

# The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

Vol. 8, Issue 16

Newsstand Price \$1.50 per week

Thursday, December 17, 2020

## SANTA DROPS BY TO SAY HI



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Santa and his reindeer dropped by Alvinston Saturday night to make the season bright. The town was filled with people looking at the 16 stationary floats and 40 decorated homes as the Alvinston Optimist hosted an alternative to the annual Santa Claus Parade. You can see more photos in our annual Christmas Edition which begins on Page 9.

## Two COVID-19 outbreaks in Lambton's petro chemical industry

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Four people at Nova Chemicals Corunna Cracker expansion projects are ill with COVID-19.

Company officials say Lambton Public Health declared an outbreak there Dec. 11 after two contractors tested positive. They were on site during the infectious period according to spokesperson Julia Iacovella. There have been two additional cases at the unit since then.

"As a precaution, work has been suspended in the affected area of the construction site until the New Year," says Iacovella.

Work in the rest of the construction sites in Corunna and Rokeby Line continues and people in the regional manufacturing facilities are still working.

Iacovella says right now it is too early to say what impact the pandemic will have on the \$2 billion construction projects.

Shell Canada is also dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak. While public health doesn't release information about COVID-19 cases, company officials confirmed the employees tested positive.

Company official, Tara Lemay, says Shell is working with public health conducting "rigorous" contact tracing.

These are the first two outbreaks in the major chemical plants since the pandemic began.

## Neighbours don't want Countryview Forest to become housing

Heather Wright  
The Independent

A controversial plan to remove about 17 acres of trees in Countryview Estates in Petrolia to create more housing will be under scrutiny again in January.

About 60 people logged into the virtual Public Meeting about the proposed zoning change which would see an area deemed a significant woodlot by the county turned into 74 housing lots in the

trees.

And that has a lot of neighbours, both in the subdivision and on the surrounding farms upset.

Petrolia's planner, Rob Nesbitt told town councillors the plan of subdivision for Countryview Estates was approved in 2007. The developer at the time planned to build into the 25-acre woodlot. That plan got council's stamp of approval Nesbitt says. At the time it wasn't designated as a significant woodland.

But both the county and the town now recognize and zone the space as a significant woodlot. The current developer, Bob Leaper, has been working with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, the County of Lambton and the Ministry of the Environment for months to come up with a plan to remove 17 acres of trees and leave seven acres in five strips of trees about 61 feet wide at the back of each of the new developed lots. There would also be a 120 foot

wide strip of trees at the centre of the development Nesbitt says.

Leaper has also completed a species at risk study and the Ministry of the Environment determined "the project will likely not contravene the species protection or habitat protection portion of the Endangered Species Act," Nesbitt said Monday.

That coupled with the approval of the draft plan of subdivision in 2007 means the housing should be built, says Nesbitt. "Therefore, the

preservation of the entire woodlot is not possible."

But neighbours disagree. And one says he will take legal action to stop the development.

Bryce Moor has lived in Countryview Estates since 2002. He says the woodlot was one of the reasons he and his wife chose to buy their home.

Now, he's concerned its about to be altered forever.

SEE WOODLOT PG 2

## Holiday Schedule

please note that there will be

**NO PAPER - December 31st**

The Office will be

**CLOSED - December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup>**

  
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# CHRISTMAS BOXES



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Volunteers pack some of the Christmas boxes being prepared for nearly 400 families across Lambton County. The women are part of a much smaller than normal crew of volunteers to Christmas for Everyone as organizers of the annual program tried to make sure they followed pandemic protocols during the packing process. Sandra Hartman says the first of the boxes will leave Petrolia’s New Life Church Thursday.

## Woodlot worries: neighbours want trees to stay

CON’T FROM PG 1

Moor pointed out the significant woodlot is a Carolinian woodlot.

“They also make for good marketing for the town that wants to promote itself as green,” he says.

“I don’t know of many other towns in the province of Ontario that can say that.”

Moor was also concerned about maintaining what was left of the woodlot if it is subdivided.

“If you turn it around and rely on people who buy lots and have a strip of the Carolinian forest to maintain it, I would question the long-term viability in that because once it is going to be behind the fence, potentially you have no more control over it,” says Moor.

He urged council to see the value of the woodlot to the community.

“When you have something in your backyard, you only have it once... if you take 25 acres down to a few rows of trees, basically it’s gone for good, and the opportunity that you have here with council to assess what to do with it, will be gone.”

It’s not just homeowners upset. Two local farmers suggested the woodlot should remain to be a buffer between farmland and residential lots.

“Racher farms has been a successfully owned and operated livestock farm since 1935 and it has no intention of altering its operation to accommodate the proposed allure of moving more people to the immediate interface between rural life and the town. That interface has been a known

source of unjustified odor complaints, light and noise pollution complaints, as well as any other inconvenience associated with the production of crops,” said Ross White, Racher’s representative.

“Regardless of what type of smoke show the developers may be suggesting, the new homeowners will feel they should all be exempt from these rule inconveniences.”

White says that will lead to friction between the Rachers, the developer, the town and the neighbours.

“The existing woodlot provides a natural buffer zone and ensures proper separation of two completely incompatible planning zones.”

White added a woodlot is too important to be sold off for profit.

“Equally disturbing as a suggestion that a single desire of a private enterprise to destroy an eco structure of a native woodlot for personal gain, would be openly welcomed by a town councillor who should be sworn to protect that space. Naturalized zones are a rare commodity within a town and are the envy of towns and cities across Canada. Petrolia appears to be willing to lose that resource by supporting a rezoning.”

White says the Rachers are willing to use any legal avenue to make sure the new lots are not approved.

The town has scheduled a second public meeting for Jan. 11 since so many of the people who came to speak against the new lots did not get a chance to speak.

Leaper says he’ll address the concerns then.

## Zoom bomber drops naughty pics in Petrolia

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia Council covers some pretty hot topics, but things usually don’t get steamy.

But about 11 minutes into Monday’s virtual meeting on Zoom, town councillors were confused as town staff worked frantically to remove images of young women in panties dancing to suggestive music. The women’s upper bodies appeared to be covered by text similar to a computer error message.

Staff got the first image off the screen quickly. But a little over a minute later, another appeared for all the 61 people logged on to see.

Staff again removed the image. “These interruptions are not appropriate,” Councillor Ross O’Hara said. But the meeting continued

Then, about 15 minutes into the council meeting, a loud voice broke through dropping the F-bomb three times.

“We’re being hacked here,” O’Hara then concluded.

He was right. And it’s not uncommon. It’s a practice called Zoom Bombing. Hackers find Zoom meeting links on the internet and then dial in and take over the meeting.

The attacks have become more common during the pandemic with university students giving their final dissertations being bombed with pornography.

Closer to home, in Chatham-Kent a group

of about 100 volunteers were stunned when Zoom Bombers hacked into their meeting about a food drive and dropped in child pornography.

The meeting was shutdown and local police vowed to investigate. So far, no charges have been laid in the April incident.

Experts say if a Zoom Bombing occurs, the host of the meeting should work quickly to remove them from the meeting, which Petrolia staff did, much to the surprise of one Bluewater Power official. Alex Palimaka was set to speak to council but was booted out of the meeting when the Zoom Bombing occurred. He jokingly assured councillors he was not the bomber.

Security experts at the University of British Columbia suggest these tips to avoid Zoom Bombing. Avoid sharing meeting links on social media or public outlets and avoid using Personal Meeting IDs.

Restrict screen sharing to the host and manage participants by muting participants or disabling video.

Remove unwanted or disruptive participants and use the waiting room feature to ensure that only the participants you want are allowed to join the meeting.

The Town of Petrolia follows most of these guidelines including screening participants in a waiting room. However, the practice is obviously not fool proof.

And, because meetings are public, the town publicly offers the Zoom links on its website to promote citizens to be involved in council meetings.

MP Marilyn Gladu

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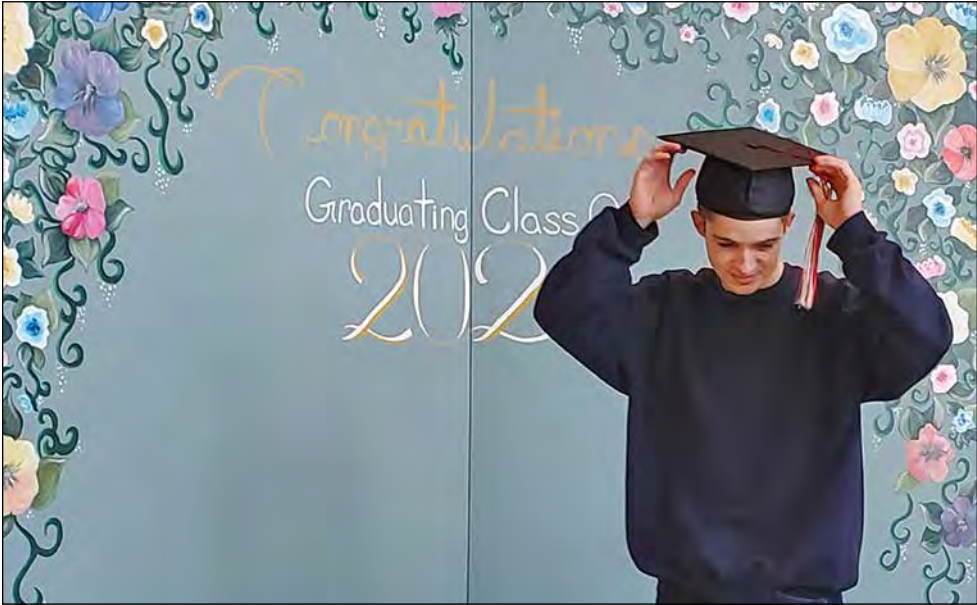
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## LANCER RECOGNITION



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Members of the LCCVI Class of 2020 missed out on an in person graduation this year because of the pandemic. Schools closed in March and finished the year online. The original plan had LCCVI graduates returning in November for an in person ceremony, however the board of education cancelled those events in the fall as the pandemic continued to worsen. Principal Greg Nemcek wanted something to mark the end of the student's high school careers. So until Thursday, graduates can sign up for a slot to claim their diploma, any awards and scholarships and pose for a couple of pictures. They also get to take home the graduation cap. "We wanted to do something for them," says Nemcek. "We wanted to have some sort of closure for them."

## Hope and concern over COVID-19

Heather Wright  
The Independent

There is hope and concern about the COVID-19 pandemic as we head into Christmas.

In some ways, it has moved closer to home. This week, the Lambton-Kent District School Board reported a COVID-19 case at LCCVI in Petrolia.

Principal Greg Nemcek says the student's case was detected but it wasn't a concern in the school community. Neither staff nor students had to be isolated although parents were notified there had been a confirmed case linked to the school.

And Lambton recorded another death linked to COVID-19. However Lambton's Medical Officer of Health is making it clear COVID-19 was a factor in the man's death but not the main cause. Dr. Sudit Ranade says a man in his 70s passed away Dec. 9. He sent condolences out to the family.

But he wanted to make clear that while the man's death is recorded in the COVID-19 statistics in the county, it was not the main cause of death.

The death linked to COVID-19 is the 26th in Lambton since the pandemic was declared.

The cases in Lambton come as the number of people infected with the virus continues to rise. As of Tuesday, there were 25 people ill with COVID-19 in Lambton. Since March, 456 people have been diagnosed with the virus - 21 more cases since last Tuesday.

"Our numbers are creeping up," Ranade told reporters Monday. "And we know that we're seeing more cases every day. And that's a predictable pattern of increased transmission."

He's urging people to reduce the number of people they are in contact with to just immediate household and to continue doing things like physical distancing, wearing a mask and staying home when you're sick.

But Ranade is also encouraged as the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine comes to Ontario. A PSW in Toronto was the first person to get the Pfizer vaccine on Monday. Ranade says it will be some time before a

vaccine makes its way to Lambton for the general population.

"Let's all be patient," he says. "There are a few places that the vaccine is going to go first... I think it's going to be initially distributed to places that are in red or grey (zones which have the most cases of COVID-19) and to particular populations there."

The federal government says health care workers in hospitals and long term care will be the first to get the vaccine along with residents of long term care. Tuesday, Ontario officials said long term care residents will likely receive a vaccine from Moderna which can be administered at the homes.

Ranade calls the vaccine a light at the end of the tunnel. But he cautions there is still a long way to go and some communities will face a lot of hardship yet. Windsor-Essex for example was placed in lock down for a month as over 100 people test positive for the virus each day regularly in the last week.

Middlesex-London is also facing increasing restrictions as it moves into the Red Zone which has the second highest level of restrictions.

And the number of cases across the province continues to rise. Tuesday there were 2,275 new cases and 20 more deaths. It's likely by mid-week, over 4,000 Ontario residents will have died from COVID-19.

The virus continues to be a problem in long term care homes with 695 residents with COVID-19 in 292 of the province's 626 homes.

And 761 long term care workers have been diagnosed with the virus.

Those numbers and the attitude that a vaccine is coming so we may not have to be as careful does worry Ranade.

"It's a bit of a concern. I think that we've also seen a lot of other parallel messaging going on that says, you know, the vaccines to get us out of this until enough people are immunized to stop transmission in its tracks, which is going to be quite a while from now, especially given the limitations around the vaccines that we're getting and how they're stored and how they can be distributed. Right?"

"So so the vaccine is a light, but at the end of the tunnel, but it's still a long time."

# CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS

## WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

With the holidays, we will have some amendments to our waste collection pick ups.

Regular Day	For the week of: December 21-25, 2020	For the week of: Dec.28/20 - Jan. 1/21
MONDAY/TUESDAY	AS SCHEDULED	AS SCHEDULED
WEDNESDAY	NO COLLECTION	NO COLLECTION
THURSDAY	Wed., Dec. 23, 2020	Wed., Dec. 30, 2020
FRIDAY	Thurs., Dec.24, 2020	Thurs., Dec. 31, 2020

From Mayor Loosley, Council and Staff we wish you all the best this holiday season, and send warm wishes to you and yours for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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# Editorial

## Let’s not drop the ball

After 10 months of gloomy news, regulations, face masks and death, there is a light at the end of the tunnel and our screens and newspapers have been laser focused on it.

The first COVID-19 vaccines have been approved, landed on Ontario soil, and were injected into the arm of a health care worker all in the matter of a week.

There has been almost wall-to-wall coverage of where, when, and how the coveted vaccine arrives. And of course, the big question - who receives the first of the 6,000 Ontario shots? As it turns out, a personal support worker - Anita Quidangen - from Toronto. She’s been working as a PSW since 1988 and has been at a not for profit home - throughout the pandemic.

Health care workers will be among the first to receive the doses and, the elderly who have the highest death rates due to COVID-19.

Nursing homes have been hot spots for the virus because of the age of the residents and because COVID-19 moves quickly in close quarters.

And while we can all be excited the vaccine has been developed and is actually in the arms of at least some Ontario residents already, it’s not victory yet.

We fear that over the last week, Ontario residents weary of COVID-19’s grip on our health, mental health, social lives, employment and economic future, have seen the light and decided they’re in the clear.

The truth of the matter is despite the joy and the hype, it could be months before you are able to get a COVID-19 vaccine, particularly if you are under the age of 65.

Consider this; there are over 70,000 people living in long term care in this province. Ontario received 6,000 doses Monday - most of which went to long term care workers.

Across Canada, 249,000 doses are expected by the end of the year, so realistically, even the most vulnerable in our province will be protected by the end of 2020.

That means your actions are still very important. We have to continue staying six feet apart, limiting who we spend time with and wearing a mask when we’re in places where you can’t be distanced from other people.

We’re almost to the goal line, let’s not drop the ball now.

## Letters to the Editor

*The Independent* welcomes Letters to the Editor.

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

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

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

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

## Our Story



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POST CARD COLLECTION

This must have been a lot of fun in the snow. Hard Oilers move an oil rig in the snow to Petrolia in this post card from Dave Burwell’s collection.

**The Independent**  
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**Subscription Rates:** \$55.00/year within 50 kms of Petrolia Post Office  
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Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

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Funded by the Government of Canada  
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**Canada**



# McEwen remembered

The Independent

One of the area’s last Second World War veterans has passed away.  
Ron McEwen was just four days away from his 100th birthday when he died on Dec. 7.

McEwen was born in Petrolia and lived in the Wyoming area most of his life. After secondary school, he joined the Air Force in Dec. 1942 and was called up for duty just four months later. McEwen spent three years serving in Canada and England and his family, in his obituary, wrote his bomber pilot’s training and winds were his “college education.”

When he returned to Canada, he became a founding member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 388 in Wyoming. He purchased the family farm and became active in the community. McEwen was a member of the local school board and championed the idea of central schools to improve primary education.

He was one of the early adapters of no-till farming. McEwen was named Conservation Farmer of the Year in Lambton in 1987 because he started Ridge Till farming.

McEwen always stayed active in the Legion. He was part of the committee which built the current Legion. He was also part of the group which built Royaleigh in Wyoming.

He lived there with his second wife for 20 years. Recently, he’d lived in Sarnia at Landmark Retirement Village and more recently Vision Nursing Home, where he passed away at the age of 99.

Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Lonny Napper paid tribute to McEwen at a recent council meeting saying he had contributed greatly to the community. A moment of silence was also held.



Ron McEwen

## Charge laid in Hollingsworth crash

The Independent

Lambton OPP have charged a Kitchener woman in connection with an accident which took the life of a Watford man earlier this year.

On Sept. 20, Bob Hollingsworth was in his van when he and another car collided at the intersection of London Line and Forest Road.

Hollingsworth, 57, was known as The Paint Man and was often seen wearing a Sherwin Williams T-shirt, driving around in his van with his dog, Lexy, and cat, Hustle, whom he often took to work with him.

Lexy was in the van when the accident occurred but was unharmed. Hollingsworth’s obituary said he was in “the protective embrace of his furry sidekick” at the time.

He was also known for his love of family and was on the way to visit someone when the accident occurred.

The driver of the other car was taken to hospital with what police termed non-life threatening injuries.

Monday, OPP said Ahlyssa Van Es, 26, has been charged with Careless Driving Cause Death.

# No cannabis operations in PW for now

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Developers looking to start a cannabis operation in Plympton-Wyoming will have to wait at least a year.

Town councillors have agreed to enact an interim control bylaw for at least one year in the hopes it can set some guidelines for where the operations can set up shop.

In the last year, two people have expressed an interest in setting up a cannabis growth operation in Wyoming. Some municipalities limit that activity to industrial areas. But councillors voiced concern since the town’s industrial land is in Wyoming and close to housing. Plympton-Wyoming Deputy Mayor Muriel Wright had already heard residents

voice concerns about legal cannabis operations from Petrolia. 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 gets calls about the light pollution and the smells coming from the greenhouse. Planner Sarah Baldwin looked at 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.

Wright says so far, they have not been

able to find a solution to Plympton-Wyoming’s concerns in other bylaws.

And she wants the time to get the issue right.

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

At the Dec. 14 meeting, council enacted the Interim Control bylaw. It’s effect is no cannabis cultivation or production facilities will be allowed in the municipality for at least a year. The bylaw could be extended for a second year.

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

In the meantime, Baldwin will complete a study on the regulations.

## ONE INJURED



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

A Lambton OPP officer looks for clues at the scene of an accident on Black Ash Line Friday night. Petrolia/ North Enniskillen firefighters were called out around 7:30 pm and found a vehicle had driven through the cedar hedge and was on fire. A man was found beside the car unconscious. Firefighters revived him. OPP officials say the man was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Charges have not yet been laid.

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## WARWICK’S SENIOR OF THE YEAR



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Maryanne Cundick is Warwick’s Senior of the Year for 2020. Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts made the presentation at the Watford Food Bank, where Cundick is the coordinator. “Maryanne’s dedication to the Watford Food Bank has supported so many local families over the years, especially this year as many adapt to changes created by COVID-19,” says Rombouts. “Warwick Township Council is very grateful to Maryanne for all that she does to make Warwick Township a wonderful place to live.” Cundick has been the volunteer coordinator at the food bank since 2012. She’s also a member of the Watford Rotary and is involved with the Catholic Church.

## Alvinston Optimist get \$80k loan

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston will secure an \$80,000 loan for the Alvinston Optimist so the long-talked about pavilion project can go ahead.

But at least one person, Mayor Dave Ferguson, is concerned the club is using the township as a bank.

The idea of erecting a pavilion at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre goes back six years. Before he became a councillor, Jamie Armstrong came to council as a member of the Optimist Club proposing a massive renovation of the complex. The Optimist goal in 2015 was to raise enough money to renovate washrooms and dressing rooms, build a new canteen, provide a heated viewing area, and build a pavilion in a project which was estimated to cost \$1 million at the time.

But Armstrong and the Optimist grew frustrated as they applied for grants and failed to get funding. Armstrong pointed to the council putting money into other projects and not supporting the Optimist building project as one of the reasons the grants were rejected.

The project was broken into phases, but as that happened, the cost of construction climbed and the Optimist put fundraising on hold.

In 2019, council agreed to work with Armstrong – now a councillor – and the club on a pavilion attached to the arena near the ball diamonds. Thursday, Councillor Wayne Deans and Deputy Frank Nemcek asked council approve a motion by Armstrong which would see the town take out an \$80,000 loan for the project which is now estimated to be about \$356,000.

Ferguson objected. He says for years, the municipality stood back and allowed the Optimist Club to apply for grants for the project, hoping with only one project asking for cash, it would be more likely for approval. “These have been multiple applications and they have always been turned down; they’ve always said no,” says Ferguson adding that some times the municipality found it had been “blocked” from applying for grants because the Optimist had already submitted for their pavilion project.

“The Optimists are now requesting \$80,000 (previously approved by council) of taxpayers’ money from the municipality and a further \$80,000 loan.

“Are we now a bank or a lending institution? Which group now heads to the municipality for a long-term loan for new buildings, such as the Legion which is looking forward to putting up a new facility across the road; they are a service club in the community also.”

Armstrong argued the Optimist pavilion would become municipal property, unlike the new Legion.

And while Ferguson was sharply opposed, other councillors were more concerned about the interest rate the municipal treasurer suggested - six per cent over five years.

Nemcek, who is also a member of the Optimist Club - suggested forcing the club to repay the loan in five years might limit what it can do to help in the community. And he asked the treasurer if there was a better interest rate available.

Stephen Ikert said he had charged the rate because the township would incur legal costs as well as financing costs. In the end, Armstrong said the Optimists would pay all the legal fees if a lower interest rate could be obtained. Ikert will be coming back to council with the proposed terms in the future.



ST.PHILIP’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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December 25, 2020 | Christmas Mass | 9am

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

PURSUANT TO SECTION 21 AND 34 OF THE PLANNING ACT

APPLICATION FOR OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

OWNER: Spectra Construction Petrolia Inc

AGENT: MIG Engineering (2011) Limited, Dave Graham

LOCATION: West side of Valentina Street, south of Edward Street.

ROLL NO.: 3819-000-030-00300-0000, 3819-000-030-00222-0000

Purpose and Effect

The proposed official plan amendment would remove the “Significant Woodlot” designation from the lands owned by Spectra Construction Petrolia Inc. and described as Part of Lot 11, Concession 10 in the Town of Petrolia. The lands would be designated “Residential”.

The proposed zoning by-law amendment would remove the “Significant Woodlot” zoning designation from the above-noted lands. The lands would be zoned “Residential-1 (R1)”.

The subject lands are located on the west side of Valentina Street, south of Edward Street. The attached Key Map shows the general location of the lands to which the Amendments pertain. The Amendments would accommodate a proposed plan of subdivision.

In accordance with Section 34(10.4) of the Planning Act, the Town of Petrolia Senior Planner has deemed this rezoning application to be complete for the purposes of Section 34(10.1) and (10.2) of the Planning Act. And, to consider a proposed Official Plan Amendment under Section 21 of the Planning Act.

Description and Location of Subject Property

The property is approximately .58 hectares (1.4 acres) in size. The property is located on the west side of Valentina Street, south of Edward Street.

Public Meeting

Town Council will hold a public meeting to consider the zoning and Official Plan amendment applications on:

Date: Monday January 11th, 2021

Time: 5:30pm

Place: Via Zoom

You are invited to attend the public meeting and to present verbal and written comments regarding this matter.

Other Planning Act Applications

Application for Draft Plan of Subdivision has been submitted to the County of Lambton.

Other Information:

Any person may attend the public hearing and/or make written or oral representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Official Plan Amendment and/or Zoning By-law Amendment. If you wish to submit a written or make an oral presentation at the public hearing, please contact the Town of Petrolia no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 8th, 2021. The public hearing will be held via a ZOOM Teleconference format.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the By-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the Town of Petrolia to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the By-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Petrolia with respect to the proposed by-law, you must submit a written request to the Town Clerk, whose contact information is provided below.

Additional information regarding this application is available for public for inspection at the Town of Petrolia Municipal Office, 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, Ontario, N0N 1R0. If you have any questions regarding the application, please contact Rob Nesbitt, Town Planner, at 519.882.2350.

DATED AT PETROLIA, ONTARIO this 11th day of December 2020

Mandi Pearson, Clerk/Operations Clerk  
Township of Petrolia  
411 Greenfield Street  
Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0  
519.882.2350  
mpearson@petrolia.ca

APPLICATION FOR ZONING BY-LAW & OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENTS


Spectra Construction Petrolia Inc. (owner)  
Dave Graham, MIG Engineering (2011) Limited. (agent)  
West side of Valentina Street, south of Edward Street. Legal Description CON 10 PT LOT 11 PLAN 25M35 BLK 17 AND RP 25R10486 PARTS 1 AND 2 (geographic Town of Petrolia)

Published by the  
County of Lambton  
Planning  
Department  
789 Broadway  
Street, Wyoming,  
ON N0N 1T0 (519)  
845-0801  
DATE

SUBJECT  
LANDS

Disclaimer:  
This map is  
for illustrative  
purposes only. Do  
not rely on it as  
being a precise  
indicator of  
routes, locations  
of features, nor  
as a guide to  
navigation.

Town of PETROLIA  
KEY MAP





PETROLIA LIONS WIN GRANT



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Petrolia Lion’s Hall will be a lot easier for people to get into. The club recently marked the renovations at the hall which were made possible by a \$50,200 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The club has brought washrooms up to current accessibility standards, installed an automatic door opener on the main entrance, and installed a new internet connected audio/visual system to make the building more accessible for people coming to the community events they host each year. The grant also helped to complete work on the roof and add acoustic tiles in the hall. Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey, seen here with Lion President Kevin Storozuk and Past President Charlie Conrod, was on hand to mark the occasion. Don McGugan, the local Trillium representative and Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu, joined in via the new audio/visual system.

Resistance to paying more for OPP office

Heather Wright  
The Independent

It seems few municipalities are chomping at the bit to pay more for policing so the OPP’s office in St. Clair remains open. Lambton’s municipalities are being asked to pony up to pay for the OPP to stay in St. Clair Township. The OPP satellite detachment on Lyndoch St. is home to uniformed officers and the Community Street Crime Unit. Under a lease agreement that runs until 2026 the police board currently pays more than \$90,000 a year in rent and around \$16,000 in cleaning fees. But in a letter sent to the township at the end of August the board says they “will not be able to continue paying rent to St. Clair Township at the present level” after 2020. The letter cites COVID-19 -related issues, including losses of \$50-60,000 in revenue from criminal record checks now going to the provincial instead of municipal level, and increased cleaning costs.

It suggested St. Clair pick up the costs if it wanted the detachment to remain there. But Mayor Steve Arnold pointed out the OPP sought out the building, asked the township to renovate it to their specifications and sign a 10-year lease in 2017. The police board has now asked the other municipalities to pony up the rest of the costs. So far, it seems, Oil Springs is the only group to say yes. In Petrolia, Mayor Brad Loosley voiced opposition to the move and urged council to say no. Councillor Joel Field asked what would happen if they did and the police board representative said it would likely become part of next years’ budget anyway. In Brooke-Alvinston, council agreed to pay for six months, hoping to talk to the board further about the increasing policing costs. Mayor Dave Ferguson says it doesn’t settle the matter but it “keeps the bills paid and gives us a little time to have some discussion.”

Family skating available in Petrolia

The Independent

Petrolia residents will get a chance to enjoy some family skating over the Christmas holiday. The Town of Petrolia is booking family skating slots starting today. Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communication for the town, says the arena will be divided in two, and family bubbles – the people you live with – will be able to rent the ice for a half hour for \$3 per person for up to 10 people. Each family can reserve just one slot per day. Families can arrive 10 minutes before their

ice time and leave as soon as possible. Petrolia residents will have exclusive access to the family bubble skate time until Dec. 18. After that, the ice will be offered to Petrolia residents and those in surrounding communities. Time slots will be on a first come, first served basis by emailing lellsworth@petrolia.ca. Ellsworth says the town wanted to come up with a way to allow family skate time over the Christmas season while respecting the pandemic protocols. She adds town staff will be on duty cleaning between skates.

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# Sex trafficker caught in Lambton gets six years

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

A Toronto area man will spend six years behind bars after being found guilty of sex trafficking in Lambton. Javoll Devon Blackwood’s punishment was handed down by Justice Joseph Donohue in Sarnia’s Superior Court this fall – just across the street from the motel Blackwood, 33, was busted in more than two years ago.

Blackwood was found guilty of several offences, including three charges of trafficking, gaining benefit from exploitation of a minor, and making child pornography. A 17 year-old girl was one of his victims.

It was the July Ribfest weekend in 2018 when Blackwood travelled from Toronto to Sarnia. With him were a woman and the 17 year-old. Blackwood and the girl had already made the trip earlier in the year to meet clients.

Blackwood’s return visit unravelled when the woman found herself locked

out of the Point Edward motel where the trio were staying. She called police who arrived and busted into the unit.

OPP officers found Blackwood sleeping with the girl.

Cocaine and fentanyl was also discovered, along with cell phones, boxes of condoms and suitcases of lingerie.

The investigation relied heavily on technology to prove Blackwood was exploiting the woman and girl. He claimed he was in Sarnia to start a new life, and that the pair were free to “come and go” as they wished.

But analysis of the cell phones and internet searches by OPP officers found text messages, photos and social media posts that all linked back to Blackwood. He posted images of the pair on escort website called LeoList, listing the services they offered and prices.

At least 7,000 text messages were found between Blackwood and clients. He claimed that the woman and girl posted the ads and images themselves to make money. Blackwood says he

went along with the plan “out of the goodness of his heart.”

Blackwood maintained control over the older woman by exploiting her crack addiction. Blackwood met the younger girl at a party in the GTA when she was 17. He offered her a place to live, but soon began trafficking her. Blackwood said he thought the girl was 18, but court heard that he acquired a fake ID for her since he knew she was underage.

Blackwood was originally scheduled for sentencing in April but the outbreak of COVID-19 caused a six-month delay.

He’s spent 820 days in jail since the July 2018 arrest, translating to 41 months of time served. It will be two years and nine months before Blackwood is released.

Blackwood will be on the Sex Offender Registry for life, can never possess a weapon, and must submit a DNA sample.

*-with files from Pam Wright*

# Struggle with OPP leads to probation for Petrolia man

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

A Petrolia man will serve his sentence at home after a scuffle with OPP earlier this year.

Errol Gayle, 39, plead guilty to resisting arrest Dec. 11. He received a conditional discharge with 12 months of probation.

On May 23, court heard Gayle was involved in a fight with a woman he was seeing. The pair were at a Petrolia house in the early evening when an argument started over text messages Gayle had been sending to other women.

When things got heated the woman left the house. But Gayle followed and grabbed her arm to try and stop her. The woman wrestled away and left the

area. A passing car noticed the woman and asked if she was alright. She said no, and they went to the Petrolia OPP station to report what happened.

After taking the woman’s statement, officers went to Gayle’s house at 9:30 pm. He was outside smoking and began walking away when police arrived. They told Gayle he was under arrest which made him angry. He turned around and tried to walk past the officers but was taken to the ground.

Gayle refused to be handcuffed, placing his hands firmly under his stomach. After a series of knee strikes by officers they were finally able to get his hands free to arrest him. Gayle was taken to Petrolia OPP where he said he was “sorry for his behavior during the arrest.”

Justice Deborah Austin says Gayle escalated the situation. “You made their job more difficult of trying to investigate the situation between yourself and your partner,” she says.

But Austin recognized that “you have accepted responsibility for your actions, you have never been in trouble with the criminal justice system before, you are someone who has some challenges in your life.”

Gayle will spend the next year on probation. He can’t contact the woman without her consent or go to her house. Gayle can’t possess weapons for five years and must take counselling for anger management and mental health.

The original assault charge against Gayle was withdrawn by the Crown, since Gayle completed the Partner Assault Response program.

# Man won’t serve more time after robbing Re-Store in April

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

A man who plead guilty to stealing from Habitat for Humanity’s Restore won’t spend any extra time in prison.

Joseph Boose, 22, plead guilty to stealing more than \$5,000 in supplies, being in a stolen truck and breaking curfew. Sarnia Court heard early April 20, Boose and another person broke into a locked trailer at the store on London Line. They took \$5,534 worth of DeWalt tools and a large toolbox before leaving.

His Lawyer, Nick Cake, says this isn’t the first time Boose has faced charges.

“The record is quite illustrative of a young man who, from an early age, has suffered with an addiction to opiates,” Cake says. “It’s illustrative of where Mr. Boose’s life was, where it is, and potentially where it’s going. But hopefully not.”

“He’s on track to serve a life sentence two to three years at a time. He’s basically been institutionalized since the age of 18,” says Cake. “Mr. Boose is quickly coming to realize that unless he gets his opioid addiction under wraps, this is going to be life until an

overdose takes him away.”

Boose got 30 days for being in a vehicle he knew was stolen in January. He received 60 days for stealing the tools from the Re-Store, and 20 days for a curfew breach in July. The 110 day sentence was covered by Boose’s 93 days in custody, enhanced to 140.

“It’s certainly not an enviable record for someone of his age,” says Cake. “I’m not saying they aren’t serious crimes, or that our community isn’t fed up with crimes such as this. But rather that Mr. Boose has a very extreme addiction... He’s an individual who is suffering from an addiction, and acting out in order to feed the addiction.”

Boose, speaking from the Elgin Middlesex Detention Centre in London, admits a change is needed.

“The result of all my behavior comes down to my addiction. The time I’ve put in since I got arrested I’ve been looking into

different rehabs. Hopefully I can get into a treatment center and get the help I need.”

Despite his credit for time served on these crimes, Boose remains in jail on other charges. He’ll return to Sarnia Court on Jan. 12. When Boose is eventually released he’ll serve 18 months of probation. He’ll also repay Habitat for Humanity the full amount for the tools he stole.

Justice Deborah Austin accepted the sentence despite reservations saying the crime had impacted the community adversely.

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### Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston

## COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston is looking to fill a vacancy on the Committee of Adjustment effective February 1, 2021. As a member of this committee, you will review and make decisions on applications for severances and minor variances and other planning issues. The appointment is for a three year term.

Interested individuals should send a letter indicating their willingness to be appointed to the Committee of Adjustment. Attendance at meetings will be mandatory. You will be required to prepare for meetings on your time. Previous municipal or planning experience would be an asset.

Applications will be accepted until 12:00 pm on Friday, January 8, 2021 to the address noted below:

Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston  
Attention: Janet Denkers, Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment  
3236 River Street, P.O. Box 28  
Alvinston, ON N0N 1A0  
Email to: [jdenkers@brookealvinston.com](mailto:jdenkers@brookealvinston.com)

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used for the purpose of candidate selection.

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

Here's How It Works: Level: Advanced  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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**STOP SMOKING** We all know that smoking is bad for our lungs. But did you also know that smoking is just as bad for your back? Smokers are more likely to have back pain than does who don't smoke.

**STOP SITTING STAND MORE** Ironically, health professionals have been saying that sitting is the “new smoking.” Sitting less and standing more is significant in improving back health.

**PRIORITIZE SLEEP** Getting a good night's rest is crucial to achieving optimal health. If you're experiencing back pain, it could be a sign you aren't getting proper sleep.

**SEEK TREATMENT** Start 2021 off on the right foot. Resolve to seek treatment for your pain.



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# Welcome to Our Christmas Edition

From the editor's desk:

Even though we are surrounded by lights, and there are constant reminders of the Christmas season on every screen and every newspaper we see, I still find myself surprised that we are just days away from Christmas.

Perhaps, it is the busyness of my life. Each week unfolds like its own little hurricane and before I know it, Monday turns to Sunday evening and I'm staring down another week with all the work and worries and joys that go with it. I'm sure your life is like that, too.

But 2020 has been different. In many ways, it has been frustrating and heartbreaking and difficult. People you know may have been ill or lost work because of the pandemic. Others may find their lives so stressed, they are having mental health problems. It can be hard to process everything that has happened this year.

And while it is easy to think of what we've lost, I'll invite you to consider what we've gained.

At The Independent, we've been encouraged that despite tough economic times, our faithful readers and advertisers have stuck by us - more than that, encouraged us to continue on. In a time when the media is turmoil, that is indeed a great gift.

And while 'normal' community events were sidelined, the spirit of community was stronger than ever. Community groups found ways to provide safe events to lift spirits during the pandemic. Efforts like Neighbour 2 Neighbour - Rural Lambton's Largest Food Drive and the recent Christmas for Everyone Luncheon underscore how generous our neighbours are, even in tough times.

While some people struggle and lash out, there are many more who genuinely care and have kind words which brighten your day.

And, perhaps the greatest gift of all, we have been given the luxury of time spent with family; something we sing about at Christmas but in 2020, have been gifted with it for months.

So, I can say, despite everything, 2020 has been a year of blessings.

We hope you enjoy our Christmas issue, with greetings sent by your neighbours and photos of our community celebrations and a couple of Christmas stories for you to read.

Heather Wright, Editor



CHRYSTAL BRESSETTE PHOTO

The Bressette Family of Alvinston has the Christmas Spirit. They joined the Alvinston Optimists Christmas Lights contest and went to town on their home on Lovell Street. The family won the \$500 prize for their Christmas Spirit. The whole family was dressed up to celebrate Christmas in their front yard, even the dog had Christmas lights.



Merry Christmas  
— & —  
Happy New Year



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# Alvinston lights up Christmas



Alvinston families took a lot of time to make the season bright. Above is a home on River Street and below are Minions on Lorne Ave and Pooh having some fun at Murno Honey.



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Merry Christmas and a Safe and Blessed New Year, to you and yours, from the Grogan Ford Lincoln family.

*The Perfect Christmas Gift*

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."  
Luke 2:11

Born in a Manger, the city of David, in Bethlehem.  
To redeem a lost world, came this sacrificial lamb.  
The "Creator of the Universe" to a baby, He lay.  
"Unleashed Power" constrained, to "deliver" the way.  
To the ungodly and blasphemous, He gave Divine Love,  
As the Sinless servant, He Glorified His Father above.  
Amidst ruthless brutality, He was nailed to a Cross,  
Forever, that trickling Blood, covers the crimson stains of the lost.  
One breath separates us and Only He can see the heart,  
Lives led as men pleasers, are doomed for their part.  
You see, "confession" brings "forgiveness", a new creature cleansed from sin,  
Jesus gift to you is "Eternal life" and an "unquenchable peace" from within.

The Gift  
Father, this Christmas, because of the sin in my life. I find myself separated from you.  
I repent and invite you, Jesus, into my heart to be the Lord of all the areas of my life.  
I will live for you, and "thank-you" for your forgiveness and the assurance of an eternal home, in Heaven, with you. Amen  
Grogan Watford





HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS  
From racing teddy bears to Santa at the door, Alvinston residents decked the halls to celebrate Christmas Saturday night. Officials say 58 homes and floats were displayed around the town and caused some traffic jams as people stopped by for a look.

**HAPPY**  
*Holidays*  
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# Welcoming Santa Claus to Alvinston



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS  
Santa was out in force in Alvinston. Cars drove past him, windows open, at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre Saturday. Above Mary-Lyn Sint won first place for her float which was parked in front of Molzan Welding - Connor Molzan is seen here too. The prize money is being donated back to the Optimists for the pavilion project.

Wishing You a Safe & Happy Season

As you're dashing through the holidays, please take care and stay safe.



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# Christmas Cheer in Petrolia



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

There were lots of fans to greet Santa Dec. 5 in Petrolia. He made his way through the streets of town greeting children and parents alike. Then, it was time for pictures with Santa at the Farmers' Market. Almost as good as getting the photo, was getting the candy.



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The Christmas Spirit was alive and well during the annual Christmas for Everyone Lunch. This year the Ladies Auxiliary of the Petrolia Legion, the Petrolia Lions, Optimists and Rotary raised \$8,692 to help give out Christmas baskets. Pictured here are Doug Clark, Sandra Hartman of the food bank, Sue Laker, Cheryl Schleihauf and Bruce Cox.



## Seasons Greetings

Wishing you an abundance of glad tidings at this special time of year.

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# Santa comes to Oil Springs to light up for Christmas



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS

There were plenty of children happy to see Santa in Oil Springs Friday. First he took a trip around town in the fire truck and then turned on the Christmas lights at town hall. Many Oil Springs residents had already decorated for the season.



## Celebrate the Birth of Christ

At this time of reflection, we give thanks to the Lord for the many blessings we enjoy, including your patronage.

### Merry Christmas!

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**519-845-0110**

We hope the spirit of the season fills your days with love, light and laughter!

### Merry Christmas!

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www.cam-ron.ca

## The Olive Tree

# Wishing You a Beautiful Season

519-464-3879

With thanks for your understanding and support this year, I wish you a holiday that glitters with every happiness!

The OLIVE TREE  
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FOR UNTO US  
A CHILD IS BORN

# Merry Christmas

## Lianne Rood MP

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The Grade 1 students of St. Philip's School went to Albany Retirement Village to deliver some good cheer Tuesday. The students sang, did the actions to some Christmas favourites and held Merry Christmas signs. They also left the residents with some pictures to brighten their day.

# Wyoming Shines



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Christmas came to life in Wyoming with the annual lighting of the Christmas tree, which most people watched from home virtually. Santa made his way through town on the back of a pickup truck. Dec. 4.



## With Our Thanks & Best Wishes,



May your holiday and the new year be filled with health, happiness and prosperity!

We would like to thank our customers for putting their trust in us, and working with us to keep everyone safe and healthy this past year. We are proud to serve our community because of customers like you.

From now until December 23 - Regular Store Hours:  
Monday-Friday 8am-9pm | Saturday & Sunday 8am-7pm

DEC 22	DEC 23	DEC 24	DEC 25	DEC 26	DEC 27	DEC 28	DEC 29	DEC 30	DEC 31	JAN 1	JAN 2
8am-9pm	8am-9pm	7am-5pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8am-7pm	8am-9pm	8am-9pm	8am-9pm	8am-6pm	CLOSED	8am-7pm

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# Christmas with Mrs. John Coyne

Reba glanced out the big picture window of the Shop-Mart as she finished packing the young mother's groceries and felt the dread begin to seep in.

A tiny, five-foot nothing seemingly harmless old lady with a brown hat was marching toward the front door, purse clutched in her elbow just like the Queen. You could tell by her furious strides she was a woman on a mission. And Reba knew whatever happened next would not be pleasant.

"Oh Lord, not now," Reba muttered under her breath as she tucked a chocolate bar in the young mother's bag and wished her a Merry Christmas.

"Martha," Reba whispered urgently. Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer was playing loud and Martha was scanning the groceries to the beat of the song while chatting away with Mr. Eldersma. "Martha," she said loud enough for the cashier to hear. Martha looked up to follow Reba's eyes to the door, where Mrs. John Coyne stood with her hand on the door, about to walk in. "Lovely," she muttered and turned to Mr. Eldersma to hand back change. "I hope you have a wonderful Christmas, sir."

"Thank you Martha - and to you and yours as well," he said, walking toward the door.

"That will depend on the next half hour or so," Martha said to Reba as they watched Mr. Eldersma attempt an act of Christmas kindness, opening the door for Mrs. John Coyne only to be told "Move along, I'm trying to get inside."

"Merry Christmas Abigail," Mr. Eldersma said with a twinkle in his eye. "What- oh, you old fool, Harry," she said, recognizing him. "I suppose you think it is." And she straightened her hat and walked right past him. Harry Eldersma chuckled, "I do, Abigail, I do!"

Every employee at the ShopMart knew more than they cared to about Mrs. John Coyne. First, they knew to call her Mrs. JOHN Coyne, so as not to be confused with Mrs. Jacob Coyne whose husband spent a little too much time at the local watering hole and stubbled home on Friday nights for all the neighbours to see his "debauchery" as Mrs. John Coyne had once told a shocked teenaged boy restocking the shelves with toilet paper.

And they all knew she "wanted things the way she wanted things" whether that was the way they were sold or not.

Martha could deal with Mrs. John Coyne better than anyone in the store which is to say she wasn't reduced to tears by the old woman's words. It wasn't that Martha had a thicker skin; she just knew Mrs. John Coyne's type. They enjoyed needling people and getting the better of them. It made them feel superior to others. Martha knew all about these type of people; her father had been just like her, minus the hat and purse.

As Mrs. John Coyne went to find a cart which suited her, Martha gave Reba a gentle push toward the back. "Reba dear, would you go to the back and fix up that display we were talking about earlier," she said.

The tension in Reba's face eased and she smiled; "Absolutely." And she headed happily out of the line of fire. Reba had a run in with Mrs. John Coyne last week after suggesting the weather - which was unseasonably warm for December - was lovely.

"Lovely? You stupid girl. It's December, we're supposed to have snow, perhaps you should look at a calendar before speaking to me."

Martha wanted to shake the old crow but instead offered to help carry her bags out of the store, just to get her away from poor Reba who stood there stunned.

Martha greeted the next customer while keeping an eye on Mrs. John Coyne. Maureen in the produce department had already spotted her, pasted on her best smile and made an attempt to do the impossible, please the unpleasant woman.

"Good morning Mrs. Coyne, I have a lovely bunch of the brussel sprouts you like; just came in this morning," she said with her best smile. Last week, Mrs. John Coyne was looking for them and Maureen made sure there were some in stock for Christmas.

"Brussel Sprouts? Why would I eat those rotten little cabbages. Really Maureen, you are still as thick as a brick," she said.

Mrs. John Coyne turned sharply, grabbed a bag of carrots and heading to the dairy department to reak more destruction.

Martha knew that by the time the bitter old woman had made it around the store she would have berated and insulted staff and other customers in the store and then Maureen would check her out and hear about the "ridiculous people who work at this so-called grocery store."

Martha had hoped against hope that Mrs. John Coyne would not come in on Christmas Eve. Most customers were happy and easy going - oh, there were a few who had left everything until the last minute and who were working on their last nerve - but by far the majority of people were jovial. It made for a good last day of work before the holiday. But, it was not to be.

Martha couldn't hear what was being said but she could hear the short staccato of her voice as she ripped into George in dairy and then some random customer near the potato chips.

Mrs. John Coyne was within eyesight now, so Martha watched as she took a box of cookies from the shelf and put them into her basket. But she must have missed the edge of the basket and they fell to the floor. A little girl beside her quickly picked them up. "Here you go," she beamed with her accomplishment. Mrs. John Coyne glared at her; "Don't you touch my cookies you greedy little girl!" The child's mother pulled her away saying loudly enough for all to hear; "Don't worry honey, she's just a bitter old lady."

While the store watched the mother and child, Martha saw something she had never seen before; a tear in the corner of Mrs. John Coyne eye. Regret. This woman who had made life miserable for all who crossed her path was not just miserable; she was lonely.

Mrs. John Coyne straightened her hat and headed to the checkout. "I can help you here," Martha heard herself say. Three lonely items moved down the belt, a single pork chop, a can of beans and a single slice of pumpkin pie. It made Martha want to cry.

"You know, I have a granddaughter who is about that age," she said rummaging around in her wallet for \$12.53. "I don't know why I barked at her like that. Here," she mumbled.

"Mrs. John Coyne, would you come to my house for Christmas." Martha's own words surprised her. But yes, she did want to have dinner with this lonely old woman. "I mean, I'm by myself and the boss gave me a ham for Christmas, it will take me a month to finish it." The older woman looked at her softly.

"And I really don't like to be alone at Christmas," Martha added. "Neither do I, Martha," she said as a little smile formed on her face. "I think that would be just fine. As long as there is no drinking; never touch the stuff," Mrs. John Coyne said. Martha leaned a little closer; "No ma'am, neither do I."

"Well then, that would be just fine, as long as you call me Abigail."

There is no place like home for the holidays.

*Merry Christmas!*

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*From our Family to Yours*

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Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Card of Thanks

Thank You

It is with a very grateful heart that I want to say thank you to everyone who came to my surprise drive through (really am getting old didn't clue in at all). It was fabulous!

For the many cards and gifts and well wishes, Thanks.

To my wonderful family for completely surprising me, from Jeremy's visit from Jasper to drive through' dinners and tours. Your thoughtful gift of my life in photos to having Mom's quilt quilted, all of you had a part and I love you all.

Again many thanks and to all have a Merry Christmas stay safe and God bless.

Theresa Goodhand

In Memory

In Memory of

JOHN F. Hull

A cherished Husband,  
Father & Grandfather

Your in our thoughts at Christmas

So we say this little prayer.

May angels always bless you

And keep you in their care.

And may you in their care.

Any may the haven's angles

Light a Christmas Star to shine on you.

All year through no matter where you are.


Love and Miss you  
Myrtle, Kathy, Paul  
& Grandchildren

In Memory

GARY WILLIAMS

September 17, 1951 - December 21, 2017

Calm and peaceful he is sleeping,  
Sweetest rest that follows pain,  
We who loved him sadly miss him,  
But trust in God to meet again.



Love  
Donna & Family


In Memory

In Loving Memory of

RON STRANGWAY

Dear husband, father and papa,  
who passed away on December 17, 2018.

The depths of sorrow we cannot tell.  
Of the loss of one we loved so well.  
And while he sleeps a peaceful sleep,  
His memory we shall always keep.



Love always  
Bonnie & Family


In Memory

In Loving Memory of

KEN SITZES

who passed away December 20, 2019

Those we love,  
Don't go away.  
They walk beside us everyday.  
Unseen, unheard,  
But always near  
So loved, so missed,  
So very dear.



Forever in our hearts;  
Barb,  
Brian & Cynthia  
Kevin, Bonnie & Family,  
Randy & Wanda

Card of Thanks

Card of Thanks


The Edgar family would like to thank everyone for their love and support during this tough time. Thanks as well to the first responders and hospital staff in Petrolia and Sarnia.

Sylvia/Mom/Nana was such a positive influence in our lives. Her loss has shocked and saddened us deeply. The kind words, sincere thoughts and memories, cards, flowers, food, texts, and calls have reminded us that her impact stretched far beyond our family.

It has been uplifting to see how much her character, caring nature and kindness have been appreciated by so many. We are grateful to have such great friends, neighbours and family.

A celebration of Sylvia's life will be held at a later date.

- The Edgar Family -



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Obituary

McEWEN  
Ronald Cameron



On **December 7th, 2020** Ronald Cameron McEwen passed away with family at his side, at Vision Nursing Home in Sarnia Ontario. Ron was just four days away from his one hundredth birthday. Ron was predeceased by his first wife Gloria (nee Welch) in 1973 and his second wife Eve (nee Stephenson) in 2015. He is survived by his sons Michael McEwen (Douglas Payne) and David McEwen (Carol) and step children Mark Stephenson (Sharon) and Rhonda Lee Read (Tony). Ron was the proud grandfather of Craig McEwen (Stephanie) and Heather Carvalho (David), five great grandchildren Keira, Kate and Emily McEwen and Raya and Ayla Carvalho, and step-grandchildren Greg Stephenson (Krystle), Kristy Morrison (Mike), Jayme Stephenson-Hanson (Andre), Martine Read (Andy Vines) and Charlie Read (Megan), Michael Payne (Jennifer Ninni), Andrew Payne (Misha) and Nick Reford, and eight step great-grandchildren, Fiona, Lucy and Rachel Stephenson, Peyton and McKenna Morrison, Elijah and Eloise Stephenson-Hanson and Otis Read-Vines and one step great-great-grandson Jaxon Morrison. He will also be greatly missed by many nieces and nephews and their families. Ron was the son of the late Peter and Jean McEwen and is predeceased by his brother Charles McEwen and sister Elizabeth Fraser. Ron was born in the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia on Dec. 11, 1920 and was brought home in a horse drawn buggy. He attended the one room school house, SS#8 Plympton, with some 28 to 30 students in 8 grades. He passed the entrance exams and went to secondary school in Sarnia, staying with his Aunt and Uncle for two years. He was on the farm until he joined the Airforce in December, 1942 and was called up in March 1943 and spent 3 years serving in Canada and England. He referred to his bomber pilot's training and wings as his "college education". Ron was a founding member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 388, in Wyoming, Ontario. He bought half of his father's farm through the Veteran's Land Act and in 1948, Ron married Gloria Welch, a nurse, and started a family. Ron lived a full and interesting life and

was very community minded. He was on the school board and championed the central school which brought together a number of small one room schools in order to improve primary education in the township. He expanded the farm by 100 acres and took up "Ridge Till" farming, a practice which eliminated ploughing and reduced soil erosion. In1987 Ron received the "Conservation Farmer of the Year" award for Lambton County. Ron participated on the board of the Wanstead Farm Co-op for many years. He was a member of the Legion Building Committee resulting in the opening of a new Royal Canadian Legion facility in Wyoming in 1972. Ron and Eve were married in November 1974. He was a major force in building the "Refundable Life Lease Apartment Building for Seniors" called the Royaleigh in Wyoming in 1995/96 where he and Eve lived for twenty years. Ron loved to travel and he and Eve travelled extensively in Canada and abroad visiting Florida, California, The Yukon, Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Holland and France. After Eve passed away in 1995 Ron made his new home at Landmark Village for Seniors and recently moved to Vision Nursing Home. The family would like to thank the staff of both organizations for their excellent care and for making Ron feel welcome, comfortable and safe. **Due to the current pandemic restrictions, a private funeral will be attended by his closest relatives.** In lieu of flowers you're invited to make a donation of remembrance to the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 388, Wyoming or to the Canadian Cancer Society (cancer.ca). There will be a celebration of life at a later date. Memories and condolences may be shared online at [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com)

Card of Thanks

The family of the late Todd Thompson wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to all relatives, friends and neighbours, near and far, for their memories of Todd and their kindness. The many floral tributes, emails, phone calls, cards, memorial donations, heartfelt condolences and food dropped off at the house are appreciated.

Thank you to all the staff at the Needham Jay Funeral Home in giving excellent guidance during this difficult time. A thank you to the caring Hamilton family for their pick-up at the Toronto Airport and their beautiful music at the gravesite.

Thanks to all.

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**Classified Deadline:**  
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**4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728**  
**or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca**

## Obituary



**HYATT**  
**Kenneth Thomas**

Surrounded by family on Monday, **December 7, 2020** at Fiddick's Nursing Home, Petrolia, Kenneth Thomas Hyatt passed away at the age of **92**. Beloved husband to the late Margaret Jean (nee Wood, 2001). Loving father to Ken (Susan) Hyatt, Brenda (Dave) Belanger and Barb (Rick) Harper. Proud grandpa to Samantha (Will) Wilkinson, Justin (Natalie) Belanger and their son Beau, Tye Belanger (Marie-Pier Boivin), and Brianne (Eric) Fox and their son Brody, Kelly (Greg) Bailey and their children Harper and Cooper, and Ashley (Trevor) Duncan. He will be remembered by his nieces, nephews and many cousins. Predeceased by his parents, Alfred and Ethel Hyatt and his siblings, Keith, Bob, Bernice, Marion, Elwood "Shorty", Alfred, John and Lois. Tom, "The Bread Man" didn't wander far from the 6th line of Enniskillen where he was born. He was a farmer his whole working life and worked also for Canada Bread for many years and was known far and wide, delivering house to house bringing essentials and treats like bubble gum and candy. Neighbours were always stopping by for a chat on the back picnic table, and there were always a good supply of scotch mints, cigarettes and instant coffee. He will be missed especially around the holidays, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve on the farm. **Visiting took place on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 4059 Petrolia Line, Petrolia. A private funeral service will take place at a later date.** As an expression of sympathy memorial donations may be made to Cystic Fibrosis ([www.cysticfibrosis.ca](http://www.cysticfibrosis.ca)), Cancer Society ([Cancer.ca](http://Cancer.ca)) or the Diabetes Association ([Diabetes.ca](http://Diabetes.ca)). Memories and condolences may be shared online at [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com)

## Obituary



**VASEY**  
**James Thomas**

James Thomas Vasey died peacefully at St. Joseph's Hospice, Sarnia, on **December 13, 2020** at the age of **82**. He will be missed by Gloria, his wife of almost 57 years. Jim was the proud father of James (Laurie), Christopher (Jodi), Kevin, Joel (Heather), and loving Grandpa to Melissa (Aaron), Mary (Ricky), Madison, Aidan, Matthew, Adam and his great-granddaughters, Juliet and Eleanor. Predeceased by his parents, Maurice and Vera Vasey, sister, Maureen, and brother, George (Cathy), Jim will be missed by sister, Ann (Doug) Tanner, brother, Tony (Lorna) Vasey and many nieces and nephews. After teaching for 3 years in Kitchener- Waterloo, Jim was a principal for 25 years with the Lambton County Separate School Board. He was recognized locally and on a provincial level for caring leadership and his innovative work with exceptional children. He was active in many organizations, served as President of the Sarnia Mentally Retarded Association, and was the founder and first President of the Sarnia-Lambton branch of the Ontario Autism Association. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and served for six years as Minister of Trillium Region Secular Franciscan Order. **A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Philip's Church in Petrolia on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Interment will be in Hillsdale Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, donations can be made to St. Joseph's Hospice ([www.stjosephshospice.ca](http://www.stjosephshospice.ca)), Petrolia Food Bank, or St. Francis Advocates ([www.mysfa.org](http://www.mysfa.org)). Memories and condolences may be shared online at [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com).

## Card of Thanks

## Card of Thanks



*Thank You*



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# 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!  
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**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

## Thank You

The Family of Christine Jaques would like to thank Dr. Butler and his team of nurses at CEE Hospital. As well as the VON Care providers, especially Lucy Hough.

Thank you to Steadman Brothers Funeral Home and many family, friends and neighbours who provided flowers, food and condolences.

Your care and support during this difficult time was immensely appreciated.

**Ken, Brian, Wayne, Keith Jaques & Families**

# Business & Service Directory

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# Sports



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Marlowe Robinson went six for six at an international online event on the weekend making three personal bests.

## Wyoming lifter’s perfect international day

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

An LCCVI student is making her mark in the world of weightlifting internationally. Marlowe Robinson went six-for-six in lifts at the 2020 Pan American Under-15 Championships and in the process established a trio of personal bests. Competing over Zoom from Garage Weightlifting at the We Are Fitness facility in Point Edward, she had a 48 kilo lift in the snatch, 59 kilo in the clean and jerk and 107 kilos overall, in the women’s 55 kilogram category. Robinson set the three personal records at the event which was originally to be held in person in Colombia. The Grade 10 LCCVI student does not know where she will finish in the standings as lifters have until Friday to complete the virtual competition due to pandemic restrictions. The 15 year-old trains three to four

times per week for up to three hours each day since taking up the sport four-and-a-half years ago. “I’ve grown up around the sport,” she said when asked how she became interested in weightlifting in the first place. Her father, Larry Robinson, has been a mainstay in weightlifting for more than three decades. He was recently honoured by the Ontario Weightlifting Association for 35 years of service. Depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic affects the sport in the future, Marlowe Robinson is scheduled to compete at the provincials in March 2021 at a yet to be determined location. The provincials were to have taken place earlier this month, but like so many other competitions, were cancelled due to the global pandemic. As for Robinson’s long-term goals, “I’d like to compete internationally at the World Championships and the Olympics,” she said. “The Olympics would be really cool.”



DAWN RILEY PHOTO

Jace McGrail of Wyoming tries to prevent a goal during the Jr. Stings’ Black and White game in November.

## Jr Sting to play five-on-five against Chatham

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

Scouts will get a rare opportunity to see players from the Lambton Jr. Sting U-16 and U-18 squads this Saturday when those teams play a series of games against the Chatham-Kent Cyclones Under-16 squad at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena in Sarnia. The 30-minute games, played five-

on-five with modified rules, begin at 12:30. Fans are not allowed, but the Junior Sting is considering streaming the games on its Facebook page. Several players from Petrolia and Central Lambton are scheduled to suit up for the two teams. Bo Doxtator, Will Hull, Jace McGrail and Evan Morningstar are part of the U-16 squad. Owen MacDonald and Ty Moffatt are on the U-18 team.

## This holiday season needs to be different.

The safest way to celebrate indoors is only with the people who live in your home. People who live alone can get together only with one other home.

Gatherings with friends and extended family can carry an increased risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Consider celebrating outdoors or virtually with others that are not part of your household.

Know the gathering limits in your area before you choose to entertain with family and friends indoors. Indoor gatherings are not permitted in regions in Grey-Lockdown.

For all gatherings with anyone you do not live with:

- maintain 2 metres physical distance
- wear a face covering
- avoid potlucks or shared utensils
- ensure everyone washes hands regularly, including before and after meals

Self-isolate if you are sick, even if your symptoms are mild and ask guests to stay home if they feel unwell.

Follow provincial and local public health advice to keep you and your loved ones safe this holiday.

Stopping the spread, starts with you.

Visit [ontario.ca/celebratesafely](https://ontario.ca/celebratesafely) to learn more.

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