

CAUSE UNKNOWN



DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

Petrolia/North Enniskillen fire officials and the Lambton OPP are still trying to figure out what might have caused a fire at Duststop Air Filters. Just before 7 pm Friday, firefighters were called to the factory on Centre Street. Black smoke was coming from the warehouse and all of the employees had left the building. Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Chief Jay Arns says fire crews worked into the night to put the fire out. Equipment, air filters and the building were all damaged. No one was injured. Company officials are still trying to assess the value of what was lost. And, the OPP is asking the public for help with the investigation into the fire. It's asking anyone with "knowledge of this incident" to call police. Arns says would not say if the blaze was arson saying the cause is still under investigation.

Concern but not surprise COVID-19 cases in Lambton rise

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton's medical officer of health is concerned about the recent increase in people testing positive for COVID-19 in Lambton, but he's not surprised. There have been 13 new cases in the last two weeks, Dr. Sudit Ranade says. "I am concerned, but it's also what we expect. So I'm surprised it took so long, frankly." The cases come as people

in Lambton County get more freedom from the restrictions meant to stop COVID-19. Ranade says that's not a surprise. "This is a very tricky virus and I think every single place around the world that has had a lockdown has experienced success from the lockdown and everything almost every single place that has opened up after lockdown has experienced a surge in cases after that. Then the question becomes what do you do?" Ranade says the key to keeping

a lid on the virus in Lambton will be preventing "a few cases from becoming a bigger deal. "I think one of the ways that you prevent that is to try to reduce the biggest transmission settings, which are places where people are really close together for a long, long period of time." Ranade points to media reports of large parties in the Toronto area and says while they get publicity, there are large gatherings happening here, too. And that could be a problem in the future.

"It's that kind of gathering that is really...higher (risk) than the usual interactions. If somebody in that setting has COVID, they're in close proximity to people for a lot of time in a crowded space that's indoors with maybe poor ventilation, and there's drinking and shouting. So we've got a lot of risk factors on board," says Ranade. "Those are the kinds of things that we need to really hold ourselves back from. And I'm not, I'm not sure at this point, what are

the kinds of interventions that we would have at our disposal to do that, beyond reminding people that really they should not be as social as they want to be." Recently, the increasing number of people with COVID-19 in Lambton has touted as one of the reasons for a mandatory mask bylaw in Sarnia. (See page 5) While Ranade says masks can help in areas where you can't keep six feet apart, staying away from crowded areas would be better. SEE COVID-19 PG 2

We are going on
vacation

There will be
NO PAPER
AUGUST 6TH

We will continue printing on
August 13th

The office will be closed on
Monday August 3rd for Civic Holiday.

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

COVID-19 cases increase in Lambton

CON'T FROM PG 1

Another person was diagnosed with COVID-19 after travelling. Ranade says that is also to be expected as people move around the province for summer vacations. But he’s asking people to be smart about where their going and how much they are interacting with others while they’re away. “we don’t want to limit that (travel) but if you go, really just bring your stuff with you and don’t interact with the community,” says Ranade noting in May, the province was asking residents to stay away from their cottages to slow the spread. That message was diluted as summer arrived, with provincial officials encouraging people to discover Ontario this summer. But Ranade is urging people to be smart. “The purpose of you getting away is you’re getting away, but not to really increase your interaction with a bunch of people.”

Public health wants to keep tabs on bar patrons

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health hopes to talk to bar owners to find ways to make sure health officials can track who was there should a COVID-19 case be found. Bars and restaurants were among the businesses allowed to reopen Friday in Lambton County. In other countries of the world, the number of COVID-19 cases increased when bars were open and the cases were in 20 and 30 year olds. Dr. Sudit Ranade says the age group feels if they get COVID-19, they’ll recover. But health officials are concerned about how far those people would spread the virus. Florida, for example, had almost 79,000 cases of COVID-19 in one week after reopening bars and restaurants. Ranade told reporters his biggest concern is contact tracing and he wants to talk with bar owners specifically about how that can

Public health says travel is just one way people in Lambton have contracted COVID-19. The agency released some details of the 13 new cases in July. While the medical officer of health can’t break down exactly where the cases are, he says six were in rural communities, one is likely related to travel, two people were in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 outside of Lambton County, two were close contacts in Lambton. Three of the cases were discovered because of testing in long term care, either by home employees or visitors who now must be screened. Seven of the cases can’t be traced to any cause specifically. “Knowing where COVID-19 has been does not tell you where it is currently. COVID-19 is in your community so please be mindful of risk at all times,” says Ranade.

be done in a way that doesn’t hamper their business. “Recognizing these places have been closed for a while, and they also want to get things up and running and they want to have an opportunity to get their services up and running again...we want to work with them. What will be effective to do contact tracing while also not creating a substantial burden for you.” Ranade says it is important to have the conversation, particularly for bars, because while the provincial rules tell patrons not to socialize, that may not be realistic. “I don’t think that when you’re in a bar and you’re in there for the purpose of socializing that telling you not to socialize, especially after you have had a few drinks, is going to be effective.” Ranade says other communities have imposed some additional requirements for bars so people can be easily traced but in Lambton “nothing is final on the topic right now.”

The Independent wins two provincial awards

The Independent

The Independent has won two provincial awards in the Ontario Community Newspaper Association Better Newspapers Competition. The Petrolia-based newspaper placed second in the Best News Story category for its investigation of a firefighter who fell through the floor of a burning building. “The pressures small town papers are under to not report these stories, makes this one even more significant,” wrote Judge Jennifer Thuncher . The Independent also placed second in the Best Photo Layout category for a series of photos showing the night Hollywood came to Petrolia to use Sunnyside as a backdrop to the movie Scary Stories to Tell in the

Lambton heads back to work, Warwick lifts tax holiday

The Independent

As most Lambton businesses reopen in some form, the grace period extended by municipalities for the payment of taxes is likely to expire. In Warwick Township Monday, council agreed it was time to end a program that allowed residents some grace in paying taxes and forgave interest rate payments. The program was implemented across the county with the thought that many residents would

not be working as the province shutdown. But Friday, the province allowed Lambton businesses to open with officials touting that 99 per cent of businesses would be able to generate income again. Trevor Jarrett, treasurer in Warwick, says it is time to begin charging interest and collecting taxes so that people don’t fall so far behind it will be difficult to catch up. Council agreed adding people having problems paying the municipal bill could contact staff to work out some arrangements.



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DOWNTOWN BLOOMS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Town of Petrolia summer student, Josey Marks, was busy watering the large flower baskets in Petrolia’s downtown Tuesday. Marks says it takes two days to complete the rounds in the downtown and various flower beds which were prepared by the Petrolia in Bloom Committee.

Ferguson given OK to harvest crop at former golf course

Heather Wright
The Independent

Matt Ferguson will be allowed to harvest a soybean crop “accidentally” planted on a former golf course which he hopes to run as a wedding venue.

Ferguson appeared before a Plympton-Wyoming planning meeting Monday to get an exemption to the zoning of open spaces which had been in place since Bonnie Doon Golf Course existed.

That designation had been controversial in 2019, when neighbours submitted the property should be rezoned because the area would now be used primarily as a wedding venue and should be subject to different rules.

Council disagreed, saying a planned driving range was the main use, and a planned corn maze and trails were added recreational uses.

The wedding venue was an added use and was permitted.

But according to a report from Planner Sarah Baldwin,

the owner signed an affidavit March 3, saying he accepted he could not farm the land for a profit and that the corn grown in the corn maze “may be grown but not for sale or consumption by animal or person”.

Baldwin’s report suggested Ferguson was looking for approval to sell the corn planted for the maze, however it also came to light at the meeting soybeans were planted on the land.

Ferguson says that was “accidental” and he apologized.

Councillor Tim Wilkins argued he had hunted on the land for years and there had always been farming there.

That, said CAO Carolyn Tripp, would make agriculture a legal use of the property.

However, council didn’t seem ready to allow the practice to continue.

It granted Ferguson the right to harvest what had been planted on the property in 2020 with the understanding there would be no agriculture taking place, other than the corn maze in 2021.

Douglas Line wedding venue given the official nod

Heather Wright
The Independent

A wedding venue in Plympton-Wyoming which has been operating since 2019 has been given the official go-ahead by municipal council.

Crescent Hill Acres hosted about 12 weddings in 2019 without having the proper zoning on the property on Douglas Line. An old barn was being used as a wedding venue and the house on the 25 acre property was being used as a short-term rental, mostly for the bride, according to the owners, Shannon and Dylan Soetemans, who spoke to council via video conferencing at an official plan and zoning hearing Monday.

In July 2019, staff met with the couple to explain they needed to have the property rezoned.

At the time, Fire Chief Steve Clemens also voiced concern about the bridge over Highland Creek leading to the wedding venue.

He was concerned emergency vehicles would not be able to safely use it.

After months of meetings, Planner Sarah Baldwin, said Monday there is a demonstrated need for the facility and could be zoned specifically as a use under the Agricultural Area zoning.

Baldwin said the property had not been farmed for some time, so the wedding venue would not be taking up agricultural land.

Council agreed, but the couple are not ready to reopen the doors to guests yet.

Aside from the restrictions surrounding COVID-19 which have cancelled many large events like weddings, the town is requiring a new bridge to be built on the property to the specifications of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

Consultants for the owners said they were waiting for councils approval on the zoning before beginning the costly project on the property.

New bus link to Strathroy and London ready to go

The Independent

After years of talk and planning, the bus from Sarnia to Strathroy and London will finally start operating.

The accessible inter-community transit service starts Aug. 4. The province announced funding for the transit link before the pandemic hit.

It will start by operating three round trips daily and two weekend round trips on buses with between 10 and 12 physically distanced customers. Riders will also have to wear a mask or another face covering

and they will have to have exact change for the fares.

Fares are based on how far you’re travelling – the cheapest fare will be \$5 and the most expensive will be \$20 with kids under five riding for free.

Seats will have be reserved at 519-787-1055.





This Month In Lambton

July 2020



Warden Bill Weber
@LambtonWarden

Lakeshore Road Closure

Lakeshore Road (County Road #7) between Modeland Road and Blackwell Sideroad in the City of Sarnia is closed for reconstruction and widening. The work is expected to last into October, weather permitting. The project also includes the installation of a new watermain for the City of Sarnia along Lakeshore Road.

Detours are in place using Modeland Road, Blackwell Road and Telfer Road to access Lakeshore Road east and west.

No through traffic will be permitted for the duration of the project. Motorists are advised to follow all traffic control signage and to drive in a manner that respects the health and safety of road crews.

Cyclists are also asked to use the posted detour route to avoid conflicts with the construction work taking place.

Visit Municipal511.ca for more information.

JNAAG Online Programs

While the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery remains closed to the public, we are delighted to bring you at-home art-making activities! These instructional videos have been designed to help guide you down a path of creativity.

Visit jnaag.ca/onlineprograms to learn more.

2019 Consolidated Financial Statements

The County of Lambton’s Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 have been completed and audited. Copies are available from the Finance, Facilities and Court Services Division by calling 519-845-0801, toll free 1-866-324-6912 or online at lambtononline.ca/budget.

Lambton Renovates

Applications are now being accepted for funding through the Lambton Renovates Program.

For further information and to download an application, please visit lambtononline.ca/lambtonrenovates.

Summer Reading Program

Join the summer fun with Lambton County Library’s Summer Reading Program.

During the months of July and August, the Library will be hosting online programs for kids, teens and adults to help you set reading goals, battle your friends at trivia, participate in scavenger hunts and more.

Learn how to register, participate and borrow at lclibrary.ca.

To read more, go to lambtononline.ca

Editorial

A little less talk and more COVID-19 action

Calling people “a bunch of yahoos” simply doesn’t cut it anymore.

That’s was Premier Doug Ford’s reaction after Brampton Police raided parties over the weekend with more than 200 people attending. That’s far more than the 50 person limit which is in effect under the Emergency Orders signed by Ford to stop the spread of COVID-19.

That limit was one of the “important powers” he entrenched when passing the vastly overreaching Bill 195 last week. It comes with some pretty stiff fines for people who break the rules - \$800 fines for situations like that.

But instead of calling for the full force of the law to come down on the partiers and to show the rest of the province that it is still important to follow those COVID-19 regulations, the premier chided the partiers, understanding their desire to have fun, but urging them to think of their elderly grandparents and be safe. And, like on other occasions, Ford called the crowd “a bunch of yahoos” as though they were the only ones going astray.

We know of course, they are not. All over the province people are breaking the rules meant to ease the spread of COVID-19. We’re getting our taste of freedom as some of the rules are eased and we like it enough that some are willing to flaunt the rest of the laws. Public health officials know this. Lambton’s medical officer of health expects an increase in cases as more people mingle. But he’s warning big parties, even with people you know, are the first place COVID-19 will spread.

And then, if things get out of control, we’ll be back to lockdowns and more economic and emotional hardships.

While we’re not opposed to Premier Ford’s colourful language, it is time for more than calling people a bunch of yahoos and pleading with them to change. After four months of this, we know the rules; if people are breaking them, they should be charged. Maybe that will make a few people think before they party.

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca. You can also deliver letters to *The Independent* at 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia or drop them in the mail at *The Independent*, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0. *The Independent* reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity. All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

Our Story



This colourized post card shows Brannon Hill in Alvinston.

FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

The feds can help local media by taxing the big guys

The numbers are truly staggering. In the first six months of 2020, 15 communities lost their voice. Weekly newspapers who had long served their communities closed their doors. Post Media shuttered seven newspapers, including five in the Windsor area. Unprofitable before the pandemic reduced advertising to a trickle, COVID-19 knocked the feet out from under them and in an instant, they were gone.

Post Media isn’t shy about closing newspapers. It has been doing a lot of it over the past five years. It’s a large chain and typically gets rid of small community newspapers when the executives are nervous they won’t have a big dividend for the shareholders.

But during COVID-19, it wasn’t just Post Media locking the doors and stopping the presses.

Metroland - which is related to the Toronto Star - shuttered three papers. And aside from those that closed, there

are 10 other newspaper that either permanently or temporarily shutdown the presses and went online in an effort to survive the crash of advertising.

I fear some of those won’t make it either.

It hurts to watch this. Philosophically, it bothers me that in a time when good journalism is essential, thousands of people are left without their local voice. This is when journalism is most important.

It also concerns me because I know people will turn to social media as form of information; frankly we’ve seen how dangerous that is. These platforms do little to fact check conspiracy theories and lies - it doesn’t even come close to journalism.

There has been help from the federal government for journalism - but like other relief, it will help, but it’s not a complete solution.

That relies on newspaper owners and their readers. Newspaper owners can

do everything they can to make their business work, providing the news communities need and hopefully, readers, and advertisers, will see the value of newspapers and continue to buy them.

The federal government has a role to play, too, not just as a doler-out of cash. The feds have to start taxing the big social media companies who provide a free service on the backs of the community newspapers as they pick the advertising cash out of their pockets. The feds have to level the playing field before local media companies disappear.



Heather Wright

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Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

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Canada

People going to Sarnia will have to mask up starting Friday

Heather Wright
The Independent

If you’re headed to Sarnia, you’ll have to have a mask.

Sarnia City Council has approved a mandatory mask bylaw. People in public spaces will be required to wear a mask starting Friday.

Mayor Mike Bradley, who championed the idea a Lambton County Council, says it is a necessary step in the fight against COVID-19. A mandatory bylaw county-wide was turned down by a margin of 13-4. “I was bitterly disappointed this was not resolved at Lambton county council,” he said.

Lambton’s medical officer of health has said he would not impose a ban since there has been no community spread in Lambton for some time. Ranade has always maintained he would be open to a mandatory mask policy if the conditions required it. In that case, he said a municipal bylaw would be more effective.

“We’ve been in this for 130 days

now...what has been difficult has been the sense that this is over...it’s not. It is far from over.”

Bradley says the move is necessary as more businesses open.

Only two councillors opposed the move, Councillors Margaret Bird and Terry Burrell.

Bird argued the types of masks people are wearing are not a guarantee to stop the spread of COVID-19. “If you make this mandatory...but don’t maintain physical distancing, which is the most important component of this...the number of cases will go way up. I’m convinced of that.”

Councillors, during a special teleconference meeting Monday, said they had been inundated with emails and calls on the issue, mostly in favour of the policy.

Councillor Brian White says he talked to one business owner who pleaded with him to implement a policy so he didn’t have conflict with his customers. “He wanted to simply point to a law that says thou shalt.”

Starting Friday, everyone over

the age of five will be required to wear a mask in businesses, places of worship, public buildings, like city hall or provincial and federal buildings including the post office, and common areas of places such as hotels or motels.

Fines for not wearing a mask, for both individuals and businesses which do not enforce the rule, will be \$1,000.

The bylaw will remain in effect until the end of the year although the mayor says it can be revoked by council at any time.

Since Lambton county turned down mandatory masks at the beginning of July, it is not a county-wide policy. It’s unlikely county councillors would discuss the matter again until at least September, when full council meets again.

Individual municipalities, like Petrolia, could pass mandatory mask bylaws if they chose to. Mayor Brad Loosley said recently there are some business owners who would like a local bylaw, but he didn’t indicate if council would take action.

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Staffing in long term care worse now than before COVID says study

The Independent

A new survey done by the Ontario Health Coalition says 95 per cent of the health care workers in long term care homes say their workplace is short staffed.

Fifty three per cent of them say it happens every day.

Long term care homes have been locked down since March 13 as part of the effort to curb the spread of COVID-19. During the course of the pandemic – weeks after the homes were locked down – thousands of seniors became ill and so far 1,789 have passed away. That’s about 64 per cent of all deaths in Ontario.

Wednesday was the first day family members were able to visit with their loved ones inside the building.

But essential family care givers – people who normally would spend

hours with their loved ones – still have to remain six feet away from the residents and are not allowed to be in their rooms.

The coalition says the staffing in long term care homes was already difficult, but removing those care givers made the situation worse.

The group polled 150 workers in mid-July. Sixty tree per cent of the staff say staffing levels are worse than before COVID-19 hit and 28 per cent say it is about the same.

“Staff have been denied vacation, stat holidays and weekends under emergency orders since the beginning of the pandemic,” says the report.

“Staff have left due to fear, injuries, lack of childcare, and the requirement to choose one home in which to work. Some homes have dozens of staff lines unfilled. Many work short

every day, every shift.

“Most describe worse staffing levels on weekends and evenings and unsafe levels of staffing are routine. Some homes have recently cut back staff hours and are limiting overtime despite severe shortages.”

The workers say baths and showers are missed regularly and emotional support was described as “non-existent.”

“Ontario’s long-term care homes are not ready for a second wave of COVID-19,” concludes the report.

The coalition wants the government to set the standard of care at an average minimum of four hours per resident per day. Right now it is around three.

An open letter to the premier written by the coalition is backed by more than 200 organizations.

It calls for immediate action.

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Shiloh Line to be rebuilt with provincial and federal help in 2021

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston has finally been given the okay to fund the rehabilitation of Shiloh Line.

The township has been hoping to rebuild the road, pave a section which is gravel and add a pedestrian lane for almost two years now.

The province approved funding for the project months ago but the federal

government just approved the \$3 million project.

The federal government will provide over \$1.8 million, the province about \$1 million and the municipality will pay about \$200,000 toward the project.

Seven projects were approved in southwestern Ontario today, including the Shiloh Line work.

“Investments in road infrastructure, especially in small towns, are crucial for the safe and timely movement of

people and goods. This announcement is good news for southwestern Ontario,” says Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton in a news release.

“The project will keep the road viable for agricultural traffic. Upgrades to the road will also improve access and egress from the adjacent A.W. Campbell Conservation Area,” says Brooke-Alvinston Mayor Dave Ferguson.

Warwick to work with frustrated developer on Wall St. building

Warwick Township is going to look at how it can help a developer start working on his land sooner.

Rob Crncich owns 335 Wall Street - the largest single industrial building which has been vacant for nearly 15 years.

Crncich says he’s owned the property since December and is frustrated by delays which are keeping him from developing the property.

Crncich says he met with town officials when he purchased the property and there was some talk of

a site plan being needed, but in his experience, he told council, that wasn’t necessary on industrial buildings.

Crncich wants to make a gravel lot where people can store items.



He hired an engineering firm to do the work and kept the town updated, he says. But he hasn’t been able to begin the work because the town requires a site plan.

Crncich was hoping the township would waive the site plan process and allow him to move ahead with putting gravel on the lot for storage.

But council was reluctant to allow any work without the normal approvals.

Instead, council asked the development advisory committee to work with Crncich to phase in the development, which could mean the gravelled lot could move ahead first. But the agreement would have performance guarantees built into it.

It’s also asked staff to investigate the drainage in the area to see if there is a system the development should be hooked into.



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Ingredients

- 1 lb (500 g) Ontario Asparagus, trimmed
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) butter
- 1 Ontario Onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) chicken broth
- 2 cups (500 mL) shredded Ontario Old Cheddar Cheese
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) salsa verde or tomatillo salsa (green salsa)
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) low fat Ontario Sour Cream
- Salt, pepper and crushed red pepper flakes
- 8 8-inch (20 cm) whole wheat flour tortillas
- 2 cups (500 mL) shredded cooked Ontario Chicken
- Ontario Pea Sprouts and salsa verde

Directions

In large pot of boiling water, cook asparagus until tender-crisp, 3 to 4 minutes. Drain and rinse under cold water; set aside.

In medium saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion and cook until softened, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in flour until absorbed. Gradually stir in broth and bring to boil, stirring constantly. Reduce heat and simmer until thickened, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in 1/2 cup (125 mL) of the cheese until melted. Stir in salsa and sour cream. Season to taste with salt, pepper and red pepper flakes.

Sprinkle each tortilla with 2 tbsp (25 mL) of the cheese and 1/4 cup (50 mL) of the shredded chicken. Arrange asparagus spears in centre of each tortilla. Spoon 2 tbsp (25 mL) of the sauce over each, roll-up and place seam side down in greased 13- x 9-inch (3 L) baking dish. Pour remaining sauce over and sprinkle with remaining cheese.

Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven until sauce is bubbly and cheese is melted, about 25 minutes. Sprinkle with pea sprouts and additional salsa.

FARM FRESH
ASPARAGUS & CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

Fresh, crisp asparagus is the star in this family-friendly supper. A small amount of light sour cream adds creaminess without a lot of added calories. Serve with a green salad.



Preparation Time: 10 minutes
Baking Time: 25 minutes
Cooking Time: 10 minutes
Servings: 4

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Watford to host ‘Cornfest on your front lawn’

Heather Wright
The Independent

Mark Hamel says the 38th Annual Cornfest will look a bit different this year.

“It will be like Cornfest on your front lawn,” says Hamel.

Hamel is a member of the Watford Optimists - one of three community groups which organize the August event. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it quickly became clear there wouldn’t be a whole lot of community events. But the Optimists, the Watford Rotary and the Knights of Columbus, decided they wanted to provide some fun for the community.

A lot of the things, like fairs and the Alvinston Rodeo, are very difficult to continue running because so much of it involves socializing. They really didn’t have a choice,” says Hamel.

But he says Cornfest is “more adaptable.”

Saturday, the Watford/Warwick Horticultural Society will hold its annual Scarecrow competition. Kids are asked to register, then build the scarecrows on their front lawn.

Judges will be by on Aug. 8 to take a look.

Also on Saturday, between 1 pm and 3 pm, people can drive down Centennial Street and pickup their free Corn and Hotdog Meal Kit. The food is being provided by the service clubs with



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

John DeGroot was cooking up dozens of cobs of corn for the hungry crowds at the Watford Cornfest last year. This year, the three service clubs which organize the event say there will be a Cornfest on your Front Lawn instead.

the help of Warwick Township.

At night, kids can join an online party with Tinkerbell and there will be online music as well.

Sunday, Hamel hopes people get out their corn and hotdogs, sit on their front lawn and watch the classic cars parade by.

“We’ve designated a drive around

town, and given a map of the town asking the classic cars to hit as many streets as possible.”

Hamel is hopeful everyone in Watford gets a chance to be involved.

“We’ve been doing this for 38 years; we can’t do it the normal way but we can definitely try to do something; be creative.”

Playgrounds in St. Clair open Friday, no hall rentals

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

More recreation areas are open to St. Clair Township residents.

Council met Friday following the provincial announcement that Lambton County was approved for Stage 3 of re-opening.

Residents will get their first relief immediately as washrooms return at campgrounds and the golf course.

Portable washrooms will be used at the golf course and cleaned twice a day. At campgrounds some washrooms will be open to users while others will be reserved for staff. The ban on showers will remain though.

Friday, sports fans were able to hit the pickleball courts and play doubles tennis. Both are classified as non-contact sports but efforts must still be made to avoid incidental contact with other players. No tournaments will be allowed in either sport.

The much anticipated return of playgrounds is scheduled for July 31.

Director of community services Kendall Lindsay says he expects the county to release guidelines for playground cleaning a few days before this, and will use those recommendations to maintain the St. Clair playgrounds.

To ensure social distancing, a maximum occupancy for each playground will be calculated based on its size.

Rental of volleyball courts and soccer fields by private groups was also up for discussion. Lindsay says that although the county has given the green light for non-contact sports they still haven’t put out detailed guidelines about baseball.

Because of this field rentals will not be available until Aug. 4 at the earliest, when provincial and county rules are more developed.

Council did decide that no matter what the rules there will be no baseball or volleyball tournaments allowed.

“We’re not comfortable with trying to man that on a weekend during the

pandemic,” Lindsay says.

All of the township’s facilities will not be opening.

Council discussed the possibility of hall rentals, following a request by a local church to use the Sombra Hall for their Sunday services. Councillors wanted more information before making a decision.

“I think that the opening of any of these halls should be subject to approval by the hall boards,” says Deputy Mayor Steve Miller.

“Even for this special consideration I would like to see it go to the hall board. If they’re okay with it, I’m okay with it.”

Council decided to hold off on rentals while the township’s hall boards prepare plans to see if a safe re-opening is possible for St. Clair’s various halls.

If the answer is yes, they would work with community services to implement the specifics of the plan.

Council asked that all hall boards have their reports ready by Aug. 7.

Assault charge withdrawn after an argument on Egermont

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

An argument over a “souped up muffler” means a Lambton County man will have to keep the peace to stay out of jail.

Derek Wilson, a roofer, was in Plympton-Wyoming when he got a call to a job on Egermont Road. While driving there, he went past a woman and her daughter into their driveway at a higher rate of speed than the woman thought was necessary.

The woman ended up arguing with

Wilson.

“The dispute resulted in her yelling at Mr. Wilson as he drove by her at a fast speed, and then Mr. Wilson getting out of the car and a loud argument ensuing afterward, which caused [the woman] to fear for her safety,” says Crown attorney David Nicol.

Wilson’s car has a “souped-up muffler” according to defense lawyer Robert McFadden, which he says may have caused the woman concern.

But the court heard Wilson say he didn’t believe this. “It was kind of a he-said, she-said. It was me and her

and my buddy and her daughter, so we’re the only ones who know what happened,” says Wilson. “I don’t think she was scared. I don’t think she was scared at all.”

The judge said that it didn’t matter what Wilson thought. “It’s not important necessarily what she felt, but it’s the circumstances that give rise to the Crown’s position that she had a reasonable fear for her safety,” says Justice Krista Leszczynski.

Wilson’s agreement to the peace bond means a criminal charge of assault was dropped. He will have to

We are going on

vacation

There will be

NO PAPER

AUGUST 6TH

We will continue printing on

August 13th

The Independent

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6 BENEFITS OF GETTING YOUR EXERCISE WET

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Water gives you buoyancy—i.e., you float! This decreases the impact on your joints, so when you swim or exercise in the water, you have a lower risk of injury.
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Local conservation authority watching for oak wilt in Lambton

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Canadian conservation officials are on the lookout for a fungus that has travelled through Michigan and threatens to cross the international border.

The fungus is known as oak wilt, and is carried by sap beetles. It has been recorded as close as Belle Isle, a small island on the American side of the Detroit River between Detroit and Windsor. It is an extremely deadly fungus capable of killing a full grown red oak tree in just two weeks. White oak trees last longer but ultimately meet the same fate.

Tim Payne, manager of forestry with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, is part of a team working to see if the fungus has made the leap.

Working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Payne and his team have just finished conducting a series of tests throughout St. Clair Township to see if local beetles are carrying the fungus. It's the second straight year the conservation authority has conducted the tests

after seeing the close proximity of the threat. They use a pair of methods to gather results.

The first is a 'trapping' process where a pheromone is used to attract the sap beetles, also known as picnic beetles. The other method is known as 'wounding'. A small hole in the tree is created to draw sap before being plugged back up. Payne and his team then place a pheromone lure nearby to see if the beetles were more attracted to the natural sap or the artificial bait.

Payne says valuable information is gained from the tests. Most importantly they are able to see if any of the beetles are carrying the fungus, which would indicate it has made the jump into Canada. Payne says that the tests also show when the beetles are most active during the year, and what attracts them to oak trees.

Despite starting testing last year though, the results are still not in. Payne says the ministry lab the beetles are sent to conducts tests on samples from across the province on a variety of topics, and wait times are long. The COVID-19 outbreak has also

slowed things down. But Payne hopes that the results should arrive any week now.

Payne also outlined many preventative steps that can be taken to halt oak wilt in the first place. One is to give proper spacing to oak trees. If two or more trees are close, one infected tree can give oak wilt to all surrounding oak trees through their interconnected roots. Even if an oak tree is cut down, beetles feeding on sap from the stump can transfer the fungus to its neighbors via their grafted roots.

Proper timing of tree care is also important. Payne says try and do your pruning or harvesting in the fall and winter when less sap is being produced. Springtime is the worst time to treat oak trees as sap flows throughout the tree as they start to sprout their leaves. Payne also says a special paint can be used to cover up nicks or broken branches from storms or maintenance work.

So far no evidence of oak wilt has been seen north of the border. Payne says Ontario faces the greatest risk because of the border with Michigan, where the fungus



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is on the lookout for a fungus that is attacking area oak trees including a process called wounding.

has been a serious problem. But he is optimistic that through good forest practices, and data gained from two years of testing, that Canada can deny entry to this unwelcome visitor.

Community Corner



The Plympton Wyoming Truck and Tractor Pull held their 1st Annual Drive Thru Broasted Chicken Dinner at the Wyoming Fairgrounds on Saturday July 25. There was tremendous interest in the community in hosting the event. Given the state of everything being cancelled, it was something to look forward too was the comment heard over and over again. The dinner sold out in a week and a half - demand was much greater than expected. Officials say 350 Adult meals and 20 Youth meals were sold. "We could have sold around 150 more as well, but we had to have a cut-off somewhere," said Brad Burnard, one of the 10 committee members helping out with organizing the event.



The Watford station of Warwick Fire has a brand new truck. Mayor Jackie Rombouts and CAO Amanda Gubbels got a look at the vehicle with Chief Rick Sitlington when was delivered to the station.

The Olive Tree

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Royal Canadian Legion

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11:00 - 2:00 pm

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\$10.00
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Sports

Big bucks gone as Silver Stick cancelled

The Independent

The cancellation of Regional and North American Silver Stick tournaments this winter will mean a huge financial hit for the region.

The economic fallout will be approximately \$5.7 million, according to Tourism Sarnia-Lambton Special Events and Sports Marketing Coordinator, Vicky Prail.

As you read first last week in *The Independent*, Silver Stick nixed all its Canadian events for the 2020-21 season,

citing concerns over the coronavirus. “This decision was not easily made and we understand the disappointment this may cause, but please be assured the health and safety of our players, coaches, parents and tournament volunteers was of utmost importance in our decision,” said the International Silver Stick group in a statement issued last week. The cancellations affect regional tournaments in Petrolia, Alvinston and Watford in December and North American finals in Mooretown, Lambton Shores and Sarnia (both boys and girls) in January.

Making lemonade out of 2020’s lemons

Heather Wright

The Independent

Jace McGrail’s days are usually filled with sports – hockey in the winter, baseball in the summer.

But when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Wyoming teen found he had a lot of free time.

“It obviously threw a big kink into my summer plans for sure; usually have baseball five times a week,” he says.

For a while he was disappointed, but McGrail started thinking about the people who had things a lot worse off during the pandemic. “There are bigger problems out there,” he says.

So, the teen came up with an idea to help others while letting people know how much he missed the game.

McGrail is working with Wyoming company, Sewlutions, to create shirts with the logos, Hungry for Hockey and Baseball – Striking out Hunger. They’re \$20 and \$10 will go to the Petrolia and Inn of Good Shepherd food banks.

“Everyone I have talked to have been very supportive,” says McGrail. “Orders have been booming – we have about 175 by now.”

McGrail will be taking orders to the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jace McGrail is using his time away from sports to raise some money for local food banks.

end of the month. You can contact him at jacemcgrail23@hotmail.com

Fashion Frenize wins Grassroots harness racing series

On a gorgeous summer afternoon, Fashion Frenize broke from the pack about halfway through the first race of card and coasted to a 13-length victory in the Ontario Sire Stakes Grassroots series.

It was for two-year-old trotting colts at Samia’s Hiawatha Horse Park.

In spite of starting from the nine hole, the Quebec-owned horse won in a track record time of 1:59.4

The Grassroots series continues at Dresden

Raceway on Mon., Aug. 3.

The Dresden Raceway is welcoming back limited number of fans to its grandstand. Under the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the raceway can have 100 people on the grounds and in the grandstands.

Elsewhere on Saturday at Hiawatha, Groogrux King, co-owned by Leanne Kupec of Petrolia won a close four-horse battle to claim the fifth race of the afternoon.

OHL start still up in the air, Sting’s arena opens Aug. 4

Sarnia Sting and London Knight fans dying for a local hockey fix may have to wait a lot longer than normal.

Multiple reports indicate the Ontario Hockey League is looking at various scenarios for the start of the 2020-21 season.

The season usually begins in August with training camps, however the current COVID-19 pandemic restrictions are delaying the start to the season.

The scenarios to start the new season include Oct. 1, Nov.1, Dec. 1 and Jan. 1.

Teams, including the Sarnia Sting, are also waiting on league direction on when they

can convene training camp. Updated information is expected by mid-August.

Meantime, the Stings home arena, the Progressive Centre is scheduled to reopen Tuesday.

It will be open for elite training users who normally have access to summer ice.

Full team practices and games are not yet permitted.



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**

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



8:00 a.m. - NOON

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

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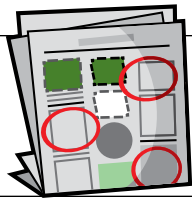
Lauren is now offering hourly, daily or weekly babysitting services starting July 6th for families who are trying to fill some gaps in their child care in the Town of Petrolia.



**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
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Celebration

Happy 75th Birthday

PAUL M^cGREGOR

Paul was born July 29, 1945 in Sarnia. Son of Gord & Elva and brother to Gary, Ken and Jayne (Hunter). He grew up in Petrolia and attended LCCVI. He went on to graduate from Windsor University and work for John Deere. After a second transfer, John Deere permanently brought him to the United States in 1989, where he retired after 39 years of service.



He has been married for 45 years to Donna and they have two children, Meredith & Michael. Paul is currently spending winters in Florida and summers in Colorado with his children.

A celebration was scheduled locally and has unfortunately been canceled. All birthday wishes can be send via paul75birthday@gmail.com

Card of Thanks

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who helped me enter my retirement with a huge smile on my face. It has been a long time coming. Thank you for coming to my last day send off, the gifts, the cards, the phone calls, all the Facebook shout outs, the great customers on RR4 and the very surprising picture in The Independent. You got me good. I will miss working with you all, and look forward to seeing you around.

Patsy Bright

Death Notices

July 20 to July 27, 2020

<p>MONDAY, JULY 20</p> <p>McCALLOCH, Krystle Age 32, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p>BUCKE, Morris Age 68, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home</p> <p>ST. MARIE, Raymond Age 76, of Courtright D.J. Robb Funeral Home</p> <p>TUESDAY, JULY 21</p> <p>MANDERS, Jeffery Age 39, of Watford Denning's of Watford</p> <p>WILLIAMS, Gerry Age 62, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, JULY 22</p> <p>OSMOND, Carol Lyn Age 73, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p>VANPRAET, Joyce Vera Age 73, of Foyst Gilpin Funeral Chapel of Forest</p> <p>KAP, Frank Age 75, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p>FADER, John O. Age 83, of Sombra Steadman Brothers Funeral Home</p> <p>DIGNARD, Gerald Age 98, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p>BALL, Evelyn Rose Age 103, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p>	<p>THURSDAY, JULY 23</p> <p>HUCTWITH, Ronald Age 83, of Warwick Township Denning's of Forest</p> <p>FRIDAY, JULY 24</p> <p>RUTTEN, Adrianus Age 94, of Watford Denning's of Forest</p> <p>HARDING, Evelyn Olive Age 99, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p>SATURDAY, JULY 25</p> <p>OUELLETTE, Samuel "Sam" Age 30, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p>LASSALINE, Imelda Age 91, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home</p> <p>SUNDAY, JULY 26</p> <p>BURNARD, Sandra Hope Age 60, of Forest Denning's of Forest</p> <p>HORTON, William "Paul" Age 61, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p>SNOW, Margot Joanne Age 65, of Sarnia McCormack Funeral Home</p> <p>MONDAY, JULY 27</p> <p>WHITE, Hilda Mary Age 71, of Sarnia McCormack Funeral Home</p> <p>This information is provided as a community service. For detailed information, please refer to the funeral home website listing.</p>
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In Memory

In Memory Of


ROBERT RAY "DICK" WHITING

August 1st, 2014

husband, father, grandfather
& great grandfather

*Always on our minds,
Forever in our hearts.*

Loved and missed by:
Marilyn,
Debbie, John, Corey & families



In Memory

In loving memory of

Floyd White



When I answered the phone that morning
I remember going numb
The doctor said Dad was failing fast
And that we'd better come.
I stood helpless at his bedside
With so much I wanted to say
I tried but couldn't do it
My tears got in the way.
How do you express your gratefulness
Where do you even start
To tell someone you totally adore
Their death will break your heart.
As sunshine gave way to shadows
Dad grew quiet and weak
He put his right hand on my shoulder
And I knew I didn't have to speak.
He knew without words I loved him
And how I'd miss him so
But God was calling him home now
And I had to let him go.
We reminisced as the hours passed
And tried hard not to cry
As we held his hands in ours
And whispered our last goodbye.
It's been five years since that sad day
And Dad is never far from our mind
For though our loss is immeasurable
So is the love he left behind.

Deeply missed by
Mildred,
Janice,
Ross & family,
Julie & family
...and his little buddy,
Duchess

Wanted to Buy

WANTED TO BUY - **ANYTHING OLD** including signs, bottles, canning jars, jewelery, tins, paper items, pottery, old lighters, old razors, rustic pieces, etc. Single items to entire estates. **CALL CHAD 519-639-9102.**

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- Adult - \$20. Kids - \$10.
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DRIVE-OUT DISPLAY DAILY.

CLOSED

AUGUST 3RD

Civic Holiday

Our office will be closed for the day

Obituary



BUCKE
Morris Charles

BUCKE, Morris Charles (Morrie) (Buck) - Died peacefully at Fiddick's Retirement Home in Petrolia on **Monday, July 20, 2020**. Buck who was formerly of Corunna and Windsor was in his **68th year**. Bucks siblings hearts are broken at the passing of their dear brother. He is survived by his brothers Gary and Alice Bucke of Fort McMurray, Alberta, David Bucke and MaryJane Hill of Corunna, his sister Cindy Lee and Mark Johnson of Courtright, and his many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father Charles (1972), his mother Loreen Campbell (2015), and step father Lloyd Campbell (2020). Buck held a high esteem for a work ethic like no other starting out pumping gas and changing tires before he was 18 to managing and partnering on large industrial projects on numerous plant sites in Sarnia and Petrolia then moving to Windsor where he managed and over seen jobs at the automotive plants. Outside of work Buck enjoyed life to its fullest right from the time he was a young man racing his red 1967 Fairlane GT and purchasing his first boat which started a long lasting love of the St. Clair River. He had the joy of living numerous years on the river taking family and friends on boat rides, water skiing and fishing outings making sure everyone had a great time. The family want to thank ALL the staff and management of Fiddick's retirement home for giving Buck 3 great years of his life with friendship, kindness and love. All staff and residents had a spot in Buck's heart and felt like the special one. We all know Buck was capable of that because he was known as the "guy with the biggest heart". We want to make mention of Mike and Maxine Fiddick for their kindness and support. Kathleen you are loved and appreciated for the professional nursing care you gave to Buck to make every day his best day. **A private family graveside service will be held with interment at Moore Union Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy memorial donations may be made to the Inn of the Good Shepherd (www.theinnsarnia.ca) or Sarnia & District Humane Society (www.sarniahumanesociety.com). Arrangment by Needham-Jay Funeral Home (www.needhamjay.com). *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Revelation 21:4*

Obituary



LASSALINE
Imelda

IMELDA LASSALINE (nee Benoit), **91** years, of Petrolia, died peacefully with family by her side at C.E.E. Hospital, Petrolia on **Saturday, July 25, 2020**. She is survived by her husband of nearly 70 years, Charles Lassaline. She will be sadly missed by her children, Donna and Pat Holm, Pauline and Pete Pavlovic, Yvette and Jack Parkin, Elaine and Rick Elliott, and Chuck and Darlene Lassaline. Also survived by her sister Pauline (Felix) Pinsoneault and her sister-in-law Ila Lassaline. She was the cherished Meme to 13 grandchildren and "Meme Two" to 14 great-grandchildren. Imelda was the 8th child of Thomas and Lucy Benoit's 11 children. She grew up in St. Joachim, a small French community in Essex County. There she met her husband and they moved to their Petrolia farm with the big red barns and long tree lined driveway. She was a CWL member at St. Philip's Church for 66 years. Besides her family, she loved sewing, baking, crafting, socializing, and trips to Florida. She will also be sadly missed by many nieces, nephews, friends and her Albany family. **Visitors will be received at the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 4059 Petrolia Line, Petrolia on Tuesday afternoon. Due to COVID 19 you will be required to register for a time online. Please see website to details. A private funeral mass will be celebrated at St. Philips Church, on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Interment in Mount Calvary, Wyoming.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceehf.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared on-line at www.needhamjay.com.

Notice

PETROLIA LEGION - The Petrolia Legion Branch 216 will be reopening **1 August 2020**. The hours of operation on August 1st will be 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 1PM - 4PM on Saturdays following August 1st (to be reviewed for meat raffles). Due to Covid-19 social distancing rules the Club Room will remain closed, and the upstairs banquet hall is being reconfigured to accommodate approximately 44 people.

Notice

WYOMING LEGION - The Wyoming Legion has reopened beoth the patio and club room on Friday's and Saturdays from 3:30 until Closed.

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

Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Events are listed FREE for non-profit groups in Petrolia and Lambton County (space permitting).
To be included in this listing email the required information to office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca Subject: FREE EVENT LISTING.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Jul 30	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Jul 31	8am-1p	Forest	Forest Farmers' Market. Corner of Main St. N and Jefferson.	
Aug 1	7:30-12noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Farmers' Market directly behind the Petrolia Library	
Aug 1	11-2pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion BBQ Meal - BBQ Beef on a bun, Potato Salad, Coleslaw. Take-out only. Advance orders only call Friday July 31 from 10am-6pm 519-882-1201. \$10 cash per order.	
Aug 1	8-11pm	Petrolia	Live Music by Hayden Mellon at the Crabby Joes' Beer Garden	
Aug 5	4-6pm	Forest	Forest Legion Ladies Hamburger Fundraiser. Order by Aug2 519-786-2795 or 519-786-4516. Burger \$6 + Add dessert for \$3	
Aug 6	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Aug 7	8a-1p	Forest	Forest Farmers' Market. Corner of Main St. N and Jefferson.	
Aug 7-8	6pm	Watford	Watford Warwick Horticultural Soc. Cornfest Scarecrow Contest call/text 226-402-0116	
Aug 8	7:30-12noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Farmers' Market directly behind the Petrolia Library	
Aug 8	10-4pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Discovery Public Tours - 4381 Discovery Line	
Aug 8	1-3pm	Watford	Watford Cornfest Free Corn & Hotdog Meal Kit. Drive-thru pickup at Centennial Hall. First come first served.	
Aug 8	3:30-4:30pm	Watford	Watford Cornfest Zoom Party with Tinkerbell. To sign up check out the Watford Cornfest Facebook Page.	
Aug 8	8-11pm	Petrolia	Live Music by Matt Weed at the Crabby Joes' Beer Garden	
Aug 9	12:30	Watford	Watford Cornfest Car Cruise. Sit on your lawn from 1-2:30pm to watch cars. Join the parade in your cool car at Watford Car Quest.	
Aug 10-11		Petrolia	Town of Petrolia Curbside Wood Chipping. 519-882-2350 town.petrolia.on.ca	
Aug 13	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Aug 14	8a-1p	Forest	Forest Farmers' Market. Corner of Main St. N and Jefferson.	

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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

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
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 15	Inwood	Inwood Fireman's Association Annual Chicken BBQ & Ball Tournament
Aug 16	Camlachie	Fish n' Chips at Camlachie united Church
Aug 21-23	Alvinston	Alvinston Pro Rodeo www.alvinstonprorodeo.com
Aug 22	Alvinston	Alvinston Arts & Music Fest
Aug 22	Wyoming	Plympton-Wyoming Truck and Tractor Pull
Aug 23	Alvinston	Alvinston & District Optmist Club's Cowboy Breakfast
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

Business & Service Directory

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gbexcavating.ca



TORNADO CONFIRMED



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Researchers from the Northern Tornadoes Project at Western University have confirmed a storm July 19 which destroyed part of a Thedford area dairy was an EF1 tornado. The researchers say wind speeds reached up to 155 kilo meters per hour in the storm. There were six tornadoes logged across the province that day.

Major facelift for Port Lambton school

The Independent

The province is giving the St. Clair District Catholic School Board \$3,105,351 to build at the Sacred Heart Elementary School.

It was part of an announcement of \$500 million in funding for new capital and renewal projects in Ontario schools.

“The funding for this addition to the Sacred Heart Catholic School is great news for our community,” said Bob Bailey, MPP for Sarnia-Lambton in a news release.

“This investment will provide a quality learning environment and new opportunities for the children of Port Lambton.”

The project will include the

removal of a 34 year old port-a-pak structure, which includes two existing classrooms.

A corridor linking the main building to the port-a-pak, two student washrooms and a mechanical room will also be removed.

Two new classrooms and student washrooms will be added as part of the new construction.

New child care space with three rooms, a play area, parking lot and drop off area are also included in the plans for new construction.

there are 32 child care spaces today at Sacred Heart Port Lambton, that should increase to 49 after the completion of the construction.

Officials expect construction to begin next July.

Vile attack nets woman probation

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

“Vile and repugnant.” This is how a Sarnia judge described the actions of Ashley Wakefield following her guilty plea to assaulting a police officer.

The assault took place at the Sarnia police station following an arrest for breaching bail in April after a fight with her long-term boyfriend.

The court heard Wakefield began to take off her clothes in the jail cell and jam them in the toilet. She then flushed repeatedly, causing a flood in the cell that spilled into the hallway. As she was moved out of the cell so it could be cleaned Wakefield spit on one of the officers.

“I can’t imagine the concern that caused the officer and his family after that occurred,” Justice Krista Leszczynski said during sentencing on July 22 - Wakefield’s birthday.

Wakefield, now 35, received 30 days in jail on charges of assault, mischief, drug possession, and multiple breaches of bail.

The assault came after a culmination of bail breaches that all involved

violation of a no-contact order with William Gallerno. “Your relationship with Mr. Gallerno... is a very unhealthy relationship,” says Justice Leszczynski. “It appears that you have struggled significantly with abiding by court orders not to associate with him.”

The court heard that since Sept. 19, 2019 Sarnia Police have received 15 complaints from Wakefield about Gallerno.

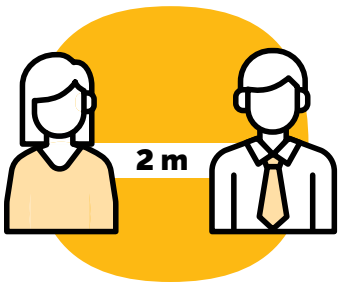
Wakefield was ordered to serve 18 months of probation upon her release. She’ll have to stay away from Gallerno and drugs and will also pay a \$500 fine on the drug charge.

Wakefield will serve the first part of her sentence in jail as she waits for a court hearing on charges stemming from a scuffle with police in June.

The court heard Wakefield and Gallerno and police officers were involved in a struggle at a Christina St. hotel as police tried to arrest them.

Police say Wakefield allegedly tried to grab the officers gun. She’s facing charges of resisting arrest, disarming a police officer and escaping custody in the incident. Gallerno is also charged in the incident.

As more businesses and services reopen, we must all continue our efforts to protect each other.



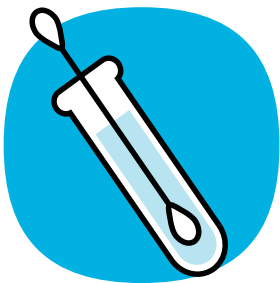
Continue to practice physical distancing, stay two metres apart even in gatherings.



Wear a face covering where physical distancing is a challenge or where required.



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

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