

RAMPING UP TESTING



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Natasha Curran looks over the COVID-19 samples gathered at the Rural Lambton COVID-19 Assessment Centre now housed at the Plympton Wyoming Wellness Center. The demand for testing is on the rise as the number of people infected in the county grows. Monday, 128 COVID-19 swabs were taken but it could have been more; 21 people who were booked for the drive thru service didn't show up. See more about this story on page 13.

Lambton becomes COVID-19 hot spot

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton County smashed through a milestone in the COVID-19 pandemic; more than 1,000 people have tested positive for the virus.

The 77 new cases reported Tuesday bring the total number of people to test positive to 1,076 here.

The numbers illustrate just how fast the virus is spreading in Lambton.

It took nine-and-a-half months for 500 people in Lambton to test positive for the virus. In 18 days, another 579 people were added to the list.

That means since Dec. 19, the number of COVID-19 cases has increased nearly 54 per cent.

Statistics from the University of Toronto show Lambton had the second highest rate of COVID-19 cases in the province with 34.6 cases per 100,000 people. Only Windsor-Essex is higher with a rate of over 48 cases

per 100,000. Toronto, Peel and York - which still post hundreds of new cases daily, have a lower case per 100,000 population rate.

That's prompting Lambton Public Health officials to move from a strategy of reducing case counts to one which prevents deaths.

Dr. Sudit Ranade talked with reporters Monday about the rapidly rising rate of COVID-19 infections in Lambton.

"There's a certain point at which it becomes very challenging to think about cases and prevented cases and reducing the number of cases and you have to move to a strategy that is about achieving some different goals, which are preventing death, which are ensuring that essential systems can still continue to function," says Ranade.

"And I think we're very quickly moving - if we have not already moved - into that space."

SEE RISING PG 2

Mr. Shaw joins Sweet Caroline singalong

Heather Wright
The Independent

LCCVI students and alumni know Al Shaw loves to belt out the Neil Diamond classic Sweet Caroline.

The now retired head of the guidance department famously would start the song everyone can sing along to during school sports and rallies. He even broke into song on the public address system one morning during announcements. Now students - and about 76,500 of the Diamond's closest friends - can hear Shaw singing it in a massive sing along.

Diamond asked his fans to submit videos of them singing Sweet Caroline so he could create a global version of the song which has been sung for years by crowds at all kinds of sporting events.

Shaw - who had been taking singing lessons for his own pleasure - heard about it through a friend and decided

he would submit a video.

He worked with his singing coach, recorded the video and sent it off in the mail, expecting to see if he made the cut when the video was released Dec. 21.

It took until Dec. 23 for the video to make its debut. Shaw and his son were in the car when they found the link. They pressed play and there Shaw was, among a group of four singers, crooning together "I've been inclined," before more singers join the chorus.

"You just started yelling 'I made it'" says Shaw's young son.

"It was just so exciting," Shaw says.

"I thought it was a long shot to get in when you're an amateur.

"You're just hoping that they think you're good enough to make it," Shaw told *The Independent*.

Shaw isn't sure how many people submitted videos, but the opening of the video has hundreds of pictures.

SEE SWEET PG. 2

Office **CLOSED** to the public due to provincial lockdown

We are sorry but the office of The Independent is **CLOSED** to the public during the provincial COVID-19 lockdown. We can be reached by phone at 226-738-0728 or via email at news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca or by dropping a letter or payment in our mail slot.



Rising COVID-19 rates boost Lambton to one of the provincial hot spots

CON'T FROM PG 1

“The most consistent factor linked to mortality with COVID-19 is age,” says Ranade. “The people in high-risk settings like long term care and often retirement homes, need to be protected. And also people who are living independently who are over the age of 80, especially, and 70s probably, need to make sure that they’re taking specific precautions around limiting their exposure to other people,” Ranade added.

Ranade says when the COVID-19 vaccines begin to arrive in Lambton – likely late January or early February – he wants to be sure those in long term

care get it first to reduce seniors’ risks of getting COVID-19. About 70 per cent of the deaths in Ontario have been seniors in long term care. Since the second wave began in September 992 seniors have died.

As has been seen across the province, when the number of people in the community infected with COVID-19 increases, long term care homes soon are dealing with the virus.

There are six Lambton homes considered in outbreak having at least one case in staff or residents. Lambton Meadowview in Petrolia, North Lambton Lodge, Village on the St. Clair, Trillium Villa, Afton Park Place and Vision Nursing

Home are all dealing with cases in staff and residents.

One third of the province’s 626 long term care homes are dealing with COVID-19 outbreaks.

Ranade expressed concern that as the number of cases rise in Lambton, the elderly both in long term care and in the community, are vulnerable.

Lambton officials have already been working on a rollout plan for the vaccine and Ranade says once they arrive, public health could start putting needles in the arm “very, very quickly.”

In the meantime, Ranade says public health workers are doing the best they can to deal with the large number of people

with COVID-19 and tracing the contacts they have made, but it is tiring.

Ranade says public health workers do as much as they can to help those who have COVID-19 “talking to people and getting really connected to those people... we know about their families, we know about all the things that are going on with them.

“We also feel the same when their stories take a turn for the worse...because we’ve been so involved with them. I definitely would say that we are tired. We are persevering, but it’s been a long haul for all of us doing this work.”

And the workload isn’t about to get lighter soon.

Ranade says Lambton’s numbers are high because people were involved in social events long before Christmas “so that damage essentially has been done.” And he says we’re unlikely to see the affects of the provincial lockdown for sometime because there are still a lot of places people interact with each other – including workplaces.

“I think we need to start thinking more about not the day-to-day numbers or the week-to-week numbers, but the importance of getting the vaccine here as soon as possible, be distributing it as soon as possible and...continuing with all the public health measures that keep people safe.”

Public health warns rec hockey league players to watch for virus symptoms

At least 20 fall ill with COVID-19

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton Public Health says several people who played in adult rec hockey have tested positive for COVID-19.

Nearly 20 people who play in adult rec hockey leagues have tested positive for COVID-19.

Officials have asked hockey players to monitor their health for signs of the virus because there had been several cases linked to the pickup leagues.

Often, players will go to different leagues in the county on different days of the week, which could be one of the reason for the spread among hockey players.

The rec hockey leagues are shutdown now because the province-wide lockdown includes arenas. But most arenas, including

St. Clair, Petrolia, Alvinston and Watford have pickup leagues.

Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, said its not clear if any COVID-19 protocols put in place at local arenas were broken.

He says rec hockey, by its design, is a social outing and like other social events, people let their guards down and get a little too close. That’s when the virus spreads.

Public health officials ask anyone

who plays in leagues in Lambton to isolate themselves and get a COVID-19 test if they have any symptoms.

Public health is advising adults who played in rec hockey leagues across Lambton in the last two or three weeks to watch for any cold-like symptoms and get tested for COVID-19 if they have the symptoms.

Ranade added if Lambton Public Health contacts you, “be honest and understand that isolating close

contacts is critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19. Early detection through screening, continued social distancing and following public health measures provide control measures that all work together to limit community transmission.”

Recent COVID-19 cases in Lambton County have involved a number of settings including workplaces, events, recreational activities and schools.

Sweet song; Shaw joins global singalong

CON'T FROM PG 1

The song received a lot of media attention and Shaw ended up on one of Neil Diamond’s Instagram posts promoting the video.

Diamond, in words at the front of the video, says the global singalong was meant to boost spirits.

“2020 has been a tough year for everyone, so we wanted to bring people together the best way we knew how: Through music. To inspire people to come together, we challenged fans all around the world to sing along to ‘Sweet Caroline.’”

As excited as Shaw was to join the video chorus, it didn’t top his favourite moment singing Sweet Caroline. That was more personal and poignant.

Shaw worked with LCCVI’s music department to sing Sweet Caroline at the 2019 graduation. He tears up thinking about it.

The graduating class had been through a lot that year with the death of three classmates. Shaw says it was very special to bring a moment of joy to the celebration and to have all the students and parents join in the moment.

“I just remembered how much joy that song seemed to bring to them. And because they were all with

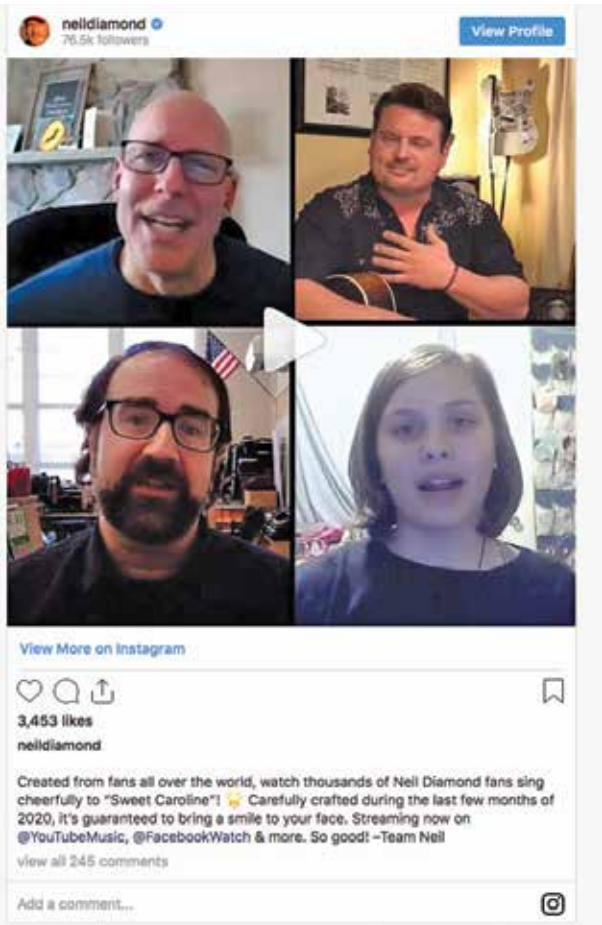



PHOTO VIA INSTAGRAM

Al Shaw was one of hundreds of people to create a global singalong video of Sweet Caroline.

me, they were right there with me,” he says. “And that’s a bit emotional, because it was a hard couple last years. “But the care that everybody had, like the

students, and the staff and the parents, you know, the families, they really cared for one another. ...We did it with things like that, that brought everybody together.”



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 permittable, 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

Where’s the vaccine? Lambton residents ask MPP

Heather Wright
The Independent

The phones at Bob Bailey’s Sarnia-Lambton constituency office and the question on everyone’s lips seems to be “Where is the vaccine?”

As the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 in Lambton soars and the province begins to roll out the recently approved Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, Bailey says people are questioning when it will arrive in Lambton.

The answer - at least the last answer the MPP had - is late January.

“They watch the TV and the media and, hey, I’m concerned, too. So I can understand how you gotta loved one in the (long term care) home, you know, maybe a senior spouse, or a grandparent you’re wanting to know, you know,

where is this vaccine?”

The first of the vaccines were given to staff at hospitals and long term care before Christmas. But the Conservative government has faced criticism for the slow roll out of the vaccination program, particularly after the government stopped putting needles in arms during the Christmas and New Years’ statutory holidays.

Doctors across the province took to social media offering to be part of a vaccination team and urging the province to get the vials of valuable vaccine out of the deep freezer and into arms.

As of Tuesday; 148,350 doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been received, and about 48,000 of the Pfizer vaccine have been used.

There is also concern, particularly in

Lambton, where the first vaccines will go.

Dr. Sudit Ranade, Lambton’s medical officer of health, expressed concern that Lambton is not among the first to receive the vaccine even though we now have among the highest case rate per 100,000 in the province.

Bailey shares the frustration noting the province has committed to vaccinating all the people in long term care in Toronto, Peel and Windsor Essex by Jan. 21.

Lambton, he says, should be in the second phase, but it is not clear when that will occur and how quickly the shipments will arrive. Public health and Bluewater Health have a vaccination plan in place and Ranade says once the vaccine arrives, they will be administered “very, very quickly.”

Corunna man faces second degree murder charge

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton OPP say a 51 year-old Corunna woman is dead and a 51 year old Corunna man has been charged with second degree murder.

In a news release Friday afternoon, OPP said officers were called to

Riverside Drive early Dec. 31. They found a woman dead at the scene.

Another person was arrested at the home.

Police have identified the woman as Cheryl Vanhuisen of Corunna.

Shawn Trowbridge, also of Corunna, has been charged with second degree murder. He made a brief court

appearance and in is custody.

Police, who are still investigating the death, say the murder was “an isolated incident and there is no concern for the public’s safety.”

Police are asking anyone who may have information about the murder to call police at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Corunna woman questions reinstatement of CK officer

Officer plead guilty to domestic abuse charges

Heather Wright
The Independent

Janine Bechard is locking her doors and looking over her shoulders again after her ex-husband - Chatham-Kent Police Const. Darcy Lunn - was given back his gun and put back on the street.

And she wants the decision to allow the man who threatened her, and her son, to return to work overturned.

On Dec. 15, Lunn plead guilty to one count of neglect of duty and three counts of discreditable conduct under the Police Service Act. The charges stem from “off-duty conduct” according to the CK police news release which occurred as far back as 2009 and were reported in 2019. Lunn plead guilty to assault and uttering threats in a domestic abuse case heard in Sarnia in May. He was given a suspended sentence and three years probation.

The Police Act charges included bringing a service firearm home without permission, threatening to strike his then wife and pushing her against a wall, and calling his wife at work and threatening to harm her.

Lunn was demoted to the rank of fourth class constable. He could be promoted to first class constable - the highest paid constable rank - in two years.

Bechard said she would testify at the hearing. That didn’t happen. Instead, Bechard heard from a friend on Dec. 18 that Lunn was back to active duty and carrying a gun again.

“I began shaking, I was scared, I instantly went into survival mode,” Bechard says. “I’ve got to protect myself, I’ve got to protect my son, (I

was) locking the doors, making sure the windows were locked, making sure the garage door was down, making sure my dogs were out so that if they heard any type of noise outside the house, they could alert me to it.”

Bechard says Lunn’s service revolver was central to the abuse she suffered over 23 years with the officer.

“Darcy would bring his gun home from work and leave it on the island in the kitchen or on the top shelf of the bookshelf in the living room,” Bechard tells *The Independent*. “Darcy threatened to shoot me and my son so that he could feel better about his life and not deal with his problems.”

Bechard alleges Lunn had mental health problems linked to his use of injectable steroids. Lunn is involved with Slam Wrestling under the name of Danny Steel.

“My ex-husband was protected by the badge he was given when he became an officer with the Chatham Kent police back in 1998,” she says.

Bechard says he became a police officer “who strikes his wife, his son, threatens their life, brings his gun home without permission from his department, phones me at my workplace and threatening me over the phone...punches me so badly my son had to stop Darcy from continuing and possibly causing severe damage or even killing me, hitting me in the face in a stairwell falling backwards down the stairs hitting a cement wall and becoming unresponsive, blacking out and when coming to screaming for help.”

Bechard says Lunn has never apologized and he didn’t speak during the criminal trial.

The Police Act Hearing Officer, Terence Kelly, retired deputy chief of York Regional Police, said that Lunn’s action is “completely at variance with the standards expected of members of

the Chatham-Kent Police Service.”

But he says his guilty plea, which Kelly says was a “recognition of his misconduct” and that he wanted to “rehabilitate his reputation with management” or he would have considered a greater penalty.

Bechard says it’s proof CK Police are protecting their own.

“It is unfortunate that the Chatham Kent Police Service does not take into consideration the victim of the abuse at the hands of their officers,” she says.

Michelle Schreyer, the executive director of the Chatham-Kent Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, is concerned Lunn is back on the street since the public isn’t aware of what steps he may have taken to deal with the issues that led to the domestic violence.

“In order to maintain public confidence in the system, there needs to be some kind of accountability to the public,” she says. “I don’t know whether or not Const. Lunn went through the work toward rehabilitation in terms of his attitudes and behaviours that led him to be violent and to threaten violence against a woman who was his intimate partner.

“That’s relevant in reestablishing trust with the public.”

For her part, Bechard hopes a public outcry will lead police to revisit the police act charges. And she hopes by coming forward, other abuse victims will find strength to get help.

“I need to come forward, and I need to share what’s happened so that I can help other people, but not just help other people help my son,” says Bechard. “He needs to have a stable base that he can make sense of this, as much as he can, and be able to move forward and be successful in his own life and not carry this and hold on to it like I did for 23 years and wonder if you know, you’re ever going to be able to come out of this.”

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Town of Plympton-Wyoming 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.

NEW for 2021 No Overnight Parking on Roadways

- There is no overnight parking on roads between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. January 7th until March 15th 2021 and November 15th to March 15th each year after.
- This allows for the Town's road crews to plow the roads safely and efficiently. We ask that you please cooperate and be considerate of the road crews when they are out doing their best to keep our roads open and in safe condition for emergency services.
- Vehicles that are not in compliance will be given a first time warning and then towed if still not in compliance.

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

- The trail on Oil Heritage Road will get plowed once. The trail will get a second plow once all of the roads and sidewalks have been done.

Emergency Parking Ban

- As per the Town's Winter Operations Plan section 4.6.12 cars parked on the streets during a snow removal effort may be ticketed and/or towed away. A snow emergency parking ban may be declared by Operations Coordinator, or their designate. The Ontario Provincial Police, Lambton Detachment and media will be notified when the parking ban is initiated.

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Editorial

Lambton’s suffering

It has been a long week in Lambton County and for health care workers, public health officials and ordinary families, it’s not about to get better anytime soon. In a matter of days, Lambton has become a hot spot for COVID-19. After the initial horrors of the pandemic claimed 16 seniors in long term care, Lambton had been relatively lucky. Yes, there were still people diagnosed with the virus which has now killed over 15,000 people in Canada, but at least we weren’t Toronto.

There, hundreds of people a day were finding out they were sick and some were dying. But we aren’t so lucky anymore. In the last 18 days, the virus has spread like wildfire in Lambton. It took nine-and-a-half months for the first 500 cases to be registered in Lambton and just 18 days for the next 500 - and then some - people to fall ill. Public health experts on social media point to Lambton as an area where COVID-19 is exploding. We see hospitals preparing for what they are calling a “tsunami” of health care needs. Public health is plowing through data, trying to reach everyone who might have been in contact with another person with COVID-19.

Not far from here, in Windsor, hospitals are overflowing with patients - not all suffer from COVID-19 - but the current wave of illness from the pandemic makes it more difficult to treat those with “regular” illnesses. So, they’re being brought to Sarnia and Chatham-Kent.

In short, everywhere around us there are signs of exactly what public health officials said would come if we weren’t careful. And now they’re telling us it will not get better - more people will be sick - hospitals will be over crowded and elective surgeries for things like cancer and joint replacements may have to be cancelled, causing more pain. We can’t undo what has been done to cause this massive upswing in Lambton, and so some of the most vulnerable suffer again.

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca. You can also deliver letters to The Independent at 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia or drop them in the mail at The Independent, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0. The Independent reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity. All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

Our Story



A view of Alvinston's main street in the 1950s. A block of buildings on the right side of the street no longer exists after fire destroyed them. A park now sits at the corner.

Demand better for the seniors who built Ontario

I wanted to share with you an image which moved me to tears. Matt Llewellyn’s photo of two chairs facing each other between a door in Ottawa could be any long term care home in the province. It’s obviously a meeting place for family and residents of a long term care home. You can picture an elderly woman, colourful crocheted blanket on her lap on one side of the locked door, her daughter or perhaps granddaughter on the other in the cold with leaves swirling around her feet in the stiff wind. It would not be a warm, welcoming visit, but for most people who love someone in long term care, it is all there is. And somehow, these are the lucky ones. We’ve heard this week of nursing homes in Toronto where family members don’t know if their grandparents are dead or alive. Others can speak on the phone, only to hear them plead for

water or food. Still other families hear from weary staff who tell of residents banging on their walls trying to get help. The provincial government has failed seniors. It makes promises to improve the care in long term care, but nothing happens now, when they need it most. They say situations stabilize in homes where 60 people died in two weeks without any proof life is better. But, we also have failed the people who have built this province. Because of our past indifference to their needs and our current silence on their unimaginable plight, they suffer when they should be cared for and comforted by family. As a community, we have to speak for the seniors of this province. While we may not see the horror stories playing out in larger centres, seniors here suffer, too. The amount of care they receive will only increase if the public demands it. And demand it we should.



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Opinion

Corunna woman ‘let down’ as ex returns to police beat

EDITOR:

My name is Janine Bechard and I am a victim of physical and mental abuse by my now ex-husband Constable Darcy Lunn of the Chatham Kent Police Service.

I was abused over the span of 23 years physically, mentally and could not reach out for help due to the fact that I was threatened and my son was threatened by Constable Darcy Lunn. Darcy would bring his gun home from work and leave it on the island in the kitchen or on the top shelf of the bookshelf in the living room. He was not authorized to bring his gun home and plead guilty of doing such in December, 2020.

Darcy threatened to shoot me and my son so that he could feel better about his life and not deal with his problems as his mental health was deteriorating due to his use of injectable steroids.

Two studies have found that 40 per cent of police families experience domestic violence compared to 10 per cent of the population.

I want to see the police services acknowledge this and have measures in place for the victims to feel comfortable and supported in coming forth with information about their abusive situations. As well there should be resources available for the victims after the charges and sentencing has occurred.

My ex-husband was protected by the badge he was given when he became an officer with the Chatham Kent police back in 1998.

A police officer who strikes his wife, his son, threatens their life, brings his gun home without permission from his department, phones me at my workplace and threatening me over the phone so loud that my coworkers could hear even when I was not using my speaker phone, phoning me multiple times on my cell phone and home phone leaving unsettling, threatening messages, stalking me and sending emails after I blocked him on my phone, letting me know he knew where I was as he saw my vehicle in the parking lot, punching me so badly my son had to stop Darcy from continuing and possibly causing severe damage or even killing me, hitting me in the face in a stairwell falling backwards down the stairs hitting a cement wall and becoming unresponsive, blacking out and when coming to screaming for help after Darcy took my phone from me to prevent calling 911 telling me “they” would never believe me, cancelling benefits for his son not celebrating holidays or birthdays or Christmas at all with his son to name a few abusive situations.

Darcy never apologized to his son or to me not even when asked during his sentencing in May of 2020 if he had anything he would like to say.

It is unfortunate that the Chatham Kent Police Service does not take into consideration the victim of the abuse at the hands of their officers.

I requested several times to speak to the police chief; not once was my request granted. I am not pleased with the ignorance, neglect and the

protection provided by the CK Police for their guilty police officer. The facts are in black-and-white and available for the public to see, showing Chatham Kent police continues to protect their own by not investigating serious situation properly and, for a lack of a better term, sweeping serious situations under the rug.

When Darcy was watching a game of hockey at the Mooretown arena in his police uniform, he became irate using vicious words and threatening words towards the referees. The refs called the police and the OPP responded. They completed a thorough investigation, passing it off to Chatham Kent police for discipline within Darcy’s department. Unfortunately the file was given to a friend of Darcy’s on the CK Police and the situation from the Mooretown Arena was not investigated or spoken of again.

I feel so horribly let down by Chatham-Kent Police.

I was asked on December 8, 2020 if I would testify in Constable Darcy Lunn Police Act Hearing. I agreed and was told to prepare as it would likely happen in the new year. I was then contacted December 28, 2020 by a friend who told me Darcy was back on the streets in full uniform. As you can imagine I was shocked and scared for my life, wondering if he had a gun back in his hands, also wondering if he was on his way over to my home to finish the job as he said he would.

I made sure my home was locked up, my son was aware, my dogs were out, my cell phone had 911 on it ready beside me and then I sent an email to the investigating officer from the Chatham Kent police.

He confirmed the next day that Darcy was in fact in full uniform including his gun. I am furious with Chatham Kent police as they did not reach out to me to tell me that Darcy had plead guilty, that Darcy did not want to face me and deal with the truth. Not once did Chatham Kent police put my or my sons safety first. Not once did they apologize for their neglect by allowing Darcy to get away with taking his gun home and threaten his family, me and my son with it. Not once did Darcy apologize to me or my son for his actions.

I’m coming forward to show my son a horrible situation doesn’t have to control your life, you can move forward in a positive light by sharing your information, your experiences and possibly helping others.

My goal is to explain to the public there is a problem with municipal policing and that officers are not held to a higher standard but yet protected by the badge that they hold, given to them by their police force. A badge that is supposed to mean to serve and protect but unfortunately doesn’t mean to serve the community and protect the community. This needs to change.

I’m thankful to the public for their comments and for their support and I’m asking the public, especially the citizens of Chatham-Kent to demand a change within their Chatham-Kent Police Department. It is not OK to

allow officers to break the law not once, not twice, not three times but multiple times and their victims remain silent in fear for the rest of their lives. This needs to stop.

An officer of the law who breaks the law and is criminally convicted needs to be held to a higher standard. They should not be protected and given a tap on the hand telling them they did something bad, but instead a severe punishment ensuring the community and their victims are protected.

Serious therapy, counseling and proper professional help should be mandatory. A paid suspension is not a suitable punishment. A non police officer would have been given jail time and much more serious conditions. Yet my ex-husband - a police officer- is back to work in full uniform carrying the very same gun he threatened me and my son with.

I’m not the only person who has dealt with a form of abuse at the hands of a municipal police officer. There are so many and so many afraid as I was to seek help. Last year there were two incidents that I became aware of regarding abuse within the Sarnia Police department. Both situations we’re not taken seriously by the department and received media attention. It’s not OK to break the law as a police officer. The survivor deserves to be supported and protected not the criminal.

I need to mention that the OPP in Petrolia and Corunna we’re absolutely outstanding when dealing with me and my son throughout the criminal investigation. The professionalism, the care and support, even while they were off duty, checking in to make sure my son and I were OK. This is how I pictured a police officer and a police force would be. They made me believe in and trust police officers again. If it wasn’t for their hard work, attention to detail and ability to communicate with victims of domestic violence, me and my son would not have been able to share our secrets and Constable Darcy Lunn would not be on probation forced to plead guilty criminally for his actions and plead guilty under the Police Services Act. Darcy pled guilty both times to prevent a trial and prevent the truth from coming out.

I am receiving many forms of help through therapy. I have been working with my son daily ensuring he has therapy, and proper assistance. We are so thankful to the Sarnia Victims Services particularly Anne, for her dedication to her role and her assistance throughout.

Lastly, I am asking for the public’s assistance. We need the government to look into the guilty plea and discipline of Cons. Darcy Lunn. I would like to see a proper investigation including all information provided by statements and facts reviewed and an outcome that reflects the crimes he has committed.

Together our voices will make a difference.

Janine Bechard
Corunna, ON

- **Emery Huszka**
Dealer - Florence ON,
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- **Julie Maw**
Dealer - Courtright ON,
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- **Dave Foulon**
Dealer - Tupperville ON,
519-683-2136
- **Dave Emery**, Territory Manager
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Windsor sends patients to Sarnia as ICUs fill in southern Ontario

Bluewater Health considers stopping elective surgery

Heather Wright
The Independent

Full Intensive Care Units across southwestern Ontario and a surge of COVID-19 in Lambton is prompting Bluewater Health to consider cancelling elective surgeries

Bluewater Health has reopened its COVID-19 unit and among the first to be treated there will be patients from Windsor-Essex. That comes as Sarnia officials consider whether elective surgeries can continue in Lambton.

Windsor-Essex has been struggling with the virus for a month with some of the highest rates of COVID-19 in the

province. Tuesday, the Windsor Essex Health unit reported 174 new COVID-19 cases and three additional deaths. There are 2,471 active cases in the community with 102 people in hospital.

Julia Oosterman, director of communications at Bluewater Health, says Sarnia is expected to start accepting the first of the Windsor patients today. Some may end up in the COVID-19 unit.

“Months and months ago, we planned for this day knowing that there was a very good likelihood in January and February, to the two worst months in any way, from a capacity perspective, we would need it,” she says.

Oosterman says the situation in Windsor-Essex was getting difficult for the hospitals to handle. “I think they have been super valiant in their efforts for a while,” she says. “They have pulled out every stop; they have called for reinforcements and now they are taking the next step of asking for their partners to lend a hand and it simply behooves us to help.

“This isn’t necessarily about where someone lives. This is about saving lives.”

It’s not clear yet how many people will be coming to Sarnia from Windsor – Oosterman says it is likely to be “only a handful of people.” The COVID-19 unit at Bluewater Health has 30 beds. Six people from Lambton are being treated there now.

And while Bluewater Health is lending a hand to its neighbours now, it is unclear how long they may be able to provide relief. COVID-19 cases are soaring in Lambton with 323 people ill and six people hospitalized as of Tuesday.

Oosterman says January and February are difficult times normally for hospitals. Right now,

Bluewater Health’s 14 bed ICU is full; two people have COVID-19 and the others are recovering from various other illnesses.

Intensive care units from Windsor to London are full. Oosterman says that’s a big concern.

“We have 14 beds and 14 people, only two of them today are COVID. But if you’re already at 100 per cent, the airplane’s full, and someone else needs to get on the flight ... I’m very cautious to not paint the picture of everything rosy... We are on a precipice.”

The full intensive care unit, new patients coming in from Windsor, and rising rates of COVID-19 in Lambton could cause problems in about two weeks says Oosterman.

Hospital management is now “weighing its options” about elective surgery.

In the first wave of COVID-19, the province halted all elective surgeries, including joint replacements and cancer surgeries, to deal with COVID-19. Right now, Bluewater Health is still doing elective surgeries, trying to reduce the backlog caused by the first round of the virus.

“Other jurisdictions have completely scaled back or stopped all elective surgeries,” Oosterman says. “At this point, I don’t have an announcement on that; I have nothing that I can confirm or deny but I can tell you it’s absolutely 100 per cent in discussion because we see a tsunami coming in.

“It is such a difficult decision. That is the kind of thing that keeps people up at night,” she says.

For now, health care workers in Sarnia prepare to help their Windsor neighbours.

“We only can help people as our capacity allows. Today, we have 83 per cent capacity, so today we can help.”

Hospital allows just one visitor, even for the dying

The Independent

Only one visitor will be allowed at Bluewater Health for patients with the most serious cases starting Wednesday.

Bluewater Health officials say labouring mothers, paediatric patients, patients having urgent surgery or patients who are at the end of life will be able to have one consistent visitor in the hospital at both the Sarnia and Petrolia sites.

A news release issued by the hospital says the rules are consistent with other hospitals across the province and were put in place as Lambton County’s COVID-19 rates continue to rise.

Statistics from the University of Toronto show

Lambton has a COVID-19 rate of over 34.6 cases of per 100,000, second only in the province to Windsor-Essex.

“We recognize that patients and families are already feeling the impact of isolation, and are doing our best to help patients and loved ones stay connected throughout these restrictions,” says Mike Lapaine, CEO of Bluewater Health. “We must do everything we can to quickly alter our trajectory. We are ranking with Peel and Toronto for infection rates and must immediately take action.”

Officials say the hospital is trying to keep patients in touch with virtual visits.

More help to fight addictions in Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Laurie Hicks says new funding to open 12 transition beds for people trying to kick their addictions “opens the door for hope.”

Hicks’ son died fighting his drug addiction. He, like many other in Lambton, had a hard time getting treatment.

Hicks joined forces with local officials pushing the province for a 24-bed withdrawal management center.

Sarnia-Lambton politicians have been calling on the province for a unit for 15 years.

Over the past couple of years there has been funding for seven withdrawal management beds at Bluewater Health and out-patient programs.

But Paula Reaume-Zimmer, the vice president of mental health and addictions at Bluewater Health, says the need is still great. Reaume-Zimmer told reporters on a tele conference, 93 people have been turned away because there were not addiction services available for them in Lambton

Tuesday, Ontario’s Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Michael Tibollo, announced \$325,000 in one time funding for 12 transition beds to help ease some of the pressure. The beds will be set up at Bluewater Health’s Mental Health backup center on Exmouth Street.

Hicks says the transition beds are important since often people who complete the first week of withdrawal have to return home to wait for further service and can fall back into their addiction.

“It opens the door for hope and it closes a gap of service...and it increases the chance of success immensely,” she said during a video news

conference announcing the money.

“The person that’s struggling, goes, spends three, four, five or seven days, going through detox, then it’s up to them to go back to their home - whether it’s a toxic home where there could be others using in the house - and they’re expected to stay drug free, alcohol free, until the rehab becomes available,” says Hicks.

“That is really, really, really difficult for the majority of people. But now, after they go through the painful withdrawal, they will have a safe place to go, where they’ll still receive counseling, there will be 24/7 staff set up to help them keep them on their path that they’re hoping for.

“It just stops or hopefully will slow down the relapse and give them a stronger base to continue.”

Tibollo visited the site in September and is impressed with the Exmouth St. facility. “I was really pleased to see the how the property had been laid out,” he said.

“I’m actually looking forward to maybe being invited there one day to go around a group session with the people living in the house just to share some experiences and continue the work I used to do before I became a minister.”

Reaume-Zimmer says the hospital and community groups are continuing to work toward permanent funding for a 24-bed centre.



Michael Tibollo

5

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TOWN OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING

Job Posting

The Town of Plympton-Wyoming is currently looking to hire a **Director of Fire and Emergency Services / Fire Chief**. This full-time position will provide an exciting and challenging opportunity for a qualified and experienced leader to join the Fire and Emergency Services Department.

The Fire Chief will provide leadership, technical expertise, overall management, and operation of the Plympton-Wyoming Fire and Emergency Services Department, including fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency response, training, fire inspections, Fire Code enforcement and public education in accordance with applicable legislation. The Fire Chief is also responsible for overseeing the emergency management program. The Town of Plympton-Wyoming Fire Service consists of two (2) fire stations with a volunteer force of approximately 60 volunteer fire fighters.

Interested individuals are asked to review the information on the Town of Plympton-Wyoming website (www.plympton-wyoming.com) and are asked to forward their resume and cover letter no later than **4:00 pm on February 15, 2021** to the Carolyn Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer (ctripp@plymptonwyoming.ca)

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In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, all information collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, will be used only during the selection process for the subject of this posting.

Dawn-Euphemia working out management agreement for Shetland park

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The Shetland Conservation Area in Dawn-Euphemia will be staying in the hands of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, following an offer from the township to acquire the land. The issue began a year ago when it was discovered the conservation authority – which owns the piece of Dawn-Euphemia land – didn’t have proper title due to an error made before they became owners. A survey was necessary to determine the rightful owner.

Dawn-Euphemia was asked to split the cost of the survey, for a total of \$2,365 each. The township – which spends money and time to maintain the park – instead asked the conservation authority if they’d be willing to work out a deal to relinquish the land. The request was made in April, but it took the conservation authority until September to respond. They reaffirmed “the Authority’s commitment to retain the property in perpetuity.” The reason the conservation authority cited revolved around

the terms of the 1963 sale of the campground from the Shetland Picnic Corporation to the Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority. The \$1 sale came with the condition that “the property would be maintained in perpetuity as a conservation area and park for the inhabitants of the community and others.” Returning the land to the township would mean the campground would technically no longer be a conservation area. But Mayor Al Broad – who sits on the conservation board – wasn’t buying this. “Pretty poor excuses,

but it is what it is. The board voted on it and turned it down and so be it.” “They call this Shetland Conservation Area of local significance, and yet everybody that uses it is from out of the area,” says Broad. Councillor Mark McGuire wasn’t happy with the result either. “I don’t like it. I think we should own it.” However the conservation authority added it would “draft an updated management agreement for the property.” “I thought it would be a great

idea and in everyone’s best interests,” says clerk Donna Clermont during a council meeting last month regarding potential transfer of ownership to the township. “It’s a little bit disappointing, but at the same time they have their reasons,” she says. “I think what we need to do is keep an eye out for that agreement that they talk about creating for the township and the conservation area. And we’ll need to review that quite carefully and ensure that it’s fair for the township.” - The Independent

Petrolia charities ring in 2021 with over \$10,000 in grants for special projects

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Petrolia Community Foundation kicked off 2021 by giving a number of community organizations a hand. Foundation Executive Director Jane Anema says \$10,500 in micro grants have been given out to the following groups: This year those grants went to: • \$1,500 to Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital Foundation for the purchase of a blanket warmer • \$2,000 to Parents for Parks for the building of a fully accessible play structure in Greenwood Park. The group has raised nearly

50 per cent of the estimated \$350,000 and hope to break ground this spring. • \$1,500 to the YMCA for a bench in the outside play space. • \$1,500 to Queen Elizabeth School for a refrigerator for the milk program. • \$1,500 to Hillcrest School towards the redevelopment of the play ground. • \$1,000 to the Lambton Young Theatre Players to restart its program. The group hopes to stage Robin Hood in the fall. • \$1,000 to Wyoming Minor Ball Association for new uniforms for some of its 400 players. Anema says the foundation has

also helped citizens make more than \$15,000 in donations to the Petrolia Discovery Foundation, Lambton Youth Choir and the Petrolia Food Bank this year. The announcement was made Jan. 1 during the Town of Petrolia’s virtual New Years’ Day Levee. The annual event to welcome the new year had to be held in a different format this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In his address on the video, Mayor Brad Loosley expressed hope for a better 2021 adding Petrolia has weathered the pandemic together. “I could not be more proud of



Jane Anema, the Petrolia Foundation Executive Director, appeared virtually to help hand out the grants our community...the way you have all worked together. It can only be described as incredible,” he says.

Late tow truck leads to criminal conviction

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man had hoped to have his car pulled from the ditch on Lasalle Line near Petrolia. Instead, he’s now convicted of drunk driving and faces \$2,600 in fines. Jason Denley, 37, was in Sarnia Court Dec. 22 to resolve the incident that took place just outside Petrolia Oct. 17. It started at 6:30 am when Denley was leaving a house on Lasalle Line. He backed out of the driveway, but instead of stopping on the road proceeded

into the ditch across the street. Denley tried to free his Hyundai Genesis but had no luck. He went back inside the house to call CAA. During this time a passing motorist came across the scene. Feeling it was a traffic hazard – since it was still dark and the car was partly in the road – he called police. OPP arrived at the house where the female homeowner said her friend was leaving her house when he got stuck in the ditch. Denley confirmed he’d been the driver. Police noticed a smell of

alcohol, and Denley said he’d stopped drinking around two hours ago. He was given a breathalyzer test, which he failed. Later readings at Petrolia OPP station registered .192 blood alcohol content, nearly 2.5 times the limit. He was fined \$2,600 and banned for driving for a year. Denley spoke briefly during sentencing. “I understand I made a mistake. That should have never happened, and was very foolish on my part.” - The Independent

COVID-19 in Lambton child care

Tara Jeffrey
For The Independent

The province’s list of licensed child care centres and home child care agencies with recent COVID-19 cases includes four Lambton County locations. As of Jan. 5, a single child case of the virus was reported at Lambton Rural Child Care - Home Child Care in Oil Springs, as well as the Sir John Moore YMCA School age facility in Corunna. North Lambton Child Care Centre in Lambton Shores also recorded a single child case, while NLCC - Kinnwood Central in Lambton Shores reported a single staff case.

A pair of COVID-19 outbreaks also remain active within the Lambton Kent District School Board, according to Lambton Public Health, which reports four cases linked to the Confederation Central School community, and two cases linked to the Great Lakes Secondary School community. Those outbreaks were declared on Dec. 29 and Dec. 26, respectively. Elementary and secondary schools across the region moved to remote teacher-led learning this week, as directed by the Ministry of Education. Elementary students are to return to in-person learning and secondary students will continue remote learning until Friday, January 22.

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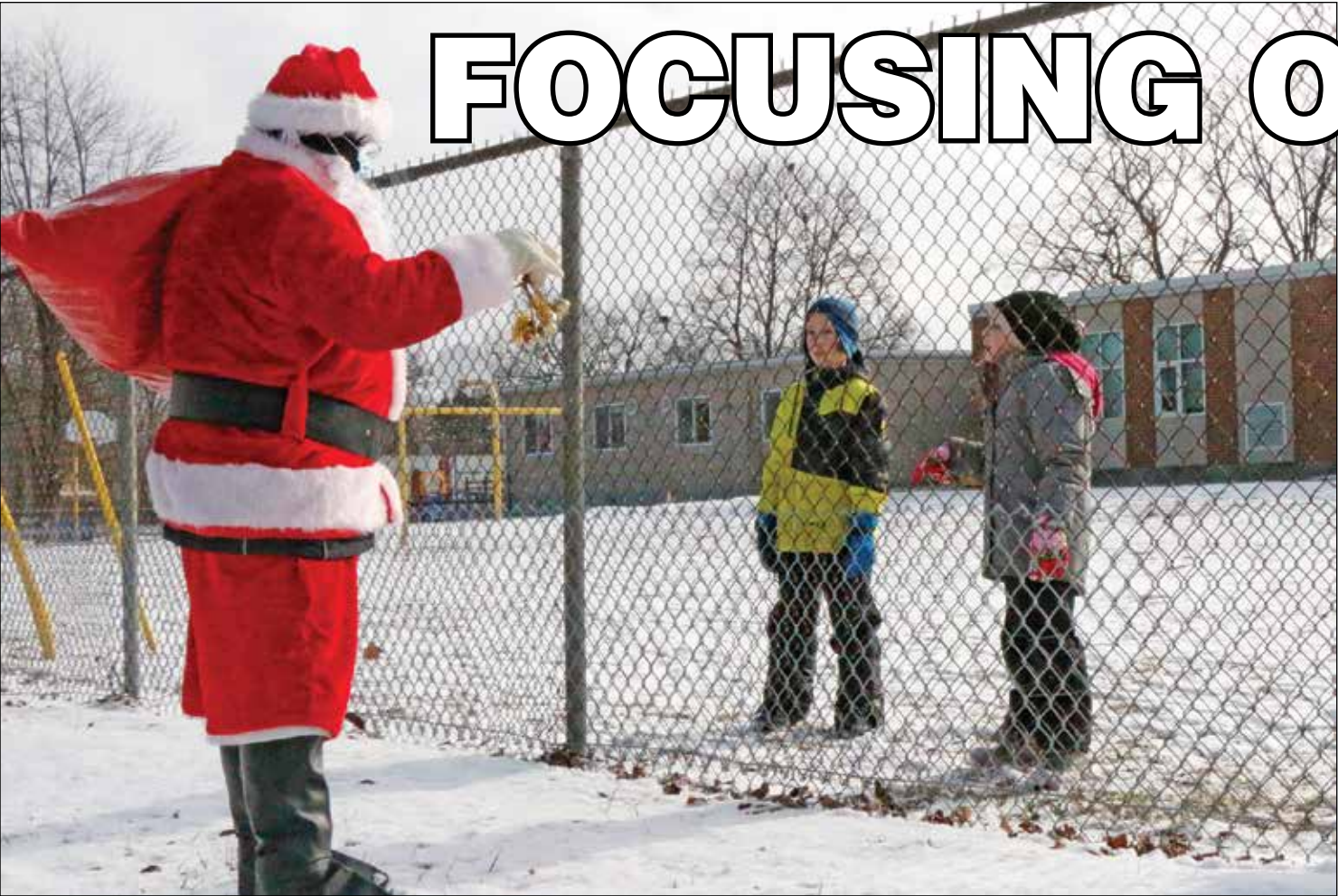
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HEATHER WRIGHT
AND ALEX KURIAL
PHOTOS



FOCUSING ON 2020



Much of 2020 was coloured by the COVID-19 pandemic and this years top photos reflect that. Helen Maddox, top right, surveyed the depleted supply of toilet paper as the province locked down started , Marleigh Hyatt, 2, right centre, greeted her grandfather and showed off her new brother, Collin, through a window in a photo taken by her mom, Ashley. Healthcare workers showed their grit, caring for people during the pandemic including at the Continuing Complex Care Unit in Petrolia in April. The swearing in of a new Plympton-Wyoming councillor - Mike Vasey - is done without the public present due to COVID-19 restrictions, centre left. And Santa visited students at Holy Rosary - but from a distance in December (top centre). COVID-19 also brought a whole lot of community spirit particularly in the Neighbour 2 Neighbour Rural Lambton Food Drive which supported Rural Lambton food security programs. And while COVID-19 dominated much of the news this year, there was more. Early in the year, teachers, including those from LCCVI, hit the picketline in ongoing disputes with the province. Inz Oil Springs, centre left, Joyce Veenstra, comforts her granddaughter, Audrey Larsen, as Oil Springs firefighters break through the roof of the Larsen's home to stop a fire. Lucy Bright, 20 months, lived up to her name in December (bottom left) posing for a picture in Petrolia's new light display at Victoria Park. Below, Blitz the OPP tracking dog, found a London man who was accused of stealing a pickup in Dawn-Euphemia and driving it to downtown Petrolia, where he was eventually captured.



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COVID-19

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- Motor/recreational vehicle sales permitted to be open for in-person shopping by appointment only and other restrictions.
- Garden centres, plant nurseries: indoor by appointment. Permitted if public remains outdoors or by curbside pick-up or delivery.

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Hours are subject to change.

Sports

COVID-19 colours 2020 sports

Barry Wright
The Independent

There were more lows than highs on the local sports scene in 2020, but the year got off to a successful start for brothers Dale and Mark Hunter of Oil Springs.

They added to their hockey hardware with gold medals from the World Junior Hockey Championships after Canada roared back from a 3-1 deficit to beat Russia, 4-3 in the final in the Czech Republic.

“I am so proud of this group. The resiliency they showed throughout the tournament is a tribute to the quality young men they are,” said Dale Hunter to the Ontario Hockey League website after the triumph.

Mark Hunter was the general manager of the team, while former Sting Alan Letang was an assistant coach. Letang is the head coach of the Owen Sound Attack of the OHL.

Hockey Canada says the Hunters were offered an opportunity to return to the team this season, but declined the offer.

Elsewhere in local hockey, the Mooretown Flags had advanced to the PJHL’s Stobbs Division final against Lakeshore when COVID-19 shut down the season.

The Petrolia Flyers lost a tough seven-game series to Amherstburg in the first round of the postseason, the Petrolia Squires fell in two straight games to Lucknow in the opening round of the senior playoffs and the Sarnia Legionnaires lost

to London in the GOJHL playoffs.

Several local minor hockey teams were caught in the crosshairs over the pandemic as players from a total of seven teams in Petrolia, Mooretown and East Lambton were to have opened their Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship just before all the series’ were called off. Later, the OMHA declared that all finalists would be considered co-champions for the season.

The year gone by was another successful year for athletes from LCCVI. The Lady Lancers won the Lambton Kent Junior Girls Volleyball crown with a straight set victory over John McGregor.

The Lancer boys and girls hockey teams both advanced to their respective hockey finals only to lose to Dresden and Wallaceburg respectively.

Eduardo Olaya won both the Lambton Kent and SWOSSA wrestling crowns in the boys 61 kilo class.

The Lancers swim squad placed third in the LKSSAA Swimming Championships.

Elsewhere, Petrolia’s Matt Mueller won the Stefanko Award as the top graduating Male Athlete in Sarnia-Lambton.

In university and college athletics, LCCVI grad Mitchell McAuley was named co-Rookie of the Year for the Lambton Lions men’s soccer side, while two other former Lancers were named to the OCAA All-Academic team.

Alvinston’s Courtney McKellar is a softball player at Durham College in Oshawa, while Chantal DeVlugt of Wyoming is a volleyball player at St. Clair College in Windsor. DeVlugt was also named to the national all-academic squad.

Several other local athletes made headlines in 2020. They included Wyoming’s Julia Boelens representing the Lambton Attack at the IIHF Global Girls’ Game in St. John’s, Newfoundland, Oil Springs’ Megan Hunter was promoted to the Director of Hockey Administration and Amateur Scout by the NHL’s Chicago Blackhawks.

Florence’s Kyle Dawson signed a pro lacrosse deal with Rochester of the National Lacrosse League.

Wyoming’s Kaden Gray won the Canadian Premier Baseball League’s Home Run Derby while his long-time friend Core Jackson accepted a baseball scholarship to the University of Nebraska.

Clay Dolbear of Alvinston was chosen to represent Ontario in fastball at the Summer Games next August in Grimsby.

Wyoming’s Noah Myers began his NCAA collegiate baseball career at South Carolina, and Eric Young of Florence captured the Impact Wrestling World Championship.



PAM WRIGHT/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO
Dan Mills of Wallaceburg puts Donovan Z Tam through his paces last week at the Dresden Raceway.

Dresden ready for 2021 races

Pam Wright
Local Journalism Initiative

Dresden Raceway has a five-year funding agreement with the province

Dresden Raceway facilitator and publicist Gary Patterson says it’s great news.

“We are very pleased that the funding has been

extended for five years,” Patterson says. “We have so many hardworking horse people who rely on tracks like Dresden Raceway to feed their families.”

The year’s first race will take place on Sunday, May 30, with the final race of the season to be held on the Civic holiday Monday Aug. 2.

How to reduce your risk

TAKEOUT / DELIVERY

There are steps you can take to protect yourself and others from the spread of COVID-19.

Stay home if you are sick.

Wash your hands before and after going out and before you eat.

2 metres
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SHOP LOCAL

did you have a new addition to the family in 2020?

get ready to brag, we will feature the “Babies of 2020” in our January 28th issue.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD

Babies of 2020

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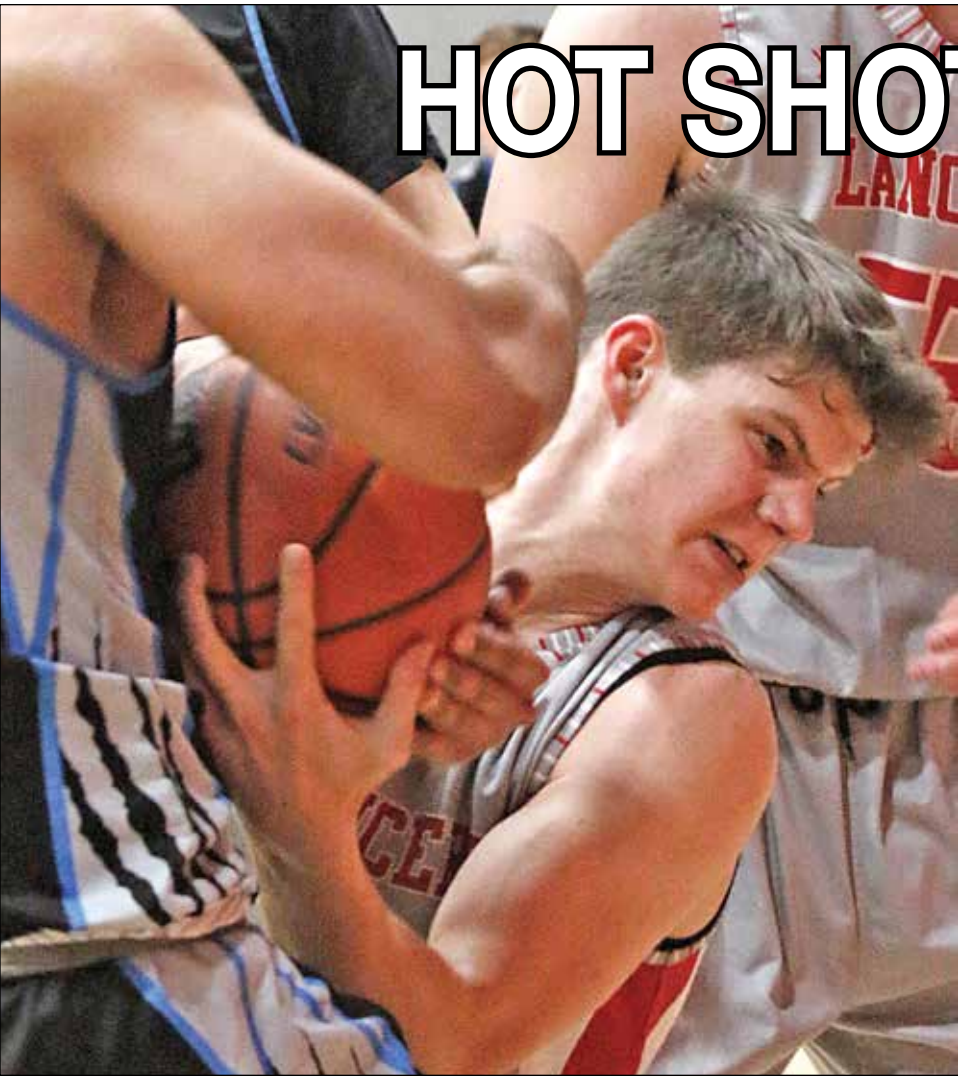
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deadline for submission will be Monday, January 25, 2020

HOT SHOTS OF 2020



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS

Live sports were scarce after March in 2020. In the first two months of the year, the hockey season rolled along as did high school sports. At the top left, Core Jackson of the LCCVI Senior Boys Basketball team grapples for the ball in the final regular season game. On the right, Paul Musselman celebrates his goal in the Petrolia Squires 50th anniversary game and in the centre on the left, Petrolia Flyers forward Nick Burgess takes a glove to the face in a loss to Petrolia. The Petrolia Oiler Bantams were one of a handful of local teams which made it to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association playoffs, which were never completed because of the pandemic. There were few summer sports however Petrolia tennis player Matt Mueller organized a small tournament at the Mary Beach Tennis Courts which Jack Bernardo from Sarnia competed.


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Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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Celebration

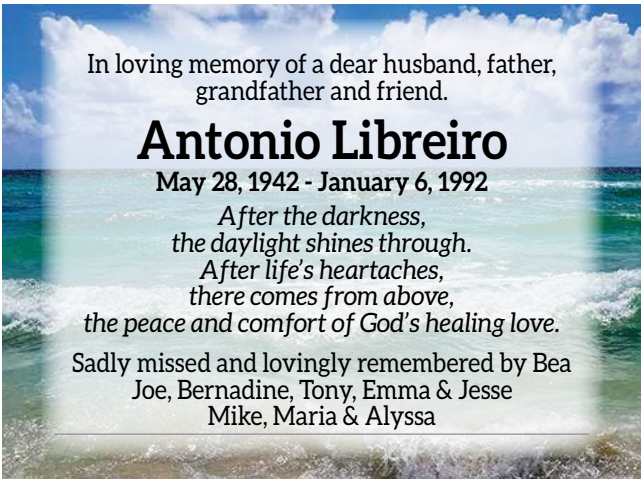


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BIRTHDAY!

Grandpa Gary!

Love
Sadie, Emily & Drew

In Memory



In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and friend.


Antonio Libreiro

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the daylight shines through.
After life's heartaches,
there comes from above,
the peace and comfort of God's healing love.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by Bea
Joe, Bernadine, Tony, Emma & Jesse
Mike, Maria & Alyssa

Obituary




PIGGOTT

Marion Thirza

PIGGOTT, Marion Thirza (nee Pratt) – Age 95, formerly of Brigden, but resided at Lambton Meadowview Villa, Petrolia passed away peacefully on Monday, January 4, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Beverley Piggott (2005). Dear sister of Ken Pratt, Nancy (Fred) Taylor and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by parents David and Laura Pratt, siblings Duncan Pratt, Bruce Pratt, Dorothy Hayter, Helen Dodds and Marjorie Janes. Marion was a long time member of the Brigden United Church and Do R Best Women's Institute and she will be missed by all who knew her. Family and friends were received at STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, BRIGDEN on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. Due to provincial Covid-19 restrictions, a private family service will be held at STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, BRIGDEN. Interment followed at Bear Creek Cemetery. Sympathy may be expressed through donations to Brigden United Church or Canadian Cancer Society. Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. Arrangements entrusted to STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden 519-864-1193.

Obituary

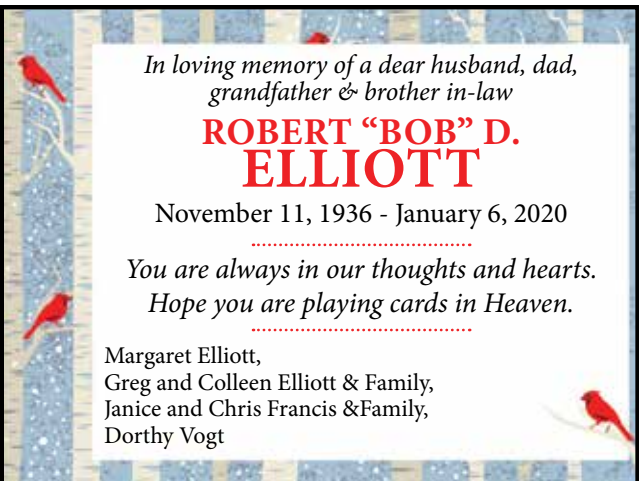


TULLY

Patrick

TULLY, Patrick - Peacefully, after a brief illness, at C.E.E. Hospital, Petrolia on Thursday, December 31, 2020, Patrick Harold Tully passed away at the age of 85. Beloved husband to Marilyn (nee Font) for 64 years. Loved father to Terry (Brenda) Tully of Petrolia, Laurie (Brett) Vainio of Calgary, Shawn (Steph) Tully of Oil Springs, and Debbie (Gino) Lavallee of Powassan. Proud grandpa to Corey (Jason) McCallum, Tracey (Patrick Marshall) Tully, Chelsea (Jeremy) Dambitis, Shea Vainio, Matt Tully, Kelley (Krista) Williams, Renee Williams (John Clendenan), Robert Lavallee (Brooke-lyne Turcotte), Evan Lavalee (Alexias Larsen), and Samantha Lavallee, and great grandpa to Lukas Kalo, Chloe McCallum, Haley and Jordan Williams, Oakely Marshall, and Lyra Danbittis. Survived by sisters-in-law Meryle Low, Jean Tully, Marilynn Tully, and Karen Tully. Predeceased by his parents, Harold and Marguerite (Noyle) Tully and his siblings Jack, Keith, Terry, Anne, Dennis, Paul (Ann), and David. Pat retired from Owens Corning Fiberglass Canada after 38 years. He loved woodworking, making a variety of treasures from tables to toys, jewellery boxes and chairs, all cherished keepsakes for his children and grandchildren. Due to COVID restrictions, a memorial service will be announced at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital (ceehf.ca) or St. Joseph's Hospice (www.stjosephshospice.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com.

In Memory



In loving memory of a dear husband, dad, grandfather & brother-in-law

ROBERT "BOB" D. ELLIOTT

November 11, 1936 - January 6, 2020

You are always in our thoughts and hearts.
Hope you are playing cards in Heaven.

Margaret Elliott,
Greg and Colleen Elliott & Family,
Janice and Chris Francis & Family,
Dorothy Vogt

Card of Thanks

Sincere Thanks

TOM HYATT

A.K.A. "Bread Man"

November 25, 1928 – December 7, 2020

With heartfelt thanks to Dr. Butler, the paramedics, C.E.E. Hospital and all emergency, nursing & care staff. Fiddick's Nursing Home and all the staff going above and beyond taking such great care of dad on his short stay. As well as comforting us through this difficult time, especially his favorites.

We would also like to thank dad's long time & new neighbours, and our friends for the food, cards, phone calls, flowers, donations, and a tree planted in memory of our Dad.


Needham-Jay Funeral Home and staff, Rev. Jim Kettle and Tye Belanger for their wonderful eulogy in memory of a dad, grandpa and great grandpa.

Heartfelt thanks from all the family of the late Tom Hyatt.

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In Memory

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
TIM SELMAN


TEN YEARS AGO JANUARY 2

You were a Dad who was so special
And he was loved so very much,
And brought so much happiness
To the many hearts you touched.

You were always kind and caring
And so understanding too,
And, if help was ever needed Dad
It so freely came from you.


You were a gift to all the world
And brought joy to everyone,
And life has never been the same
Ever since you have been gone.

FROM ELLIOTT, JASMIN, EMILY,
DREW, JOSH & GRANDKIDS



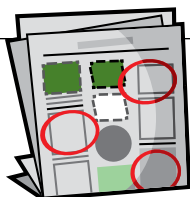
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Death Notices

December 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21 PHIBBS, Herbert Age 78, of Petrolia Smith Funeral Home CAMPBELL, David Age 85, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home TEDBALL, Joan Age 92, of Bright's Grove Smith Funeral Home WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 BERGMAN, Carol Age 85, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 VANWYK, Erick Age 36, of Sarnia Needham-Jay Funeral Home DUPUIS, Terry Age 83, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 ROBERTS, Gloria Age 81, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 MANESS, Kyle Age 31, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home TUCKEY, Ruth Age 79, of Corunna Knight Funeral Home SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 DAVIDSON, Norm Age 82, of Forest Denning's of Forest MULLER, Eric Age 97, of Brigid Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 GROOTENBOER, Keith Age 31, of Sarnia Gilpin Funeral Home SHIPLEY, Dr. William Age 70, of Mississauga Smith Funeral Home TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29 CORBETT, Larry Age 81, of Sarnia McCormack Funeral Home	DOLBY, James "Jim" Age 84, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home TORLONE, Mario Age 89, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 PERRY, Neil Age 77, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home VANDERVEEN, Jacob Age 80, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home ROSE, James Age 88, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home HEINEN, Fred Age 92, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 VANHUIZEN, Cheryle Age 51, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home BRANDER, David Age 53, of Petrolia Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel LAPORTE-MULCASTER, Deborah Age 64, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home PHAIR, James Age 79, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home TULLY, Pat Age 85, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home SMITH, Bernice Age 87, of Forest Denning's of Forest BROOKS, Robert "Bob" Age 89, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 TAYLOR, Elizabeth Ann Age 76, of Strathroy Denning's of Watford CAMPBELL, Ona Age 101, of Brigid Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel
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This information is provided as a community service.
For detailed information, please refer to the funeral
home website listing.

Church DIRECTORY

Christ Anglican Church
414 Oil Street, Petrolia

Happy New Year!
We are closed due to the provincial lock-down.

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

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

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

www.standrews-petrolia.ca

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

In-person services have been suspended until the end of the provincial lock-down.

10:30am Service
Rev. Carey Wagner
Church Office: 519-882-1390
stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

First Baptist Church
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

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

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

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

Wyoming United Church
730 Second Street, Wyoming

In-person services suspended until end of provincial lock-down. Join us for on-line worship in January.

Church Office 519-845-3963
Find us on Facebook

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