

## PW fire board wants to make big improvements Woolvett says

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The chair of Plympton-Wyoming's fire board says its working to mend fences, fix problems and keep its volunteers happy.

Plympton-Wyoming Councillor Bob Woolvett says since July, the board has been dealing with multiple issues which have been festering over the past five to 10 years and creating new Safe Operating Guidelines for the department.

Woolvett says the board and members of the Camlachie and Wyoming departments got together after months of turmoil surrounding the firing of three senior firefighters. The meetings also coincided with the stress leave of the current chief, Steve Clemens. He continues to be on leave.

Woolvett says the firefighters brought forward concerns - everything from lack of proper training for a water and ice rescue unit, to not enough medical training for some members and the absences of health and safety committees at both halls.

SEE FIRE PAGE 3

## CAPTURED IN PETROLIA



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Electric Motion Pictures Director Aaron Huggett was behind the camera as actors and real life couple Sam Biskey and Siobhan Cooper shared an emotional moment during the filming of *The Ace and The Scout*. Huggett and his team were behind Victoria Hall Saturday on the second last day of filming for the fourth installment of his series *Heroes and Outlaws*. See more on the story on page 6.

## Petrolia proposes no tax increase while increasing spending 5.38 per cent

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia politicians are pleased to hold the line on taxes for 2021.

But it is not holding the line on spending to do it.

Mayor Brad Loosley says municipal staff made the work of council easier by proposing to hold taxes at the same level while spending \$107,000 in new tax dollars and an anticipated \$200,000 surplus from 2020.

Town council held about four-and-a-half hours of budget hearings Oct. 14 going over the proposed \$5.865 million operational and \$1.7 million

capital 2021 budget and has basically agreed with the proposed road map which will not increase municipal taxes this year.

Even though taxes are not being raised, Loosley says there are plenty of projects which move the municipality forward.

He says reconstructing Greenfield Street will be an important project in 2021. Loosley says the street is highly used and in need of repairs. "The storm (sewer system) is worse than we thought, water, all of the services need to be replaced along there," he says noting there had been a couple of failures of the services there over the past couple of years.

"This was not easy," Brad Loosley told councillors "but some of our residents have been severely impacted by COVID-19 and not increasing rates will help them get through 2021."

Council did not alter the document much. Council added \$15,000 to replace sidewalks – \$50,000 in all will be spent there. It cut \$15,000 out of council's conference budget noting many conferences are likely to be online this year. It also took \$5,000 out of the legal budget. And an unforeseen expenditures line in the budget was also cut in half. The fund was created by the last CAO six years ago, allowing

him to make quick decisions on emergency items without council approval. In six years, it has never been used. That fund now stands at \$20,000.

In all \$30,000 was taken out of the budget - that's about a half of one per cent of the budget.

There has also been new revenue into this years budget, according to CAO Rick Charlebois. The town will collect \$107,000 more in taxes simply because the value of housing in the town (property assessment) has increased, according to Loosley. The Ontario Municipal Partner Fund grant Petrolia receives is also up \$27,600 this year.

The town will also come in about \$200,000 under budget by the end of 2020, according to Loosley. "A one per cent increase in taxes is approximately \$57,000 dollars. With the projected increase in assessment and projected surplus at the end of the year, it would result in \$107,000 plus \$200,000 for a total of \$307,000 dollars or approximate 5.38 per cent increase in spending in 2021."

*The Independent* asked the mayor and two councillors whether there had been any consideration to try to reduce spending because of the economic pressures on families and businesses due to COVID-19.

SEE PETROLIA PG 2

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# Petrolia 2021 spending up

## CON'T FROM PG 1

“I think council just felt, you know, they were pretty happy to come back in with a zero percent,” says Loosley. He adds council did look at staffing levels in January, long before the pandemic began. A report came to an in camera meeting Jan. 14 and minutes from the meeting show council decided to take no action on it.

Councillor Ross O’Hara also felt council did “a good job” noting Petrolia “still has a little more money to spend than last year because of the increased assessments. I guess, if you want to reduce it, you’re cutting a service or cutting a piece of equipment that we’re buying ... I was satisfied with the outcome.”

Councillor Wade Deighton also called the budget without a tax increase “pretty positive...We wanted to hold our taxes anyway, I think we have high enough taxes, regardless of COVID, but I think COVID adds a degree to that we work a little harder to try and trim wherever we can to make sure that we’ve got a status quo as far as taxes go for our constituents.”

A public meeting will be held on the budget in November with council expected to approve it during its December meeting.

### The 2021 budget also includes:

A two-per cent wage increase for everyone employed by the town, including council.

A new \$25,000 line for promoting the downtown. Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communication, says the town has been working on a new Petrolia Business Association, which they had hoped to launch this year. The money will be used to support businesses for marketing, promotions, and local events. “We are looking closely at the economic recovery of our downtown and the sustainability of such businesses for this economic down turn.”

Public works will spend \$275,000 on a new plow truck. It replaces a 2004 Freightliner says Mike Thompson, director of operations. “It’s a safety concern.”

Mayor Loosley questioned whether it was needed this year. Councillor Joel Field says it was first scheduled to be replaced in 2016, then again in 2018. “We’ve deferred for a couple years now just because Mike was trying to get some little extra life out of it,” says Field.

Deighton agreed. “If we don’t buy these on the schedule that we’ve set out for ourselves ... it’s all going to snowball on us at once and we’ll have extra expenditures later on. We have this in a plan, let’s try and stick to that plan.”

Public works will spend \$175,000 – after trade ins – on a Kubota trackless mower which was recommended by a consultant earlier this year who said it would be a time saver.

For now, the cost of setting up the compost transfer station on Maud Street – \$54,500 – is still in the budget. Council is set to discuss it further Oct. 26.

Council set aside \$1.846 million for the reconstruction of Greenfield St. \$1.14 million is for roads and \$750,000 is to replace the water and sewer works beneath the surface.

The town has already engaged MIG Engineering on a contract worth over \$100,000 for the drawings for the project. CAO Rick Charlebois says the federal and provincial governments will be announcing a new infrastructure programs soon.

There is \$50,000 set aside for grant preparation at Victoria Hall. Ellsworth says the money will be used to have architectural and engineering studies completed to make the playhouse portion of the hall more accessible.

“One of those things is additional elevator for passengers to access the balcony in the back of the main floor,” she told council. “The other ... would be additional bathrooms on a main floor level for accessibility...And (we’re) looking at a freight elevator to replace the existing scissor lifts in the back to access the third floor stage area.”

The town had been looking for grant money for a similar study and the \$9.2 million renovation and addition to the historic hall last year, but failed to get federal, provincial and county grants for the project.

Another \$45,000 has been set aside for an information sign at Victoria Hall. Ellsworth says it was supposed to be completed in 2020 but has been put over to 2021. She says it needs to be completed in the coming year.

“It’s unfortunately rotting literally off the ground right now...We are looking at sponsorship for that but if we do not obtain sponsorship, I feel that the sign is going to rot before too long, so we put \$45,000 aside.”

Petrolia’s contribution to the St. Clair Conservation Authority is expected to go up to \$51,500 in 2021, up by \$3,619 or seven per cent.

Total operational spending is up \$317,041 in 2021 when compared to the 2020 budget figures. Councillors did not have an accurate view of what actually was spent in 2020 since two-and-a-half months of spending has yet to occur.

The only place the town’s operational spending decreased for 2021 is in the cemetery by \$4,144.

The town’s departments which have increased spending this year include Planning and Development, which is up \$15,249 because of increased development.

General Administration will go up \$21,295. The salary line decreased by about \$37,000 as the town filled a maternity leave with a part-time employee. Most of the increase was for maintenance and repairs at Victoria Hall and a \$35,000 increase for custodial services to meet COVID-19 standards.

Facilities Maintenance is up \$13,459, Protective Services (policing) up \$44,951, Fire increases \$13,595, Public Works is up \$18,315, the Community Centre increases \$61,531, Arena is up \$87,916, Parks and Recreation is up \$18,188, Community Events up \$11,650, and Marketing up \$3,198 to \$145,310. That does not include the \$25,000 set aside in the capital budget for downtown promotions.

The budget also shows \$6.6 million in reserves. By the end of 2020, the town will have \$8.46 million in debt.

Council holds a public open house on the budget Nov. 9 at 6 pm virtually.

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# Fire board chair committed to changes in PW department

CON'T FROM PG 1

Some of the concerns include firefighters obtaining their DZ licence to drive the trucks.

Woolvett says under the fire code it is permissible for firefighters without the licence to drive to a fire to get equipment there, but not back.

“We said yourself as a fire board member; ‘What would the insurance companies think of this?’he says. Woolvett says they decided to “take the high road” and make sure everyone driving had the right licence. He says 75 per cent of the firefighters have now obtained those licences.

The fire board, through the acting chief, has also suspended all training of the water and ice unit. The boat and equipment were purchased in the last year and Woolvett says the idea was some firefighters would be trained and then train others. However, until a third party trainer can be found: “Nobody is doing any of that fire rescue until everybody is certified.”

The same goes for Hazmat procedures, grain elevator rescues and technical rescues.

Woolvett says the department is also looking for third party trainers for those specialities.

Woolvett says there was a lot of concern that a Joint Health and Safety Committee was not in place at either department. He says in the past, firefighters had been reluctant to take the intensive training necessary to become a certified member of the board.

The fire board chair says on Monday, both Wyoming and Camlachie have committees up and running, although people are still taking training.

Firefighters also voiced concern that some members didn’t have enough training for medical calls. Woolvett says the standard will now reflect the need to have the training specified by WSIB and the base hospital credentials. Woolvett says those who don’t have those yet will not be answering medical calls.

Woolvett added that while there were significant problems, he believes the department was acting safely in the last few months.

The Safe Operations Guidelines also call for setting up Peer-to-Peer support, something that has been missing for months.

One of the three firefighters dismissed was a peer councillor.

The plan also outlines the need for help for PTSD, for a clear Code of Conduct, a way to complain when there is a violation, including in the case of sexual harassment. One of the firefighters fired by the department says she was the victim of sexual harassment.

Woolvett says the board wants to have clear expectations and clear lines of communication.

Woolvett says in the past few years, that has been lacking. “People have to know what’s going on, and not be afraid to speak up.”

Woolvett says the fire board is committed to make things better after

many years of miscommunication and confrontations.

“We’ve been having problems within the fire department going back long before that dismissal happened.

“You know, as well as I do, way back when we decided to have a full time chief, there was issues around that - there was issues around who got hired and who didn’t get hired.

“There was all kinds of issues before that, too.”

But he admits the dismissal of the three firefighters and the public outcry about it, brought the matter to a head.

Woolvett says it will take some time to deal with the issues at hand.

And he’s not sure what role Chief Clemens will play when he returns to work.

“That’s a really tough question to answer,” says Woolvett.

“I don’t want to get into what happened with or without him. But, you know, things are rolling along here.

“We are addressing this stuff. All this stuff...basically was all put together since he’s been off sick, so yeah, I mean, once again, these problems have been adding up for a long time, even before he came on the scene.”

Woolvett says the fire board is just looking to improve the situation.

“Because we have utmost respect for fire men and women in our fire department ...we want to get that improved and we don’t want to look back...because those who dwell in the past certainly ruin that future.”

# New ‘fair’ deal cuts Dawn-Euphemia’s fire costs

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston and Dawn-Euphemia have come to a new agreement on fire service.

And it will see Dawn-Euphemia’s cost for services from Brooke Fire Rescue fall almost eight per cent.

Earlier this year, when Brooke-Alvinston decided it would not have an Inwood Hall anymore, Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad suggested the township’s own department take over the

area Inwood had covered in the past. That saved thousands of dollars since a single call was costing the municipality over \$26,000 per call.

But that was only part of the problem.

Broad says his municipality was simply paying too much for the service provided by the Alvinston department near Florence and Shetland.

So, the fire board took a look at what could be done. They decided to base costs for fire service coverage on a

weighted assessment. Much of the area covered is farmland and doesn’t have as many calls, Broad says. The result will be significant savings for Dawn-Euphemia.

In 2020, the township paid over \$92,000 for fire service and support of the Inwood Hall - about 18 per cent of the whole Brooke Fire Service budget.

In 2021, it will be just over \$35,000 - or 9.6 per cent.

Broad calls it a “fair deal” for all the municipalities involved.

# New Watford development likely to be ready by 2021

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Construction on a new 19 lot subdivision is expected to begin in the spring of 2021.

Warwick council recently approved a zoning amendment for a numbered company to allow the 19 single family

homes. We’re just now learning about what is in store.

Officials with the development say they noticed the success of the Scenic Court development in Watford and say it proved there is high demand for rural town living. Officials say the cost of living in small towns is one of the main drivers of the demand.

The homes are expected to be between 1,200 and 2,000 square feet on the former home of the Watford school.

The developer says he has not decided yet whether it will be completed in phases. That will likely depend on demand. He expects the homes will be ready for use in the fall of 2021.

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# Editorial

## Will governments ever cut spending?

Petrolia council has completed its budget and it looks like taxpayers won't have to pay any more in 2021. With the people of Petrolia paying the highest tax rate in all of Lambton County - including Sarnia - that's the good news.

But here's the other side of the story; once again, municipal government spending isn't going down. By the mayor's own admission, the town is spending 5.38 per cent more in 2021 than it did in 2020. "A one per cent increase in taxes is approximately \$57,000 dollars. With the projected increase in assessment and projected surplus at the end of the year, it would result in \$107,000 plus \$200,000 for a total of \$307,000 dollars or approximate 5.38 per cent increase in spending in 2021," he told councillors before they spent four hours going through the document.

Council did make some changes. It took out money for conferences which likely would cost much less in 2021 as everything goes virtual for a while. Council also deserves partial credit for removing half of a \$40,000 fund controlled by the CAO for emergencies. It's been in the budget for six years and has never been used. It has always been a slush fund and it should be eliminated completely. Especially in light of the fact the town will have a \$200,000 surplus - during a pandemic when revenues are dropping. It's mind blowing.

Is that just because Petrolia knows how to manage so well? Certainly staff deserves credit for ensuring municipal taxes don't increase, but that fat \$200,000 surplus shows the town has for some time had excess cash in the budget. For years, it has been putting surpluses into the capital funds; not a bad place for them but the best place would have been your pocket.

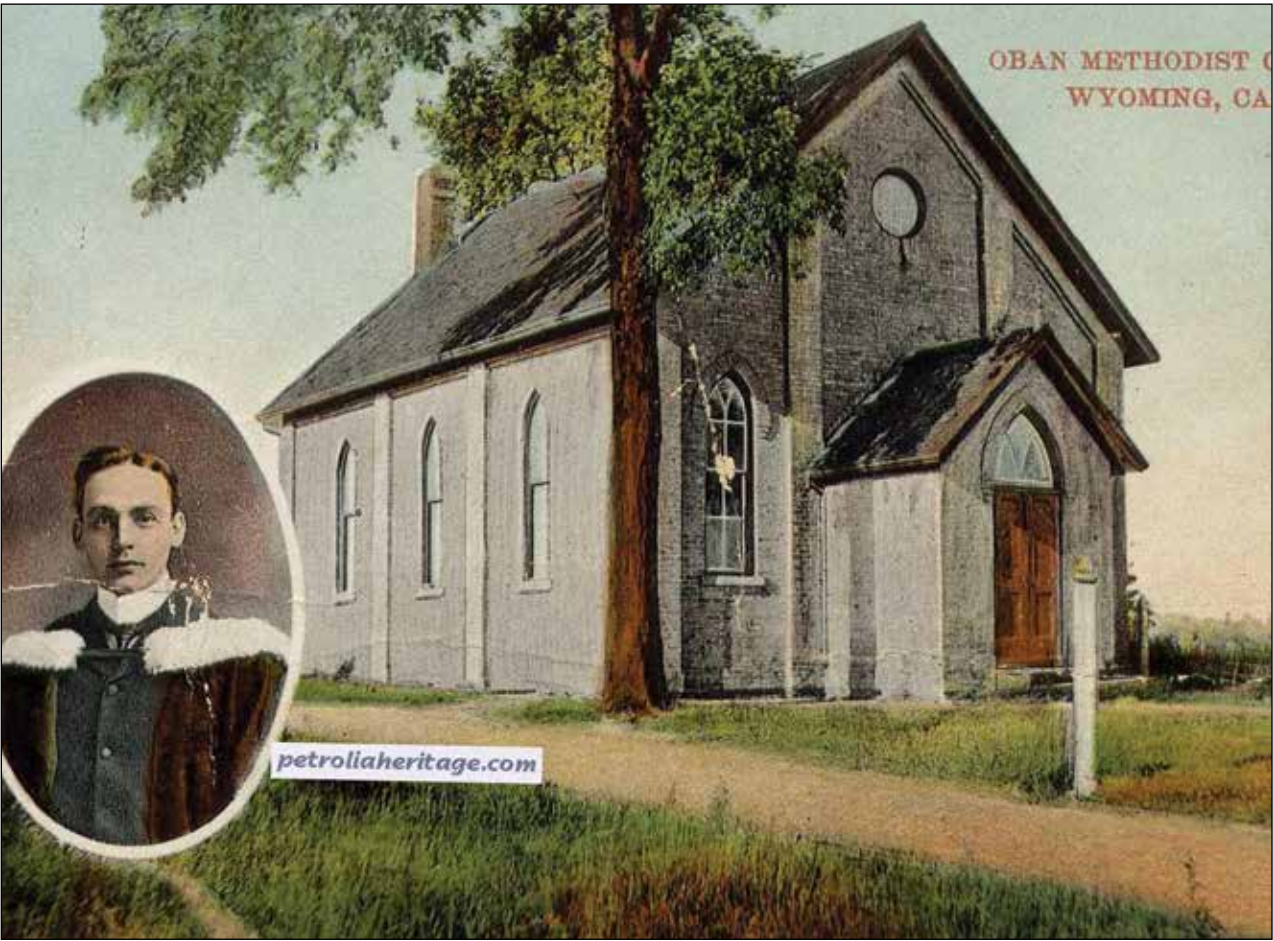
The world is going through a massive economic shift, people have lost jobs, have less work, some wonder where their next meal is coming from. Councillors shouldn't have just held the line, they should consider those struggling to pay taxes and looked seriously at the level of services it provides. Surely some savings could have been found. Something to show that we really are all in this together.

If municipal governments don't see the need to reduce spending now, when people could really use 5.38 per cent back on their taxes, they never will.

## 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



The Oban Methodist Church in Wyoming is seen in this photo. It's believed the inset is the pastor of the church although he is not identified.

## Tired of trying to figure out the whys during COVID-19

There has been a great hue and cry about the provincial government's recommendation for families in the Greater Toronto Area and Ottawa to keep their kids home for Halloween.

The premier and the province's chief medical officer of health says in communities where there are a lot of people with COVID-19, going door-to-door to gather candy is not the best idea and recommended against it.

Doug Ford gamely offered up a few ideas, like parties at home with your family or a candy hunt. But, it doesn't seem his suggestions were welcome.

Reporters wondered why kids could go to school with hundreds of others, but not go trick or treating. They asked why - if COVID-19 spreads with close contact over a longer period of time - would asking for candy at a door be dangerous.

And they asked again about why the province is allowing things like dance classes but not the time honoured tradition of begging for tiny chocolate bars and Halloween kisses.

It was a full court press on the government for ruining some fun and at face value, the outrage seems a bit much to me. Full disclosure; even as a kid, I wasn't really a big fan of Halloween. Let me rephrase that; I wasn't jazzed up about getting on a costume and going door-to-door - I was only in it for the candy. So I admit, perhaps my view is different than many people's.

But, I think the issue is about more than yet another tradition flushed down 2020's giant COVID-19 toilet; it's about our difficulty understanding why some things are permitted and some things are not as public officials

try to contain the virus in our province. And I have to admit, I, too, wonder sometimes about the reasoning behind some of the decisions.

At this point, I've decided not to try to understand why, but instead to look at the risks I face and what I'm comfortable doing and move on. There is so much going on right now, there are too many new suggestions each day, that it becomes tiring trying to figure out the whys of everything.



Heather Wright

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Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

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# Opinion

## Reader questions columns facts; calls for the truth

**EDITOR:**  
I received my copy of *The Independent* for the week of October 15, 2020, upon reading your opinion piece (*Trump’s catastrophic failure of leadership and empathy*) I was a little disappointed. I believe in free speech and consider it one of the greatest freedoms we have but I also believe in truth.  
You stated that the USA had the highest death rate per capita in the world. I’m not sure of what is your source of information.  
According to Worldometer dated Oct. 15 shows the USA with 672 deaths per one million in population, not even in the top 10. (*Editor’s Note, the reader notes Brazil, Spain, Peru, Mexico,*

*France, Iran, Chile, the Philippines, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Romania all have higher rates in the category according to the data on Worldometer.*)  
It’s amazing that Trump is condemned for lacking empathy and leadership. I have found over the years that looking at myself before judging others has helped me to bite my tongue many times. As for leadership it’s unfortunate that so many of these experts remained hiding in their basement when the virus was first detected.  
It’s even more amazing that Trump was criticized for the care he was given.  
I checked some of your earlier

papers to see if you found the same criticizing for Boris Johnson of the UK.  
We should be concerned about the well being of all people. Yes this pandemic will pass.  
Trump love him or hate him he deserves the truth. The truth should not be suppressed by the media. How can we ever put trust in what we need.  
**Ina Mae McVicar  
Alvinston, ON**  
*Editor’s Note: Using the reader’s data source - Worldometer - which shows 226,032 deaths in the US since the pandemic began, the columnist stands by her opinion the US president has shown a lack of empathy for those who have died of COVID-19.*

## OPP board wants St. Clair to pay Street Crime Unit’s rent

**Alex Kurial**  
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair Township and the Lambton Police Services Board are at odds over who should be paying the bills for OPP office space in Corunna.  
The OPP satellite detachment on Lyndoch St. – a building shared with St. Clair Fire and Rescue Service – is home to uniformed officers and the Community Street Crime Unit.  
Under a lease agreement running through 2026 the police board pays more than \$90,000 a year in rent and about \$16,000 in cleaning fees.  
But in a letter sent to the township at the end of August the board says they “will not be able to continue paying rent to St. Clair Township at the present level” after 2020.  
The letter cites COVID-related issues, including losses of \$50-60,000 in revenue from criminal record checks now going to the provincial instead of municipal level, and increased cleaning costs.  
That is not sitting well with St. Clair Mayor Steve Arnold. “It really came out of left field. I thought we had a good relationship and everything was working out well,” he says.  
Arnold says St. Clair offered the space to the OPP more than a decade ago when they were seeking to expand the Petrolia detachment but couldn’t secure provincial funding. The township worked with the OPP to meet sev-

eral necessary architectural specifics, including a sally port entrance, holding cells and gun lockers.  
Now, the police board says St. Clair should be covering the rent and cleaning costs.  
Arnold says that the space has always been an extension of the Petrolia detachment and was unclear why the board referred to St. Clair as the host municipality. He says the hosts are the rural area of Lambton County since all municipalities (aside from Sarnia and Point Edward) split OPP costs.  
“All of a sudden they think that St. Clair is the host municipality. Well if it is, then we need to be independent,” Arnold says.  
This would mean St. Clair would adopt a model like Point Edward where they use OPP services, but have their own police services board and set their own budget.  
Arnold is not a fan of the independent approach but says it looks like that’s the board’s goal.  
“It feels like the chair is trying to force us out by trying to take this stand saying you’re the host municipality,” says Arnold. “If that’s the stance he’s taking, then obviously they don’t want us in the group.”  
Arnold says it is the group that benefits from St. Clair’s membership. The township’s OPP costs for 2021 estimate to be around \$2.3 million. This accounts for a little over 25 per cent of Lambton’s Police Services Board budget. The township’s contribution – second only to Lambton Shores – left Arnold surprised the board would seek to abandon their approximate \$105,000 bill on the Corunna facility.  
The timing of the letter was another cause for concern says Arnold, since the township just agreed to a new five year contract with the OPP in December.  
“That action seems very deceitful for a police services board to behave in such a manner to one of its largest financial contributors,” Arnold wrote in a reply to the board.  
“If St. Clair Township knew that the police services board wanted to discontinue the relationship... it should have been informed prior to the new agreement being signed.”  
The township is waiting to hear back from the police board. Arnold is hoping an agreement can be reached to keep the OPP in Corunna, saying its location offers strategic access both to St. Clair and the county.  
Arnold also says he doesn’t believe there is anywhere else the OPP could go to find the same facilities at the current cost of the Corunna office. But he says the township will have no problem filling the space if the board decides to move on.  
“We have people that have approached us to have space in that building. The building’s not going to sit empty, that’s for sure.”  
*- The Independent*

## Three Lambton schools affected by COVID-19 this week

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Three schools in Lambton are now reporting cases of COVID-19.  
The operations of only two of the schools – both elementary schools – have been affected.  
Oct. 13, the Lambton Kent District School Board notified families of students in two Col. Cameron classrooms one student tested positive for COVID-19. The classes were told to stay home and isolate until Oct. 22.  
Oct. 14, the board confirms another case at Bright’s Grove Public School. Two classes have also been told to self

isolate there.  
Director of Education John Howitt says there are now 92 students in total isolating at home and learning online.  
“All of our face-to-face learning classrooms have an online learning presence. If public health does dismiss a class, we can quickly pivot,” he says.  
And there is another case at Northern Collegiate in Sarnia, however, Howitt say the person had not been in school for the past two weeks so the diagnosis has not affected the school at all.  
The director adds while it has been stressful, the board and the schools are handling the situation as well as could be expected.

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# Sharp increase in COVID-19 cases in Lambton a ‘heads up’ says MOH

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

After weeks of relatively few confirmations of COVID-19, Lambton now faces 11 cases of the virus including two outbreaks – one at a Sarnia nursing home, one at a business

Lambton’s medical officer of health calls it a “heads up” for the community.

Twin Lakes Terrace nursing home in Sarnia has declared an outbreak. Two staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. “Twin Lakes has all precautionary measures in place ensuring the health and safety of our residents and staff and are based on both provincial and local recommendations,” says Carole Alexander, vice president of long term care for Steeves & Rozema which own’s Twin Lakes.

“Essential visitors and caregivers continue to be permitted into the home and must comply with active screening measures, and those who fail screening or who refuse screening will not be permitted to enter,” she added in an email to *The Independent*.

There is also a workplace outbreak with three people who have the virus. The employees of the business have been told to self isolate. Public health doesn’t release the name of the workplace unless it needs to reach people who may have been exposed to the virus although Sarnia’s emergency group says the outbreak was in the city limits.

Three schools have reported COVID-19 cases; with about 92 people self isolating.

A total of 11 people were listed as ill with COVID-19 Tuesday. There have been 363 cases in

Lambton since the pandemic was declared.

Dr. Sudit Ranade is not surprised. “We’re now expecting that we will be seeing more cases, that we will be seeing more transmission in the community and so it’s kind of like a heads up.

“Where once upon a time, months and months ago, we would have had six or seven cases, and many of them would have had very limited exposures, now, because more and more things are open, you see more and more potential contacts for any given case, because people are doing more things...that has led to the need to contact a lot of people and isolate a lot of people for any one given case.”

Ranade says as they investigate, they find the cases are connected through socializing. “We want you to start reducing your unnecessary

social contacts, reducing the non-essential things that you do,” he says adding that will help limit the spread of COVID-19.

And he’s also asking people who do get a call from public health contact tracers to be honest about where they have been. Ranade says people know what the current guidelines are and may be reluctant to say what they have been doing beyond that.

“It’s a technical kind of term that we use, social desirability bias, so when we ask people questions, you tend to get answers that people feel like you want to hear.”

But the MOH says if people do not tell contact tracers about where they have been and who they have been in contact with, public health won’t be able to determine if others were exposed.

Ranade says everyone is tired of COVID-19 but he doesn’t

think Lambton residents have abandoned the public health guidance to stop the spread of the virus.

“I think that people here are doing the same things that people in the rest of Ontario are doing, which is socializing to greater degrees. And I think that that’s why more and more of us are going to start talking about pulling back on those socializing behaviors, especially if they’re not linked to an essential activity, like work or school.”

Ranade says that while the spike in cases may be alarming to some people, he reminds people to “keep doing the (public health measures) that we’ve been doing, but recognize that because other things are open any one case results in a larger number of contacts than we would have usually had.”

## New map gives bird’s eye view of where people who had COVID-19 live in Lambton

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Lambton residents can get a better idea about where people who tested positive for COVID-19 live.

Lambton Public Health now has a case map online to show generally the area people who have tested positive for the virus call home.

The map is broken into five regions – including two rural regions, one of St. Clair, Dawn-Euphemia, Enniskillen, Brooke-Alvinston, Oil Springs and Petrolia, and the other in Warwick, Plympton-Wyoming and Lambton Shores.

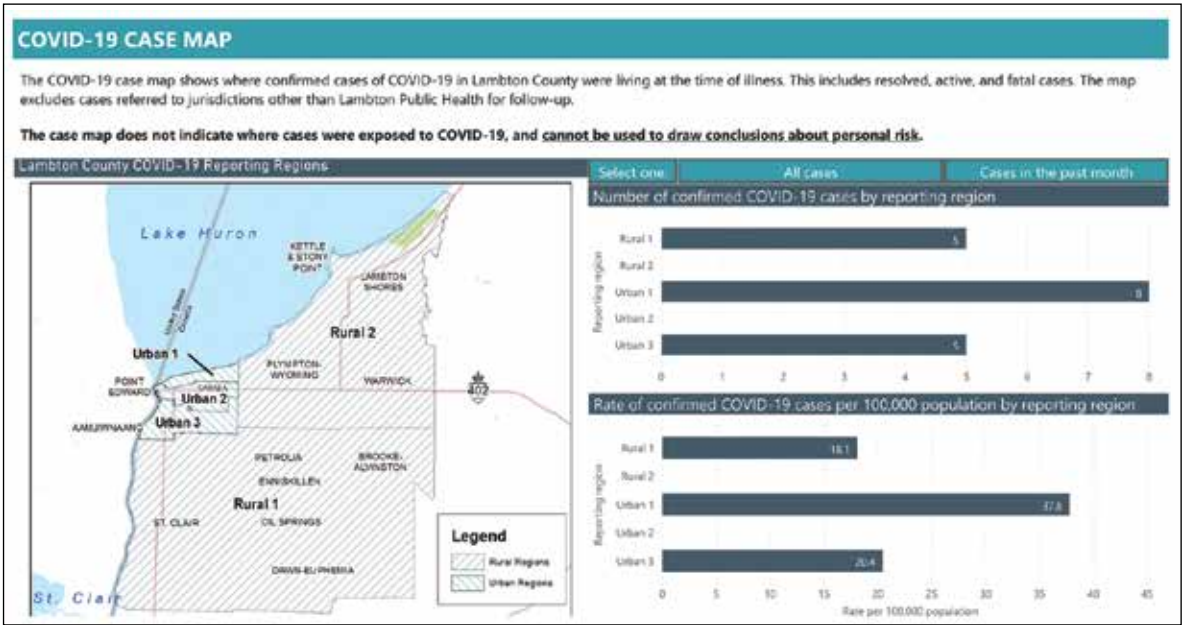
Lambton County councillors asked for the enhanced reporting in September. Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley wanted cases reported in individual communities, but public health said that was too great of a risk that people with the virus would be identified particularly in

small towns. Instead, the regions are created to have between 21,000 and 27,000 people in them.

The urban regions have had the most cases, according to the case map which rolled out Tuesday. Of the 365 cases in Lambton, 252 were in the three urban areas in Sarnia and Point Edward, or about 69 per cent.

The case map comes with a couple of warnings. Public health officials say it shows where people with confirmed cases of COVID-19 were living but not where they were exposed to the virus. It also bears a warning that the map cannot be used to draw conclusions about personal risk.

Public health officials remind people to continue to practice good public health safety measures by limiting social interactions, practicing physical distancing, wearing a mask when you cannot or are required to do so, washing your hands frequently, and staying home if you are sick.



Lambton Public Health launched a Case Map Tuesday as part of the data it produces on local COVID-19 statistics. Lambton County councillors asked for the information in the fall. Public health officials have a warning on the map which recommends people should not use the information to draw conclusions about risks in the community.

## Movie magic in the middle of a pandemic

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Aaron Huggett knew making *The Ace and the Scout* was going to be much more difficult than his last three films. And that was before the world-wide pandemic hit.

Electric Motion Pictures wrapped up the filming of the World War I story of two privates who are influenced and inspired by two great Canadian heroes of the day - Billy Bishop and Francis Pegahmagabow, a legendary Anishnaabe sniper.

Huggett says as a child, he visited the Billy Bishop museum and was inspired by the flying ace.

As he thought through his Heroes and Outlaws series - which includes Black Donnellys and Red Ryan - Huggett knew creating a World War I film which runs about 45 minutes in length would be tough. There was lots of material to read, but he says much of it was

propaganda.

“Both of those sides were significantly changing the facts that were reported, to suit their propaganda... from there we knew we had a story, and we decided, ‘let’s try to tell it down the middle and try to search through the propaganda and find the actual facts.’”

That’s when he came upon the story of Francis Pegahmagabow and worked with his grandson to incorporate the sniper into his film.

Huggett had also contacted a group in Guelph - The Great Canadian Flying Team - which would help with the air sequences.

He’d planned to bring his crew together to transform property he owns in Lambton into the battle grounds, and then the world began to change as COVID-19 took hold.

“Things changed in the spring when social distancing became a big priority and we couldn’t bring a team of people together to build it. So, we ended up kind of chip-

ping away at it,” he says.

Huggett says they also needed a plan to keep the actors safe. Since *The Ace and The Scout* was one of the first films in Ontario to get back to work during the pandemic, much of the safety protocols they developed on their own. And there was a point, he says, when they wondered if it would work. But Huggett says one actor on a Zoom practice reminded everyone that “it’s still nothing compared to what these guys dealt with in the trenches, and the challenges that they had.”

Huggett says they had two people on set at all times just to deal with any issues surrounding COVID-19. He says they would “solve one problem at a time and identify risk and identify our mitigations then, and just keep working through them.”

It’s not lost on Huggett how much the pandemic we’re in now is reflected in the film. It takes



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Petrolia singer and actor, Michael Vanhevel, stands above the crowd as Electric Motion Pictures shoots *The Ace and The Scout* behind Victoria Hall Saturday.

place in 1918 and much of the spread of the Spanish flu - the last pandemic - spread through soldiers returning home.

Huggett noticed the parallels after seeing a photo of a nurse and recognizing it wasn’t a battlefield scene but a picture from Canada.

“It’s people trying to reduce the spread of the Spanish flu.”

Huggett and his team will now spend months editing and producing the film.

He hopes *The Ace and The Scout* will be ready for its premier in November 2021.



# Fall Home Improvement

## Getting ready for the cold winter months

The leaves are turning and the nights are getting cooler; that means it is time to get your home ready for the winter. But where to start? Here's some ideas of how to make your home winter-ready.

### Exterior Fixes

- ☛ Regularly clean gutters and downspouts. Make sure all drainage areas are unblocked by leaves and debris. Consider installing gutter guards.
- ☛ Use a screwdriver to probe the wood trim around windows, doors, railings and decks. Use caulk to fill the holes or completely replace the wood.
- ☛ Lower humidity and cooler temperatures make fall a good time to paint the exterior of your home.
- ☛ Inspect your roof or hire a professional to examine your roof for wear and tear. If the shingles are curling, buckling or cracking, replace them. If you have a lot of damage, it's time to replace the entire roof. Also, check the flashing around skylights, pipes and chimneys. If you have any leaks or gaps, heavy snow and ice will find its way in.
- ☛ To prevent exterior water pipes from bursting in the cold, turn off the valves to the exterior hose bibs. Run the water until the pipes are empty. Make sure all the

- water is drained from the pipes.
- ☛ Wrap water pipes that run along exterior walls with heating tape. It will save energy and prevent them from freezing.
- ### System Maintenance
- ☛ Clean and replace filters in your furnace or heating system. Contact a licensed heating contractor to inspect and service your gas heater or furnace to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
  - ☛ If you use a hot water system for heating, drain the expansion tank, check the water pressure, and bleed your radiators.
  - ☛ Check the attic to make sure the insulation is installed properly. The vapor barrier on insulation should face down toward the living space. If it is installed incorrectly (with the vapor barrier facing up) then the insulation will trap moisture causing possible water problems. Cut slits in the vapor barrier to allow moisture to escape. To install attic insulation, unroll the insulation with the paper side out. Install small pieces of insulation between the joists on the attic floor. Be careful not to step between the joists.
- ### Check for Pests
- ☛ Pests love attics because they are full of nice warm insulation for nesting, and they offer easy access to the rest of the house. With gable vents that lead into the attic it is a good idea

- to install a screen behind them to keep those critters out.
- Even after closing off those entryways, pests can still find a way in. The first place to check for any unwanted guests is under the kitchen cupboards and appliances.
- ### Safety Checks
- ☛ Each fall, check carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms and put in fresh batteries. These are very important detectors to have in a home. A smoke alarm can save lives in a house fire. A carbon monoxide detector can also save lives if a home has oil or gas-burning appliances, like a furnace or water heater.
  - ☛ Always install carbon monoxide detectors according to manufacturer's instructions. Generally they should be installed near each potential source of carbon monoxide, and within ear shot of the living and sleeping areas.
  - ☛ Have your wood-burning fireplace inspected, cleaned and repaired to prevent chimney fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.
  - ☛ Make sure the vents from your furnace are clear of any debris before you start using your furnace.
- Check your 72 - Hour Emergency Kit to make sure there is non-perishable food, water, matches, batteries, copies of personal identification and cash in the kit.
- From the DIY Network

## Many options for a beautiful exteriors

Nothing will affect the appearance of your home more dramatically than the exterior siding you choose. As you shop, look for siding panels and materials that suit the architectural style of your house and that fit your lifestyle. Your decision can also change the look of an entire neighborhood.

Stone is the most durable of all building materials. Granite, limestone, slate, and other types of stone are beautiful and nearly impervious to the weather.

Fiber cement siding can have the appearance of wood, stucco, or masonry. If you want the look of authentic wood with a bit less maintenance, cement fiber is a good option. Fiber cement siding is fireproof, termite-proof, and may have a warranty of up to fifty years.


Modern science has given us many synthetic wood-look products, and yet solid wood remain favorite choices for finer homes. With periodic care, wood siding will outlast vinyl and other pretenders. As with cedar shingle siding, wood clapboards can be stained rather than painted. Many wood frame houses built centuries ago still look beautiful today.

Made of fired clay, brick comes in a wide variety of earthy, eye-pleasing colors.

Although it is expensive, brick construction is desirable because it can last centuries and probably won't need any patching or repairs for the first twenty-five years. Older brick homes may have a stucco siding, which should be maintained because of its

historical accuracy. Homes sided in cedar shingles blend beautifully with wooded landscapes. Made of natural cedar, the shingles are usually stained browns, grays, or other earthen colors. Shakes offer the natural look of real wood, and require less maintenance.


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# It’s a record and not a good one

‘Career criminal’ now has 170 convictions including theft, drugs

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

A man described as having “the single most number of convictions I’ve ever seen on a criminal record” by the Crown is set to do yet another stint in jail.

Daniel Cope, 39, added more 12 convictions to his lengthy criminal record in Sarnia Court, bringing him to 170 total.

Two days were required to complete sentencing due to the numerous charges, with the matter finally settling on Oct. 15.

“He has no regard for the law... He is effectively a career criminal,” says Crown attorney David Rows.

The latest dozen offenses took place in just a four month span between February and June this year. They included four theft charges, four curfew breaches, two drug charges for possessing crystal meth and fentanyl, and prowling and mischief charges.

Cope’s thefts all involved entering unlocked vehicles and removing contents. In one case he used a stolen debit card to rack up nearly \$200 in charges before being caught.

Cope’s mischief charge took place at the Bayside Mall in March when he smashed a gum ball machine to the ground while yelling “free candy for everyone.”

On May 25 – after being arrested for a curfew breach less than a week earlier – Cope was again out overnight when an officer spotted him on a bicycle. A brief chase ensued where Cope fled into a home before being arrested.

He was finally arrested for good on June 17 after being found cycling at 3:30 am in possession of fentanyl.

Defense lawyer Luigi Perzia says that his client struggles with substance abuse and

mental health issues.

“It’s someone acting out, and frankly it was pointless.

“Mr. Cope is remorseful of that and he understands that just is not a way to conduct himself in public,” says Perzia.

The Crown asked for 195 days in jail for Cope while Perzia countered by suggesting time served would do.

“It is enough when considering the gravity of the offenses... He is so close to the end, is further incarceration going to be meaningful and serve a purpose?” Perzia says.

Justice Deborah Austin decided further incarceration was indeed necessary, although she opted to take five days off the Crown’s suggestion and impose a 190 day sentence. Cope has 20 days remaining after receiving 170 days credit of pre-sentence custody.

“Although each of the offenses committed by Mr. Cope individually could be described as minor... what is aggravating... is the persistence of a pattern of criminal offending behavior,” says Austin.

“His behavior has impacted many community members who have been affected by his offenses.”

Austin says Cope appears to be “using his time in custody in a constructive way, and has shown some motivation while in custody to try and plan for a better path.”

“Of course, there is much skepticism because of past history,” Austin adds.

“I apologize to the court and society. I’m looking at treatment,” says Cope.

“I’m sorry for coming before you so often in my life.”

Cope will be on probation for 18 months once he’s released.

He cannot contact any of the people he stole from, go to any of the places he committed his offenses, including the Bayside Mall, and cannot have any ID, banking cards or documents that aren’t in his name.

- The Independent

# Woman awaiting murder trial pleads to theft charges

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

One of the four people accused in the killing of a Sarnia business owner was in court last week on several unrelated charges.

Destiny Phillips, 26, plead guilty on Oct. 13 to four counts of theft and failure to attend court.

The Kettle and Stony Point woman has been in jail since her arrest at the end of August on a second-degree murder charge after James Wilson, the 76 year-old owner of Cowboys & Indians in Sarnia, was killed at a College Ave. home – the same street where Phillips was living with one of the co-accused, Brandon Knight.

Two other men were also arrested and charged with the same crime.

While this serious allegation won’t be resolved for some time, the court was able to deal with other charges against Phillips dating back to October 2019.

Phillips’ theft targets included an LCBO, Giant Tiger, Shoppers Drug Mart and Real Canadian Superstore. The majority of incidents saw her make off with between \$110-\$170 in merchandise.

In her final theft on Aug. 19 at the Superstore she left the building with more than \$500 in stolen goods. An officer was waiting for her outside after being alerted by store security.

“It’s been a really rough year for me,” says Phillips. “I’m sorry I repeated my charges

and I’m sorry that we’re here again dealing with all of this. I hope it’s the last time and I pray it’s the last time and I’m sorry.”

Phillips revealed the conditions she experienced in the Sarnia Jail. She says she was the lone woman in the facility and during COVID isolation she was placed in a cell next to a man who continually flooded his toilet, sending waste into her cell which she wasn’t allowed to clean up.

“That was the worst time of my life. I’ve never been through anything like that,” Phillips says.

While Phillips’ claims were not verified at the trial, the Crown didn’t deny her account. Justice Deborah Austin gave Phillips an extra week of pre-sentence custody credit as a result.

This gave Phillips 71 days credit against the total sentence of 90 days, leaving her just under three weeks left to serve. She must also pay restitution to the four businesses and provide a DNA sample.

“What is aggravating about these matters is that they are repetitive offenses, they impact local businesses, and they are clearly deliberate,” says Austin.

Phillips will remain on bail when her sentence finishes as she awaits trial on her second-degree murder charge. Knight, 24, Jackson Henry, 21, and Donald Shawanoo, 58 - all of Sarnia - are the co-accused in the case.


- The Independent

# SCHOLARSHIP WINNER RECOGNIZED



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tareesa Williams was presented with the 2020 Dawn-Euphemia Municipal Scholarship Monday. Council, led by Mayor Al Broad, presents the \$1,000 scholarship to a resident pursuing a government related field. Williams, who is a volunteer firefighter and volunteers with a number of local organizations, plans to be an operator at a water treatment plant. She attends the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus.



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• Liquid Waste	• Liquid Industrial Waste	• Pathological Waste
• Ignitable Waste	• Animal Carcasses	• Car Batteries
• Corrosive Waste	• Drums with Lids	• Paint
• Reactive Waste	• Computer Monitors	
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# Sports

## Wyoming’s Turnbull commits to California

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

Caden Turnbull is the latest graduate of the Wyoming Wranglers baseball program to commit to play collegiate baseball. The LCCVI student will head to Ventura, California next summer to join the Ventura College Pirates, a junior college team northwest of Los Angeles. “Since COVID I sent out videos and I liked what they had for me,” said the 17 year-old from Wyoming. “I feel like it was a good fit for me, so I committed about two weeks ago.” He

hopes the early decision might give him a leg up on playing time over those who wait until later in the year to commit. The right-hand hitting outfielder wants to work on his speed before embarking on his post secondary career. “Right now, I run a 6.8 (second), 60-yard dash. I’d like to get that down to about 6.5”. Turnbull plans on returning to the Great Lake Canadians next season for his fifth campaign with the London-area elite program before leaving for the coast in August 2021 to begin a two-year policing course. The teen would like to follow

in the footsteps of another Wyoming product, Noah Myers, and parlay success at a community college for a chance to play at the NCAA level. Turnbull joins Core Jackson, Kaden Gray and Jett Jarvis, as the fourth member of the ‘03 Wranglers program to move up to collegiate baseball. As a fan of the game, he’ll also have his eye on the World Series over the next few evenings and is pulling for Tampa Bay to hoist the hardware when all is said and done. “I’d like to see the Rays win it because they’re a bit of an underdog.”

## Winter college, university sports cancelled

The Independent

Announcements by the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) and Ontario University Athletics (OUA) are not good news for post-secondary student-athletes from Petrolia and Central Lambton, including those at Lambton College in Sarnia. Both groups have shut down sanctioned sports through March 31 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the current restrictions put in place by the Province of Ontario. “The health of the entire OCAA membership and our participants remains our top priority, and we empathize, understand, and share the deep disappointment this especially causes for our winter sport

student-athletes,” said OCAA President, Nathan McFadden in a statement late last week. “After extensive contingency planning and collaborating with our members, the reality is that there are far too many obstacles to allow the OCAA to operate while providing a safe and quality varsity experience for our student-athletes,” he added. Ontario University Athletics mirrored the college announcement. “While we would love nothing more than to see our student-athletes back on the field of play and participating in OUA-sanctioned competition during the second term, we are not yet at a place where that can occur safely,” stated OUA President and CEO Gord Grace.

“As disappointing as that reality is, I am confident that our participants will continue to demonstrate their resolve and determination through these exceptional circumstances and as we work toward an eventual safe return to competition.” “A decision like this is never easy to make. To continue to uphold the health and safety of all participants, however, it remains a necessary step to take, and I commend the OUA Board of Directors for their work and decision-making throughout this process.” Both groups left the door open for any of their member schools to schedule exhibition games this winter if approved by governing sports bodies and local public health officials.

## Team Canada to open World Juniors Boxing Day

The host Canadians will skate against Germany on Dec. 26 to open the 2021 World Junior Hockey Championships this holiday season in a bubble in Edmonton. Slovakia, Switzerland and Finland are also in Canada’s

pool in the ten-team event, which is broken into two divisions. The Sarnia Sting could boast Jamieson Rees and/or Jacob Perreault on the Team Canada roster. They were both part of

Hockey Canada’s Summer Development Camp held virtually in late July. Perreault was a first round pick by the Anaheim Ducks at the NHL draft earlier this month. Rees was selected in the second round by Carolina last year.

## International figure skating season delayed for Marinaro

The international figure skating season for Michael Marinaro of the Point Edward Figure Skating Club and his Pairs partner Kirsten Moore-Towers of St. Catharines has been delayed by COVID-19. The duo was among the

favourites at the Skate Canada International event originally scheduled for next week in Ottawa. The competition, scheduled for Oct. 30 and 31, was cancelled Wednesday because Ottawa is among the hot spots

for virus in Ontario. Marinaro and Moore-Towers won silver behind a Russian pair at the event last year in Kelowna, BC. They had previously taken home bronze medals at the event in 2015 and 2018.

## Bright’s Grove’s Weir finishes second at Champions Tour

Mike Weir of Bright’s Grove has vaulted up 12 spots to 19th place on the Charles Schwab Money List on the Champions Tour following a second place finish at the Dominion Energy Classic in Virginia last weekend.

The former Masters champion has now won nearly \$480,000 in eight events since joining the former Seniors Tour when he turned 50 in May. At the most recent tournament, Weir had a three-shot lead heading into Sunday’s

final round after rounds of 68 and 63 Saturday. But fellow southpaw Phil Mickelson reeled off four birdies on his final six holes to overtake Weir for the victory.

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**Dinner of the Month Winners**

October 2019 to September 2020

DATE:	WINNER:	FROM:
October 2019	Jake Powell	Petrolia
November 2019	Bill Cadman Jr.	Petrolia
December 2019	Bob Snyder	Petrolia
January 2020	Mary K. Edgar	Petrolia
February 2020	Allison Corcoran	Corunna
March 2020	Allen Ho	Sarnia
April 2020	Michele Egan	Petrolia
May 2020	Tony Vandersteen	Petrolia
June 2020	Joan Shaw	Sarnia
July 2020	Gayle Jackson	Wyoming
August 2020	Patti Lake	Oil Springs
September 2020	Charlene Loerke	Sarnia

**Thank you to everyone who supported this event.**

**With your help, we are able to support a wide variety of community projects.**



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

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Wyoming Lions

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In Memory

In Loving Memory of

KEITH ALLEN

who passed away October 24, 2018

Those we love  
don't go away  
they walk beside us every day  
Unseen, unheard,  
but always near,  
so loved, so missed,  
so very dear



Forever in our hearts

Your loving wife Bernida and Family

Anniversary Announcement

50 years  
anniversary

Joe & Lois  
McGRAIL

October 24  
— 1970 - 2020 —

With love from your  
children and  
grandchildren



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.**

Obituary



McEACHERN

Shirley E.

At Bluewater Health Sarnia, on **Tuesday, October 13, 2020**, Shirley Elizebeth McEachern of Forest passed away in her **53rd year**. Beloved wife of Brent. Loving mother of Connor John (Annaveera) and the late Nicholas James (1996). Also survived by her sister Andrea Cowell and best friend Jenny Lewis and many nieces and nephews as well as her uncle John Lang and aunt Elizabeth Allan and their families. Dear daughter-in-law of Linda Lee McEachern and the late John and sister-in-law to Gregg (Corrie) and Dean (Jenny). Predeceased by her parents Larry and Jacqueline Cowell. Shirley was a creative and caring person who was loved by everyone. She loved to decorate for all the holidays and her contagious laugh will be missed. **Cremation has taken place. A graveside service will be held at the Alvinston Cemetery on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 11 a.m. Due to COVID restrictions, the service is limited to a specific number of people. Please register online at [www.vanheckfuneralhome.ca](http://www.vanheckfuneralhome.ca).** EVERYONE must wear a mask and social distance from the family and those around them. Memorial donations may be made to Canadian Cancer Society or Bluewater Health Foundation. [www.vanheckfuneralhome.ca](http://www.vanheckfuneralhome.ca)

Coming Event

Wyoming Lions Meal - Our next take out meal will be from Sitara Indian Cuisine on **November 20, 2020 from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$20** available from all Lions members. The meal includes butter chicken, cheana masala, chicken samosa, basmati rice and naan bread.

Obituary



BELAN

Diana "Di"

1941 - 2020

Di passed away on **Saturday, October 17th** at her home with her loving family by her side. Di was predeceased by her beloved husband Mike of 63 years. Survived by her sons Mike (Pam), Pat (Donna), Douglas (Cindy), Dennis (Sandy), Tony (Cyndi) and Todd (Liz). Also survived by her sisters Donna, Debbie and brothers Jim and Bud. Predeceased by sisters Doreen, Sue, Kelly and brother Len. Di was a loving and proud grandmother to Mike (Leah), Nikki (Bryan), Kris (Sarah), Breyden (Michelle), Hannah, Cody, Brittney, Kelsey (Joel), Brandy (Derek), Curtis, Brock, Shawna, Jamie, Justine and her cherished great grandchildren Michael, Hailey, Tyler, Nolan, Danton, Dylan, Miller, Levi, Nolan, Myles, Blakelyn and Bobby. Di loved spending time with her family, being on the farm and gardening. Di and Mike had many memorable travels in their motor home going to the east and west coast in Canada and many trips down south. Di had a great sense of humour and wanted everyone to never stop doing the things they enjoyed for any reason! Mike and Di are back together farming and planting their seeds in heaven on their new adventure. Many thanks to Bayshore Nursing, LINH and Dr. Butler. **Cremation has taken place and a private family celebration of life will take place at a later date.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to Canadian Cancer Society. Memories and condolences may be sent online at [www.steadmanbrothers.ca](http://www.steadmanbrothers.ca). Arrangements entrusted to STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden 519-864-1193.



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

Obituary



COUTTS

Muriel

Peacefully, surrounded by family at C.E.E. Hospital of Bluewater Health on **Monday, October 19, 2020**, Muriel Caroline Coutts (nee Baldwin) passed away at the age of **90**. Beloved wife to the late Charles Mason Coutts (2001). Predeceased by her son, David Albert Jones (2011), parents, Nellie and Albert Baldwin, and sisters Bernice Gibson, Beatrice Baughman, and Betty Hoey. Loving mother to Penny (Wayne) Coutts, and Suzanne (Doug) Alderton. Sister to Margeruite Sefton. Proud grandma to Hope and James Chick, Kelly and Fred Phillips, Lisa Molo, Craig and Kelly Coutts, Stacey and Scot Perry, Tricia and Jesse Cooper, Jennifer and Craig Capes, Heather Blancher, Scott and Kristen Sefton and numerous great, and great-great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. Muriel was a long-time member of the First Baptist Church, a lifetime member of Br 216 RCL (Petrolia), Past Deputy Zone Commander - Zone A4, Past President and former member of Petrolia Lioness, and Chairmen of the Petrolia Army Cadets Association. **Visitors will be received by the family on the morning of Friday, October 23, 2020 at Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 4059 Petrolia Line, Petrolia. Due to COVID restrictions, we are requiring guests to sign up for a visiting time. Please refer to our website for sign-up information. A private funeral service will be streamed online on Friday, October 23, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. on the Needham-Jay Facebook Page. Interment in Hillsdale Cemetery.** As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society (Cancer.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared online at [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com)

Notice

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

Coming Event

Sarnia-Lambton's Live Drive In Concert "Rocking the Runway", will take place on October 23 & 24, 2020 at the Sarnia Chris Hadfield Airport. Headliners for the concert include: Big Wreck and The Reklaws. Tickets range from \$35 to \$45 and will go on sale on [www.ticketscene.ca](http://www.ticketscene.ca). Only 200 vehicles each night will be able to enjoy the live concert each night, so get your Tickets early!

Obituary



McINERNEY

Marguerite

McInerney (Brehaut) Marguerite, wife of the late Warren McInerney, passed away peacefully on **October 20, 2020**. Survived by her children Catherine (Charlotte), Marilyn Gladu, and Robert, along with grandchildren and their spouses : Gillian & Ryan Sguigna, Katie Gladu & Oliver Jones, Brian & Angelique McInerney and Rebecca McInerney & Tannor Hadden. Sister of brothers Maurice (Lisa), the late Windsor, and Keith(Velma) Brehaut. **A celebration of life will be held Saturday, October 24 at 10:00 am on Zoom. Send an email to [Marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca) to receive the link.** On-line condolences welcome at [www.lifetransitions.ca](http://www.lifetransitions.ca)

Coming Event

Hope United Church

Drive Thru  
Turkey  
Supper

at B.A.I.Community  
Complex Alvinston

November 4<sup>th</sup>  
5-7pm

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY  
Sold Until OCT. 26.  
Call 519-847-5494

\$18/Meal

more info & ticket purchases can be made at  
[hopeunited1880@gmail.com](mailto:hopeunited1880@gmail.com)

Death Notices

October 12 - October 18, 2020

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

RHUDE, Catherine "Kay"

Age 91, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

CUTHBERTSON, Olive

Age 92, of Sombra  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

GRAHAM, Joseph Warren

Age 79, of Sarnia  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

ENGLISH, Joseph "Hector"

Age 86, of St. Clair Township  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

EDDIE, Barry

Age 74, of Sarnia  
Gilpin Funeral Home

LEHRBASS, Eldon

Age 81, of Inwood  
VanHeck Funeral Home

KOHUT, Bohdan "Boh"

Age 82, of Sarnia  
McCormack Funeral Home

SMILEY, Robert "Bob"

Age 88, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

McEACHERN, Shirley

Age 53, of Alvinston  
VanHeck Funeral Home

WILSON, Patricia Mae

Age 80, of Lambton Shores  
Gilpin Funeral Home

KUMPF, Shirley Jean

Age 84, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

McARTHUR, James "Jim"

Age 85, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

BANKS, Lilian Alice

Age 86, of Sarnia  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

GULVIN, Laurette

Age 88, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

BELAN, Diana "Di"

Age 79, of Dawn Euphemia  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

MacDONALD, John Hughie

Age 89, of Sarnia  
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

MADDIGAN, Michael "Barry"

Age 83, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

Deadline



for all classified ads is  
**Monday  
at 12 noon**  
for the paper that prints and  
distributes Wed-Thurs



**Classified Deadline:**  
**Monday @ 12 noon**



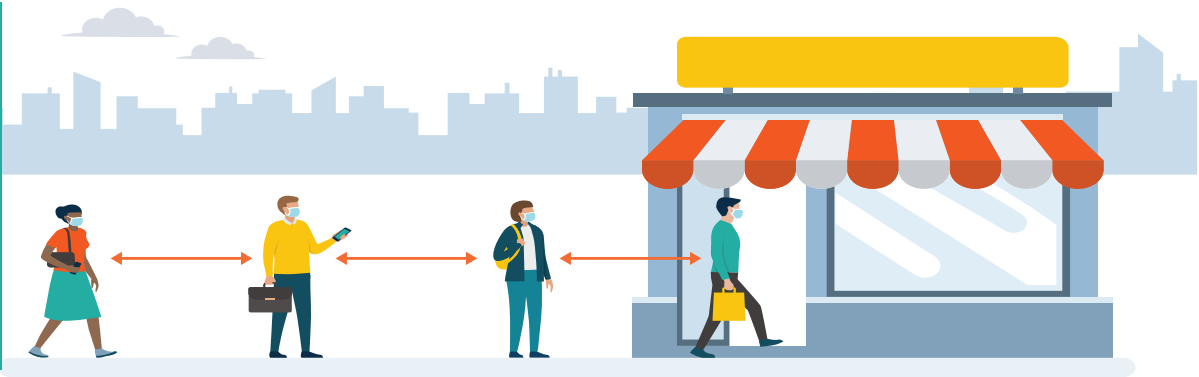
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or email: [office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)



## COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING

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



# 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
Oct 19-23		Petrolia	<b>Town of Petrolia Large Item Collection.</b> 519-882-2350 <a href="http://town.petrolia.on.ca">town.petrolia.on.ca</a>	
Oct 22	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Oct 23	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion <b>Meat Raffle, Catch the Ace &amp; 50/50</b>	519-876-2360
Oct 24	1-3pm	Petrolia	<b>Petrolia Legion Oktoberfest.</b> Sausage on a bun only \$5. No advance orders needed. Takeout or Eat in. Bar open upstairs.	
Oct 24	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion <b>Meat Raffle &amp; 50/50 Draw</b>	
Oct 24	4-6pm	Wyoming	Wyoming Legion <b>Meat Raffle</b>	
Oct 24	4:30pm	Brigden	Brigden Legion <b>Meat Raffle</b>	
Oct 29	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Oct 19	7-10pm	Petrolia	<b>Coldcase at the Kingswell Clubhouse.</b> Do you think you have what it takes to catch a killer? Max team size 10. \$20 a person. Register today! Space limited info@kingswellpetrolia.com	
Oct 30	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion <b>Meat Raffle, Catch the Ace &amp; 50/50</b>	519-876-2360
Oct 31	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion <b>Meat Raffle &amp; 50/50 Draw</b>	
Nov 4	5-7pm	Alvinston	Hope United Church Drive-Thru <b>Turkey Dinner</b> at the B.A.I.C.C.C.. \$18/meal. Advance tickets only. Call 519-847-5494.	
Nov 4	8-10pm	Petrolia	Join Michael Vanhevel for <b>Trivia Night</b> at Kingswell Clubhouse (4300 Garden Cres). Max Team size of 6.	
Nov 5	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Nov 6	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion <b>Meat Raffle, Catch the Ace &amp; 50/50</b>	519-876-2360
Nov 7	12noon	Lambton	<b>Neighbour 2 Neighbour Food Drive.</b> Lambton's Largest rural food drive. <a href="http://n2nfooddrive.com">n2nfooddrive.com</a>	
Nov 7	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion <b>Meat Raffle &amp; 50/50 Draw</b>	
Nov 12	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Nov 13	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion <b>Meat Raffle, Catch the Ace &amp; 50/50</b>	
Nov 14	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion <b>Meat Raffle &amp; 50/50 Draw</b>	
Nov 18	8-10pm	Petrolia	Join Michael Vanhevel for <b>Trivia Night</b> at Kingswell Clubhouse (4300 Garden Cres). Max Team size of 6.	
Nov 19	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Nov 20	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion <b>Meat Raffle, Catch the Ace &amp; 50/50</b>	519-876-2360
Nov 21	9-2pm	Wyoming	<b>Wyoming Vendor/Craft Show</b> at the Wyoming Legion. 100's of products available. All covid-19 rules will be followed. Lunch Available.	
Nov 27	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion <b>Meat Raffle, Catch the Ace &amp; 50/50</b>	519-876-2360

**\*\*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](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)

# Business & Service Directory

## GB Excavating Excavating/Septic

**Steve Greer**  
Owner

4396 Nauvoo Rd.  
Watford ON  
NOM 2S0  
519-494-1855

[gbexc@brktel.on.ca](mailto:gbexc@brktel.on.ca)  
[gbexcavating.ca](http://gbexcavating.ca)



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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](mailto:christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com)



## St. Paul's United Church 4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

St. Paul's United Church is now open to the public for Sunday Services. New protocols will be in place for everyone's safety.

**Rev. Susan Cameron**

**10:30am Service**  
Church Office: 519-882-1390  
[stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net](http://stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net)

## First Baptist Church

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia  
**SERVICE SUSPENDED until further notice in compliance with Ontario Corona Virus meeting guidelines**

Pastor: Alex Craig  
Church Office 519-882-2480  
email: [fbcpetrolia@gmail.com](mailto:fbcpetrolia@gmail.com)  
[www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca](http://www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca)

Find us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia](https://www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia)



## 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)

## Wyoming United Church 730 Second Street, Wyoming

*Welcome Back!*  
We invite you to join our congregation for Sunday Worship at 11am  
*Masks are required!*

Join Us for Worship - All are Welcome  
Church Office 519-845-3963  
Find us on Facebook





Petrolia has ‘no authority’ to return Nicol money for LCCVI scholarships

Petrolia’s mayor asked for legal opinion in May

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Another attempt to return money from the Nicol Scholarship to the fund to use for student grants in Petrolia has failed. It comes after council heard its lawyer believes the move would be illegal. The donation to the town has been a contentious topic for the last two years. The fund gives out \$10,000 educational scholarships at LCCVI. It also provided \$10,000 for repairs at Victoria Hall and \$10,000 for repairs at the Petrolia Library. The scholarship fund was intended to last 25 years, but it is now given out money for more than three decades. As financial markets changed, the investment fund didn’t grow as much. That meant there were not as many scholarships for students. The fund, which in one good year investment year gave out 13 scholarships, would only be able to give out one in 2015. Then Mayor John McCharles convinced council that it would


be a good idea to return one of two \$10,000 US grants the town receives so that more scholarships could be given to LCCVI students. That practice continued until the 2018 budget deliberations after the new council, headed by Mayor Brad Loosley were sworn in. The idea was shelved that year. Councillor Joel Field attempted to have the money designated for Victoria Hall returned to the fund to be used for scholarships again in 2019 but council disagreed. At the time, a survey showed 90 per cent of town residents wanted the money to go to the scholarship fund. Field tried again Oct. 14 during budget deliberations. “I just want it to be about the kids, about the scholarships,” said Field. Councillor Wade Deighton agreed citing tough economic times. “People are going to need to help where they can. And if that means that we can send one kid to school or two kids to school with a little bit of money in their pocket, then so be it,” he said noting the town could find the \$10,000 in the budget. But Mayor Loosley opposed the move saying the town asked the group to make changes to how it operates to save some money

first, and then it would reconsider turning the money back to the scholarship fund. The Nicol Fund has not done that yet. “If they can continue to pay a consultant \$800 US to stand there and watch us (deliberate who should get the scholarships) then I don’t think they need the money that bad,” says Loosley. Clerk Mandi Pearson interjected that the town’s solicitor, Robert Gray, had been asked to give an opinion on whether the town should be turning back the money. “According to Municipal Act, it is not within our mandate to help subsidize, provide scholarships to the youth, people in schools. So he was suggesting that we shouldn’t be doing this,” says CAO Rick Charlebois summarizing Gray’s opinion. “We have no authority to direct funds... as a grant or a loan,” added Pearson who read from the legal opinion. The legal opinion added if council wanted to give a donation to the fund, it should come from the council donation line of the budget. Loosley asked for the opinion in May and it was provided at an in camera meeting May 11. In a news release Friday after 3pm, Loosley is quoted as



FILE PHOTO


Lindsey Core was part of the largest group of Nicol Scholars at LCCVI. She went on to spearhead a drive to raise money for the program. saying; “We do what is legally and morally right. Seeking legal counsel is part of that decision-making process so that we can act accordingly where there is doubt, and where we are looking for ways to do something good for our community within our rights and abilities. “Council agrees that there are other ways that our community can support the Nicol Scholarship Fund by donating to the Petrolia Community Fund or by community members helping to reach out to previous recipients to help build the fund.” “The idea comes from the right place, but as a municipal council we will have to look to the community to work together to come up with a way to support this important fund so that is remains available to students for the future.” While Gray says it is illegal to provide municipal scholarships, both Enniskillen and Dawn-Euphemia provide scholarships to students in their municipalities. Field is disappointed council did not support returning the money again this year so more students could receive scholarships.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS


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Exodus 20:8-10 (KJV)

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**WANTED: OLD TUBE AUDIO EQUIPMENT.** 50 years or older. Amplifiers, Stereo, Recording and Theatre Sound Equipment. Hammond Organs, any condition. CALL Toll-Free 1-800-947-0393 / 519-853-2157.

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