

Half turned away

Heather Wright
The Independent

Half of the people looking for a residential program to kick drugs or alcohol in Sarnia and Lambton County are turned away.

That from Paula Reaume-Zimmer, Bluewater Health’s vice president of mental health and addictions.

As the hospital marked overdose awareness month, Reaume-Zimmer says there were fewer people coming to the emergency room and calling an ambulance because of fears over being infected with COVID-19 at the hospital.

ER visits dropped 21 per cent over the same time last year and ambulance calls dropped 11 per cent. Lambton’s emergency department’s opioid related visits

are still higher than the provincial average.

And even more telling is how many people are being turned away. Reaume-Zimmer says they recently started tracking how many callers they could not find residential treatment programs. “We decline almost 50 per cent of the callers for residential withdrawal management.,” she says. “So with the demand, people are reaching out now, and so it’s really maxing out what our capacity has available.”

Reaume-Zimmer says the statistics underscore how critical a new residential program is in Sarnia. It has been in the hands of the provincial government for years. Reaume-Zimmer says they are still working through approvals and hope to select a site soon.

No masks in Dawn-Euphemia

Heather Wright
The Independent

There won’t be a mandatory mask bylaw in Dawn-Euphemia.

Mayor Al Broad held a special meeting Tuesday to get the thoughts of council on the issue.

In July, Lambton County councillors decided against a county-wide bylaw to mandate masks to limit the spread of COVID-19. Councillors voted against the idea some citing the advice of the medical officer of health who said mandatory wasn’t necessary at this time since almost all of the cases of COVID-19 could be traced to close contact not spread in the community.

In the wake of the decision, Sarnia, Petrolia, Lambton Shores and Point Edward each pass a mandatory bylaw while Plympton-Wyoming and St. Clair turned the idea down.

Wednesday, Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley is expected to ask county councillors once again to implement a county-wide bylaw.

Broad told council some people gave the impression Dawn-Euphemia was “ignoring the issue...that’s not the case.”

With three council members at the meeting passed a motion saying council recommended wearing a mask and keep their physical distance to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Broad, and Councillors Leslea Williams, and Mark McGuire agreed education was the best way to handle the issue. “Families, out of the abundance of caution, are making the best decision for their families,” says Williams.

McGuire says he wears a mask but “if someone has a deep seated belief or a physical problem wearing them, I don’t think we should be forcing them.”

Municipal staff added 95 per cent of people coming into the building have been wearing a mask.

Broad says he wanted the community to know where council stood and will vote against a county wide mask bylaw.

75 YEARS OF HARD WORK AND HAPPINESS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Wilfred Mitchell gives his wife, Betty, a little kiss on the porch of their St. Clair Township home Friday. The couple celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary Sunday with cake and family; mirroring the celebration they had in 1945 at his parent’s Oil Springs farm. For more on the story see page 2.

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Seventy five years of hard work and happiness

Heather Wright
The Independent

In 1942, when Wilford Mitchell and his friend met Mary Betty St. John and her friend at the Brigden Fair, he could not have know he would share nearly eight decades of his life with her.

It was the beginning of many meetings between the 16 year-old Wilford and 15 year-old Betty as she was known.

The spent time together with friends and before long Wilford was hitchhiking to Petrolia to see a show and to see Betty at the Dairy Bar where she worked.

Wilford says Betty made an impression.

“She made a good hamburgs,” he says with a slight smile while sitting at the table of the Brigden area farmhouse Friday.

Wilford kept coming back. Eventually, he had his own car to drive. He would come into Petrolia to take her home to the end of Maude Street at the end of her shift.

When Betty turned 16, Wilford gave her a ring with her initials engraved on it - BSJ. She still wears it on her pinky.

They soon realized they shared the same work ethic. During the Second World War, Wilford’s father petitioned to have him stay home to work on the farm; Betty worked in a munitions factory in Sarnia making bombs for the war effort. After she was laid off,

she went to the Hillman Hotel in Petrolia where she worked for \$7 a week and a room, cleaning rooms and serving at the restaurant six days a week.

By 1945, just months after Betty turned 18, they were married. Betty wore a light pink dress and Wilford a sharp suit to the ceremony at the ministers house. The celebration was small. Betty’s mother had saved her sugar rations to make a cake to celebrate.

Afterward, the couple took Wilford’s Model A and headed to Detroit for a honeymoon at her uncle’s. It proved to be a more difficult trip than expected, changing several flat tires along the way.

It was a good time away and the Mitchell’s still have the mirror their uncle made for them as a wedding gift.

When they returned home, they went to work on the family farm. By 1948, the couple decided to strike out on their own buying a farm west of Brigden.

“We had a dollar in our wallet when we moved over there...and we had two little ones,” says Betty.

Wilford went to work at the Sarnia Bridge Company while Betty stayed home with the kids and worked the farm.

“I had 500 hens west of Brigden and I had two cows and I raised veal on my two cows,” she says.

“He was getting a dollar an hour and I was getting more money with my cows and my chickens

than he was in town.”

“I had a check in my pocket and I wouldn’t have to pull it out,” says Wilford.

Their little family grew to six children and they worked the farm together. By 1960, the job at Sarnia Bridge ended and they expanded their farm operation.

Their daughter, Rosemary George, says her dad and mom worked hard together.

They had chickens initially - up to 1,000 of them which kept Betty busy sometimes until the early hours of the morning.

By 1964, they started buying cattle raising 300 head a year. Wilford raised cattle as he had as a young man in Oil Springs and fixed farm equipment with his welding skills.

The couple became involved in the Lambton Cattlemens’ Association and were soon travelling around Canada and the United States on trips for the organization.

They continued chicken farming until 1980 and cattle farming until 2018 before they retired.

“They were both hands-on farmers,” says George. “Betty was a hard worker gathering eggs every day from their laying hens.”

Betty was also active in the Brigden Do-R Best Women’s Institute. It just dissolved last year.

George says Betty loved music and the couple often went to local dances and Fiddlers Contests.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Wilford and Betty Mitchell share a laugh at their home near Brigden. The couple celebrated their 75th anniversary Sept. 1. The couple have six children, 14 grandchildren 32 great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild on the way any day now.

Today, the couple still live on one of their farms.

Wilford has had some health issues recently spending a week in hospital, but the 92 year-old is fine now.

Their life is not as busy now, says Betty. They watch Wheel of Fortune and then Jeopardy every night. Then, they play the card game SkipBo until 11 at night.

Betty still cooks their meals and Wilford still appreciates her cooking, although he jokes her hamburger is not quite as good as it used to be.

Sunday, they had a simple celebration - coffee and cake with family - mirroring that first celebration 75 years ago in Oil Springs when they started their life together.

Staggered start for back to school

Heather Wright
The Independent

There will be a few extra days of summer vacation for students in Lambton.

The Lambton Kent District School Board and the St. Clair District Catholic School Boards have just released the start times for the new school year as parents brace themselves for a school year of pandemic protocols.

Officials say senior kindergarten to Grade 8 students will be back in class Thursday Sept. 10. But only half the students will be there the first day. Sept. 11, the other half of the students will go to school for the day. Parents will be notified by the school which day of the week their student will attend to learn all about the new protocols.

Junior Kindergarten students return to school using a staggered approach starting

Tues. Sept. 15.

At the secondary level, Grade 9 students are the first back to school on Sept. 14. Grade 10 to 12 students will be in class Tues. Sept. 15.

The first day of at home learning will be Sept. 14.

“The staggered entry of students in elementary and secondary schools will provide staff with additional time to become more familiar with school health and safety routines and complete training to support a safe and healthy return to school. The staggered entry will also allow LKDSB and SCCDSB to hire additional staff to lower class sizes in schools and support Learn at Home instruction.

“Additional time is also required to reorganize staff and student schedules to support both in-class and Learn at Home instruction,” say board officials.

Mayor cancels appreciation luncheon

Heather Wright
The Independent

Another Plympton-Wyoming is going by the wayside because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Mayor Lonny Napper told council Aug. 26 that he is “wrapping up” his annual Mayor’s Appreciation Awards Lunch. He says restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic mean the Camlachie Community Centre likely won’t be available for a large crowd to use this year. And he says with his wife, Carolyn, locked down in a nursing home during the pandemic, they can’t work on the project as easily. “It was something we loved to do together.”

Napper thanked all those who helped out with event saying over the years between 150 and 200 people were recognized and over \$10,000 was raised for local charities.

“It’s something that I hate to do,” he says of pulling the plug on the event “but I just can’t do it anymore.”

Napper vows to find another way to recognize the good in the community.



Lonny Napper

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- Sod, soil and sand
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June 6, 20
July 11, 25
August 8, 22
Sept. 12, 26
Oct. 3, 17, 24

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Aug. 10 & 11
Sept. 14 & 15

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Alvinston is the only station needed says consultant

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston is well served by its newly created fire department and a single station in Alvinston can serve the entire municipality.

That’s one of the main findings of a fire consultant’s report up for discussion Wednesday by Brooke-Alvinston council and members of Brooke Fire Rescue.

The municipality hired Firehouse 33 to look at the efficiency of the department after months of turmoil. In May 2018, 16 firefighters in Inwood, including the station chief, resigned after a series of disputes about training with the new chief. It left the 70 year old department with a skeleton crew and meant firefighters from Alvinston filled the gap. By 2019, the municipality needed to renew a lease on the firehall, which is owned by the Inwood Firemen’s Association. Months of conflict ended with the municipality removing the trucks Jan. 1 and placing them in a rented drive shed in the community.

Recently, the municipality tried to by the building back, but that effort also failed.

Firehouse 33 looked at the community’s service and in its final report concluded “The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston is well served by

their newly created fire department. With no significant development on the near horizon, a single fire station currently in service in Alvinston should be able to provide emergency coverage to the entire community for the foreseeable future.”

The consultant offered 23 recommendations - the main one being enhancing public education about fire prevention. The report says that while firefighters can respond to any fire in the municipality within the industry standard guidelines, a house can go up in flames in the three minutes, so residents have to know what to do before firefighters arrive.

The consultant also recommends creating an Emergency Medical Responder Team made up of Brooke Fire Rescue members for the Inwood area. The members would be properly trained and outfitted to respond to medical emergencies, and accidents to stabilize a scene.

And the report says money should be put into a capital reserve for a time when there was enough development in Inwood to justify a new station.

There were 24 recommendations in all including:

- using technology, including software already in use, to advance the department including tablets to help control some of the apparatus
- pre planning fire plans with owners of industrial, commercial, agricultural and institutional buildings
- performance plans and appraisals for all firefighters
- modifying the women’s washrooms to provide showers for female members
- create a capital plan and put away money for future capital and equipment purchases
- charge a fee for burn permits
- install a fire gear washing station

Members of the Brooke Fire Service, including new chief Steve Knight, have gone through the consultant’s report and will be providing comment on what they see as important items to move forward on.

In a report to council, Chief Knight says; “The status of the Inwood Station has been a constant discussion of the community and BFR for many months. A decision of council needs to be made to determine the need for a fire presence in Inwood or to move forward with having one station in Alvinston to respond to calls in the municipality,” he writes.

“The interim report utilized past emergency and fire call data, response times and drive time maps to establish that the Inwood area and municipality as a whole is currently well serviced with the Alvinston Station.”

Can you hear me now?

PW to spend \$25k on new video system

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming council has been having a rough time at council meetings.

Aside from the issues council faces, it has been struggling with virtual meetings since the COVID-19 pandemic forced council meetings online.

Frequently, residents attending the meetings can be seen on video straining to hear what was being said. Other times, people who were speaking to council would not be able to answer a question because they couldn’t follow the conversation.

That prompted Councilor Tim Wilkins to ask Chief Administrative Officer Carolyn Tripp to

investigate a more permanent system which would allow residents at home to hear what was being said.

Tripp came back to council Aug. 26 with a system which would provide both clear audio and video.

“It’s three cameras in the room to catch that (council and the audience) and audio would be throughout the room to catch all voices,” says Tripp.

Council agreed to spend almost \$26,000 on a system from Avolution Media. “The clerk and treasurer feel that this is something that we can put under the COVID accounts and hopefully receive money faster,” says Tripp. The province is giving municipalities cash to cover expenses related to COVID-19. She added there is other money which was not spent this year or reserves which could be used.

Avolution will install a temporary system until the correct equipment arrives.



Origins of Fairbank concrete a mystery

Heather Wright
The Independent

Charlie Fairbank has a bit of a history mystery on his hands after a piece of concrete with his family name was discovered by a Petrolia area farmer.

Trevor Brand has been accepting concrete from contractors for years hoping to someday crush it into stone. But recently, Brand dropped a large chunk of concrete and the Fairbank name was revealed.

“It was actually upside down (on the pile) and I dropped it; otherwise it could still be in the pile. And who is to say - there could be more in there.”

Brand called Fairbank who came down to take a look at what may have been an archway supported by posts with a square piece on the top.

The name is unmistakable but there is some question about the date - Fairbank believes it was likely 1888 but pieces of the stone had chipped away over the years; Brand says it seems to be 1893.

Either way, Fairbank isn’t sure where it came from, speculating it may have been at “The Big House” at one time. “I was responsible for my grandmother’s woodbox, so I was all through the house and all through the orchard. I don’t remember that stone...I wish I could tell you where it came from but I don’t recall it.”

Fairbank will bring it to the Oil Springs homestead and place it at the entrance on Drury Road. “For now, I will accept it as it is and then try and puzzle out where it is from,” he says adding “there are other people in town who should remember what this is from.”

Aamjiwnaag man arrested after lockdown Saturday

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Sarnia Police have arrested a man following a shooting at Aamjiwnaang First Nation on Aug. 29.

Marshall Maness, 46, is alleged to have entered a Wahboose Circle residence around 8:45 pm and fired several shots at a pair of people inside. One person was hit in the arm and treated at Bluewater Health.

Police asked residents of Aamjiwnaag to stay inside for several hours while they searched for the shooter.

Maness was arrested at his Beaver Circle house shortly after midnight. Police found a number of firearms during a search of his home.

Maness faces 14 charges, including a pair of weapon assault charges and seven counts of uttering death threats.

- The Independent of Petrolia



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Editorial

Labour lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

Our world of work has been set on its head in 2020 and as Labour Day approaches, there are Labour Day lessons to be learned.

In March, over three million Canadians were laid off as provincial governments ordered all non-essential workers to stay home. Those non-essential workers would have been in a precarious state if they were left to themselves.. The federal government stepped in with the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit - \$2,000 a month for those whose job had disappeared overnight. Over seven million people took advantage of it.

There needs to be an accounting of how this program rolled out, but we believe many will recognize how important it was at the time to keep food on the table and ease fears. It may even prove to lessen the long-term economic impact of the pandemic. This Labour Day we recognize the vital importance of government investing in people who are in need.

We watched as health care workers cared for the ill in hospitals and nursing homes and learned many are not properly compensated for the work they do. Personal support workers have long been in short supply and underpaid, and COVID-19 shone the spotlight on that. Today, as the restrictions are easing, those PSW “pandemic pay” is over and there is still too much work for too few people. This Labour Day we need to urge the province to increase their wages, 10 per cent a year for five years is one suggestion, and attract new people into the industry.

Health care workers also still have important parts of their collective agreements suspended in health care. The province allows their work schedules and places to change without notice. And workers are still restricted to one workplace which likely decreases their earning power. This Labour Day, we say the province needs to remove those emergency orders. If it wants trained health care workers to work in one place only, it should make their jobs full-time and pay an appropriate wage.

The pandemic has opened our eyes to nature of work in Canada and much of it is precarious and part-time. If we don’t want our government’s to bail out people in trouble, we need to encourage the creation of full time jobs with good wages so people can stay afloat in troubled times.

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



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

An interesting shot of the GTR Station in Petrolia. There is no indication of the date of this photo but the building was erected in 1903. Today, it is the town’s library.

Choosing the suds over the gag inducing hand sanitizer

I have become a hand sanitizer connoisseurs, a sommelier if you will of all gel-based alcohol.

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, hand sanitizer was a hot commodity, the price of hand sanitizer skyrocketed, you couldn’t find it in a store near you and distilleries started making their own version of the ethyl alcohol based wonder gel.

Every store I would walk into to deliver papers would have at least one bottle. In the early stages of the pandemic I must have used hand sanitizer about 50 times a day. You can believe me when I say not all are created equal. There are some that are not completely disgusting, and that’s about the most positive thing I can say.

You have the hand sanitizer “water” which is basically a mist of ethyl

alcohol usually coming from an improvised spray bottle.

The water sanitizer is not that effective in my mind - it dries too quickly and I can’t apply it over my whole hand.

Then there is the ewwey-gooey hand sanitizer - that glop of gel that does not seem to absorb into your hands. I’ve actually scrapped it off on the edges of tables because even a little dab is way too much. It also smells like dog barf. And that lovely odour lingers telling reminding you that you have killed germs and likely your sense of smell as well. I did find one gel that was not too bad, but I’d still rather use soap and water.

Today, I found another reason to search for a sink; British scientists say too much hand sanitizer could lead

to a “potentially Armageddon scenario” of super bugs. It seems hand sanitizer doesn’t kill everything and what’s left is food for seriously nasty bugs. They feast on what’s left and we have more problems - bigger problems than can be solved by sanitizers. So, I will put away my pocket sized protector and search for a sink from now on. It will be better for me and likely less gag inducing.



Heather Wright

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News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

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

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Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514
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Canada

Former federal ag minister Ralph Ferguson dies

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Alvinston farmer who was the Agriculture Minister in the John Turner government has passed away. Ralph Ferguson died Aug. 30 after a long struggle with Alzheimer’s according to a Facebook post from his son, John.

Ferguson farmed and conserved his family’s land in Brooke Township for years and was active in farm politics long before he was elected to the House of Commons. He was the co-founder of the Lambton Pork Producers Association and in the 1950s, he was the chairman of the Lambton County Egg Producers.

From 1972 to 1976 he was a charter member of the National Farm Products Marketing Council in Ottawa; and was one of the “founding fathers” of supply management in Canada.

The long-time Liberal was first elected to the House of Commons in March 1980 in the Pierre Trudeau government wrestling the seat from Sid Fraleigh – the local Conservative MP at the time. The two would fight for the Lambton-Middlesex Riding for four elections over a span of eight years.

Ferguson was in power with the Liberals from 1980 to 1984 including a two-and-a-half month stint as agriculture minister when John Turner briefly formed government after the resignation of Trudeau. But Fraleigh came to power in the 1984 Tory sweep that brought Brian Mulroney to power. Ferguson returned to power in 1988 as a member of the opposition and served until 1993.

Ferguson served as parliamentary secretary the Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism from 1980 to 1982, Deputy Government

Whip 1982 to 1984, and parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance from March to June 1984.

Ferguson was involved in several trade missions, championing the idea of export market expansion. He played a role in the creation of the Canadian Agricultural Export Corporation which was disbanded by the Mulroney government.

One of his most important acts as the Minister of Agriculture was to the first controlled environment seed bank in an effort to protect parent seed stocks.

In his first speech in the House of Commons, Ferguson told the story of his riding, including the rich oil history of the region.

He also talked about his hopes for a new, renewable energy source being developed in Lambton-Middlesex from waste.

Ferguson was an early promoter of using corn for ethanol fuel. He also promoted fair payment for farmers.

And, he recognized a problem which still exists today – the regional differences between Canada’s east and west.

“I am aware of the traditional differences which historically have developed between the east and the west as well as between individual regions, misunderstandings which unfortunately seem to be increasing in intensity rather than decreasing,” he said.

“Perhaps it is due to the nature of modern day communications that we are instantaneously aware of regional advantages and disadvantages. It sometimes seems we have forgotten the hopes and dreams of the Fathers of Confederation as they struggled to unite this vast and diverse land into one great nation.

“If we are to fulfill our duties in this House we must not forget that we



Former Lambton-Middlesex MP and Agriculture Minister Ralph Ferguson passed away Aug. 30

all have a common bond-the bond of being a Canadian. Whether we were elected to represent a constituency in the east or in the west, we were elected to the Parliament of Canada. This institution is Canada, and if we are to fulfill our duties as elected representatives we must work for a common objective, and part of that objective is a better understanding of our fellow Canadians and the problems that are unique to the respective regions.”

Ralph Ferguson – who is the father of the current Brooke-Alvinston Mayor, Dave Ferguson – was just two weeks away from his 91st birthday.

He’s survived by his wife, Delores, and his five children and grandchildren.

A celebration of Ferguson’s life will be planned after COVID-19 restrictions have eased.

Family, friends and strangers finish Lori’s ride

Heather Wright
The Independent

Friends of Lori Neville and hundreds of strangers across Canada finished what the Wyoming woman could not. About 200 people walked and biked down the Reece’s Corner to Wyoming Trail Wednesday night in honour of the 34 year-old who was killed while cycling on Petrolia Line Saturday morning.

Neville was part of the Great Cycle Challenge Canada to raise money for childhood cancer and was completing rides around Lambton County for the cause. She was on a ride for the challenge when she was killed.

Family and friends, including a large contingent from A Village FirePlace where Neville worked, gathered at the Lambton County building Wednesday night, some wearing shirts saying “I Ride for Lori” and travelled the trail in her memory.

The ride was lead by Neville’s wife, Natalie. Before the event took place she was trembling and admitted to being overwhelmed by the support from her community.

The ride in Wyoming was just one of hundreds across Canada.

Mike Bryck, from Toronto who is also part of the challenge, heard about



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

An estimated 200 people gathered in Wyoming to honour the memory of Lori Neville, a 34 year-old mother who died while cycling to raise money to fight childhood cancers. Other members of the Great Cycle Challenge Canada rode with the family in Wyoming and over 400 people across Canada completed a memorial ride as well Wednesday night.

Neville’s death and invited people to finish Lori’s ride on Aug. 26. Over 400 people from 10 provinces and one territory rode 11,099.53 kilometres in her honour.

“Being a part of this effort was inspiring,” wrote Bryck on Facebook after completing his 50 km ride Wednesday.

“I want nothing more than for Oliver

to always know his Mom mattered and what she did made a difference to so many people.”

People have also been showing support for the Neville family by donating to her Great Cycle Challenge page. Saturday, she had raise just under \$1,000. Today, \$12,547 has been raised to fight childhood cancers in Neville’s name.

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Petrolia man charged with hit and run

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A 20 year-old Petrolia man turned himself in to Sarnia Police after a hit-and-run investigation. Noah O’Dwyer Bristol faces multiple charges including causing injury with a vehicle, assault with a weapon and failure to stop at an accident. He was held in custody Tuesday pending a bail hearing.

Sarnia Police say on Aug. 21 on Elizabeth Ave. in Sarnia, a pickup truck struck a man. Officers arrived and found the victim on the ground. He was taken to Bluewater Health with significant injuries. Sarnia Police found the truck abandoned nearby. The Traffic Unit and Criminal Investigation Branch used it to identify the suspect. Police have not identified the victim, but after the crash

family of 24 year-old Clayton Ball of Sarnia set up a Go Fund Me page identifying him as the victim of the hit and run. The new father is now in stable condition in a London hospital, where he is recovering from many serious internal and external injuries including a broken jaw. The ‘Help Support Clayton Ball And His Family’ page had raised nearly \$15,000 by Tuesday.

Not enough school custodians says union

Jenna Cocullo
Local Journalism Initiative

A local union leader says there are not enough extra custodians to meet enhanced cleaning protocols as kids are preparing to go back to school. Dave Geroux, president of CUPE Local 4168, representing the non-teaching staff at St. Clair Catholic School Board, said the funding received by the provincial government is inadequate for the job that needs to be done. The plan only allows for two hours extra cleaning time per school per day. “If you look at the workload for custodians in normal circumstances, they already don’t have time to do everything they need to,” he said. The Ford government announced \$75 million in funding to hire more than 900 additional custodians and purchase cleaning supplies for schools. St. Clair Catholic will receive \$216,050. The government funding was enough to hire 5.5 additional custodians for all Catholic schools across Chatham-Kent and Lambton. Under normal circumstances, classrooms are to be cleaned once a day, and washrooms several times a day. Under the new enhanced protocols,

classrooms and “high-touch” areas, need to be cleaned twice a day. It takes approximately 15 minutes to clean one room, and 20 minutes for a washroom. “A small school has six to eight classrooms, and two washrooms. So that’s your extra two hours already. “If you are trying to contain a virus, you have to clean a washroom after every time it is used. All those things being touched constantly per day: door knobs, handrails, eating areas. That is not enough to maintain the level of cleaning per school.” Some additional unspent money from last year’s Education Worker Protection Fund is being rolled over into this year’s budget for the extra custodians. “The government answer to all this is to take money from the reserve funds. But there is a reason for those funds, like capital projects and future obligations. We will still have to find those monies in the future because we still have those obligations to pay for.” Geroux said the issue is not unique to his school board, but rather it is being felt province-wide. “When you look at the provincial government plan, it is premised on the assumption that every piece of the plan

will work perfectly. That everyone will wear masks, socially distance, and that all staff will be there. If you don’t have all those pieces working together properly, and not enough custodial time properly, you could have a school more potent to carry that infection,” he said. Some clerical staff are back to work Wednesday and they have not yet received a shipment of personal protective equipment from the government. “We don’t even know if it’s going to be enough,” he added. Despite his concerns, Geroux said he remains optimistic things will open up safely. For the most part, everything is ready to go, and school board officials are taking their new obligations under COVID-19 very seriously. Staff are already familiar with the enhanced COVID-19 cleaning protocols from working throughout the summer. Provincially mandated health and safety training is also scheduled during the first week of school. “I feel cautious. We’re going to do our absolute best and I am optimistic that we can do it safely, but there is a real possibility of seeing a resurgence,” he said.

- The Chatham Voice

COMMUNITY SPIRIT



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Florence IOOF had one of their best chicken dinners on record, selling 310 dinners this weekend. Dinners went through a drive-thru to pick up their meal. Organizers say the dinner went off without a hitch.

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St. Clair’s pool and halls will remain closed until October

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Community halls in St. Clair Township will remain closed for at least another month following consultation with volunteers who run the buildings. “The volunteers have expressed they do not want the responsibility that comes with opening, such as added cleaning and policing their users and guests to ensure they are safe and acting according to COVID-19 regulations,” says Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay in a letter to council during their August meeting. The alternative would be to have township staff perform the enhanced safety measures. Lindsay says this falls outside

their usual duties. The issue will be revisited at the Oct. 5 council meeting. St. Clair residents will also have to wait until at least next month to use the pool at the Mooretown Sports Complex. The pool is scheduled to open on Oct. 19 with several restrictions. This includes limited change room time, no spectators aside from a parent/guardian assisting their child with lessons, COVID screening, contact tracing, and mandatory masks in all areas aside from the pool deck and in the water. Township residents may see some recreation return this month though in the form of museums. In July, council decided to hold off on opening the Moore and Sombra Museums until Lambton County had reached

Stage 3. Council will now talk with museum workers and make a reopening decision at the next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 8. If St. Clair’s museums do reopen they will join a number of other Lambton County museums scheduled to open soon. The Lambton Heritage Museum will be the first of these on Sept. 2. The Oil Museum of Canada will open on Sept. 9, with the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery following on Oct. 2. The Lambton County Archives also open by appointment on Sept. 9. Various safety measures will be in place at all museums, and include altered hours, timed ticket entry, contact tracing and mask use where required by law.

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‘Absolutely outrageous behavior’ gets just two months in jail

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A series of incidents spanning more than two years caught up to Alesandro Gagliardi in Sarnia court.

Stunt driving, resisting arrest and assault were just some of the charges Gagliardi, 49, plead guilty to on Aug. 25, in what Justice Deborah Austin called “absolutely outrageous behavior.”

However a joint submission from Crown and defense attorneys resulted in much less punishment time than the judge believed the crimes deserved.

The charges date back to May 2018. While already under a bail condition not to drive, Gagliardi was clocked by an OPP officer at 10:30 am travelling 146 km/h in an 80 km/h zone along Kimball Rd.

The officer made a traffic stop. As he approached the car a woman had moved into the driver’s seat and said she had been the one driving. Gagliardi was seen in the backseat with the woman’s teenage daughter. The officer led the woman to his cruiser while Gagliardi yelled at her not to answer any questions.

As the officer and woman began talking Gagliardi became upset and exited the vehicle. He clenched his fists and advanced on the pair despite orders to stop. When Gagliardi got closer the officer struck Gagliardi in the mid section with his knee, dropping him to the ground.

David Lefaive listened as the clerk in Sarnia court read a litany of eleven charges to which he plead guilty.

The charges, including five break and enters, were laid in a five month span.

In December 2019, police received a call of a man jumping on cars at Progressive Auto Sales on Exmouth St. The man then went next door to A&W and smashed the front window in with a tire iron.

When officers arrived they found Lefaive exiting the back door and arrested him.

He had destroyed three order terminals and another computer monitor while inside. The damage totalled more than \$5,000.

Lefaive’s next target was the Sarnia Library at the end of February. Lefaive removed a computer stick from the back of a computer. He covered his face and attempted to avoid cameras as he left the library.

Police were at the library the next day reviewing the surveillance footage when Lefaive came back. He was quickly arrested for the theft, and for failing to attend court three days earlier.

Lefaive’s spree hit its climax at the end of April with four break and enters

Gagliardi fought off the officer and ran back to his car to lock himself in. Several officers had now arrived on scene. Gagliardi refused to unlock the doors until officers said they would break the windows. When he did open the door, he started fighting and clinging to the inside of the car when officers attempted to get him out. Officers were finally able to remove Gagliardi and arrest him.

2020 saw more serious incidents. On July 24, Gagliardi and the same woman got into an argument at a Sarnia home. The fight between the common law couple started inside but spilled onto the front lawn. When the woman tried to leave Gagliardi grabbed her hair and threw her to the ground. He then tried to drag her inside the garage.

A pair of witnesses saw the fight and intervened, despite Gagliardi yelling at them to get off his property. They helped the woman away and phoned police. Officers arrived to find Gagliardi hiding in a bedroom closet, and he was arrested.

Two weeks later Gagliardi was seen outside the woman’s house late at night. He had been ordered to stay away from her. When police arrived Gagliardi was gone, but his vehicle was there.

When Sarnia Police went to Gagliardi’s residence they found him in the driveway and told him he was under arrest. Gagliardi swore at the officers shouting “I’m not under arrest”

The first occurred late on Apr. 24 when Lefaive broke into the One Tooth clothing store on Front St. by smashing the front door with a stone. He stole two t-shirts before being startled by a car outside and fleeing out the back door.

The same night an officer on patrol found the door of the Wine Well on Trudeau Dr. smashed apart.

The officer entered and found a rock inside, along with rummaged items and a kicked in office door. While investigating the surrounding area the officer entered a TD Bank. He found it had no power because someone tampered with the breaker box above the ATM.

Surveillance footage from the bank showed a man entered the ATM area of the bank and slept for about 20 minutes. At 1 am he woke up and suddenly climbed up the ATM to destroy the breaker box. The officer recognized the man as Lefaive.

The same man was seen on surveillance at One Tooth and the Wine Well.

The spree finally came to and end two days later.

Lefaive broke into the Mufflerman on Exmouth St. at 4:30 am and found the keys to a truck. He took off in the Ford Ranger, but a witness already called police.

Officers found the truck a short distance away on Alexander St. with Lefaive standing in the driveway. He was arrested on the several outstanding warrants from two nights before.

Defense lawyer Elizabeth Craig says Lefaive is dealing with serious mental health and substance abuse issues. She says her client believed he was on a

and ran toward the street. He was cut off by one officer. When he ran back toward the garage the officer’s partner made the arrest.

“The facts give rise to concern about public safety in relation to Mr. Gagliardi’s conduct toward motor vehicles, his conduct toward police, and his conduct toward his partner. Lack of adherence to court orders as well,” says Austin.

Despite Gagliardi’s many pleas, Crown attorney Melanie Nancekievill and defense lawyer James Guggisberg settled on a joint position of just two months in jail. With time served, Gagliardi only had three days remaining behind bars. Gagliardi also received a \$2,000 fine and license suspension for the vehicle offenses.

In “deciding to reluctantly respect the joint submission,” Austin acknowledged that the woman wouldn’t testify against Gagliardi, and that he had some health concerns.

“In my view the sentence that would ordinarily flow for this combination of offenses would certainly be... much higher and much longer than the joint submission,” Austin says. “His time in custody... is something that will hopefully have some kind of helpful and stabilizing impact.”

Gagliardi is on probation for the next 18 months. He can’t contact the woman, must take counselling for anger management and substance abuse, provide a DNA sample, and is banned from having weapons for 10 years.

treasure hunt to find the contents of a family will during this time period.

“That’s how messed up his thinking was while he was going through these charges that are before the court,” says Craig. “He’s advised me that he’s happy he got caught and that he wants to get cleaned up.”

“The damage that I did, I apologize and it won’t happen again. It will never happen again with me, it’s ridiculous,” says Lefaive.

A joint position of two years less a day was decided on for all of Lefaive’s crimes.

Craig asked that he spend his remaining time at the St. Lawrence Valley Correctional and Treatment Centre in Brockville so he can access drug addiction and mental health programs. Justice Krista Leszczynski agreed .

“It’s clear that your substance abuse has significantly contributed to your criminal conduct and has had a significant impact on your disordered thinking at the time that you were committing these offenses,” says Leszczynski.

“Unless you receive treatment sir, you can expect that these types of consequences are going to follow. It’s imperative that you take that counselling and that you take it seriously.”

With time served, Lefaive has just under 18 months left to spend in jail. After release he will be on probation for two years.

He must stay away from all of the places he broke into, pay restitution to several of the businesses, and continue counselling for mental health and substance abuse.

He’s also banned from having weapons for 10 years.



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\$3.6M of \$120M Catholic budget spent on COVID-19

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board has approved a \$120 million budget for the upcoming school year. But all talk at the Aug. 25 board meeting was about the additional \$3.6 million dedicated to COVID-19 costs. With a projected 8,750 students returning to St. Clair Catholic schools this year, preparations are on to ensure a safe experience. To help cover increased costs the school board received \$787,000 from the provincial government in pandemic funding. The board will pull another \$1.3 million from the board’s own contingency funds, while the remaining \$1.5 million will be taken out of the board’s surplus stock. Treasurer Amy Janssens gave a detailed breakdown of anticipated COVID costs saying maybe needed. “The board does not assume that COVID-19 or the associated costs of COVID-19 will disappear during 2021,” says Janssens. “We consider this a best case scenario, and advise the board additional costs are likely necessary as planning continues.” For now the board has estimated they’ll spend an additional \$3.3 million in 2020-21. The largest chunk - \$1.4 million – will go toward staff costs. Janssens says they are planning for a possible

400 staff days lost. The board will be hiring 10 new elementary school teachers at a total of around \$800,000. New high school teachers are also being considered with \$50,000 has also been set aside in case retired teachers need to be called upon to work. Several new custodians will also be brought on board to assist with enhanced cleaning protocols at a cost of \$216,000. Additional special education workers should run \$84,000. The need for additional supervision will cost about \$431,000, with \$395,000 of this going to elementary schools. Every elementary school will have an extra adult supervisor working up to six hours a day watching kids at lunch, recess, and in the isolation room if necessary. The board’s nine largest elementary schools will have two new supervisors. Cleaning supplies are another major expense. Janssens estimated it will cost \$652,000 to buy hand soap, sanitizer, disinfectants, and other cleaning products for the year. Personal protective equipment costs will run around \$263,000. The board hired a full-time principal, secretary and administrative team dedicated to online learning for this year’s online classes. The group will address any needs of at-home students. This team would cost \$268,000.

Janssens expressed surprise that the board would not be receiving any provincial money to assist with virtual class. This means the \$268,000 must be taken entirely from the contingency fund. A health promotion officer is being hired at an estimated \$223,000 to help with increased mental health issues due to the pandemic. Technology is a big focus especially for virtual class. Webcams to assist with online learning and 50 mobile hotspots for students with poor internet at home will cost \$10,000 each. ‘ The board is also trying to order more laptops and other devices for students and teachers, but face lengthy delivery times. Total tech costs will be around \$62,000. Janssens says so far parents are indicating most kids will return to school but there was a noticeable drop in the expected return rate of junior kindergarten students though. The board is also looking for rural and remote school funding from the province for the local high schools. Nearly half the total St. Clair Catholic secondary students are considered rural, and almost 80 per cent take the bus to school. If the bid is successful both schools will be able to share in the fund’s total pot of \$245,439.

- The Independent of Petrolia

Ontario teachers say province have not made schools safe

Alastair Sharp
Local Journalism Initiative

Unions representing Ontario’s school teachers will each file a complaint with the province’s labour relations tribunal over what they say is the Ford government’s failure to take “every reasonable precaution” to protect education workers with its back-to-school plan. The escalation of their dispute with the government comes after a meeting last week between Labour Minister Monte McNaughton (Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP) and the heads of the four unions representing 190,000 teachers and education workers in public English-language elementary and secondary schools, Catholic schools and French-language schools across the province. The unions asked for assurances that class sizes would be capped at 20 students and that no one attending school in-person comes into contact with more than 50 people, as well as adherence to ventilation standards and the ability for school boards to delay reopening until it is safe to do so. While secondary schools are largely being restricted to 15-student classes conducted part-time, elementary schools will retain their pre-pandemic sizes, in many cases that means rooms with 30 students seated less than two metres apart. They say the demands are in line with measures put in place in other workplaces and public spaces in Ontario. “Smaller class sizes would help make schools safer,” Sam Hammond, the president of the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO), said in a joint statement with the other unions. “Should teachers and education

workers not be able to expect at least the same standards and precautionary measures as have been put in place in stores, offices, and other spaces across the province?” he said. Premier Doug Ford, asked about the legal move, portrayed his government as having given the unions everything they sought. “You wanted ventilation, we got ventilation. You wanted more money for teachers, we went out and got the reserves,” he said at a news conference Monday, referring to the government allowing school boards to dip into their contingency funds to pay for safety measures, and to a federal government top up announced last week. “I don’t want to fight with you.” He said the teachers unions were at odds with individual teachers, and contrasted their complaints with the heroic efforts of health care and other frontline workers. “At the peak of this, and it was running rampant, PSWs (personal support workers) walked into long-term care homes like firefighters walking into a burning building, and they don’t say a word, they’re heroes,” Ford said. “The frontline health care workers are heroes, the doctors are heroes, how about the grocery store clerks at the peak of this checking out hundreds and hundreds of people. “Then we create the safest environment we possibly can for everyone and the teachers’ unions just want to fight,” he said. “They want to fight with everyone. I don’t want to fight with you, I want the cooperation like every single person in this country has been cooperating, except the teachers unions.” The unions say they are reflecting the widespread concerns of their members

as well as parents and others. “The anxiety Ontarians are feeling around reopening schools is directly related to the government’s lack of leadership and their haphazard, incomplete planning,” says OECTA President Liz Stuart. “The Premier and the Minister of Education say they will do everything possible to make sure schools are safe. All we are asking is that they make an honest, exhaustive effort to follow through on this promise.” “The accusation that teachers and education workers are not willing to step up and get back to schools is preposterous and insulting,” OSSTF president Harvey Bischof said. “No worker in the province of Ontario should be expected to sacrifice their health and safety, especially when there are such obvious measures the government could be taking to reduce the risk and prevent potential tragedies.” McNaughton, the labour minister, said he would ensure that workers are safe from workplace hazards, including COVID-19, and that his ministry has been in touch with every school board in the province and is training both school boards and staff on how to be safe at school. “This is no different than our work with employers of the millions of Ontario workers who remained on the job during the pandemic, as well as those who have since returned to work,” he said in a statement. “In every case, including construction sites, supermarkets, retailers, manufacturing and more, workers, industry, labour and government worked together to create safe workplaces,” he added. “That spirit of cooperation was effective.”

Source: National Observer

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NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF A HERITAGE DESIGNATION REPEAL BY-LAW “THE BLANCHE HOUSE”

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Petrolia passed By-Law No. 37-2020 on the 10th day of August, 2020, pursuant to the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 as amended.

THE BY-LAW RESCINDS the Town of Petrolia’s by-law 57 of 2002 designating the Blanche House, as being of architectural and historical value or interest. Located at 4281 Discovery Line in the Petrolia Discovery

THE KEY GRAPHIC shows more particularly the subject property


PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF THE REPEAL
The purpose of By-Law 37 of 2020 is to repeal By-Law 57 of 2002 which was adopted to designate the subject property as a property of cultural heritage value and interest.


EXPLANATION OF THE REPEAL
Council approved the request of the Petrolia Heritage Advisory Committee to repeal on June 22, 2020 on the basis that the Blanche House has fallen into a state of disrepair, due to previous years of neglect, with the current Petrolia Discovery Board of Directors not able to expense the repair, with an opportunity arisen for a third party to complete salvage at no cost.

Please note there is no appeal to this by-law. This decision of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petrolia is final.

Dated at the Town of Petrolia this 26th day of August, 2020

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





Sports

Raaymakers, Lovegrove win Kingswell club championship

Petrolia’s Kingswell Glen Golf Course held its first club championship last weekend since the sale of the club earlier this year.

Corey Raaymakers had a two-day score of 148 to capture the men’s title by two shots over Jason Lovegrove. Jeff Simpson was third, four shots off the pace.

Shirley Lovegrove’s total of 181 took the ladies crown by a comfortable margin. Heather Hewitt was second and Anita Podolinsky placed third. About 80 golfers took part in the event. The next event on the docket is the Ryder Cup-style Kingswell Cup scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 12 and 13.



Kingswell Glen’s Director of Golf, Travis McMurphy, presents Shirley Lovegrove and Corey Raaymakers with the club championship trophies.

Petrolia’s Whiteye wins academic award in Florida

Petrolia product Abby Whiteye is one of 41 recipients of the Division 2 Athletic Directors Academic Achievement Award at Eckerd College in Florida.

The award recognizes the academic accomplishments of student-athletes at the Division II level.

An athlete must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale to qualify.

Whiteye, a Northern grad, averaged 11.1 points and 5.3 rebounds this past season. Eckerd had a 24-5 record overall.

They had won the Sunshine State

Tournament in March and were headed for the NCAA Division 2 Regional Tournament in Tennessee when the season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This coming campaign will be Whiteye’s senior season at the St. Petersburg school.

Fryfogle shines in Colorado Eagles intrasquad game

Brayden Fryfogle is making an immediate impact with his new team. The 17-year-old from Wyoming was named the second star of the Northern Colorado Eagles Black and White game.

Brayden and his older brother Bayly

signed with the Eagles of the USPHL in June.

Last season, Brayden played “AAA” hockey with the Komoka-based Elgin-Middlesex Chiefs, while Bayly was a member of the GOJHL’s Strathroy Rockets.

The Eagles, based about an hour north of Denver, open their regular season Sept. 18. Northern Colorado is coached by Sarnia’s Steve Haddon. The Lambton Junior Sting grad played a handful of games with the Petrolia Squires during the 2005-06 campaign.

Oil Springs woman gets top job at North Bay curling club

Stacey Dobbins has taken over the top position at the North Bay Granite Curling Club.

The Oil Springs native has been named the new general manager at the northern Ontario facility.

“I have super huge shoes to fill, but

I am looking forward to leading an amazing team into a new era,” she posted on social media following the announcement.

“Working with our team, our members, our volunteers, and this sport is way too much fun to be called

a job,” she added. The LCCVI grad had previously been the office manager at the club for the past two years.

Recognizing the upcoming season could be challenging due to COVID-19 restrictions, Dobbins is excited about the new opportunity.

McCormick played a variety of sports but was drawn to curling

Steve McGrail
For The Independent

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is one of a series of stories on athletes from the region.

Heath McCormick was born in 1976 in Lansing, Michigan but was raised in Brigden and attended Brigden Public School before attending LCCVI.

He enjoyed playing a variety of sports but gravitated towards the curling rink. McCormick was part of the curling team at high school and also when he attended University Western Ontario Kings College.

In 1996, McCormick was the Ontario Junior Curling Champion and in 2004 he was a member of the Ontario Mixed Championship team.

He made six appearances in the Ontario Men’s Curling Championships and finished as Runner Up in 2003.

In 2012, McCormick, having dual citizenship, was the US Men’s Champion and represented USA at the World Championships in Basel, Switzerland.

Representing USA for curling provided him the opportunity to be part of the United States High Performance Program from 2015-2018.

He played in the 2014 and 2018 US Olympic Trials and was runner up in 2018.

Twice McCormick was crowned Continental Cup of Curling Champion (Tournaments were held in Las Vegas and Penticton, BC).

Over the years McCormick



Heath McCormick at the US Olympic Trials

has won multiple World Curling Tour Event Championships.

Heath is the son of Wayne and Elsbeth and is brother to Ian and Blyth. He currently lives in Sarnia with his

wife Natalie and has two children, Astrid and Hazel.

He works at McCormick Insurance Brokers Ltd. in Brigden and enjoys golfing and curling and staying active with his family.

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Is the **PERSPECTIVE** biased?



Are **OTHER** sources reporting the same story?



Is the story **TIMELY**?

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In Memory



- IN MEMORY -

Norma Moore

September 2, 2014


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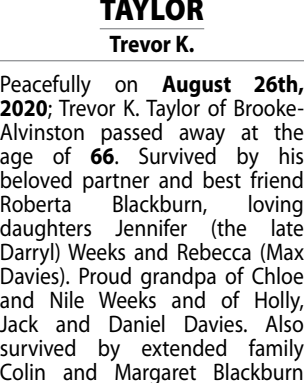
Stephen David



Obituary

TAYLOR


Trevor K.



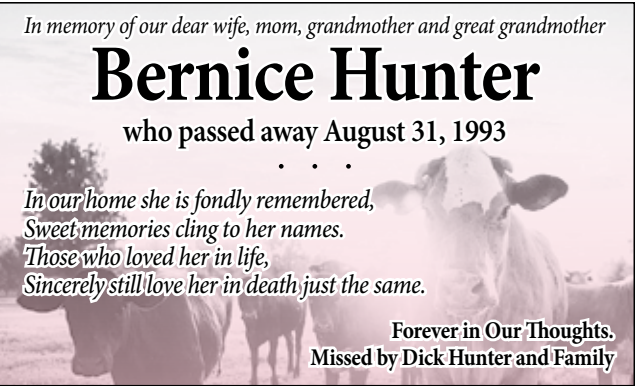
Obituary

FERGUSON

Ralph



In Memory



In memory of our dear wife, mom, grandmother and great grandmother

Bernice Hunter

who passed away August 31, 1993

In our home she is fondly remembered,
Sweet memories cling to her names.
Those who loved her in life,
Sincerely still love her in death just the same.

Forever in Our Thoughts.
Missed by Dick Hunter and Family

Notice

ADVERTISING POLICY


The publisher of this newspaper, The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton, reserves the right to clarify or refuse any advertisement based on its sole discretion. The publisher reserves the right to reject, discontinue or omit any advertisement without notice or penalty to either party. Liability for errors or non-insertion is limited to the amount paid for the cost of space occupied by the error. Claims of errors must be made prior to the next publication date.

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.

Card of Thanks



Thank You

The family of the late Jeannette Bourque of Petrolia extend a heartfelt thanks for the many kind offerings of condolence and donations. The supports offered to mom and our family over the past few years have been appreciated. The compassionate care from Bluewater Health, Dr. Crombeen, and the Palliative Care Team allowed our mother to know peace and feel the love of family at her side. We are grateful to Dr. Susan Mather for her years of gentle care to mom and to the entire team at Lambton Meadowview View who lovingly supported and cared for her. You ALL made a difference and we thank you.

Deadline

DEADLINE

for all classified ads is

Monday at 12 noon

for the paper that prints and distributes Wed-Thurs

Notice

AWALK-IT FOR PARKINSON’S

- Despite COVID-19, the needs of people living with Parkinson’s have not disappeared. This year “WALK-IT for Parkinson’s” has become “WALK THE BLOCK for Parkinson’s”. You can register online, take part as an individual or a team, collect cash, cheque and online donations and then walk on September 12th or 13th around your own community block

Notice

TERRY FOX RUN

- This year, the Run’s theme is “One Day. Your Way.” Due to public health concerns, we will participate in spirit, not in person this year. On **Sunday September 20th**, we ask that you continue to support cancer research by participating in and fundraising for your Virtual Run. We leave it up to you to choose how to celebrate your Terry Fox effort – walk, run, dance, hike – on a favourite route and with your favourite people. Most importantly, we need you to honour the day by fundraising for cancer research. please visit **terryfox.org** to donate.

COVID-19

IN LAMBTON

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

CANCELLED EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
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
Dec 10-20	Watford	2020-2021 Watford Regional Peewee Silverstick Tournament Silverstick.org
Dec 27-30	Alvinston	2020-2021 Alvinston Regional Atom Silverstick Tournament Silverstick.org
Dec 27-30	Petrolia	2020-2021 Petrolia Regional Midget Silverstick Tournament Silverstick.org
Jan 8-24	Forest	2020-2021 Forest International Silverstick Tournament. Atom, Peeww, Batam, Midget Silverstick.org

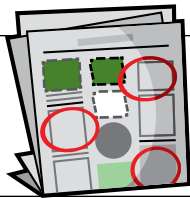
Death Notices

August 23 - August 30, 2020

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23	TUESDAY, AUGUST 25	COULL, Corinne
BRUNTON, John Age 70, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	LeBLANC, Linda Age 72, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	Age 76, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home
BARTSCH, Brigitte Age 78, of Forest Gilpin Funeral Home	ANTOINE, Nina Age 74, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home	CORRY, Joyce Age 84, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
MONDAY, AUGUST 24	BATTLE, Mary Age 77, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home	FRIDAY, AUGUST 29
ZELASKO, Ann Marie Age 71, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	McCAFFREY, Kathleen Age 81, of Sarnia McCormack Funeral Home	HARRISON, Graydon Age 86, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
McNEIL, Marvin “Moe” Age 80, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	POSTIL, Wilfred Age 85, of Point Edward D.J. Robb Funeral Home	SATURDAY, AUGUST 30
SCACCIA, Mario Age 80, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home	TAIT, Norma Age 91, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	McKAY, Donald Age 64, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
McCRIE, William Age 90, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26	WELCH, Bonnie Jean Age 66, of Sarnia Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel
WHITELY, Lawrence Age 91, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	TAYLOR, Trevor Age 66, of Brooke-Alvinson Denning’s of Forest	Van DINTHER-JACKSON, Leola Age 69, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
O’HAGAN, Joseph Age 96, of Sarnia McCormack Funeral Home	THURSDAY, AUGUST 27	TRUMBLE, Reta Age 87, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home
	SHAWNOO, Franklin Age 52, of Kettle Point Denning’s of Forest	FERGUSON, Ralph Age 91, of Brooke Township Denning’s of Watford

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
Sept 3	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	519-882-8728
Sept 4-6		Sarnia	Sarnia Rib & Craft Beer Fest at Hiawatha Horse Park. Live Music, Craft Beer & Food. Friday 4-11pm, Saturday 12noon -11pm, Sunday 12noon - 7pm	
Sept 5	7:30-12noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Farmers' Market directly behind the Petrolia Library	
Sept 5	noon-11pm	Petrolia	Live Music at the Crabby Joe's Beer Garden featuring Rock Ridje, Brad Holbrough, Colt & Dave, Mike Gallant and Demi Krall. Walk-in crowd only.	
Sept 5	2pm	Forest	Forest Legion Weekly Meat Raffle . Doors Open at 2pm. Raffle starts at 3:30pm.	519-786-5357
Sept 8	7pm	Petrolia	LCDS Annual General Meeting online Bluejeans. Link on Social Media	
Sept 9	6:30pm	Watford	Watford Legion General Meeting	519-876-2360
Sept 10	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Sept 10	7pm		Lambton Branch of Ontario Ancestors " Using Social Media for Genealogy " with Ben Dawson The Registration Link https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUvfuusqD8jHtVgLOYr-rb0xnJiun6ZjG1Fh	
Sept 11	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle	519-876-2360
Sept 12	7:30-12noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Farmers' Market directly behind the Petrolia Library	
Sept 12	9a - 12noon	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion Bottle Drive . All proceeds t go towards building upgrades.	
Sept 12	2pm	Forest	Forest Legion Weekly Meat Raffle . Doors Open at 2pm. Raffle starts at 3:30pm.	519-786-5357
Sept 12	5 - 7:30p	Watford	Watford Rotary's 18th Annual Fish Fry at Watford Centennial Hall. Advanced tickets only. \$20 per person. Drive -thru take out. Pickerel, French Fries/Onion Rings, Coleslaw. Tickets Available at Watford Home Hardware or any Rotarian.	
Sept 12	8-11pm	Petrolia	Live Music at the Crabby Joe's Beer Garden featuring Sarah Smith . Walk-in Crowd only.	
Sept 13	1-3pm	Lambton	The Sacred Heart Food Bank will be collecting non-perishable food and personal hygiene items from residents living between Bickford Line and Bentpath Line (St. Clair Parkway to Kimball Road). Leave on your porch or in driveway before 1 pm. For more info Frank: 519 677-5428 Claudette: 519 677-5609.	
Sept 17	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Sept 18	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle	519-876-2360
Sept 19	7:30-12noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Farmers' Market directly behind the Petrolia Library	
Sept 19	2pm	Forest	Forest Legion Weekly Meat Raffle . Doors Open at 2pm. Raffle starts at 3:30pm.	519-786-5357
Sept 19	4-7pm	Petrolia	LCDS & Petrolia Lions 3rd Annual Beer & Wing Night . \$15 each at the Lions Hall Petrolia. Take out Available. Live Music by Demi Krall.	
Sept 19	4:30-7p	Wyoming	Plympton & Wyoming Agricultural Society Broasted Chicken Dinner . ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY. Pick-up only. Adults \$20, Kids \$10. For Tickets Call 519-845-3161 or 519-845-0302	
Sept 19	8-11pm	Petrolia	Live Music at the Crabby Joe's Beer Garden featuring Eric Robertson . Walk-in crowd only.	
Sept 24	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Sept 25	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle	519-876-2360
Sept 26	7:30 - 12noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Farmers' Market directly behind the Petrolia Library	

To have your event included in the above Calendar of Events the following information is required:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Town: _____

Event Title: _____

Phone # / website: _____

You can drop this off at our office or email the information to us at office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

****Deadline for submitting free events is Mondays at noon.****

COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING

MAINTAIN A DISTANCE OF AT LEAST 6 FEET (2 METERS) FROM OTHERS & remember to WEAR YOUR MASK!

Business & Service Directory

PRO-TAX

Professional INCOME TAX SERVICES

519-882-2966
3927 Petrolia Line

jam_jo11@hotmail.com
Joanne Jamieson
(Pro-Tax is a division of Teogotha Inc.)

Appointment Only
Pick up & Delivery Available

www.protaxpetrolia.com

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Formerly Bourque Woodworks

Additions • Renovations
Kitchens & Baths
Trim Work • Custom Carpentry

329 Centre St., Petrolia
www.bourquerenovations.com

519-882-3344

Church DIRECTORY

Christ Church Anglican

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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

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

St. Andrew's Prebyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia
(Behind the Post Office)

In this time of Social distancing we invite you to join a virtual congregation and watch the Sunday morning worship at Knox Presbyterian Church in Thedford.

9:30am Service - Live
www.kpcthedford.com
www.standrews-petrolia.ca

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
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

Activist can’t interfere with livestock now Province enacts first part of act to protect farmers from activists

Max Martin
Local Journalism Initiative

A section of a controversial agri-food bill that cracks down on animal rights activists is coming into force Wednesday, making it illegal to stop or obstruct a truck carrying farm animals.

Monday, the Ontario government announced it proclaimed Section 6(1) of Bill 156, the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020.

Under the new law, as of Wednesday it’s an offence to “stop, obstruct, hinder or otherwise interfere with a motor vehicle transporting farm animals.”

The maximum fine for a first offence is \$15,000, with repeat offenders potentially drawing fines up to \$25,000.

Ontario’s Agriculture Minister Ernie Hardeman says the new law is coming into effect to help protect the public’s safety and the provincial food supply.

“(We want) to make sure we keep all the people safe; the people who are out demonstrating and the people who are driving the trucks, and the livestock,” Hardeman says.

Hardeman added trespassing on agri-food establishments or interfering with livestock transport can cause undue stress to animals and risks introducing diseases or contaminating the food supply.

Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts, a pork producer, was one of the first to push for the legislation.

The contentious bill has drawn praise from Lambton County politicians who championed the bill, farmers and truckers, who say they need more avenues to protect themselves from animal rights activists.

“I was thrilled to hear that particular

section was proclaimed today ... We see this legislation as being the first meaningful tool toward addressing the harassment that our drivers face when they are confronted by animal activists,” says Susan Fitzgerald, executive director, Ontario Livestock Transporters’ Alliance

The activists, on the other hand, have criticized the legislation, calling it an “ag-gag” bill that muzzles their right to protest, or collect evidence to expose animal cruelty and unlawful activity.

“I believe this provision is unconstitutional. It directly targets the Animal Save Movement ... it’s to prevent people from exposing the suffering that animals on transport trucks are enduring,” says Camille Labchuk, executive director, Animal Justice.

Section 6(1), along with three other related sections, come into effect less than three months after an animal rights activist was killed during a demonstration in Burlington.

June 19, long-time activist Regan Russell was killed after being hit by a transport truck full of pigs outside of a Burlington processing plant.

A 28-year-old North Perth man was charged with careless driving causing death.

“It’s important to recognize that since the original passing of the bill, the intensity of the protesting has increased quite dramatically,” Hardeman said.

Groups will still be able to protest in public places, so long as they don’t obstruct traffic. A change to Regulation 950 of the Provincial Offences Act will allow police to immediately issue tickets to those who block or interfere with trucks.

The remaining parts of the act are open for public input, with regulatory provisions yet to be finalized. Other sections in the bill would introduce harsher fines for trespassing on farms and agri-food processing facilities.

Source: London Free Press

Conditional sentence for swampy crash

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A British Columbia man was given a 12 month conditional discharge following an early morning drive which ended with a dive into a Port Franks swamp.

Sarnia court heard David Heintz, 33, and his fiancé recently moved to Ontario from BC.

On Jan. 16 this year witnesses awoke to find a truck had gone off the road and crashed into a tree in a marshy stretch of Outer Dr. in the Port Franks community.

A man was wandering around asking for help towing the vehicle out of the swamp.

Police arrived and found Heintz appear to be inebriated. He had trouble standing, was slurring his speech, and making animated body movements. After dropping his phone and breaking the screen, Heintz was asked for ID. He instead pulled out several baggies of pills.

Heintz was arrested.

When police spoke with Heintz’s fiancé she said the couple had argued the night before, and after drinking a whole bottle of scotch, Heintz had left

the house.

The woman went to sleep, but later awoke to the sound of her truck starting and taking off. She was upset and said she had not given him permission to drive the truck.

Defense lawyer James Guggisberg says the accident resulted from “an odd night that I understand to be an aberration for an otherwise healthy relationship.”

He says the couple remain together and Heintz’s fiancé doesn’t want him to go to jail. The pair are planning to move back to BC soon.

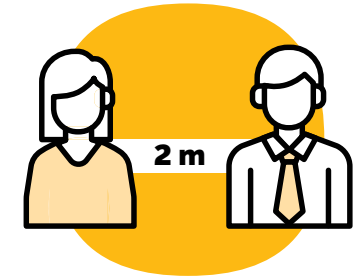
Justice Krista Leszczynski called the events “a very troubling set of circumstances.”

She says the single count of taking the truck without consent “does not necessarily capture all of the circumstances that occurred,” noting Heintz was not facing charges for the crash or possibly being inebriated.

But she says jail time was not in the public interest, and Heintz’s fiancé wasn’t pursuing more serious charges. As part of his year-long probation Heintz will have to take counselling for domestic violence and substance abuse.

-The Independent

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



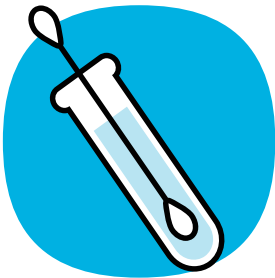
Continue to practice physical distancing, stay two metres apart even in gatherings.



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

