazes to six additional months on the Sarnia charges,

and used credits from his pre-sentence custody to cover the 180 days.

"I take your guilty plea as an expression of remorse.

"You have gone further than that by apologizing, as you ought to, to the community and your lawyer," Judge Austin said as she read her decision.

"It is the community that is greatly harmed by fentanyl and by a dangerous situation where weapons are in your possession at the same time as a dangerous drug such as fentanyl."

Cazes made his appearance from the Southwest Detention Centre in Windsor, where he is serving a seven year sentence after being convicted of 13 charges in Windsor's Superior Court this March.

This includes an armed car robbery in December 2017 where he forced a woman from her vehicle with a shotgun.

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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

CJ Nolin of DOT Autonomous Farm Technology resets DOT on Chuck Baresich's field in Dawn-Euphemia. The robotic tractor can plant and spray as the technician watches from a distance. Baresich of Haggerty Creek says he first wondered if an automated system could be used for field work in 2004, when the first automated steering options came out on tractors.

## Driverless 'tractor' a first in Ontario

Heather Wright  
The Independent

DOT has been getting a lot of looks. The large steel gray machine has been roaming the fields of Zone and Dawn-Euphemia, all without a human on board. DOT is a fully automated farm sprayer and planter and Haggerty Creek in Cairo is the first Ontario company to purchase the robotic equipment. Chuck Baresich of Haggerty Creek says he'd been wondering about a fully automated machine since automatic steering became an option on some tractors. He'd been following the evolution of DOT at farm technical shows and eventually visited the creator of the machine in Saskatchewan before making the investment. This past week, Baresich and his staff have been in training to use DOT, programing it through laptop computers and steering it with something that looks like a gaming handset. The technology is advanced, but Baresich says an employee still has to keep an eye on it for safety. But it allows his staff to do other things at the same time, including talking to customers during the busy spring season. And he says it can be hard to find

employees to run the traditional machinery. "People think like, it's fun to drive all the big equipment. Yeah, for an hour or two, but after an eight hour day, it gets monotonous." Baresich says it is hard to recruit people to work the fields. "It's long hours; it takes high skill...We have a like a labour shortage for that kind of stuff and so this just helps the staff get that job done. So, you can have someone out here watching this keeping their eye on it but still maybe doing some computer work." Baresich says DOT provides consistency the humans don't particularly if they're rushing to get the job done. It also forces farmers who may have ignored imperfections in the field a better look at the problem since everything has to be mapped out before the application begins. And Baresich says one of the unintended consequences of introducing robotics to field work in Chatham-Kent is attracting new employees. "This is a way to entice staff ..to actually say, I can work with robotics. I can do this. "And it will bring more people into the ag business and there is nothing wrong with that."

## Lambton safety village runs out of gas

Heather Wright  
The Independent

There will not be a children's safety village in Lambton County. The community group which has worked on the village which would have helped school age children learn safety procedures won't be building the project. "We feel that with the COVID-19 virus regulations it is going to be impossible for us to go further and/or survive. It is a reality check for us for sure," says Lambton Children's Safety Village Chair Mary Ann Buntrock in a letter to Lambton County councillors. The county pledged \$100,000 to the project but it had not been given to the organization yet. Councillors gave the cash on the condition building permits had been signed and the

work was ready to begin. "There are several areas of concerns for us that being social distancing, busing issues, fundraising and what our final education system will look like. "A lot of our work is a hands on environment and heaven forbid a child or anybody would get the virus through us, Buntrock said. "It's going to be a new world and priorities will be changing with some being good and some being bad." St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold had worked with the group since 2011 to try to secure a home for the village. "It's too bad," he says. "It's quite a blow to the community. There is always impacts not having the children taught special safety things in that setting." "They were working on it so long," Arnold added "they were just out of gas."

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# A Brigden man’s birthday wish comes true at home

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Chris Brown was still remembering a long line of friend-filled cars which drove past his Brigden home to wish him Happy Birthday. His wife, Stacey, is still remembering the smile on his face.

And it was all due to the work of Bluewater Health’s Palliative Care team and Lambton paramedics.

On April 21, Brown was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He was in a London hospital for a few days in early May and then at home until May 12. Now, he’s on the palliative care floor at Bluewater Health. Only Stacey and Brown’s sister, Joanne, may visit because of COVID-19 restrictions.

But Brown wanted to be home for his birthday. So, Lambton paramedics and Bluewater Health worked to get him home for an hour and-a-half May 17.

The first 40 minutes were reserved for close family and friends including his two sons, Devon and Riley, who have not been able to see him in the hospital.

“Everyone had one on one time with Chris. Even though it wasn’t a long time I think everyone including Chris enjoyed himself,” she says.

Then the paramedics took Chris to the end of the driveway where a tent had been set up to wait for the parade.



Chris Brown and his family watch as his birthday parade rolls by May 27.

“All the cars started in the parking lot at the Brigden fair building parking lot and headed towards our house. The front of the line was a Brigden fire truck as Chris used to be a volunteer a few years ago,” says Stacey. The sight brought a big smile to Chris’ face.

“Then the line just kept coming and coming – more than 100 cars that had signs, cards, a few gifts and lots of love. The smile on his face is something that no one is going to forget,” she says

“Even today he is still talking about all the cars as long as he could see. His dream for coming home for his birthday was answered. Maybe it was not how we all wanted it, but we all needed that one-and-a half hours.”

Few in Brigden are surprised by the outpouring of love. Ilene Struck, Jess

Houghton and Amy Beynon of Parallel Junction have been fundraising for the family.

Struck says the Brown family has always been there for the community and it is time for the community to be there for them. “Anytime there was a benefit for a community member, Stacey is the first person to hop up and offer to help. Chris was with the fire department, and he never thought twice, they just jumped in.” Struck says the store is selling Koozies with the Brown name on it and doing a 50/50 draw to raise money to help the family get through this tough time.

Stacey says the community support has been “amazing.” And she adds the family is very grateful to the hospital and the paramedics for making Brown’s birthday wish come true.

PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

# St. Clair backs roundabout

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair Council is throwing its support behind the idea of a roundabout at the corner of Petrolia Line and Kimball Road.

In early May, a transport hauling gravel and an SUV collided at the corner, killing the transport driver. Joleen DeGurse MacDonald wrote an emotional letter telling Lambton county councillors, that after decades of deadly accidents, it was time to install a roundabout.

St. Clair Council Mayor Steve Arnold, will ask Lambton County Council to look at the idea of having a roundabout installed at the June 3 meeting. “The biggest advantage with a roundabout is that you eliminate T-bone accidents. We’ve done most of the controls that we could, like more lighting, bigger signs, flashing lights, lower speeds, we’ve done all those engineering controls and yet we still have accidents there that are very serious. So the next step there is to build a roundabout,” says Arnold.

Arnold says there may be concerns as the Petrolia Line serves as a heavy haul corridor for the area, but said there were engineering solutions that could address the issue. St. Clair Township Council will send a letter of support for the project to Lambton County Council.

“A roundabout may be a little bit of time in coming, but certainly whatever they [traffic engineers] recommend I would see as an improvement to make that a safer intersection for traffic,” says Councillor Pat Brown.

Momentum for the roundabout has grown in the community. An online petition started by DeGurse MacDonald had nearly 1,000 signatures. “Enough is enough,” she wrote. “It is time for the Township of St. Clair and the County of Lambton to find a solution that will save lives.”

# Your “Wheelie” Bin is Here!

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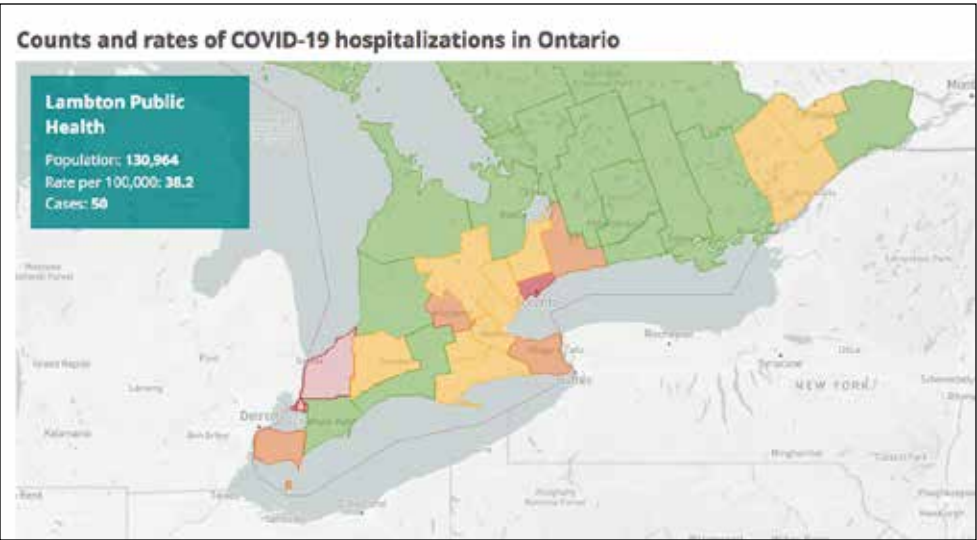
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A blue recycling bin with a white recycling symbol. Next to it is a flyer titled "New Wheelie Bins" with instructions on how to use the bin and a recycling schedule. The flyer includes sections for "1 Collect", "2 Empty", and "3 Set Out", along with "Collection Changes" and contact information for BRA.The logo for the Bluewater Recycling Association (BRA), featuring a stylized tree and the letters "BRA" in a bold, blue font.





This map from Public Health Ontario shows Lambton has one of the highest rate of hospitalization in the province for COVID-19.

## Lambton COVID-19 patients hospitalized more often

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Lambton County had more people in hospital with COVID-19 per capita than almost any other community in the province.

Lambton County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, revealed the information during a Lambton County committee meeting Wednesday.

Public Health Ontario has been keeping data from all regional health units during the COVID-19 pandemics. One of the ways they measure the hot spots in the province, is by looking at the number of cases, deaths and hospitalization per capita.

And when weighed against the rest of the province, Lambton has been hit hard.

The data up to May 20 shows there are 130,964 people in Lambton and there have to date been 235 cases. Public Health Ontario says 38.2 per 100,000 people were hospitalized.

That's second only to Toronto where 38.7 per 100,000 were hospitalized.

Lambton also ranks in the top five of number of cases per capita. Peel Region has had 222.8 per capita, Windsor-Essex has 189.3, Durham has 183 per capita and Lambton has 178.7.

Ontario's death rate per capita is about 20. Lambton's is 14.5 per capita.

Ranade isn't sure why that might be. "It's important to remember that it is not an age-adjusted rate that is just a pure rate, so it counts everyone in the population."

"It's unclear what the reason for that is, although if you rank any group, there's always going to be someone at the top and someone at the bottom," he told county councillors.

"Potentially, part of the reason for that is that we've had two significant outbreaks among an elderly population and so we know that they're more severe and also more likely to be tested."

"The other possibility is that we've been doing more testing and picking up more cases, but I don't think that that's true. There are lots of other jurisdictions that are doing high numbers of tests."

## Fair, Canada Day celebrations cancelled for 2020

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Canada Day is going to look a whole lot different in Petrolia and Central Lambton this year.

Several communities have cancelled their usual plans to mark the day.

Brooke-Alvinston announced Friday it's usual celebration has been cancelled this year due to the restrictions around COVID-19.

Warwick Township cancelled its plans Tuesday.

A joint Canada Day celebration hosted by Petrolia, Plympton-Wyoming and Enniskillen is on hold.

The communities still want to have some sort of big celebration together in 2020.

There won't be a Plympton-Wyoming Fall Fair in 2020.

The Board of the Plympton-Wyoming Agricultural Society say they made the decision "with heavy hearts."

"This was not an easy decision to make , but it was one that was made for a variety of reasons. One being the uncertainty of when the government will begin to allow festival type events to resume."

"Sponsorship is also a large part of what helps our event run and we cannot have a successful fair without their amazing support."

"We cannot in good conscience ask businesses for money in these financially

stressful times when many of them have been closed," the board said in a statement.

"We felt it was the right thing to do for our the members of our community , our sponsors, donors, volunteers and our membership."

...

The annual Day of Caring in Sarnia-Lambton has been cancelled for 2020.

The fall event, organized by the United Way, saw hundreds of people go to homes and non-profit agencies to make minor repairs or paint. Organizers didn't want to bring 250 people together in one spot

The United Way is planning to do some smaller projects in the fall, if the restrictions surround COVID-19 allow it.

...

Organizers of the Terry Fox Run were not about to let COVID-19 stop a celebration 40 years in the making.

While the community runs to raise money for cancer research won't take place this year, the annual event is going virtual this year, according to Petrolia organizer Steve McGrail.

"This means that you can sign up , collect pledges, then you can walk, run, bike, wheel, blade...a route of your choice and a distance of your choice when it is convenient for you," he says.

The virtual event will be Sept. 20 and registration is online at [www.terryfox.org](http://www.terryfox.org).

"We can all try to do our part to keep Terry's Dream alive...even during these strange times we are in."

# 2020 Petrolia Compost Days on Saturdays!

**Waste Management Petrolia site, 4485 Progress Drive**

**PETROLIA RESIDENTS FOR 2020 THERE IS NO PASS PURCHASE REQUIRED.**

**June 6, 20  
July 11, 25  
August 8, 22  
Sept. 12, 26  
Oct. 3, 17, 24**

**8:00 a.m. - NOON**

**Acceptable Materials:**

**Yard Waste**

- Leaves
- Grass clippings
- Garden waste

**Brush**

- Hedges
- Shrubs
- Woody plants (e.g. vines or rose bushes)

**NOT Acceptable Materials:**

- Waste and recyclables
- Sod, soil and sand
- Building materials
- Stones
- Tree Limbs/Branches not exceeding 4" in diameter

**TIPS**

1. Yard Waste and Brush will be separated in to two bins— please do not bag it together.
2. Please use paper bags or reusable bins.
3. Brush must be of reasonable size and length.
4. Residents will be asked to take unacceptable items home.

**CURBSIDE WOOD CHIPPING!**

- branches can be no more than 4" in diameter, and placed in a neat pile at the curb (Pile size must not exceed 4' long x 10' wide x 5' high)

- Items to be placed for chipping no earlier than 4pm the day before and no later than 7am on the chipping dates

**June 22 & 23  
July 20 & 21  
Aug. 10 & 11  
Sept. 14 & 15**

For more information: (519)882-2350 or visit [www.town.petrolia.on.ca](http://www.town.petrolia.on.ca)

## Local journalism matters Now more than ever.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, The Independent has been telling the stories of our community during the worldwide pandemic. But like other businesses, we've been hit hard as advertising revenues drop dramatically.

We'd like to thank our regular advertisers who stick with us through the good times and the bad - we couldn't continue to serve the community without you.

And we would like to thank our subscribers - you know how important local new becomes during a situation like COVID-19. When there is so much false information around, you need to rely on a trusted local news source.

If you would like to see local news continue to thrive in your community, and you're able to help, you can donate to The Independent through the Ontario Community Newspaper Foundation at [www.oncf.org](http://www.oncf.org).

You'll get a tax receipt and help keep local journalism alive and well.

Thank you;  
Heather Wright  
Publisher, The Independent



# Sports

## Wyoming Minor Baseball: A diamond in the rough

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

A former professional baseball player and long-time coach in the Wyoming Minor Baseball system says there is no one answer to the question, about how a small town in southwestern Ontario has become a hotbed of collegiate and pro talent.

“I’ve been asked that question so many times,” said Brett Gray in an interview this week with *The Independent*.

“It’s really hard to put your finger on one thing, but whatever it is, it’s pretty amazing.”

Gray points to teaching kids fundamentals at a young age to coaches and other volunteers who are committed to the cause.

“The culture around Wyoming Minor Baseball has always been really good,” he added.

Gray, who pitched in the Cincinnati Reds organization for parts of four seasons and struck out a sizzling 25 batters in a nine-inning performance for

the London Werewolves of the Frontier League 20 years ago next week, along with Wyoming brothers Jason and Jeff Helps, were the last generation’s wave of better than average professional ball players.

And, now Gray’s son, Kaden, along with Wrangler teammates Core Jackson and Jett Jarvis will carry on the Wyoming tradition by committing to collegiate careers of their own.

Jackson will attend the University of Nebraska, the

younger Gray will play for Cowley College in Kansas, while Jarvis has signed to continue his baseball career at Montreal-based McGill University.

“They’ve all grown up to be pretty awesome young men,” said Gray who coached the group for six seasons before they embarked on a career with the Great Lakes Canadians squad; an elite baseball program in the London region.

“They’re all really good buddies still. It’s pretty neat to watch.”

Influenced by his dad, Bruce,

along with Jack Gallivan and Stan Slack, Brett Gray hopes the current collegiate success of players from Wyoming, including Noah Myers and Ty Barclay, will keep the fire burning for baseball in the close-knit community.

“It gives them (younger players) something to shoot for,” said Gray.

“It gives them an understanding that anything is possible.”

Meantime, minor baseball throughout Ontario, including Wyoming, remains on hold until at least June 15.

## Movement afoot to honour of “Whitey” Stapleton at Sarnia arena

The Independent

A petition to have the City of Sarnia rename the Sarnia Arena after former NHLer Pat “Whitey” Stapleton is gaining traction.

The Sarnia-born rearguard began his junior career in his hometown with the Legionnaires before going

on to play more than one thousand regular season games in both the National Hockey League and the World Hockey Association, primarily with the Chicago Blackhawks.

“It would be our way of remembering him and thanking him for the inspiration he provided

to the hockey players who followed him and to keep the memories of what has happened in that building alive to inspire the hockey players yet to come and most especially, for the way he represented our city and our country in 1972,” reads the petition that has already received

hundreds of signatures of support.

“Whitey was not only a great player but an even better gentleman,” read one post on the petition.

“He never forgot his roots and people who helped him along the way.” Another read, “I think this would be fitting. Let’s get this

done.”

Stapleton was on the ice for Paul Henderson’s dramatic game-winning goal for Team Canada in the final minute of the decisive game of the Summit Series against the Soviet Union nearly five decades ago. He died last month from a stroke at the age of 79.

## Watford man keeps road race tradition

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Mathew King wasn’t about to let the streak be broken.

The Watford man has been among the hundreds of people running the Watford to Alvinston Road Race each Victoria Day weekend. He laced up every time he was home in between professional figure skating jobs.

The race is a local favourite partly because of the epic story of its beginnings. The first race was held in 1957, when two Warwick runners, Hylke VanderWal and Lorne Smith, discussed the idea of running from one community to another. In the very first race nine men ran; seven finished. By 2007 approximately 500 runners were involved in either the 16 km or the 8 km race. The race still draws several hundred people from across southern Ontario each Victoria Day weekend.

When organizers of the historic road race had to shut the 63rd annual event down because of the COVID-19 restrictions on crowd sizes, it appeared the streak would be broken. But King,



Mathew King after crossing the finish line in Watford. He ran the annual road race by himself on the Victoria Long weekend, even though it had been cancelled.

didn’t let that happen. In the cold and the rain, he ran the route by himself – with a little encouragement from family members parked in cars along Highway 79. It took him 1:23:45.

“It was a good day to get out and run, even if the weather wasn’t the best. The weather was just another challenge for me, I love a challenge,”

he says.

And King was glad to keep the streak alive. “It feels great, I had no idea that this would have been the first time in a long time that someone hasn’t run the race or the race hasn’t happened. I just wanted to run, and I hope the race will be back again next year. I will be there ready to run for sure.”

## Flags coaching staff returns

The general manager of the Mooretown Flags is thrilled to have a commitment from his entire coaching staff for the coming Provincial Junior Hockey League season.

Head Coach Mark Davis, Assistant Coaches Jeff Perry and Mark McCabe and Goalie Coach Brad Forbes will all return to their respective duties for the 2020-21 campaign.

“Mark is an amazing motivator and finds a way to get the best out of the players,” said G.M. John Baker about the veteran bench boss. Baker raves about Perry’s insight through his years of experience in professional hockey and McCabe’s wealth of knowledge and love for the game.

“Mark is infectious with the players and a huge part of building the family attitude we want within our team.”

McCabe played minor hockey in Mooretown and with the Flags before cutting his teeth in the coaching ranks with Mooretown Minor Hockey.

The up tempo practice habits instilled by the coaching staff was evident in the team’s 41-7 overall record before the season was derailed in March by the coronavirus pandemic, said Baker.

### NOTICE OFFICE CLOSING

## Dr. Susan Mather

**As of July 31, 2020**

Dr. Susan Mather's office in Petrolia is closing soon. The Wyoming office has already closed (due to small size prohibiting physical distancing).

We are asking patients to contact us at **519-882-1678** for more information. There is no doctor to take over the practice, but we can help you find a new family doctor.

We would like to discuss follow up of any outstanding medical tests and referrals, top up your prescription renewals, and discuss your records transfers. The current pandemic restrictions make it a difficult time for all of us, and definitely make this process more complicated. So we will be keeping the Petrolia office open on a limited basis until **July 31, 2020**, aiming to close the practice down gradually. Our goal is to make the transition of care as smooth as possible for everyone.



## NEW FAMILY PHYSICIAN TO SARNIA LAMBTON



**Dr. Nicolaas van As**

Office Location: 348 Lyndoch St., Corunna

**NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**

To complete a new patient application form, please call 519-862-1461



Classified Deadline:  
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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Stop in at the office 9a-5p Mon-Fri  
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728  
or email: [office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)

Real Estate

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**Death Notices**  
May 19 to May 24, 2020

**TUESDAY, MAY 19**  
**HIPPLE, William**  
Age 82, of Sarnia  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home  
**WILSON, June**  
Age 95, of Thedford  
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20**  
**STORR, Barry**  
Age 78  
Denning's of Forest  
**PEDERSER, Joyce**  
Age 83, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home  
**ANDERSON, Ruby**  
Age 98, of Sarnia  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**THURSDAY, MAY 21**  
**SINOPOLE, Betty June**  
Age 69, of Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
Smith Funeral Home  
**LONG, Lloyd**  
Age 84, of Brigiden  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

**VISSER, Pieternella**  
Age 84, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home  
**VAN HAAREN, Anna Maria**  
Age 88, of Watford  
Denning's of Watford

**FRIDAY, MAY 22**  
**SPECK, Helen Bridget**  
Age 80, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**SATURDAY, MAY 23**  
**JONES, Daniel**  
Age 35, of Forest  
Denning's of Forest

**SUNDAY, MAY 24**  
**HARDY, Laura Anne**  
Age 61, of Sarnia  
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home  
**CUTLER, Joe**  
Age 69, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

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

Celebration




**Happy 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
**Don Pierce**  
May 27, 2020



**Donna & Don Pierce**  
May 28, 2020  
**Happy 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
Congratulations, Love, & Best Wishes!

Card of Thanks



*Card of Thanks*

The family of the late Ellen Card would like to thank the staff of Fiddick's Nursing Home for the excellent care provided to our mother and grandmother for the last year and a half. Your care for Ellen will not be forgotten.

- The Card Family -

In Memory

In loving memory  
**John F. Hyatt**  
*a wonderful brother*

*We hold onto our memories, the ones that are so dear. To try to keep you always close, now you are not here.*

*You were called, it was your time, but it is so true. You have left a legacy, there was no one like you.*

Lovingly missed by,  
Vinetta, Gayle & Ross and families



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**

In Memory

**BRIDEKIRK** - In loving memory of a dear father, grandfather and brother, **William "Bill" Bridekirk** who passed away **May 27, 2008.**

*Sadly missed along life's way  
Quietly remembered every day...  
No longer in our life to share  
But in our hearts, you're always there.*

Lovingly remembered by  
Marie, Dorothy, Sandi and families

Notice

**RELAY FOR LIFE** - Relay For Life has changed this you into Relay At Home — a fun, interactive way to Relay online and keep our communities safe during COVID-19. For over 20 years, Relay supporters have helped us change the lives of people with cancer. And now more than ever, we're committed to supporting all those affected by cancer across the country. On **June 13 from 7-9 p.m. EST**, Relay participants from across Canada will come together to Relay At Home. Together, we will show our communities that no one has to face cancer alone. For more information or to join go to: [relayforlife.ca](http://relayforlife.ca)

Obituary



**LONG**  
Lloyd


It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Lloyd Long on **Thursday, May 21, 2020** in his **84th year** at Bluewater Health – C.E.E. Site, Petrolia. Married 63 years to Ruth Long (nee Pedden). Loving father to Laurie (David) Byers and Karen (Chris) Strachan. Cherished grandfather to Christopher (Laura) Byers, Marcia (Zach) Zavitz and Calvin Strachan. Great-grandfather to Blythe Byers and Colin Zavitz. Also survived by sister-in-law Barbara (Ken) Wardell and Nancy Tomchick. Lloyd will be sadly missed by many nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank Dr. Nathan Taylor and the nursing staff at C.E.E. Hospital for their compassionate care. Also a special thank you to Dr. Frank Riedl for his many years of excellent care. Dad liked boating and had built two of his own. He enjoyed fishing, camping, gardening, loved cats and playing cards and having coffee with his friends at Gary and Reta's. Later in life he enjoyed baking, especially pie and butter tarts. **A private family visitation and service will be held at STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigiden. Interment to follow at Oil Springs Cemetery. A celebration of life at Oil Springs Legion will be announced at a later date.** In lieu of flowers, sympathy may be expressed through donations to Heart and Stroke Foundation or Sarnia Humane Society (please mail cheques to the funeral home). Memories and condolences may be sent online at [www.steadmanbrothers.ca](http://www.steadmanbrothers.ca). Steadman Brothers 519-864-1193

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.**

Notice

**Petrolia Farmers' Market** - The open-air Petrolia Farmers' Market, scheduled to open Saturday, May 16, 2020, has been **delayed** while staff work with vendors to make changes to safety protocols. A new starting date will be available soon, residents are thanked for their patience.

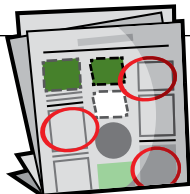


for all classified ads is

**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](mailto: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
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"	
May 30	St. Clair	Household Hazardouse Waste Collection at Clean Harbors	
Jun 5	Petrolia	Victoria Playhouse Petrolia 2020 Theater Season	
Jun 12	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optimist Youth Dance	
Jun 13	Sarnia	Kids Funfest 2020 at Clearwater Park	
Jun 14	Oil Springs	St.James Cemetery Annual Decoration Day Service	
Jun 21	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Fathers Day Breakfast &	
Jun 21	Petrolia	Petrolia Discovery Car Show	
Jun 21	Watford	Watford Annual Yard Sale Day	
Jun21	Sarnia	34th Annual Fundraiser Run/Walk/Skate/Bike for The Huron House Boy's Home	
Jul 1	Alvinston	Brooke-Alvinston Canada Day Celebration and Fireworks	
Jul 1	Watford	2020 Township of Warwick in person Canada Day Celebrations	
Jul 9-10	Petrolia	Art in The Park Petrolia	
Jul 10	Florence	Florence Truck & Tractor Pull	
Jul 24	Dresden	Southwest Ontario Tractor Pullers Association Dresden Pull	
Aug 7-8	Bothwell	Bothwell Car Show & Optifest	
Aug 14-16	Forest	2020 Annual Western Ontario Steam Thresher Reunion	
Aug 22	Alvinston	Alvinston Arts & Music Fest	
Sept 4-6	Petrolia	Petrolia Enniskillen Fall Fair	
Sept 11	Petrolia	Southwest Ontario Tractor Pullers Association Petrolia Pull	
Sept 18-20	Wyoming	2020 Plympton Wyoming Fall Fair	
Sept 25-27	Forest	150th Forest Fall Fair	

### 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	Camlachie	The Plympton-Wyoming Museum's 2020 Season Opening 6745 Camlachie Rd	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 <a href="http://www.alvinstonprorodeo.com">www.alvinstonprorodeo.com</a>	
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

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.kpcthedford.com)  
[www.standrews-petrolia.ca](http://www.standrews-petrolia.ca)

**St. Paul's United Church**  
4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street  
We invite you to join a virtual congregation and watch the Sunday morning worship on our Facebook Page & Website. Please Stay Safe!  
Rev. Susan Cameron  
10:30am Service  
Church Office: 519-882-1390  
[stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net](http://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](mailto:fbcpetrolia@gmail.com)  
[www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca](http://www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca)  
Find us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia](https://www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia)

**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

## Business & Service Directory

**BOURQUE RENOVATIONS**  
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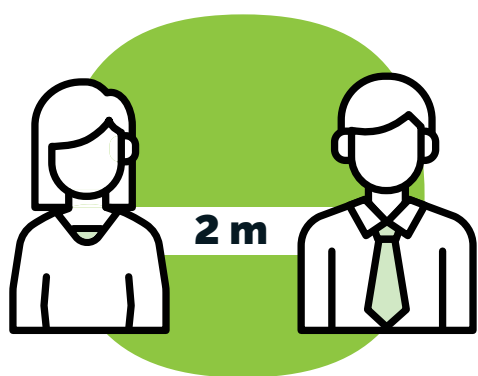


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# **We're Making a Difference to Keep Each Other Safe from COVID-19**

As businesses begin to reopen, we all need to continue our efforts to protect each other.



**Practice physical distancing.**  
Stay two metres away from others



**Wear a face covering** when physical distancing is a challenge



**Wash hands** thoroughly and often

**Inside or out, stay safe. Save lives.**

Learn more at [ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://ontario.ca/coronavirus)

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