

WALKING FOR GRANDPA GRAY



Stacy Gordon (right) starts out on the 2020 Terry Fox Run along with her family and friends. Gordon dedicated the 2020 run to her father, who passed away from cancer earlier this year. **SEE HER FAMILY’S STORY ON PAGE 2**

ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Former employee pleads guilty to arson at Duststop

Owner says \$2.5 million in damage and losses after blaze which scared more than 20 employees

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man has plead guilty to the arson incident that set the Duststop Air Filters factory ablaze earlier this summer causing \$2.5 million in damage and business loss.

Jacob Bondy, 41 from Sarnia, admitted in Sarnia Court on Sept. 21 that while working for Duststop he started the fire that forced the building to be evacuated. Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters responded to the Petrolia business on July 24 around 7 pm and battled the fire into the night before finally putting it out.

Nobody was injured in the blaze. But it was revealed that Duststop owners estimate damages at \$2.5 million, between property damage, stock loss and business interruption.

Justice Deborah Austin accepted Bondy’s guilty plea for the arson and 10 other charges including theft.

The cause of the fire was originally unknown. Police were alerted when one of Duststop’s owners was reviewing surveillance footage after the fire and found suspicious activity.

The video shows Bondy walking around the Duststop facility just after 6:30 pm holding a small rag. He checks for other employees, and after finding the room empty moves behind a conveyor belt. Bondy can then be seen hurling a lit object across the room. He quickly walks away from the fire and leaves.

SEE ARSON PG 2

Student COVID-19 testing centres open in Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Students who need a COVID-19 test to go back to school will soon be able to go to a special student clinic.

As concern mounts about the rising number of people testing positive for COVID-19 in the province, Lambton Public Health is setting up three student assessment centres - in Sarnia, Petrolia and Forest - to help ease the demand for testing at the current sites.

Last week, 1,320 people were tested in Lambton County.

Dr. Sudit Ranade says Lambton Public Health has one assessment center open already, another will come online Monday

and the final student assessment center will be open at the end of the week.

Public Health isn’t giving out exact locations yet, but the medical officer of health says they are set up across Lambton County.

“When initially assessment centers started one of our concerns was – this is not a walk in service. Part of the reason it’s not a walk in service, because we don’t want a bunch of sick people congregating around each other. So what we’ve done is created an appointment based service.”

Parents who have used an online screening tool created by the province and find their child has one of the symptoms listed can call public health for an appointment.

“Because it is cold season and because the

prevalence of COVID-19 is currently low in Lambton County over 90 per cent – 98 per cent essentially of the coughs and colds that you see will be exactly just that.”

“It is important to remember that if you’re symptomatic, it is a good reason to get tested. So if you would fail that screening tool, if there’s been some symptom on that tool that you would have that might be consistent with COVID-19, that is preventing the child from being in school, then that’s really the purpose of getting the test. So we can rule out COVID-19 in those kids and get them back to school when they are significantly better.”

If your child does fail the online screening, you can call public health at 519-383-8331 to book an appointment near you.



October is

Autism Awareness

Month

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a condition that remains misunderstood by many people. This is a great opportunity for Canadians to learn more about this condition and about how we can support people living with autism, their families and their caregivers.

Did you know?



Autism occurs in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups



Both genetic and environmental factors play significant roles in the causes of autism



1 in 66 children are currently diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder

CORRECTION

In the Sept. 17, 2020 edition of *The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton*, in a page 2 story, incorrect information was given about a Ministry of Long Term Care investigation into a Petrolia nursing home. 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 and the any confusion it may have caused. The error has also been corrected on all of our online platforms.

Honouring Grandpa Gray

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The Terry Fox Run is a day Stacy Gordon always shared with her father Allan Gray. It was deeply personal for both of them.

“I lost my Mom to cancer years ago, and I got my dad started with the run,” Gordon says.

When Allan was diagnosed with cancer years later, he never stopped participating in the annual run with his daughter.

And he never stopped fighting the disease, battling six years after being given a stage 4 diagnosis.

Allan Gray passed away earlier this year. Gordon resolved that she would make this run one of her strongest fundraisers ever in his memory.

“We’re doing it in honor of my dad,” she says. “Everybody who knew my dad loved him, so we have a lot of people who felt it was important this year to help out.”

Gordon organized a Facebook group and support began to pour in from family, friends and many other people who knew Allan. A preliminary tally the morning of the run showed more than \$5,000 had been raised, with donations still trickling in throughout the day.

Gordon took part in the 2020 run – dubbed “One Day. Your Way.” – with her family and friends.

The group wore shirts saying “Remembering Grandpa Gray” on the back, and resolved to walk a ‘country

block’ around her Lasalle Line home. This distance varies depending on who you ask and where you are, but Gordon estimated about a two hour round-trip. Anyone who got tired could take a break in the cart her son was driving alongside.

And although her run this year had a notable absence, Gordon knows her dad is smiling on their efforts. “We’re very happy, my dad would be proud,” she says.

Gordon says Allan always taught her “to be a big part of your community. And be a big supporter of the non-profit organizations, and Terry Fox especially.”

Gordon’s successful group organization even earned her a call from the Terry Fox organization.

“The head office in Toronto called me yesterday and wished me good luck tomorrow,” Gordon said Sunday.

“They called up to say thank you. So that was neat.”

Gordon still has a part to play in this year’s Terry Fox Run.

A teacher at LCCVI in Petrolia, on Friday, Sept. 25 the students will be taking part in a school run of their own.

The usual hour-long school-wide walk will be replaced by smaller cohorts, but organizers are still determined to keep the same spirit.

“Everything is new and day-by-day, but it’s still important to do,” Gordon says. “We’re going to do it in a special way this year so we’re social distancing, but we’re still doing it.”

Arsonist’s motive for Duststop fire unknown

CON’T FROM PG 1

The surveillance video shows the fire slowly grow before erupting into a blaze, prompting an evacuation and call to the fire department. Three days after the incident Bondy was arrested and charged with arson.

Austin asked if there was a motive for the arson, but her question was left unanswered.

A victim impact statement from Kevin Goodhand, one of the Duststop owners, showed the emotional and financial toll of the arson. “Working 12-14 hour days trying to get things back into operation took valuable time away from my family and friends,” says Goodhand. “Extending beyond the initial couple of weeks, and still ongoing, I find myself stressed and primarily focused on the recovery.”

Goodhand says many of his employees were also scared following the fire. “In the days following the fire, and until we were aware Mr. Bondy was taken into custody, myself and others with knowledge of the incident were very nervous that Mr. Bondy would return to finish the job,” he

says.

That fear has not fully gone away either, even with the arrest. “There were 21 people on shift with Mr. Bondy, and we still have no idea what his motive was or who he was intending to harm. The continuing fear I have is that once released he could come back to finish the job or go after his intended target again,” says Goodhand.

Restitution is the main issue to be resolved as the Crown and defense attempt to reach a joint submission. Insurance covered 90 per cent of the damage costs, but the Duststop owners were left to pay a \$25,000 deductible. They want Bondy to pay it back.

Duststop’s insurance company, Sedgwick Canada, also is looking for \$1.75 million from the admitted arsonist.

Sentencing was delayed until Wednesday, Sept. 23 for the Crown and defense to reach a joint submission on sentencing terms. Bondy is expected to receive a prison term in the two year range.

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

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Lambton’s top doc says gathering limits proactive

Ten people indoor and 25 outdoors allowed
Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton’s medical officer of health says the province is taking a proactive approach by restricting private gatherings again as Ontario residents worry the province is heading into a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the last week, there have been four days where the number of new cases of the fast-spreading virus topped 400. Toronto, Peel and Ottawa are the hot spots right now with London also having problems after an outbreak at Western University. Lambton’s neighbour is now dealing with 70 cases of COVID-19 while Lambton has just two active cases as of Tuesday. There have only been five cases in Lambton in September.

But the increasing numbers in Ontario were enough for Premier Doug Ford to first limit private gatherings in Toronto, Peel and Ottawa on Friday and then the rest of the province Saturday. You are now able to have private gatherings of just 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors.

“The alarm bells are ringing,” says Ford. “We cannot carry on as if things are normal – they aren’t.”

Ford says public health says the latest increase in cases is directly linked to private social gatherings. “We can’t have these wild parties right now; it is way, way too risky.”

Associate Chief Medical Officer of

Health, Dr. Barbara Yaffe says she didn’t know exactly the percentage of cases linked to parties, but says this is a preventative measure. “It’s an increasing trend and that’s why we’re trying to stop it.”

The restriction is for 28 days.

Yaffe added some people really don’t understand what a social gathering should look like. With your social circle of up to 10 people, you can spend time together in close contact without masks, she says.

But anyone else, Yaffe says, people must still keep their distance, wash their hands and wear a mask if they can’t.

And that includes private social gatherings.

Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, says the province is taking a proactive approach by limiting the restrictions now, before there are a lot of cases many places in Ontario.

“We’re always going to fight that balance of should we be doing something across the whole province? Or should we be doing something in regions? And I think right now, we’re right on the line...where you could convincingly say, look, we know where this is going. There are lots of cases in Toronto and Ottawa and that means lots of cases in other places. And if we don’t stop something now, then we’re going to tip the balance,” he told reporters Monday.

“There’s also convincing arguments to be made that, lots of other areas outside of those places really have low community transmission and so

the risk of some of those gatherings is lower in those places than it might have been in another.

The problem is that with COVID-19, it’s hard to wait until those things happen in order to put in the restrictions.”

Ranade adds there are still opportunities in public places for people to get together and socialize since so far, the province has not put additional restrictions on bars, restaurants and venues hosting family events.

But he adds if the numbers continue to rise, he does expect there will be more restrictions in other social settings.

As the number of cases rise, the demand for testing has also increased. Provincial officials say there were 39,000 people in one day seeking the test across the province. Lambton is setting up three student clinics to deal with increasing demand.

The premier says the province has opened 10 new “pop-up” centres in some of the hardest hit areas – Toronto, Peel and Ottawa – and is extending hours in existing centres.

He adds the province hopes to have deals to open testing in pharmacies in the next couple of days particularly in some of the hardest hit communities.

Elliott says the province is working to increase lab capacity to make sure test results are getting back to people quickly.

Wednesday, there were nearly 40,000 people waiting to hear the results of their COVID-19 tests.



TOWN OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING

The Town of Plympton-Wyoming is now accepting applications for the following positions:

Labourer
Operators – 2 positions

Interested individuals are asked to forward their resume and cover letter no later than 4:00 pm on Friday October 2, 2020 to Carolyn Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer

Please visit www.plympton-wyoming.com for more information.



Agriculture Land Lease

Tenders are requested by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. Three individual Agriculture Land Leases (AW Campbell, LC Henderson, and Warwick CA’s) 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

Tenders are due by noon, Friday, October 2, 2020 at the St. Clair Conservation Administration building 205 Mill Pond Cres., Strathroy, Ontario.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Fatal crash draws calls for flashing lights

Heather Wright
The Independent

“Three lives have been lost since I’ve lived here; what’s a life worth?”

That was Plympton-Wyoming resident Garth Smith’s question Tuesday after helping at the scene of yet another accident at the corner of Forest Road and London Line.

Sunday afternoon around 5 pm, a van and a Buick collided at the corner of Forest Road and London Line. The OPP, paramedics and the Warwick Fire Department were called to the scene to help.

One person was pronounced dead at the scene. The other driver was transported to the Petrolia hospital with what police say are non-life threatening injuries.

Police by Tuesday afternoon had not identified the man who died, however Smith says it was Bob Hollingsworth of Watford who was killed at the scene.

Smith says his daughter and her boyfriend were in the garden of his London Line home when they heard the crash of metal against metal. He ran to the car and was devastated by what he saw.

He then stopped others arriving at the scene before police and fire responded saying “You don’t want to see this,” according to Smith.

“I’ve worked at a jail and I don’t think I’ve seen anything this bad,” says Smith who also went to the site to help.

After the accident was cleaned up Sunday night, the people who were among the first on the scene were trying to absorb what had happened.

Smith’s daughter’s boyfriend has been having a hard time sleeping and hasn’t been able to go back to work yet.

And Smith is frustrated. This isn’t the first accident at the corner since he’s lived there.

He says three people have now been killed at the corner in the last 10 or 15 years. And he says it’s time Lambton County did something to improve the intersection.

Smith says several years ago, the road was repaved and rumble strips at the corner were removed.

He says neighbours had complained about the noise as traffic approached the corner.

But the retired correction worker says something more must be done now to alert drivers of the coming stop sign. He is suggesting a sign before the intersection warning of the coming stop sign and a flashing light above the sign to “give people two chances” to see the sign.

“They should have done this years ago.”

Jason Cole, the general manager of infrastructure at the county, says when there are fatal accidents, the county does look at the intersection, using the police report to figure out how design might have played into the accident, particularly if there had been more than one collision over a number of years.

That will be done at this corner as well.

Cole says sometimes there is nothing that improved road design could have done to prevent a collision.

But he says if the county found there was more that could be done, the most likely next step at the Forest Road/London Line corner would be flashing lights on the sign.

And Cole says increasingly, local politicians are concerned about the amount of traffic deaths at higher traffic rural corners and they’re considering roundabouts as a viable option to help reduce the rate of accidents in the county.



This Month In Lambton

September 2020



Warden Bill Weber
@LambtonWarden

Lambton County Library expands its services

Lambton County Library now offers two additional curbside pickup locations and limited access to public computers, wireless internet access and space for academic study by scheduled appointment at selected libraries.

Brigden Library and Grand Bend Library have joined the libraries in Alvinston, Bright’s Grove, Corunna, Florence, Forest, Mallroad, Oil Springs, Petrolia, Point Edward, Sombra, Thedford, Watford and Wyoming in offering contactless curbside pickup.

These same libraries, excluding Mallroad, are also offering scheduled appointments for public computer use, wi-fi use, and space for academic research/study.

Cardholders can book an appointment:

- Online by visiting lclibrary.ca/appointments
- Telephone at 519-337-3291 ext. 5900 or toll free 1-866-324-6912 ext. 5900

These services will be available to anyone with a valid Lambton County Library card. To become a library cardholder, call 519-845-3324 ext. 5266 / 1-866-324-6912 ext. 5266 or email librarytechhelp@county-lambton.on.ca.



Office of the County Warden
519-845-0801 | 1-866-324-6912
www.lambtononline.ca



Share your COVID-19 Pandemic Experiences

Lambton County Archives is looking for members of the community to share their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can participate by:

- Documenting and submitting your personal experiences through letters, photos, journal entries or a simple message.
- Donating materials to the Archives for preservation for future generations.

To learn more, submit your experiences or donate materials, please visit: lambtonarchives.ca.

Court Services Department Reopens to Public

The Court Services Department has reopened to the public with limited hours.

You will be able to pay tickets, request an extension or a trial in person from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Court Services Department, located in the Lambton Shared Services Centre at 150 Christina Street North, Sarnia.

For more information, please visit lambtononline.ca/courtservices.

To read more, go to lambtononline.ca

Editorial

Pandemic crossroad

We are at a strange crossroads in this journey through the first world-wide pandemic in 100 years - the point of learning to live with COVID-19 and deciding whether everything should shutdown to avoid death and overwhelming the health care system.

For the most part, life has returned to a semblance of normal with children back in school and the beans coming off the field. If it were not for the constant reminders keep our distance, wash our hands and wear a mask, it might almost seem like the good old days. In Lambton, we're fortunate that COVID-19, for the most part, in the last few months has been kept at bay.

And that's been the case in most of the province until September as people returned to a more normal routine. The problem - at least in the large urban centres anyway - was that routine included socializing in ways that either stretched public health guidelines or simply ignored them completely. And now, Ontario is looking at 400 new cases of COVID-19 a day.

It would be easy for us to say, 'It's in Toronto and Ottawa, why should we have to care?'

We should care because we know how easily and quickly this virus spreads.

We only have to remember the outbreak at Greenhill Produce where over 100 people were ill in the course of a month. It was difficult for each person, but it also deeply affected the business and the community, which became worried about whether COVID-19 would spread to the community.

The province has already tightened the screws to stop this uptick in COVID-19. We don't doubt this will be only the first of many measures in the next weeks.

The new restrictions of smaller private gatherings are annoying and will likely throw a wrench into weddings, anniversaries and Thanksgiving but it's a signal that the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over.

The province has to strike a delicate balance between keeping things open so the economy isn't harmed any further and shutting things like bars down to stop the behaviour which leads to the spread of COVID-19. If the past shows us anything, the government is likely to err on the side of people's health when it comes to COVID-19.

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor.

Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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

The Independent reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity.

All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

Our Story



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POST CARD COLLECTION

This is the general store in Pithole – a very small settlement on the Blind Line north of Petrolia – now called Discovery Line. Most people living there were oil drillers or worked at the Nitro Glycerin plants close by. All the nitro plants exploded over the years and Petrolia expanded to take in this settlement.

Sparkly shoes and finding the good in every day

I put on my sparkly shoes this morning. The high heels are not meant for everyday wear, but they have been sitting in the corner of the bedroom for months, waiting.

I bought the shoes in January though it seems like a lot longer than that. My daughter, Lauren, and I were in a store in London, browsing through overstuffed racks of clothes when we came to the shoe department.

The sparkly shoes were on sale for just \$10. They would go perfect with a dress I had for an awards banquet in April.

I bought them without hesitation, after all, who could turn down a \$10 pair of shoes.

But as the awards event drew closer, the world changed. I needed a comfy pair of sweatpants far more than a sparkly pair of party shoes.

They were in a bag until about July when I finally did some cleaning.

Since then, they've been sitting in the bedroom, twinkling at me every morning, reminding me of where they should have gone and how it could be months before they actually get the outing deserving of their golden splendour.

I glanced at them last night as I went to bed. It had been, despite all of its problems, a good day.

Things at work, while challenging, are stable which is saying a lot right now. I went for a late night bike ride with my son. I had dinner with my family with all the usual banter and talking over each other. And the kids and I stayed up too late watching TV. It was a good day.

As difficult as the last six months have been, there have been many good

days. Oh, there is always something that annoys, but it's rare that a day doesn't have some redeeming value.

But the sparkly shoes, waiting for a special occasion bothered me. It reminded me of what else lies ahead in 2020 - I think we all know this isn't over yet.

So, there in the dark before I slept, I decided to wear the sparkly shoes today for no occasion at all.

Call it an attempt to see the good in every day, the possibility of something special in the ordinary.



Heather Wright

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Canada

Nursing home owner says action taken after ministry investigation

Heather Wright
The Independent

The owner of a Petrolia nursing home cited by the Ministry of Long Term Care for not investigating an allegation of abuse and neglect acknowledged the investigation and says corrective action has been taken.

The ministry sent two investigators to the home for seven days after the family of a resident said their mother asked to go to the washroom and was told to soil herself instead, leaving the senior in tears.

The ministry also found an employee overheard the alleged incident and recorded it in daily notes, but only three days later handed a report to the homes administration.

The ministry - while it didn't verify the abuse had occurred - says the complaint wasn't fully investigated and asked the home to take "voluntary corrective action" to address the issues which go against the ministry and the home's policy of zero tolerance towards abuse and neglect.

The investigators also said the home had breached the Residents Bill of Rights when it failed to arrange a visit with the family and the resident.

The family had not completed COVID-19 tests as required by the

home to have an outdoor visit.

At the time, the province was allowing outdoor visits without being tested for the virus.

The home told investigators the visitors had to pass through the building to reach the outdoor visitation area and therefore required the test. The ministry said an alternative visit was not presented.

In a social media post, Fiddick acknowledged the investigation had taken place saying

"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.

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

Trish Douma, the regional director of the Christian Labour Association of Canada, which represents the workers at Fiddicks, says they were not informed of the incident so she believes a temporary worker from an agency may have been the centre of the ministry investigation.

The Independent asked Fiddick, via email, what actions had been taken and if a temporary worker was involved,

however, through a lawyer, he declined to answer the questions by press time.

And the nursing home operator added in the social media post he stands by his actions to protect residents from COVID-19, even though the ministry found they violated the Residents 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."

The province's directives on setting up visitation for residents does allow nursing homes to use their discretion in scheduling visits and must consider staffing and space available in the home to maintain the safety of residents, staff and visitors.

The director of resident care, in an email dated July 28, told *The Independent* 99 per cent of the families were satisfied with how the home was managing visiting during the pandemic.

Fiddick received support from a number of residents' families online, including Brenda Flatley "I believe Fiddicks has done an outstanding job during this pandemic and before."

Parents allowed to help smallest Mooretown players

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Mooretown Minor Hockey will be starting the season in St. Clair after all.

Association member Geoff Dale told St. Clair Township councillors Sept. 8 "parents have severe concerns about dropping kids off at the rink" without being allowed to go inside to help them.

He said it was unreasonable for younger players to navigate the arena without a parent.

The association asked for one parent per child to be allowed in, but arena staff said they weren't ready for this. They instead said five extra adult volunteers could enter each ice session, and they would revisit the issue at the next meeting.

The association wasn't willing to wait though, and booked ice times for their U9 and younger players on Walpole Island for the Oct. 3-4 weekend.

Dale says within an hour of announcing this, Mooretown staff had reached out to the organization to continue work on a spectator plan.

During council on Sept. 21, Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay said starting Oct. 3 one parent per child will be allowed to attend at the Mooretown complex.

He says this will allow staff "to keep us within our capacity of how many people are going to be in the facility and how they're going to flow through the facility."

"It gives us two more weeks toward getting everybody trained up in using the facility, and our flow and rules of the social distancing, wearing masks, and how the kids are getting on and off the ice safely," says Lindsay.

Following the announcement, the hockey association said their younger age groups will be returning to the Moore Sports Complex ice for the Oct. 3 weekend.

"MTMHA wants to thank township



St. Clair Township officials say one parent will be allowed in the sports complex when the youngest players are on the ice.

staff and council for their work on this, as well as the numerous people that voiced their support throughout," the organization wrote on their website.

"It is very important that we continue to move forward this reopening safely. This will require everyone's patience, understanding and following of the rules and protocol set forth by the arena."

Correction: In the Sept. 17, 2020 edition of *The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton* in the article entitled "Walking 40 years for Terry" Mrs. Barb Stewart was incorrectly identified. *The Independent* sincerely regrets the error and any confusion it may have caused.

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4 WAYS TO HELP AVOID TEXT NECK STRAIN

1. TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS

Take frequent breaks and look up from your device to give your neck some relief from the pressure of looking down.

2. SIT UP STRAIGHT

It's important to sit up straight while texting. This way, you can maintain good posture, relieving your back and shoulders from the strain of being hunched over.

3. HOLD THE PHONE A LITTLE HIGHER

Holding the phone closer to eye level helps maintain a healthy posture and puts less strain on your neck. Consider using a stand for devices, even periodically, to change the way that you hold and look at your device.

4. STRETCH

Be sure to stretch often between long periods of extended use of devices. Put your hands at your sides and rotate your shoulders to relieve tension. You can also tuck your chin down to your neck and then look up. This action helps relieve some of the tension built up in your neck due to the forward-down position we often adopt when looking at our device.

If you do experience pain from device use, consult a chiropractor to assess your specific needs and recommend a treatment plan that's right for you.

www.lambtonchiropractic.ca

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Dr. Rebecca Phillips

519-882-0520

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Critics say Ford needs to stabilize long term care

Pam Wright
Local Journalism Initiative

When it comes to long-term care, Shirley Roebuck thinks Ontario’s Premier should stop crying crocodile tears.

“Doug Ford should be trying to stabilize the workforce in long term care homes,” says the leader of the Chatham-Kent Health Coalition as concern mounts about rising numbers of COVID-19 cases and what impact that will have on long term care.

“Instead the province passed Bill 195 that extends emergency measures, and helps create profits for the owners of private homes.”

Chronic understaffing is widespread, says the veteran health care advocate, creating “horrific” conditions for elderly residents and the people who care for them.

COVID-19 has only exacerbated the problems of a crisis-riddled industry.

In the early days, hundreds of homes across the province were dealing with outbreaks.

By August, the number of cases across the 626 homes dwindled to the point where for weeks there were less than five cases of COVID-19 in the 70,000 people living in long term care homes.

But as the number of cases in Ontario increases - there were four days in the last week with more than 400 cases diagnosed a day - the alarm bells are ringing.

One home in Ottawa is already in outbreak with 17 residents ill and 11 deaths.

In all since the pandemic began, 1,825 long term care home residents have died as well as eight workers.

To stem the spread of novel coronavirus in long term care early on, the Ministry of Health mandated workers to only one workplace. It also allowed employees to be shifted to various roles and hours at the whim of the employer super-ceding union contracts and seniority.

Families, who normally would provide care to the residents were locked out of the home for nearly six months making the situation worse, Roebuck says.

Roebuck says the shortage of qualified workers is compounded by low pay, heavy work and an inability to get full-time jobs with benefits.

A recent report on long term care shows 58 per cent of employees in long term care are personal support workers. “The Tories lean towards supporting for profit businesses and Bill 195 does exactly that,” Roebuck notes.

She says political support for front-line LTC workers isn’t real.

“Before COVID, the sector was already too short-staffed with personal support workers leaving because it’s so hard and so heavy,” the retired nurse says.

Trish Douma, the regional director for the Christian Labour Association of Canada agrees there is not enough hands to do the work in nursing homes across the province.

“The resources simply are not there,” she says.

“The emergency order that requires that workers had to pick one workplace has led to staffing issues in virtually everywhere.”

Douma said she had hoped the move would mean more people would have become full time workers with the

move, but that hasn’t happened.

She believes that happens because many workers took leave to deal with their own family issues during the pandemic.

While the premier has promised to hire more personal support workers across the province, Douma says that hasn’t happened, in part because of the long standing shortage of workers and the fact it takes up to a year to train to be a PSW. Others leave the industry after figuring out it is not for them.

“You need to have a passion for that job...It’s not like learning a skilled trade where, you’re working with material, you’re working with humans. And so if you don’t have a love for humans, then you will have a very hard time being successful in it.”

Douma adds one thing the province could do immediately is reinstate extra money for deep cleaning. That funding ran out at the end of the summer and she says it is a big concern for workers and home operators.

“The government of Ontario has not yet put the supports into place... essential to protect residents and staff,” stated a letter sent to the Minister of Long Term Care from all the organizations representing long term care homes in the province.

Roebuck says as the second wave of COVID-19 inches closer, she wants the ministry to step up. “I’m suggesting the government intercede and properly fund the people that care for our residents in homes,” she adds.

Roebuck doesn’t think the general public understands the full scope of the crisis. “Anyone who works for, or has a loved one in long-term care, has long known there’s a serious problem.”

- The Herald

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Corunna man gets 10 years for brutal axe attack

Alex Kurial
The Independent

Editor’s Note: This story describes a graphic assault

Kevin Martin Simpson will spend a decade behind bars after “viciously” assaulting a man with a hatchet during a July 2018 robbery at a London Line motel.

Simpson, 34, learned his fate in Sarnia’s Superior Court of Justice on Sept. 18. The Corunna man was found guilty in May this year of aggravated assault, break and enter, robbery, possessing a weapon, and disguising his face.

The attack took place in the early hours of July 19, 2018 at the Gables Inn. Simpson, James White and Natasha Brennan, drove to the motel and snuck around the back to a unit where a man was staying with his girlfriend.

Simpson said the man owed him money.

Brennan knocked on the door and when the man answered Simpson immediately struck him in the head with a hatchet.

The man fell to the floor. Once inside, Simpson continued hitting him in the head and body with the axe, while also kicking and stomping on him. “Mr. Simpson continued viciously striking after he was down, incapacitated, and bleeding profusely,” says Justice

Russell Raikes. “There was no warning, and no chance whatsoever to defend himself.

“It was a brutal, sustained, cowardly attack on a defenseless man.”

As Simpson attacked the man, White and Brennan searched the room and grabbed bags of personal items. The victim’s girlfriend was also in the unit but she was left unharmed.

As the three left, Simpson told the man that he should “keep your mouth shut” about the incident.

The man had a fractured skull and almost lost an ear in the attack.

“It seems to me mere luck that the injuries were not more serious, or even fatal,” says Raikes.

Brennan and White were arrested in the days following the incident. Simpson evaded capture for more than a month until he was finally arrested on Sept. 5 following a chase with Sarnia Police and OPP by vehicle and later by foot.

A victim impact statement read to the court showed the attack has left the man with physical limitations from his injuries and says his personality has changed. He is now guarded, anxious and fearful, and says he has difficulty interacting with people. Raikes cited Simpson’s “very troubling history of violence,” the fact he was the principal instigator, the serious and lasting injuries to the victim, the targeted nature of the attack, and the threat to

keep quiet.

“Once in the room, it was Mr. Simpson alone who continued viciously hitting [the victim] several times with a hatchet, and kicked and stomped on him even when it was completely obvious that [the victim] was down, injured, and no threat to anyone,” says Raikes.

Another aggravating factor was that the attack qualified as a home invasion. “This was his temporary residence. He was entitled to be as safe and secure in that room as he would be in an apartment or home.

“That safety and security were grossly violated.”


Simpson was given five and a half years for the aggravated assault and four and a half years for the break and enter. He received one year each on the theft, masking, and weapon charges, which will run concurrent to the 10 year sentence.

With time served Simpson has just under seven years left in prison.

“The degree of moral blameworthiness is very high, and the offenses are very serious,” says Raikes.

“I find that a substantial period of incarceration is warranted in these circumstances.”

Simpson also received a lifetime weapons ban, must submit a DNA order, and cannot contact either his accomplices or the victims while in prison.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Bluewater Power will be held at the

Best Western - Guildwood Inn
1400 Venetian Blvd.
Sarnia, ON N7T 7W6

**Tuesday September 29, 2020
at 7:00 pm,
in the Guildhall Room**

Residents of Bluewater Power’s Shareholder Municipalities are invited to attend!

Please note all COVID related requirements will be in place.

HISTORIC CLIMB



DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters drew a small crowd as they rappelled down Victoria Hall Sept. 17. Four firefighters were part of the training which simulates a rescue situation. Here, Capt. Kevin Pearson makes his way down the tower.

Police look for masked man in Petrolia robbery

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton OPP have released a description of the person involved in the armed robbery of a Petrolia convenience store. Around 5:30 am Sept. 15, a white man in his 20s came into the store when only the clerk was inside. He had a gun. He took some cash and lottery tickets. Police are looking for a white man in his 20s who is about six feet tall and has blonde hair. At the time of the robbery he was wearing a dark hoodie, grey pants, black gloves and a mask as well as white running shoes. If anyone knows anything about the



robbery call the Lambton County at 519-882-1011 or 1-888-310-1122.

Petrolia cuts number of council meetings in 2021

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia councillors have approved a meeting schedule for 2021 and council will meet fewer times than it did this year. It plans 17 full meetings of council throughout the year - seven of which include an education session before the regular 7 pm meeting. In 2020, there were 19 council meetings. That compares with nearby Enniskillen council which meets twice per month throughout the year and Plympton-Wyoming which has bi-weekly meetings and additionally planning meetings each month.

Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley tells *The Independent* while there are several months where council meets only once, there are good reasons for that including conferences which councillors attend and holidays like March Break. There is one meeting a month in January, February, March, July, August, November and December. Loosley adds he can call additional meetings if it is warranted.



Mayor
Brad Loosley

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NOTICE

AUTUMN 2020 FLUSHING OF HYDRANTS AND WATERMAINS

Monday, September 28th – Friday, October 23rd , 2020
7:30am to 4:30pm

The Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) will be flushing water mains throughout the Town of Petrolia, as part of the annual flushing program.

While unlikely, **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.

Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfields St.
Petrolia, Ontario
N0N 1R0
www.town.petrolia.on.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



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

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Borders, fences, railings, shepherd's hooks, walls, cut-stone coping and hedges in or around lots are prohibited.
7. 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

1. 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.
3. Artificial flowers are permitted, provided they are properly maintained and not detrimental to the general maintenance of the Cemetery.
4. 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.

Fresh lessons at Wyoming school

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Featuring fresh air and no walls in sight, John Knox Christian School’s new outdoor classroom has instantly become a favorite of students and teachers.

Outdoor classrooms were touted as one way to provide education during the pandemic. Students would in the open air and not potentially subject to a virus in the indoor air.

So, the school built the outdoor learning centre.

The classroom consists of several benches sitting under a covered wood structure in the school’s backyard. Students take their seats on the homemade benches while the teacher begins the day’s lesson.

“Our teachers were looking for another space to bring their classes and to bring the outside into our learning,” says Marine Lisson, the new principal of the school.

Lisson says the need for extra learning space was realized at the end of last school year when the COVID-19 outbreak closed schools. A combined effort from parents, teachers and community members led to the space being set up in time for the new year.

John Knox students had a part to play as well. The graduating Grade 8 class – as part of their traditional departing gift to the school – worked to donate the benches the students now use.

Lisson says the space can accommodate any type of class, from science and art to reading and writing. There is even a music wall with drums, chimes and tubes.

“The kids love learning outside, and I don’t think until this year we realized the full potential this would offer for our teachers,” says Lisson.

“The vision is that teachers can look through all their subject areas... to come and learn outdoors,” Lisson says. “Our teachers are really being challenged with the different ways that they can use the space.”

The outdoor lessons also provide a welcome break from the mandatory masking rules for Grades 4 and up. “Our senior teachers work really hard to provide a lot of breaks from classrooms and wearing masks,” says Lisson.

The instant popularity has led a push to add additional outdoor classrooms. Volunteer parents are



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Students take their seats as teacher Graham Vanderwoerd instructs a session at the outdoor classroom at John Knox Christian School in Plympton-Wyoming.

currently working on building benches and other required items.

The school is also hoping to add features such as collaborative art displays, and a natural play area for earlier grades.

“We’re really trying to think not just of learning time, but also how this could be used to play during recess for our younger students,” says Lisson.

As for how long weather will allow the outdoor classroom to be used? “There’s no such thing as bad weather, there’s only poorly dressed students,” Lisson jokes.

Rural business boost coming in Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership will launch a marketing campaign to promote rural communities as a good place to do business.

SLEP has been given a \$22,500 grant from the Ontario Rural Economic Development program to showcase “the

value propositions of locating a business in rural Sarnia-Lambton.”

The campaign will include video testimonials from local companies and entrepreneurs, will highlight innovations in agriculture, process and new products.

The province handed out \$3 million the grants which must benefit rural Ontario, have

tangible outcomes and reach beyond one county.

There is another opportunity for RED funding for non-profit organization.

The province will open the grant process for non-profit groups starting Monday.

The applications will be taken for just three weeks until October 9.

Worries over new gathering rules eased in Warwick

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Township had a few nervous families as the province tightened restrictions on private gatherings.

Theresa Klachan, the township’s manager of parks and recreation, says she met with concerned families who planned to use Centennial Hall, but then heard the size of private gather-

ings indoors had been reduced from 50 to 10 people.

Klachan says they were in “a bit of a panic” worried their event which would be in three weeks, would have to change drastically.

But Klachan says the 50 person limit at the township’s halls can remain in place as long as a staff member is present. She plans to have someone on site so the family doesn’t have to

change its plans.

The manager added the new restrictions won’t affect much of the rentals in the township, including the arena and community rooms. The only group which may have to abide by the 10 person limit is a yoga class, says Klachan.

At all other times, township staff will be in the area to monitor that COVID-19 protocols are being followed.

Regulation of Airbnbs on the lakeshore a planning concern

Heather Wright
The Independent

The regulation of Airbnbs seems to be one of the big concerns of Plympton-Wyoming residents.

They had their first opportunity to raise planning concerns as the municipality revises its 10 year-old official plan.

Planner Mary Lou Tanner of NPG - a consultant hired by three municipalities in the region to revise Official Plans - told a handful of residents in Camlachie Sept. 15, this would

be one of many opportunities to raise issues they want address.


Tanner says growth in Plympton-Wyoming has already outstripped the 2031 estimates adding the municipality can now plan in 2040 if it wishes.

One of the concerns raised by both councillors and the public was the regulation of short term rental stays. There are over 20 Plympton-Wyoming listings online. Council has looked at the issue and determined it would be difficult to regulate Airbnbs. But Ed Vandering who lives along the lakeshore, says

something has to be done. Some weekends up to 20 cars on the street and “rowdies” wandering onto his property and using his access to the lake. “Good luck, but I need some help,” he told the planners.

There are four more meetings planned before council is expected to formally discuss the Official Plan in 2021. Residents can take an online survey - found on the municipality’s website - to voice their opinions.

Tanner says planners will also take written submissions.



TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING
CONCERNING PROPOSED
ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Warwick will hold a **Public Meeting on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 3:30 pm** to consider a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended. The meeting will take place electronically using Zoom teleconference and will be livestreamed to the Warwick Township YouTube channel.

THE PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT would amend Warwick’s Zoning By-law 121 of 2012 on lands described as PLAN 6 LOTS 206 TO 210 AND; PARK LOT 10 PLAN 9 LOT 34; LOT 35 LOT 36 LOT 37 (425 Ontario Street) in the Township of Warwick. The purpose of the By-law amendment is to rezone a portion of the property from Residential 1 (R1) zone and to the Residential 1(7) (R1(7)) zone; and to amend the permitted uses and maximum lot coverage within the Residential 1 (7) (R1(7)) zone.

NO OTHER APPLICATIONS have been received at this time.

ANY PERSON may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. **If you wish to participate in the meeting electronically, you must register with the Township Office to receive the login information for the meeting.** You may register by calling 519-849-3926 or emailing info@warwicktownship.ca.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment can be made to the Clerk of the Township of Warwick. Submissions can be provided in person at the Township Office, by mail or by e-mail to info@warwicktownship.ca.


IF A PERSON or public body would otherwise have the ability to appeal the decision of the Township of Warwick to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Warwick before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision. **IF A PERSON** or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Warwick before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

IF YOU WISH to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Amendment, you must make a written request to the Township of Warwick, 6332 Nauvoo Road, RR#8 Watford, ON N0M 2S0.

THE KEY MAP shows more particularly the lands affected.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION about this matter, including information about appeal rights and the proposed Amendment is available for inspection during regular office hours at the Municipal Offices at 6332 Nauvoo Road, RR#8 Watford, ON, N0M 2S0.

DATED THIS 10th DAY OF September, 2020.



Amanda Gubbels
CAO/CLERK
Township of Warwick
6332 Nauvoo Road, RR#8
Watford, ON, N0M 2S0
Telephone: 849-3926
Fax: 849-6136

Sports

Oilers could hit the ice in early October

The Independent

It's hoped that minor hockey players in Petrolia can be back on the ice early next month. "The Town of Petrolia is currently installing the ice which should be ready towards

the end of September," said PMHA President Don Harding in a post on the association website "We are currently aiming towards an early October start date," he added, noting that an exact date is not yet available. Harding says the PMHA will stay within the OHF,

OMHA and Health Canada guidelines. "I can assure you that we will have a season with your child's safety our first priority," he said. The season will start with instructional hockey, eventually moving to three-on-three action, said Harding.

Fryfogle brothers shine in first weekend in Colorado

Bayly Fryfogle is off to a good start with the Denver-area Northern Colorado Eagles of the United States Premier Hockey League.

The Petrolia Minor Hockey product had two assists, including one of the game-winner midway through the

second period, as the Eagles beat the Ogden Mustangs, 4-1 to open the 2020-21 campaign last Friday night.

Fryfogle also drew an assist in a 2-1 overtime win against the Mustangs Sunday.

He played with the Strathroy Rockets

of the GOJHL last season. Meantime, Fryfogle's younger brother Brayden, scored in a 4-0 win by the Eagles on Saturday.

Brayden, also a PMHA alumni, played with the Elgin-Middlesex Chiefs last year.

OHL returning to training camp starting Nov. 15

What the Ontario Hockey League season will look like for the Sarnia Sting and London Knights is now somewhat clearer.

The league - in its Return to Play document - says training camp will start on Nov. 15 with pre-season games

scheduled for the weekends of Nov. 20 and 27.

The 64-game regular season is expected to take place between Dec. 1 and April 29.

The playoffs begin May 2 while the 2021 Memorial Cup, hosted by

either the Oshawa Generals or Soo Greyhounds, begins on June 17.

The league trade deadline and the 2021 Priority Selection (draft) have both been backed up a month to Feb. 10 and May 8 respectively.

Lancer named national scholar

Wyoming's Chantal DeVlugt has been named a National Scholar by the Canadian College Athletic Association.

The award is for proficiency in both collegiate athletics and academics.

DeVlugt had previously been honoured with an OCAA All-Academic award earlier this year. She won a bronze medal in the OCAA women's volleyball tournament with the Windsor-based St. Clair Saints in February.

She led the Saints in both kills and total points this past season.

Weir fourth at Pebble Beach

Mike Weir had weekend rounds of 65 and 69 to finish in a tie for fourth place at the PURE Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach.

The Bright's Grove lefty had seven birdies Saturday followed by five birdies and two bogeys Sunday. He finished at nine under par and moved up 19 spots to 28th place in the standings with earnings of \$274,578 in six events.

Weir finished three shots behind Jim Furyk and Jerry Kelly through 54 holes. Furyk won the trophy on the first playoff hole.



FARM FRESH

Pumpkin Pie with Cookie Crumb Crust



Preparation Time: 20 minutes
Cooking Time: 45 minutes
Serving: 6-8

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) crushed digestive cookie crumbs (about 16 cookies)
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) butter, melted
- Freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) Ontario Milk
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) whipping cream
- 2 Ontario Eggs, lightly beaten
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) packed brown sugar
- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) fresh Ontario Pumpkin Purée
- 1 tsp (5 mL) ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) each ground cloves, ginger & allspice
- 1 tsp (5 mL) salt
- Whipped cream to garnish (optional)

Instruction

Combine crumbs, butter and a few scrapes nutmeg; press firmly over bottom and up side of pie plate at least 8-3/4 inches (22 cm) round. Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven for 8 minutes. Cool on rack.

In saucepan, heat milk with cream just until bubbles form around edge of pan. Combine with eggs, brown sugar, pumpkin purée, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, allspice and salt. Gently pour into pie shell; bake in 450°F (230°C) oven for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350°F (180°C); cook for 25 minutes or until tip of knife inserted into centre

comes out clean.

One small Ontario Pie Pumpkin weighing about 2-1/2 lb (1.25 kg) will yield about 3 cups (750 mL) purée, or enough for 2 pies.

Cut washed and seeded pumpkin into chunks and place in large pot with 2 inches (5 cm) water. Cover and steam over medium heat until tender, about 15 minutes, adding more water to maintain level if required. Let cool; drain well and purée in blender with skin on. Freeze leftover purée in 1-1/2 cup (375 mL) measures for using later.

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or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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But the love and memory
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will never pass away*

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Bruce, Betty, Patty, Todd,
Joe, Shelby, Jake, Tiffany & Jaiden*



COVID-19

IN LAMBTON


Local events that have been cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

CANCELLED EVENTS		
DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
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, Peewee, Batam, Midget Silverstick.org

Card of Thanks

Thank you

The family of the late Trevor K. Taylor would like to thank everyone who offered their sympathy, support and help upon Trevor's passing. Heartfelt thanks to the staff of Denning's Funeral Homes for their abundant kindness and compassion as they guided us through this difficult time.



Roberta, Jennifer and Rebecca

In Memory

In Memory
GARY RAWLINGS
January 3, 1960 - September 3, 2020
A long time resident of Petrolia, passed away at home.

Late wife
LORI (NICKERLS) RAWLINGS
September 26, 1960 - September 26, 2013

Loved and not forgotten

*Brother in law to
Ben & Lynn, Dixie,
Mark & MarLou, Joella,
Shawn, Dennis, Dean
Many nieces & nephews.*

REST IN PEACE



In Memory


In loving memory of a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother
Sandra Lennan
who left us on September 24, 2000

We sit here and wonder how very much
We'd love to talk with you today
There are many things
That we didn't get to say
We know how much you cared for us
And how much we care for you
And each time we think of you
We know you'll miss us too
An angel came and took you by the hand and said
Your place was ready in Heaven, far above...
And you had so much to live for, you had so much to do ...
It still seems impossible that God has taken you
And though your life on earth is past, in Heaven it starts anew
You'll live for all eternity just as God has promised you.
And though you've walked through Heaven's gate 20 years ago,
We are never far apart
For every time we think of you,
We still hear your voice, your laugh,
You're right here, deep within our hearts,
And so very proud to call you our Mother

In loving memory of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather
Wayne Lennan
who left us on September 20, 2018

Looking back with memories upon the
path you trod,
We bless the time we had with you
And leave the rest to God.
He saw you were getting tired,
And a cure was not to be,
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
Please give Mom a big hug from us.

*We miss you Mom and Dad, Love,
Lori, Roger, John, Marion, Paul & Kim, Julie & Chris,
Jenny, Matt & Anissa, Marlena, and Great-grandchildren,
Addison, Brooklyn, Natalie, Nick, Bredan, Morrigan & Seamus*



WANTED

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

Card of Thanks

Card of Thanks

I would like to thank the four girls who came to my rescue on July 21st in front of the Petrolia Post Office after my Bicycle accident. Your kindness and generosity was greatly appreciated.

Marie

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In Memory

WHITING
Howard Franklin
In loving memory of our father, who passed away ,
September 18th, 1967
*Today recalls sad memories
Of our dear father
gone to rest
And the ones that think
of him today
Are the ones that
loved him best.*

Always with love Kim & Lisa

WHITING
Kevin Howard Daryl
In loving memory of our beloved brother, who passed away
September 25th, 2010
*Of all the many blessings,
However great or small,
To have had you for a brother,
Was the greatest one of all,
The family chain
is broken now,
And nothing seems the same
But as God takes us
one by one
The chain will link again.*
Forever in our hearts
Kim, Lisa, Allen,
Kathy, Tracy and Brian

WHITING
Kevin Howard Daryl
In memory of my son, who passed away
September 25th, 2010
*He had a nature you
could not help loving
And a heart that was
purer than gold
And to those who
knew him and loved him
His memory will never
grow cold.*
Love Always Mom

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

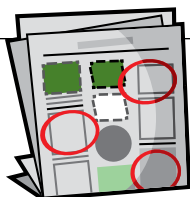
Death Notices

September 14 - September 20, 2020

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 LUDLOW, Victoria Age 23, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home KELLY, Irma "Colleen" Age 73, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home Da SILVA, Madalena Marie Age 77, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home MAZZELLA, Nicola Age 77, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home	HARRIS, Kevin Age 71, of Sarnia Knight Funeral Home HANLEY, Emily Marie Age 92, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 CHURCHILL, Ronald "Ronny" Age 65, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 RIVARD, Randy Age 67, of Alvinston VamHeck Funeral Home SMITH, Betty Age 83, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home MAHEU, Donna Marie Age 80, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 SMITH, Mildred Shirley Age 82, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home FOURNIER, Kathryn Age 70, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 BLUE, Ruth Age 65, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 HASTINGS, Kenneth Age 66, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 HOORNWEG, Hetty Gertrud Age 91, of Forest Denning's of Forest

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

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 Subject: **FREE EVENT LISTING.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Sept 24	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Sept 25	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle, Catch the Ace, 50/50 draw. Cash only limit to 100 People	519-876-2360
Sept 26	7:30 - 12noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Farmers' Market directly behind the Petrolia Library	
Sept 26	8-1pm	Wyoming	Wyoming Legion Bottle Drive. Drop off your empties (Bottles & Cans) at the Legion.	
Sept 26	10-3pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Discovery Artist Day! Walk Through Art Show & Sale. Entrance is by Donation. Masks Required. Cash Only. Rain or Shine.	
Sept 26	10-4pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Discovery Public Tours - 4381 Discovery Line	
Sept 26	1-4pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Jumbo Hot Dogs. Take out or Eat in. Bar Open upstairs. Please follow Covid-19 Protocols.	
Sept 26	5-6:30p	Sarnia	London Road West United Church 39th Annual Fall Feast Roast Beef Dinner - Curbside Pickup & Delivery - PRE-ORDERS ONLY. 519-869-6281, 519-542-2084 or lrwunitedchurch@gmail.com	
Sept 26	8-11pm	Petrolia	Live Music at the Crabby Joe's Beer Garden featuring Jesse Grandmont & Brian Barber. Walk-in crowd only.	
Sept 27	11-5pm	Petrolia	Truckin Mam's Closeout Party 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 collecting non-perishable food 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 Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Oct 2	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle	519-876-2360
Oct 3	7:30-12noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Farmers' Market directly behind the Petrolia Library	
Oct 3	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion Ham & Turkey Thanksgiving Double Meat Raffle & 50/50 Draw	
Oct 3	4-7pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Fish Fry. TAKE OUT ONLY at the Lions Hall. Fresh fish, coleslaw & freshcut fries. \$20. Beers & Coolers available. Cash, debit, credit. Rain or Shine	
Oct 3	12noon - 1pm	Alvinston	Alvinston Ag. Society Car Rally. \$20 per car starting at Munro Honey. \$200 Grand Prize & Door Prizes.	
Oct 3	4:30 - 7:30p	Alvinston	Brooke-Alvinston Agricultural Society Drive-Thru Rib Dinner. 1/2 Rack of Ribs, Baked Potato Coleslaw & Bun. \$25 per meal. Advanced tickets only. Call 519-312-5516.	
Oct 3	Dusk	Alvinston	Brooke-Alvinston Agricultural Society FREE Firework Show at the BAICCC.	
Oct 8	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Oct 9	3:00pm	Forest	Forest Legion Ladies Auxiliary Take out Turkey Dinner, with all the fixings & dessert \$20. Advance orders only. Call Diane 519-786-4516 or Trudy 519-786-2795	
Oct 9	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle	519-876-2360
Oct 10	7:30 - 12noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Farmers' Market directly behind the Petrolia Library	
Oct 10	9am - 12noon	Petrolia	Carved Pumpkin Contest at Victoria Park. Carve it at home & bring it up. Check facebook for more information. Pumpkins will not be returned.	
Oct 10	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle & 50/50 Draw	
Oct 15	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Oct 16	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle	519-876-2360
Oct 17	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle & 50/50 Draw	

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

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

Date: _____
Time: _____
Town: _____
Event Title: _____
Phone # / website: _____

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

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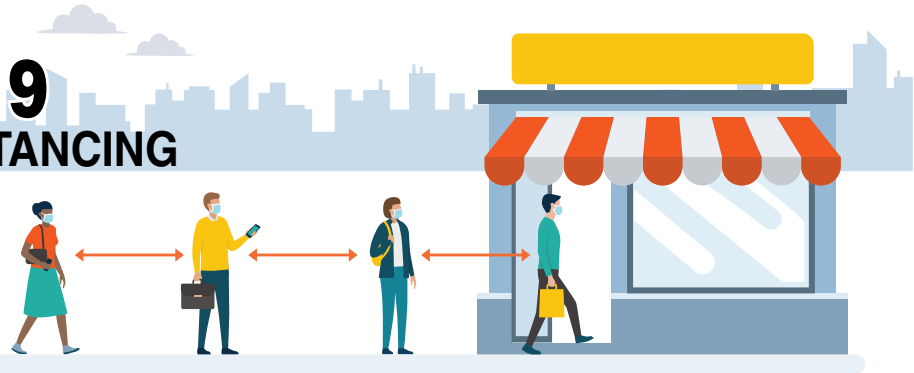
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OTHERS & remember to
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Church DIRECTORY



Christ Church Anglican

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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

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

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia
(Behind the Post Office)

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

St. Paul's United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

We invite you to join a virtual congregation and watch the Sunday morning worship on our Facebook Page & Website.
Please Stay Safe!
Rev. Susan Cameron
10:30am Service
Church Office: 519-882-1390
stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

First Baptist Church

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

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Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
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Wyoming United Church

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Due to the COVID-19 virus will be closed until further notice.
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Lambton to release more COVID-19 data

Heather Wright
The Independent

You will have a better idea if your neighbours have tested positive for COVID-19.

Lambton County Councillors have approved a plan that will see information about COVID-19 in more specific geographic regions with a population around 20,000 people.

On Sept. 2, Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley had asked that each municipality’s numbers reported out. At the time, he suggested it would be helpful information to prove whether mandatory mask bylaws in larger municipalities are effective.

But Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, and several politicians from small communities voiced concern about the idea saying releasing the information would lead to speculation and even identification of people with the virus.

Lambton County already releases some geographic data based on cases in urban (Sarnia and Point Edward) and rural areas. Currently 69 per cent of the cases of COVID-19 have been in urban areas, 31 per cent in rural Lambton.

Sarnia City/County Councillor David Boushy during the Sept. 16 county committee meeting said that shouldn’t be a reason to withhold the information. “If this deadly virus hit me, I want my family, friends, and community to know so I can get support – there is no shame in it...It’s no big deal.”

But Point Edward Mayor, Bev Hand, disagreed. There had been a case in her community of 2,000 but she was only aware of it because it was a close friend. “The family wanted to keep it totally to themselves,” she says. “In a small community, it is hard to keep a secret like that.”

But Sarnia City/County Councillor Brian White says the information will help with complacency

in the communities where people believe the virus isn’t present. “They may not be being terrible people – far from it – but maybe they feel like we can engage in other activities that are less than safe,” he says.

Originally, Bradley wanted each municipality broken out, however councillors agreed to report information in three regions – Sarnia and Point Edward; Petrolia, Enniskillen, Brooke-Alvinston, Oil Springs, Dawn-Euphemia and St. Clair; and then Lambton Shores, Plympton Wyoming and Warwick. The information in Sarnia and Point Edward would be further broken down into groups of 20,000 people.

While the medical officer of health offered up the options, Ranade also warned there is flaws in the idea.

“From a public health perspective, the interpretation of geographic data as being materially connected to current COVID-19 risk is problematic,” he wrote in his report saying the reported numbers will reflect what happened one or two weeks ago.

“Geographic COVID-19 data is vulnerable to the false presumption of risk in a place or setting in which a case was identified, as well as the false presumption of safety in a place or setting in which a case is not identified. Also, the place of residence of a case may not indicate the place of exposure of the case,” he says. For example someone from Lambton may attend a social gathering in London and become ill.

“It is important the public health measures to prevent COVID-19 are emphasized and followed regardless of the geographic distribution of cases in the county,” says Ranade including keeping physical distance, washing your hands and socializing with small groups of people and wearing a mask when it is not possible to keep your distance in crowds.

COMMUNITY CORNER




A Wyoming teen who decided to raise money for the local food banks in the time he normally would have been play sports has hit a home run. Jace McGrail working with Sewlutions in Wyoming, sold sports themed T-shirts to raise money. One read Baseball Strikes out Hunger. McGrail presented Sandra Hartman of the Petrolia Food Bank, pictured here, with \$1,600. The Inn of the Good Shepherd also received \$1,600.

Residents at Mid-Valley Apartments have always donated canned goods to the Petrolia Food Bank. During COVID-19, they started collecting cash instead And the move paid off. This summer, the people in the



apartment complex donated \$2,870 to the food bank and hope to give an additional donation later this year to reach their goal of \$5,000. Over \$4,000 has been collected so far.



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