

The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

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ICE BREAKING ON THE ST. CLAIR



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The US Coast Guard cutter Bristol Bay cuts through the ice near Port Lambton Saturday morning. The Canadian and US Coast Guard have been working for days to move ice. At one point, there was an ice plug near Port Lambton which was causing flooding in St. Clair Township. See page 6 for more details.

Lambton waits until Feb. 16 to get out of the house

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton residents will have to wait one more week before some of the COVID-19 restrictions - including the Stay at Home order - are eased.

Premier Doug Ford announced Monday the State of Emergency won't be renewed Thursday and some regions of Ontario will be able to ease restrictions and begin returning to normal activities.

Ford told reporters "the sunlight is breaking through the clouds...the (lockdown) measures are working... Together we are bending the curve."

"We're not clear of this storm yet."

Ford said hospitals in a number of regions

are still facing "immense pressures" because of COVID-19.

"This is a critical time; we can find a way forward but we need a plan to protect the health and safety of each and every person in the province while insuring businesses can open."

Ford adds "we can't return to normal; not yet, not while our hospitals are still overwhelmed."

Health Minister Christine Elliott says three health units, Hastings Prince Edward Public Health, Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health and Renfrew County, will be out of the stay at home order later this week.

The rest of the province, including Lambton, will continue to be under the

order until at least Feb. 16. After that, the regions will be put on the colour-coded scale which the province had been using before the lockdown.

The Toronto region will wait another week to Feb. 22.

"This is not a reopening or return to normal, it's an acknowledgement we're moving forward," says Elliott.

When the region returns to the framework, small businesses which have been squeezed during lockdown - only allowed to provide curbside pickup or delivery - will be able to open allowing 25 to 100 per cent capacity through the doors at one time depending on what level the community is in on the provincial framework.

SEE LAMBTON PG 2

LGS demo to take two more years

Heather Wright
The Independent

Demolition work on the Lambton Generation Station is expected to restart in the next few weeks but will take two years to finish.

The former coal fired plant was partly dismantled by JNX Contracting over the course of the last two years. But in March 2020, the pandemic hit and the decommissioning stopped.

Then, in May, JNX Contracting declared bankruptcy.

Ralph Curitti, the project manager for Ontario Power Generation which owns the plant on the St. Clair River near Courtright, says OPG had to wait for the bankruptcy courts approval. "In that process, there are certain protections, so that they were given time to sort of restructure the business. We didn't take any action against them in that regard," Curitti says, "at least until we received permission from the court to terminate that vendor and get another vendor."

OPG has just signed a contract with Delsan-A.I.M. to take down the rest of the plant. Delsan-A.I.M. completed the demolition of OPG's Nanticoke coal fired plant in 2017.

"They're just currently there on site, just sort of mobilizing, preparing their construction island and getting ready to start the work," says Curitti. "I would say in the next couple of weeks, you'll see some activity starting up."

"Our objective is to have the project completed by the end of 2022."

Curitti says the company will first remove all the asbestos on the site. "And then you'll see, essentially, a lot of the smaller buildings and around the front of the property closer to St. Clair Parkway start to get cleared up, and they'll be demolished and backfilled."

SEE LGS PG 2

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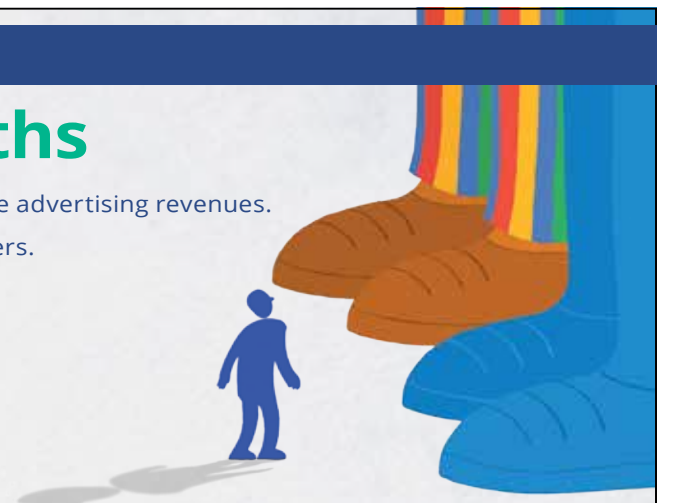
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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Debris can be seen past the No Trespassing sign at the Lambton Generating Station near Courtright.

LGS work restarts in a couple of weeks

CON’T FROM PG 1

“And then at that point, the boilers themselves would come down, we have that currently scheduled to come down end of November, beginning of December of this year. And then, once those are down, it’s a matter of just clearing up all that scrap and preparing the chimneys for their demolition.”

That’s the part that concerns St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold. He says residents in the Courtright area have been patient through the two or three years OPG has been working on the site and they’ll be glad to see the work complete.

But he’s concerned about the way the company plans to bring down the giant chimneys at the front of the building.

OPG’s original plans call for the cement cylinders to be imploded. Arnold says his council and the community don’t like that idea at all.

“We’ve made it very clear, we don’t want them imploded,” says Arnold. “We want them removed and we’re getting a lot of push back from them on that.”

Arnold says council has asked the chimneys be dismantled with a large crane, just like they were erected. He says dropping the chimneys with implosions would create a lot of debris which is potentially toxic.

“The switchyard is right there, we got Courtright, right there, we have all those people up and down the river, on both sides,” he says.

Implosion, Arnold says, is “the easy way out, it’s just to have a big explosion drop them. Do you really care about the neighbors? You really

question whether anybody’s too concerned about the people who live around there because that old cement - a lot of it was built with asbestos and such for fibers within it.”

But the plans have not changed with the new contractor stepping in.

“Our plan is to still use an implosion methodology. The plan is to bring down the chimneys around August of 2022 time frame,” says Curitti.

“I don’t believe that the stacks would reach the roadway ..we’re quite confident that would go smoothly. The vendor that we have, they did just recently complete the demolition of the Nanticoke generating station, which had two very large chimneys as well, and those went down without a hitch,” he adds.

“We’ll obviously be doing all the sort of environmental specs, making sure there’s no environmentally sensitive materials in the chimneys.

“We have no reason to believe at this time that they have anything other than just regular concrete in them.”

Arnold would like to see OPG answer to the public for its plan. “They need to go out to the public and not through council or through the mayor’s chair. It needs to go out into public meetings, again, by the new contractor, to assure these people that things are going to be done in an environmentally safe manner.”

The asbestos removal is expected to start in a couple of weeks with about 40 people on site doing the work.

Curitti says the demolition company will take the scrap steel for payment – estimated to be worth about \$24 million. OPG had already paid JNX about \$3 million for its work.

Lambton small businesses will open Feb. 16

CON’T FROM PG 1

In Grey – which is lockdown – supermarkets will have 50 per cent capacity and big box stores and retail will have 25 per cent. Malls will have to screen shoppers before coming into the building.

In Red, grocery stores and other stores which primarily sell food may be at 75 per cent capacity; retailers will be at 50 per cent.

There will be no restrictions on shopping when the communities are in the green-prevent, yellow-protect or orange-restrict zones.

“We want to give people hope – to step up and be a part of the solution,” said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones.

The Health Minister adds things

could change rapidly if the COVID-19 variants start becoming prevalent in the community

“We want to see how quickly this variant will spread...they can increase the spread exponentially,” says Elliott.

It’s not immediately clear what restrictions Lambton residents will face. Tuesday, Public Health says Lambton has a COVID-19 incident rate of 50 cases per 100,000 and 1.5 per cent of the COVID tests are returning positive. Under the provincial framework, that could mean Lambton would be in the more restrictive orange or red zones. It is not clear what week of data the province will use to make the determination.

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Beaulieu remembered for his Petrolia pride

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia has lost another community leader. Tony Beaulieu passed away Saturday. Beaulieu volunteered in a number of areas. He was a baseball and soccer coach and was on the executive of the Petrolia Jets. He was a reserve officer for the Department of National Defense. Beaulieu was also a town councillor in Petrolia. He was an active volunteer with the Petrolia Legion and Lion’s Club. “You would always find Tony with a smile on his face and the community’s best interests in his heart. Even when his illness was getting the

best of him, Tony continued to wholeheartedly lead the Petrolia LEO Club – a youth division of Lions International – in their efforts to fundraise and support their community,” writes his family in an obituary. Beaulieu leaves behind his wife, Joanne, and four children. Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley and council paid tribute to Beaulieu and former councillor Mary-Pat Gleeson who passed away Jan. 30. Loosley called Gleeson a “fiercely independent” woman who had the best interests of Petrolia at heart. Loosley added Beaulieu brought “his community pride” to his duties as councillor and chair of the finance committee.

Greenfield St. reconstruction moves ahead

Heather Wright
The Independent

It looks like the reconstruction of Greenfield Street is moving ahead this spring. In a report to Petrolia Council, Mike Thompson, director of operations, says the \$1.8 million project will move ahead this year. “This project’s full reconstruction will replace water and storm sewer, new curb, sidewalk and road surface; sanitary remains in good condition and will remain untouched,” says Thompson in the report. Thompson says the tenders will be issued March 4 with contractors interested in the job replacing the stretch from town hall to Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital submitting bids by March 24.

A report on the recommended builder would go to council April 12 with construction likely starting in late spring. Chief Administrative Officer, Rick Charlebois, says the town in the meantime is looking for more grants to cover some of the cost of the reconstruction. “We’re shopping around and we’re keeping our eyes open,” says Charlebois. “There’s a provincial budget and the federal budget to happen in February, March time frame. And we got our fingers crossed that if there is another grant, we’re ready to apply for it.” There is already a \$332,000 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund grant and \$182,000 from the federal gas tax which will go toward the project. Residents of Greenfield Street will get a look at the plan in May during a public meeting.

Brooke-Alvinston looks at adding cash to budget

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston’s treasurer has delivered a budget that will hold the line on tax increases, but councillors are wondering if they should add some money to reserves to deal with any COVID-19 problems. Stephen Ikert recently presented the \$4,288,629 operating and \$4,747,130 capital budgets to council. Ikert says the pandemic led to all sorts of disruptions which are reflected in the budget. Revenues dropped in recreational facilities, like the arena and the community centre. Some big budget items, like the purchase of a new grader, were put off. The grader simply couldn’t be delivered on time due to COVID-19. Brooke-Alvinston had expected to spend about \$4.59 million in 2020 but instead spent about \$4.226 million. Ikert held the line on the actual operating spending. One notable increase will be a 1.5 per cent wage increase for staff. The municipality’s capital budget on the other hand nearly doubles 2020s. Ikert says items like the grader and a tractor in public works, which were put off in 2020, will be replaced in 2021 instead. And Brooke-Alvinston received a large grant of \$1,854,478 to spend on the \$3.1 million upgrade of Rokeby Line. “An aggressive capital budget made possible only due to the OCIP grant that was announced earlier in 2020,” Ikert wrote in his summary to council. Even with the \$4.59 million capital budget, the treasurer was able to bring total spending in line with last year’s spending resulting in no tax increase on the municipal tax bill. Ikert says the draft budget “recognizes that many residents have faced setbacks because of the pandemic.” But councillors are considering increasing spending by 1.5 per cent – putting an extra

\$45,000 in reserves instead. Councillor Wayne Deans suggested a project to fix the ceiling and make the upper room in the arena electronics accessible should be shelved and the \$33,000 put into reserves. “I can’t see spending money up there this year? We’re not going to rent it out. There’s going to be no income coming in whatsoever,” says Deans who is worried taxpayers will be asking why the municipality is fixing a room no one is using. Staff pointed out doing the upgrade now would avoid interrupting rentals later. Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek agreed. Councillor Jamie Armstrong argued there should be some increase because the costs of the COVID-19 pandemic are going to keep rolling in. “Just because COVID hit doesn’t mean that the cost of living isn’t going to continue to go up, we just paid all of our employees a 1.5 per cent cost of living increase, so I think that, at very least, we need to have a tax increase of 1.5 per cent,” he told councillors. “I’m pretty sure that once COVID is over and we get back online here, we’re going to start having a lot more of these of these expenses come back, and more than likely, they’re going to come back at even a higher rate than 1.5 per cent. “If we don’t continue to do small moves, we’ll end up giving people a four or five per cent or six per cent move, and people aren’t going to really enjoy that,” says Armstrong. Councillor Jeannette Douglas wasn’t in favour of removing any capital projects. “We should do as much as we can this year, because we’re probably going to be worse off next year,” she says. But Douglas, too, felt there should be some kind of increase. “I think we could increase the budget by the cost of living like either a one or a 1.5 per cent and put it in reserve.” In his budget presentation, Ikert said reserves would help cover any extra COVID-19 costs this year. Council is expected to discuss budget again Thursday.



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WARWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL ARE LOOKING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES/BOARDS

ALL written submissions must be submitted by **12 Noon on Fri., Feb 19th, 2021.**
Members shall be a resident and/or ratepayer in Warwick Township.

- WARWICK TOWNSHIP CEMETERY BOARD (2 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)**
The Warwick Township Cemetery Board is responsible for providing advice and input on Cemetery services and assisting in the management of all cemeteries within Warwick Township. (Watford Cemetery, Bethel Cemetery, Warwick Cemetery plus several ‘inactive’ cemeteries)
- COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT and LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE (APPOINTED MEMBERS ALSO SERVE ON THE PROPERTY STANDARDS APPEAL COMMITTEE) (1 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC)**
This is a Committee established by municipal council under the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13 S.44(1)* and is responsible for making decisions on Minor Variance applications and Land Division - severance applications.
- COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (C.I.P.) COMMITTEE (1 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC)**
The C.I.P. Committee is responsible for receiving applications under the Community Improvement Plan (eg. façade improvements, murals, etc.) and making recommendation to Council.

For further information, or a copy of the Terms of Reference, contact Heather Willemse, Deputy Clerk, at hwillemse@warwicktownship.ca or by calling 519-849-3926. Written submissions, stating your interest, experience and/or qualifications, must be submitted by the above date and note the committee name on application.

Submissions will be accepted by mailing
Warwick Township
6332 Nauvoo Road
Watford, ON N0M 2S0
or by emailing hwillemse@warwicktownship.ca
www.warwicktownship.ca

Editorial

COVID confusion in Ontario again

Confusion reigns again in Ontario. Premier Doug Ford announced the reopening/not reopening of Ontario Monday and many people’s heads are spinning trying to figure out exactly what will happen.

The plan, as we understand it, is to slowly reopen the economy in regions of the province where there have been fewer cases of COVID-19. Even in lockdown, Ford says, small businesses will be able to open and have up to 25 per cent capacity indoors - with proper masking, health checks and distancing.

Ford said the declining daily numbers of COVID-19 is “sun breaking through the clouds” while in the next breath saying “We’re not clear of this storm yet.” Health Minister Christine Elliott added: “This is not a reopening or return to normal, it’s an acknowledgement we’re moving forward.” Ford added; “We can’t return to normal; not yet, not while our hospitals are still overwhelmed.” Talk about mixed messaging.

And then, the premier unveiled a plan that would bring some parts of the province very much back to normal immediately, some a week later and the GTA, well, who knows what that will look like.

The province is returning to its colour-coded “framework” to let citizens know whether they can shop in person or get a hair cut. The system was confusing the first go around and isn’t likely to be a lot better now that the province has made more changes. And, it is not clear when we spin the colour wheel, what zone Lambton will land on yet.

The province is trying to send a message to those in struggling small businesses that government hears their concerns while balancing the health issue which is better than it was, but certainly not as good as it could be. And it’s playing a bit of Russian Roulette with the new variants of COVID-19; opening now hoping the variant doesn’t gain a foothold.

The province says it has an emergency break to close everything down if that should happen. We, and many health experts, would have preferred the province wait to see how the kids do in school before opening everything up again. That might have given us some clarity on how the variants will impact us. And clarity is something we’ve been sorely lacking for the last 11 months.

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



The snowstorm of 1977 hit Petrolia hard and these men had to put their back into getting their Volkswagon out of the snow in the downtown.

LAMBTON COUNTY ARCHIVES

Even the older folks can achieve great things

I am usually very honest with my family. I let them know what I think, with kindness usually, about just about every subject.

But Sunday, I kept a terrible secret to myself. I was rooting for Tampa Bay in the Super Bowl.

Not just rooting for the team, but for Tom Brady - the man whose name in our house is usually followed by a curse word or spitting.

My son, John, and Barry, my husband, had made up their minds two weeks ago, if their Buffalo Bills couldn’t be in the Super Bowl, the team that beat them - the Kansas City Chiefs - had better beat Tampa Bay and Tom Brady.

There was much discussion and when the big game rolled around, there was a lot of anticipation that the Chiefs were poised to teach Brady and the boys a lesson.

And there I sat, not tipping my hand, quietly eating my Super Bowl snacks. I even lamented with my son about the

barrage of penalties Kansas City faced in the first quarter.

The halftime show distracted everyone from the Chiefs train wreck that was occurring. By the end of the third quarter, it became pretty clear Kansas City was not about to win. And yet I said nothing.

As Tom Brady raised the Lombardi Trophy and the crowd in the TV room looked on sullenly I said nothing.

Sheepishly, I later admitted to Barry that I had been cheering for Tom Brady and Tampa Bay. I couldn’t give him the reason why then.

But I took some time to think about it. I wasn’t cheering for him because I think Tom Brady is a great man. He’s a great athlete with a giant ego and some weird ideas about health and a proven cheater. And it certainly wasn’t the same feeling I had watching Alexander Ovechkin win the Stanley Cup late in his career - that feeling of finally someone getting their due.

I guess why I was cheering for Tom

Brady is really very simple.

Here is a guy who still loves what he does. He works hard every day to stay at the top of his game. He does what he has to do to get the players around him that will make a difference. And then, at 43 years old, he finds a way not just to win but to dominate.

It’s inspirational to me.

There are days I’d rather just sit at home and watch the world go by. But I, too, still love what I do, even though I’ve been doing it for decades.

Tom Brady’s success reminds me with a little hard work even the older folks can achieve great things.



Heather Wright

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Publisher / Editor: Heather Wright
news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Reporters: Alex Kurial

Sales Associates: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Classifieds / Graphics: Sarah Hills / Julli Archibald
office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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Opinion

More support for Enniskillen rail trail

EDITOR:
In response to “*Family questions need to block entire rail trail*” in the Jan. 21, 2021 edition of *The Independent*, we would like to add our voices to those in support of expanding our walking and cycling trails.
We appreciate the recent improvements made to the Discovery Trails at Bridgeview Park and are encouraged that Petrolia council is investigating ways to extend trails.
We note that the draft Petrolia Parks and Recreational Master Plan identified “The biggest gap...are recreational trails and pathways.”
A rail trail between Petrolia & Wyoming would be ideal, for the following reasons;
• The abandoned rail bed provides a raised, well drained, established foundation; not muddy even after significant rain.

- This trail is quiet, away from traffic, and mostly shaded.
- We believe it would only require modest resources to improve and maintain the surface for walking, cycling, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. Some trimming, leveling and top dressing would create a rail trail like the Howard Watson in Sarnia and the other 60 rail trails in Ontario.
- A Petrolia Wyoming rail trail would connect to the Wyoming-Reece’s Corners trail and to the cycle-friendly London Line.
- Trail recreation easily fits into personal schedules and provides inexpensive exercise for all ages.
- Our need for safe outdoor exercise has increased in this time of COVID.
- But even before COVID, interest in long distance walking-cycling has been on the rise, and is now strongly

connected to tourism throughout Canada and abroad.
We acknowledge there are challenges with this project. The bridge just North of Lasalle does need resurfacing and side rails and CN has warned people not to use the service-road beside the active railway into Wyoming.
However, with increasing interest in outdoor recreation, what an asset such a trail would be for Lambton’s health, community appeal and economy.

Terry Syer,
Liz Welsh,
Bonnie Clark,
Louise Gibson
Petrolia, ON
John Turvey,
Enniskillen, ON
Ron Core
Plympton-Wyoming, ON

Even healthy seniors feeling effects of COVID isolation

EDITOR:
As senior citizens, we feel the need to express our concerns regarding the effects of the current mandatory lockdown on seniors’ mental and emotional health. Now close to a year, even healthy seniors living independently are experiencing severe stress as a result of the ongoing isolation.
Healthy seniors maintain mental health through much social engagement like volunteerism, participation in a variety of interest groups, places of worship, fitness activities, hugs and laughter around the communal teapot.
Continuous isolation creates a loss of purpose, loss of interest in life, deterioration of memory and language

and confusion. Extended isolation is shown to result in earlier cognitive decline.
We plead with the leadership of Ontario to immediately begin developing safe strategies to return seniors’ and everyone’s life to a healthier balance.
Janet and Richard Bradley
Petrolia, ON

Hometown radio should play hometown musicians says Brigden man

EDITOR:
I believe in radio and supporting local talent.
So, today I wrote and requested three songs of a well known and seasoned veteran of the pop/rock music industry, Emm Gryner to 99.9 FM in Sarnia.
To my disappointment and eventual
bother, none of these songs were available.
If we are unable to support local, why do we speak so much of it?
There are obvious cases where life challenges us to do so, but to have three songs of a local woman, from Forest, with over 25 years of
experience in a journey as a member of David Bowie’s band not in their library is rather disheartening.
She comes from Lambton County - where is our hometown or even home country pride and respect?
Trevor Maw
Brigden, ON

First Baptist Church looking for old photos for 150th anniversary book

EDITOR:
Maybe you’re filling some of the extra time you have by doing some early spring cleaning. Don’t overlook those shoeboxes full of old pictures.
First Baptist Church Petrolia will celebrate its 150th anniversary in May, 2022. Members are already planning many interesting and exciting events to mark this milestone, including a commemorative book.
We are searching for historical photos, articles, documents, memories and other memorabilia. All borrowed pictures and documents will be scanned and returned with our appreciation.
If you have something to share,
please send us an e-mail at fbc150@outlook.com.
Or you can contact us via Facebook or our church website firstbaptistpetrolia.ca. Blessings on your day!
Jan White
FBC 150th Anniversary Committee

Petrolia Food Bank opening Wednesday nights

The Independent
Sandra Hartman says people shouldn’t have to take time off work to go to the local food bank for help for their family.
But Hartman, the spokesperson for the Petrolia Food Bank, hopes that will soon change.
Hartman says until June, the doors of the food bank will be open two days a week; Monday morning as it is now and the fourth Wednesday of every month from 6 pm to 7:45 pm.
“I want to help the working poor. I hate the fact someone takes off work to go to the food bank; it defeats the purpose,” she says.
Hartman says in the past people had approached her trying to schedule an appointment during their lunch hour so they don’t have to miss work. And she’s helped people during the evening from time to time. “That’s when I started toying with the idea.”
But it was put on hold when COVID-19 struck. The food bank had to make changes to make sure it could continue to serve those in need.
Now that clients know how to work with the COVID-19 protocols, she wants to try helping people one Wednesday night a month. And she expects many people may find the new time convenient.
“With home school right now, people can’t leave their kids even if they really need help,” she says.
Hartman says its a trial run until June. If it works, the food bank may continue the practice.



Sandra Hartman

• **Emery Huszka**
Dealer - Florence ON,
226-373-6244

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

• **Dave Foulon**
Dealer - Tupperville ON,
519-683-2136

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CANADIAN COAST GUARD PHOTO

A view of the ice breaking on the St. Clair River from the deck of the Canadian Coast Guard Cutter Samuel Risley.

Flooding eases with ice breaking operation

Heather Wright
The Independent

Residents around Port Lambton were keeping a close eye on the ice in the St. Clair River and filling sandbags as the US and Canadian Coast Guard work to free up an ice plug in the area.

Officials started work on an ice plug which caused some flooding in the lower St. Clair River and St. Clair Flats area including Port Lambton and Walpole Island Thursday.

Canadian Coast Guard officials say the heaviest pressured ice seems to be at Willow Point near Walpole Island.

The Canadian cutters the Griffon and Samuel Risley worked alongside of the US Coast Guard’s Bristol Bay to break up the ice and move ships through the river.

The work stopped Friday because of high winds but resumed on the weekend. St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold went

down to watch the work. He says the ice this year is much different than usual.

“When (Canada Coast Guard) tore the ferry system out, they were 12 plus inches of ice, well, this was only that four to eight inches of ice, so it stacks differently,” says Arnold.

“It’s a lot tighter and I think that’s where they ran into some of the problems trying to get a push.”

Thursday, the township provided sand and sandbags for residents for free to try to stop the water. Arnold says the water was over the bank in the Port Lambton area by about three feet. By Monday most of the water had subsided.

“For the most part, it’s down far enough, you don’t have the water issues up on the on the property.”

The impact on shipping has be minimal with a small handful of ships altering their schedules because of the ice.

Worries about lakeshore erosion may not be heard

Pam Wright
Local Journalism Initiative

Southwestern Ontario has been left out in the cold in helping to shape Ontario’s environmental policies.

A new 18 member working group committee, struck after the province changed the powers of local conservation authorities last December, is supposed to provide input on the changes.

With the exception of one officer from Grand River Conservation Authority, there’s no representation west of the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

But there is representation from three Toronto area developers. One, called Mattamy Homes, made a \$100,000 donation to Ontario Proud in 2018. According to Election Ontario records, Ontario Proud is a political advocacy group that was instrumental in getting Doug Ford elected as premier.

West Elgin Deputy Mayor Richard Leatham is hot under the collar about the lack of local voices on the committee.

As a Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority executive member and director, Leatham says shutting out Southwestern Ontario is “ridiculous.”

Leatham says rural residents are being ignored, their opinions discounted.

“It’s very difficult to understand how people can make good judgements when they are not from this area,” Leatham adds.

Chatham-Kent Councillor Trevor Thomp-

son, who is vice-chair of the LTVCA, says it’s “frustrating to see the LTVCA left without a voice.”

Thompson says Chatham-Kent is facing some unique pressures with flooding and erosion, wetland protection and phosphorus reduction, unlike other areas in Ontario.

“To not be able to add to the conversation, I think, limits the effectiveness of the whole process,” he adds.

Brian McDougall, the general manager of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, is concerned the severity of Lambton’s lake-shore erosion problems will not be heard as forcefully as if there were a Lambton resident on the committee.

North Chatham-Kent councillor Joe Faas, who is on the St. Clair board, agrees.

“I think they should have done more to make it evenly distributed,” Faas says, adding the all the watersheds across a huge swath of the province have their unique challenges. “Every conservation authority and every area has different issues,” he says.

Faas says it looks like the new committee is catering to Toronto.

McDougall is also concerned the Minister has told the committee already he’s not open to changes to the government’s plan.

Calls to Environment, Conservation and Parks Minister Jeff Yurek, MPP for Elgin-Middlesex-London, were unanswered as of press time.

-The Herald with files from Heather Wright

LET'S SUPPORT OUR LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Dining GUIDE

Hours are subject to change.

Actors
Casual Dining

Open for Take Out

Tuesday – Sunday 11am-7:30pm

4211 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-882-0400

Athena's
Restaurant

Open for Take Out

Monday – Saturday 11am-7pm

4375 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-882-1998

Black Gold
Brewery

Open for Take Out & Delivery

Tuesday – Sunday 12pm-7pm

395 Fletcher St, Petrolia

226-738-0665 | shop.blackgold.beer

Buds Pizza

Open for Take Out & Delivery

Sun-Wed 3-8pm

Thurs-Fri 10-12noon & 3-9pm | Sat 3-9pm

436 Albany St, Petrolia

519-882-0000

Coffee Lodge
Petrolia

Open for Take Out & Curbside

Mon-Fri 8-4pm | Sat 8-3pm

4119 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-882-0633

Crabby Joe's
Petrolia

Open for Take Out & Delivery

Tuesday - Saturday 4pm-8pm

4236 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-882-4848

Godfathers
Pizza

Open for Take Out

Sun-Thurs 11-9pm | Fri & Sat 11-10pm

Delivery Hours: Sun-Thurs 11-9pm | Fri-Sat 11-10pm

4204 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-882-0550

Helen's Hideaway Family
Restaurant

Open for Take Out & Delivery

Daily 8am – 8pm

4204 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-882-0300

Heng's Chinese
Restaurant

Open for Take Out

Tues-Thurs 4-7:30pm | Fri & Sat 4-8pm

4150 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-882-1050

Johnny G's
Premium Pizza Plus

Open for Take Out & Delivery

Wednesday – Sunday 3pm-8pm

4108 Petrolia Line Unit 1, Petrolia

519-882-2000

Munchies

Open for Take Out

Mon & Tues 8-3pm | Wed-Sat 8-7pm

Sun 8-2pm

4206 Oil Heritage Rd, Petrolia

519-882-1000

Petrolia Pizza & Subs

Open for Take Out & Delivery

Monday – Saturday 11am-8pm

4170 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-882-1886

Sitara
Indian Cuisine

Open for Take Out & Delivery

Daily 11am - 9pm

4189 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

226-732-0738

Staffy's Sandwich
Shop

Open for Take Out

Mon-Fri 11-6pm | Sat 11-4pm

4159 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-381-1712

Subway
Petrolia

Open for Take Out

Daily 9am – 10pm

4111 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-882-4215

Tim Hortons
Petrolia

Open for Take Out & Drive Thru

Daily

4160 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

The Cottage

Open for Take Out

Mon 9-2:30pm | Tues-Fri 9-3pm | Sat 9-2:30pm

4190 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

226-738-0881

Wise Guys Inc.

Open for Take Out

Sun-Thurs 4-8pm | Fri-Sat 4-9pm

4190 Petrolia Line, Petrolia

519-882-7499 | wiseguysinc.ca

Phone: (519) 882-2350 • Fax: (519) 882-3373

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0

townpetroliaon.ca

Almost all LTC seniors now vaccinated

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton Public Health ramped up its vaccination program for long term care residents.

Public health officials say they received 600 doses of Moderna Friday morning and were back out at Lambton long term care homes Monday giving the vaccines to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The elderly, particularly those in long term care, are very vulnerable to the respiratory illness. Almost 3,700 seniors in long term care, including 27 in Lambton, have died of COVID-19.

Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, says five homes – including Fiddicks in Petrolia – had already been vaccinated and most residents are rolling up their sleeves to be protected from COVID-19.

Ranade told *The Independent* that even with the 600 doses, it would not be enough to make sure everyone in long term care and high risk retirement homes had their first shot of the two dose vaccine.

“And not only that, but we also have to plan ahead in the future so doses that come to us are going to need to go first for second doses of people as well as first doses if we get enough,” says Ranade.

The province had given itself a deadline of Feb. 5 to vaccinate everyone in long term care however in late January, the shipments of vaccine from the federal government began to dwindle and there were few to send out.

The Ford Government had prioritized some regions and sent thousands of vaccines which were initially given to long term care residents, their essential care givers, and health care workers both in long term care and hospitals. When the supplies began to

We’re getting a better idea where we might be getting COVID-19 vaccines.

The task force setting up the process in Lambton says there will be a number of clinics throughout the region including at the Wyoming Fairgrounds, the Forest Kimball Hall and the Point Edward Arena’s Optimist Hall.

Lambton Public Health is also working with Sarnia officials to pilot a drive up option to serve people with mobility issues.

It’s also looking into some temporary sites in Brooke-Alvinston, Oil Springs and St. Clair Township.

A Plympton-Wyoming man is lighter in the pocketbook after a case of late-night driving.

Conner Weed, 26, plead guilty to a careless driving charge in Sarnia Court Feb. 9. Justice Krista Leszczynski assessed Weed with a \$1,500 fine. He won’t receive any driving ban.

It was just after midnight Oct. 25 last year when OPP were patrolling Petrolia Line looking for suspicious vehicles that had recently fled a farm property. As an officer went eastbound past Gypsie Flats Road, he saw a pickup truck begin to leave the laneway of a farm before reversing back onto the property.

The officer turned around to investigate and found the truck parked near some

dry up, the province decided only those in long term care would receive the vaccine for now.

But there were 14 health units, including Lambton, which had only received shipments of about 600 at a time.

Since the province moved to get the vaccine into the arms of long term care residents only, there have been concerns that administrators and their families in some parts of Toronto were receiving the vaccine over the residents.

Ranade says as many doses as possible are being given to long term care residents, however sometimes, there are a few doses left when all the residents in the home receive their first shot.

Ranade says public health has asked the homes to create a list of people who might be vaccinated if there are left over shots which cannot be used.

Public health asks that the home consider who has close contact with residents when deciding who might be first in line for the extra vaccines.

Mike Fiddick, of Fiddicks Nursing Home Petrolia in a Facebook post, said he was given one of the leftover vaccines when his home received vaccines Jan. 27.

“I felt extreme guilt and unworthy of this gift and opportunity. I felt undeserving and that its use was needed elsewhere but that was not the option. So with immense gratitude and humility I accepted the gift of the Moderna vaccine.”

Ranade says he looks forward to the day when there is enough vaccine distributed in Ontario that people are not concerned about who is getting a vaccine when, or feel guilty about getting it.

With shortages of the highly sought after vaccine continuing, it’s not clear when that will be. The province hoped to vaccinate everyone who wants one by September.

Not everyone is happy with the plan. Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley was upset Sarnia won’t have a permanent clinic, particularly since it is the largest community in Lambton.

The city was expected to meet further with the task force to talk about a permanent vaccine clinic.

Even though the locations are being secured, it still isn’t clear when the vaccination clinics will be able to set up. The federal government is still having problems securing vaccines for the country. Lambton has received about 1,100 vaccines so far to give the first doses to residents of long term care.

bushes with two men inside. The passenger said the property was his family farm. But the driver – Weed – had an odor of alcohol on him and open bottles of Smirnoff Vodka and Bacardi Rum in the cab. This served as grounds for an arrest.

Defense lawyer Nick Cake says his client did act carelessly, but says Weed wasn’t up to anything suspicious. “He was doing some farm work with a friend... and they were going to a different field to tend to some equipment,” says Cake.

Careless driving fines range from \$400 to \$2,000. Leszczynski accepted the joint position that a penalty at the higher end of the scale was called for.

“This is an elevated fine. It recognizes not only that you were operating a motor vehicle carelessly... but also recognizes that at the time you had open alcohol in the vehicle,” says Leszczynski.

TOWN OF PETROLIA

NOTICE OF PASSING OF A ZONING BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Petrolia passed By-Law No. 09-2021 on the 8th day of February 2021, under Section 34 of *the Planning Act*.

THE ZONING BY-LAW AMENDS the Town of Petrolia’s Comprehensive Zoning By-law 63 of 2017 to rezone a portion of a parcel described as Part Lot 11, Concession 10 & Block 10 Plan 25M-35 (located on the west side of Valentina Street, between Edward Street and Cardinal Crescent). The rezoning amends the zoning on the lands by removing the “Significant Woodlot” classification that applies to the lands. The “Residential-1 (R1)” zone will continue to apply to the property.

THE KEY MAP shows more particularly the subject lands.


APPEALS to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in respect of the By-law may be made by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Petrolia a written notice of appeal, **not later than the 1st day of March 2021**, setting out the reasons for the appeal and accompanied by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal fee made payable to the Minister of Finance.

IF A PERSON or public body did not make oral or written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the by-law was passed; the person or public body is **not entitled to appeal** the By-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. **Only individuals**, corporations and public bodies may appeal a by-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.


No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to Town of Petrolia Council or, in the opinion of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

A COMPLETE COPY of the By-law is available for inspection by visiting petrolia.civicweb.net. Due to current COVID 19 pandemic restrictions in person inspection is not permissible during regular office hours at the Town of Petrolia Municipal Office. An email copy of the By-Law may also be requested by contacting the Clerks Office directly. Phone: 519-882-2350 or email clerksdepartment@petrolia.ca


Dated at the Town of Petrolia this 9th day of February 2021



Mandi Pearson
Clerk
Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street
Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0



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Friday
February 12



MOVIE*
8:00pm
Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark
Rated 14A

Saturday
February 13



MOVIE*
1:00pm
Racetime

Saturday February 13 at 7:00pm
PETROLIA HERITAGE DAY 2021



PETROLIA HERITAGE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PRESENTS A **FREE SCREENING** OF

BLACK GOLD
ORIGINAL HARD OILERS



For password to view the film and access the Zoom Q&A please e-mail:
lellsworth@petrolia.ca or twagner@petrolia.ca



zoom
Q&A
Immediately Following!

Many Thanks to Aaron Huggett and the cast of BLACK GOLD

Monday
February 15

FREE • All Are Welcome

Drive Thru Meal Kits

that you can enjoy with your family at home!

8:00am-10:00am
New Life Assembly Church



FAMILY FITNESS
Register for the hour and join one or both 30 minute classes!

11:00am-11:30am - Family Group Groove
11:30am-12:00pm - Family Yoga
1:00pm - Disney Themed Family Trivia



Members can sign up for these FREE classes through our registration portal.

For more info email us at membership.realtions@swo.ymca.ca

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Annual TOWN OF PETROLIA

SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST

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WEATHER PERMITTING
FEBRUARY 1 TO 15
THEME: BUILD YOUR SUPERHERO



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LAMBTON CENTRAL PETROLIA OPTIMIST CLUB



STEP 1

Make Your Superhero.
You may use props but snow must be the main material.

STEP 2

Take a picture.

STEP 3

Email pictures to twagner@petrolia.ca by 4pm on Feb 15, 2021.

SOME SIMPLE RULES
USE SNOW • BE CREATIVE • HAVE FUN
PETROLIA RESIDENTS ONLY - PRIZES WILL BE MAILED TO THE WINNERS

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town.petrolia.on.ca**

Send us some photos of how your family celebrates Family Day! We would love to see them!

Send us your pictures



Take pictures and send them to twagner@petrolia.ca by Monday, Feb 15 at 4pm

• BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE •

Jail union head says you can’t stop COVID

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The head of the union representing correctional workers in Sarnia says it is impossible to stop COVID-19 from coming into the jail.

Joel Bissonnette of OPSEU Local 128 was making the comment after yet another outbreak at the local jail was declared. As of Wednesday, two inmates and one correction worker tested positive in the latest outbreak.

The jail recorded its first case of COVID-19 in October. There was another in December. There were several more in January.

Bissonnette, who is also a correctional officer at the jail, says staff are in a good position to continue doing their jobs while maintaining safety.

“We’re committed to everyone’s health and safety in that building, all staff and inmates in our care. We’re working with public health on how to best manage this,” Bissonnette says. “Even outside of the outbreak we have screening in place for all staff and visitors that come to the building.”

“We’re doing our best to prevent it from happening, but when an outbreak does happen it’s no one’s fault inside. It’s impossible to stop this 100 per cent,” he says.

Early in the pandemic, supply issues held up the delivery of enough PPE to the Sarnia Jail. Bissonnette says there hasn’t been a problem

obtaining equipment since the spring. “Any issues we did have around PPE were resolved early. Our management and union have been working together the entire time to help manage this,” he says. “We haven’t had any issues around PPE since the very beginning.”

Bissonnette adds that although COVID has the spotlight now, other issues in the correctional world haven’t gone away. “The opioid crisis hasn’t gone anywhere, and fentanyl and contraband coming into institutions is still a concern,” he says. “This is just one more concern on top of everything else that we already deal with.”

Bissonnette commended his fellow union members for their handling of the situation. “I’m proud of all the staff for coming to work everyday and doing their jobs. Because when an outbreak happens, we’re all human, we all have our own anxieties and fears about this, and we all have our loved ones who are vulnerable,” he says.

“Despite that everyone’s still coming into work and showing up and doing their best to help manage this.”

Regionally, the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre in London had five active cases as of Sunday, with 20 resolved. Windsor’s South West Detention Centre had two active and five resolved.

- The Independent

Voting on line and paper in Petrolia in 2022

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia residents will have two ways to vote in the 2022 municipal election; online or in person at town hall with a paper ballot.

Council agreed Monday to remove the option of voting by telephone after a survey showed only five per cent of voters used the service. Some found it difficult to hear.

“There was not much value added for this service. As we realize that some seniors used this method, we would not eliminate their access by this change, instead we would introduce a single day at Victoria Hall (voting day) where residents not comfortable with technology could come and cast a paper ballot,” wrote Clerk Mandi Pearson in a report to council.

Mayor Brad Loosley likes the idea of paper ballots for some seniors. “I feel very strongly that a number of seniors stated their concern in the last election for not having at least one day to have a hard copy,” he said. “For one more election, I feel very strongly that we should offer the hybrid.”

Councillor Ross O’Hara agreed “100 per cent.

“Because not everybody can vote online. You know, some people do need to have another op-

tion.”

Councillor Joel Field was on board with allowing a paper ballot in 2022, even though he doesn’t believe many people need it.

“The one thing that I will say from our last election, nobody had to go online, people had the opportunity to go many days to town halls to the market to different places and cast their votes. I didn’t have anybody tell me they wanted the paper copy. I’m not doubting that there are people that would like to see the paper,” Field told council.

“I think there is going to be a point that we have to go to that next step.”

The town also surveyed its residents about the 2018 election and their voting preferences. Eighty per cent of the 279 people who took part in the survey voted in 2018 and another 97 per cent said they planned to vote in 2022.

Of those who took the online survey, 74 per cent voted online and about five per cent voted by phone. The other 20 per cent either didn’t vote or weren’t eligible to vote.

Respondents were split on whether a paper ballot was necessary.

Petrolia will work with Sarnia to find a contractor to help organize the online voting.

Council not ready to clear the ice in Watford

The Independent

Warwick Council isn’t ready to melt the ice in the arena yet.

The township is one of few which has kept its ice in the arena during the provincial lockdown. The Watford arena has been empty for 48 days with no revenue coming in. Theresa Klachan, the manager of parks and recreation, says that is difficult when it costs about \$150,000 to run the arena in a year. Normally, the town would have about \$104,000 in revenue.

Klachan says the plan was to keep ice in the arena until April 11, leaving 55 days of ice time left.

She added user groups have said they would return if the provincial restrictions allow it. One even asked if the ice could be kept in over the summer months.

But Klachan, in her report to council, said

that would depend on any construction at the arena. “Watford Community Arena Expansion to Community Hall and Arena Renovations Project timelines need to also be considered prior to extending the ice season past the end of the regular season.”

Councillors were not ready to remove the ice just yet. Deputy Mayor Jerry Westgate suggested council wait another week to see what will happen in Lambton after the Stay At Home order is lifted Feb. 16. He expects with other arenas removing ice, there “will be more people looking for ice” in Lambton – a need Watford’s arena might be able to fill. And Mayor Jackie Rombouts suggests they might be able to modify their regular programs, with the permission of Lambton Public Health, to allow some families to get out on the ice.

Council will discuss ice removal at the public works committee meeting Feb. 17.



FORM 6

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001

Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

The Corporation of the Township of Dawn-Euphemia

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on February 18, 2021, at the Dawn-Euphemia Municipal Office, 4591 Lambton Line, RR#4 Dresden ON N0P 1M0.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dawn-Euphemia Municipal Office, 4591 Lambton Line, Dresden.

Description of Lands:

Roll No. 38 06 009 030 05000 0000; Aughrim Line; Part of PIN 43369-0094 (R); Part of Lot 33, Concession 6, designated as Parts 1 and 3 on Reference Plan 25R10287, in the Geographic Township of Euphemia, in the Township of Dawn-Euphemia; in the county of Lambton; File No. 09-01

Minimum tender Amount: \$ 13,578.74

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit in the form of a money order or of a bank draft or cheque certified by a bank or trust corporation payable to the municipality and representing at least 20 per cent of the tender amount.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers.

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

R. Scott Gawley, CPA, CGA
Treasurer
The Corporation of the Township of Dawn-Euphemia
4591 Lambton Line
RR#4
Dresden, ON N0P 1M0
(519) 692-5148

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Bird Lake residents say severance shouldn't fly

Heather Wright
The Independent

A developer who wants to turn one lot into two in Plympton-Wyoming's Bird Lanes is facing an overwhelming amount of community opposition. Tim Dillon, who has taken a number of large lots in Lambton, divided them and built new houses, wants to do the same on Hummingbird Lane. The move required a minor variance. When the issue came to Plympton-Wyoming's committee of adjustment Tuesday, 91 people were at the virtual meeting. That is the largest online meeting Plympton-Wyoming has had since the pandemic moved to an online format.

One resident, Roland VanVeldhuisen, took a petition around the neighbourhood and says 62 of 67 homeowners signed a petition asking council not to allow the move - that's 92 per cent of the community.

The issue is the size of the lots. The Bird Lanes were developed in the 1970s along the lake with large heavily treed lots. Over the years, as new subdivisions emerged with smaller lots, the Bird Lanes became highly sought after. Residents say people routinely ask them if they want to sell their lakeside homes.

So VanVeldhuisen says Dillon's plan to take one of the lots and divide it in two would be completely out of character with the neighbourhood. "We do not want this."

Dillon says what he plans to do is well within Plympton-Wyoming's rules. The town's planner, Sarah Baldwin, agreed, recommending the severance be granted.

But community members said just because it was possible, it does not mean it should happen. Some are worried this could set a precedent others would follow.

"The application serves only one," said Bruce Harris "but others are watching."

Other members of the community were worried Dillon didn't have any drawings of what the homes would look like to ease their fears.

Dillon said under the current rules, he could have walked in, tore down the home and placed a giant house in the area which would also be out of character for the neighbourhood. "I wouldn't do that to you guys," he said.

Dillon says his efforts are being hampered by the pandemic. COVID-19 protocols didn't allow him to go door-to-door to explain what he planned and that led to gossip in the community.

Some members of the committee of adjustment voiced concern Dillon was within his rights under the town's planning rules to sever the lot and they could not stop it.

But Councillor Netty McEwen was also worried about a possible disagreement over beach rights. Each landowner in the community has access to the beach, but McEwen wondered aloud if the new lot created by a severance would have the same rights. If it didn't, one homeowner would not be able to use the community beach.

Dillon contended lawyers told him both lots would have beach rights however Chairman Gary Atkinson says the town must check with its own lawyers before moving forward.

The issue is expected to return to the committee in March.

Two charged after ATVers held at gunpoint

The Independent

Lambton OPP have charged two people after four ATV drivers say two men confronted them with guns.

Lambton OPP say they were contacted by the ATV operators Jan. 31 around 6 pm. They had been approached by two men while riding near Greenfield Road in Courtright. Police say the four were approached by two men carrying guns.

Three of the operators were held at gunpoint by one man while the other operator was assaulted. The four fled and called police.

Police have now charged Gordon MacDonald, 51, and Ethan MacDonald, 21, with pointing a firearm, careless use of a firearm, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, unauthorized possession of a firearm and assault causing bodily harm.

The pair will be in court March 8.

Warwick soon looks for contractors for \$11.5 million project

The Independent

Warwick Township staff is working on the final details of the \$11.5 million community hall and arena project.

Theresa Klachan, manager of parks and recreation, in a report to council says electrical engineers are completing the plans for \$105,921 in energy efficiency upgrades council recently approved. It is hoped Warwick can secure a \$30,000 grant to help pay for the increased

insulation on exterior walls. It is expected the move could cut energy costs by 15 per cent.

Demolition plans have also been prepared to bring down Centennial Hall and to move the baseball diamonds.

Klachan told councillors Monday the project could be ready to go out for tender at the end of the month.

That's about the same time Ignite Consultants will have a draft report on the community fundraising effort that will be needed.



The Corporation of the Town of Petrolia
is seeking

you'll be surprised!

2021 SEASONAL STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

(Applicants must be returning to Post-Secondary or * Secondary education in fall of 2021)

DEPARTMENT	POSITION	START DATE	END DATE
Fire	Fire IT Assistant	April 26	Aug 27
Fire	Fire Education & Prevention Assistant	April 26	Aug 27
Public Works	Public Works Labourer	April 26	Aug 27
Public Works	Public Works Labourer *	June 25	Aug 27
Public Works	Cemetery Labourer	April 26	Aug 27
Public Works	Saturday Transfer Site Attendant **	April 24	Oct 16
Parks & Rec	Parks Labourer	April 26	Aug 27
Parks & Rec	Parks Labourer *	June 25	Aug 27
Theatre	Assistant Stage Manager	May 31	Aug 27
Theatre	Production Assistant	May 31	Aug 27
Theatre	Spot Light Technician	May 31	Aug 27
Theatre	Customer Service - Usher***	May 31	Aug 27
Theatre	Box Office	May 31	Aug 27
Theatre	Customer Service***	May 31	Aug 27
Finance	Accounting Assistant	April 26	Oct 21

** total of 64 hours for season

*** must be Smart Serve certified

2021 TERM EMPLOYMENT

DEPARTMENT	POSITION	START DATE	END DATE
Theatre	Technical Crew	May 1	Oct 31
Theatre	Wardrobe Associate	May 1	Oct 31
Theatre	Box Office Associate	May 1	Oct 31
Public Works	Saturday Transfer Site Attendant **	April 24	Oct 16

** total of 64 hours for season

Resumes clearly marked **noting the position** you are applying for, may be submitted to:

Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street Petrolia, Ontario N0N 1R0
petrolia@petrolia.ca

Submission Deadline

Seasonal Employment: no later than **12noon Friday, February 26, 2021**

Term Employment: no later than **12noon Friday, March 19, 2021**

We appreciate the interest of all those who respond; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Information obtained through this posting is collected for candidate selection only and is protected by the Municipal Freedom of Information Act. The Town of Petrolia is an equal opportunity employer committed to inclusive, barrier-free recruitment and selection processes and work environments. We will accommodate the needs of applicants under the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) throughout all stages of the recruitment and selection process. Please advise the Clerks Department to ensure your accessibility needs are accommodated throughout this process.

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Petrolia’s mayor pushing for \$10M hospital grant

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley wants to see Lambton County Council approve a ten-year, \$10 million grant to Bluewater Health and he’s enlisted the help of his council to convince communities which may not be ready to commit.

Bluewater Health has come to county council a number of times, including Feb. 3 with the request.

The money, says Kathy Alexander, the head of the Bluewater Health Foundation, will go to a number of different places.

It will support the \$10.6 million first phase of the upgrade of Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia. The hospital emergency department needs to be redeveloped. It had almost 20,000 patients in 2019. It was designed to handle 7,000.

The county grant would also support the \$5.6 million redevelopment of the Cancer Care program, the \$10 million addictions centre, \$3 million MRI - which receives no funding from the province - and the \$800,000 helipad at Bluewater Health.

Paula Zimmer, the vice president of operations at the hospital, says it is an item which many hospitals in the region already have.

“Right now, if we utilize Air Ornge, (the provincial medical helicopter service.) The emergency department

in collaboration with our land transfer, EMS paramedics, bring the patient to the Chris Hadfield air field and transfer the patient.”

Staff from the hospital often have to travel with the patient, reducing services in Sarnia for a period of time.

Zimmer adds sometimes Air Ornge simply lands at the scene of an accident - particularly the 402 - to get the patient to critical care quickly. But that’s not the safest method.

“There is so much opportunity, having a helipad situated right on site, for sure. ...

“With our area, specifically, with all the industry, if we have specifically any burns, that needs to be tended to, we have to transport to the closest burn center would be Sunnybrook in Toronto. So the most critically, ill patients would have much more timely access to critically critical care, and really have an opportunity for a more positive outcome.”

But the request didn’t sit well with everyone at county council.

Sarnia City/County Councillor Mike Stark questioned whether the hospital really needed \$10 million from the county.

“I assume you are asking for the sky...my question is what can you live with on the down side.”

Alexander said the request was not asking for the sky considering the need.

“We have in excess of \$50 million

of capital needs for Bluewater Health in the next 10 years.” she told councilors. Alexander added Lambton’s contribution was “not to fulfill all these needs but to work in partnership” with the community to meet them.

The decision will be made at the county budget meetings in March.

But Loosley is working to round up support for the donation. He asked Petrolia council to endorse the idea of donating \$1 million a year for the next 10 years to Bluewater Health since “health and well being is important for all people, particularly in these difficult times.

“Over the 10 years, for every million that we contribute to the county, it will end up to be a total of \$30 million for Bluewater Health. So it’s a huge opportunity,” says Loosley.

“As you know, the county is sitting there with somewhere around \$45 to \$50 million in a reserve and I think that they can afford to do that.”

The endorsement of the grant from Petrolia council will be sent to municipalities across Lambton and the local MPP as well.



Brad Loosley



TOWNSHIP OF DAWN-EUPHEMIA REQUIRES A FULL-TIME TREASURER

The Township is seeking an experienced and highly motivated individual to replace our current retiring Treasurer. This position will serve as principal policy advisor to the Corporation in the areas of fiscal, financial and accounting matters. The preferred candidate will require:

- A degree or diploma in Finance, Accounting or other relevant discipline, with a CPA (CA, CMA, or CGA) designation
- Minimum of 3-5 years’ experience in finance preferably in a municipal setting and supervisory role; strong organizational and interpersonal skills, strong computer literacy in modern operational software and spreadsheet application.
- Knowledge of the Municipal Act, and other relevant legislation and Public Sector Accounting Board standards, investment and debt management and Provincial/Federal funding programs;
- Knowledge in financial management, procurement, accounting and auditing principles and practices, applicable legislation/regulatory standards, property taxation, accounts payable/receivable, payroll and benefits, investments, financial reporting and analysis, and long-term financial planning such as multi-year capital plans, asset management planning and related strategic directions.

More info is available at www.dawneuphemia.ca – under “Alerts & Notifications”. Resumes will be accepted until **Friday February 26, 2021 @ 4:00 pm** by Donna Clermont, Clerk, Township of Dawn-Euphemia, 4591 Lambton Line, RR4, Dresden, ON N0P1M0 Ph: 519-692-5148 Fax: 519-692-5511 or Email: clerk@dawneuphemia.on.ca

Have a Great Story Idea?

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The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

email us at: news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Program helps teens deal with sex assault

The Independent

One in three women and girls will experience sexual violence in their lifetime.

And when it happens as a teen, often the person accused of sexual violence isn’t charged in “lower threshold” sexual offences.

So Sarnia-Lambton Rebound, the Sexual Assault Survivors Centre, the Sarnia-Lambton Women’s Interval Home and the OPP have created a new program called Project 1 in 3. In it, teens between 12 and 17 accused of sexual violence understand the consequences of their actions and prevent them from doing it again.

The program, which is receiving

\$200,000 to operate for two years, will also help victims of sexual assault heal.

“Rebound receives dozens of referrals every year for these lower threshold sexual offences and are grateful for the opportunity to be able to provide this specialized program with our community partners,” says Carrie McEachran, Rebound’s executive director, in a news release.

“The innovative partnership of three local agencies in delivering this program will help ensure that youth in our community are better educated and informed about the trauma associated with sexual offences,” added Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey.

Transfer compost site will be free in 2021

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia residents will get to use the new compost transfer site for free this year.

Councillors have been working to establish a town owned transfer site at the end of Maude St.- where the original compost centre was - since its election in 2018.

In 2017, staff closed the compost site after an inspection by the Ministry of the Environment which found a number of violations of mismanaging paper work. Staff worked with Waste Management to set up a transfer station for the community. It was costing about \$27,000 a year and residents paid a fee to enter.

Several of the councillors elected in 2018 said the town should reestablish a compost centre.

When staff reported the work involved, including an Environmental Assessment of the property, council opted for another transfer station.

When staff recently brought back the plans for the site, not all of council was pleased. For many, there were not enough dates for residents to use it and the cost of the pass had increased.

In a report to council Monday, Mike Thompson, director of operations, said residents would get a break this year.

“In consideration of the current COVID-19, and the direction of Council to hold any new or increased fees resident services, for the 2021 Season, there will be no charge for residents’ use of the transfer site.” People will still have to register for a pass.

The town will hire two qualified summer students to man the site. And it will be open 14 days from May to October.

Calling small business owners

COVID-19 support could be available to you.

- Grants of up to \$20,000 through the *Ontario Small Business Support Grant*
- Up to \$1,000 in support for purchasing PPE through *Ontario's Main Street Relief Grant*
- Rebates for property tax and energy costs



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Domestic violence soars during pandemic

The Independent

People working with survivors of domestic abuse say there has been an 82 per cent rise in violence since the beginning of the pandemic.

That’s prompted a number of groups in Lambton to remind people there is help, even in a pandemic.

“The pandemic has created unsafe environments for anyone experiencing abuse,” said Angie Marks, Executive Director, Women’s Interval Home in a news release. “Isolation, more frequent contact with their abuser, financial instability, and reduced access to supports like teachers, friends and family all contribute to an increase in the severity and intensity of domestic violence.”

“For some, home is not a safe place. The effects of violence are often seen in schools,” said Dawn Flegel, Executive Director, Sarnia-Lambton Children’s Aid Society. “When learning went virtual because of the pandemic, teachers had less opportunity to interact with children and see possible signs of child welfare concerns. Reports to the Children’s Aid Society went down at a time when needs and worries went up.”

And while there has been an 82 per cent

increase in violence, officials say there is still a lot of abuse never reported.

Marks and Flegel say domestic violence services are essential and there is help available even in the pandemic.

And they say, if you leave your home to get help from family, friends, neighbours or a shelter you aren’t breaking the stay at home orders.

If you need help, you can call:

Women’s Interval Home – 1-800-265-1412

Victim Services of Sarnia-Lambton – 519-344-8861 ext. 5238

Sarnia-Lambton Children’s Aid Society – 519-336-0623

Sarnia-Lambton Coordinating Committee on Violence Against Women – 519-786-4053

Bluewater Health’s Sexual Assault/ Domestic Violence Treatment Centre – 519-464-4522

Réseau-Femmes du Sud-Ouest de l’Ontario (pour services disponibles en français) – 226-349-9907 or 1-888-946-3029

Three Fires Ezhignowenmindwaa Women’s Shelter (Walpole Island First Nation) – 519-627-3635

Sarnia Police Service – 519-344-8861 (911 for emergencies)

Ontario Provincial Police – 1-888-310-1122.

Family Day fun moves online in Petrolia

The Independent

Family Day is going online in Petrolia this year.

The town and local community groups have organized a number of events for the coming weekend.

There will be three movies on offer this year, Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark, RaceTime and Black Gold – the story of the oil industry in the area – will be screened in honour of Heritage Day. After Black Gold, the film’s creator, Aaron Huggett, will host a question and answer question on Zoom.

You’ll need access codes for the movies and for the Black Gold question and answer session. Email either lellsworth@petrolia.ca or twagner@petrolia.ca.

You’ll get the log in details by noon Friday.

New Life Church is making their annual Family Day Breakfast a drive thru event. “This tradition is so important for our community, and Family Day is an excellent opportunity to gather the family for a meal,” said Pastor Sam Welten.

The Petrolia Y is also offering free virtual programs for the family. Contact membership.relations@swo.ymca.ca for registration.

And families can have fun in the snow and enter the annual Snow Sculpture Contest. You’re asked to “Build Your Superhero” using props and costumes, take some pictures and sent them to twagner@petrolia.ca.

Petrolia merchants beat pandemic blues online

The Independent

Petrolia is helping merchants reach their customers.

During the pandemic and particularly during provincial lockdowns, the small businesses in the downtown have had to close their doors or find innovative ways of selling products and getting them to clients either at the curbside or by delivery.

But the town has found another way to help. It’s setting up an online shopping event for the weekend of March 5.

The town and the Volunteer Business

Group put on a similar event in November which generated \$10,000 in sales and raised \$1,200 for Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital.

The event is on Shopify under Shop Petrolia Online and so far 22 businesses have signed up to offer weekend specials online.

The goods can be picked up curbside or may be delivered depending on the store.

“It is not only the safest way for shoppers to browse, but it provides safety for the merchant as well,” says Denise Thibeault, event organizer in a news release.

Becher set to get more Internet service with tower

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

More St. Clair residents have been told to look forward to wireless internet as another communications tower received approval from council.

Xplornet, the company that received approval last year to install a similar tower in Wilkesport, is in charge of the project. The tower will be located on private property on Buckingham Rd. east of Highway 40, and aims to bring service to

the Becher area around the Sydenham River.

Mayor Steve Arnold says he’d like to see a specific timeline for the project, given that the Xplornet tower site at the Wilkesport Community Centre still sits empty nine months after the project was approved.

“I just don’t want to be in the same position,” Arnold says regarding potential wait times.

The construction company responsible for installation, Forbes Bros., says construction in Wilkesport should start this month.

- The Independent



TOWN OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF AN INTERIM CONTROL BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that, on the **25th day of January, 2021** the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming passed **Interim Control By-law 7 of 2021** pursuant to Section 38 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990.

AND TAKE NOTICE THAT INTERIM CONTROL BY-LAW 7 of 2021 will be in effect for a period of one year from the date of repeal and replacement of Interim Control By-law 16 of 2020, lapsing on **February 10th, 2022**, unless repealed by Council at an earlier date. This is the second, and last, interim control by-law which Council can enact on this subject until February 10th, 2025.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF INTERIM CONTROL BY-LAW is to prohibit the erection of new Wind Turbines, as defined in By-law 97 of 2003, as amended by By-law 104 of 2007, and that no new land, building or structure shall be brought into use for the purpose of renewable energy generation for a period of twelve (12) months to allow for the appropriate completion of further research and consultation regarding such uses.

NO KEY MAP has been provided as the Interim Control By-law applies to all land within the boundaries of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming.

The complete By-law is available for inspection daily, from **Monday to Friday, 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M.** at the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Municipal Office.

DATED at the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, this **11th day of February, 2021.**

Lisa Smeekens
Planning Technician
Town of Plympton-Wyoming
546 Niagara St., Box 250
Wyoming, ON, N0N 1T0
(519) 845-3939
lsmeekens@plympton-wyoming.ca



REMEMBER WHO LOVES YOU

*A lonely child, she hopelessly, wandered through the street,
Born of a harlot, she knew only cursing and deceit.
Curiously dabbling, he slide into a drug filled life,
Constantly bullied, split parents, he knew only strife.*

*Does “Praise of self”, create a generation that doesn't give?
Empowered by “Me”, “My rights”, is that how we live?
But, the bloodthirsty, unfaithful and violent, continue to soar,
Are we doomed to damnation and destruction, for-ever more?*

*He who sits in the Heavens, says, “Ask of Me”,
For there is nothing hidden, that He does not see.*

*Cleanse me Lord, I cry, from secret faults and presumptuous sin,
Peacefully, your ‘Precious Spirit’ forgives and fills me, from within.*

*You see, For God so ‘loved’ the world, He gave His Son, for you,
Valentine’s Day is for mankind, His Love and Promise, for-ever true.*

*Salvation belongs to the Lord; Jesus awaits your call,
For every created soul, “One irrevocable breath”, determines all.*

The Eternal ‘Love’ Gift:

Lord, I find myself alone; I want to know your ‘unconditional’ love. Please forgive all my sins, I invite you into my heart, to be Lord of all the areas of my life. May your ‘precious’ Holy Spirit guide and lead me, through life’s journey. Thank-you for the assurance of an Eternal love and home in Heaven, with you. Amen.

This Valentine message is presented by Grogan, Watford

Sports

Hockey iced again; PMHA ends the season

Heather Wright
The Independent

The hockey season is over for the Petrolia Oilers.
The Petrolia Minor Hockey Association announced Monday the season will not continue.

“The decision was not an easy one but with so many unknown factors, we feel it’s the best choice to keep our players and coaches safe,” the association wrote in a post on its website. “The board will continue

to work hard to get ready for the upcoming 2021/22 season.”
The abrupt ending to the season is similar to last year when the Ontario Minor Hockey Association ended play because of the COVID-19 pandemic as the provincial finals were just about to begin.
PMHA, along with other minor hockey associations across Ontario, started playing again in September. The rules were changed significantly to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 but most parents and players were

happy to be back on the ice.
But play was iced again in December when the provincial government declared a second lockdown across the province on Boxing Day.
While the Ford government announced it would slowly lift the lockdown, it wasn’t clear what the rules would be like making planning difficult.
PMHA officials say parents who have fully paid for the 2020/2021 season can be refunded or receive a credit for next year.

Lambton-Kent holds out hope for spring high school sports

Barry Wright
The Independent

For the second straight year, the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations has nixed the spring high school sports season over public health concerns surrounding COVID-19 but the Lambton Kent group is leaving the door ajar for a local season.
“We have not made any final decisions,” said LKSSAA coordinator James Clarke in an email to the Independent of Petrolia and Central

Lambton.
“Our decisions will be made closer to season, based on provincial local health officers in conjunction with our directors of education,” Clarke said.
Clarke emphasized that all high school sports in Lambton Kent remain suspended indefinitely right now.
“Despite this disappointing news, we wish to reiterate our continued support for sports and activity for the benefit of students’ physical and mental well-being,” said OFSAA President Nick Rowe in making the provincial

announcement last week. “School sports play a vital role in education and in the lives of students. We know that the coming months present uncertainty, but we eagerly look forward to the time when athletes and coaches can safely return to competition in our provincial championships and festivals,” the statement added.
The decision means that provincial champions will not be declared again this season in badminton, tennis, field lacrosse, baseball, soccer, rugby and track and field.

Dawson will have to wait until December for pro debut

The professional lacrosse debut for Kyle Dawson will not take place this spring.
The National Lacrosse League announced it was cancelling its expected spring start to the 2021 because of, among other things, ongoing travel restrictions between Canada and the United States. The league hoped to start in early April.

Although not yet finalized, the new NLL season is slated for mid-December to mid April. “We were expecting it,” said the Florence native, noting that the players had been given a heads up a couple of days before the league announcement. “But it’s still kind of sad,” he added.
Dawson signed a free agent deal with Rochester last year. He never cracked

the Seals’ lineup.
The 22 year-old, now living in North York attending his first year at chiropractic college, is keeping in shape by working out in his apartment, running and practicing his shooting, catching and passing on a wall at a nearby school. “Nothing compares to a game or a practice, but that’s the best I can do right now,” he concedes.

MP Marilyn Gladu

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	7							
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		1				6	5	
	5		6			9		7
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Here's How It Works: Level: Beginner
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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— ADVERTORIAL —



Charlotte's Corner

Honouring, and Learning from a Health-Care Champion

By Mike Lapaine, President and CEO, Bluewater Health

The very origin of Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital (CEEH) of Bluewater Health is born from a deep commitment to community, and a love of Petrolia, and its people. Starting with its namesake, CEEH of Bluewater Health has enjoyed a unique and rich history of local heroes’ affinity and dedication to community healthcare. This is – arguably – the single greatest asset that our rural hospital has. Yes, services come and go depending on population and needs (think maternity services and eye clinic), but what has remained consistent is how the people of Petrolia personally shape the hospital’s history.

This past week, with the passing of Mary Pat Gleeson, champion, cheerleader and healthcare warrior for Petrolia, it is impossible for this column not to stop, and pause to reflect on what her legacy – and example – has meant for CEEH of Bluewater Health. Through her example, may we learn how to continue to advocate for what is important to us, champion with compassion yet tenacity, and partner with an open mind and willingness to both learn and teach.

Through Mary Pat, we have an example of what true grit can do in an open and willing partner. As an early founder of Charlotte’s Task Force (a Queen’s Park-bound advocacy group determined to save the Petrolia hospital), Mary Pat found a way to transform and lead those she came into contact with to turn an adversarial situation into one where partnership and trust ultimately transformed the trajectory of the hospital’s future.

This is not to say this was a smooth road – indeed Mary Pat was a loyal champion to her cause, and, even up until the end, never minced words or hesitated to share alternative perspectives. This willingness, and, dare I say, bravery and tenacity has been an honour to witness. Discussions, deliberations and debates were always welcomed on both sides and I truly believe that this type of confidence and trust in a partner is very rare. Somehow with Mary Pat you knew you could get a good sense of what was really needed while openly being able to share the challenges and pitfalls. Through this shared commitment to Petrolia, truly great outcomes were able to happen – even better than either group could have done alone!

As a hospital executive, I see the province’s struggle with dozens of hospitals equal-sized to CEEH of Bluewater Health, and the inefficiencies that can sometimes be associated with running smaller sites. This is not unique to Ontario, and the healthcare landscape has shifted considerably since these smaller sites were envisioned 50, 60 or 70 years ago. Why then, many have asked us from across the country, has Petrolia been earmarked for renovation, transformation and long-term stability? How did this small rural hospital differentiate itself from the dozens if not hundreds of others that have either been shuttered or are struggling to survive in provinces from coast to coast? As Mary Pat explained when she spoke to a Canadian audience on this exact topic, it comes down to a deep personal commitment of townspeople, involvement at a visceral level, and influencing leaders to share the deep-seeded belief and love of the local small town community hospital.

Mary Pat, your legacy will live on as we continue to renovate, build and strengthen your beloved local hospital. Thank you for your years of commitment to your community, and your friendship. Your sense of humour will be ever missed. Petrolia, CEEH of Bluewater Health, and I are left without a wonderful advocate, friend and ally. May we do you proud.



Mary Pat Gleeson

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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TOWN OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING

The Town of Plympton-Wyoming is currently recruiting Volunteer (Part-time/On-call) Firefighters for the Plympton-Wyoming Fire Department (Camlachie and Wyoming Fire Stations). Any interested individuals are asked to go to the Town website www.plympton-wyoming.com and complete the application found under the Fire and Emergency Services tab.



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Notice
- **BLUEWATER ANGLERS**
- Regret to inform you the cancellation of our Annual Open House - set for March 20-21, 2021 --- due to COVID 19 restrictions.

what do you have planned?




family DAY 2021
Monday, February 15
celebrate family!

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


Card of Thanks




Many thanks to my family and friends for their acts of kindness, flowers, cards, gifts, food, and phone calls during my recent stay in the Hospital.

A special thank you to the nurses and co-workers at C.E.E. Hospital for their except care and support. As well as the community nurses who still come to the house for may care.

Sincerely Debbie Van Daele



Solution

Answers to this week's
Sudoku
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1	2	4	5	9	3	7	8	6
5	9	3	8	6	7	1	2	4
9	3	1	2	7	4	6	5	8
4	5	2	6	3	8	9	1	7
8	6	7	9	5	1	3	4	2
2	8	5	3	1	6	4	7	9
3	4	9	7	8	5	2	6	1
7	1	6	4	2	9	8	3	5

Notice

Sign up for the latest program offered by the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership! Learning for Life: Entrepreneurship Series (good for both new and seasoned entrepreneurs)! <https://www.sarnialambton.on.ca/learning-for-life-entrepreneurship-series-launching-this-winter>

In Memory

In loving memory of parents and grandparents,
Marie Swartz
who passed away
February 11, 1996

Ken Swartz
who passed away
May 13, 2006

*Those we love, we never lose
For always they will be
Loved, remembered, treasured
In our memory*


Loved, cherished by daughter Mary Ann, and grandchildren Les, Leanne, Lisa and families

Robert Clark
In memory of a precious husband, dad & grandpa
*As angels keep their watch up there.
Please, God, just let him know,
That we down here do not forget
We loved and miss him so.*

Forever loved and missed
Mary Ann, Les, Leanne, Lisa and families

In loving memory of a loving Grandma
Anna Short
Who passed away
March 16, 2007

*In our hearts, your memory lingers
Always tender, fond and true
There's not a day, dear Grandma
We do not smile and think of you.*

 Loved Mary Ann, Les, Leanne, Lisa & Families

Obituary

GNASS
Per Sigurd

Per Sigurd Gnass (73) died **Sunday January 31, 2021**, at Bluewater Health, Sarnia. After working at Imperial Oil and then for Sandrin Bros. in his early years, Per went to the United States and was an independent carpenter. He returned to petrol in 2017 and resided at Lambton Meadowview Villa. He is survived by his sons, Erik and Kyle, their wives and four grandchildren as well as his brothers, Fritz and Fredrick. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Society or C.E.E. Hospital through Needham-Jay Funeral Home.

Obituary

**ANDREW**
Iva Olive

ANDREW, Iva Olive. 1927 – 2021, **Age 93** of Petrolia, formerly of Brigden passed away on **Monday, February 01, 2021** at Fiddick's Nursing Home, Petrolia. Iva is survived by her loving cousins James and Irene Jackson of Wardsville and family, Grace Moor of Chatham, her husband Bev of Dresden and their family, along with the Jackson and Andrew families. She was predeceased by her parent's Godwin Edwin Andrew and Ercell Susan Andrew. Iva was born and raised in Brigden. She resided on the family farm caring for her parents and helping out with the daily farming needs. She also helped her father with his Auctioneering Business. **Due to provincial Covid-19 restrictions there will be no visitation or services at STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, BRIGDEN. A private interment will take place at Moore Union cemetery.** In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Alzheimer's Society www.alzheimer.ca. Memories and condolences may be sent online at **www.steadmanbrothers.ca**. Steadman Brothers, 519-864-1193.

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Notice

Ontario Small Business Support Grant - The Ontario Small Business Support Grant is currently accepting applications. The grant provides \$10,000 to all eligible businesses, up to a maximum of \$20,000 to help cover decreased revenue expected as a result of the Provincewide Shutdown. Learn more here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/businesses-get-help-covid-19-costs>

Obituary

**JONES**
Karen Louise

JONES, Karen Louise (Nee McIntyre) – **Age 49** of Oil Springs, passed away on **Wednesday, February 03, 2021** at her home surrounded by family. Beloved wife and best friend of Allen Scott Jones. Dear daughter of Ken and Norma (Nee Cameron) McIntyre. Lovingly missed by aunt Donna W, uncle Fred, aunt Donna C, aunt Bernice and uncle John, aunt Helen and uncle Dwayne, aunt Denise and many cousins, extended family, and friends. Predeceased by grandparents Marshall and Gladys Cameron, Amos and Marie McIntyre, uncle Bill McIntyre, cousin Tim McIntyre, uncle Murray Cameron and two sisters Shari (1974) and Jodi (1976). Due to provincial Covid-19 restrictions there will be no visitation or services at STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, BRIGDEN. **A funeral service will be held at Oil Springs United church at a later date.** In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Pancreatic Cancer Canada www.pancreaticcancer.ca/ or Oil Springs Centenary United Church (cheques mailed to funeral home). Memories and condolences may be sent online at **www.steadmanbrothers.ca**. Steadman Brothers, 519-864-1193.

Notice

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

Notice

BLUEWATER ANGLERS - Cancellation Notice - It is with regret that we have cancelled the 2021 Ice Fishing Derby scheduled for February 13th has been cancelled due to Covid. We will hopefully re-schedule for next year.

Notice

DIY KIT from LC Library - Get creative at home with Lambton County Library. Pick up a DIY kit at one of our participating curbside pickup locations to make a secret book safe. Register by Sunday, February 21, 2021 to reserve your kit here: **<https://lclibrary.libnet.info/event/4767782>**

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

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

Death Notices

January 30 - February 5, 2021

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

OUMET, Brennan
Age 31, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

BAZIN, Raymond
Age 73, of Sarnia
McCormick Funeral Home

GLEESON, Mary Pat
Age 73, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

FRANCIS, George
Age 81, of Sarnia
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

GADD, Mervin
Age 81, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

GNASS, Per
Age 73, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

CABLE, Dwayne
Age 55, of Watford
Denning's of Watford

PHILLIPS, Dennis
Age 67, of Brooke Twp.
VanHeck Funeral Home

D'NETTO, Winifred
Age 85, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

ANDREW, Iva Olive
Age 93, of Petrolia
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

CROSS, Douglas
Age 58, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

SHAW, Jeanne
Age 89, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

CURRIE, Carolyn
Age 94, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

BROWN, Seth
Age 17, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

JONES, Karen
Age 49, of Oil Springs
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

TOMS, Mary Dawn
Age 50, of London
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

SUTHERLAND, Don
Age 82, of Alvinston
VanHeck Funeral Home

CURRIE, Thomas
Age 83, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

LAW, Pamela
Age 95, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

BERGERON, Elie
Age 96, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

SKERRITT, Shirley
Age 83, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

FERRERA, Maria
Age 86, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

NEAL, Margaret Anne
Age 78, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home



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



COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING

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



Church DIRECTORY

Christ Anglican Church
414 Oil Street, Petrolia

**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

WORSHIP SERVICES
Via ZOOM
Sunday Mornings 10:30am



Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
email: 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

FAMILY DAY EARLY DEADLINE



for all classified ads is
February 12 at 12 noon

for the paper that prints and distributes Wed-Thurs



Business & Service Directory

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SNOWY CRASH



OPP PHOTO
No one was injured in a single vehicle accident on Oil Springs Line in St. Clair Township. Lambton OPP say the car flipped into the ditch Feb. 6. When police arrived they gave the driver a Breathalyzer test. He received a three-day driving suspension after blowing an alert.

Sarnia man pleads guilty to November arsons

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man has plead guilty to a pair of fires last year that set Lanark Court ablaze.
Nathan Gardiner, 30, appeared Feb. 8 pleading guilty to multiple arson charges. Several townhouses in the complex just south of Great Lakes Secondary School were destroyed in the early morning hours of Nov. 3. After a six day investigation Gardiner was arrested and charged.
No one was injured in the blaze.
Two men who rented one of the homes noticed a crackling sound and smelled smoke around 3:30 am. They were able to flee as fire swept into their unit.
Sarnia firefighters arrived to fight the inferno, but at least three of the townhomes were destroyed by the time they got it under control. The Fire Marshal was called in to investigate and discovered fires had been lit in two homes. A smashed window and bottle filled with gasoline were found.
One of the men who escaped said he woke up to someone yelling “Fire! Fire! Get out!” While he didn’t see the man, he was confident the voice was Gardiner, who he was familiar with. Based on this tip, Sarnia Police found Gardiner at the Inn of the Good Shepherd Nov. 9, where staff said he had been talking about setting fires.

Police questioned Gardiner and he quickly admitted what he’d done. “I did some bad things... I lit houses on fire,” he said. When officers asked him where, he pointed in the direction of Lanark Court.
“I’m afraid I am going to light more houses on fire and hurt someone,” Gardiner continued. “I’ve been trying to tell someone what’s been bothering me, but no one wants to listen to me.” Gardiner was then arrested.
Court heard a possible explanation for the arson in the form of a feud between Gardiner and the owner of the town homes that were targeted. The man was also Gardiner’s landlord. Crown attorney Ryan Iaquina says during the fall the pair had “several differences of opinion resulting in significant altercations between them.”
After fighting at the Tim Hortons on Indian Road five days before the fires, Gardiner pursued the man in his Toyota Corolla and tried to run his landlord’s pickup off the road. He pulled in front of the truck at an intersection, slammed the car into reverse and smashed into the truck. Gardiner fled but was arrested nearby soon after. Gardiner also plead guilty to careless driving.
Justice Anne McFadyen postponed Gardiner’s sentencing until March 29 while a report is prepared. “There are some underlying, quite significant mental health issues,” says Defense Lawyer Sarah Donohue of her client.


Driver thought he’d slept off a night of partying

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man has learned that after a night of partying, you can’t always sleep it off.
Kristopher Seed, 23, plead guilty Feb. 8 to impaired driving. He was handed a \$2,000 fine and one year driving ban by Justice Anne McFadyen.
The incident occurred shortly after 7 am June 23. Sarnia Police were called to Cherry Dr. over a collision and arrived to find a vehicle smashed into a tree. Nobody was found on the scene, but a report said an intoxicated man had staggered away.
Police found the man who had stumbled to nearby Kathleen Ave. Seed was in an incoherent state, with glossy eyes, slurred speech and unsteady movements. He was arrested and given

a breath test, but it returned a legal .032 reading.
Police then gave Seed a drug test which he failed. Later analysis from a urine sample showed codeine in his system.
“My client had attended festivities at a friend’s place the night before,” says Defense Lawyer Jamie Guggisberg. He says Seed “slept the night and didn’t wake up until 6:30 am and thought he would be fine to drive. Obviously he miscalculated.”
The minimum drug-impaired driving fine for a first-time offender is \$1,000, but the Crown felt a more serious punishment was necessary. “Something above the minimum is required given the collision and the nature of the drugs found,” says attorney Ryan Iaquina. Guggisberg agreed.
McFadyen accepted the sentence and doubled the minimum fine.

- The Independent



FORM 6
Sale of Land By Public Tender
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PETROLIA

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on March 10, 2021, at the Petrolia Municipal Office, 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Petrolia Municipal Office, 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia.

Description of Land:
Roll No. 38 19 000 080 15200 0000; 4317 Discovery Line, Petrolia; PIN 43329-0100(R); Part of Lots 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 Registered Plan 26 (PA), Town of Petrolia, County of Lambton, designated Parts 3, 4 and 5 Plan 25R-6964; File No. 18-09
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$83,000
Minimum tender amount: \$35,148.82

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, crown interests, or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. Any interests of the Federal or Provincial Crown encumbering the land at the time of the tax sale will continue to encumber the land after the registration of the tax deed. The assessed value according to the last returned assessment roll may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

Rick Charlebois
CAO/Treasurer
The Corporation of the Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street
Petrolia ON N0N 1R0
519-882-2350 Ext. 225
rcharlebois@petrolia.ca
www.town.petrolia.on.ca



DON'T FORGET
TO CHECK YOUR EXPIRY DATE

▼ **issue date** ▼
PTRPINDY 2018-12-20 (8992)
subscriber, name **LAST ISSUED**

4156 Petrolia Line ▲ **expiry date** ▲
Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

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1 E-Transfer
to: news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
with the password: *renewal*

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3 Mail A Cheque
mail to: 4156 Petrolia Line
Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

4 Drop It Off At The Office
Drop off a cheque or cash with your name and address in our mail slot at 4156 Petrolia Line beside Tim Horton's

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\$75 OTHER PROVINCES

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