

# The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

Vol. 8, Issue 3

Newsstand Price \$1.50 per week

Thursday, September 17, 2020

## ARMED ROBBERY



DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

Lambton OPP are investigating the armed robbery of a 24-hour variety store in Petrolia's downtown. Around 5:30 Tuesday morning, OPP were called to Circle K for a robbery. Police say a man walked into the store "brandishing a weapons" which sources say was a gun. The thief took lottery tickets and cash. He then fled the scene. Members of the OPP, the Tactical Unit and the Canine Unit were on scene and could be seen in the surrounding neighbourhoods looking for clues and the suspect. The OPP say the suspect is still at large but is not a threat to public safety.

## Mooretown parents may move hockey players to Walpole system

### Parents balked at COVID-19 rules blocking them from arena

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

The Mooretown Minor Hockey Association has made plans to have their U-9 players start the season at Walpole Island if the no-spectators rule stays in place at the Moore Sports Complex.

St. Clair Township and arena staff have so far held firm on their decision to reopen the rink without spectators. Council heard from

association coach and VP of risk management Geoff Dale, about parents concerns of very young players being left without parental guidance.

"Parents have severe concerns about dropping kids off at the rink... they don't feel it's realistic for a kid to be dropped off at a rink and know where to go," Dale said Sept. 8. Council and arena staff said they would revisit the matter at the next council meeting on Sept. 21. But with the season set to begin Oct. 3, the association members weren't waiting.

On Sept. 9 the association put out a notice saying they had booked 10 ice times at the Walpole Island arena for the Oct. 3-4 weekend. The First Nation community is

currently allowing one parent per child to attend practice.

"The biggest reason why we went to Walpole for the one week is just so we have an option for our younger players that gets them a parent there," says Dale. "They're not a spectator – it's their parent."

But Dale is hopeful it won't be necessary to use the ice downriver. Within an hour of posting their intent, Mooretown staff reached out to the association to schedule a meeting to discuss options. "Our hope is that every kid is playing in Mooretown come October," says Dale. "We see their concerns, they see ours, it's just meshing them."

SEE LITTLE FLAGS PG 3

## Two retail pot shops could be coming to Petrolia

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Two entrepreneurs hope to set up cannabis stores in Petrolia – including one in the downtown.

Can-na-bis has applied to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to set up shop at 4212 Petrolia Line – the former Hub insurance office next to Petrolia Bluewater Tae Kwon Do and Rose Gold Cannabis, which wants to set up a shop at 4247 Oil Heritage Road – the plaza next door to MacFarlane Chev.

Mayor Brad Loosley told councillors Monday afternoon the municipality was made aware of the AGCO was considering the shops, but he also heard from people connected with Taekwondo who are worried about having a cannabis store next door to a facility frequented by children. Loosley says a petition has been started to stop the approval.

People have 15 days to register their comments on the opening of a store normally. The application for the Petrolia Line store's comment period is almost up. People have until Friday to register comments at the AGCO's website for the downtown site. It's unclear if the comment stage for the Oil Heritage Road site is complete.

Several councillors say having a retail store in town would not be a big deal. Councillor Ross O'Hara says he and Councillor Grant Purdy visited a store while in Quebec at a conference and found it "professional and clean. There wasn't any problem at all."

Councillor Joel Field agreed saying "it is not like there are people standing outside the store smoking... I hope people realize that it is not just like a drug dealer on the corner," he says.

SEE POT SHOPS PG 3

Support Your Local  
**Legion**

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September 20-26, 2020

### Your Local Legions

Alvinston  
Branch 249

Corunna  
Branch 447

Oil Springs  
Branch 535

Watford  
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Branch 635

Forest  
Branch 176

Petrolia  
Branch 216

Wyoming  
Branch 388





# Ministry says Petrolia home failed to properly investigate abuse allegation

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

*Editor’s Note: This online version has been corrected. The original story gave incorrect information. While the investigators cited the home for not investigating an allegation of abuse, the reporting of the incident and the home’s adherence to a zero tolerance policy toward abuse, the ministry investigators did not make a finding of whether the abuse occurred. The Independent regrets the error*

The Ministry of Long Term Care has given four written notices to a Petrolia nursing home for failing to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect of a resident and breaching the Residents Bills of Rights.

Two ministry investigators went to Fiddicks Nursing Home after a complaint was lodged by a resident’s family member.

Maria Moore says staff members told her mother to soil herself instead of helping her to a toilet. That left her in tears and upset.

Moore lodged a complaint when it happened. Another worker reported the allegations in written notes and to a supervisor and submitted a statement on the incident three days later.

While the investigators’ report did not make a finding on the allegation, the report says’

“In an interview with a staff member, they reiterated that the resident reported that another staff member made a derogatory comment and refused care that was very upsetting to them at the time and later that day as well. The staff member said that the resident was obviously very thrown off, and they reported the situation to their immediate supervisor that day. Three days later they sent a statement of the incident to their manager. The staff member said that they did not speak to the Director of Care or the Administrator regarding the incident.

The Director of Care (DOC) said that they did not speak with the resident or the staff member who reported the incident as part of their investigation. The DOC and the Administrator said that the comment that the resident reported to the staff member would have been considered verbal and/or emotional abuse. They said that they were notified of the incident three days later and it should have been reported immediately to the DOC.”

“When we went through all of the hundred pages of notes that they had they found, a nurse had charted that my mom had said that to them. So, then they failed to advocate for my mother ... they failed to notify the director of care that this neglect went on. And there was no policies in place for reporting or ensuring that it doesn’t happen again,” says Moore.

The investigators say the delayed investigation was a breach of a zero tolerance policy toward neglect.

The ministry investigators also found the home did not launch a full investigation, noting neither the family, the resident nor the worker were interviewed by the home about what happened.

The investigators in their Sept. 2 report, issued written warnings about the violation and asked the home to come up with voluntary plans to ensure it didn’t happen again.

The fourth complaint stemmed from Moore’s concern over Fiddick’s visiting policy during the pandemic.

When visitor restrictions eased across the province, family members at the Petrolia home were required to either log into their medical account to prove they had tested negative for COVID-19 or give specific times and dates for their test and when the negative result was received in a signed document.

At the time, residents were allowed to have visitors outdoors without a COVID-19 test. The province had also directed nursing homes they could not ask for personal information about COVID-19 tests – the family only had to attest to the information.

The investigators say the home said the negative test was required because the outdoor tests were being held in the courtyard and visitors would have to walk through the home. Fiddicks officials added visits were scheduled for outdoors but could be moved indoors when people arrived, so the negative COVID-19 was required. The home also didn’t offer an outdoor alternative, refusing the Moores a time to visit.

“The home did not fully respect and promote residents right to communicate in confidence, receive visitors of their choice and consult in private with any person without interference,” the report concluded.

Moore says the new visiting rules are still not being followed, a month and a half later. The province now allows essential care givers to the bedside at anytime with a negative COVID-19 test, health screening and a surgical mask. Moore says she is limited to visiting her mom on Wednesday every week for just two hours in her room.

But there are now alternatives; Moore says, they are taking advantage of new short term visit rules, taking her mother out of the home whenever they can even though nursing home staff seemed upset by the move. “There was some negativity that first day when everyone was allowed to come out, because the girl who worked at the desk said, ‘You know, I wish none of them are going out.’ ... She made it very clear she was not happy with the process.”

When Moore first raised concerns to *The Independent* about how Fiddicks was managing residents visitors in late July, the Director of Resident Care, Mandy Judah, said in an email 99.5 per cent of the residents and family were “favourable” to the

current restrictions and “had no complaints.”

Moore confirmed that saying while there was grumbling about the way visits were being conducted while people waited to connect with family, the family council was supporting the rules at the Petrolia home.

“The ministry inspector said as they sat and met with family council because I was protesting about the access... they said they had to act in the greater good of all...the family council and the resident council all agreed that they actually didn’t want any family members visiting,” she says.

Judah, in an email on July 28, also noted the home was justified in making the changes to provincial rules. She says under the Ministry of Long Term Care Directives, “Homes will have discretion in scheduling (visits)” and must “consider the staffing and space available to the home to maintain safety of residents, staff and visitors”.

When the Minister of Long Term Care announced the latest changes a week ago, she said the move would give all residents same access to their essential care givers.

An advocate for seniors in long term care, Dr. Vivian Stamatopoulos, associate teaching professor at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, believes a majority of long term care homes are following the new rules giving residents more personal care from family.

But she says many are not. “I’m still having a lot of families saying, ‘we haven’t heard yet about what the exact policy is.’ Or they’re still deferring to public health. And some of them are outright just pretending they don’t know about it, says Stamatopolous.

And she says there is still a lot of fear in nursing homes across the province that if family advocates for their seniors, there will be trouble in the home.

“That is the largest factor for why you’re not hearing enough about it, no question about it... They’ve got the loved ones captive. It’s a real fear.”

Moore says the short-term stay visits have made a difference in her mother’s life. She’s been able to go to her husband’s graveside for the first time and grieve with her family over his death. She’s been able to visit siblings who are also aging. They’ve commented on her deterioration. “She’s dozing off because she’s on so much more pain meds and she’s exhausted,” says Moore.

“I put her words on Twitter, she says it’s so nice to be able to get out of the morgue for the day. All you do is just sit around waiting for the next person to die.”

Moore says as she complained to the home about the physical and mental health issues, she was given a form to apply to move her mother to another home – a

suggestion she is taking.

For its part, Fiddicks has been asked to provide a “voluntary plan of correction” showing staff are trained on neglect by people in positions of trust and imbalances between staff and residents as well as for their reporting and investigation policies on abuse and neglect.

In a social media post Wednesday night, Fiddicks owner, Mike Fiddick, acknowledged the ministry’s investigation and its findings.


“We would like to note that voluntary corrective action has been taken to ensure that a situation of this nature does not occur again and that the residents dignity, choice and care is

respected by staff,” said the post signed by Fiddick and the director of resident care.

“There is zero tolerance for abuse and neglect, as such our staff receive training on hire, annually and with any changes in the policy.”

And the nursing home operator said he stands by his actions to protect residents from COVID-19, even though the ministry found they violated the Resident’s Bill of Rights.

“We do stand by our decisions in the management of COVID-19 thus far, and continue to follow the guidelines by the ministry as new processes and rules come about frequently. We will continue to update families, residents and staff as new policies are developed.”



**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.

**PETROLIA**

**HARVEST DAYS**



**Petrolia Community Services Advisory Committee**

**SEPT 15 THROUGH OCT 13**

**ANNUAL PETROLIA SCARECROW FESTIVAL IN VICTORIA PARK**



**SEPT 19 9AM-NOON**

Get Your FAMILY PHOTO WITH THE SCARECROW!

PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN OF YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY PLEASE BRING A CAMERA!

**Petrolia Farmers' Market**

**SEPT 26 & OCT 3**

7:30AM-NOON 7:30AM-NOON

**PETROLIA FARMERS' MARKET**

**Thanksgiving Draw**

WIN 1 of 3 PRIZE PACKS

Prize Pack includes Turkey, Produce and Petrolia Duck! Enter now!

**OCT 3 7:30AM-NOON**

Visit the Petrolia Farmers' Market FOR SOME LAST MINUTE SALES!

Just in time for Thanksgiving! Winner announced at Noon.

**Town of PETROLIA**

**OCT 10 9AM-NOON**

Bring your carved pumpkins to Victoria Park!

**WE'RE HAVING A CARVED PUMPKIN CONTEST**

Rules for the Carved Pumpkin Contest: Carve it at home and include any extra items you want to decorate your pumpkin. Lights will be provided. The pumpkins will not be returned. Winners will be announced on Tuesday October 19, 2020.

**OCT 10 1PM-8PM**

Check out the carved pumpkins in Victoria Park and at the Petrolia Library!

**THEY WILL BE LIT UP FOR ONE EVENING ONLY!**



**MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!**  
Barb and Rick Charlebois

\*WEATHER PERMITTING. ALTERNATE DATE SEPTEMBER 19 FROM 9:00 A.M. - NOON  
VISIT WWW.TOWN.PETROLIA.ON.CA OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK FOR DETAILS!  
ALWAYS MAINTAIN 500 FEET OF PHYSICAL DISTANCE



## KIDNEY MARCH ON MARTHAVILLE ROAD



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Paul, Alaina and Kim Wright were spotted marching down Marthaville Road Saturday morning. It was part of the Corunna family’s 100 km journey over three days as part of the Kidney March. Seven years ago, Kim donated one of her kidney’s to Paul after both his organs failed because of a reaction to medication. Kim says as soon as she found out Paul needed a kidney, she wanted to be tested, even though she wasn’t a blood relative - the best match for transplant. Surprisingly, she was an exact match and two years later, the transplant was completed in London. Both husband and wife have felt wonderful since the transplant and three years ago decided to help raise awareness about kidney donation joining the Kidney March held in Calgary. For two years, they climbed the foothills of Alberta in the epic event. But this year’s march changed formats because of the pandemic. Marchers were asked to find a route close to home and raise cash for the cause. After gathering about \$7,200 in donations, the three members of the family, along with Kim’s parents and friends, and the Wrights other daughter, Abigail, who kept the walkers well fed, headed out on their journey. The family started walking in St. Clair Township Friday, and Oil Springs Saturday morning. They completed the 100 km march by walking from Highland Glen Conservation Area to the Bluewater Bridge Sunday. The Wrights hope people along the route might think about kidney donation - even to a stranger. Kidneys are the only organ you can donate while alive.

## Four charged in Watford drug raid Sept. 10

The Independent

Two unnamed people are facing drug charges after a raid in Watford. Lambton OPP just released information about the raid, which occurred Sept. 10, on Sept. 15. Police say members of the Lambton OPP, the Canine Unit, the Emergency Response Team and Community Street Crimes went to St. Clair Street in Watford. Two people were arrested and charged at the scene. Police seized about 1,000 grams of

cocaine, cannabis edibles, LSD, psilocybin, a rave drug which is a combination of ecstasy and molly, Canadian and US money and weapons. Police also seized property from the home. In all, the seizure is valued at \$223,000. In total, four people were arrested and charged with five counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking, three counts of possession of a weapon and possession of cannabis for selling. None of the accused have been named by police nor have they re-



Items seized in the Watford raid.

leased a date they were to appear in court.

## Little Flags could play at Walpole Island arena

CON’T FROM PG 1  
“We’re making excellent progress with that, they’ve been very good with us.” Mooretown is not the only arena to struggle with ways to balance COVID-19 capacity limits and the concerns of parents. In Sarnia, the city barred all spectators on Aug. 20 after the rules were broken. Only on Sept. 14 did Sarnia begin allowing people back in the stands. Twenty people, or one person per participant, can attend per session.

Dale says Mooretown Minor Hockey is asking for the same one parent per child ratio for their younger players. He’s confident parents won’t end up in a situation that causes a shutdown. “At the end of the day it’s on our parents and it’s on our association to prove that we can avoid what Sarnia did,” says Dale. “We don’t want to backtrack. It’s difficult enough getting permission to get in the rink the first time, let alone the second time.” Dale says even if council and arena

staff still say no next week, they are ready to return to Mooretown when the time is right. “If they say no, that they want to give it a couple more weeks, then our first week will be run out of Walpole. And then we would just go week by week at that point,” says Dale. “We’re working very well with staff... we just had to do what we had to do to ensure that our younger age groups were covered. We’re very confident that we’re going to be able to work something out.”

## Two pot shops for Petrolia being considered by province

CON’T FROM PG 1  
Loosley says the decision for whether the shops are granted a licence lies solely with the AGCO. It may take some time however before the shops would open.

A recent Bloomberg news report said there are over 900 store applications waiting to be processed and only five licences are being granted each week this summer. At that rate it could be two years if an application is submitted

today. On Sept. 1, the AGCO announced it would be moving to double the pace of store authorizations this fall. The AGCO continues to receive hundreds of new applications monthly.



### 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.

## RETIREMENT AUCTION FARM RENTED

Sat. Sept. 26 @10:00am

Consisting of Ag Equipment,  
3pt Backhoe & Some Shop Equipment

Due to COVID # restrictions of 100- please pre register with the Auction firm to obtain your bidders # by phone or email. Your information will be recorded and a bidder’s card shall be assigned to you when you pay your \$20.00. NO TAX RECEIPTS - this is for number control and all monies are being donated to The Alzheimer’s Society. Security may be in force. Only 1 number please for each single purchaser. Our hands are tied and we truly apologize for any inconvenience. LETS ALL DO OUR PART AND BE SAFE!

Curtis & Heather Babula

Located at 527 White Line, St Clair Township in the former Sombra Township, Lambton County. White Line is located between Bentpath Line and Courtright Line just off 40 Hwy.

**Tractors:** Ford TW15, Series 2, dual remotes, 18.4X38 rears (as new), 2895 orig hours, has new muffler & manifold, 10 front weights, purchased new; 18.4X38 T rail duals to fit; Ford 6600 c/w QA Loader, 15.5X38 rears, dual remotes, @1,000 hours on drop in engine; 15.5X38 T rail duals. Great Plains 10’ Solid Stand no till drill c/w liquid fert & following harrows, 1906 acres showing on acreage counter; White 252-52 plate @ 16’ wheel discs; 18’ PT-TK low clear cult c/w DRH; Farmhand 18’ S tine c/w flat bar rolling harrows; 18’ harrowgator; 7 shank PT or 3pt Landoll chisel plow; White 548-5 furrow sm plow; 5’ Bush Hog rotary cutter; 400 gal Calsa Sprayer; 3pt fert spreader; Long MFG 3pt Backhoe MDL # Super 1199B, c/w 2 buckets; Turnco 22’ hyd fold land roller; Westfield 8X51 auger, 2-Homebuilt dump Trailers (12’); portable grain cleaner on skid; 2- Killbros 350 hoppers on gears, 2- Unverferth 225’s on gears, 2- Turnco 225’s, 1 with bristle auger (seed wagon); 8’-3pt Blade; 4” augers ;  
**Assorted misc:** King Canada table saw, His & Hers golf clubs; 5 hp elec motor off silo unloader, dehorners, water pressure system, IC Cub Cadet 11530C snow blower; roto tiller, assorted hand and some as new power tools (woodworking); eg.-Dremal, scroll saw, etc; CIL 12 gua pump, & English 303- **Must have valid F.A.C. to purchase.**  
**Brother’s Equipment:** Sells after Dons. Super “C” Farmall c/w wide front; Farmhand 810 Feedmaster, grinder mixer, Kewanee 40 D chain elevator (stored inside) Farmhand 4 wheel rake, IHC 3 furrow mtd plow, Oliver square baler, JD 494 corn planter.

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# Editorial

## Unprecedented no longer a good excuse

We believe it is time for politicians to stop using the words “we are living in unprecedented times” when they’re trying to say they really don’t have a plan of action for the difficulties we are facing in the foreseeable future.

It has become the most hated phrase of 2020 as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic even though in the first three months, we think it was warranted. Each day brought a new challenge and another unprecedented situation. But as this thing drags on and governments have to find new ways of doing things in short order, it seems to be an easy excuse to throw out the old “we’re living in unprecedented times” excuse when people start pressing government about their actions.

After six months, the federal government should have a plan to allow full sittings of the House of Commons. They knew it was going to happen; they just didn’t have anyone looking at a plan.

After closing schools in March, the province knew they were going to have to reopen eventually. By June, it was apparent the classroom would have to look different but the Minister of Education uses the “unprecedented times” refrain daily at news conferences.

After six months, we should be firing on all cylinders, anticipating problems and acting on them. And now, as people head back to schools - particularly colleges and universities - the number of COVID-19 cases rises. Testing centres are flooded with people facing four hour waits to get a nose swab - as they have been urged to do.

And when the premier is asked about expanding testing, the word unprecedented is out there again, along with a pledge to ramp things up even though someone should have recognized more testing would be needed as students from all over the province headed to university and partied with their friends.

This pandemic is no longer unprecedented, we’re living it. The premier talks about wanting to measure success but we believe the province should troubleshoot before there is trouble.

And citizens should demand more from our governments and not let them off the hook for poor planning and inaction.

## 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



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION PHOTO

There is always one kid in the back to school photo. While we don’t know if this picture of the Maud Street School in Petrolia is on the first day of school, you can bet these kids didn’t have to endure dozens of selfies while heading out the door to school.

## Stop littering the streets with your used blue masks

I wasn’t going to talk about this. I’m sick of masks and sicker of talking about them. But then, I watched a man with developmental disabilities pick up a blue mask from the sidewalk, look it over and tuck it in his pocket before walking on. I knew I had to speak my mind. So, here goes.

I get that we are all tired of what we have to do to stop the spread of COVID-19, but I have to say the thing that frustrates me the most is the carelessness and utter lack of understanding of how and why we wear a mask.

Many people wear a blue surgical mask because they have to. Often retailers will offer them to shoppers to get them to comply with the various mask bylaws. They wear them - usually without knowing how or why - only because they have to if they want their burger.

They wear it over only their mouth or

they wear it over their mouth and nose but move it to talk to the clerk. That’s not stopping the spread of anything.

As they leave the store, they either hang it under their chin, tuck it in their shirt pocket, swing it from their wrist or simply drop their blue surgical masks wherever they are standing.

Everyday this week, I have found between one and three of the masks lying on streets, parking lots or on the sidewalk. They’re all used.

If we believe masks are protecting us from COVID-19, they should all be considered hazardous. And yet, there they are tossed onto a public street, waiting for someone else to clean up your potential biohazard because you were either too lazy or stupid or a combination of both to bother to figure out the right way to get rid of them.

So, let’s be clear. A blue surgical mask is one of the best masks for the

public but will only work if you wear them over both nose and mouth with a tight seal around it. If you don’t do that, its practically useless.

You should only use it once, according to the World Health Organization. And when you dispose of it, you should remove it by the strings and place it into a trash bin with a lid. Then go wash your hands.

Better yet, get yourself a cloth mask you can wash every day. You’ll save people from cleaning up after you and save the environment, too.



Heather Wright

**The Independent**  
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Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514  
Proud host of the Local Journalism Initiative

Funded by the Government of Canada  
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# Opinion

## Ford must fix staffing shortage in LTC

**EDITOR:**  
It is appalling, given the devastation of COVID-19 in our long-term care homes, but Ontario’s government has done little to address the chronic short-staffing and care shortages.  
This staffing crisis exists in our communities. There is evidence that a second wave of COVID-19 is beginning with numbers of COVID-19 cases increasing in Europe, Ontario and across Canada.  
Even before COVID-19, across Ontario, long-term care homes were critically short-staffed every shift, every day. Then the pandemic hit. Now the staffing shortage is a full-blown emergency.  
The numbers are devastating. More than 5,500 residents and almost 3,000 staff have been infected by COVID-19 in Ontario’s long-term care homes.

Tragically almost 2,000 residents and staff have died. Many died isolated, without enough care, without staff time for emotional support.  
Long-term care staff have had to fight for access to appropriate personal protective equipment and have worked in crisis-level staffing shortages that have only become worse during the pandemic.  
In Canada, we have seen the highest levels of death in long-term care homes in the developed world. We cannot allow this to continue.  
Despite repeated assurances from Doug Ford, the government has taken no action to deal with emergency staffing shortages and inadequate care levels in long-term care homes. No measures have been taken to get care levels up to a safe standard. The majority of deaths in Ontario happened in for-profit long-term care homes yet privatization of new long-term care beds continues.  
We are calling on Premier Doug Ford to take immediate measures to fix the workforce by improving wages, ensuring staff who want full-time hours are paid for full-time hours, to implement a minimum care standard of four-hours of hands on care per resident per day, and to make long-term homes safe so that people can be recruited to work in them.  
Our message is clear: care for our loved ones cannot happen without enough staff to provide it.  
Please call or email Premier Ford and your local MPP and let them know this crisis must be addressed now.

**Shirley Roebuck, Chair, Sarnia Lambton Health Coalition**

## Work on Wyoming wellness centre well underway

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent  
With a little luck, Wyoming’s new health and wellness centre could be open before Christmas.  
And it may have a doctor practicing in the building.  
Earlier this year, TD Canada Trust turned over the former bank to the municipality. It was Mayor Lonny Napper’s vision to turn the building into a health and wellness centre. In the last few weeks, construction crews

have been redesigning the inside of the building to provide a large meeting space for classes and programs and building a doctors’ office with a reception and waiting room.  
Plympton-Wyoming Chief Administrative Officer, Carolyn Tripp, says although nothing is final, the town has been working with the Central Lambton Family Health Team to attract a doctor to Wyoming.  
“It is very, very hard to get a doctor to come to a small town, the fact that we appear to have someone interested is huge,” she says.  
Meantime, the executive of the Wyoming Lions Club recently came to council with a proposal to give \$50,000 to the project over a number of years, hoping to have the building named the Wyoming Lions Wellness Centre.  
Tripp says council is still in negotiations with the club, which still needs its members approval for the plan.  
It’s hoped if construction moves well, the centre could be able to open in December.

## Petrolia council briefs: Mayor wonders if Wingfield should be one way

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent  
Now that the reconstruction of Wingfield Street in Petrolia is almost complete, Mayor Brad Loosley wants to take a look at making it a one way thoroughfare.  
Cope Construction is expected to pave the road in September completing the \$1 million project in what the town calls the theatre district.  
“It’s so narrow there, it is so difficult for parking there even on one side, I am looking to see if there are ideas,” Loosley told council Monday.  
He wanted to solicit comments from Wingfield St. residents and have staff report back on the idea. Council

agreed, including Councillor Joel Field. “If we’re going to do something like this, we need the public’s input. My question comes - are we doing this after the fact? Would there have been design changes that could have made this easier?”  
“I am certainly open to all ideas,” says Loosley.  
**LIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
It will be another month before council considers meeting in person.  
Since the pandemic, municipal councils across the country have met electronically and many like using the technology.  
Loosley told council the electronic meetings will continue this month at least saying it would be too costly to open up the theatre for a physically distanced council meeting.  
“If we ever had to use the theatre upstairs, we’d have to move the sound systems, the cleaning bill would be horrendous, as well as trying to confine people to getting in and getting out,” he says.  
Staff estimate cleaning the theatre would cost between \$200 and \$500 per meeting. With up to seven meetings left that would be between \$1,400 and \$3,500.  
**POPULATION GROWTH**  
The Town of Petrolia is growing. New population figures show its grown from 5,880 people in 2017 to 6,010 in 2019 according to Statistics Canada - the most grown in Lambton.

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**IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter - Petrolia**





## BrookeTelecom

**NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING**

**For all registered members of Brooke Telecom Cooperative Ltd. our 2019 annual meeting will be held virtually on**

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**  
**07:00 PM EASTERN TIME**

**For details and to pre-register please go to**  
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## The Legion Serves All Veterans

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## The Legion Exists So That Canada Never Forgets

The Legion understands the importance of honouring past sacrifices and acknowledging the courage of those who served and still serve today. Through Remembrance Day ceremonies, the Poppy campaign, commemorative activities, youth education programs and more, the Legion helps Canadians to honour and remember.

## The Legion Serves Our Communities & Our Country

Legion Branches are the cornerstone of communities across Canada, and provide one of the largest volunteer bases in the country. With 1,350 Branches from coast to coast to coast, our members provide local services and supports to build a stronger Canada. Whether helping local Veterans, supporting seniors, providing youth sports programs, raising funds, volunteering to help those in need, or simply offering a place to gather for fun and celebration, Legionnaires provide essential services in their communities including educating young people through visits to local schools and hosting contests such as public speaking which build leadership skills and the Legion National Track and Field events.



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# Walking 40 years for Terry

The Independent

Barb Stewart says Terry Fox has been an inspiration to her.

And that has kept the Petrolia woman walking in the Terry Fox Run for the last 40 years.

Stewart was a nurse in Alberta when Fox started across Canada. She had seen many people with cancer and was surprised by his journey.

“I just felt he was just amazing that he could do that to help raise money, so I thought we should all maybe try to do our part and I did.”

She also remembers his death. “I remember feeling grief over him dying because he had tried so

hard, gee even now thinking about him when he passed away and I was hoping things would carry on,” she says.

From the first Terry Fox Run, Stewart joined. She walked there until 1992 and then joined the Petrolia Run in 1993. “Terry was an inspiration to me to start volunteering and giving back to my community.”

Sunday, Stewart slipped on her walking shoes and completed the 40th anniversary walk early. Because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions people are being urged to do the event their own way. Most people will participate Sunday.

When Stewart first started her walk for Terry, no one



Barb Stewart

in her family had been diagnosed with cancer. Today, she remembers three who have passed away.

“There’s still a lot of work to be done for cancer cure; they have come a long ways but they still have a long way to go, but there are still families being affected by it.”

## ‘It smelled like a pile of 100 human bodies rotting’

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston council wants a pile of bio-solids on Ebenezer Line covered up.

Neighbours of the rural property have long complained about the pile of biosolids just across the road from their home.

One has asthma and says she cannot leave the home because of the smell.

It is mitigated when the pile is covered with a tarp. But last weekend, Roger Buurma - whose family owns Lasalle Agri which sells biosolids as fertilizer - began moving the pile around bringing it to some of the fields to spread.

Councillors were inundated with calls from the neighbours, so Jamie Armstrong

went over to see what the problem was.

“It smelt like a pile of 100 human bodies rotting, that’s what it smelt like at the road,” said Armstrong. “It’s very, very rancid. I had to close my window.”

Councillor Wayne Deans wanted council to act.

“Is there anyway they can cover it back up when they’re done with it,” he says.

Mayor Dave Ferguson says it had been covered up when he drove by after receiving complaints but the mayor suggested the pile doesn’t need to be uncovered completely.

“We could ask him to uncover it as they need to, incrementally...just pull the tarp back as needed.”

Council will write a letter

to Buurma asking him to consider the move.

But, Ferguson pointed out there was little council could do.

Brooke-Alvinston, Warwick and Dawn-Euphemia are embroiled with Lasalle Agri at the Normal Farm Practices Board.

The company says storing the biosolids in large quantities is part of normal farm business. The municipalities say it is turning farmland into commercial storage.

The hearing on the issue could be over a year away.

Armstrong suggested council should keep track of the promises made by the company and point out when they were broken, passing everything along to the municipalities lawyer for use during the hearing.

## BOTTLE BOOST



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Oil Springs Legion is getting a boost from a bottle drive. Saturday, thousands of empties were collected. There was such a big response, a third bin had to be brought in for beer cans. Here, Legion member Adam Veen, helps sort some of the empties.

## Armstrong wonders if Inwood should have a hall

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston Councillor Jamie Armstrong wants to know if the people of Inwood still need a community hall.

For decades, the Inwood Fire Hall served as a community centre. Earlier this month, council decided there was no need for a fire presence in Inwood. For some time, council had been considering if it could buy the hall from the Inwood Firemens’ Association, however a deal was never reached.

Today, the hall is up for sale.

“I think that we should, at the very least,

do some sort of a study to see if that actual amenity is still required in the community of Inwood,” Armstrong told council.

Councillor Frank Nemeck reminded him the community in Alvinston also bears Inwood’s name and it is expensive to maintain community halls.

“Before we get too carried away, I think we have to take care of what we’ve got here already.”

Armstrong asked for council to put a survey on the municipal website to let people have input.

Council agreed and a survey will be done electronically.


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# Sports

## LCCVI’s veteran basketball Coach Syer retires

Heather Wright  
The Independent

If you walked through the halls of LCCVI on most mornings, you’re likely to see Joe Syer – Coach Syer – standing in the doorway to his classroom, a cup of steaming black coffee in hand, saying good morning to the students.

But Coach Syer won’t be standing in his door this year. Forty-five years after walking into LCCVI and 33 years as a teacher, Coach Syer has retired.

Syer packed up the last of his items from his special education classroom Friday and he took some time to remember the first time he walked through the doors of LCCVI and became a Lancer for life.

Syer grew up in Enniskillen. When he turned 12, the family moved into town. He went to Queen Elizabeth II Public School and Coach Jim Churchill introduced him to basketball “and I just kind of fell in love with it.”

In Sept. 1974, Syer – whose given name is Darren – walked through the doors of LCCVI, earning the title he loved. Syer was a Lancer. He had no idea at the time what an impact the place and the people inside would have on him.

Several of the teachers and coaches became his mentors; Vince Lyons – the Lancers football coach, John Hay and Paul Allen would become an important part of his high school years. Syer played basketball and was on the junior team which went 36-2 on the year winning the Western Ontario junior title. One game – as a senior – Syer scored an incredible 50 points in a 85-47 Lancer victory over St. Pat’s.

He also played three years of football and he remembers the final year as one of the best times of his life. The team didn’t win much. “There would be nights at practice where we could only run plays to one side of the line because we didn’t have enough guys,”

he laughs.

Syer went to Fanshawe College and helped lead that team to a Canadian championship. That earned Syer and the team a place in the London Sports Hall of Fame.

But when Syer was 24 he decided he wanted to teach. He went to Wilfred Laurier – where he continued to play basketball – and where he met his wife, Sarah.

When he graduated, Syer walked back into the halls of LCCVI – this time as a coach. Those men who had mentored him as a teen were still there and they formed lifelong friendships.

“Those guys just provided me opportunities that were out of this world,” he told *The Independent* Friday. “Thank you is not enough from what they’ve done for me,” he says wiping a tear rolling down his cheek.

Syer hoped to follow their lead and inspire in the young men he coached.

“It’s never really been about winning or losing, if it was, I would have got fired years ago,” he laughs. “It’s about creating that young man, trying to give them like a bar to live by...If you’re going to do something, do it right.”

And he tried to instill on his team how special it was to wear the Lancer colours. “I would tell them only 12 people in the whole school gets to wear this,” he says tapping the Lancer letters on his shirt.

When one of Syer’s mentors – Vince Lyons – was about to retire, he asked him to consider taking on the “People Phys Ed class.” It was a program designed by Lyons to get special needs students involved in physical education to help with their social interactions.

Syer thought he might take on the class for a year to give it a try. He stayed with the program for years. Until his day of retirement, Syer taught special education at LCCVI.

“I love my kids. Like it’s just a fact – being in special ed – it impacted me in ways I don’t even know.”

But Syer realized in August that the workplace he loved would not be the same. Syer has always been the teacher to shake a hand or put his arm around a kid to pass on an insight. He knew that wasn’t going to happen this year. “I want to give people a hug. I’m that kind of guy. And I find it really difficult not to be able to do that.”

And, there would be no sports for the foreseeable future – a sad way to finish off his career.

Syer decided at the end of August to call it a day and handed in his resignation without any regrets. Syer says he feels terrible for his colleagues who are starting a school year full of uncertainty but he’s always loved walking the halls of LCCVI and he didn’t want to end his career dreading going to work.

“My wife asked me this morning ‘what are you going to miss the most’. I said, ‘Well, besides my kids, the interaction with the kids in the hallway, right? ...That’s what I enjoyed the most about being here.

“You’ll see a boy in Grade Nine that is scared of his own shadow and would never even look at a girl – like he would be so embarrassed right? Then three years later, he’s walking down the hall holding a girl’s hand. It was something watching kids evolve and grow.”

He’ll still see some of that. Syer plans to help out with senior basketball – when they play again – until his son, Trevor, graduates.

And he’ll see some of those kids – and their kids – on the streets of Petrolia. And he says it will be good to catch up.

Syer says it has been an emotional week of saying goodbye and he’s shed some tears – not because he’s sad to leave, but because he’s happy he’s been able to live life as a Lancer.

“This place is me,” he says, sitting outside the building on the last day of his teaching career. “I grew up here.”

## Wyoming Wranglers play in baseball showcase

Wyoming minor ball alumni Core Jackson and Kaden Gray have both been selected to play in the Canadian Premier Baseball League Showcase Tournament later this month.

The three-day event is for top graduates of the 2021 and 2022

classes.

Jackson and Gray are members of the Great Lake Canadians U-18 squad and both are heading to the US next season to play collegiate baseball.

Jackson will attend the University of Nebraska.

Gray is heading for Kansas-based Cowley Community College.

Sarnia’s Dylan O’Rae was also chosen for the showcase competition. The trio was selected after a regional tryout in Dorchester late last month.

## Port Lambton golfer competes on Canadian Tour

Brendan Seys had an opening round four under par 67 and was among the leaders through 18 holes at the Canada Life Series Championship at TPC Toronto last week.

He couldn’t hold that momentum though with rounds of 75 and 74 to finish in a tie for 59th place at the

Mackenzie Tour event.

A triple bogey on the 18th hole cost him 11 spots on the leaderboard. Seys had rounds of 73, 72 and 73 to finish in a tie for 40th place in his first ever pro event on the same course the week before that.

The Port Lambton product recently

decided to turn professional forgoing a final year of NCAA eligibility at the University of Nevada.

He had been granted an additional year on the collegiate circuit because of a shortened 2020 season due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

## First ever Petrolia Kingswell Golf Cup in the books

Team Blue defeated Team Red in the inaugural Kingswell Cup competition last weekend at the Kingswell Glen Golf Course in Petrolia. The winners

came from behind to capture the trophy.

The winners were led by co-captains Kevin Luckhurst and Chris McCallum.

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### Agriculture Land Lease

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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)

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

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Notice

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION** - The County of Lambton and its partner Clean Harbors Canada Inc. will be holding the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection events on Saturday, September 26, Oct. 17 & Oct. 31, 2020. All events will run from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Clean Harbors Lambton Facility (4090 Telfer Road, St. Clair Township).



# AD CENTRAL

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For more information Email: [kmagill@rogers.com](mailto:kmagill@rogers.com)

**The printed community newspaper** is by far the favourite source of local news and information in communities large and small across Canada. Time spent with a community newspaper is virtually unchanged compared to two years ago and not surprisingly, the predominant reason for reading printed community newspapers is local information, including news, editorial, sports, entertainment and events.

### SPONSORSHIP OPP.



**Earn up to 800k in advertising by sponsoring the Ontario Junior Citizen Awards.**

This inspiring and extremely worthwhile program recognizes youth between the ages of 6 and 17 who are involved in community service, contribute to their community while overcoming a physical or psychological limitation, have performed an act of heroism, and/or are a "good kid" who goes above and beyond what is expected of someone their age.

Nominations are received from across the province and a panel of judges selects 12 final recipients who are honoured during a special ceremony.

**For more information or to express interest in this unique sponsorship opportunity, please contact Kelly Gorven at [k.gorven@ocna.org](mailto:k.gorven@ocna.org)**



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


In Memory

Notice

Birth Announcement

In Memory

Obituary



*In Loving Memory of*

# GARNET MOORE

who passed away September 19, 2006

*Everyday we think of you.  
Everyday we miss you,  
but remember the good times,  
the happy times,  
shared for more than 50 years.*

*Loved & Missed  
Donna and Families*


*In loving memory of a  
dear husband, step father, step-grandfather & friend*

# WAYNE LENNAN

November 15, 1942 - September 20, 2018.

*God looked down on  
his planned paradise and said  
“I need a caretaker”  
so God made a farmer.*

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by  
*Bea  
Joe, Bernadine, Tony, Emma & Jesse  
Mike, Maria & Alyssa*



**MARSH, Barbare Jane**


*In memory of a loving wife & mother  
Barbara Jane Marsh,  
who left us September 18, 2008*

Every day, in some special way  
Memories of you come our way.  
Tough absent, you are ever near  
Still missed, still loved, and ever dear.

**Always loved and remembered by  
BRIAN & ERIC**

Your presence we miss  
Your memory we treasure  
Loving You Always  
Forgetting you never.

**Forever in our hearts,  
Murray and Mary,  
Kevin, Brenda and families**



Card of Thanks

# Thank You

We would like to thank our family for the lovely get together for our 75th wedding anniversary. Thank you for the cards, visits & phone calls as well.

A thank you to our granddaughter Lisa for having it announced on the radio, and thank you to Heather Wright of The Independent for the lovely write up & pictures.

*Wilfred & Betty Mitchel.*

Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 noon

**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**

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.**

Coming Event

**Brooke-Alvinston Agricultural Society** presents

*Drive-Thru*

# RIB

*Dinner*

**October 3rd, 2020  
4:30pm - 7:00pm**

**Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood  
Community Centre Complex**


**1/2 Rack of Ribs,  
Baked Potato, Baked  
Beans, Coleslaw & Bun**

**\$20/dinner  
Advanced Tickets ONLY**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:**  
Three Maple Variety - *Alvinston*,  
Inwood Grocery & Variety,  
Wilson Shell - *Watford*



COVID-19 IN LAMBTON			
Local events that have been cancelled or postponed due to 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	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




# Colby Allan James ANDERSON

Proud Grandparents  
**Jim & Kathy Thomson**  
are happy to announce the safe arrival of Brynlee & Alanna's baby brother

Born on  
**September 3rd, 2020**  
Weighing  
**7 lbs. 6 oz.**  
At Bluewater Health Hospital

Proud Parents  
**Brad & Kelly**

*Special thanks to Dr. Laura Allen, and the 3rd floor nursing staff for their wonderful care.*



# GERALD D. DAWSON

Husband, Father, Grandfather  
1942-2016 (September 16, 2016)

*Those we love remain with us,  
for love itself lives on,  
and cherished memories never fade,  
because a loved ones gone!  
Those we love can never be,  
more than a thought apart,  
for as long as there is a memory,  
they'll live on in our heart!*

Treasured memories  
"Until we meet again"  
Pat, Families of Melissa, Michael & Pam

**In Memory**

**BEECROFT, Janet (Duncan)**  
September 20, 2016

*It's been too long, four years have passed  
Our hearts still ache, but our memories last  
You touched our lives like no other  
A wife, a partner and a mother.  
Your smile and laughter and loving voice  
You left this life not by choice  
God took you home to care for you there  
Leaving us with your love that we will always share.*

Always Loved  
Charles, Chad, Kurt, Jeff, Dana and Cory

**Notice**

**TERRY FOX RUN** - 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. Please visit [terryfox.org](http://terryfox.org) to donate.

# Death Notices

September 7 - September 13, 2020

<p><b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7</b></p> <p><b>BUCKINGHAM, Barbara</b> Age 87, of Petrolia Knight Funeral Home</p> <p><b>CASEY, Lola Doreen</b> Age 96, of Petrolia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p><b>SYGROVE, Alma</b> Age 97, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home</p> <p><b>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8</b></p> <p><b>WOLSEY, Edyth</b> Age 89, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p><b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10</b></p> <p><b>GREY, Frankielynn</b> Age 56, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p>	<p><b>BACON, Scott</b> Age 59, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11</b></p> <p><b>SHAW, Lindalee "Lee"</b> Age 79, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12</b></p> <p><b>CHAPMAN, Harold</b> Age 82, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p><b>BLIZZARD, Daryl</b> Age 87, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home</p> <p><b>NEWTON, Victor Leonard</b> Age 96, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13</b></p> <p><b>LEONARDO, Antonio</b> Age 80, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home</p>
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This information is provided as a community service.  
For detailed information, please refer to the funeral home website listing.



**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

**PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM  
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

*of events*

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 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	4pm	Wyoming	Wyoming Legion <b>Meat Raffle</b>	
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 23-25	11-1pm	Watford	Legion Week Lunches at Watford Legion. Beef or Turkey on a bun and a bowl of soup. Minimum \$8 donation. Take out lunch available	
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, Catch the Ace, 50/50 draw</b> . Cash only limit to 100 People	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
Oct 3	4-7pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions <b>Fish Fry</b> . TAKE OUT ONLY at the Lions Hall. Fresh fish, coleslaw & freshcut fries. \$20. Beers & Coolers available. Cash, debit, credit. Rain or Shine	

# 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



[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

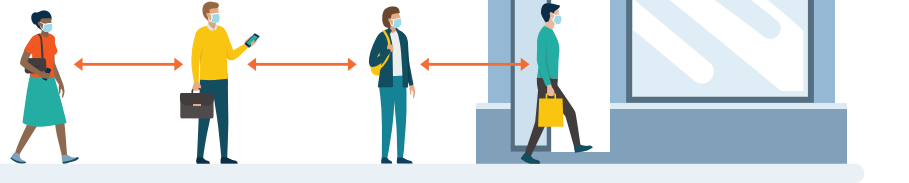
Church Office 519-845-3963

Find us on Facebook



## COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING

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



# Business & Service Directory

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## Car crunch: dealers having supply issues

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

Local car dealers are trying to adjust to the COVID-19 realities of lower inventory.

It’s part of a world-wide problem driven by the shutdowns of plants and its delaying the roll out of the 2021 model year.

But local dealers are adjusting.

Ron Clark’s General Sales Manager J.D. Power says under early lockdown measures, temporary layoffs of the sales staff became necessary. Sales took a beating as US plants shut down and supply dried up.

“Our service department was a lot busier,” Power says.

MacFarlane’s Chev General Manager Kristen MacFarlane also says their service department was key in the early stages. “We never saw a lull in service at all,” she says.

This was crucial for business with the showroom closed and some staff being laid off. “Everything had to be done virtually and that honestly doesn’t work in the car business. April was not good,” MacFarlane says.

Ron Clark meanwhile had another boost available thanks to their RV sales. “It’s people not being able to go anywhere and creating their own vacations. We’re seeing customers right now in the RV department that we wouldn’t normally see, just because of the circumstances,” Power says.

As summer progressed and factories reopened, Ron Clark’s backlog started to ease. Power brought back the sales staff and pickup sales bounced back. Power says August was a record month for the dealership.

“It was just a matter of supply and demand. Customers were still in the buying mode,” says Power. “Once we got the product and were able to supply it, customers were waiting to make their purchase.”

The supply fix is temporary however, and by early fall Power expects to be out of new stock again. He says shipments that were supposed to arrive in September may not even come until the new year.

Power says the dealership will focus on used car sales to try and hold them over. Ron Clark Motors also has their

service department to rely on.

“Just like everything else we’ll adapt,” Power says.

MacFarlane says their business model has changed drastically since the supply chain was hit. “It’s been pretty challenging selling anything because the manufacturers aren’t up to full capacity at the plants. So we’re not getting the vehicles that we would normally get. Not even close,” says MacFarlane. She estimates they’ve probably received only 20 per cent of their usual stock.

MacFarlane says that when vehicles do arrive, they’ve usually already been sold. That means the traditional browsing of the lot and test drives are largely a thing of the past.

“I wouldn’t say we’re necessarily losing business over it, it’s just a very different way of doing it,” she says. “We have to be on top of calling customers and getting back to customers and keeping them in the loop of how we can help.”

MacFarlane predicts that this experience may be the future of consumerism for a long time. “I think you’re going to see the supply and demand really change,” she says. “You get into those big plants where they’ve got 1,000 people working, and if the government continues to mandate the rules and regulations like they have been, they can’t get back up to normal capacity. It’s physically impossible for them to produce what they were producing before.”

Like Ron Clark, MacFarlane will also be investing in used car sales. But even there, supply will be an issue. “Big fleet companies like Enterprise, if they’re not getting new vehicles, they’re not turning those vehicles (over), so they’re not coming back through the auction,” MacFarlane says.

“They have no choice but to hold onto them because they can’t replace them,” she says.

At the end of the day MacFarlane credits the dealership’s ties to the community for helping keep business steady.

“We’re surviving and we’ll continue. We’ve been here a long time which I think is a bonus because people are still calling and we’re still getting them in here,” she says.

## Provincial court reopens after six months

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

Some Lambton County Court Services have reopened, but it will still be awhile before in-person hearings resume.

Court reception opened Friday to pay tickets and fines or collecting forms. Since the building closed on Mar. 16 due to the COVID-19 outbreak all these services were online.

Court Services Manager Cindy Vermeiren says until hearings resume most matters can still be taken care of online, without having to come in. There is also an on-site drop box where people can bring forms. Some issues, such as working out payment plans, need to be done in-person.

Visitors will be given a COVID-19 screening test at the door, must wear a mask, and provide their name and phone number for contact tracing.

Remote audio hearings for provincial

offenses like traffic tickets will begin by phone on Sept. 28, and include guilty pleas, adjournments, first appearances and withdrawals. The Superior Court of Justice and Ontario Court of Justice have conducted court this way since March.

Physical court is scheduled to return Oct. 19. Limited seating, reduced occupancy and plexiglass dividers will be some of the social distancing measures people can expect.

There will also be a new queueing system. While all cases used to be scheduled for 10 am – bringing dozens of people to the building at one time – people attending court will now get an electronic alert when it’s time for their hearing. Hearings will be spaced out into smaller groups who attend every hour.

Cases scheduled between Mar. 16 and Oct. 16 are receiving a new date. People should watch for these notices in the mail.

# 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.
- **Face coverings** will be required for staff and students in Grades 4-12.
- **Hand hygiene** will be enabled with hand sanitizer and hand washing.
- **More nurses** will be in schools.
- **School cleaning** will be enhanced.



Visit [ontario.ca/ReopeningSchools](https://ontario.ca/ReopeningSchools)

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