

COVID-19 delivers \$60 million blow to Lambton's tourism sector

Heather Wright
The Independent

The head of Tourism Sarnia Lambton says the region has lost about \$60 million because of the COVID-19 shutdown.

Mark Perrin, executive director of TSL, spoke at a community news conference Tuesday and says with the border closed and businesses shut down the local tourism sector hurting. Perrin says hotels alone in the region have lost \$7 million.

"The casinos ... haven't reported exact figures, but obviously it's pretty significant," he added.

Theaters, like Victoria Playhouse Petrolia, have cancelled performances for the year and museums are still working on opening to the public.

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. But that is only part of the picture in Lambton County.

Perrin says based on historic figures, Lambton could lose another \$15 million a month as the border remains closed.

The tourism agency is working to improve the situation, including helping businesses which rely on tourism prepare for visitors, and trying to make them comfortable with protocols to limit the spread of COVID-19.

"We're providing the correct information, protocols, and best practices that are encouraged by the public health unit. We want to make sure restaurants, attractions and the hospitality sector all receive those. From that, they're going to pledge that they follow these protocols."

Perrin hopes to help stimulate tourism with a new \$290,000 grant from the federal government. TSL is putting together a program where visitors would be given vouchers to spend money at local businesses.

"When people do come to our region and take part in the different attractions we have... a voucher program in place where they're able to be rewarded with a voucher good for shopping and restaurants and retail," he says.

"It's going to be one of the largest that our organization and Tourism Sarnia Lambton has ever been a part of."

MOVING IN



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Workers from Westhoek Construction use metal bars and a lot of muscle power to push the second of three new boiler units into a newly constructed addition at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia. The work is part of the construction underway for nearly a year to prepare the building's infrastructure for the 10-year redevelopment of the hospital. See story on page 2.

Plaza with Petrolia's first McDonalds likely to open in 2021

Heather Wright
The Independent

The developer of a new plaza slated for Petrolia Line and Oil Heritage Road still hopes to start construction late this summer.

Wayne Zhang behind the plaza which will include a gas bar, car wash and a McDonald's restaurant.

Zhang brought the idea to Petrolia Council in May 2019. Officials then acknowledged it had been in the works already in

2018. But Zhang says the restrictions around COVID-19 as well as negotiations with the county to expand a turn lane for the plaza slowed construction. Originally, Zhang hoped to build the \$4 to \$5 million plaza last summer with a

Christmas opening.

Now, Zhang says construction is likely late in the summer.

"If we start around September or October, obviously, we have to fit the winter situation," he says adding there is the technology

to continue working through the winter if necessary.

Zhang says construction could take six months.

Lambton County officials have not yet said when the road work would take place.

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Lambton left behind in Stage Three

Heather Wright
The Independent

Shuttered Lambton businesses will have to wait at least another week before opening.

And it doesn't surprise Lambton's deputy warden.

The province outlined some of the changes coming Friday as the province moves into Stage Three of the reopening of the province during the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be larger groups – 100 people outside and 50 inside – and 99 per cent of businesses will be able to reopen using some of the new health protection standards including bars and indoor restaurants as well as more personal services.

While Lambton continues to perform well in key public health COVID-19 indicators such as lower rates of transmission, increased capacity in hospitals, and progress made in testing, Lambton is not included in the first group of regions moving into Stage Three on Friday.

"This decision is not made at a local level, it is part of the Provincial framework for reopening and made by a team at the

provincial level," said Bill Weber, Lambton County Warden in a news release.

"Knowing that Lambton County entered Stage Two one week later than many other municipalities in the province, and knowing that generally the province planned for up to four weeks before transitioning to the next stage, we anticipate that Lambton County could transition into Stage 3 as early as next week."

Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott, who is also the deputy warden, anticipated the delay for Lambton as well, knowing the county had been held back before.

However he says he has not heard any complaints from businesses about the timing of the province's opening. He believes most Lambton County businesses are handling the changes as they come.

Weber hopes that continues. "Now that we know the details of the Province's reopening plan, we encourage all business owners and organizations to take this extra week to carefully review the requirements for reopening and make preparations for opening following the province's guidance documents," said Weber.

\$4 million in improvements so far at CEEH

Heather Wright
The Independent

Slowly but surely, Bluewater Health is improving the infrastructure of Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital to prepare for the redevelopment of the building.

But Alex Sullo, Bluewater Health's director of facilities, says it will be sometime yet before the infrastructure work will be completed so the redesign of the Emergency Department can take place.

Sullo and his colleagues were at CEEH Tuesday, watching as Westhoek Construction brought the new boilers for the hospital into a recently constructed building at the back of the hospital near the acute care wing. The three new units will heat and provide hot water for the hospital as it expands over the next 10 years.

Sullo says they've been busy improving the infrastructure of the building for nearly two years now - and there is at least another two years of work to go.

"There has been a number of projects; there have been some new sanitary sewers installed, some new water piping, the new boiler plant, and the shell for it...and the cooling tower which was delivered in May which has pretty well wrapped up," he told *The Independent*.

Still to come, installing new heads for the boiler system, more electrical work and

eventually replacing the oxygen system which runs through the hospital.

"As well, we are also going to be doing some renovations within the acute care wing. We're converting some of the rooms from semi private to private rooms with their own private bathrooms," says Sullo noting they were built in the 1960s.

While they renovate, big part of the work becomes removing asbestos from the building. Officials say there is a "significant amount" of the insulation and it is about 10 per cent of the work being done.

Sullo says the \$4.5 million worth of work which has already been completed is only part of the infrastructure renovations needed before the redesign of the Emergency Department moves forward.

The hospital has applied for funding from the province to move some of the existing infrastructure which around the emergency department to the back of the hospital. He's expecting that will cost about \$2 million. Typically, officials say, the ministry makes funding decisions for these type of projects in October.

"We have at least hopefully another year to get this completed and then jump right into that."

Sullo expects it could be another two years before the work inside the Emergency Department begins. The province has provided \$7.4 million for that work.

Operating rooms now working near 100 per cent

Heather Wright
The Independent

The chief of staff at Bluewater Health says the hospital is "very close" to operating its surgery and diagnostic services at 100 per cent capacity.

Hospitals across the province cancelled elective surgeries and diagnostic tests in mid-March as they geared up for a possible influx of COVID-19 patients.

And while Bluewater Health had 57 patients during the early months of the pandemic, there have been no COVID-19 patients in hospital for a month, Dr. Michael Haddad said during a news conference Tuesday.

Haddad says officially, the hospital has ramped up surgery to 80 per cent of normal,

however he believes it is close to 100 per cent now.

"Having said this, we do have a big backlog created over the past four months that we have to catch up on," he says.

"So even being at 100 per cent, which is supposed to be next week, we still have to work quite hard to catch up on the backlog."

That backlog may take longer to clear up than officials hope because Haddad says people are still concerned to come to the hospital which once held COVID-19 patients.

"We can't predict what's going to happen in the fall or the winter.

"So if people are booked to have their procedures done, they need to actually take advantage of it before we potentially can have a second wave," he says

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– Vehicles or Vehicle parts – Electronics
– Appliances
(washer, dryer, refrigerator, etc.)



TOWN OF PETROLIA NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF A ZONING BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Petrolia passed By-Law No. 31-2020 on the 13th day of July, 2020, under Section 34 of the *Planning Act*.

THE ZONING BY-LAW AMENDS the Town of Petrolia's Comprehensive Zoning By-law 63 of 2017 by changing the zoning on lands described as portions of three residential lots described as Lots 46 and 47, Part Lots 42 to 49, Part Holland Street, and Part Brown Street, Plan 16. The subject properties have municipal addresses of 4467 Derby Street, 4469 Derby Street and Derby Street. The properties are located on the south side of Derby Street, between Holland Street and Oil Heritage Road. The intent of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is to rezone the south half of two of the lots from "Future Development (FD)" to "Residential- 1 (R1)". The third lot (4467 Derby Street) is being rezoned from "Future Development (FD)" and "Residential-1 (R1)" to a site-specific "Residential-1-7 (R1-7)" zone. The proposed amendment adds a regulation requiring a dwelling to be located at a minimum side yard setback of 30 metres from the western-most side lot line. The proposed amendment also adds a regulation that requires accessory buildings, structures or uses on the lot being rezoned to R1-7 to be located at least 6 metres (20 feet) from the neighbouring property to the west.

THE KEY MAP shows more particularly the subject lands.

APPEALS to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in respect of the By-law may be made by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Petrolia a written notice of appeal, **not later than the 3rd day of August, 2020**, setting out the reasons for the appeal and accompanied by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal fee made payable to the Minister of Finance.

IF A PERSON or public body did not make oral or written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the by-law was passed; the person or public body is **not entitled to appeal** the By-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. **Only individuals**, corporations and public bodies may appeal a by-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

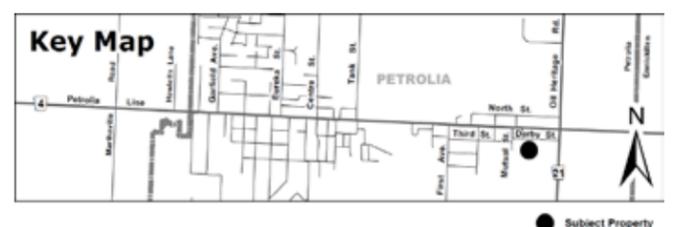
No Person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to Town of Petrolia Council or, in the opinion of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

A COMPLETED COPY of the By-law is available for inspection during regular office hours at the Town of Petrolia Municipal Office at **411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON**

DATED at the TOWN OF PETROLIA this 14th DAY of July, 2020.



Mandi Pearson
Clerk
Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street
Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0



Residents to have say on Petrolia transfer site

Heather Wright
The Independent

Residents on Maude Street will soon be getting a letter explaining what Petrolia's new transfer station will look like.

In 2018, the town shut down the compost station after the Ministry of the Environment inspected the site and found a number of problems, mostly around the record keeping of the compost.

Town staff set up an agreement with Waste Management to handle yard waste.

But after the election, Councillor Ross O'Hara among others, pushed to have the town reopen the site in some form.

The town has been planning the alternative to the former compost site for months now. It recently received word from the Ministry of the Environment that it could approach residents with the details of the proposed site to get their comments, according to Mike Thompson, director of operations for the town.

"On that letter, if the details of what the transfer station is going to look like the operating hours, the months of

operation, and also it has a contact for myself as well as the ministry for residents to get back to them," Thompson told councillors Monday.

He added the town is asking for permission to operate the transfer station three days a week.

"We've kind of swung for the fences as far as offer hours operation and then we can kind of dial it back if council wishes."

After the residents have input into the plan, Thompson says the MOE will take look at the responses before giving its approval. It's not clear how long that will take.

Lambton trees stripped clean by gypsy moths

Heather Wright
The Independent

Trees along Lambton's Lake Huron Shoreline are looking very bare right now.

Gypsy Moths have stripped acres of trees of their leaves, a problem that is particularly noticeable as you drive down Highway 21 through Port Franks to Grand Bend.

Normally lush hardwoods like maples are stripped bare without a leaf in sight.

Jason Cole, Lambton County's general manager of infrastructure and development services, says the two area forests managed by the county - totalling 640 acres of land - have been hard hit as have properties in Lambton

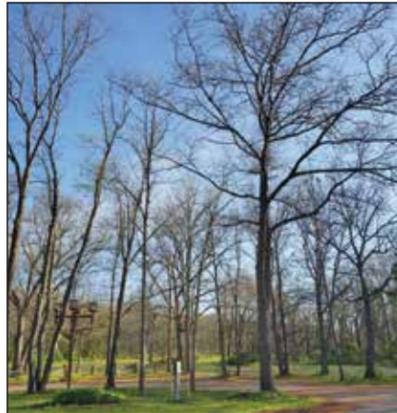
Shores, Sarnia and Plympton-Wyoming.

Cole says trees can withstand the effects of the gypsy moths for one year, but continued leaf loss could kill the trees in the long run.

The solution would be spraying the trees in the spring to kill off the gypsy moths. That would cost Lambton \$60,000 for its property alone.

Cole says the two area conservation authorities and municipal leaders met recently to talk about the problem. He says they're considering a joint response to the problem since if only one property is sprayed it is likely the insects will return from nearby.

Cole says the group is also working with Pinery Provincial Park officials who also have a significant problem.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Trees in front of Lambton Heritage Museum near Pinery Provincial Park are stripped bare by gypsy moths.

Petrolia disinfecting and deep cleaning Victoria Hall

The Independent

Victoria Hall will be getting a deep cleaning as part of a new initiative by the Town of Petrolia.

Recently council passed a policy saying the building would be deep cleaned in June.

The first deep clean took place in Dec. 2019 and after the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way the world

viewed its surroundings, the town decided to move ahead with a twice-yearly cleaning.

Officials say until Thursday, cleaning will be taking place on the second and third floors and in public areas without walk in traffic.

Then Friday, the building will be closed to visitors and staff will work remotely as all the carpets are shampooed and the office space is deep

cleaned. Staff will still be available by phone.

Over the weekend, while the carpets are drying, the building will be sprayed with disinfectant.

The town expects to repeat the cleaning in December.

Town CAO Rick Charlebois could not say immediately how much the process would cost.

St. Clair faces \$234,000 hit as COVID-19 takes toll on golf, camping

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair is feeling the impacts of COVID-19 financially according to a report from the treasurer.

Around \$234,000 has been lost in the township since the province entered lockdown in the middle of March. The biggest blow came from the closure of the golf course, with an estimated \$112,500 loss.

Lost camping time was another hit

for St. Clair.

Treasurer Charles Quenneville reported that \$95,500 in revenue was lost from the Cathcart Campground and \$59,000 from the Moore Campground. Some of this was salvaged through the sale of 25 transient sites at Cathcart. The township is still looking to sell the remaining 14 for the rest of the summer.

St. Clair has also lost \$40,000 from registration in recreational programs

and a combined \$23,000 from the Moore and Sombra museums.

There have been some savings though. Officials say \$53,900 have been saved in administration costs, and \$40,500 on the swimming pool.

Another \$22,900 has been saved in operating costs at Moore Park.

Quenneville says he expects the Mooretown Sports Complex to be closed throughout August.

His next COVID impact report will be ready in the fall.

St. Clair quizzes residents on wheelie bins and bridges in survey

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair Township will be conducting a community survey to figure out if residents want wheelie bin garbage collection among other things.

Organized by the Public Works division, the survey will gather people's views on how the township is performing in key services.

It will also ask residents where they would like to see future spending

go, and what areas of the community they feel tax dollars should be used to improve.

Questions will include how people feel about the state of roads, bridges, water and sanitation services, and more.

One of the big questions will be whether the township should adopt a large rolling cart garbage collection service, instead of the current small garbage can or bag method.

There are two ways to complete the

survey, which runs until July 19. Some residents will be called at random and asked questions. The survey is expected to last around 10 minutes by phone.

People can also fill out the survey themselves on the township website.

Results will be available by the late summer or early fall and will help decide where money for the revised Asset Management Plan will end up.

The survey is being conducted by Probe Research for \$18,450.

VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

September 8, 2020 | 7:00 p.m.

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Set a timer and take a break every 15-20 minutes to stand up, stretch and walk around.
- 3. DRINK WATER**
Carry a bottle of water with your garden tools. When you take your break have a drink of water.
- 4. LISTEN TO YOUR BODY**
Do not ignore those nagging aches and pains until it's too late, if you feel a twinge, take a break or change positions.
- 5. BE MINDFUL OF LARGE LOADS**
Divide large loads into smaller batches that are easier to handle or use a wheeled cart.
- 6. VARY YOUR TASKS**
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Editorial

Freedom, with some basic rules

Are we ready for this?

It's a question many people have on their lips as the province begins to move into the third phase of reopening the province after it was locked down to stop the spread of COVID-19 in mid-March.

Lambton is being held back from the next round of reopening, but officials expect we'll join the rest of the province possibly as soon as next week.

But starting Friday in many communities including nearby Chatham-Kent and Middlesex, restaurants will be able to host customers in their buildings, you can have a drink at a bar, kids will be able to play on the local slides and swings and up to 50 people will be able to be in one place inside - 100 outside. Provincial officials say 99 per cent of businesses will be able to operate in some fashion.

And while people who have been prevented from plying their trades for months are anxious to return to work, hoping to salvage what is left of their business, there are many more who are nervous about the prospect of more freedoms and how that might bring more cases of COVID-19 to our community.

They point to Texas, Florida and Michigan in the US where state governments threw open the doors to business and three weeks later, hospitals are overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients and restrictions are being reinstated to try to get a grip on the second wave of cases of the respiratory virus.

It was a case of being set free and thinking there are no limits. It was the same thing that happened 100 years ago during the Spanish Flu pandemic. More people died when the restrictions were lifted because they were weary of living their lives in fear and went back to normal.

The good thing is we can learn from history - recent and 100 years ago.

There is a sense of being set free going on - but we have to remember some pretty basic rules; keep six feet from other people, wash your hands frequently, and stay home when you're not feeling well. It's not difficult. We've done it for four months now, it should be a habit.

And we also have to respect the safety protocols business are putting in place. You may not see the need to use hand sanitizer when you're getting your coffee, but it is the least we can do to maintain the freedom we've worked so hard and lost much to regain.

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor.

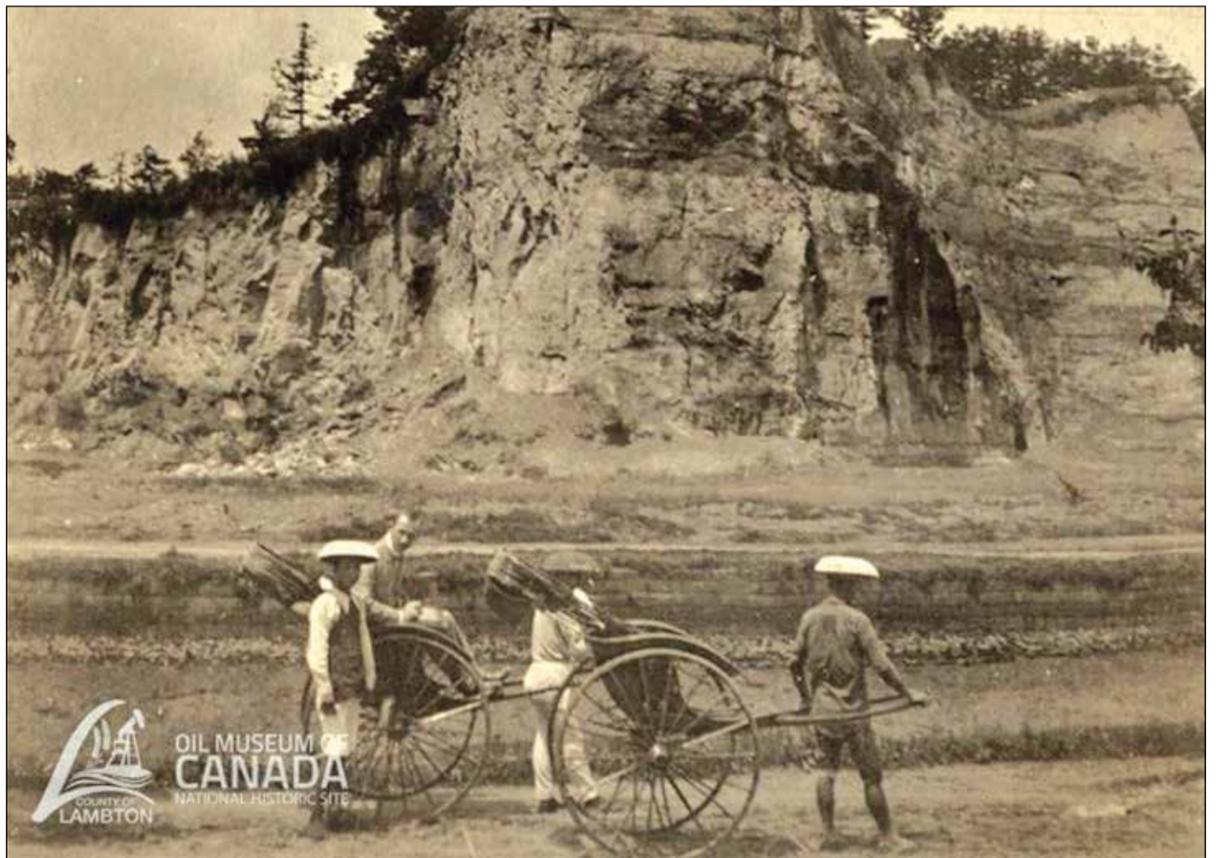
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You can also deliver letters to *The Independent* at 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia or drop them in the mail at *The Independent*, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0.

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



OIL MUSEUM OF CANADA PHOTO

When Robert Rawlings left for Sumatra in 1890 to work for the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company, he was already an experienced driller and manager. In 1901, Rawlings wrote to his mother to say that he had bought a Kodak camera. Many of the photographs that we have from the Rawlings collection focus not on drilling activities, but on the people and the landscape of Sumatra and South East Asia.

Longing for the summers of not thinking a whole lot

Summer is a time we're not supposed to think a whole lot - at least that's the motto I've lived my life by.

It's a time for being outdoors, playing in the water, biking, and getting the occasional ice cream cone.

Yes, there is work, but even in journalism, summer takes on a more casual tone as many groups stop meeting and the hours are shorter. But this summer, I find myself doing much more thinking than I wanted to do. And I can blame COVID-19 for that.

At work, there is more news happening - constant video news conferences fill my calendar as families walk and bike by my window. And I have to think harder about how I do my job.

Summer newspapers used to be filled with pages of photos of the things going on in the community - Art in the Park, the Barn Dance, Canada Day

events, Arts Festivals - not right now.

So, I have to think about what sort of things I can take photos of for the pages of the paper. That takes some brain power, believe me.

And I think about the economics of my business - few ads mean little revenue and that leaves us scrambling constantly. I think about that.

But I also have a lot more to think about personally; Barry and I have three kids, all still in school. Our eldest is going into the third year of university and we're not sure what that will look like - I think about that. Our middle daughter is scheduled to start university, although she's unsure because of online learning and living in a dorm in the age of COVID-19 - I think about that.

Our youngest will be back in high school - whatever that will look like. He's dreading the thought of returning

to online learning. I think about that.

And I think about my dad, still alone, without his family in long term care. I think about how the provincial government has virtually abandoned these seniors' as they march forward with their plan to reopen bars but not let elderly seniors be held by their families. I think about that a lot.

I long for the summers of lying in a boat on the water, pretending to fish while catching some rays and not thinking. Maybe next year.



Heather Wright

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Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

Proud host of the Local Journalism Initiative

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Lambton leaves mandatory masks to municipalities

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton County councillors say they won't force residents wear a mask in indoor public places and businesses.

Municipalities across Ontario including Toronto, Ottawa and Guelph, have made it mandatory to wear masks in indoor public facilities to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Lambton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, told councillors July 8 he doesn't feel it is necessary at this time since most of the cases in Lambton are spread by close contact with a person infected with COVID-19.

"Lambton County is a community with low population density.

"Physical distancing can be maintained in most - not all - settings. Lambton County's population density is 42 people/km² which is significantly lower compared to many other communities such as Windsor (322 people/km²), London (186 people/km²), Wellington County (82 people/km²) and Toronto (4334 people/km²)," officials outlined in a technical briefing released after county council made its decision.

Officials added mask use was most effective when more than 80 per cent of people use them correctly, they were used early enough in an outbreak and were used along with other health measures.

Many county councillors argued local municipalities, not the county should

be making the decision. Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley, who advocated for the mandatory use of masks, disagreed.

"Everything has been done so far (during the pandemic) has been on a regional level, that's what public health is," says Bradley.

Instead, councillors supported a motion encouraging people to use masks when indoors in public spaces where physical distancing can't be achieved – a motion Bradley voted for but believed had little weight.

"We've been telling everybody they can wear masks for months now."

Ranade told councillors that while he doesn't support the mandatory use of masks right now, his opinion could change if the conditions in the community change.

Cougar on the loose: Worker sees 'big cat' in Petrolia

Heather Wright
The Independent

One of the owners of a Petrolia golf course is questioning recent social media posts about a cougar in the area.

Recently, Cody Shepperd, who works for HHS cutting lawns at local schools, says he saw a cougar.

"I saw a full grown cougar when I was cutting the grass at Hillcrest school on First Ave," he wrote on Facebook July 7.

Shepperd says it was between 150 and 200 pounds but didn't have his phone so he didn't get a photo.

"It was down in the flats behind the school. I saw a neighbour outside, so I warned him and he told me that he has been helping at the golf course and they came across half of a dead baby deer; so it has been hungry and on the prowl."

Shepperd told *The Independent* he was very close to the animal - between 75 and 100 yards away.

"I just observed it not wanting to disturb animals in their habitat, that's

when trouble can start right? That's when they can feel threatened or whatever," he says.

"It caught my eye and I stopped my mower and I seen it go into the clearing and then just sauntered off into the into the long grass and back into the bush."

Joe Gorzeman is one of the owners of Kingswell Glen. He's skeptical a cougar has been on the property.

"I find it hard to believe that there's a cougar around here. Cougars don't leave their kills, they take their kills back home to their dens," he says. "Someone finding a half-eaten deer doesn't bode well with me on the wildlife front."

"If someone actually has a photo of it and says that they saw it I'll believe it, but I haven't actually seen it."

"I've known people that have seen coyotes and called them wolverines and mythical beasts"

This is not the first time residents have raised concerns about the possibility of a cougar in the area. In 2014, six people spoke to *The Sarnia*

Journal saying they had seen the big cat. And Petrolian Richard Poore found what appeared to be a cougar print in his backyard in the snow in Crescent Park.

Many people questioned what Shepperd thought he saw, but both he and Gorzeman says people should keep their eyes open, just in case.

"But if there is a cougar, when you're out walking just always look behind you and be careful," says Gorzeman.

"There's a lot of skepticism and that's gonna happen because I didn't have my phone on me."

"Like I said, I cut grass and the chair I'm not going to risk it falling out of my pocket and getting chopped up by the mower."

"There's always those ones that don't believe anything anybody says and that's fine because they're entitled to their opinion. I've seen what I seen and by all means, I'm not a wild game hunter. You know, I'm not a professional animal observer kind of thing. But, but no, I know what I saw and it was definitely a giant cat."

Petrolia hotel construction expected soon

The Independent

The developers of a new downtown Petrolia hotel say construction should begin this summer.

Jenna and Joe Gorzeman are behind the Kingswell Hotel, a four storey boutique hotel set to be built down the street from the restaurant the pair operate - Crabby Joe's.

Work was supposed to have started early this spring, but the restrictions around COVID-19 and some of the permits have held back construction.

"We're well into the permit process now. We're waiting to get back the numbers and we're anxious and excited to start," Joe Gorzeman told *The Independent* at the official opening of the family's recently acquired golf course, Heritage Heights. It's been renamed Kingswell Glen. He also nixed rumours that the hotel would be moving Kingswell Glen.

"It's going to be right on the main street...once we get started it is slated to open about a year and a half after that."

THE LAST ROUTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Petrolia area residents will be missing a familiar face. Long-time Canada Post employee, Patsy Bright, has retired. Officials with the corporation says Bright has been delivering mail in the Petrolia area for over 22 years. Friends and family gathered to wish her well on her last day on the job recently and decorated her work area with balloons and streamers to send her into retirement.

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Councillors want to buy Inwood fire hall

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston Councillors Frank Nemcek and Jamie Armstrong want to try to buy the Inwood fire hall instead of building something new.

It's a return to a position brought up in 2019, while the municipality was trying to negotiate a new lease with the Inwood Firemen's Association, which owns the hall. Those negotiations fell flat and the municipality moved the fire equipment out of the hall on January 1.

Since then, council has been talking about building a small station, possibly attached to the Inwood library, to serve the community. It also engaged a fire consulting service which said the community was well served by the Alvinston department and a new hall was not needed. Firehouse 33 suggested an emergency medical response team was needed in Inwood first.

But current fire chief, Jeff McArthur, seemed to disagree, advocating for a fire hall in the community

in a report to council. Both Nemcek and Armstrong agreed with McArthur during a special meeting July 8 and took the issue one step further.

Armstrong suggested a new building would cost between \$440,000 and \$600,000 and he said it would take over a year to get the hall ready.

"We could have no coverage or we could work out a deal with the Inwood Firemen's Association where the municipality takes over the Inwood hall," he says noting there is a lot of interest in the idea.

Armstrong suggested the municipality could take the \$100,000 set aside for the new building and upgrade the hall.

"We could own that and we could get the trucks back in there almost immediately."

Nemcek agreed. "I would like to buy back the old fire hall," he says. "We could buy it at a reasonable price and bring it up-to-date."

Mayor Dave Ferguson pointed out the association was asked about that before the equipment left the hall,

but didn't respond.

Nemcek suggested the municipality should "make the first move" and talk to the association about the idea "otherwise were sitting on our hands and nothing is getting done."

Councillor Wayne Deans, who was a firefighter in Inwood, says there is a meeting planned with some of the senior members of the organization in the next few weeks and the idea of selling the hall will be discussed.

Brooke-Alvinston's plans for Inwood are also in limbo after Dawn-Euphemia decided to study the possibility of cancelling its contract with Inwood to cover part of its community.

The area Inwood firefighters covered only had four calls in the last four years. It costs the municipality \$18,000 a year to pay Inwood to do it.

Brooke-Alvinston council plans to see the outcome of the Dawn-Euphemia study – coming in late July – and the outcome of the Inwood Firemen's Association meeting before moving forward with a decision.

WELCOME DOWNPOUR



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Heavy rain pelted Petrolia Friday bringing an end to an oppressive heat wave which had gripped the province. The rain was spotty however with some areas getting inches of rain and some not getting any at all.

St. Clair pools, museums to stay closed until August

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair Township is in no rush to open their public facilities.

Council discussed whether they should reopen the township's pair of museums and the public pool. They've been closed for four months in the effort to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Councillors were clear the pool at the Mooretown Sports Complex should not open yet - even if the provincial guidelines in Stage Three of the reopening of the province would allow it. Members decided to delay any opening until next council meeting at the earliest.

A report from coordinator of community programs Michelle Rottier showed how intensive reopening the pool will be no matter when it takes place.

Capacity has been decreased dramatically in the water and changing rooms. COVID-19 screenings will take place for each person entering the pool.

The pool would also see reduced hours due to the time necessary to constantly clean the facility.

One of the biggest changes will be the elimination of traditional swimming lessons. Provincial

guidelines do not allow contact between a teacher and student, meaning parents would have to accompany their kids in private family lessons. Rottier will gather feedback to see if there is enough parent interest in this option to offer these lessons once the pool reopens.

"It was a hard report to write. The idea was to show you what we're up against and try and lay it out as best we could to prepare you for what is to come," says Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay.

At the Sombra and Mooretown museums, officials are worried about older patrons who are more susceptible to COVID-19 and the narrow pathways which lead visitors through the exhibits making physical distancing difficult.

"Personally I would like to see them just stay closed until we get well into Stage Three," says Mayor Steve Arnold. "The last thing I'd want us to do is get excited and open up, and then we go backwards."

"You look at the US, you look at Quebec, they all slipped backwards after they went gun ho and opened. I think instead of getting everybody all excited and then confused, my preference is just to leave them down."

"We're probably pretty safe, but if everything goes awry again we'll just have to jump back to Phase One again. I think we should wait and see," says Councillor Tracy Kingston.

Several councillors were in favor of leaving the decision up to museum staff, but in the end, the vote was to keep the museums closed for now.

Arnold says his main concern for both the pool and museums is the well being of the staff. "When you open it up, if you have people from all over Ontario you don't know what they're carrying at this point."

The openings will be revisited at the next council meeting on August 17.

Meantime, workers at Lambton's museums were back in the buildings Friday preparing for a possible reopening.

Museums and art galleries are slated to reopen under stage three of the province's plan to remove COVID-19 restrictions.

Lambton County was not among the communities which will be opening Friday.

Most of the workers in museums now are working on reopening plans or continuing work which was ongoing before the pandemic closed everything down.

TOWN OF PETROLIA NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF A ZONING BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Petrolia passed By-Law No. 31-2020 on the 13th day of July, 2020, under Section 34 of the *Planning Act*.

THE ZONING BY-LAW AMENDS the Town of Petrolia's Comprehensive Zoning By-law 63 of 2017 by changing the zoning on lands described as *Lands described as Part of Lot 12, Concession 10; Lots 10 and 11, Plan 44; Part 3, RP25R5756; and Parts 1 to 3, RP 25R 7485 within the R3-4 Zone shall permit a 10-unit one-storey Multiple Dwelling. Lands described as R3-4 Zone requires a minimum 3 metre front yard setback, a minimum 1.2 metre side yard setback on one side, a minimum 20 metre side yard setback on the other side, and a minimum 6 metre rear yard setback.*

THE KEY MAP shows more particularly the subject lands.

APPEALS to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in respect of the By-law may be made by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Petrolia a written notice of appeal, **not later than the 3rd day of August, 2020**, setting out the reasons for the appeal and accompanied by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal fee made payable to the Minister of Finance.

IF A PERSON or public body did not make oral or written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the by-law was passed; the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the By-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a by-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

No Person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to Town of Petrolia Council or, in the opinion of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

A COMPLETED COPY of the By-law is available for inspection during regular office hours at the Town of Petrolia Municipal Office at **411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON**

DATED at the TOWN OF PETROLIA this 14th DAY of July, 2020.



Mandi Pearson
Clerk
Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street
Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0





John and Melissa Wright of Inwood have claimed the \$16 million winning prize in Lotto 649's June 24. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Inwood dad gets \$16 million Father's Day present

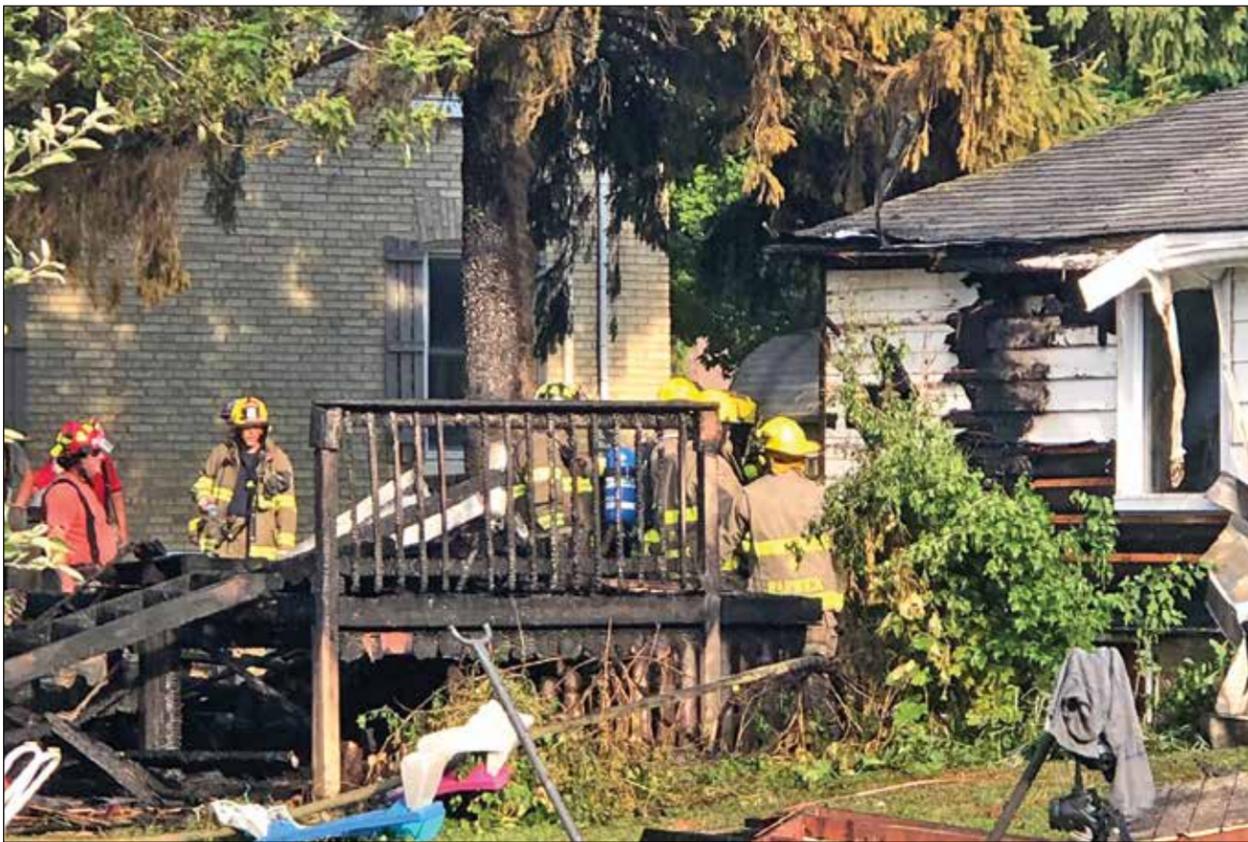
The Independent

Melissa Wright will have a hard time topping this Father's Day gift. The 47 year old Inwood nurse went to Hogan's Pharmacy in Petrolia and picked up a Lotto 6/49 ticket for the June 24th draw for her dad, John – an 88 year-old retired tank cleaner. "What do you get for a man who doesn't need anything?" Melissa says in a news release issued by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission.

Melissa checked the ticket on the lottery's app. "I couldn't believe my eyes and I checked it a few more times. I was so excited I couldn't sleep!" With a \$16,058,552.50 win, Melissa had one thing in mind. Her husband has been helping her dad buy a new car. He received a call at work. "I said, 'You can order Dad any car he wants, we just won \$16 million!'" says Melissa. "And now, the price is no object!"

said John in a news release. "Otherwise, we'll be putting the money into an investment while we let this win sink in." "It's great. For so many years I did without and it's wonderful for me to have this financial freedom," Wright said. "Dad deserves every penny," added Melissa. OLG officials said the Inwood pair declined to talk to the media about their win.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT



BEN COULBECK PHOTO

About 30 firefighters helped knock down a fire caused by an out of control burn pile. Watford and Warwick fire stations were called to Erie Street between John Street and Warwick Street in Watford yesterday around 6 pm along with the Lambton OPP. Chief Rick Sitlington says a resident had a burn pile going too close to the family's deck. It caught fire and was destroyed. The house was also damaged. Sitlington was not able to say what the dollar damage was. About 30 firefighters were on scene. Sitlington says more people were needed because of the heat. It allowed firefighters to switch out when they were too hot.

Corridor gets \$1.5M from Ontario

The Independent

The provincial government has stepped up to help build the oversized load corridor in Sarnia-Lambton. The \$16.5 million project makes a clear path for fabricating industries to get large modular equipment made in Sarnia-Lambton to the Sarnia port and eventually to Canada's oil patch or overseas. The province is pitching in \$1.5 million for the work. The federal government has already invested \$6 million in the project. Sarnia is putting up \$4.7 million while the county is putting up \$1.2 million. St. Clair Township is also contributing to the cost as is the Sarnia Lambton Industrial Alliance - a coalition of industrial companies in the community. Cesar Business College - which is linked to Lambton College - also contributed \$4 million to the project. Officials say the project is moving ahead as the city and county try to find more funding for the project. Industry is already using the route as it is being completed.

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

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

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Meth and a flaming roll of TP lead to jail time

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Bail breaches, meth possession and a flaming roll of toilet paper added up to seven months in jail for a Sarnia man.

Ayden Payne, 25, plead guilty to eight charges on July 3. The most serious of these came from a June evening this year when tried to set fire to a Christina St. home.

Payne had been arrested just a week earlier for visiting a person he was required to stay away from since 2018. He was asking for money.

After he was released from jail, Payne went to the home of a woman and kicked the door so hard it came off the hinges. Payne left, but came back later that night and the woman let him in.

Things turned sour when Payne began to do drugs. He was asked to leave but lit a roll of toilet paper on fire and throwing it into the house. Payne then shattered all the glass panels of the front door before leaving.

Payne returned to the house around 2 am. The woman called police and officers found Payne upstairs doing drugs. He was arrested and charged with mischief and possessing meth.

“Clearly Mr. Payne has challenges for a number of reasons to comply with court orders,” says Crown attorney Melanie

Nancekievill. Defense lawyer Nick Cake showed that Payne had not experienced legal problems until late 2018 following a break-up. Cake said after the relationship ended Payne became addicted to meth.

“He has a record that is full of offenses that are common to people struggling with addiction, and with the things that come along with it,” says Cake.

“Mr. Payne is someone who realizes he needs the help, he just struggles with getting himself the health care,” Cake says.

The lawyer says seven months in jail gives Payne a lot of time “to use the resources available to him... in hopes of getting on top of that addiction.”

Justice Krista Leszczynski agreed with the joint submission of a seven month term saying Payne had demonstrated “a long and consistent record of disregarding court orders.

“You’ve plead guilty to these offenses and that is an indication you’re taking responsibility for your actions and that you have some remorse for your conduct.”

Payne will have 139 days left to serve after receiving credit for pre-sentence custody. He will remain on his existing parole until December 2021.

Payne will also have to pay \$360 to repair the door he broke.

Migrant workers clear of COVID-19

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton Public Health says so far migrant farm workers in the area are COVID-19 free.

The health unit, working with Emergency Medical Services and Central Lambton Family Health Team, started testing migrant workers in the region last week. It came as concerns mounted for the temporary foreign workers particularly in the province’s greenhouse industry. About 60,000 migrant workers come to Canada to help with the harvest, but there have been bumps in the road this year as COVID-19 restrictions took effect at the same time many workers would enter Canada.

For a couple of days, they were banned from entering the country, and that wreaked havoc in the system. Many migrant

workers have not made it to Canada for work yet.

In Lambton, normally there are between 200 and 300 temporary foreign workers helping with the harvest. This year, its far less. Officials with the London diocese of the Catholic Church say there are about 144 workers now.

Public Health says 83 workers have now been tested with no positive COVID-19 results. There are two test outstanding. Officials say they continue to work with the farm community on the issue.

There have been 14,408 COVID-19 tests done in Lambton since the pandemic was declared, 1,276 in the past week. Right now only two people have COVID-19 and are self isolating. There is no one in hospital in Lambton with the virus.

Since June 20, there has been one person contract COVID-19 in Lambton.

COMMUNITY CORNER



PHOTO CREDIT ALEX KURIAL - LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

The owners of Petrolia’s historic golf course have officially opened the newly renamed course. Local politicians and business leaders cut the ribbon at the Kingswell Glen Thursday morning. Pictured are Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu, owner Joe Gorzeman, Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey, owner Jenna Gorzeman, Lambton Warden Bill Weber, Mark Perrin of Tourism Sarnia-Lambton, Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley, CAO Rick Charlebois, Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce President Alan Calvert and Chamber Board Chair Mary Jean O’Donnell

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

NEWSPAPER NEWS PAPER

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recycle newspapers into something new

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About the Contest
“This Old Newspaper?!” challenges participants to use newspapers to create whatever they can dream up: clothing, art, furniture – the possibilities are endless!

Rules

- Participants must re-purpose newspaper into something creative and/or functional (anything goes – ball-gown, basket, lampshade) and submit it to their local community newspaper. *Note: While a piece created 100% of newspaper is ideal, we recognize that other materials may be necessary for framework and stability. Therefore, a piece MUST consist of at least 70% recycled newspaper. Of course, it must also be appropriate for the public to admire.*
- In addition to a brief description about the participant’s creation, they must submit a series of photos or videos taken during the construction process to show how the piece was developed.

Judging Categories

- Open
- Junior under 12
- Family

Deadline: August 20

Submissions sent to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Sports

Prestigious curling event delayed a year

The Independent

COVID-19 has claimed another high profile local event. Sportsnet and the Sarnia-Lambton organizing committee have decided to reschedule the 2020 Masters, the first event of the 2020-21 Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling season.

Originally scheduled to take place this October, Sarnia will now host the world's best curlers October 19-24, 2021 at Sarnia Arena.

"Given the current and serious circumstances around COVID,

we simply cannot provide the quality experience we strive to achieve for everyone involved in 2020," Host Committee Member and General Manager at the Sarnia Golf and Curling Club, Michael Hearse, said in a statement announcing the delay.

Tournament details and ticket information, including refund and roll-over information for the Masters ticket holders, will be available online at ticketscene, Sarnia Golf and Curling Club and the Grand Slam of Curling web sites "Although we are saddened

and disappointed that we had to make the difficult decision to reschedule the Masters this year, we look forward to building on the foundation that we had already established." said Host Committee Member and Special Events and Sports Marketing Coordinator for Tourism Sarnia Lambton, Vicky Praill.

"We know our community will host an unforgettable event and we look forward to welcoming players and fans to Sarnia-Lambton in 2021."

Stanley Cup champion named head coach of Rockets

Jason Williams in the new head coach of the Strathroy Rockets of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League. He is well known to "AAA" hockey fans in the region as the head coach of the Elgin Middlesex Chiefs this past season. The Chiefs were heading for the OHL Cup to represent the Alliance League before the

season was shut down in mid-March due to health concerns over coronavirus.

"I'm really excited about joining the Rockets organization and continuing on with this next chapter in my hockey career," said Williams in a news release Monday..

He replaces Jason Furlong who will remain with the

Rockets as assistant general manager.

After a junior hockey career with the Peterborough Petes, Williams went on to play 16 seasons in the National Hockey League. He won a Stanley Cup with the Detroit Red Wings in 2002. He played with former Petrolia Jet Jamie Chamberlain with the Petes in 1998-99.

Where are they now: Helps drafted by the Marlins

Steve McGrail
For The Independent

Jason Helps grew up around the ball diamonds in Wyoming and was always hanging around the park watching his dad, Keith, play.

Helps and his brother, Jeff, would always have the inside scoop when a spontaneous game in an open field could happen or when things would move to the local tennis courts across the street from their house where a bucket of tennis balls would surface for the ever popular home run derbies.

Helps attended Wyoming Public School and then LCCVI. He played all the sports at Wyoming Public and hockey at LCCVI.

In the summer, Helps played baseball in the Wyoming Wrangler from tee ball up until his first year of Midget, then played for Kirk Barclay (also from Wyoming) with the Falcons which were based out of Petrolia/ and Courtright. He then played a year of junior in Sarnia for coach Bruce Gray (also of Wyoming). He then returned back to coach Barclay with the new Seahawks program. Jason won two OBA championships in 1993 and 1994 playing in Wyoming.

After graduating from LCCVI Helps received a scholarship to St. Clair College in Port Huron to continue his studies and baseball career. He earned a two year degree in Pre-Physiotherapy.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jason Helps during his time with Central Michigan. His skill and work ethic led Florida to draft him in 2001

After two years at St. Clair, Helps had another scholarship offer to attend Central Michigan University. He graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Health and Fitness Degree with a Specialty in Cardiac Rehabilitation.

While playing shortstop for the Chippewas at Central Michigan, Helps enjoyed great success. He was named the NCAA National Player Of The Week. He earned Second Team All Star Honours for the highly competitive MAC conference. Helps is listed in CMU 's record books in the Top 10 for most HR's in a season(15), RBI's (59) in a season, Walks (39) in a season, and runs scored (61) in a season.

Helps and his brother, Jeff, are also in the top five for getting hit by a pitch most times in a season proving that they are willing to do what it takes to get on base and help their team.

Helps was a Letter winner in

2000-2001 and was also named Team MVP for the Chippewas in 2001.

In the summer months of his College years, he played one season for the London Majors and one season for the Michigan Monarchs.

After putting up great numbers at CMU in 2001, Helps was drafted in the 2001 MLB Amateur Draft selected 662nd overall by Florida in the 22nd round. He played in the Marlins farm system at various levels of Class A ball for two seasons. He played for the Utica Blue Sox, Jamestown Jammers, Kane County Cougars, Jupiter Hammerheads during his time in professional baseball.

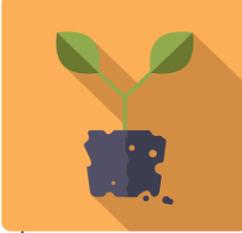
Helps lives in Petrolia with his wife, Jamilee, and their three children. He coaches his boys baseball in Wyoming. He works as an Exercise Specialist for the North Lambton Community Healthcare Center in the cardiac rehabilitation program.

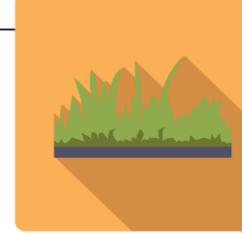
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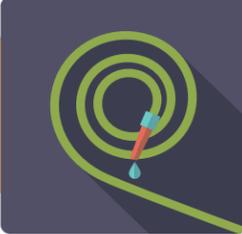




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John is now booking single lawn maintenance appointments in the Town of Petrolia.
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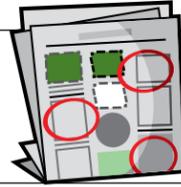
Lauren is now offering hourly, daily or weekly babysitting services starting July 6th for families who are trying to fill some gaps in their child care in the Town of Petrolia.



Call 519-312-5380 for details or to book child care. References provide on request

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
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In Memory

In loving memory
William "Bill" Alexander
who passed away July 19, 2019

*One precious to our hearts has gone,
The voice we loved is stilled;
The place made vacant in our home
Can never more be filled.
Our Father in His wisdom called
The one His love had given,
And so on earth the body lies,
His soul is safe in Heaven.*

Loving remembered by
Wife Melba,
Jim, Mary Ann, John, David and Greg

In Memory

In loving memory of a cherished Wife,
Mom and Grandma
Elaine Willis
Who passed away July 22, 2017

*Deep in our hearts you will always stay,
Loved and missed everyday.*

Jim,
Lisa & Glenn (Aiden, Reid & Clarke),
Kristin & Jim (Cohen & Leo),
Alisha & Patrick (Niamh, Fiona, Lucy & Cormac)

Anniversary

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
50 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Rudy & Marianne
Terpstra
July 18, 2020
Love from your family

In Memory

John Arthur GRIFFITH
Jan. 20, 1941 - July 20, 2008

In memory of a loving husband,
kind father and doting grandfather

*Your Smile
Though your life is gone forever,
And your hands we cannot touch.
We have so many memories,
Of the one we love so much.
Your memory is our keepsake,
Which ill from us never part.
God has you in his keeping,
We have you in our hearts.*

So sadly missed but never forgotten
Carolynne, Mandy, John & Ann Marie,
Julia, Brett & Katie

In Memory

In fond memory of our friend,
Arthur Griffith
who passed away July 20, 2008

*Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure.
Remembering the times,
We had together.*

Forever Missed by
Bill & Karen
Bill & Sharon
Ray & Linda
Ross & Gayle

Anniversary

Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary

Bruce & Betty Bradley
July 16, 1960 - July 16, 2020

60 years ago, Bruce and Betty exchanged wedding vows at the Knox Dawn Presbyterian Church. Upon stepping out those doors, they happily settled into a life on their farm. Pictured with the happy couple is Rover Joe, their 30 year old race horse who still provides them with companionship on the farm today. As 3 retirees; a teacher, a farmer and a pacer, they are blessed by a life of leisure on the farm, caring neighbours and friends, and good times spent sharing the joys of family.

*With love and admiration,
Your family*

FOR SALE

KERI-OUT TYE-DYE T-SHIRTS
- Adult - \$20. Kids - \$10. Unique Driftwood Birdhouses. 4717 Lakeside Street (Hillcrest Heights) 519-899-4233. DRIVE-OUT DISPLAY DAILY.

For Sale

PLANT SALE - Perennial plants, Rose of Sharon Bushes. **458 Ignatifa St., Petrolia.** Self Serve.

In Memory

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A WONDERFUL HUSBAND, DAD AND GRANDPA.
John F. Hull
who passed away 2 years ago on July 12, 2018.

*A beautiful memory dearer than gold,
of a father whose worth can never be told.
There's a place in our hearts.
No one can fill.
We miss you dad,
and always will.
You are loved,
and greatly missed.*

With much love
Myrtle, Kathy & Paul
and Grandchildren

Card of Thanks

~ Card of Thanks ~
Doug Coleman
1929 - 2020

We wish to express our appreciation to those who offered support and kindness though phone calls, cards, flowers, food and visits at the time of Doug's passing. Your kindness will always remind us of how much Doug was respected and loved by so many.

Thanks for the donations made to many charities. We are so appreciative of your generosity.

Many thanks for the special care Doug received at Fiddicks Nursing Home during his stay. The staff are beyond exceptional.

Too much love to ever forget our special years together, sharing both laughter and tears.

*Thanks a Million
Nancy & Family*

Death Notices

July 5 to July 12, 2020

SUNDAY, JULY 5 NIXON, Matthew Age 40, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Chapel	WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 HUNT, Cecile Age 95, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home
HAVERS, Howard "Howie" Age 58, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	CULLIGAN, Kenneth Martin Age 97, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home
SMITH, Joyce Marie Age 80, of Strathroy Smith Funeral Home	FRIDAY, JULY 10 TACKNYK, Mae Darlene Age 70, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
MONDAY, JULY 6 DAVIDSON, Jean-Marie "John" Age 69, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home	STAKARUK, Marie Age 83, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
LEA, John Edward "Ted" Age 92, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	CABLE, Floyd Edgar Age 86, of Forest Denning's of Forest
TUESDAY, JULY 7 CLARE, Wendy Age 71, of Lambton Shore Gilpin Funeral Home	SATURDAY, JULY 11 BLACKMORE, Robert Age 62, of Alvinston VanHeck Funeral Home
LOCKREY, Michael Age 76, of Lambton Shores Gilpin Funeral Home	FAZIO, Pat Age 74, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
LUPI, Umberto Age 76, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	SUNDAY, JULY 12 SAVOY, Joseph "Joe" Age 69, of Sarnia McCormack Funeral Home
LEBEAU, Yvonne Age 87, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home	

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

Apartment for Rent

413 ENGLAND AVE Petrolia - 1 bdrm, balcony, storage room, coin-op laundry. Additional monthly fee for pets, available Sept 1. \$590. plus utilities. Call 519-383-4404

LOST ITEM

LOST & FOUND - I have lost a **small silver camera**, I believe it is an Advantix near the pond in the east end park, North side (Petrolia). If you have found it please call me at 519-882-2494

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

Answers to this week's **Sudoku**

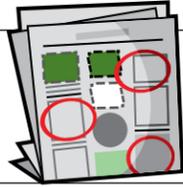
1	4	9	8	7	6	5	3	2
7	3	2	1	5	4	9	6	8
8	6	5	3	9	2	1	7	4
3	1	6	4	2	8	7	9	5
9	7	8	5	6	3	4	2	1
5	2	4	7	1	9	3	8	6
4	9	1	6	8	7	2	5	3
2	8	3	9	4	5	6	1	7
6	5	7	2	3	1	8	4	9

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**Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon**



Classifieds

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

COVID-19 IN LAMBTON

Local events that have been cancelled or postponed because of the coronavirus outbreak.

CANCELLED EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
Jul 18	Port Lambton	St. Clair River Run
Jul 24	Dresden	Southwest Ontario Tractor Pullers Association Dresden Pull
Jul 25-26	Bright's Grove	2020 Bluewater Triathlon and Duathlon/Ironkid Triathlon
Jul 31-Aug 2	Sarnia	14th Annual Greekfest at Christina Street
Aug 7-8	Bothwell	Bothwell Car Show & Optifest
Aug 14-16	Forest	2020 Annual Western Ontario Steam Thresher Reunion
Aug 16	Camlachie	Fish n' Chips at Camlachie united Church
Aug 22	Alvinston	Alvinston Arts & Music Fest
Aug 22	Wyoming	Plympton-Wyoming Truck and Tractor Pull
Sept 4-6	Petrolia	Petrolia Enniskillen Fall Fair
Sept 5	Lambton	Annual Lambton County Plowing Match
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
Oct 2-4	Alvinston	Brooke-Alvinston Watford 2020 Fall Fair
Oct 9-12	Brigden	Brigden 2020 Fall Fair

POSTPONED EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	DATE
Mar 26	Wyoming	Wyoming Wee Ones Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser	TBD
Mar 29	Petrolia	Petrolia Optimist Run for the Groceries Draw/Event	TBD
Apr 8	Petrolia	Petrolia Community Theatre production of "Sandy Toes & Salty Kisses" NOW Postponed until 2021	
Apr 11	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optimist Club Triva Night	TBD
Apr 18	Alvinston	The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston Large Item Day – Moved to Fall	
May 1	Wyoming	Plympton & Wyoming Agricultural Society Annual Salad Luncheon New Date TBD 519-845-3161	
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 23	Enniskillen	Enniskillen Rabies Vaccination Pet Clinic	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.alvinstonprodeoro.com	
Jun 21	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optimist Club's Cowboy Breakfast has been moved to August 30, 2020	
Jun 21	Oil Springs	Oil City Cemetery Decoration Day Service	TBD
Jun 22	Petrolia	LCDS Annual General Meeting	Sept 8, 2020
Jul 18	Wyoming	Plympton-Wyoming Agricultural Society Broasted Chicken Diner	TBD

NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Any items not listed are accepted, if you use it in your home – our clients will use it in theirs.

Juice Boxes • Side Kicks • Jello • Family Snacks • Rice Cakes • Crispers • Popcorn • Canned Fruit

Church DIRECTORY

Christ Church Anglican

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

All worship services in the Anglican Diocese of Huron are suspended until further notice. Please continue to hold one another and our communities in your prayers.

Rev. Michelle Collins-Wongkee
Church Office 519-882-1430
christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia
(Behind the Post Office)

In this time of Social distancing we invite you to join a virtual congregation and watch the Sunday morning worship at Knox Presbyterian Church in Thedford.
9:30am Service - Live
www.kpcthedford.com
www.standrews-petrolia.ca

St. Paul's United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

We 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

First Baptist Church

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

SERVICE SUSPENDED until further notice in compliance with Ontario Corona Virus meeting guidelines
Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com
www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

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

Wyoming United Church

730 Second Street, Wyoming

Due to the COVID-19 virus 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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329 Centre St., Petrolia
www.bourquerenovations.com

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FISHING FUN



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Keira Gould, 4, was pretty proud of the 13” catfish she caught during the week-long Petrolia Fishing Derby. But she was content to let dad, Kyle, hold it for the photo. In all, 27 kids registered for the event catching everything from carp to bobbers, turtles and mud at Bridgeview Park. Paisley Waite caught the largest fish, a 35 inch Gar Pike. Jadin Vandenbergh caught the most fish - 16 in all - including the smallest at two inches. This year, families were encouraged to go to the park on their own during the week and submit photos of their catches to the town.

New roof rules cost schools \$1.26 million

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Prices are through the roof - or at least going to the roof - due to new school building codes for roof safety.

Just more than \$1.26 million has been set aside for the tender project to bring the all school roofs in the Lambton Kent District School Board up to code.

Finance Superintendent Brian McKay says it is a new safety feature.

“The guard rail is dependent on where your accesses are in your roof, and how close they are to the edges of

the roof,” says McKay. The new code says that any access doors near the edge of the roof need enhanced safety measures.

“Some roofs have doorways onto the roof that are in the middle of the roof. They are fine.

“A lot of our roof tops however have accesses that are very close to the edge. And now with code they need to be properly secured,” McKay says.

If the lowest tender bid exceeds the project amount of \$1,262,856.96, the number of schools receiving the rails will be adjusted to remain within the budget.

Gladu looks for a path out of \$353B deficit

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu is worried the federal government doesn’t have a plan to reduce the massive deficit caused by the measures to help Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau recently revealed in Parliament the country has spent \$228 billion on federal aid programs ballooning the yearly deficit to \$353.2 billion so far this year.

It was the first time the federal government put a price tag on the measures which included wage subsidies, rent subsidies and the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit.

Gladu says the numbers are “very concerning.

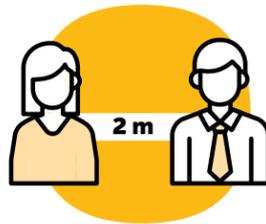
“\$352 billion with no plan is probably the most concerning,” she tells The Independent.

“I think everybody knew we had to do something to help Canadians during the pandemic, but all the other G7 nations have a plan on how they’re going to work their way out of that. We don’t have that plan, and I think that’s a miss on the part of the Liberal government.”

Gladu says Sarnia-Lambton fared better than other regions because our two largest industries - petrochemicals and agriculture - were declared essential.

But she wants to see a “transition plan...of how to get Canadians back to work, how to make sure businesses survive but are independent in the long term. And we want to do that without increasing taxes.”

As more businesses and services reopen, and with social gatherings increased to 10 people, we all must continue our efforts to protect each other.



Practice physical distancing, stay two metres apart.



Wear a face covering when physical distancing is a challenge.



Continue to **wash hands frequently.**



Get tested if you are worried you may have COVID-19, or have been exposed to the virus.

Inside or out, stay safe. Save lives.

Visit ontario.ca/coronavirus
Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario