

THE JOY OF SNOW



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Austin Duncan, 9, revels in the new fallen snow at Petrolia's Big Bird Hill on Gem Street. He and dozens of other people were whizzing down the town's favourite tobogganing hill Sunday as about eight centimeters of snow fell to the ground during the course of the day.

Charting a direction for Petrolia's downtown

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia has hired a consultant to put together a plan to maintain and build Petrolia's downtown.

Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communications says James Cox, Leamington's former economic development manager who is now a consultant, has been hired to work with the Volunteer Business Group as it transitions to a more formal Business Association.

Ellsworth says the VBG has been working on the concept for some time, saying downtown businesses would pay a fee of \$150 per year to the association for improvements to the downtown and marketing efforts.

But the plans to roll it out were sidelined by the pandemic.

Ellsworth says Cox will help the town chart a direction for the future after some major changes in the downtown because of COVID-19.

SEE DOWNTOWN PG 3

Petrolia's Rhodes Scholar; Mueller wins prestigious scholarship to Oxford

Heather Wright
The Independent

Marissa Mueller was six when she first heard about stem cells and she remembers thinking they were "so cool."

Today that passion for stem cells, science and research, and a drive that has astounded many will take her to some of the most famous educational halls in the world.

The Petrolia woman has earned a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University in England. It is one of the most prestigious scholarships in the world with alumni such as Canada's deputy prime minister Chrystia Freeland and former US

President Bill Clinton

Mueller, an LCCVI graduate, former Ontario javelin champion and Canadian silver medalist, is currently attending the University of Iowa and is on the track team. She's also actively involved in student government, serving on the athlete advisory committee and the Big 10 Advisory Committee. She's also the first Student-Athlete representative in student government.

Her track career is on hold right now as universities in the US try to figure out how to play on during a pandemic.

Mueller has been living in Petrolia with her parents and brother, Matt, for the last few months. Like

so many others, she's attending classes online in biomedical engineering and in pre medicine. She will be graduating in May and heading to Oxford for two years to earn a degree in research in surgical sciences.

Mueller will be studying stem cells and regenerative technologies - exactly the thing that piqued her interest as young child.

"When I was a little girl, I had six knee surgeries and two of them involved stem cells. And I would ask the surgeon and I would ask Dr. Mater, my family doctor, what these were. I was so curious about how it worked. I wanted to know what was happening during the

surgeries. And they took the time to explain it to me in very simplified terms. I just thought coolest thing ever."

Stem cells were so interesting to her, Mueller did a presentation on them in elementary school. Later, she created a science fair project on stem cells.

"And then when I got to university, I saw that there was a course called stem cells and regenerative medicine," she says. "I took that course and that was kind of the home run, that hit it for me; it really made me decide that this is something that I want to study, and just getting involved in research," says Mueller.

Those days of knee surgery as a six year old also inspired her to practice medicine. So, Mueller plans to be a practicing physician and a researcher.

She'll be fulfilling that dream going to a school she never dreamed she would attend. Mueller says she remembers as a teen hearing about Rhodes Scholars.

SEE MUELLER PG2



Marissa Mueller

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Accessory Power must be active to use the Wi-Fi hotspot. Data plans provided by AT&T or its local service provider. Credit card is required for purchase.

Finding a food truck balance

Heather Wright
The Independent

A Petrolia councillor wants to make sure food trucks are paying their fair share when they set up in town.

And Wade Deighton thinks the town could allow up to four mobile businesses a chance to ply their trades in town.

Earlier this month, the owner of Sitari - an Indian restaurant from Sarnia - asked to set up a food truck in the town. His request was turned down with the majority of councillors concerned allowing a food truck, with lower costs and no taxes, would hurt local restaurants in a time when times are tough.

Many restaurants are struggling to make ends meet as they face restrictions to reduce the spread of COVID-19 which cut the number of tables available to use dramatically. And fewer customers are coming in for food, worried restaurants could be a place of transmission.

And while COVID-19 is the most current threat, food trucks have always

been an irritant.

Restaurant owners often own their building and pay thousands of dollars in taxes to the municipality and resent food trucks lower fees.

Deighton says up until this year, the sole food truck operator in town paid a business licence of about \$250 and had its hydro and water services paid.

“They were paying \$256 for a business license and going to work. And it’s not fair for the businesses that have spent the money to build buildings to pay taxes to buy places.

Deighton says the community services committee will look at allowing four food trucks with higher fees more in line with the taxes restaurants pay.

He believes some of the trucks could be located downtown and near schools.

“I’m trying to make it fair for all of the businesses from a tax standpoint, that’s the only thing we have at our disposal.”

Town staff is also looking at the bylaw which governs food trucks. Clerk Mandi Pearson says it is being reviewed and will be brought back to council for approval in the near future.

Mueller named Rhodes scholar

CON’T FROM PG 1

Mueller “never thought it would ever be something I would even be eligible to apply for. And then kind of midway through university, I had some professors really kind of nudging me and saying, ‘Hey, we think you should apply for this.’” Mueller says she was honoured they would suggest it but didn’t really consider it until they approached her again this year. “It was kind of more like ‘no, like, seriously, we want you to apply for this.’”

So she did, sending the application away “hopeful but not anticipating anything.”

Saturday, Mueller and the other top candidates spent time together on a virtual call being assessed. Sunday, the secretary of the Canadian Rhodes Trust

gave her the good news. Mueller says she was stunned.

“I’m just in complete shock. I’m still in shock. And I don’t think that feeling of the going away anytime,” she says.

There is still lots to do before Mueller heads to Oxford. She has to chose what college within Oxford to attend. And she’s hoping to return to Iowa to complete her final semester in person and compete in javelin again. And she’ll likely take time to thank the people who helped put her on the road to being a Rhodes Scholar. Mueller says couldn’t have made it to this point without her family, church and community - the people she calls her support system.

“It’s just beyond humbling. I’m so appreciative.”

Downtown Petrolia plan in the works

CON’T FROM PG 1

“The focus would be to build an association for the businesses that best suits them,” says Ellsworth. “It’s not about the town making money at all. It’s about them contributing to a fund for proper marketing and exposure and larger campaigns in everything, print, radio, you name it, tourism publications.

“But we really wanted to make sure we have this face-to-face time with our business owners to say, What do you need? What is it that you want? How shall we approach this so that all benefits.”

That’s the job that Cox will take on.

Cox is quoted in Ellsworth’s report as saying “Petrolia has an opportunity to be a leader in this field and develop a unique model for sustaining a vibrant downtown in a small urban community.”

Ellsworth says that may include helping retailers who may be looking at retiring find successors to their businesses.

“When I look around the downtown, I see retailers that have been in business for a long time. And I see family-run businesses that, as we

age, I would like to make sure that if there’s anything we can do to help them with a succession plan, or to help them connect with people to sell their business - if that’s an approach they want to take - that we’re here to support them.”

Ellsworth is hoping Cox can reach out to the local business leaders and talk to them about their future and the future of the downtown.

“We really wanted to talk to him about what else we can be doing for downtown. And ... making sure that we support everyone and maintain our vibrancy, especially with COVID-19, the very last thing we want is to lose anybody.”

Since the pandemic began, several downtown storefronts were vacated. A couple of businesses closed unable to hold on after the first lockdown. Some businesses went on line. Still others, simply moved out of the core area.

Cox will begin consulting with business owners in November and expects to have a plan by the spring.

Aside from the \$5,000 set aside for Cox’s consulting fees, the town has set aside \$25,000 for marketing local businesses.

PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Stu Sharp was busy helping Town of Petrolia staff put up the Christmas decorations in the downtown planters Friday.



This Month In Lambton

November 2020

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Share Your Memories of ‘Snowmagedon’

Lambton County residents are being asked to share their memories of the 2010 Snow Emergency, also known as ‘Snowmagedon’.

From now until December 4, visit LambtonArchives.ca to upload photos, videos, and written accounts of your experiences during Snowmagedon. Contributors will also be asked a couple of brief questions to help emergency planners understand how residents plan for emergencies at home and on the road.

Warden’s Election

The election for Lambton County Warden and Deputy Warden is taking place on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. The meeting and election will be held virtually. You can view the meeting agenda and link to the meeting livestream through lambtononline.ca/council. The agenda will be available after 2 p.m. on Friday, November 27, 2020.

County Council elects a Warden and Deputy Warden from amongst the Councillors every two years in December. The Warden chairs County Council meetings and represents the County at a wide range of functions and activities.

One Book Lambton

Lambton County Library, in partnership with The Book Keeper, is excited to announce the selection for One Book Lambton 2020-2021 is *Every Step She Takes* by K.L. Armstrong.

The goal of One Book Lambton is to unite people from around Lambton County through one book. People are encouraged to read the same book and engage in activities throughout the winter and spring to highlight themes in the book.

Reserve your copy *Every Step She Takes* today through lclibrary.ca and learn more at onebooklambton.ca.

Lambton Renovates and Homeownership Programs

Applications are being accepted for the Lambton Renovates and Homeownership Down-Payment Assistance programs.

To learn more, call 519-344-2062 or visit lambtononline.ca/lambtonrenovates and lambtononline.ca/homeownership.

Looking Ahead

9:30 a.m., December 2, 2020 - Warden’s Election & Inaugural Session

9 a.m. & 11 a.m., January 20, 2021 - Committee A.M. & Committee P.M.

To read more, go to lambtononline.ca



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



Editorial

Time for a plan

It is time for a plan for Petrolia's downtown.

The municipality has hired an economic development consultant to work with businesses - restaurants, retailers and service providers - in the core area to, in part, see if a formal business improvement association (BIA) should be formed.

For years, an informal alliance called the Volunteer Business Group, has worked to market the area and plan events to draw people to the downtown. It has come up with great ideas. However now, particularly in the face of COVID-19, the downtown needs more.

More has been in the planning stages for some time. There have been suggestions of a BIA for several years. Essentially, businesses in a designated area would be taxed to finance the BIA's work - usually of promotion and events. That doesn't always sit well, even if the merchant in the past has willingly given donations for the very same thing in the past. It's the idea of government reaching down onto business that people don't like.

We have seen how the hand of government can help in the last eight months. Petrolia bought ads telling the community who was open. Most recently, the Volunteer Business Group organized an online shopping event that were told went well. All that should be commended.

But, as COVID-19 continues to impact the way we do business and the way people shop, it's not enough. We only need look at our main street to know that small businesses can't hold on forever. Too many businesses are already gone. Who knows if more will follow.

We do know the impact of COVID and the frenzy of online shopping which it has brought will change retail in small towns forever.

So what to do? While we by no means have the answer, we believe part of the solution lies in the uniqueness of Petrolia. We once again need to lean into our history and make it one of our best assets. We have to make it desirable again to spend a day popping in and out of shops to get those specialty items. That's a tough task when all the luxuries of the world are available at the click of a mouse.

Good luck to Petrolia's consultant - we are counting on you, and our own ingenuity, to build back better.

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

The title of this turn of the century post card says, 'A Winter Scene in the Flats of Petrolia 20 Years Ago.' While it is obviously more than 20 years ago, the wintery weather we had over the weekend made the area which is now Bridgeview Park just as pretty.

Learning about my privilege while watching Netflix

I have gone over to the dark side.

Early in the pandemic, we broke down and signed up for Netflix. While the rest of the world binged on *Game of Thrones*, I ignored the other-world of entertainment.

I only grasped what was going on in that pay-for-viewing world when I watched award shows and couldn't recognize any of the shows - they were all on Netflix.

But, we decided to sign up in March for two reasons; my son and husband - giant sports fans that they are - wanted to see the Michael Jordan series *The Last Dance* (I admit, I was interested, too.) and we had no idea how long we would be staying home. With the options on traditional television limited to reruns of *The Big Bang Theory* and more news than my teenaged children really wanted to see, we decided to get Netflix "for a couple of months."

We watched *The Last Dance* together - marvelling at Jordan's skill and arrogance. It was our family time while

the worries of the world swirled on without us for an hour or two.

Once the series was done, the kids continued to find things to watch - constantly. That was fine with me.

Lauren and I would occasionally talk about the movies she'd watched and I would think about how it would be nice to do, if I wasn't so busy.

But, I didn't go down that rabbit hole. Until this weekend.

I'd started watching *The Crown* months ago. I grew up in the time Lady Di fell 'in love' with Prince Charles, so I had been a royal watcher for years.

The show was interesting - but it didn't captivate me. Until we started watching the episodes based in the 1980s and 1990s. Then I was hooked.

I know a great deal of what is said comes from the imagination of the creators, but it was fascinating to me to get this imagined look into the lives of the people who were on the pages of the magazines I collected.

The series - and likely, hopefully, with more maturity - I see things differently than I did as a teen royal fan. I see their privileged life and wonder how they didn't really see the privilege they had.

Maybe, that too, is a lesson from this pandemic. We often look for what is wrong. Don't get me wrong, there is a lot wrong right now. But we forget - I forget - how privileged I am to live in a country like Canada during this difficult time. I have worries, but I have what I need.

I need to remember that and help those who don't find themselves in the same privileged place.



Heather Wright

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Opinion

Hardoiler worries housing will kill his oil field

EDITOR:

My name is Walter Brand. I am a life long resident of Petrolia.

I own and operate a producing oil property and farming operation situated on lot 14 concession 9 Enniskillen Township immediately adjacent to this proposed rezoning from “open space” to “residential” (property previously annexed from the Township of Enniskillen.)

I have personally operated this Historic Oil Field and farm for fifty years. My grandfather, Russel Copeland, operated same for 30 years beginning in 1940 preceded by King Houston from 1866 until 1940.

My property has produced oil continuously for 150 years. It has a Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource Historic Designation.

It is historical fact that no oil producing property in our - “Cradle of the Oil Industry” - “Victorian Oil Town” has survived residential encroachment.

The regulated Ontario Ministry of

Natural Resources oil well setback from a residence is insufficient distance to protect my operation from residential encroachment.

In my humble opinion any residential zoning on my perimeter requires a twelve foot earthen berm constructed at the developers expense, on his side of a chain link fence he should erect, on our common boundary.

My property is zoned agricultural with an industrial assessment applied to my taxes.

Is my existing zoning of agricultural and industrial compatible with the new residential zoning application?

Did the planning department consider this situation? Or does development rule?

I hope for clarification regarding this encroachment problem. Until then I must oppose this property rezoning from open space to residential.

Is there a park land dedication forthcoming with this current rezoning application and subdivision? This Glenview area is absolutely devoid of

parkland. How did this occur? There are two magnificent wood lots (which abut this proposed rezoning) that qualify for park land...

I feel I am being setup for another Petrolia oil producer assassination.

The development vultures are picking the bones of Petrolia’s earlier success.

They are circling my historic heritage oil property at the terminus of the original First Avenue.

I suggest a new logo for the town of Petrolia could echo the previous “Cradle of the oil industry” with “The tomb of Petrolia oil industry.” History is so easily forgotten!

Proposed residential rezoning and development on the west lot line of my fifty acre historic heritage oil property and farm, contravenes the Ontario provincial policy statement Section 2.4.2. as it relates to oil production and farming. Will council oblige this fact?

Bottom Line is my Family and I were here first.

**Walter Brand
Petrolia Hardoiler**



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Petrolia comes through again for its neighbours

EDITOR,

It is our pleasure to write to you today to thank our great community for their generosity through both monetary and food donations to the Neighbour 2 Neighbour Food Drive.

As part of the team of 75+ volunteers that collected, sorted, and packed the donations we can say first-hand how touching it was to see truckload after truckload roll into the warehouse absolutely full to overflowing with donations.

Petrolia always comes together to help one another in a time of need, and this was no exception. Over 10,000 pounds of food were collected

in Petrolia with over \$3,500 in cash donations.

We would like to acknowledge the other community leaders and volunteers for your great work bringing food to hungry families.

We would like to thank each and every family that shared donations with us to help our neighbours.

We could not have made this event happen in Petrolia without more than 75 of our neighbours driving our streets and collecting food, sorting food, packaging food and then a week later loading and unloading the food to a new location. We wish to send out a huge thank you to you – our awesome

volunteers!

Many thanks to Jim and Mary Vanderwal of Vanderwal Homes & Commercial Group Inc. for the use of your warehouse facility, and to Marty Souch of Shoreline Express for the use of a transport truck and trailer and for your assistance.

#PetroliaProud is an understatement – we’re always amazed, impressed and inspired by our community and this event reminded us about how good it feels to share when we can and help where we are needed.

**Laurissa Ellsworth & Demi Krall
Petrolia N2N Leaders**

Three classrooms close with three COVID-19 cases at St. Pats

Heather Wright
The Independent

There are now three people at Lambton County’s only Catholic secondary school with COVID-19.

The St. Clair District Catholic School Board’s COVID-19 advisory website says three people now have the virus in the school. The first case was confirmed Tuesday.

Three class rooms have now been

sent home to isolate. The board does not disclose whether teachers or students are ill.

“All three of the current confirmed cases are related to contacts outside of the school. At this time, there is no evidence of transmission of the virus in the school,” says Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade in a letter to parents today.

Across the province, 703 schools

reported cases of COVID-19. Four schools are closed as of Tuesday.

There have been 4,170 people test positive in the province’s 4,800 schools, 2,516 are students.

The news comes as the number of people dealing with COVID-19 rises. Lambton Public Health reports 17 people are fighting the virus now – up 12 cases in a week. There is one person still in hospital with the virus.



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New fuel rules big trouble farmers say

Heather Wright
The Independent

Local grain farmers are enlisting the help of the provincial government to convince the federal government to change its clean fuel standard.

The feds are drafting the regulation and is asking for public input. Grain Farmer of Ontario local director Emery Huszka says it will make it tough for grain farmers to sell to local ethanol plants.

The new regulations propose farmers could only sell to the specialized market by meeting new criteria which includes not cutting down more than 1.2 acres of trees after January, having a 30 meter (100 foot) buffer strip near streams and lakes, and having the individual farm certification completed.

Huszka recently brought Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton to his farms near Florence to help him understand what that would mean for him. The province would eventually be responsible for enforcing the new federal rules.

Huszka gives the example of the large number of dead trees caused by the emerald ash bore in the region. "If I cleaned up a two-and-a-half acre chunk...I would be disallowed from selling corn to the ethanol plant," he tells *The Independent*.

"How do you penalize a farmer for doing a practical thing on the land they own?"

Huszka also wanted to show McNaughton how much land could be eaten up if there would have to be a 100-foot buffer zone along waterways. "See all that land, I'm not able to use it to produce corn anymore," he told the MPP.

"For some farms, they could have eight to 10 per cent of their ground affected."

Grain Farmer officials say the fed's bid to make farmers greener doesn't take into account the changes in the industry. "Farmers today already use less land to grow more," said Markus Haerle, Chair, Grain Farmers of Ontario.

In 30 years, he says, farmers have increased land-use efficiency by 39 per cent which has reduced the impact on the environment in corn production for example by 45 per cent.

And he says, ethanol, which cuts carbon emissions by about 40 per cent, is made with Ontario corn. Haerle and Huszka say the proposed standard wouldn't apply to US growers and would mean US grain would be



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton gets an up close view of Emery Huszka's Florence area corn field. Members of the Grain Farmers of Ontario are enlisting the help of local MPPs to try to convince the federal government to drop some new rules for agriculture under the federal Clean Fuel Standards.

increasingly used in ethanol plants like the one in Lambton County.

That's ironic says Haerle since the US Environmental Protection Agency recognizes Canadian farm practices as sustainable.

Huszka says farmers want to protect the land but he says "there is a better way to do it than this nitwit approach," adding the Liberal government is looking at this "ideologically...above any practicality."

"If the name of the game is to improve the use of agricultural land, do it in a way that makes sense."

Huszka's hope after talking with the local MPP is that the provincial government will push back against the standard and the damage farmers believe it will cause. "The province has been on the right track in terms of agriculture and we appreciate them advocating for us on to the feds on the changes that need to be made," he says. The federal bill is now in the publishing stage, Huszka says, which means it is inching toward approval. "The further down the pipe this gets, the more dangerous it is."

Politicians want conservation budget at inflation

Heather Wright
The Independent

A number of Lambton municipalities are voicing concern about the increasing St. Clair Region Conservation Authority budget.

The authority which is financed by 17 municipalities in the watershed, released its 2021 budget. It's about seven per cent higher than last year.

The authority plans to spend total of \$1,345,029 in 2021.

Eighty-one per cent of the money goes to pay employee costs.

There is also money in the budget - \$49,950 - to complete a study on how to fix the Highland Glen Boat Launch and \$13,000 for an asset management plan.

The authority is also taking money out of capital reserves to help pay operating costs - a practice widely frowned upon in municipal circles. Officials say \$81,150 will come out of reserves to support the everyday costs of the authority. The

province also recently cut \$150,000 out of the flood control budget which is being subsidized by reserves.

Dawn-Euphemia politicians are voicing their displeasure over the budget. While the monetary increase is not that large - the township will pay an extra \$2,519 this year for operating costs - the percentage increase in Dawn-Euphemia is 8.8 per cent.

Dawn-Euphemia will also be paying for repairs at Shetland Conservation Area. St. Clair owns the park but Dawn-Euphemia pays 90 per cent of the costs of the park. That will cost about \$10,800 in 2021.

"It's not a lot of money but they don't do a lot for us," says Broad adding council is asking the conservation authority to keep the budget increase to inflation - about two per cent.

Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley who is on the authority's executive, says he will not be supporting the budget saying the increase is too high.

The conservation authority will be looking at the budget Dec. 10.

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MOH says we ‘could be in the same boat’ as the rest of Ontario

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton County is one of the few communities left in the province in the green zone. Earlier this month, the province set up a colour-coded system of milestones to help health officials and the province determine which communities should face more restrictions to help curb the spread of COVID-19. Just a week after it was introduced, Toronto and Peel were placed in lock down as the number of people diagnosed daily with the virus hit between 1,000 and 1,600 on a regular basis.

While the GTA is seen as the hot spot of Ontario, many municipalities are seeing cases rise during the second wave of the pandemic. But that hasn't really been the case in Lambton. This week there were 12 new cases, bringing the number of people who are sick with COVID-19 to 17 in the entire county. Since March, 402 people have become ill with the virus. Compare that with Toronto, which on Tuesday alone recorded 497 cases. During his regular Monday news conference, Lambton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade was asked why Lambton

seems to be doing so well. His answer - it's people following the guidelines and a little bit of luck. "I don't think that there's anything fundamentally different here. I know that many people in our community take this issue very seriously, but I think that that's the same across the province. "I know that we've been doing our best to identify and track and isolate cases and I think that's similar across the province, too. "I think that we've also been trying to be very clear about our expectations for people and keep them as practical and as sustainable as possible. But again, I think it would be premature to draw any

conclusions about what we're doing differently" And he says, people in Lambton have to be aware that just because things are okay here now, it could all change. "You know how this all works, we could get a whole influx of cases tomorrow, and, we're all here hoping that doesn't happen. But it could and then we would be very shortly in the same boat as everyone else." Ranade admits in some ways, the colour coding system gives people a false sense of security. "I wouldn't want to just play up this idea that, oh, we're in green, everyone can do what they want

here. That's not true. And the way that you move from green to yellow to orange is people thinking that ...because they're green, it is safer...because the background prevalence of disease is low. We know that can change day-to-day. Ranade says it is important to follow the public health measures to keep the community safe. "The numbers are not as important as what everybody is doing, and what everybody needs to do, regardless of whether we're green, or yellow, or orange or red is reduce your unnecessary social contacts as much as possible, because that's the only way you stay in the green,"

Petrolia businesses earn top honours

Heather Wright
The Independent

Two Petrolia businesses have earned top honours this week. Albany Retirement Village won silver in the Workers' Safety Insurance Board's Small Business Leadership awards. Jenna Simpson says the retirement home was honoured for the measures it took during the pandemic to protect both the health and safety of their residents and their staff. Simpson says the retirement home was ahead of the curve as the province started to come to grips with the severity of the worldwide pandemic. Simpson would read reports from the World Health Organization to understand how the virus worked and what the home could do to be prepared. "In the early days, we were ahead of a lot of the government mandates. We were ahead on, lockdown measures, in restricting contract workers who worked in multiple locations because of the risk of facility to facility transmission, Simpson says. "When we weren't sure about the safety of grocery stores, we were ordering food for our staff through our commercial suppliers," she added noting it became clear early on that the employees would have to be careful not to bring the virus into the home. "We purchase groceries for the entire household, we were trying to make people aware that actions of their entire household would influence the health and safety of the retirement home." To date, Albany Retirement Village has managed to keep COVID-19 at bay while other long term care homes struggle. But Simpson is aware, they are not out of the woods yet as the second wave of the virus moves through Ontario. "I think part of our success is constantly reassessing risk and constantly monitoring the situation, because it's a moving target." While Albany Retirement Village was honoured for health and safety, you might say Jaclyn Sanders is being honoured for pleasure. The head of Guild Chocolate in Petrolia has won a gold, four silver and three bronze medals for her creations in the Canadian Chocolate Awards. Sanders says her chocolates have to meet a set standard to reach the gold medal standard. Sanders has been entering the Canadian championships for a number of years and says the judges can be blunt and brutal with their comments. But, in the end, it improves her work and the chocolates she produces. Sometime in the next few months, she'll pack up samples of her gold winning Passion Praline Bonbon and a number of the silver winning concoctions to go to the worlds. And while she is pleased to be recognized, she hopes the recognition doesn't just drive people to her business, but instead makes the recognize what good products can be found in Petrolia. "People can't imagine they can find good chocolate or good theater in Petrolia," she says. "Hopefully this is showing that Petrolia is not just some small backwater town - there is quality here."

PW repairing shoreline at Lamrecton

Plympton-Wyoming will spend \$366,000 to secure the 54 meters of shoreline at Lamrecton Park this year. The town has been making improvements to the former summer camp all year, however the waves and high water levels have been damaging the beach's shoreline. In a report to council, CAO Carolyn Tripp says the property owners beside the park have been making improvements to their shorelines. The town hired an engineer to look at the park's shoreline. Engineers said the town could reinforce the shoreline with either steel or armour stone - a method preferred by conservation authority officials in the past. Council agreed to place a single layer of armour stone in at the park to stop the destruction of the shoreline this year at a cost of \$366,000. While the design provides stability for the shoreline with a smaller amount of stone, the engineer says skilled contractors will need to be used to make sure the stone is placed correctly and the toe of the structure will be deep into the ground to prevent further erosion..

Dawn-Euphemia mourns loss of firefighter

The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia firefighters are mourning the loss of one of their own. Dalles Bergsma died suddenly Monday according to Fire Chief Don Ewing. At press time, Ewing said he was not aware what had happened, only that the young man who had ably served the department the last five years had passed away.

"Dalles was a great type of guy. He he dropped anything he was doing to give you a hand at any time. That was just the type of guy he was. He was one of our one of our very reliable guys...a very nice, personable young man," says Ewing. He hopes the department can find a way to honour him in time. But he says they will respect the wishes of his family. Bergsma leaves behind his wife, Michelle.



Notice of Commencement and Virtual Consultation & Engagement Event 1
Terms of Reference for an Environmental Assessment
Twin Creeks Environmental Centre Landfill Optimization Project

Waste Management of Canada Corporation (WM), the owner and operator of the Twin Creeks Environmental Centre (TCEC) in Watford, Ontario, has initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) seeking approval to optimize the landfill design and operation, maximizing the use of the constructed infrastructure and the significant investment made at the TCEC. The optimization could involve a vertical expansion of the landfill within the approved 101.8 ha Expansion Landfill footprint by modifying the side slopes and increasing the elevation of the landfill. This optimization could provide additional airspace of up to approximately 14M m³, which could extend the site life by approximately 12 years (from 2032 to 2044). There would be no change to the current 101.8 ha landfill footprint area, the approved service area, or the annual fill rate.

There is a need for the continued development of the TCEC as it is a significant component of the provincial waste management network and infrastructure, which is lacking in sufficient and secure long-term disposal capacity. Optimizing the future development of the TCEC allows for on-going sustainable business operations and continued provision of essential financial support for community services and programs.

The TCEC is located in the Township of Warwick near the Village of Watford, at the corner of Nauvoo Road and Zion Line (see Key Plan below). The purpose of the EA is to assess the potential effects of the proposed landfill optimization on the environment.

The Process

The EA will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. The first step in the process is the preparation of a Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference will set out the framework and work plan for addressing the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* requirements when preparing the EA, including such things as the alternatives that will be considered, and the public consultation and engagement activities that will be carried out. If approved by the Minister, the Terms of Reference will provide the framework and requirements for the preparation of the EA.

KEY PLAN



Consultation and Engagement

Members of the public, agencies, Indigenous communities, and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the Terms of Reference planning process by participating in consultation and engagement opportunities or contacting staff directly with comments or questions. Consultation and engagement opportunities are being planned throughout the process and will be advertised in local newspapers, on the project website www.wm.com/ca/en/twin-creeks-landfill/landfill-optimization-project and by direct and/or electronic mail (email).

WM invites you to attend **Virtual Consultation & Engagement Event 1** to introduce and provide an overview of the landfill optimization project, present the development and contents of the Terms of Reference, the EA process, and information on the rationale, proposed alternatives, and the consultation and engagement process that will be followed during the development of the EA. **Virtual Consultation & Engagement Event 1** is an online event accessible from the project website www.wm.com/ca/en/twin-creeks-landfill/landfill-optimization-project, which will run between **Tuesday, November 17 and Friday, December 4, 2020**. You are encouraged to participate by reviewing the information provided during the event and providing feedback.

In addition to participating in **Virtual Consultation & Engagement Event 1**, you are invited to submit your comments by mail, email, or phone to the project contacts listed below. If you would like to be added to the project mailing list or have project-related questions, please contact:

<p>Wayne Jenken Area Landfill Manager, Eastern Canada Area Waste Management of Canada Corporation 5768 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON N0M 2S0 Phone: 519.849.5810 E-mail: wjenken@wm.com</p>	<p>Larry Fedec, P.Eng. M.B.A. Solid Waste Program Lead, Canada HDR Corporation 100 York Blvd., Suite 300, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1J8 Phone: 289.695.4696 E-mail: larry.fedec@hdrinc.com</p>
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Published November 17, 2020

Bylaw officers order Florence lot to be cleared

Heather Wright
The Independent

At first, it seemed like good news – someone had purchased the vacant variety store in the hamlet of Florence. But soon, neighbours and municipal officials realized this was not going to be the development people had hoped. The new owner began bringing in derelict vehicles, including large trucks and parking them in the parking lot on the main street.

It wasn't long before Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad was getting complaints about the "eyesore."

Then there were concerns about the new owner parking vehicles on the wrong side of the road and backing out into oncoming traffic.

In early November, Broad raised the issue at township council.

Clerk Donna Clermont has talked to the new owner and made it clear the junk should not accumulate.

"I did make it very clear to him that this is not a scrap yard or a place of raw material. And that if he's got a motor vehicle establishment, he needs to be moving product," says Clermont. "He assured me that anything that was coming in, would be repaired and



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Hopes of a new business in Florence have faded as a former variety store is becoming an eyesore according to local politicians.

sold... And then he also mentioned that... he was planning on putting a fence up and putting everything behind it."

Broad doesn't believe that's true. "I do not believe that most of the stuff there is drivable... Our bylaws are very clear, derelict vehicles are not allowed in any zone."

Broad says something had to be

done. "It's not fair for the people that live around there to look at such a mess. And I'm sorry he can put a fence up all he wants but you've got to go to a 15-foot fence to hide that trailer," says Broad.

Lambton County, which handles the township's bylaw enforcement, has issued an order to clean up the scrap metal and cars at the corner.

Oil Springs wants to know what residents think

Heather Wright
The Independent

Oil Springs' new clerk wants to know what the people of the village think is important.

Lynda Thorton recently became the clerk of Lambton County's smallest municipality. One of the goals she and council set was to complete the budget talks earlier than before.

In 2019, it was the late spring before the document was officially adopted. Thorton says part of the reason was due to the restrictions around meetings during the early stages of the pandemic.

But this year, Thorton and council hope to have the budget for 2021 complete before the new year rings in.

Thorton has already launched an online survey to see what is import-

ant to the 648 people who live in the community.

The survey asks 10 basic questions including if people are satisfied with services like snow removal and waste disposal.

Thorton says she is "trying to get a sense of where people want to see changes and what they're most concerned about" with the survey.

By law, municipalities must hold a budget input meeting, but the online survey is another way of getting some ideas about where the community does well and where things could change.

Thorton hopes to take those concerns to council when it has its first budget meeting Dec. 7.

She's not expecting a lot of changes to the current budget. Thorton would like to see the municipality start saving money in the reserves so by 2025, the

community could start working on important projects like replacing some of the equipment from the roads department, renovating the community centre and laying more sidewalks.

Thorton adds there will likely be an opportunity to start improving sidewalks in Oil Springs this year. The village, and every other municipality in Ontario, will be receiving COVID-19 Infrastructure cash. It's one way the province hopes to kick start the economy.

Thorton says Oil Springs will be getting \$100,000 and she will propose to council to replace the sidewalk on Oil Springs Line from Oil Heritage Road to Victoria Street.

Thorton hopes to have the details of the construction and the new budget completed at council's Dec. 17th meeting.

Dawn-Euphemia to look at use of ATVs on roads

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia's mayor would rather not have ATVs on municipal roads.

Starting in January, municipalities have to spell out whether the off-road vehicles will be allowed in their communities.

Lambton OPP have been talking to municipal leaders, encouraging them to have a conversation about the issue before the end of the year.

"Because of recent amendments made to the Highway Traffic Act...the province will permit off road vehicles on local municipal roads where 80 km speed limits apply," says Clerk Donna Clermont in a report to council.

The rule will automatically apply to Dawn-Euphemia unless "a restricting or prohibiting bylaw is passed."

The OPP says about 37 per cent of the ORV accidents they attend are on municipal roadways.

Speed was the cause of about 19 per cent of the collisions. Thirty-eight per cent of the time, the ORV driver lost control of the machine.

Alcohol fueled nearly 20 per cent of all accidents that were fatal or had injuries.

And the OPP says 69 per cent of those killed on off road vehicles were not wearing a helmet or using a seat-belt.

Mayor Al Broad says during his time in office, he has never been asked by residents to make off road vehicles legal in the municipality. And even though nearby Chatham-Kent allows the use of ATVs on roads, he's not sure it is a good idea in Dawn-Euphemia.

Broad says about 75 per cent of the people using the vehicles would follow the rules of the road. But he's also aware about 25 per cent of the people are out for a good time, and that includes doing donuts and making divots on municipal roads.

"Some people think it is fun to chew

up as much gravel as they can," he says.

In a township where the majority of roads are gravel, and where they take pride in having good roads, Broad isn't too keen on the idea.

"We would have to regrade our roads because if they start putting two or three inch divots on to the road all the time all of the sudden, it becomes a safety issue for drivers."

Broad says he supports the use of off road vehicles by farmers and trappers, which is legal under highway traffic rules now, but he personally doesn't want to see it open up to off-roaders bent on just having fun.

Council will discuss the issue before the end of this year.



Al Broad



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More townhouses coming to Corunna, development planned for Wilkesport

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Colonel Cameron School is closer to welcoming new next door neighbors after a 36-unit townhouse complex passed another step in the application process.

The condos will be located off Queen St. in Corunna, south of the Athletic Park and east of Colonel Cameron. Development has been in the works for more than a year as new owners Kendel Homes worked out details with Lambton County and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

The proposed complex was previously known as the Walnut Grove Subdivision under prior owners Danbury Developments.

The proposal before council on Nov. 16 changed the land's zoning from standard condo to vacant lot condo. This means each unit will have its own owner, rather than one person owning several condos and renting them out.

The units will be single-story and accommodate two vehicles. Councillor Rose Atkins asked if the units might lead to increased traffic and parking on Queen St. But St. Clair's senior planner Barry Uitvlugt says he isn't worried.

"The vast majority of the development will not want to park out a distance away from the internal lane," Uitvlugt says, referencing the condominium's internal roadway. "The assumption is that for the most part you're going to have sufficient parking."

"We've had some great discussions with the County of Lambton public works and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, and they have no objections and would support this proposal," says Uitvlugt. "This proposal reflects the overall intent of the [township's] official plan. The planners and myself support this development."

Now that council has approved rezoning, Kendel Homes will

make a condo application.

Wilkesport is looking at a housing plan of their own. A large plot of land south of Edward St. and west of Douglas St. is currently zoned as A1 agricultural zone. The land owners are hoping to change this to R1 residential zone to allow for single detached housing.

Part of the land is zoned EP-H however, which means it's environmentally protected. Uitvlugt says the owners have been working with the county and conservation authority for awhile now, and believes they've finally worked out most of these issues.

"The big issue here was identifying those lands that were designated for residential development that could be zoned to an R1 zone, while ensuring that those lands that are in environmental protection remain in environmental protection," says Uitvlugt.

"There was a bit of a discrepancy with the floodplains near the very



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thirty-six condos are the works for a plot of land in Corunna near Col. Cameron Public School. Another developer plans to build in Wilkesport.

bottom, but with comments from the conservation authority we've identified that it will remain as the current zoning in terms of environmental protection."

Council approved the rezoning. Uitvlugt says more environmental study is needed to determine how many houses will be possible in the area.

Jail time for man who posed as landlord, roofer

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man scammed more than \$4,000 from unsuspecting victims - including renting out an apartment he didn't own - to fuel his drug habit.

Robert Dew, 25, pulled off the deception during two separate occasions, in Sarnia and Lambton Shores.

The cons started in July 2017 while Dew was doing maintenance work on a Brock St. North home in Sarnia. A new buyer was set to take over the house in August. Before the month ended, Dew posed as a property manager and showed the house to a pair of prospective renters - something he had no authorization to do.

Two men agreed to move into the house and gave Dew a total of \$2,300 in rent and damage deposits. The scam was discovered when the new owner arrived at the end of the month and surprisingly found the pair living in the house. They were forced to leave, and when they traced the check given to Dew they found he had already cashed it and left town for London.

In January 2018 Dew had a new scheme where he posed as a contractor. He responded to a Facebook ad from a Lambton Shores resident in need of a roofer.

Dew arrived at the Foster Cres. home with a truck, jacket and paper work bearing a company logo. Dew spoke with the owner and collected an \$1,800 cash deposit, saying he'd return in a few days to start work.

But Dew never returned.

After many messages from the owner he finally replied "I'm sorry it didn't work out." The owner was forced to get a new contractor.

Dew was arrested two months later when

Sarnia Police responded to a dispute on King St.

Over the next six months he missed three court appearances and a bail meeting.

"He's had a long history of a problem with drugs," says defense lawyer Robert McFadden. "Mr. Dew has a very serious drug problem that will kill him if he doesn't straighten up."

Court heard Dew and a friend recently overdosed on fentanyl. Dew was saved by naloxone, but unfortunately his friend couldn't be revived.

McFadden says this has led to emotional problems and a guilt complex.

"Until he gets a handle on that he's just playing Russian roulette with his life," McFadden says of Dew's addiction issues.

"I'm prepared to make amends for my wrongdoings and I'm seriously looking forward to grasping sobriety," Dew says during his opportunity to speak.

A joint submission from McFadden and Crown Attorney Aniko Coughlan of 120 days jail was accepted by Justice Deborah Austin.

With time served Dew has 96 days left.

"The fraudulent actions on your part deprived innocent people of money, and was fairly brazen and fairly impactful, particularly for two people who thought they had an apartment, thought they'd paid rent for it... and ended up having nowhere to live and lost money for deposits."

"Also somebody who thought they were getting their roof fixed had to start from scratch and raise the money to do that," says Austin.

Dew will be on probation for a year after release. He must take addiction and grief counselling and pay full restitution to the three people he defrauded.

Hall-less holidays in St. Clair looking likely

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

You may be decking your halls, but St. Clair Township isn't ready to yet.

The holiday season is fast approaching, but community halls in St. Clair will be keeping their doors shut for the foreseeable future.

Director of Community Services Kendall

Lindsay says in a report that there is still little interest from hall volunteers to take on the added responsibilities of keeping the halls clean and safe due to COVID-19.

Lindsay says that the halls are being continually inspected and maintained however, so that they are able to be used as soon as hall volunteers feel comfortable opening them back up.

CHRISTMAS FUN



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Staff at Lambton's museums have come up with an alternative to the usual Christmas programs. Children booking a visit at the Lambton Heritage Museum and the Oil Museum of Canada will be getting craft kits to take home with them this year. There are also two crafts online for children who aren't going to the museum this year because of the pandemic. Here, Ryker and Locksley Thorne, work at their crafts at home.

Oh Baby; judge reduces fine after false labour

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

He said his wife was having labor pains – but that wasn't enough to stop a Sarnia man from being hit with a \$1,600 fine for driving with a suspended license.

Jeffery Healey got some pity from Justice Deborah Austin who reduced the fine by \$400.

Sarnia Court heard Nov. 17, Healey was stopped on Blackwell Rd. in August when an officer – who knew his license was suspended – spotted

him behind the wheel of a Pontiac Torrent.

Healey explained that his fiancée, who was in the passenger seat, was experiencing labor pains. They had been in Thedford for his daughter's birthday party and he took over driving on the way home. The woman was two weeks from delivery.

It turned out she was experiencing Braxton Hicks – false labor pains. The couple has since welcomed the baby, their seventh child.

"That's a large number of dependents... certainly a context that

is not the norm these days," Austin said during sentencing. She said Healey's large family, and the belief his wife was about to give birth, were reasons for the reduced fine.

"There was a rather emergent circumstance that prompted you to commit the offense, and your financial circumstances are certainly impacted by the number of dependents that you have to support," says Austin. "You meet the threshold for some relief against the totality of the financial penalty."

Healey's license remains suspended.

Oshawa man with cocaine escapes jail after police error

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

"I'm just going to tell you - you got lucky."

That from Justice Christopher Bondy to Ahmed Sardar as the Oshawa man escaped a cocaine trafficking charge in Sarnia Superior Court.

Sardar, 26, instead plead to a simple possession charge Nov. 20, despite being found with more than 150 grams of cocaine during a July drug bust last year.

He landed a conditional sentence rather than lengthy imprisonment because of procedural errors the night of his arrest.

Sardar had been under investigation by Sarnia's Vice Unit. After receiving tips from informants and through Crime Stoppers, police determined they had enough evidence to bring charges.

On the night of July 12, 2019 officers followed Sardar as he and a woman made three drug deals in Canatara Park.

He was arrested immediately, around 9 pm.

A search of Sardar found six grams

of cocaine, a large amount of cash and two cell phones.

Officers then applied for a warrant to search the Michigan Ave. home Sardar was living in. They received one at 12:50 am and entered the home.

Sardar was renting a room in the house where police found 145 grams of cocaine, cash, a weighing scale and brass knuckles.

The Crown's problem prosecuting the case related to Sardar's treatment after being taken into custody.

Between his arrest around 9 pm and the issuing of the warrant nearly four hours later, Sardar wasn't given the opportunity to contact a lawyer.

Police said they thought other people in the house might destroy evidence if they learned Sardar had been arrested. Section 10(b) of the Criminal Code states anyone placed under arrest must be given the opportunity "to retain and instruct counsel without delay..."

Crown Attorney Michael Robb says while officers' failure to do this was inadvertent, "It certainly goes to the heart of the right to counsel."

Bondy agreed, but made it clear to Sardar it's only because of this error he's staying out of prison.



Ontario

"Under other circumstances, the conditions that you were caught under – most particularly the quantity of drugs – would warrant a significant jail term," says Bondy.

"I want to make it absolutely clear that there's no suggestion here that this would otherwise be a fit sentence, other than these very, very unique circumstances. You would be going to prison for a significant length of time. And that's not a comfortable place," says Bondy.

"I very strongly recommend that you seek assistance... to ensure that you don't wind up back in this situation."

Sardar was sentenced to one year house arrest in Oshawa. He must spend the first six months under full house arrest, take counselling for substance abuse, and cannot leave Ontario.

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Sports

Hunter moves up Blackhawks ranks

Barry Wright
The Independent

Meghan Hunter has a new job with the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks.

She is now the Director of Hockey Administration and Amateur Scout with the Hawks.

The Oil Springs product had been the Senior Executive Assistant to Senior Vice-President/General Manager and Hockey Operations Stan Bowman for the past four-and-a-half years.

She joined the NHL club after administrative stints with Hockey Canada and the London Knights of the OHL.

After an illustrious playing career at the University of Wisconsin, where she was a finalist for the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award during her freshman season when she shared the national scoring lead with 42 goals and 78 points, she spent time on the coaching staff at the University of Maine and Niagara University.



Meghan Hunter during the 2020 Draft

GOJHL hockey likely to start in January

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League has announced that it hopes to drop the puck on a new season on Jan. 15.

The new projected date came after the league has received approval from the Ontario Hockey Federation to play five-on-five hockey with modified rules this season.

The 24-game schedule will only proceed with the blessing of local public health officials and the provincial government, said GOJHL Commissioner Mark Tuck in a statement this week.

"We are grateful and excited to have received this confirmation from the OHF as we work towards getting our players back on the ice. Along with our goal of providing the best junior hockey experience in Ontario, our League is committed to ensuring a safe return to play for everyone involved," said Tuck.

"The GOJHL would like to thank all facilities and public health units for their cooperation and dedication towards understanding the needs of our GOJHL teams as we organize our return to play."

The amended rules include the elimination of body checking, post-whistle scrums and fighting

as well as all players wearing "bubble" face masks and face coverings.

Teams will compete involving separate cohort brackets within their conferences based on a structure that will see clubs only play against one other team during the set time frame. Teams will play in a three-week cycle and will take a 14-day isolation break to exchange cohorts.

But despite the pronouncement by the league, Sarnia Legionnaires Cliff Smith still has doubts about the season starting in mid-January.

"There are still a lot of ifs," he said.

The GOJHL hopes the season can end by late March with the Sutherland Cup awarded by June at the latest.

"GOJHL appreciates our teams, players, staff members, officials, fans, and everyone associated with our League for their dedication and patience during these unprecedented times.

"We wish the best of luck to all as we begin the GOJHL 2020-21 season," said Tuck.

Junior teams under the umbrella of the Ontario Hockey Association have until Dec. 10 to opt out of the season.

Previously, the Legionnaires had said they would not compete with fans in the arena. The Petrolia Flyers and Mooretown Flags of the PJHL both say they will compete if there is a league to play in.

Stings' Rees scores twice in selection camp scrimmage

The Independent

Jamieson Rees of the Sarnia Sting scored twice in a 6-3 loss by Team Red in the second of weekend intra squad games at the Team Canada selection camp.

Trailing 2-0, Rees got the Red squad on the board with a rebound goal at 7:18 of the second period Sunday in Red Deer. He then scored the first of back-to-back goals 36 seconds apart early in the third period to cut the Red deficit to 4-3. The winners scored twice into the empty net to secure the victory.

Rees was also a strong physical presence in game one on Saturday. While he did not record any points, he did hit a goal post and did deliver several hits.

London Knights goaltender and former Dresden Junior Kings star Brett Brochu stopped 39 of 44 shots over four-and-a-half periods for Team White on the weekend. The teams were scheduled to play again Tuesday, but Hockey Canada cancelled the third game when two players tested positive for COVID-19.

As of press time, the players had not been identified.

St. Clair Township's pro hockey player's team quarantines

The Independent

Courtright's Dustin Jeffrey and his SC Bern hockey club are in quarantine until early next month after a member of the Swiss club tested positive for COVID-19.

Jeffrey has three goals and seven assists in 12

games with Bern this season after four seasons in Lausanne in the top professional league in Switzerland.

Bern is 4-7-1 on the season.

Its three scheduled games this coming weekend have all been postponed.

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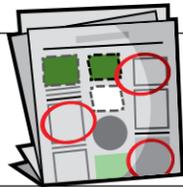


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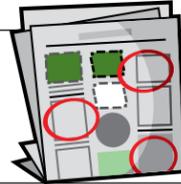
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Card of Thanks

WILFORD MITCHELL

The family of the late Wilford Mitchell would like to thank everyone who came to visitation, and for the flowers, donations & cards. A thank you to the Steadman Brothers for their friendship at this stressful time.

THANK YOU

Betty & Family

Card of Thanks

Sincere Thanks J. Bev Boyd

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks for the many acts of kindness received during and following the loss of a husband, father and grandfather.

Thanks to family, friends and neighbours for food, phone calls, cards and donations.

Special thanks to Dr. Butler and Dr. Daniels for making it possible to keep Bev at home. We are forever grateful!

Thanks to Steven Mailloux and Rev. Carrie Wagner for their care and guidance during this difficult time. Thank you to Josh MacDougall for providing the music for the service and to Bev's sister Joyce for the beautiful poem written in honour of Bev's life.

Again heartfelt thanks,
Carol, Michael, Max & Charlotte
Conor, Riley & Taylor, Ryan, Collin

Obituary



METCALFE

Shirley Margaret Edith

Dec. 10, 1934 – Oct. 30, 2020

Shirley Metcalfe (nee Duncan) of Petrolia, died peacefully surrounded by family, **Friday October 30, 2020** at C.E.E. Hospital of Bluewater Health Petrolia, at the age of **85**. Beloved wife of Don Metcalfe for over 67 years. Shirley will be lovingly remembered by her children, Terry (Jim) Willis, Mona (Alexander) Protas, Spencer (Deb) Metcalfe. She was a proud grandmother of Jason (Michelle) Robertson, Nadia Protas, Nusha Protas, Bronson (Giliane) Metcalfe, Zoey (Cole) Randall, Riley Metcalfe and Jayden Russell. Great grandmother to Elyssa (Austin) Black, Makenzie Robertson, Ronin Metcalfe, Ryker and Levi Randall. She is survived by her siblings, John (Holly) Duncan, Jackie (Sam) Kay and Rick (Cheska) Duncan. Sister-in-laws, Leone Mater, Kathy Duncan and Alice Duncan. She is pre-deceased by her parents Frank and Gladys Duncan, her siblings Ken Duncan, Betty (Bill) Hackett, Don Duncan, Merlin (Ann) Duncan, Jean (Bob) McDonald, Ralph Duncan, Doug Duncan. Brother-in-laws Jack (Kay)(Betty) Metcalfe and Doug (Mary)(Lorraine)Metcalfe, and Don Mater. Pre-deceased by son-in-law Harley Robertson and grandson Joel. She is loved by many nieces and nephews on both sides of the family. Shirley's commitment to her faith in Jesus was displayed in her love of life and enjoyment of it. She was known for her love of people and gracious hospitality, never sitting down while entertaining, she wanted everyone's needs to be met. We all enjoyed her infectious laugh and quick wit. She had a varied career starting as a telephone operator for Bell Canada, worked at Crest Home Hardware, and Petrolia Topic. She was highly regarded in the advertising industry, having had a successful advertising business with Coffee Time News. She left her mark on many lives through her involvement as a Sunday school teacher, youth ministries and Christian Business Women, Stonecroft Canada, now known as RSVP Ministries. We would like to thank Dr. Li for his years of compassionate care towards Shirley, she was in constant praise of him. Gratitude to the Albany Retirement Village staff and their exceptional attention during these difficult Covid times. Thank you to the nursing staff at C.E.E. Hospital with special thanks to Marie, Kim and Bailey. We saw God's care towards our family demonstrated through them.

Obituary



JAQUES

Christine Margaret

JAQUES, Christine Margaret – Age 76 of Petrolia, passed away on **Friday, November 17, 2020** at his home near Bluewater Health - C.E.E. Site, Petrolia. Beloved wife of Ken Jaques. Loving mother of Brian Jaques, Wayne (Leslie) Jaques and Keith (Justyna) Jaques. Cherished grandmother of Emerson, Trista, Alyssa, Alex (Jenna), Andrew and Tyler. Dear sister of Mike (Sylvia) Edgar and sister-in-law of Jean Zavitz, Ruby Nickels, Verna St. Dennis and Hazel Simpson. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her parents William (1997) and Winifred (2009) (nee McConkey) Edgar. Christine was a teacher for many years and was Past Grand Martha and Past Grand Matron with the Order of the Eastern Star, Britannia Chapter No. 34 Petrolia. She enjoyed attending her grandkids sporting events and helping out at Jaques Farm Drainage. **Due to Provincial COVID-19 restrictions, a private family service will be held at STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, BRIGDEN. A private family graveside will take place at Wyoming Cemetery. A celebration of life will take place at a later date.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceehf.ca) or charity of choice. Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden 519-864-1193.

In Memory

**HOWES
Bonnie**

December 2, 2017

*What would we give her hand to clasp,
 Her patient face to see,
 To hear her voice, to see her smile,
 As in the days that used to be.
 But some sweet day we'll meet again
 Beyond the toil and strife,
 And clasp each other's hand once more,
 In Heaven, that happy life.*

Loved by Mom & Dad,
 her brother Jeff and Family,
 and her son Josh
 and grandson Devyn

Obituary



McCORMICK

Stephen

McCORMICK, Stephen - Died suddenly at his home on **Friday, November 20, 2020** at his home near Wyoming. Stephen Ross "Steve" McCormick, was in his **64th year**. Steve was the husband of the late Betty Lou (nee Ward) and a father to Tania McCormick and Craig McCormick. He is the son of the late Earl (1983) and the late Nan (1997) McCormick and a brother to Lorein (Doug) Braley, Alex (Vicki) McCormick, Mary Lou (Larry) Goodacre, and the late Scott (2008)(Andrina) McCormick. Steve was a retired member of UA Local 663. **Cremaion has taken place.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Royal Canadian Legion Be. 388 Poppy Fund. Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.

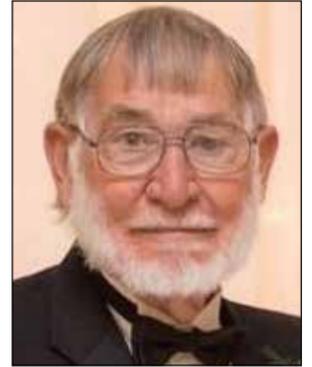
Obituary

CLEMENTS

Mary Kathleen

Peacefully, at Watford Quality Care Centre, on **Monday, November 23, 2020**, (Mary) Kathleen Clements, formerly of Alvinston, passed away in **100th year**. Predeceased by her parents Alexander and Mary (McDonald) Clements, and her brother Philip. Fondly remembered by her sister-in-law Donna. She will be missed by nephew David Clements and his wife Deborah, niece Bonnie MacKay her husband Ian and by her great-nephews and niece. The family would like to thank the staff at Watford Quality Care for their wonderful and compassionate care over the years of Kathleen's stay with them. **In keeping with Kathleen's wishes, cremaion has taken place. A private memorial will be held.** Expressions of sympathy can be made to Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Alvinston or the Alzheimer Society. Online condolences may be left at www.vanheckfuneralhome.ca

Obituary



SEANSON

F. Carlyle

With profound sadness, the family of F. Carlyle Seanson announce his peaceful passing on **Saturday November 21, 2020** after a brief struggle with cancer in his **82nd year**. Beloved husband of 57 years to Marilyn (nee Clark). Cherished father of Scott Seanson and his wife Anne and Jason Seanson and his wife Cindy. Devoted and loving grandfather to Jenna (Dan O'Hagan), Shannon (Brandon McCurdy), Jesse and Amber Seanson. Treasured uncle to Carla (Clark) and Nick Sitter and grandpa Seanson to their sons, Cale and Gavin. A lifelong resident of Watford, Carlyle enjoyed operating the family sawmill at the south end of town. He was a proud member of the Carpenter's Union #1256 for 48 years. He and his family were active members of the Western Ontario Steam Threshers Association (Corunna, Brigden, Forest), Huron Pioneer Thresher and Hobby Association (Blyth) and National Threshers' Association (Wauseon, Ohio). Carlyle co-founded the Watford Gun Club in 1968 with lifelong friend, Paul Vail. He coached minor hockey in the 1980's, was a member of the Watford Legion, was a 60 year member of the Havelock Lodge #238 and was the District Secretary in 2005. His family would like to extend their thanks to the Bluewater Health Palliative Care Team with a special acknowledgement of appreciation to Danica and Lucie for their exceptional care and compassion shown. **In keeping with Carlyle's wishes cremaion has taken place and his family will be remembering him with a private celebration.** In lieu of flowers sympathy may be expressed through memorial donations to the Sarnia/Lambton V.O.N. or to St. Joseph's Hospice, Sarnia. Arrangements entrusted to Knight Funeral Home 588, St. Clair Parkway, Corunna. Messages and condolences may be left online at www.knightfuneralhome.ca Knight 519-862-2845

Death Notices November 16 - November 21, 2020

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
FRASER, Ricky Age 66, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home	MOORE, Brian "Doug" Age 66, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
STEWART, Jack Mason Age 81, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	PILIARIK, Ann Age 69, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home
NUTT, Donna Age 86, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	SMITH, J. Douglas Age 79, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
RYTA, Lodi Age 87, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home	ENDERS, Ingrid Age 85, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
SMITH, David "Smitty" Age 40, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home	McCORMICK, Stephen Age 64, of Wyoming Needham-Jay Funeral Home
MICHELIN, Randall Age 68, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	MATZ, Joesph Age 85, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home
JAQUES, Christine Age 76, of Petrolia Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel	DRONZEK, Frank Age 86, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home
JOHNSON, Leona Age 88, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	GRAHAM, Jeanette Age 101, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
ARNOLD, Terri Age 36, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	BOIS, Irene Age 82, of Aamjiwaang Smith Funeral Home
SPEED, Arthur Age 86, of St.Clair McCormack Funeral Home	SEASON, Carlyle Age 82, of Watford Knight Funeral Home
WOODHAM, John "Jack" Age 96, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home	

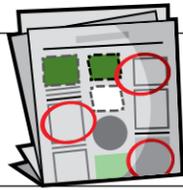
This information is provided as a community service. For detailed information, please refer to the funeral home website listing.

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



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

**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
Nov 26	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Nov 26	7-10pm	Petrolia	LCDS Holiday Craft Night at Kingswell Glen Golf Club. \$35 a spot. Create one-of-a-kind holiday decor & enjoy a fun night out! To register please contact Shawna at 519-882-0933 ext10 or email sbelan@lcs.on.ca max group of 6. Cash bar available.	
Nov 27	6pm	Watford	Watford Legion Meat Raffle, Catch the Ace & 50/50	519-876-2360
Nov 28	9am	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Bake Sale & Dutch Auction. Meat Raffle & Catch the Ace at 3:30pm	
Nov 28	9-2p	Forest	3rd Annual Forest legion Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Craft Sale at the Forest legion. Masks must be worn & social distancing guidelines apply. Any questions call Charlotte Wilcocks 519-330-8077	
Nov 28	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle & 50/50 Draw	
Nov 28	6-8p	Forest	Forest Santa Claus Parade at Forest Fairgrounds. Enter off Hubbard Line. Entry fee of a canned food. Decorate your car! for more info email illmanruth@gmail.com	
Nov 29	4:30-6:30pm	Alvinston	Alvinston ice Angels Drive Thru Chicken & Rib Dinner at the BAICC. \$20/Meal. Chicken & Rib, baked potato, bkd beans, buns, cookie. Advanced tickets only.	
Dec 2	8-10pm	Petrolia	Join Michael Vanhevel for Trivia Night at Kingswell Clubhouse (4300 Garden Cres). Max Team size of 6.	
Dec 3	4:30-6:30p	Watford	Watford Legion Drive by Turkey Dinner. Dinner includes: turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, wold's greatest dressing, dinner roll, dessert. \$20 donation to legion. Cash only. Limited meals. Call Joan @ 519-876-2519 to reserve your meal & pick up time.	
Dec 3	6-8p	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Dec 4	6pm	Petrolia	Petrolia's Lighting of the Lights - Watch Virtually. Go to the Town of Petrolia's Facebook or Youtube Page to watch	
Dec 5	10:30a	Watford	Watford Drive-by Santa Claus Parade. Santa will be in a fire truck driving by every house in Watford. Listen for the Christmas music & sirens	
Dec 5	9am-12pm	Petrolia	Santa is coming to town. Santa will be visiting every street in Petrolia. He will be escorted by firetrucks.	
Dec 5	1:00p	Warwick	Warwick Drive-by Santa Claus Parade. Santa will be in a fire truck driving by every house in Warwick. listen for the Christmas music & sirens.	
Dec 5	1-3pm	Petrolia	Santa at the Farmer's Market. Join in and get a photo with Santa. Sponsored by the Lambton Central Petrolia Optimist Club.	
Dec 5	3-6pm	Forest	Forest Legion Annual Christmas Double Meat Raffle. 30 draws of Ham & Turkey, 25 money draws. 50/50 included.	
Dec 10	6-8p	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Dec 11	6pm	Oil Springs	Lighting of the Christmas Tree with Santa at 4589 Oil Springs Line. Let us keep the Christmas Spirit alive while keeping social distancing in mind.	
Dec 12	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle & 50/50 Draw	
Dec 12	6-7pm	Alvinston	Alvinston Optimist Santa Clause Parade & Tour. Stop by the Alvinston Arena to meet Santa and get your map for a tour of the drive through parade.	
Dec 16	8-10pm	Petrolia	Join Michael Vanhevel for Trivia Night at Kingswell Clubhouse (4300 Garden Cres). Max Team size of 6.	
Dec 17	6-8p	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Dec 19	3:30p	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

Have a Great Story Idea?
 NEWS
 Send it to us!
The Independent
 Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton
 email us at: news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING

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

Business & Service Directory

BOURQUE RENOVATIONS

Additions - Renovations
Kitchens & Baths
Trim Work - Custom Carpentry

329 Centre St., Petrolia
www.bourquerenovations.com

519-882-3344

GB Excavating

Excavating/Septic

Steve Greer
Owner

4396 Nauvoo Rd.
Watford ON
N0M 2S0
519-494-1855

gbexc@brktel.on.ca
gbexcavating.ca

Church

DIRECTORY

Christ Church Anglican
414 Oil Street, Petrolia

Sunday Service at 11am

Please follow all Covid-19 guidelines and wear you mask.

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

**St. Andrew's
Prebyterian Church**
416 Queen Street, Petrolia
(Behind the Post Office)

In this time of Social distancing we invite you to join a virtual congregation and watch the Sunday morning worship at St. Andrew's.
10am Service - Live

www.standrews-petrolia.ca

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

First Baptist Church
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

SERVICE SUSPENDED until further notice in compliance with Ontario Corona Virus meeting guidelines

Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
fbcpetrolia@gmail.com
www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

Find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia

Wyoming United Church
730 Second Street, Wyoming

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

The COVID-19 pandemic in Canada is serious.

Continue to practise all public health measures:



Follow local guidelines for gatherings



Maintain physical distancing



Wash your hands



Wear a mask



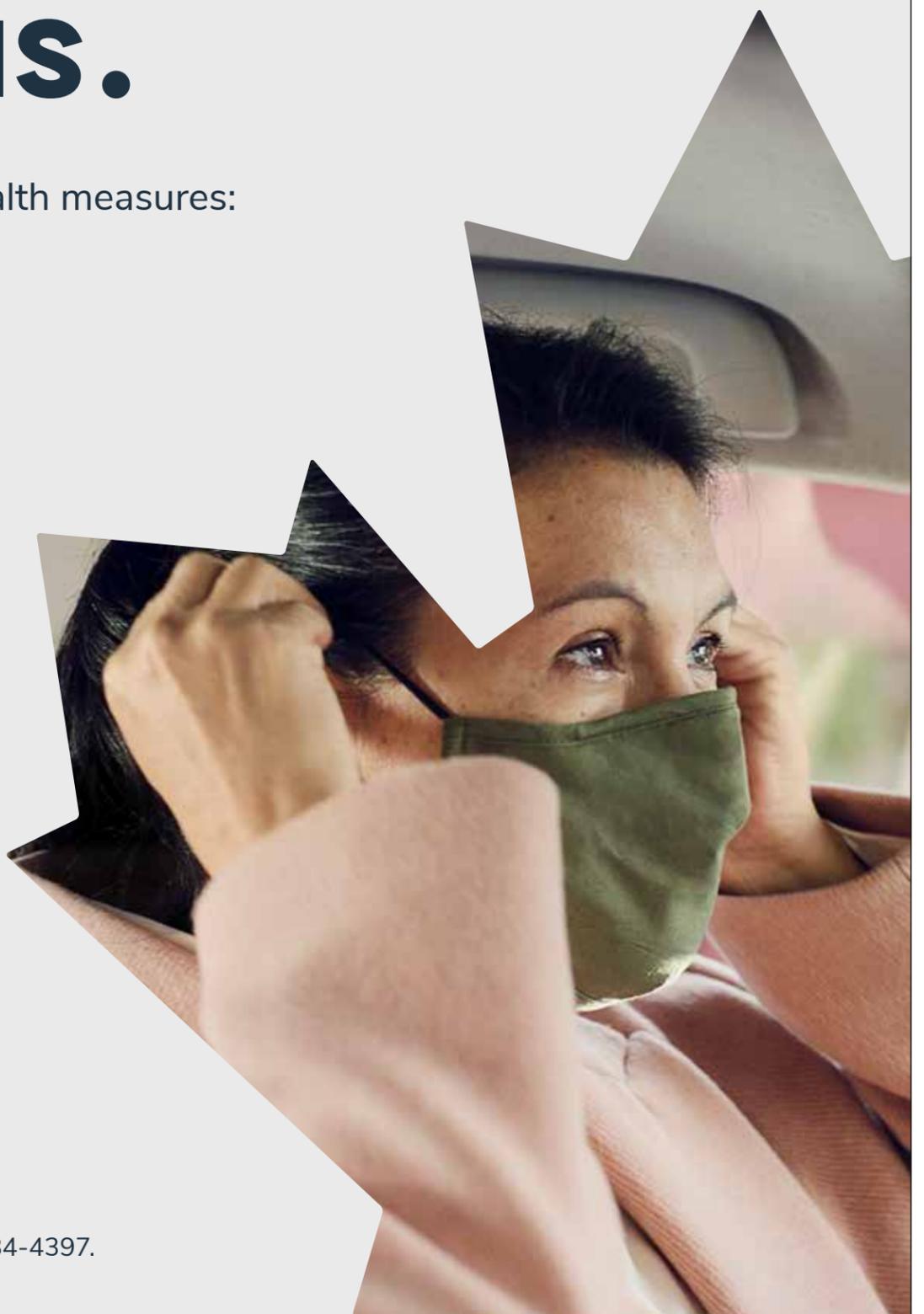
Stay home if you have symptoms, even mild ones



Download the COVID Alert app

Canada

Protect yourself and others.
Learn more at Canada.ca/coronavirus or 1-833-784-4397.



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

Canada