

# The Independent

*Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton*

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## HISTORY AND CLASSICS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

About 50 members of the Sarnia Street Machines brought their classic cars to Petrolia Discovery Saturday. The historic site was open for public tours for the day and the members of the classic car group added some colour to the event.

## Class sizes likely lower in Lambton

**Jenna Cocullo**  
Local Journalism Initiative

School boards in Lambton-Kent reassuring parents classrooms won't be crammed with students when they head back to class this week.

They are clearing up some misconceptions about combined classrooms as the concept had parents worried it meant more students per room.

"I think there is some confusion about what is going on with collapsing (combining) in school," John Howitt, says director of education, Lambton Kent District School Board. "The class sizes have not increased in face-to-face (learning)."

The St. Clair Catholic School Board and the public board held a joint press conference on Thursday afternoon to answer

some back-to-school questions.

Roughly 14-15 per cent of public secondary students (approximately 1,000 kids) have chosen to move into the virtual school.

Howitt says some in-person classrooms were left with nine students in them each, so instead of creating two separate classes, they merged to become one class of 18.

The second teacher then moved to the virtual school.

"Those students who come out of the school, they need a teacher," he said.

For the public board, the overall average class size for Kindergarten has decreased from 24.8 to 20. Grades 1-3 have decreased from 18.57 to 18, Grade 4-8 from 24.65 to 22 students board wide.

**SEE CLASS SIZES PG 2**

## No funding for Lambton's arena projects

**Heather Wright & Alex Kurial**  
The Independent & Local Journalism Initiative

Warwick and St. Clair Township will be searching for cash again.

Both municipalities have been rejected for funding for their large arena projects from the Canada Infrastructure Program. It would have seen 71 per cent funding for the multi-million dollar projects from the federal and provincial governments.

Warwick Mayor, Jackie Rombouts, says the municipality received word recently the \$10 million rebuild of the Watford arena which includes a new community hall to replace the aging Centennial Hall, wouldn't be getting funding.

She recently talked to provincial politicians during the Association of Municipalities of Ontario meeting about the deal.

"He did encourage us to apply again for the COVID-19 intake," says Rombouts noting the federal and provincial government plan to offer more grant money in the future.

But she says council will be looking at other options.

A report is expected from administration on the possibilities for fundraising including how a local committee of volunteers might raise some of the cash needed for the project.

"Now is not an ideal time to start doing a big fundraising campaign. But hopefully in the spring, we're likely going to start doing that."

And Rombouts expects council will want to move forward with the projects since Centennial Hall needs to be replaced.

**SEE PROJECTS PG 2**

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# Funding for big projects rejected

CON'T FROM PG 1

“This community has been waiting for this project for a long, long time. And council has been putting money away for it in our budget process, so I think yes, absolutely. The hall needs to be replaced and we have a good plan going forward.”

Meantime St. Clair Township was also told it wouldn’t be receiving any money for upgrades.

The township had applied for grant funding to aid improvements to the 50-year-old facility. One of the most pressing needs is to replace the current ammonia ice making system.

The provincial government had to narrow \$10 billion worth of proposals down to their almost \$1 billion available in funding to pass along to the federal government for approval.

There were so many requests for funds, most large projects were rejected.

St. Clair Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay says the decision not to include the Moore Sports Complex in the final selection is

“devastating news which is absolutely frustrating to hear.”

The total cost of the renewal project was \$35 million. Plans were to build an NHL sized rink, another retro rink, a new gymnasium and fitness studio, an aquatic area, and a fitness center. The new facilities would have opened between 2021 and 2025.

Lindsay says with this funding option gone the project may need to pivot and address immediate concerns. He says the biggest of these is the direct ammonia system.

“We are the last system like this in Ontario and this must change in the summer of 2021,” Lindsay says. He added that a failure could cause both rinks to shut down at any time.

The roofs on both rinks need repairs as well.

Some of this work needs to be done before the winter.

Lindsay says council needs to set options for moving forward, what to prioritize, and seeing what money is even available.

-The Independent

# Class sizes won’t increase say boards

CON'T FROM PG 1

“There will be the odd class that’s a little bit larger; that’s how averages work,” he said.

The public board hired an additional 25 teaching staff for face-to-face learning in order to reduce the larger class sizes.

Deb Crawford, director of education for the Catholic board says 12 per cent of elementary Catholic students and 13 per cent of secondary students have opted for virtual learning. The board has reduced kindergarten class sizes to 21 students; primary classes have an average of 18 students; junior classes have 22; and secondary classrooms will see around 20 students.

“Again, it’s an average, so there may be a smaller or larger class here or there,” Crawford says.

Twenty-two new teachers were hired to keep class sizes down and provide more instructors for the virtual school.

The Catholic board, which has been undergoing consolidation of its schools over the past few years, has no plans in the works just yet to use the empty school buildings.

“We’re finding that if we did have large classrooms, we’d be looking at using larger spaces in schools. So we can use the library to allow more physical distancing, as opposed to the classroom if that became necessary,” says Crawford.

She added that if there is ever a more pressing need to find additional space for social distancing purposes, then it may be an option considered down the road. “We would look at that as a possibility. But not at the present time.”

Both school boards have a time frame for when students can change from the virtual school to the face-to-face learning and vice versa. For secondary students, it is in January, and elementary students can change in October and January.

Crawford said parents cannot opt in or out when they want because the boards need time to plan for the changes.

“I don’t think the parents in a face-

to-face class would be very happy to move from 18 to 28 (students). So we’re going to have to reorganize and restaff again,” Howitt explained. “If we can accommodate before then, if it’s small numbers, we will. However, if it is bigger numbers that require resizing and shifting of staff ... we need some time to do that to make sure we maintain those small class sizes.”



John Howitt

All students, for both boards, in the face-to-face model will be set up on a digital learning system when they start the academic year. If a school needs to close, the students can easily transition to an online model with their own classroom teacher. The virtual students would remain enrolled in the virtual school.

At the beginning of the pandemic, when schools first shifted online, students were told to do as much as they could handle under the unprecedented circumstances. Now that months of planning have passed, it will be business as usual. The full curriculum is being taught virtually and secondary students are still required to meet their 110 hours per class as they would normally in a face-to-face environment.

“An enhanced teacher-led learning will make the difference than when we went out in March,” Crawford says. “With the teacher working independently, you’ll see a change and it’ll be quite different than the model that was experienced from March to the end of June.”

Extracurricular activities and sports are on pause for the time being until the boards can figure out how to run them safely.


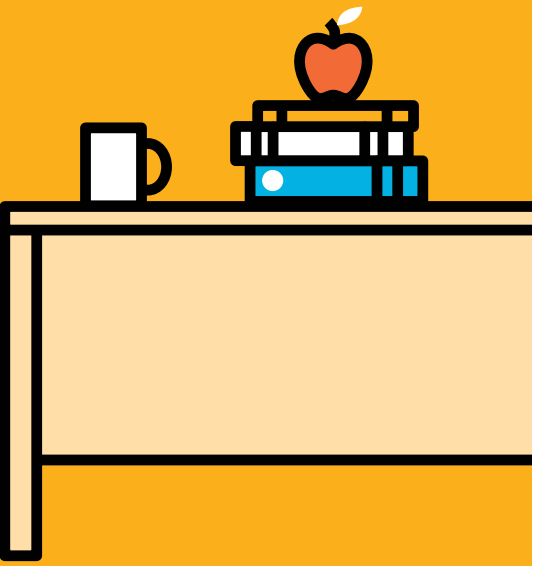
Crawford said they have yet to look at how they can integrate the virtual students in extra activities, when they resume, to give students the best experience possible.

- The Chatham Voice


# Reopening schools safely matters to everyone

**That's why** the government of Ontario has worked with health officials, school boards and educators to develop a comprehensive plan to keep kids and staff safe.

- **Physical distancing** measures will be implemented such as desk separation, signs, floor markings and one-way hallways.
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- **More nurses** will be in schools.
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THE RED LINE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Car enthusiasts and friends of the late Marty Raaymakers filled Petrolia’s downtown with classic cars Sunday. About 50 cars joined the cruise around Lambton County raising money for Rebound.

No fairs, but still some fall fun

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Normally on the Labour Day weekend, Judy Krall and most of her family would be busy at Greenwood Park preparing for the first fall fair of the season.

But when this weekend rolls around, there will be no Petrolia Enniskillen Fall Fair. And it is taking a bit of getting used to.

“It’s definitely a different experience,” says Krall, who has been the agricultural society’s president and is currently a district director for the Ontario Agricultural Society in Lambton-Middlesex and Elgin. “It’s kind of hard to come to grips will it.”

In April, when it became clear the restrictions around the COVID-19 pandemic were not lifting anytime soon, agricultural fairs across the province started looking at their events and cancelling, knowing provincial restrictions on the number of people in one place would not allow a fair to run.

Some fairs, decided to run events in place of the fair. Krall says Petrolia considered it, but the timing was bad.

“We discussed putting on a virtual event or some virtual contests but we really thought with the kids going back to school (later in the year) it wouldn’t be good timing,” she says.

Members of the Brooke-Alvinston and Watford Fall Fair board decided to run a number of events on Oct. 3 - the Saturday the Alvinston fair grounds would normally be full of people.

“It is an important event in our commun-

ity, especially with its long history; we didn’t want to just write it off,” says Dan Cumming, president of the board which has hosted a fair for the last 143 years.

“We sat down and thought about what are some of the things we could do to keep our fair relevant and on people’s mind,” he says. “Things that were important to the kids or stood out, we decided to do.”

The Brooke-Alvinston and Watford fair group will host a drive by rib dinner that night, a pumpkin growing contest for boys and girls, a virtual pet show and scarecrow contest. There will also be fireworks - a hold over from a missed Canada Day celebration.

While Cumming says they wanted to provide some fun for the community, the fundraising aspect becomes important during a year when the fair will not run. Cumming says like other societies, they still have expenses to pay and that can make money tight. He’s thankful the Alvinston Rodeo event has helped bring in much needed revenue to the ag society.

“It still hurts missing this year, but we just don’t think it will spell disaster.”

Krall says some other fairs are having a much harder time. Brigden Fair has a budget of \$500,000 a year, she says, and many buildings to repair and keep in top shape even if the fair doesn’t go on.

“They also do a lot of fundraising with community dinners which they have not been able to do.”

Krall says a \$5,000 grant will help most societies, but larger fairs may have financial problems into 2021.

The official end of the Inwood fire

Heather Wright  
The Independent

There will be no Inwood fire station anymore.

Brooke-Alvinston made it official Thursday during a special meeting of council specifically to talk about the consultants report looking at the efficiency of Brooke-Fire Rescue.

The report - which had 23 recommendations in all - came to the conclusion the entire municipality can be served well by the single station in Alvinston.

The municipality hired Firehouse 33 to look at the efficiency of the department after years 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. That 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 fire hall, 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 buy the building back, but that effort also failed.

Thursday, the new Chief Steve Knight walked council through the report and pointed out the entire fire department had a chance to look at the recommendations and comment on them during a meeting earlier this year.

Items like creating a shower for female firefighters, buying a fire gear washing station, and using technology to advance the

department were all given the thumbs up.

But when given an opportunity to make comments, most of the discussion was about Inwood. The firefighters didn’t think a dedicated Emergency Medical Responder Team was needed since firefighters already respond to accidents and medical calls.

And they agreed council needed to make a final decision on the fate of the Inwood hall before the department can move forward. Some voiced concerns about a community commitment to Inwood. Others said a fire hall in Inwood was costly and wasn’t needed to maintain good response times.

That was the conclusion of the consultant as well; “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.”


Councillor Frank Nemcek says this has been the hardest issue he has ever dealt with during his 10 years on council. But he made the motion that “the Inwood station was not needed” although it might be necessary in the future if there is growth in the community.

“The area is getting smaller and smaller. And information in this report is that we’re getting more and more efficient,” says Nemcek.

Mayor Dave Ferguson noted with Dawn-Euphemia considering pulling out of fire service agreements with Inwood, serving the area would be more costly with a dedicated Inwood station.

Council voted in favour of one station serving the entire municipality although it was not clear who voted which way since the vote was not recorded.

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# Charlotte's Corner

## Back to School

It's that time of year again: back to school! While this September might look different than in previous years, our priority is still the same: the health and well-being of our children. There are a multitude of resources available in Petrolia and surrounding areas to support families throughout the school year.

The best way for students to be protected in schools right now is masking. For grades 4 to 12, masking is mandatory in all indoor spaces at schools, including classrooms and hallways. Masking is strongly encouraged for students in younger grades, too. Students will use outdoor times, such as recess, for breaks from masking. For younger students, wearing a mask for a few hours at a time might be new. To make masking more fun and engaging for them,

let your children pick their masks out from the store. If you're making masks at home, let them pick the fabric or help you make them.

With the confusion and stress of a pandemic, a higher number of students might be experiencing mental health concerns. If you are struggling during this time, please reach out to your doctor for support and counseling resources. The Central Lambton Family Health Team is available at 519-882-2500. In addition, St. Clair Child & Youth Services (SCC&YS) offers sessions free of charge for parents and children on how to handle the stress of being in school during a pandemic. Students making the transition from grade 8 to 9 have social workers available to them, and the Lambton-Kent District School Board (LKDSB) is encouraging parents to reach out to their school's principal if they have any concerns.

In terms of academic supports, the Petrolia Library is offering an assortment of online and contact-free options. Curbside pickup is available Monday to Saturday, as well as e-books and audiobooks online. They also offer free courses online in subjects such as personal finance and writing. For students without internet or computer-access at home, the library is offering both of those to people through a sign-up schedule. Please see their website for more info. All of these supports are available with a Lambton County library card.

*There is no denying the return to school this year looks different and poses many challenges. It is important to remember we're all in this together and there are supports available for both students and parents.*



If you have questions about CEEH of Bluewater Health, please reach out to us at [communications@bluewaterhealth.ca](mailto:communications@bluewaterhealth.ca)



# Editorial

## The sad end to a sad story

The page is turning on a long and painful chapter of Brooke-Alvinston’s history, but it will likely take a long time to heal the rift it caused.

Brooke-Alvinston council officially decided “there is no need” for a fire hall in Inwood because the Alvinston station can meet provincial response time standards across the municipality.

There has always been some tension between the Inwood and Alvinston department. That’s why Brooke-Alvinston under the leadership of then Mayor Don McGugan had the fire marshal review the two departments. It was that review which turned the heat up on the Inwood department, challenging the amount of training the volunteers there had.

A new part-time chief was hired to bring the two departments under one name. That escalated the problem and by 2018, 16 Inwood firefighters had resigned leaving that community with only a handful of volunteers to respond.

There were efforts to heal the rift but when council members and their families were turned away from events in Inwood, the two sides moved further apart. There were efforts to bridge the rift but nothing worked.

The election of a new mayor didn’t help either. Dave Ferguson wanted the issue resolved and he wasn’t worried about hurting anyone’s feelings. It became clear very early on he didn’t think a full fire station at Inwood was necessary. So, there was a showdown about the lease. When that couldn’t be resolved, the trucks were pulled out of the hall owned by the Inwood Firemen and that was essentially the end of the department. Council just made it official Sept. 2 after accepting the recommendation of an outside consultant that only one station was needed.

It’s been a sad saga. It has divided Brooke-Alvinston. It has made firefighters question why they’re volunteering. The effects of this will be felt for a long time.

And we have no idea how the leaders in Brooke-Alvinston will be able to bridge the chasm which is now between Alvinston and Inwood.

## Letters to the Editor

*The Independent* welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to [news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca) (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website [www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca](http://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



LAMBTON COUNTY ARCHIVE PHOTOS

In 1921, the Forest Free Press reported on 10 different agricultural fairs in Lambton County! They were: Bosanquet Fair, Brooke & Alvinston Fair, East Lambton Fair (Watford), Florence Fair, Forest Fair, Moore Fair (Brigden), Petrolia & Enniskillen Fair, Plympton & Wyoming Fair, Sombra Fair and West Lambton Fair in Sarnia. Pictured here is the Watford Fall Fair.

## Back to school anti-climatic with a teenaged son

Back to school has been weird this year - not just because of the pandemic either.

By early August, our home used to be filled plans for new clothing and items needed for the classroom with questions about when we were going back-to-school shopping filling the air.

The occasion usually required at least one trip to London for an afternoon of browsing for that just right back-to-school outfit and the proper supplies - not the crappy stuff mom would buy if left on her own. (In my defense, the items were perfectly fine, they were just not as ‘cool’ - read expensive - as the kids would pick out.)

But this year is much different. Emily - usually the first to start planning her return to school - is in the third year of university, doesn’t live at home, and fend for herself. She still

has that special back-to-school outfit, but she buys it online and pays for it herself. Bonus all the way around.

Lauren has decided to take a gap year, so their was no need for her to find the outfit to impress this year. At least not until she finds a job.

And then there is John; our sixteen year old.

He’s actually happy to be going back to school. John misses his friends who live in other communities and the routine of going to school.

He isn’t, however, excited enough about back-to-school to be clamouring to go to the malls.

This high schooler is so laid back, wasn’t even sure what his time table looked like when he boarded his school bus for the first day back.

He has no need for a new outfit. I can pick out any old binder for him. Last

year’s backpack is just fine.

More time went into planning his lunch than anything else and even that only took five minutes.

I dutifully went out and got the binder, pens, paper and found two t-shirts at the local Wal Mart on Saturday.

And on back-to-school day, he put one on and headed out the door - no fuss, no muss, no bother.

No complaints here, just a realization how each new year brings changes.



Heather Wright

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Publisher / Editor: Heather Wright  
[news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)

Reporters: Alex Kurial

Sales Associates: [sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)

Classifieds / Graphics: Sarah Hills / Julli Archibald  
[office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)

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Canada



# Province puts brakes on reopening

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The provincial health minister says the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases are worrisome enough that the government won't be introducing any new opening measures until October. Christine Elliott, speaking to reporters this afternoon, said the increasing number of people being diagnosed in the province "have raised some concerns."

In late August, the health minister noted there were several days when there were fewer than 100 new cases each day. But the province reported 185 new cases in Ontario today and 190 – a 20 per cent increase in cases – on Labour Day.

"We will be taking a pause of four weeks," says Elliott says noting it will be critical to control the spread of COVID-19 and prevent the need to lock down again.

"We will be taking a pause of four weeks," says Elliott says noting it

will be critical to control the spread of COVID-19 and prevent the need to lock down again.

Premier Doug Ford noted that most of the cases are in Toronto, Peel and Ottawa.

He also pointed out the OPP responded to a party in the Muskoka area with 170 people and laid charges under the Emergency Measures Act. Two people from out of the country are also being investigated for breaking the federal quarantine laws.

"We have to come down hard on people who are coming into our country. It's a privilege coming into Canada...it is concerning we are seeing the numbers coming up."

Ford appealed directly to the public to report situations where a lot of people are gathering. "I'm asking the police go in there and lay charges, we have to put the hammer down."

Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, also voiced concern about the rising case load. He says people put these lapses

down to "COVID-fatigue."

"This is not the time to get casual about that. People say 'I thought it was no big deal.' It is a big deal."

"If you don't know the people, you cannot assume it is not a problem," added Williams saying if people do slack off, Ontario is susceptible to a second wave of disease as many other countries have.

"It's not just talk...if everybody starts to slide you end up with a second wave," says Williams.

"We still have the containment at hand yet we see the gatherings where there is a problem."

Education Minister Stephen Lecce says the pause in the reopening plans demonstrates the province is taking the impact of COVID-19 seriously as schools begin to open.

The province has been heavily criticized by teachers, doctors and parents for its reopening plans.

In Lambton County, there have been two more people diagnosed with COVID-19 in September.

## Releasing COVID-19 data won't solve mask debate: MOH

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Lambton's medical officer of health says politicians couldn't accurately gauge if a mandatory mask bylaw works by looking at data showing the number of COVID-19 cases in each community of the county.

Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley wants Lambton Public Health to start releasing number of COVID-19 cases by municipality.

Bradley told Lambton County councillors Wednesday other counties, including nearby Oxford, release the number of cases in each community weekly. And he says in institutional outbreaks, Lambton Public Health has identified the nursing home where the outbreak occurred.

He suggested publicly releasing the information could help show whether the mandatory masking bylaws work. Earlier in the meeting, county councillors decided not to revisit a county-wide mandatory mask bylaw – something Bradley has been calling for since July.

"Wouldn't that be a good benchmark to have to see if masking is necessary for your community?" reasoned Bradley.

"I don't like where the county is at on this issue, but we can show really what is happening with the masking, and what a difference it makes. To me, I'm trying to make something good with something I don't agree with with the county. To me, I think it is a very positive step for everyone in the county."

Sarnia City/Councillor Brian White agreed saying it would be a unique

opportunity in the province to see if masking worked.

But several politicians from small communities voiced concern that people's personal health information could be easily figured out if the number of COVID-19 cases in each municipality were released.

"It makes people paranoid about each other," says Brooke Alvinston Dave Ferguson. Global News reported this summer on cases within the Alvinston area sparking a rash of speculation on social media.

Warwick's mayor says it may stop people from getting a COVID-19 test. "Obviously Dr. (Sudit) Ranade doesn't agree with this or he would be releasing this information out," says Mayor Jackie Rombouts.

"My concern is that people will stop getting tested if they're afraid if they are going to be outed as having COVID," she says. "I would hate to see people stop getting tested based on their fear...the information could come back to them."

Others worried if the information was public, residents in communities without COVID-19 patients would let their guard down.

"What benefit is that? We're supposed to go out into the community as if it is everywhere....You're supposed to presume it is anywhere and everywhere," says Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott. The mayor, who is also the deputy warden, suggested the idea is political."It's been said we should not have politics decide health care."

Dr. Sudit Ranade told reporters Thursday there are several problems with releasing the information,

including the possibility of a person – particularly in small communities – being identified as having COVID-19. It is against the law to release personal health information and with such small numbers of people, Ranade says it would be possible for people to pinpoint who had the virus

And he says even if the data were released, it wouldn't necessarily show if mandatory mask bylaws work.

"It's a misconception that you could use the data on incidents to track back to the mask policy in any effective way. Because there are so many other pieces to why there are cases," he told reporters.

"Cases are really driven by social behavior. And large portions of that behavior occur in places where by law is not implementable, such as private setting ... It's going to be a big stretch to think you can take the numbers later and say, 'Oh, this municipality didn't have a mask bylaw and that's why the numbers are different.'"

Ranade says releasing the information wouldn't give an accurate picture because there is a lag in when the people contract COVID-19 and when it is reported. "By the time we're telling you that something's somewhere, it's not really there anymore. It's somewhere else."

"And although it's comforting and intuitive, (to have community data) it's not necessarily accurate or factual."

"Where we can better characterize the outbreak by dividing cases into different groups, we will try to do that. But we try to do it in a way that doesn't mislead people about it."

County councillors will hear from the medical officer of health Sept. 16.

## Police look for suspect in abduction attempt in Forest

The Independent

Lambton OPP are looking for the public's help after someone attempted to abduct a 16 year-old boy in Forest.

Around 1 pm Sept. 1, the teen was on Prince Street when a man tried to drag the 16 year-old into the back seat of his

Chrysler Sebring. The teen was able to escape.

Police say the man was a tanned, white man, about 5'10" to 6" tall with black hair, a mustache and goatee.

He was wearing a plain red shirt and black track pants.

Police say the Sebring was red, with

tinted windows and grey tire rims. There was a Dreamcatcher suspended from the mirror.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call Lambton OPP at 519-882-1011 or Crime Stoppers.

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# Seniors now have family at their bedside

Heather Wright  
The Independent

After six months of keeping family from the bedside of seniors in long term care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, the provincial government is now allowing two caregivers to be by their side without time restrictions. The change takes effect Wednesday. “Operators have been encouraged to facilitate visits by caregivers, however, implementation has been inconsistent,” says a news release from Long Term Care

Minister Merrilee Fullerton. Two weeks ago, the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms asked an Ontario court to demand the government provide seniors the access to family they are given under the constitution. The Centre was still waiting to hear if the appeal would be heard. “The policy provides clarity that caregivers are allowed to visit homes at any time, including during an outbreak, subject to direction from the local public health unit. This will support better implementation across homes,” the news release stated.

Each resident or their substitute decision maker may designate a maximum of two caregivers to visit without time limits to help with personal care. They’ll have to have a COVID-19 test every two weeks and wear protective equipment like surgical masks.. Lambton Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, was pleased to hear caregivers are returning to the bedside but said whether family would be able to stay in the case of an outbreak would be a “game time decision.” Over 1,800 seniors have died of COVID-19 across Ontario.

# Napper urges kind and compassionate cleanup

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Lonny Napper is calling for compassion as the town tries to clean up the grounds of the Wyoming Cemetery. Council agreed with the Cemetery Board that some overgrown shrubs and damaged makeshift memorials should be removed from the grounds of the cemetery. Deputy Mayor Muriel Wright, who is a member of the committee, says some of the items present a hazard to workers when they’re cutting the lawn and people visiting the cemetery. Pictures provided by staff showed headstones completely

covered by trees which originally planted as memorials but weren’t properly cared for. Others show small items and solar lights around the base of stones. The cemetery board earlier had notified the community it would be cleaning up the grounds and removing items which could cause a hazard. Councillors were flooded with calls of concern. Mayor Napper says the uproar is nothing new. “Every year this comes up,” he says adding the cemetery does need some work. “It’s overgrown, but it is a lot better than it used to be.” But he says many people have a lot of sentimental feelings towards the stones of their loved

ones. He says the biggest problem with doing a clean up isn’t removing the items, its making sure people understand what’s going on and why the items are being removed. “Some people said they weren’t made aware of it,” says Napper. Councillors agreed to give residents until Oct. 15 to remove questionable items before the municipality goes in to clean up. But Napper urged staff to be understanding. “Use the upmost compassion you can with these people and use your communication skills with them and be kind to them while you’re doing it.”

# Schools, public health ready to deal with COVID-19

Jenna Cucullo  
Local Journalism Initiative

Educators in Lambton-Kent are expecting to have to deal with COVID-19 in their schools. As thousands of kids and hundreds of staff head back to school, Ontario’s Ministry of Health released detailed guidelines on what is to happen to students who present with symptoms or if there are multiple cases. But, it is up to the local health officials to make the call on what to do. “It’ll be the local health units, whether it’s Sarnia-Lambton or Chatham-Kent, that operationalize those isolation plans and, which include isolation of all the contracts, which in a school scenario could be considerable,” said Dr. David Colby, Chatham-Kent’s medical officer of health. The last thing anyone wants to do is shut down a school completely. “That’s exactly why there has been such an effort to divide students into cohorts,” Colby said. Deb Crawford, director of education for St. Clair Catholic School Board said the board also has procedural

guidelines that are currently being reviewed by both public health units. The guidelines will highlight the responsibilities for each individual school, the principals, the public health unit, and their communications plan and outbreak management plan. John Howitt, director of education for public board, said the schools will mainly come into play if a child presents symptoms while on the grounds. If a child tests positive, Public Health will know before the board. “An actual positive test is a public health responsibility and we will take their directions,” he said. According to the provincial guidelines, if a student presents with symptoms while in school, they should be taken home and would be directed to get tested. Medical notes or proof of negative test results should not be required to return to school. “In general, schools should not report all instances of ill individuals in the school setting to the public health unit as these are frequent occurrences and typically students have non-specific symptoms,” reads the document. The schools are, however,

responsible for reporting confirmed or very probable cases and will be asked to create a COVID-19 advisory section on their website without identifying any children. “Parents, students and staff have an understandable interest in knowing when a COVID-19 positive case has been identified in their school.” An outbreak in a school is defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases, within a 14-day period, in students, staff or essential visitors, which are linked to known exposure in the school setting. The province recommends that whole school dismissal be considered if there is evidence of potential widespread transmission within the school, such as a number of cases with no known source of acquisition outside of the school and no obvious links within the school. Parents are asked by the province not to send their children to class if they are ill. But they do not legally have to disclose if they have COVID-19 and are encouraged to self-isolate their children for 14 days.

- The Chatham Voice

## BACKPACK 101

# PACK IT LIGHT, WEAR IT RIGHT



### CHOOSING THE RIGHT BACKPACK

Go for lightweight vinyl or canvas. Pick a pack that has two wide, adjustable, padded shoulder straps, along with a hip or waist strap, padded back and plenty of pockets.

### PACKING IT PROPERLY

Make sure your child's pack contains only what is needed for that day, and that the weight is distributed evenly. The total weight of the filled pack should be no more than 10 to 15 percent of the wearer's body weight.

### PUTTING IT ON

Put the pack on a flat surface, at waist height. Slip on the pack, one shoulder at a time, and then adjust the straps to fit comfortably.

### WEARING IT RIGHT

Both shoulder straps should be used, and adjusted so that the pack fits snugly to the body, without dangling to the side. You should be able to slide your hand between the backpack and your child's back.

*More than 50 per cent of young people experience at least one episode of low back pain by their teenage years. Research indicates one cause is improper use of backpacks. So pack it light and wear it right!*



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## NOTICE

### FLUSHING OF HYDRANTS AND WATERMAINS

Monday, September 14th – Friday, September 25th , 2020  
7:30am to 4:30pm

The Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) will be flushing water mains throughout Watford and Warwick Township, as part of the annual flushing program.

**You may experience discoloured water** coming from your tap. If this happens, we suggest you try the following:

- Remove the aerators from your taps and flush all the house lines until the water runs clear.
- You may also decide to refrain from doing laundry during this period to avoid staining of your clothing.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

OCWA will continue to work on the flushing programs to ensure consumer satisfaction. Any concerns, please contact OCWA at the phone numbers below.

Township of Warwick  
6332 Nauvoo Rd.  
Watford, Ontario  
N0M 2S0  
[www.warwicktownship.ca](http://www.warwicktownship.ca)

Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA)  
Southwest Region  
9210 Graham Rd.  
West Elgin, Ontario  
N0L 2P0

**OCWA's 24 hour Emergency Contact # 1-888-522-0117**

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# A second start for Warwick physiotherapist

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Meghan Chisholm didn’t want to squander the gift she had been given and now she won’t have to.

The physiotherapist was the recipient of the “Win This Space” contest in Warwick Township early in 2020. Chisholm decided to open Balance Physio Yoga on Nauvoo Road. She extensively renovated the main street building to suit her clients need and was ready to open after her children went back to school after March break.

Then the province shutdown to stave off COVID-19 in Ontario. As the lockdown dragged on and personal care workers like physiotherapists the last back to work, Chisholm was worried her big chance was slipping away.

“I felt that I’d been given such a gift by the municipality, and then for the business not to be up and running. Like, I felt like I was doing a disservice with the gift that I was given. So like it was it was like a internal struggle,” she says.

But six months in, Chisholm finally opened her doors and will have a financially balanced start, thanks to council again.



Meghan Chisholm's kids, Finn and Rhys, play on the equipment as Mayor Jackie Rombouts gets a tour of her new business.

Because of the pandemic, Treasurer Trevor Jarrett says Warwick didn’t receive any requests for this year’s contest. So council decided to award Chisholm another six months of free rent.

“I was so relieved, because,” she says.

“I was very nervous that this slow start would be prolonged. And maybe after the one year like I wouldn’t have the finances or the numbers to go on, so, paying rent is huge. It’s a huge, like burden relieved.”

# Harvestfest dinner called off , new events planned

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The popular Harvestfest Dinner in Petrolia has been called off this year because of restrictions around the COVID-19 pandemic.

Town officials say the physical distancing rules make the “family style” dinner “unattainable.”

Officials hope people will spend the money they would have used on this years’ event at local restaurants.

While the dinner has been postponed until next year, a number of events have been set up in its place.

By Sept. 15, the Annual Scarecrow Festival will be underway in Victoria Park. On Sept. 19 from 9 am to noon, members of the Petrolia Community Services Advisory Committee will be taking pictures of your immediate family at the park, using a camera you provide.

On Sept. 26 and Oct. 3, there will be draws for one of three turkeys and

Petrolia Bucks at the Petrolia Farmers’ Market.

And on October 10, the town is urging people to bring a carved pumpkin to decorate Victoria Park. Lights will be provided and they will be lit for one night only, Oct. 10. The pumpkins won’t be returned.

# US boat on fire put out in Port Lambton

St. Clair Township firefighters had a lot of help to put out a blaze on a boat moored on the St. Clair River near Port Lambton.

A large boat which floated over from the US was in flames when firefighters from Corunna and Courtright station arrived. Other firefighters from Clay Township, as well as the US and Canadian Coast Guard, Lambton County EMS, Lambton OPP, St. Clair County Sheriff’s Office and the Canada Border Service Agency all helped with Thursday’s blaze.

Some residents say it was the first time they have seen a fire response on the St. Clair River.



# Smoking pot filled Petrolia apartment building

The Independent

A pot left on a stove generated so much smoke, residents of a downtown Petrolia building had to be evacuated.

Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters were called to Petrolia Line and Oil Street around 10 am by residents who said smoke was filling the building.

Chief Jay Arns says everyone inside the building got out without a problem and no one was injured. Firefighters were also able to rescue three cats from the smoke.

Arns says one of the residents of the

apartment left a stove on and left the building. The pots which caught fire could be seen on the back step of the building.

Arns says about \$10,000 damage was done to the apartment and the building smells of smoke.



**#1**

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Source: News Media Canada

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### TOWN OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING

#### Notice of By-law Enforcement at Wyoming Public Cemetery

#### By-law 73 of 2018

Please consider this publication a Notice for Reconciliation. Jointly, the Wyoming Public Cemetery Committee along with the efforts of the Plympton-Wyoming Operations Department will be eliminating by-law infractions and correcting non-conformities.

**E) Care of Lots – General**

- Trees and/or shrubs are no longer allowed to be planted in the Wyoming Public Cemetery. Existing shrubs and/or trees will be removed by the Cemetery Board if they encroach abutting grave(s) or become unsightly.
- Nails, wires, wooden crosses, articles or glass or pottery or any other materials that create a hazard to workers and to visitors when neglected or broken are not allowed in the Cemetery and will be removed.
- Borders, fences, railings, shepherd's hooks, walls, cut-stone coping and hedges in or around lots are prohibited.
- Wooden or wire trellises, arches or iron rods, solar lights or hanging baskets, will not be allowed in the Cemetery if they interfere with the care and maintenance of the grounds. Any such items, heretofore erected which, by reason of neglect or age, have become unsuitable or unsightly, will be removed by the Cemetery Board.

**F) Care of Lots - Flowers**

- The Wyoming Cemetery Board reserves the right to remove all flowers, potted plants, wreaths and baskets of flowers when they become withered or unsightly, or for any other reasons such removals are in the best interest of the Cemetery.
- Artificial flowers are permitted, provided they are properly maintained and not detrimental to the general maintenance of the Cemetery.
- The Cemetery reserves the right to regulate the articles placed on lots or plots that pose a threat to; the safety of all interment rights holders, visitors to the Cemetery and Cemetery employees, prevents the Cemetery from performing general Cemetery operations, or are not in keeping with the respect and dignity of the Cemetery. Prohibited articles will be removed and disposed of without notification.

The Town of Plympton-Wyoming has issued a notice about the Wyoming Public Cemetery (450 Isabella Street, Wyoming, ON), for any items left on graves to be removed in the fall before winter comes.

According to the notice, this measure will help with maintenance and to preserve proper appearance of the cemetery, so all unauthorized articles left on graves must be removed by October 15, 2020. **After October 15, 2020 unauthorized articles will be removed by maintenance staff.**

For additional information about Cemetery By-Law 73 of 2018 or to receive a copy, please contact Rebecca at 519-845-3939.



# More volunteers may help at Moore minor hockey

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair Township has decided to continue enforcement of their no spectator rule at local rinks until at least the next council meeting.

Council heard a presentation from Mooretown Minor Hockey Association’s Geoff Dale on Tuesday. He says parents are opposed to the minor hockey spectator ban.

“Parents have severe concerns about dropping kids off at the rink. Programs start at age four or five, they don’t feel it’s realistic for a kid to be dropped off at a rink and know where to go,” says Dale. “The feedback we’ve received from our membership is... extreme concerns about liability.”

Dale listed concerns such as tying skates, going to the washroom, or potential medical incidents. The association was asking for one parent to be allowed into the rink per child. With 10 kids per team, this would make a total of 20 spectators.

Dale read an email from a parent: “How is it expected that a seven year old in his first year is supposed to know where to go in the arena or to follow all the rules without his parent?”

“Are parents just supposed to wait at the backdoor and hope that their kid comes out? I feel that the entire (of arena reopening) is a mess if the parents are not allowed in.”

Dale says if the rules were not loosened the organization may have to look at signing their kids up at rinks outside of St. Clair that allow spectators.

But Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay says the rule is there for a reason.

“It’s a high volume of people coming to the place right off the hop, and we have to be ready for them. We don’t want to go backwards like other arenas,” says Lindsay.

“We don’t want to open up and then close. We don’t want to have Lambton Health tell us we have to close. And we don’t want to have an outbreak in our facility. Those are the main reasons

that we went down the road of no spectators,” says Lindsay.

“If things go the wrong way, everything could be shut down again. All we’re trying to do is protect the kids and the parents and make things as safe for them as possible,” says Deputy Mayor Steve Miller.

The township did budge somewhat and allow for an additional five volunteers to attend each practice of kids 11 and under to help with some of the association’s stated concerns.

Council asked for staff to report back with further recommendations at the next meeting on Sept. 21.

Coordinator of Facilities and Parks Sue Knight says she’d like to see how things go at the arena for a few weeks before allowing spectators.

Knight also pointed out that ice time for younger kids wouldn’t start until after the next council meeting anyway.

Knight added there are not actually many other options in the county if the association is seeking rinks that allow spectators.

# Weber, Marriott to run for Lambton’s top job

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Bill Weber wants to serve as the county’s top politician for another two years.

The Lambton County warden made his intentions to run for a third term during Lambton County council Sept. 2.

Normally, candidates for the job announce their inten-

tions at an annual event held by the warden, but it has been cancelled because of concerns around COVID-19.

Enniskillen Mayor, Kevin Marriott, who has served as deputy warden for the last two years, has also announced he’s interested in the warden’s chair also.

Other local politicians who sit on county council could still de-

clare their intentions for the top job until the day of the election.

Should Weber be elected during council’s December meeting, and should he serve the full two-year term he would be the longest serving warden in recent memory.

Former Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Pat Davidson won five one- year terms before becoming a Member of Parliament.



Kevin Marriott

# No in person meetings yet in Dawn-Euphemia

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia councillors aren’t willing to risk holding in person meetings on a regular basis yet.

The township council decided Tuesday it would continue holding conference calls for regular council meetings for some time yet as a measure to stop the potential spread of COVID-19 in the community.

In September, there have been two people test positive with the virus in Lambton however the number of daily cases in the province jumped 20 per cent on the long weekend. Most of those cases were in Toronto, Peel and Ottawa.

But Mayor Al Broad was among

those not comfortable yet with getting together in person.

“We’ve come this far, I don’t want to put council or staff or the firefighters (if the fire hall was used for meetings) at risk,” he told councillors.

“We should leave it for the time being until we see what happens in the second wave.

“I’d rather be a month too late (to have open council meetings) than a month too early,” Broad added.

The township will hold a meeting in person at the Florence Community Hall Sept. 21 to accommodate a drainage meeting.

Clerk Donna Clermont says there is plenty of room to hold a meeting with up to 50 people - the provincial maximum for indoor events.

Clermont suggested there would be lots of room for social distancing and hand sanitizer and masks would be available.

But Broad questioned the requirement for masks, saying if everyone was able to be distanced, they shouldn’t be required.

“If there is going to be social distancing, why wear a mask...we could make it optional but social distancing is safe...if it is not, why are we doing what we are doing?”

Masks will be optional at the open meeting however regular meetings will continue by phone until council can gauge whether the restriction can be lifted.

Both Oil Springs and Enniskillen are currently meeting in person.

# Money and garbage on the minds of St. Clair residents

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair Township residents are concerned about the township’s finances.

It was the top concern in a new survey.

Results showed economic concerns were at the top of people’s minds with 15 per cent of people saying this was their most pressing issue. Flooding and high water levels was next at 14 per cent, with COVID-19 and road repair tying for third spot with 12 per cent. Cell and internet service was

the greatest concern for 10 per cent of respondents.

Household drinking water and garbage collection were the most well received municipal services, with 89 per cent of residents saying they were very or somewhat satisfied with each.

Street and road maintenance had the highest dissatisfaction level at 20 per cent, while drainage issues and sidewalks/walking trails had 14 per cent dissatisfaction.

Half of residents felt they received good services for the taxes they paid, while 23 per cent said return was ex-

cellent. Going forward, 42 per cent of people say they’d be okay with a slight tax increase to maintain the current level of services, while 40 per cent say they’d prefer to leave taxes and accept a slight decrease in services.

Perhaps the most divisive issue is waste collection. Recent discussion has revolved around switching from bags and recycling boxes to rolling carts for all services. Support for garbage rolling carts was 51 per cent support to 41 per cent opposition, with recycling carts virtually the same at 52 per cent support to 40 per cent opposed.

## MP Marilyn Gladu

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### Agriculture Land Lease

Tenders are requested by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. Twenty-two individual Agriculture Land Leases are available for the period of 2021-2025.

The Conservation Authority is looking for tenants that will implement conservation farming practices to improve sediment and erosion control on these lands.

Parties interested in obtaining a tender form, location maps, or to view a sample lease agreement may download them off our website at [www.scrca.on.ca](http://www.scrca.on.ca)

Tenders are due by noon, Friday, September 25, 2020 at the St. Clair Conservation Administration building 205 Mill Pond Cres., Strathroy, Ontario.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

					1			3
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# Sports

## Flyers, Flags, Junior Kings all busy preparing for new PJHL season

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

The Petrolia Flyers are starting its training season with dryland workouts this week in anticipation of an early December start to the 2020-21 PJHL season. General Manager Dennis Meston says the Flyers hosted a team meeting last week with those in attendance showing “great interest.” Petrolia hopes to hit the ice at the

Greenwood Recreation Complex on September 29. Meantime, the Mooretown Flags have been busy on the transaction front signing 17 year-old rearguard Ethan Matthews from the Lambton Junior Sting and trading overage forward Dawson Winchester to Wallaceburg for cash considerations. And, the Dresden Junior Kings are in the hunt for a new head coach after Rob Vanderydt resigned last week after six

seasons as the top man behind the bench. Kings President Dave Cameron says he would like to have a replacement in place by early October at the latest. “He’s been thinking about it for a while,” said Kings President Dave Cameron. “He had a hard time actually doing it, but I told him that I support him whatever he decides,” he added. Cameron says his preference is

to hire a new coach who is either an alumni of the Junior Kings or familiar with the community aspect of the franchise within a few weeks. The Kings have also hired Chris Dawson as the assistant GM to Jason Badder. Dawson is the general manager of the Junior “B” lacrosse club in Wallaceburg and the father of Kings alumni Kyle Dawson. “It gets to be more work every year for the GM and I just think it

was time to bring someone else in to help.” The league has yet to release a schedule for the new season and there is no indication when it might be made available.



### Squires season still questionable

Whether the Petrolia Squires will hit the ice this year is still in question. The Petrolia Squires and other members of the Western Ontario Athletic Association Senior Hockey League remain in a holding pattern when it comes to information on the 2020-21 season. The Squires say more information should be known following the league’s Annual General Meeting later this month. Petrolia and the Tavistock Royals both anticipate the season, if there is one, to begin in early December. “That’s the timeline given to us,” said the Squires this week. “But, some teams still don’t have ice yet for the season, so nothing is set in stone.”



### School begins without sports

When the school year begins this week, sports will be conspicuous by its absence. In the footsteps of high school athletics, the Lambton Kent Elementary Athletic Association has also placed all sports on hold until further notice as well. The two sports immediately impacted at the elementary level are soccer and cross country. The Lambton principal rep for the association, Kevin Chambers of Queen Elizabeth II in Petrolia remains hopeful that some sports will be played at the elementary level later in the year. High school sports affected by the fall hiatus are football, baseball, girls basketball, boys volleyball, cross country, tennis and golf.



### Florence wrestler wins championship

Eric Young has won the Impact Wrestling World Championship with a victory over the exiting champion Eddie Edwards. Young won the title with a pin after a piledriver move on the former champ. “It’s unbelievable,” said Young in a post-match interview. “It’s just such a cool position to be in.” Young had previously held the Impact title in 2014 before leaving to join WWE. He was released from his WWE contract in April over budget cuts stemming from the COVID-19 global pandemic and returned to Impact. Young, whose real name is Jeremy Fritz, is a 40-year old who grew up in Florence in south Lambton. He currently lives in Nashville.



**Eric Young**

### Pt. Edward’s Marinaro named to national team

Point Edward’s Michael Marinaro and his partner Kirsten Moore-Towers of St. Catharines have been named to the Canadian national figure skating squad for the 2020-21 season. The pair have won the national senior pairs championships for the past two years after capturing bronze at the nationals in

2017 and 2018. On the international scene, the duo, both 28 years old, have won two gold medals, five silvers and six bronze. They placed 11th at the Olympics in Pyeong Chang in 2018 and their best finish at the World Championships was a sixth place showing in Milan, Italy that same season.

### No ice in Bothwell raises user concerns

**Pam Wright**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Chatham-Kent has no immediate plans to put ice in the Bothwell Arena and that has Bob Hamilton worried. As head of the Bothwell Area Recreation Advisory Committee, he says the move has put the town’s winter recreation programs “up in the air.” “We’re on a slippery slope in my opinion,” Hamilton says, adding the committee has been waiting for a final decision from the municipality. “It would be nice to have a decision, one way or another.” According to Chatham-Kent’s Chief Administrative Officer, the municipality has now installed ice at three arenas, including Dresden, Blenheim and Tilbury. Don Shropshire says the locations were chosen based on a survey of user groups regarding the number of hours of ice time needed per week. Dresden’s Ken Houston Memorial Agricultural Centre came in as the busiest with 75 hours requested. Shropshire says running an arena during the COVID-19 pandemic comes with a plethora of restrictions from both public health and user groups themselves.

He says a “certain threshold” needs to be achieved before others are added in order to re-open the facilities in a “graduated” manner. Ultimately, he says, what will open is up to council. “It’s a trade off of additional costs versus access to our residents.” In Bothwell, a closed arena means most of Bothwell’s minor hockey players will head to Glencoe to play, Hamilton says, adding he’s not sure what will happen with the four adult recreation leagues that use the ice. COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have shuttered all of Chatham-Kent’s arenas this summer. In Bothwell, this led to the cancellation of a number of popular activities — including flea markets, indoor soccer, ball hockey, pickle ball and lacrosse training camps. “We understand that this is a result of the pandemic,” Hamilton says, but people want to know if it’s the “end” of ice in Bothwell. If that turns out to be the case, he says the committee would like to see the building retrofitted for year-round use. “This town needs an arena,” Hamilton explains. “We need something for recreation. This affects businesses. We get a lot of spinoff from people who use the arena.”

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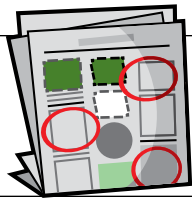
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## Coming Event

**BUYING FOR CASH  
GOLD, SILVER, ALL COINS -  
MINT SETS + LOOSE COINS  
WINDUP WATCHES, MILITARY**

**WE'RE BACK!**  
**Thurs Sept 17 9am-4pm**  
**Petrolia Lions Hall**  
**541 Huggard St. Petrolia**  
**Previously at the Petrolia Legion**  
Dan Jones B.A.B.Ed. 53 yrs Exp.  
House calls now available  
**519-818-1805**

## Notice

**LAMBTON LIBRARIES** - Lambton County Library is continuing to gradually re-open its services to the public curbside pickup locations, and limited access to public computers, wireless internet access and space for academic study at 14 library locations. To book an appointment, cardholders can visit [lclibrary.ca/appointments](http://lclibrary.ca/appointments) or call the central booking line at 519-337-3291 ext. 5900 or toll free at 1-866-324-6912 ext. 5900. All appointments will start on the hour and be limited to 45 minutes, providing adequate time to clean the space and equipment before the next appointment begins. Cardholders will be limited to one appointment per day and building capacity is significantly reduced at each location.

## Card of Thanks

*thank you!*

After the passing of Stacy Campbell we have been dealing with a whole kaleidoscope of feelings. It has been hard to believe she is actually gone. Her passing was so sudden and actually gone. Her passing was so sudden and unexpected. Thank you so much for offering us your comforting words and affection during this time of grief. We are trying our best to get the strength to live our lives without Stacy and begin to heal.

We would like to thank everyone for coming to her Celebration of Life. Thank you for the donations made in her name, the food that was brought to the house, the flowers that were delivered and the many phone calls. We appreciated everything that everyone has done for us.

**Thank You.**  
**Tim,**  
**Darienne & Michael,**  
**Gary & Pat Cook and Family**  
**Ken & Shirley Campbell and Family**



## In Memory



**Jean Isabel Woods**  
May 1955 - September 2016  
**Creative & Kind**  
"Thinking Outside the Box"  
Dearly missed by  
sister Linda and Aunt Edna

## 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

## Wanted to Buy

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

## Solution

Answers to this week's


# Sudoku

Brought to you by:

**519.882.1290**  
4146 Petrolia Line  
Petrolia

**BrokerLink**  
Auto/Home/Business Insurance

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



# Deadline

for all classified ads is

## Monday at 12 noon

for the paper that prints and distributes Wed-Thurs

## 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.

## 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](http://terryfox.org) to donate.

# Death Notices

August 31 - September 6, 2020

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

**CARTER, Andrew James**  
Age 78, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**BEERNINK, Tony**  
Age 88, of Petrolia  
Denning's of Forest

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

**GEORGE, Hubert**  
Age 62, of Forest  
Denning's of Forest

**SCAGNETTI, Luigina "Gina"**  
Age 97, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**WILLIAMS, Donald**  
Age 97, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

**DWYER, Dennis**  
Age 58, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**OTTEN, Lillian Irene**  
Age 99, of Forest  
Denning's of Forest

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

**ST DENIS, Bernard "Bernie"**  
Age 69, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**ROBB, Amber**  
Age 64, of Sarnia  
McCormack Funeral Home

**LAIDLER, Judith**  
Age 93, of Sarnia  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

**DEVILLAER, Madeline**  
Age 87, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

**GABRIEL, Kathryn**  
Age 86, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**EMILIO, Maria Olivia**  
Age 87, of Wyoming  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

**JOOSE, Harry**  
Age 86, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**WILLIAMS, Joyce**  
Age 91, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

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

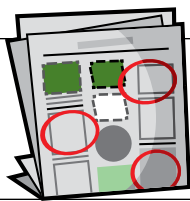
# COVID-19 IN LAMBTON

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 19	Petrolia	4th Annual Petrolia Harvest Fest	
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	<a href="http://Silverstick.org">Silverstick.org</a>
Dec 27-30	Alvinston	2020-2021 Alvinston Regional Atom Silverstick Tournament	<a href="http://Silverstick.org">Silverstick.org</a>
Dec 27-30	Petrolia	2020-2021 Petrolia Regional Midget Silverstick Tournament	<a href="http://Silverstick.org">Silverstick.org</a>
Jan 8-24	Forest	2020-2021 Forest International Silverstick Tournament. Atom, Peewee, Batam, Midget	<a href="http://Silverstick.org">Silverstick.org</a>



Classified Deadline:  
Monday @ 12 noon



# Classifieds

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

## Calendar of events

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](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca) Subject: FREE EVENT LISTING.

UPCOMING EVENTS					
DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO	
Sept 10	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill		
Sept 10	7pm		Lambton Branch of Ontario Ancestors <b>"Using Social Media for Genealogy"</b> with Ben Dawson The Registration Link <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUvfuusqD8jHtVgLOYr-rb0xnJiun6ZjG1Fh">https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUvfuusqD8jHtVgLOYr-rb0xnJiun6ZjG1Fh</a>		
Sept 11	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion <b>Meat Raffle</b>	519-876-2360	
Sept 12	7:30-12noon	Petrolia	<b>Petrolia Farmers' Market</b> directly behind the Petrolia Library		
Sept 12	9a-12noon	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion <b>Bottle Drive</b> . All proceeds go towards building upgrades.		
Sept 12	2pm	Forest	Forest Legion Weekly <b>Meat Raffle</b> . Doors Open at 2pm. Raffle starts at 3:30pm.	519-786-5357	
Sept 12	4-7pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Ladies Auxiliary <b>Chicken Parmesan Dinner</b> . \$20/Meal. Pasta, Caesar Salad, garlic Bread & Dessert. Advanced tickets only. call 519-882-1201 (10am-4pm)		
Sept 12	5-7:30p	Watford	<b>Watford Rotary's 18th Annual Fish Fry</b> at Watford Centennial Hall. Advanced tickets only. \$20 per person. Drive-thru take out. Pickere!, French Fries/Onion Rings, Coleslaw. Tickets Available at Watford Home Hardware or any Rotarian.		
Sept 12	8-11pm	Petrolia	<b>Live Music</b> at the Crabby Joe's Beer Garden featuring <b>Sarah Smith</b> . Walk-in Crowd only.		
Sept 13	1-3pm	Lambton	The Sacred Heart Food Bank will be <b>collecting non-perishable food</b> 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 <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill		
Sept 18	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion <b>Meat Raffle</b>	519-876-2360	
Sept 19	7:30-12noon	Petrolia	<b>Petrolia Farmers' Market</b> directly behind the Petrolia Library		
Sept 19	9am-12noon	Petrolia	<b>Family Photo's with Scarecrows!</b> Immediate family photos taken by Petrolia Community Services Advisory Committee. Bring your family & Camera! *weather permitting		
Sept 19	8am-12noon	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Residents - <b>Large Item Collection Day</b> at Public Works Yard (4590 Oil Springs Line) 1 Load per Household		
Sept 19	2pm	Forest	Forest Legion Weekly <b>Meat Raffle</b> . Doors Open at 2pm. Raffle starts at 3:30pm.	519-786-5357	
Sept 19	4-7pm	Petrolia	LCDS & Petrolia Lions <b>3rd Annual Beer &amp; Wing Night</b> . \$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 <b>Broasted Chicken Dinner</b> . 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	<b>Live Music</b> at the Crabby Joe's Beer Garden featuring <b>Eric Robertson</b> . Walk-in crowd only.		
Sept 24	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill		
Sept 25	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion <b>Meat Raffle</b>	519-876-2360	
Sept 26	7:30-12noon	Petrolia	<b>Petrolia Farmers' Market</b> directly behind the Petrolia Library		
Sept 26	10-3pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Discovery <b>Artist Day!</b> Walk Through Art Show & Sale. Entrance is by Donation. Masks Required. Cash Only. Rain or Shine.		
Sept 26	10-4pm	Petrolia	<b>Petrolia Discovery Public Tours</b> - 4381 Discovery Line		
Sept 26	5-6:30p	Sarnia	London Road West United Church <b>39th Annual Fall Feast Roast Beef Dinner</b> - Curbside Pickup & Delivery - PRE-ORDERS ONLY. 519-869-6281, 519-542-2084 or <a href="mailto:lrwunitedchurch@gmail.com">lrwunitedchurch@gmail.com</a>		
Sept 26	8-11pm	Petrolia	<b>Live Music</b> at the Crabby Joe's Beer Garden featuring <b>Jesse Grandmont &amp; Brian Barber</b> . Walk-in crowd only.		
Sept 27	11-5pm	Petrolia	Truckin Mam's <b>Closeout Party</b> of the Season with Legacy Lappers in Bridgeview Park. 100% of sales proceeds benefit the Legacy Lappers.		
Sept 27	1-3pm	Lambton	The Sacred Heart Food Bank will be <b>collecting non-perishable food</b> and personal hygiene items from residents living between Bentpath Line & Holt 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.		
Oct 1	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill		
Oct 2	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion <b>Meat Raffle</b>	519-876-2360	

## Business & Service Directory

**BOURQUE**  
RENOVATIONS  
Formerly Bourque Woodworks



Additions - Renovations  
Kitchens & Baths  
Trim Work - Custom Carpentry  
**329 Centre St., Petrolia**  
[www.bourquerenovations.com](http://www.bourquerenovations.com)  
**519-882-3344**

**GB Excavating**  
Excavating/Septic



**Steve Greer**  
Owner  
  
4396 Nauvoo Rd.  
Watford ON  
N0M 2S0  
519-494-1855  
  
[gbexc@brktel.on.ca](mailto:gbexc@brktel.on.ca)  
[gbexcavating.ca](http://gbexcavating.ca)

**COVID-19**  
SOCIAL DISTANCING

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





# Church DIRECTORY

**Christ Church Anglican**  
414 Oil Street, Petrolia  
  
All worship services in the Anglican Diocese of Huron are suspended until further notice. Please continue to hold one another and our communities in your prayers.  
  
Rev. Michelle Collins-Wongkee  
Church Office 519-882-1430  
 [christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com)

**St. Andrew's 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](http://www.kpcthedford.com)  
[www.standrews-petrolia.ca](http://www.standrews-petrolia.ca)

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

**First Baptist Church**  
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia  
SERVICE SUSPENDED until further notice in compliance with Ontario Corona Virus meeting guidelines  
Pastor: Alex Craig  
Church Office 519-882-2480  
email: [fbcpetrolia@gmail.com](mailto:fbcpetrolia@gmail.com)  
[www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca](http://www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca)  
 Find us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia](https://www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia)

**Wyoming United Church**  
730 Second Street, Wyoming  
  
Due to the COVID-19 virus will be closed until further notice.  
We will keep you updated about any changes.  
  
Join Us for Worship - All are Welcome  
 Church Office 519-845-3963  
Find us on Facebook



# Man sentenced to 30 days for sneaking lover into Canada

**Alex Kurial**  
Local Journalism Initiative

A long-haul trucker has lost his job and will spend a month in jail after pleading guilty to sneaking a man into Canada this summer.

Andrew Blackmore, 39 from Woodstock, was in Sarnia court Aug. 26 to hear his sentence.

The Crown detailed how Blackmore met 33 year-old New Mexico native Christopher Ramirez through online dating. The pair began talking and met up this summer near the Texas/Louisiana border during one of Blackmore’s work trips to the States.

Blackmore and Ramirez decided to return to Canada, but on the drive Ramirez admitted his passport had been seized by New Mexico authorities.

Ramirez said he was facing some charges in the state, but didn’t reveal that he had spent four years in prison for smuggling heroin.

Blackmore told Ramirez since he didn’t have a passport he’d have to hide in the bunk of his semi-truck as they crossed the border.

The pair crossed the Ambassador Bridge into Canada on Aug. 10. Blackmore used his ‘FAST’ border pass for a quicker screening.

Blackmore and Ramirez then

went to Woodstock.

The arrangement fell apart just three days later though when Woodstock Police were called to the Econo Lodge over a domestic dispute.

Court heard that the argument started when Ramirez said he wanted to return to the US.

Police handed Ramirez over to Canadian Border Services, and Blackmore turned himself in the next day.

Blackmore’s company immediately fired him and ordered him to surrender his truck.

The conviction means he can no longer work in the States due to the country’s “moral turpitude”

law. It keeps people out of the country who do something that “gravely violates” the except standard of the community.

“This will effect him in his trade and haunt his earning potential for the rest of his life,” defense lawyer Robert McFadden says.

A joint position called for 30 days in jail for Blackmore. With time served he has 12 days remaining.

Crown Attorney Michael Robb acknowledged that the position was lenient, as the Public Prosecution Service had suggested six months.

Justice Deborah Austin also felt more jail time could have been

served, especially since the border is closed to all non-essential travel over COVID concerns and this incident could have put people at risk.

But Austin ultimately agreed that Blackmore’s loss of livelihood was already a serious punishment.

Ramirez appeared in the same courtroom earlier in the day and was also sentenced to 30 days in jail.

The New Mexico man has 10 days left to serve after pre-sentence custody.

After his release he will be deported to the United States.

-The Independent

## Domestic violence leads to jail time for Sarnia man

**Alex Kurial**  
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man plead guilty to assaulting his girlfriend – and later her grandmother – after the discovery of his online dating profile.

Kayleb Traquair, 19, was in Sarnia Court on Sept. 3 to learn his sentence. He received 30 days in jail on a total of six charges. The bulk of this came from the pair of assaults, but also included several bail breaches and a drug charge.

The trouble began on June 16 this year when Traquair’s girlfriend found a dating profile on his phone with messages from several women. She confronted him and a fierce argument began. The woman eventually went to leave the house but Traquair threw her to the ground. He dragged her to the couch but she managed to escape and run to her grandmother’s house. Traquair followed her, but police had been called and he was arrested.

Traquair returned to the grandmother’s home on Aug. 1 but was scared off by a witness who called police. When officers arrived Traquair was gone, but he returned soon after and was arrested.

Traquair was released the next day and immediately went back to the house and snuck in. His ex-girlfriend yelled at him to leave. Traquair left after screaming derogatory names at her and stealing her bong.

Traquair again returned later that night around 1:30 am. This time the girlfriend’s grandmother confronted him and told him to leave. She picked up the phone to call police so Traquair started yelling at her. He grabbed her arm and twisted until she dropped the

phone. But the grandmother managed to finish her call, bringing the cops to the house to arrest Traquair.

On Aug. 10 it was discovered that Traquair had breached the curfew conditions of his bail. He was spotted by police two days later on Christina St. N. and arrested. A search found seven tablets of codeine Traquair had illegally.

“All of this has been a very new and eye opening experience,” says defense lawyer Terry Brandon.

“He’s spent some significant time in custody which has been very difficult with COVID-19 and the isolation for 14 days. He has stated his desire to work with probation and not return to jail.”

The 30 day sentence is covered by time served. Traquair now enters a 12 month probation period. He must stay away from his ex-girlfriend, her grandmother, and another witness. He has to take counselling for domestic violence and substance abuse, submit a DNA order, and observe a 5 year weapons ban.

“Your conduct was certainly troubling, not only because it involved violence, but also the repeat ignoring of the rules the court set for you and the boundaries you were supposed to maintain,” says Justice Deborah Austin to Traquair during sentencing.

Brandon says that her client now understands the importance of following a court order.

Austin says that Traquair’s young age means he has time to turn things around. “I’m hoping that this sentence is a wake up call for you... make sure that you move in a different direction in your life,” she says.



### 2020 Terry Fox Run: One Day. Your Way.

**WHEN:** SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20th

**WHAT:** A virtual Terry Fox Run: One Day. Your Way. We will unite in spirit, not in person!

**WHERE:** Wherever you are! Around your neighbourhood, backyard, down the street, or around the block.

**HOW:** Register as an individual, family or a virtual team – start your fundraising today!

**WHY:** Because cancer research can’t wait for COVID-19 to be over. Because Terry asked us to try.

As we celebrate 40 years of the Marathon of Hope, we have a new set of challenges to overcome. This year has been particularly difficult, to say the least, but we need you now more than ever! It’s “Your Way” in 2020

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. Think Outside the Box

Today, 40 years later, we’re in a year that’s challenging us more than we could have ever expected. We have to think outside the box to make the best of our 2020 participation. We can’t think of anything that Terry would appreciate more.





## Register Today : [www.terryfox.ca/terryfoxrun](http://www.terryfox.ca/terryfoxrun)