

# The Independent

*Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton*

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## SNOW DAY



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Adrianne Lebert shovels the front step of the Petrolia Library Tuesday morning as the first major snowfall of the season hit Petrolia and Central Lambton. Libraries, and some municipal offices closed as the snow continued to fall. Buses were also cancelled for the day.

## PW eyes bylaw to stop future pot production

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming Deputy Mayor Muriel Wright wants to make sure a marijuana grower doesn't set up shop before the town has its house in order.

The town's planner, Sarah Baldwin, says there have been two expressions of interest last year from people wondering where a marijuana operation could locate in the town. Neither completed the paper work to follow through on the idea.

But the inquiries sparked concern for Wright, who has already had residents voice concerns about legal cannabis operations. "We constantly get complaints about the Petrolia operation," she says.

High Park Farms has been

producing marijuana for the recreation and medicinal market since 2018 on Lasalle Line in Enniskillen - close to Plympton-Wyoming's border.

Wright says residents in her municipality call her about the smell and light issues. Councillors want to avoid the same problem in Plympton-Wyoming if it is possible.

So, Baldwin did a study of what other municipalities are doing to protect residents from the unpleasant side effects of the legal operation.

Some towns control the operations with a site plan and others work through separate noise and odour bylaws. But council isn't sure if Plympton-Wyoming should follow the lead of another community.

**SEE CANNABIS PG 2**

## Charity 50/50s shutdown

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

There is anger, confusion and a lot of disappointment across Lambton after the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario - AGCO - pulled the plug on a number of online 50/50 draws in Ontario.

The Moore Agriculture Society, the Wyoming Lions, Lambton County Developmental Services, the Forest Fall Fair, and four charities from Brooke-Alvinston - The Optimists, the Agricultural Society, the Legion and the Fire Association - received notice by email Nov. 26 their 50/50 fundraisers were drawn and the events were over.

The winners were notified and all ticket holders notified by email the event was completed.

The groups all used a New Brunswick based company called The Lotto Factory. It caught the attention of charities

looking for safe ways to raise money during the pandemic after the Glencoe Agricultural Society's 50/50 went viral in September. It's jackpot reached an unbelievable \$388,806. It was a godsend after a year of disappointment and would keep the rural fair afloat.

Agricultural societies - and several other charities - took notice and soon, The Lottery Factory was holding 50/50s all around southern Ontario.

It also caught the attention of the AGCO and it issued a news release saying the New Brunswick based company didn't have a licence to operate in Ontario. "Given a number of recent inquiries received, the AGCO wishes to clarify that The Lotto Factory is not currently registered by the AGCO as a Gaming-Related Supplier," it said in a bulletin on its website Nov. 25.

**SEE LOTTO PG 2**



# Toys Needed



## FOR CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE

Drop off available at The Independent  
4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia from 9am-5pm



# 50/50s for local charities drawn early as Lotto Factory shut down

CON'T FROM PG 1

“The use of registered suppliers and their approved solutions ensures charitable raffles in Ontario are conducted and managed in accordance with the principles of honesty, integrity and in the broader public interest.”

The day after the notice was issued, The Lotto Factory decided to draw winners for dozens of charities across Ontario who were in the middle of draws without notifying the groups.

The sudden draws shocked the charities and the people who bought tickets. The Moore Agricultural Society was inching close to its Dec. 1 draw. The jackpot had climbed to nearly \$71,000. Ag Society President Malcolm Rogers says they were hoping by Tuesday, the jackpot would have grown to over \$100,000. “It was a way to offset some of our expenses for the fair we weren’t able to have this year,” he tells The Independent.

The Brigden Fair, like every other fall fair, was cancelled because of limits on the number of people gathering in one place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rogers says the agricultural society was told the draw had to be made immediately or the money would be tied up as The Lotto Factory worked through the regulatory mess. Drawing for the \$70,540 pot was the only way to make sure the money went to the

winner and the ag society.

“Everybody is disappointed,” he says.

The ag society’s social media lit up with concern and complaints after ticket holders were notified. “I hope the Brigden Fair gets their money. If not, everyone better get ready for a class action lawsuit,” wrote Leanne Smith.

Others were critical of The Lotto Factory; “You would think they would have given the fair grounds a heads up,” wrote Joanne Derry. “Not fair to them (the Brigden Fair) either, this may have repercussions for them down the road. I really hope it doesn’t they are a great organization.”

“We were as disappointed as anyone,” says Rogers. “If this had gone to \$100,000 or \$120,000...it would have been very good.”

In Alvinston, Chad Hayter of the Optimist Club was caught off guard. He was heading down to a local restaurant to sell some of the tickets in person when he got a call asking why he couldn’t buy the tickets online.

“I opened up my email and it said nine minutes ago they had made the draw,” says Hayter.

Hayter has organized 50/50 draws for years for his club and he was excited about this online event. Typically, he says, residents will by about \$7 or \$10 worth of tickets in person. Online, they were buying about \$33 on average. The four charities started the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The jackpot that started it all. Glencoe Agriculture Association handed over a cheque for over \$185,000 after their online 50/50 lottery run by The Lottery Factory took off in September. Many local charities turned to the organization hoping to reap the same rewards.

draw about a month ago and the jackpot was well over \$5,000 with more than a month to go.

“It was trending to be a pretty good pot,” he says. “When you look at what other groups did online, we were in really good shape to hit a pretty good number...About 175 people bought a ticket already and we really hadn’t made our big push yet.”

Hayter says he heard about The Lotto Factory in August – when Glencoe Fair was doing its 50/50. He took on the organizing the online event for the Optimists and

three other charities. The company, he says, was professional and great to work with.

He did ask about how The Lotto Factory could run the 50/50s for Ontario charities out of New Brunswick, but was told they had a federal license to operate. So, The Optimists moved ahead.

The Alvinston group is trying to figure out if they will run another 50/50. There are four companies approved by the ACGO to run online lotteries.

Hayter has been told the charities will receive all their money as the contract states.

Rogers wasn’t sure exactly what the Moore Ag Society would do. There were still weekly draws – set up through The Lottery Factory by the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions – which some local ticket holders have questions about – questions he doesn’t have answers for.

“We did learn a lesson out of this and we will have to look at it a little closer the next time,” says Rogers.

The Independent reached out to the president of The Lotto Factory, but so far, Ric Cuthbertson has not returned our calls.

## Camlachie may get walkways

Heather Wright  
The Independent

There may soon be a better place for the people of Camlachie to walk.

Plympton-Wyoming staff are recommending the town use a \$100,000 grant from the federal government’s COVID-19 recovery plan to start building walkways in the urban area of Camlachie.

Mayor Lonny Napper says there were sidewalks in the community at one time, but with development many have disappeared leaving residents to walk on the side of the road.

Town staff is suggesting concrete side-walks in Camlachie, extending paved road shoulders leading into the community and linking the trails with the existing trail on Lakeshore Road with a gravel path.

In a report to council, Chief Administrative Officer, Carolyn Tripp says the total project would cost about \$330,000.

She says council would have to finalize the



Plympton-Wyoming is considering a network of sidewalks, paved shoulders and gravel trails to make Camlachie more walkable.

plan during the 2021 budget negotiations. Tripp added developers in the area may contribute to the project as part of a negotiated plan of subdivision.

## Cannabis rules on the table in PW

CON'T FROM PG 1

“We’ve been playing with the concept for some time for about a bylaw. We have different municipality bylaws, but we’re not happy with them totally,” Wright says.

Wright instead won the support of council to look at an interim control bylaw to stop the development of cannabis operations for now.


“That’s why I proposed a bylaw to put on hold till we can really get down to the nitty gritty and finding something that’s concrete that we can all satisfied with and also the public can be satisfied with it.”

Mayor Lonny Napper believes it’s a good idea for the time being “until we have the proper time to really look at it.”

Napper says councillors have concern that some of the industrial land in the municipality is close to residential land and that council says could cause problems.

So, at the direction of council, Baldwin will draft an Interim Control Bylaw which will stop the development of cannabis facilities until the town come up with its own regulations around the industry.

Council will have to approve the move once the bylaw is drafted.



### WINTER MAINTENANCE NOTICE

#### Snow Removal

- Under the Highway Traffic Act Section 181 - Deposit of snow on Roadway, states that “No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry of Transportation or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road.”
- This generally applies to the snow that accumulates in laneways from precipitation and from private or municipal snow plowing operations, those who insist on plowing snow from private property onto public roads can be fined

#### Overnight Parking

- Residents are reminded there is no overnight parking on Town streets between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- This allows for the Town’s Road Crews to plow the roads safely and efficiently, we ask that you please abide by the by-law and be considerate of the road crews when they are out doing their best to keep our roads open and in safe condition

#### Parking on roadway

- Under the Highway Traffic Act Section 170.  
**Vehicles interfering with traffic**  
(12) Despite the other provisions of this section, no person shall park or stand a vehicle on a highway in such a manner as to interfere with the movement of traffic or the clearing of snow from the highway. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 170 (12).

#### Sidewalks

- Under By-Law Business owners are required to maintain the front area of their storefront, this includes the removal of snow
- The Sidewalk Plow will make its way through Town once permissible, Roads are the priority for Works Crew once they are clear Sidewalks

#### Sporting Equipment

- Please ensure all sporting equipment ie: hockey nets, basketball nets are removed from the curb & roadway

Your co-operation is appreciated

Mike Thompson  
Director of Operations



# Local conservation authority worried about provincial changes

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Brian McDougall says the work of local conservation authorities may be getting a lot tougher. The provincial government is proposing a raft of changes to the way the organizations across Ontario operate and the general manager of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority worries about the affect of Bill 229. The provincial government has had its eye on the bodies which are in charge of preserving significant natural areas and managing floods. In 2019, it unexpectedly cut over \$100,000 from the St.

Clair region’s flood management cash. The authority is still dipping into its reserves to deal with that blow. Then, in its budget bill, the Conservative government offered up changes to how the authorities operate. One of McDougall’s biggest concerns is a proposal which would give the Minister of the Environment to override the opinion of the conservation authority and automatically grant a permit to develop protected lands. “The way we interpret what is written is if someone who didn’t even want to contact us about their permit to build, they could go directly to the minister...to provide

a permit without going through the process,” he says. “That’s a major concern...putting a landowner potentially in a hazardous situation with an unstable slope or erosion. “Skipping the process to me does not make sense.” The proposed legislation would also take away the conservation authorities right to appeal an approved plan to the Local Planning Advisory Tribunal. McDougall admits it is not an option the authority uses often, but it can be a way to prevent development in a sensitive area. Both provincial and municipal governments have complained

about the lengthy studies required by conservation authorities. It’s a problem which has reared its head in Lambton when homeowners along Lake Huron shoreline wanted to act fast to protect their eroding waterfront. After several meetings with residents, the St. Clair Region agreed to speed up the process by allowing homeowners to work together to get scientific reports and to act on them quicker. The directors of the St. Clair Region board have also been pushing for quicker action. It’s asking the local staff to meet provincial conservation standards for approvals. McDougall acknowledges the

problems and says the authority is working with the board to provide timely answers. And he says conservation authorities across the province want to work with the government to solve some of the issues without stripping the body of its powers. McDougall feels it is necessary to continue to have that expertise to protect Ontario’s natural habitats. He says that will continue, even if the province changes the legislation. “It will be more of a challenge and we believe there will be greater risk out there than there is today but we still will be able to have a pretty significant impact in protecting.”

# Huron man lucky to be alive after fiery crash in Plympton-Wyoming

**Alex Kurial**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Justice Deborah Austin says Richard Gibbons is lucky to be in be sentenced after a frightening alcohol-fueled crash in Plympton-Wyoming this summer which could have killed him.. “I consider it really fortunate that you came out of that without a more serious injury,” Justice Austin said Dec. 1. “It’s the kind of lesson that we all want people to learn before they drink and drive, rather than be in this kind of

incident.” Gibbons, 39, from Huron County, was driving north on Oil Heritage Rd. early on Aug. 9. Gibbons reached the end of the road, but instead turning on Lakeshore Rd., he drove his Pontiac 5 straight through the intersection and into a ditch. Gibbons managed to escape from the car and climb out of the gully right before the vehicle burst into flames. Lambton OPP officers on the scene noticed Gibbons had slurred speech, bloodshot eyes, uncoordinated movements and

alcohol on his breath. He was arrested and taken to Bluewater Health for treatment. Police managed to get a breath alcohol sample three hours after the crash, registering .108. Gibbons says he’d been partying all night before getting behind the wheel. “I knew I was going to get treated like a guest of honor in a place where people partied way too hard, and I suffered the longest blackout of my life,” he says. “I haven’t drank alcohol since.” “It sounds

like you went into a situation and didn’t have a good way out of it and chose to drive. That’s very unfortunate, but we’re glad you’re here in one piece,” says Austin. “But of course you’re now facing the consequences.” Those consequences are a one year driving ban and a large fine. Crown attorney Suzanne LaSha suggested penalty in the \$1,500-\$1,700 range. Austin opted for the low end, citing Gibbons’ lower blood alcohol levels, early guilty

plea, no criminal record, and financial obligations. “The cost of your insurance will go up, there is the remedial programming you have to take to get your license back, there are things that will cost you money along the way,” says Austin. Gibbons can apply for the ignition interlock program in three months. “That’s very generous of the court to take it easy on me and not throw the book at me. Thank you very much.”

# New COVID-19 restrictions in Lambton

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

The province has increased pandemic restrictions in Lambton County after the number of cases in the area rose over the past week. There have been 10 new cases in Lambton since Nov. 24. Right now, 14 people are sick with the virus. Public health officials say 412 people in the county have been diagnosed with COVID-19 since March. The new cases move Lambton into the yellow or protect zone of the province’s framework for restrictions. Lambton had been the last health region in the green or prevent stage in southwestern Ontario. Many of the restrictions are the same including limits on private gatherings to 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors. Public events are limited to 50 people indoors and 100 outdoors. Religious services including weddings and funeral are capped at 30 per cent capacity of the room indoors. “In general places that involve the sale or consumption of alcohol will have either reduced operating hours or reduced hours in which they can sell alcohol,” says Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade. “There is the increasing importance of tracking patrons and contacts - the people who entered a setting - and controlling entry into different settings, certain seating limits ... and ensuring that organizations have safety plans about how are they trying to keep people safe ... how are they trying to manage flows of people and ensure that people who are unwell are not that are not coming into the workplace.”

Restaurants will now have to get contact information for all diners, not just one per table, last call will now be 11 pm and limit the volume of music so normal conversation is possible. They’ll also have to have a safety plan available for public health. Sports and recreational facilities also face changes, the number of people in classes will drop to 10 indoors and 25 outdoors, and people using the equipment and weights have to be three meters apart instead of two. Contact information will be required for people watching, and space at the facilities will have to be reserved. Meeting spaces including wedding venues will have to follow the 11 pm last call rule like bars and limit the number of people sitting together at six. Personal care services will need to have contact information for their patrons and a safety plan as will casinos, bingo halls and cinemas. Performing arts facilities that are open will have to follow the 11 pm last call restriction as well. But Ranade says Lambton residents also have to remain vigilant. “None of these (new) thresholds change what we expect people as individuals to do which is to take all of the personal precautions that we expect you to take routinely. “Reduce all non-essential social contact, don’t go anywhere, when you’re sick, wear facial covering, if you’re going to be in prolonged contact with somebody, and you can’t, help that situation, or where you’re required to do that,” Ranade says. “And if you have symptoms, get tested.”





# Editorial

## Change for the better

We likely shouldn't be surprised the provincial government is making a play to undermine conservation authorities and calling essential for economic recovery.

Conservation Authorities across Ontario are voicing concern about Bill 229. It's a budget bill, but it includes a plan which will significantly change the way the groups which manage our watersheds operate.

The province wants to hand over more authority to municipalities. Ministry of the Environment officials - who by the way are supposed to be protecting the environment not dismantle the protections that are already there - say changing the act will improve oversight and accountability while respecting taxpayers authority. That seems odd to us, since in many conservation authorities - including St. Clair Region which regulates Dresden and Wallaceburg - municipal politicians already run the show and foot most of the bill.

There are people who don't like the rules laid out by the conservation authorities - developers among them. The authorities are mandated to make sure significant wetlands and hazard areas aren't built upon or altered. Often, those areas have some great views for housing or stand in the way of a warehouse. That becomes annoying to some who say appealing to the conservation authorities takes too long. Instead, under Bill 229, they would appeal to a planning board made up of bureaucrats who may interpret the law well, but have no real knowledge about what happens when someone builds on a floodway.

While it is clear the province is trying to clear the deck for easy development, the complaints about the length of time and the rules laid down by conservation authorities are not new. Many people - ordinary citizens trying to build a house on property they own or clear what they thought was a tired old woodlot - have run afoul of the authorities in the past and it colours how they think of the work of the groups.

What they do is important. Without conservation authorities, our natural heritage would disappear.

Change is needed - not to weaken authorities role but to keep them as guardians of the environment while serving the public in a more efficient way.

## Our Story



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

A look at Lamrecton Park when it was still a summer camp. The group which operated the camp donated the land to the Town of Plympton-Wyoming and it is now Lamrecton Family Park. The mess hall in the centre of the photo has been removed and a parking lot and washrooms now stand in the area.

## The joy of Snow Days; may they not Zoom away

There is a magical moment as fall gives way to winter - the first Snow Day.

Every child I know longs for the first day of the year where winter blows in and leaves a wonderland behind which even large yellow school buses can't penetrate.

As a kid, we went to bed at night dreaming for Mom to come to the room in the morning to say 'It's a Snow Day - no school.'

When she did, our lips would curve into a smile as we snuggled beneath the blankets for a few more precious minutes of warmth. Truth be told, I don't think I ever returned to sleep. Instead, with school a distant memory, I would think about all the glorious things I could do on the Snow Day.

We would spend time in the kitchen making our own breakfast; a grilled cheese, maybe some french toast and leisurely eat.

Then, we'd find every bit of winter

clothes, our boots and the wooden toboggan from the garage and head down to Harold's Hill for some fun.

As we got older, Mom and Dad gifted us with cross country skis. Snow days then consisted of tobogganing and 'downhill' skiing in the backyard. It probably should have been called slope skiing. A bunny hill would be ashamed of what we deemed our hill. It was a good thing it wasn't steep since there was a fence at the bottom. I don't know how many times someone ran into it.

My joy of Snow Days has been passed down to my kids. When the weather threatened and the buses were cancelled, we'd head to our favourite hill at the end of the street for some tobogganing fun.

It was always an adventure - particularly when people forgot to bail out of the toboggan and came precariously close to landing in the creek. John did hit the ice once.

Thankfully, he was about 50 pounds soaking wet so he didn't fall through.

Another Snow Day, he and his sisters travelled the length of the creek to retrieve a toboggan which went on a 'float down' of sorts.

Snow Days are made for memories. I'm worried that tradition may end. The pandemic has taught everyone how to have school virtually and Zoom could spell and end to Snow Days as we know it. It would be a shame. Those hours braving the elements and the adventures that follow are important. They're a life lesson you won't learn in school.



Heather Wright

## 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.



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PAYING TRIBUTE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Members of the Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Department stood silently as the funeral procession of Dawn-Euphemia Firefighter Dalles Bergsma made its way north on Oil Heritage Road. The five-year member of the department died suddenly last week. Firefighters from across Lambton lined the route from the cemetery in Shetland where Watford and Brooke-Alvinston firefighters stood at attention to United Reformed Church on London Road where his funeral was held Saturday.

Warwick councillors hope to have new hall by next election

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The new \$10 million Warwick Community Hall is moving ahead. Warwick Township council agreed to move ahead with the long talked about replacement for Centennial Hall at a special council meeting Nov. 25. And they hope to have it open by the time the election rolls around in 2022. In 2017, the council of the day concluded the hall built in 1967 could no longer be repaired and discussion began on replacing it. Over the next three years, council consulted with user groups, the public and engineers and eventually the plan to connect a community center to the Watford arena took shape.

The plan, as it stands now, will include additional dressing rooms and improved accessibility in the arena, meeting rooms, a large multi-purpose room and a fitness facility, offered in partnership with the YMCA. Mayor Jackie Rombouts is excited the project is finally moving forward and suggested with construction on the multi purpose facility starting in 2021, fundraising would likely begin as the building is complete in 2022. She also expressed hope it would be complete by the election. It was hoped the municipality would be able to access new grants from the federal and provincial government to help cover the cost of the arena renovations and new hall attached to the arena, but councillors say the township

has to move now, even without the grants. “My gut says the grants are not going to be there,” says Councillor Todd White. “My gut is telling me it is futile to wait because there isn’t going to be anything there.” So council unanimously approved the plant to begin construction in 2021. “That’s exciting guys,” said Rombouts at the end of the two-hour virtual meeting. The mayor hopes the new facility will make Warwick more attractive to urban dwellers looking for a quiet spot to live. The township will fund the construction through an loan from the province and launch a fundraising drive to cover the costs.

Warwick councillors hope to cap tax increase at 2.5 per cent

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Warwick homeowners will likely have to open their wallet a little further this year. But councillors hope to keep the tax increase to 2.5 per cent. The township council got its first look at the \$6.68 million operating and \$6.6 million capital budget Nov. 25. Treasurer Trevor Jarrett was proposing a 3.5 per cent tax increase, which would have seen a taxpayer pay about \$15.43 more for every \$100,000 of assessment. Jarrett says increasing the tax rate 3.5 per cent would generate \$87,500 new dollars. That coupled with about \$31,500 in new taxes from new homes will provide \$119,000 in new revenue to run the operations of the municipality. There has been concerns voiced that agricultural properties are increasingly bearing the burden of municipal taxes.

Figures presented by Jarrett showed homeowners still pay 51 per cent of the municipal taxes while farms pay 30.7 per cent of the bill. About 8.6 per cent of Warwick’s taxes are paid by commercial and industrial taxpayers. They’ll be paying a lot less this year however. The provincial government, in an effort to help business through the pandemic, cut commercial taxes by nearly 30 per cent. Jarrett told council that will mean about \$140,000 in Warwick. But there is still revenue coming through the door. The 2021 budget projects hosting fees from the Twin Creeks Landfill will be about \$3.75 million. Jarrett says that’s what was forecast in 2020 as well however so far, the municipality has brought in \$4.178 million. The fees are based on the amount of garbage that comes into the landfill. That money is invested and used for capital projects.

• **Emery Huszka**  
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226-373-6244

• **Julie Maw**  
Dealer - Courtright ON,  
519-384-2281

• **Dave Foulon**  
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**5 WAYS**

**TO STAY PAIN-FREE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

**1. ERGONOMIC GIFT WRAPPING** After searching high and low for the perfect gifts, it's time to wrap them up! Rather than spreading out on the floor, use a dinner table or desk. This will make it easier for you to use good posture. Just remember that sitting in one position for too long can put additional strain on your body.

**2. STRAIN-FREE SNOWMAN** Building your very own Frosty the Snowman is top of mind for many children once snow falls. Roll your snowballs into place and work together as a team to lift them when you're ready. And remember, rule number one is to lift with your legs, not your back!

**3. LIFT LIGHT TO SHOVEL RIGHT** When shovelling your driveway, let your legs and arms do the heavy lifting instead of relying on your back, and push the snow to one side to avoid throwing it. If you must throw it, avoid twisting and turning — face your snowbank and throw the snow straight into it.

**4. STRETCH, SKATE AND SNOWBOARD** It's time to sharpen your skates and grab your snowboards! Prevent injuries by stretching before and after you hit the slopes or ice. A basic go-to is the hamstring stretch. Stand tall next to something you can hold on to for support. Prop the back of one heel up on a surface like a stair, curb or bench and pull your toes back towards you.

**5. BOXING DAY SHOPPING** Attention, discount shoppers! Carrying all those bags of sale items may be great for your wardrobe but not for your back. A trip to your car to drop off your bags can lighten the load.

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# Snow days okay in Lambton

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

In a year full of disappointments, here’s a bright spot. Lambton-Kent’s director of education says students will still have snow days.

While students across Lambton are at home today for a snow day, many people are wondering that as schools set up online learning during the pandemic, if snow days might disappear.

At the Nov. 24 meeting, Trustee Jack Fletcher explained the Waterloo Region District School Board decided to eliminate snow days earlier in November. Their public school board has asked teachers to develop lesson plans that can be delivered virtually on bad weather days.

Fletcher wondered if Lambton-Kent was considering anything similar. Director of Education John Howitt says while the idea has been discussed, the region currently has no plans to follow the Waterloo plan.

“This is a topic of conversation in boards where there is a significant concern on snow days when buses wouldn’t be running that there would be staff shortages such that cohorts would have to be mixed within buildings,” says Howitt, referencing an added issue this year with the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’ve taken a look at our human

resources, we’ve taken a look at our pattern over past years of our staff situation on those kind of days, and we’ve talked with our coterminous boards as well. And we’re going to be remaining status quo as a normal year, and handle any bus cancellation days or snow days as we would regularly,” Howitt says.

But Howitt added that some adjustments may be needed if there’s a lengthy storm. “If schools are closed for a sustained time, then we would look at providing material though the virtual environment.”

“That does start to become a little more pressing in the secondary panel when one day is equal to four days.

“So we’ll be keeping a close eye on that, especially if there are multiple no-bus days to the same cohort or the same class,” says Howitt.

“But if it’s a single day, while there will be reach-outs and connections as there would be on a regular day... we’re looking at status quo moving forward.”

The return to school after Christmas break was also brought up. Education Minister Stephen Lecce briefly entertained the idea of an extended break in November, but quickly quashed the plan.

Fletcher asked if there might be a staggered return to school instead. But the school board is sticking with the timetable of a Jan. 4 return for all students.

# Moore ice making system to be replaced

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

The Moore Sports Complex will be getting an injection of cash in 2021.

St. Clair council approved their 2021 capital budget, with renovations to the arena the big project for the upcoming year.

It’s part of a plan to spend nearly \$19 million on capital projects.

Next year’s improvements include \$3.5 million to replace Mooretown arena’s ammonia ice making system. It’s one of few remaining arenas in the country to employ this method, which is no longer considered safe.

“We are the last system like this in Ontario and this must change in 2021,” Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay said earlier this year. A new refrigeration plant system will take its place.

A roof replacement on rink two is also scheduled for \$500,000, with the family change rooms receiving a \$75,000 makeover.

The township has a \$35 million plan to upgrade the complex. St. Clair was dealt a financial blow in September when the provincial government denied funding for the renewal plan through the Canada Infrastructure Program.

Lindsay says the township will be applying for grants to assist with the arena costs in 2021, along with taking out a loan.

St. Clair’s fire department has a large project in the works with the replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus’ for firefighters, totalling \$1,090,823.

During a report to council earlier this year, Director of Emergency Services Walt Anderson said the change was necessary since because replacement parts for the current units are hard to find.

Anderson proposed paying for the new equipment from the fire department’s reserve funds even though there isn’t enough in the reserve to cover the cost. Paying for the air packs from the reserve would mean there would be a \$1 million deficit.

“I’d hate to leave that for the next council to have... a negative reserve for them coming in,” says Arnold.

Arnold asked if the costs could be spread out over five years. Staff didn’t recommend that.

“We’re carrying that money from somewhere, it’s not free that we’re sitting there with that negative reserve piece,” says the mayor. “It just looks weird to me, I don’t even know how you can call a reserve a reserve if it says negative, especially when you get into a million dollars. That’s a lot of money.”

Anderson’s proposed fire budget was approved with council suggesting changes could be made later.

Roads, streetlights and crossings were a familiar hot topic of discussion, particularly which ones needed the most urgent repairs. Council voted to delay \$750,000 for repairing St. Clair Parkway between Rokeby Line and Emily St. In Corunna, Lyndock St. sidewalk upgrades were also put off for five years, with Beckwith St. streetlight work also delayed.

Streetlight improvements on Bunker Ave. by the Corunna No Frills had been scheduled for a future date, but were moved up after Councillor Jim DeGurse said residents in the area need a well-lit public street. At Arnold’s suggestion, council voted to pay for the \$45,000 project from reserves in the Education and Environment fund.

Councillor Pat Brown opposed \$100,000 to repave part of the St. Clair River Trail, suggesting the money instead go to pedestrian crossover improvements. Deputy Mayor Steve Miller said this would put the trail repaving schedule too far behind. Council aged.

Fixing the Wilkesport Line between Highway 40 and Baby Rd. will receive a \$900,000 fix. Some councillors wanted to pare back the project however Arnold cast the deciding vote to complete the entire project at once.

SEE ST. CLAIR PAGE 7

# SANTA

is coming to

# TOWN!

**DECEMBER 5 FROM 8:30AM - 1:00PM**

**SANTA VISITS PETROLIA**

Santa will be visiting you at home (*or very close to home*) but for safety reasons, Santa is asking families to stay on their front yard or back from the road when they see him.

How will you know that Santa is nearby? The Petrolia & North Enniskillen Fire Department will be his escort and will be warning you with sirens.

**GENERAL TIMELINE**

**8:30am-8:50am**  
Centre Street North of Petrolia Line, Petrolia Line East of Centre Street to Oil Heritage, and Streets North of Petrolia Line in the East part of Petrolia.

**8:55am-9:25am**  
South of Petrolia Line, East end of Petrolia to Glenview Road.

**9:30am - 10:00am**  
Glenview Road, through Albany, and to all streets around Victoria Hall south of Petrolia Line.

**10:05am - 11:00am**  
All remaining houses in the South West section of Petrolia, South of Petrolia Line.

**11:05am - 12:40pm**  
All houses in the North West section of Petrolia, North of Petrolia and West of Centre Street, including Discovery Line and Stanley Avenue.

*\*Streets that Santa can't get his reindeer turned around are asked to go to the closest intersection that is not on the list above, and Santa will greet you there:*  
Fourth Street between Petrolia Line and Third Street, Blanche Street, Chestnut Street South of School Street, Emma and Lancey Streets, Maude Street Extension South of Joe Street, Countryview Drive South of Englehart Drive, Valentina Street off Petrolia Line, Jacs Court, Holland Street

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Santa will be at the **Petrolia Farmers' Market** from **1pm-3pm** for free physically distanced photos with Santa!

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# Family hopes PW will allow back yard chickens

Heather Wright  
The Independent

You don’t have to ask Noah Needham twice to see his chickens.

The 10 year-old makes his way to the neat chicken coup a few meters from his Hillcrest Heights house and starts pointing out some of his friends including Tiny Elvis, Daisy, and Juniper. He warns you to be careful because “there’s a lot of poop in here” as a grin crosses his face.

Noah and his siblings, Grace, 13 and Jack, 8, climb out of the coup and open a hatch outside to show two fresh eggs and one of their feathered friends peaking out. The coup and the chickens are obviously a point of pride for the kids. But they may soon have to get rid of them.

In Plympton-Wyoming, a bylaw prohibits livestock including chickens in residential areas. But it’s not unusual to find a backyard coup. Jack’s mom and dad, Jennifer and Jon, say some of their neighbours have them.

The local feed dealer has told the Needhams they think there could be upwards of 2,200 chickens in backyards across Plympton-Wyoming based on the amount of feed she sells.

The residents are largely left alone unless a neighbour complains. Which is exactly what happened to the Needhams.

Jennifer says on Oct. 24, a bylaw enforcement officer from Lambton County came to the house to say the chickens, which they had raised in their home for six weeks before building the coop during the COVID-19 lock down - would have to go. A neighbour had complained.

“I had no idea that we were not in compliance with a bylaw against agricultural practices in our neighborhood,” she says

“We live in the country but we apparently are not country enough...

“It takes a ten-minute drive to get anywhere from our house. We smell the manure sprayed on the farm bordering my home. We hear hunters rifle shots echoing from neighboring fields.”

Jon Needham went to council in early November to plead the family’s case. He says the construction of the coop and the care of the chickens has provided some much needed therapy to their kids during a confusing time.

“The calming effects of the hens on our family are immeasurable. Anxiety attacks that were prevalent in the past have noticeably dissipated. And now, our family members often retreat to the coop as place



Noah, 10, Grace, 13 and Jack, 8, in the Needham family’s chicken coop.

that allows you to cope with the day to day stresses of life,” he says.

Council asked their planner to take a look at the issue and she will report back in January. The family has been told they can keep the chickens until then.

Needham says they’re hoping council will allow families to have a small number of hens - without a rooster which is usually the source of noise complaints - for their personal use. They’ve started a petition which has gathered nearly 100 signatures

However Mayor Lonny Napper seems unwilling to change the rule saying it is council’s job to enforce it bylaws.

Jennifer is hoping council will change it instead because she doesn’t like the alternative; getting rid of the hens which are now pets.

“My kids play with them every day. So I can’t get rid of them.”

# St. Clair okays replacing ice maker

CON’T FROM PG 6

Other large undertakings include \$490,000 to improve the HVAC system at the recreation facility, \$450,000 for shoreline protection through the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, and \$175,000 for a new registration building at the Cathcart campground.

The township is planning to spend \$762,126 more on capital projects in 2021 than it did 2020.

CAO John Rodey says local taxpayers will foot more of the bill because the municipality isn’t assured of grants from the federal and provincial governments.

“We’re looking initially at capital projects very similar to last year in terms of the number and the amount. It’s the grants we had last year and the grants we seem to

be receiving this year that’s making the difference.”

“That’s why that \$762,000 increase over last year. It’s not that we’re taking on more or trying to take on more, we just haven’t received the grants that we did in previous years,” says Rodey.

“That’s a significant impact in what capital projects go ahead,” says Treasurer Charles Quenneville.

Mayor Steve Arnold believes provincial grants are on the way. money

“My understanding from speaking with Mr. Bailey (MPP Bob Bailey) was that the grant is coming, it’s just a matter of time. They had so many other things they’re working on, but they said not to be concerned with that one. And I’m really hoping that bears fruit,” he says.



December 4th, 2020

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# COVID-19 testing centre moving to Wyoming

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming’s Wellness Centre will soon be getting its first tenant. The COVID-19 testing centre which is right now run out of the Central Lambton Family Health Team parking lot, will be moving to the new centre Saturday according to Mayor Lonny Napper.

The township has been transforming the former bank to a centre which will

host medical professionals as well as educational programs for the community. It was donated to the town for \$1 when TD Canada Trust closed the location and moved its clients into Petrolia.

Construction crews have been on site for a month. So far, two community groups have donated \$50,000 to help finance the renovations and put aside money for upkeep of the building in the future. Napper says the township will continue raising money hoping to

make the new centre self sustaining. He expects the doors to be open this month, although because of the pandemic, there likely won’t be a grand opening for some time.

“It’s going forward,” says Napper. “We’re going to have doctors in there maybe two or three days a week and programs going on there, once it gets going.

Then, we’ve got this COVID-19 testing centre and that will really put us on the map.”

# Gift cards, Jingle Bucks aim to keep shoppers in Lambton

The Independent

Officials are hoping two programs will spur Lambton residents to buy local this Christmas.

In Petrolia, the town is offering Jingle Bucks. The idea, says Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communication, is residents spend \$90 to buy Jingle Bucks which can be redeemed to buy \$100 worth of products in Petrolia stores.

“The Town of Petrolia and the Volunteer Business Group are pleased to

continue to develop creative promotions to keep residents thinking local first and finding new and unique ways for people to support our merchants safely,” she says in a news release adding it is important to support local businesses struggling through the pandemic.

If you want to shop in other parts of Central Lambton, Tourism Sarnia Lambton may be able to help.

It’s offering gift cards in denominations up to \$50 for to spend in local businesses.

“The Discover Sarnia-Lambton Gift Card program follows up our programming to continue supporting local businesses this Christmas and Holiday season, and then throughout 2021, when we know our local small businesses will need our support more than ever”, says Mark Perrin, Tourism Sarnia-Lambton’s Executive Director in a news release.

“It truly is the ultimate gift card to discover Sarnia-Lambton, shop local and support our Lambton County businesses”.

# Municipal loan possible to help build Optimist pavilion

The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston is considering loaning the Alvinston Optimists the cash to finally build a pavilion at the community centre.

The club began talking about a million dollar renovation of the arena complex in 2015. By 2017, it was considering using the money raised to build a pavilion to help with the Canada Day celebrations. A washroom would also be included to replace the aging facilities at the canteen.

Nov. 26, Les Douglas of the Optimist Building Committee came to council looking for financial support to move ahead with the project which is now pegged at \$310,000. Optimist members voted in favour of getting an \$80,000 loan from the municipality.

Council asked staff to work with the group to see if an agreement could be worked out. Mayor Dave Ferguson asked for something on paper which would explain how long it would take for the Optimist to repay the municipal loan.

He also raised questions about Councillor Jamie Armstrong’s involvement in the project. He is an Optimist member and was the head of the building committee last year.

Armstrong was at a meeting with the local fair board about the project. It needs to give approval for the project. Armstrong is past president of the fair board. Ferguson asked who Armstrong was representing suggesting there might be a conflict of interest.

Armstrong says he’s unclear what the conflict would be, noting “it’s a small town” and many people are involved in projects.

# Shell dealing with COVID-19 case on site

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Officials at Shell Canada say an employee at the Sarnia site has tested positive at work for COVID-19.

Kristina Zimmer confirmed the case Monday saying so far, no other employees have tested positive for the virus. She did not say how many

employees had been isolated because of the exposure to the employee. Lambton Public Health also wouldn’t release the information saying it must protect people’s private health information.

Zimmer says the company has taken many steps through the pandemic to keep the fast spreading virus at bay including face masks

on site, each employee being issued their own hand sanitizer, on-site temperature checks and clear instructions for employees, contractors and supervisors for what should be done if someone is sick. Zimmer says there are also health care professionals on site.

The case has not impacted operations, she added.

# Historic Canatara cabin on the move to Grand Bend

The Independent

If you see an old log cabin making its way down the road towards Grand Bend, don’t be surprised.

The old log cabin at Canatara Park in Sarnia is on the move to the Lambton Heritage Museum next week.

The building is nearly 200 years old and has stood in Canatara Park since the 1970s. The city is building a replica of the building and has agreed to help move the original log cabin to the Grand Bend museum for about \$50,000.

This will be the third move for the square log structure. It was originally built in Huron County, where it served as a private

residence. It was purchased by the Hanna/Spaulding family in the 1930s dismantled and floated down Lake Huron, then rebuilt on Lakeshore Road.

It was used as a family cottage for many years until the Hay family acquired the building and eventually donated it to the City of Sarnia in the early 1970s. It was moved to Canatara Park in May 1971.

The cabin will be separated with the second floor and roof traveling to Grand Bend together followed by the first floor. The building will be reconnected at the museum.

Officials say it will need \$100,000 of restoration work which will be paid through fundraising.

## MP Marilyn Gladu Sarnia-Lambton

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# Sports

## Flyers hockey returns - sort of

Barry Wright  
The Independent

It will be with controlled scrimmages with no body contacts or faceoffs, but there will be junior hockey in the area next week for the first time in more than nine months.

The Petrolia Flyers of the PJHL have announced they'll be playing home-and-home scrimmages with the GOJHL's Sarnia Legionnaires over the next two weeks.

The first game is scheduled for Thurs., Dec. 10 at the Sarnia Arena followed by a return engagement at the Greenwood Recreation Centre in Petrolia on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Game time have not been announced as fans will not

be allowed into either contest because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The teams will play two scrimmages each night with nine skaters and a goalie allowed per scrimmage in Sarnia and 10 skaters and a goalie allowed in Petrolia, according to Flyers General Manager Dennis Meston.

"This is so the kids have something to do," said Meston noting both teams have been practicing regularly for several months.

"It's not ideal," said Meston in referring to the playing rules. "But the boys want to play."

The Flyers haven't played since a seven-game setback to Amherstburg in the first round of the PJHL playoffs in late

February.

Sarnia's last league game was a playoff elimination loss to London on March 1.

Meston says after a mandated 14-day quarantine period following the games against the Legionnaires, the Flyers hope to schedule exhibition games with the Mooretown Flags in January.

As for the possibility of the PJHL regular season beginning on Feb. 1 as the league has proposed, Meston thinks that's a long shot at best. "I think it's looking bleak," he said. "The (COVID) numbers are going in the wrong direction."

The GOJHL has pegged Jan. 15 as the potential start date.

## Rees, Team Canada hopefuls, quarantine

The Independent

The path to a potential spot on Canada's squad at the World Junior Hockey Championship has hit a speed bump for Sarnia Sting forward Jamieson Rees.

He and the other 45 hopefuls at the selection camp in Red Deer, Alberta are in the throes of a mandatory 14-period quarantine period after two players tested positive last week.

If given the green light

by the Alberta government, the camp is scheduled to resume early next week.

"Upon learning of the positive tests (last) Monday, the decision was made to suspend all camp activities and quarantine players and staff immediately," said Scott Salmond of Hockey Canada in a statement.

"As per Hockey Canada's safety protocols, all players, coaches and staff members will go through additional testing before resuming any camp activities.

"We remain in constant communication with the appropriate health authorities, and we appreciate and thank Alberta Health Services for its dedication to ensuring the health and safety of our players, staff and the community at large."

The World Junior Tournament, in a bubble in Edmonton, is scheduled to begin on Christmas Day. Canada's opening game is scheduled for Boxing Day against Germany.

## No little NHL tourney in 2021

The Independent

Local First Nation hockey players who had hoped to participate in the Little Native Hockey League (NHL) tournament in the North Bay area next year will have to wait yet another year.

Following the cancellation of the tournament last March, organizers have made the decision to cancel the March 2021 event due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

"While we are

disappointed about having to make this difficult decision, we are considering the health and safety of community members first and foremost. In the course of our deliberations, we also discussed the possibility of postponing the tournament until later in the year and the feasibility of hosting a regional format. Having considered all of the many factors, we have decided that a postponement or alternate format was not feasible," said organizers in a statement posted recently

on the Ontario Hockey Federation website.

"The decision to cancel this event for the second year in a row is regrettable but unavoidable," said Nipissing Chief Scott McLeod. "With all things considered, it is simply too risky to proceed at this time"

Typically, more than 200 teams take part in the annual tournament, including many from southwestern Ontario. Sarnia's Aamjiwnaang First Nation hosted the most recent event in 2019.

## Whiteye named Athlete of the Week

The Independent

Northern grad Abby Whiteye is the most recent Athlete of the Week at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Despite having her senior season delayed due to COVID-19, the Petrolia product has been busy with the college's Athletic

Diversity Action Committee and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

The four-time LKSSAA champion with the Vikings has registered 675 points and 392 rebounds in three seasons on campus.

Eckerd won the Sunshine State Conference title this past season and was headed for the NCAA Division Two

tournament in mid-March when the pandemic shut down all NCAA sports.

The Sunshine State women's basketball season typically begins in November.

It's not immediately known if or when the season will get off the ground.

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The Petrolia Lions would like to extend our thanks to everyone that generously supported Christmas for Everyone in 2020.

Please continue to support, send cash donations to Christmas For Everyone/Foodbank, 4156 Petrolia, N0N 1R0 or call 519-882-3950

Hope to see you next year!

Notice


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**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**WYOMING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

**Wednesday, December 9th, 2020, 4:30pm**  
**Wyoming Lions Hall, 554 Main St., Wyoming ON**

Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

**Caroline DeSchutter, Secretary**  
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We agree to pay it whenever we open our hearts.  
Every hello comes with the knowledge that one day  
there will be a goodbye. Every first kiss comes with the  
certainty that there will one day be a last.  
And yet even though we know all love ends in sorrow...  
even though we know that price... we pay it.  
We pay it again and again and  
again. We pay it because it makes  
life worth living. We pay it because  
love... love is always worth it.*

*Love Always  
Glenda, Ed & Family  
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Card of Thanks

*Thank you*

What a surprise for an old  
"ninety fiver"! Saturday morning,  
November 14th was my  
95th birthday. It started  
out as a normal day but then  
the cars passing by started  
honking (continuing all day and evening), balloons  
were flying and then came a family drive by and porch  
visits!  
Many thanks for cards, phone calls, gifts, Facebook  
greetings and visitors!  
Also thanks to my family for planning the event!

**Irvine Syer**

Notice

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In Memory

**BAILEY**  
In loving memory of  
**Robert J. Bailey**  
who passed away 40 years ago.  
**December 6, 1980**

*Today recalls the memory  
Of a loved one gone to rest  
And those who think of him today  
Are those loved him best.*

Always loved and remembered,  
Bob & Elizabeth, Joyce & Bob,  
Janice & Ken, Jane & Mike  
Grandchildren & Great  
Grandchildren

Obituary



**CROSS**  
Ross Munro

Cross, Ross Munro of Scarborough passed away peacefully at North York General Hospital, Toronto on Monday, November 23, 2020 at the age of 91. Ross was born in Cairo, Ontario to John and Florence Cross, and was predeceased by his brothers Doug (Mary) and Murray (Grace). Ross married his high school sweetheart, Mary, and moved to Toronto in 1951. Born a farmer, he earned his electrician's licence, practising in the trade until moving into management in the cosmetics industry. He was inventive and could build or fix just about anything. Married for 69 years, Ross loved his wife and family above all else. He will be forever loved in return by Mary, children Mary Ann (Paul), Larry (Janice) and Carolyn, and grandchildren Christopher and Andrew (Sarah) Leinonen and Jeffrey and Kylie (Ryan) Cross. He was truly loved by all who knew him, winning them over with his beautiful smile, kind and gentle manner, and sense of humour. A private funeral service was held at the Church of St. Jude (Wexford), Scarborough on Thursday, November 26, with interment following at Mount Carmel Cemetery near Watford, Ontario. In lieu of flowers, donations to Mount Carmel Cemetery or North York General Foundation.

Wanted to Buy

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

Obituary



**EDGAR**  
Sylvia

EDGAR, Sylvia - Passed away suddenly at C.E.E. Hospital of Bluewater Health, Petrolia on **Wednesday, November 25, 2020.** SYLVIA EDGAR (nee Caughlin), of Petrolia, was in her **70th year.** She will be missed by her husband of 50 years Mike Edgar. She was a loving mother to Mike and Jackie Edgar, Dave and Erin Edgar, and Sarah Edgar and grandmother to Michael, Sophia, Emma, Eamon, Connor, and Avrie. She was the daughter of the late Clare and Velma Caughlin. Sylvia is also survived by her brother Mike and her sister Cynthia and was predeceased by her siblings Gary, Gail, Jean, Billy, Dick, and Joey. She was the sister-in-law to the late Christine (Ken) Jaques and an aunt to many nieces and nephews. Sylvia made many friends volunteering with A.E.D.C. at Lambton Meadowview Villa, Lambton County Developmental Services, and Petrolia Minor Hockey Mothers and enjoyed spending time at her sewing and quilting groups. **Cremation has taken place.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Lambton County Developmental Services ([lcdspetrolia.ca](http://lcdspetrolia.ca)), Alzheimer's Adult Enrichment Centre ([lambtoncares.ca](http://lambtoncares.ca)) or C.E.E. Hospital Foundation ([ceehf.ca](http://ceehf.ca)).

For Sale

**SNOWTIRES** - 4 snowtires for sale. WS8 Bridgestone Blizzak 235/55-R17. Rated 99H. Used but it very good condition. No rims. asking \$350 for all. **519-362-5301.**

Death Notices November 22 - November 29, 2020

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23**  
**WILLIAMS, Lyle**  
Age 71, of Sarnia  
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home  
**JONES, Christera Mary**  
Age 84, of Sarnia  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24**  
**McLEAN, Ken**  
Age 52, of Petrolia  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home  
**McLELLAN, William**  
Age 80, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home  
**BERGERON, Marilyn**  
Age 82, of Sarnia  
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25**  
**EDGAR, Sylvia**  
Age 70, of Petrolia  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26**  
**TRONE, Graham**  
Age 69, of Petrolia  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home  
**PRETTY, Walter**  
Age 78, of Sarnia  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27**  
**BURCHELL, Claire**  
Age 76, of Sarnia  
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home  
**JACKSON, Donald**  
Age 81, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home  
**GLENDON, William**  
Age 88, of Sarnia  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28**  
**MINTEN, Theodore "TJ"**  
Age 3, of Watford  
Denning's of Watford

**McCABE, Charon**  
Age 73, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home  
**McCULLOUGH, Carol**  
Age 80, of Forest  
Gilpin Funeral Home  
**JOHNSTON ARNOTT, Freda**  
Age 86, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home  
**McDERMOTT, Alice**  
Age 90, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home  
**SMIDS, Stand**  
Age 91, of Dresden  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29**  
**MATTINGLEY, Ronald**  
Age 80, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

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



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



# Classifieds

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

## Calendar

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

*of events*

Events are listed FREE for non-profit groups in Petrolia and Lambton County (space permitting).  
To be included in this listing email the required information to [office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca) Subject: FREE EVENT LISTING.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Dec 3	4:30-6:30p	Watford	Watford Legion <b>Drive by Turkey Dinner</b> . Dinner includes: turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, world'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 <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Dec 4	6pm	Petrolia	Petrolia's <b>Lighting of the Lights</b> - Watch Virtually. Go to the Town of Petrolia's Facebook or Youtube Page to watch	
Dec 5	10:30a	Watford	<b>Watford Drive-by Santa Claus Parade</b> . Santa will be in a fire truck driving by every house in Watford. Listen for the Christmas music & sirens	
Dec 5	9am-12pm	Petrolia	<b>Santa is coming to town</b> . Santa will be visiting every street in Petrolia. He will be escorted by firetrucks.	
Dec 5	1:00p	Warwick	<b>Warwick Drive-by Santa Claus Parade</b> . 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 <b>photo with Santa</b> . Sponsored by the Lambton Central Petrolia Optimist Club.	
Dec 5	3-6pm	Forest	Forest Legion <b>Annual Christmas Double Meat Raffle</b> . 30 draws of Ham & Turkey, 25 money draws. 50/50 included.	
Dec 8	11a-1p	Petrolia	<b>Christmas for Everyone Curbside Pickup Lunch</b> . Call 519-882-1201 to place your order by December 4th. Soups: Beef barley, Cream of Broccoli, Turkey Vegetable, Italian Wedding. Sandwiches: Salmon, Tuna Salad, Egg Salad, Roast Beef.	
Dec 10	6-8p	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Dec 11	6pm	Oil Springs	<b>Lighting of the Christmas Tree with Santa</b> 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 <b>Meat Raffle &amp; 50/50 Draw</b>	
Dec 12	6-7pm	Alvinston	<b>Alvinston Optimist Santa Clause Parade &amp; Tour</b> . 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 <b>Trivia Night</b> at Kingswell Clubhouse (4300 Garden Cres). Max Team size of 6.	
Dec 17	6-8p	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions <b>Meat Raffle</b> at Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Dec 19	3:30p	Forest	Forest Legion <b>Meat Raffle &amp; 50/50 Draw</b>	

**\*\*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)

# Church DIRECTORY

**Christ Church Anglican**  
414 Oil Street, Petrolia

**Sunday Service at 11am**

*Please follow all Covid-19 guidelines and wear your mask.*

Rev. Michelle Collins-Wongkee  
Church Office 519-882-1430  
[christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com)

**St. Andrew's  
Presbyterian Church**

416 Queen Street, Petrolia  
(Behind the Post Office)

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

[www.standrews-petrolia.ca](http://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.

**10:30am Service**

Rev. Carey Wagner  
Church Office: 519-882-1390  
[stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net](http://stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net)

**First Baptist Church**

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

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

Pastor: Alex Craig

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

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

**Wyoming United Church**  
730 Second Street, Wyoming

*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



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**519-882-3344**



# Wild ride down Oil Heritage Line leads to one year driving ban

**Alex Kurial**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Philip Houlbrook says he’s sorry for his action after swerving all over Oil Heritage Road in Petrolia. He plead guilty to drunk driving in Sarnia Nov. 30.

The incident was described as “uncharacteristic” for Houlbrook. In mid-August, around 8 pm police were at Petrolia Line and Oil Heritage Rd. and saw a Chevy Sonoma stopped at a red light. The truck was about 100 feet back

from the intersection with no one in front of it.

When the light turned green officers watched the truck make a wide turn onto Oil Heritage Rd, striking the opposite curb before drifting back into the northbound lane. The truck then swerved into the oncoming lane and travelled 200 meters where it shifted to the middle of the road. Police managed to get next to the truck and told the driver to pull over.

The driver identified himself as Houlbrook. Officers noticed

alcohol on his breath, along with bloodshot and watery eyes. In the backseat there were several empty cases of Bud Light.

Houlbrook said he’d recently had a stroke, but didn’t require medical attention.

Houlbrook was unsteady when he exited the vehicle and was arrested for drunk driving. He was taken back down the road to the Petrolia OPP station where he blew a blood alcohol limit sample of .134.

“I’d like to apologize to Lambton

County for my drastic actions,” Houlbrook says during court. “I’ve had a bad year.”

Crown attorney Sarah Carmody and defense attorney David Stoesser made a joint submission of a \$1,500 fine and one year driving ban.

“This position takes into account the fact that Mr. Houlbrook does not have a criminal record, his early plea of guilt, and the fact that this seems to be uncharacteristic of this individual as he’s not been before the criminal justice system

before,” says Carmody.

Justice Krista Leszczynski agreed, saying the proposed punishment “appropriately reflects the readings in this case.” Houlbrook says he has already gotten rid of his truck.

“The risks and dangers of impaired driving are not... just a risk you pose to yourself, it’s a risk you pose to members of this community and any other person who’s using the roadway or in the vicinity,” says Leszczynski. Houlbrook.

# Marijuana packed in tuna cans discovered in traffic stop

**Alex Kurial**  
Local Journalism Initiative

A strong odour during a vehicle stop led to a London man’s guilty plea for possessing more than 10 pounds of drugs which was hidden in tuna cans.

Tanner Kimbark, from London, was in Sarnia Superior Court Nov. 25 to resolve the May 2018 incident. He was originally charged with drug trafficking, but left court with a \$1,500 fine

after a joint submission from Crown attorney Michael Robb and defense lawyer Jennifer Prosser was approved by Justice John Desotti.

Kimbark was stopped at 10:30 pm May 14 after a Sarnia Police officer clocked his vehicle going more than 133 km/h in an 80 km/h zone along Churchill Rd.

The officer caught up and made a stop on the speeding charge.

Kimbark appeared nervous when the officer came to his window.

He noticed several tuna cans in the car, but instead of the distinct fishy smell there was a pungent marijuana odour.

The officer asked Kimbark if there was any marijuana in the car. He initially said no, but eventually admitted there was.

It turned out the tuna cans all had marijuana in them, totalling more than 10 pounds.

Kimbark’s car was also automatically impounded for a week on the over 50 charge.

On Nov. 26, a Sarnia woman, Michelle Graham, was also in court for a June 2018 drug bust. She was charged with cocaine trafficking.

The arrest came following a Sarnia Police investigation into Graham, 47, for suspected crystal meth dealing.

A warrant was granted to search a George St. home and police entered the house at 10:45 pm June 12.

Graham and two men were

found inside, along with a massive amount of drugs.


Cocaine totalling 27.5 grams, two grams of meth, nine tablets of oxycontin, 11 hydromorphone capsules, \$1,865 cash, four cell phones, a crack pipe, and a taser.

Desotti agreed to another joint position from Robb and Prosser of a \$1,000 fine after Graham plead down to a possession charge.

She also agreed to forfeit all items seized during the raid.





- The Independent

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