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CARING FOR PETROLIA'S CATS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Julie Medeiros gives Muffin some love on a recent visit to the Petrolia feral cat colony. Medeiros and two others take turns feeding and watering the cats and making sure they're warm. Recently, they've become concerned after young children damaged the colony and stole some kittens. See the story on page 8.

Family say OPP special teams took too long to arrive

Heather Wright The Independent

The OPP's Professional Standard's Branch is looking into a mental health call near Petrolia which ended with one man dead.

This after the province's Special Investigations Unit cleared two Petrolia officers of any wrong doing in connection with the night.

But the man's family says it took too long for the emergency response team to get to the Marthaville area home - time the man's wife believes may have changed that night's tragic outcome.

Lindsay Sinclar-Mainsfield says her

husband, Michael, lay injured in the barn on their property for hours before police got close enough to see him directly and hear him moaning from his wounds.

In his report, released Feb. 26, SIU Director Joseph Martino released details of the Oct. 26th call saying the officers on the scene "acted with due regard for the health and safety" of the man in distress.

In his report, Martino says at 7:29 pm that night, two officers went to the home near Marthaville after a woman called saying her husband had posted a message on social media saying "Tonight is the night," referencing suicide. She told them he had gone to their barn to do chores, but he

wasn't answering calls or texts and she was worried.

The officers, Martino says, removed the woman and the couple's children from the home when they arrived.

The director says the responding officers knew the man had a gun so immediate action was not taken. "They had been informed that the complainant was suicidal and armed with a rifle. Police intervention was clearly necessary."

Martino says the Emergency Response Team is equipped to deal with situations involving a weapon and was called in. The team didn't arrive on the scene until 10 pm.

SEE FAMILY PG 2

Petrolia's VPP waits for the green light

Heather Wright
The Independent

David Hogan believes in miracles, but even so, he's grounded in the reality the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia won't be welcoming visitors in May.

But the artistic director of the playhouse says they are prepared to open the doors as soon as public health officials give the green light.

Theaters around the world went dark in March 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic swept around the world. Hogan and David Rogers hoped against hope there would be a way to present the 2020 season, but by May 1, it had become obvious the season wouldn't happen.

As the pandemic drags on, the artistic directors find themselves in the same spot for another year. And it may be September before they could open the theatre.

"I believe in miracles. And I'm so optimistic as you know, I'm a Pollyanna - positive, positive, positive - and even though all this stuff is saying no, I am on my knees praying yes. And so the pragmatic side of me is you're absolutely correct (it could be September.) The optimistic side is tomorrow we're open!

"I believe the minute the VPP opens, then they'll come, they'll come."

Originally the hope was to simply move the shows slated for 2020 into the 2021 season. Hogan says if and when theatres get the green light to open, some of the shows simply can't happen. "We won't be doing On Golden Pond, unfortunately, for obvious reasons. Michael (Learned) and Hal (Lynden, who were to star in the play) live in the United States of America."

Currently, the border between Canada and the US is closed to non-essential business.

"If that one happened, we need full houses for that to be viable, but like something like Dynamic Duo's comedy act ...we can definitely do that for a smaller house and make it viable."

SEE VPP PG 2



VPP won't open in May

CON'T FROM PG 1

"I would love to say yes, the 2020 season, that will be the 2021 season; it's not. What's going to happen is when we get the green light we're gonna go and what that looks like we don't know," says Hogan.

While other theaters across the nation are trying to come up with ways to get actors on the stage even in uncertain times, Hogan says Petrolia's theatre has a distinct advantage since there are three core people who do the planning for the show.

"We don't need to bring in an army of people to set us up, that's where we're fortunate enough. We could put a two person show up," he says. "And we have so much music and comedy ...David (Rogers) and Mark (Payne) have been writing like crazy.

"We have shows ready to present when we get the green light."

And Hogan says the mainstays on the VPP stage will also be ready to go. "That core of people will just say what do you need? Tomorrow? Okay, see you there."

Like so many other things during the pandemic, there isn't a timeline for when they could get started. Many public health experts have said by September, most Canadians will have had the opportunity to get a vaccine, making it more likely gatherings like theatre would reopen again, even if it is with limited audiences.

Hogan is hopeful that will happen,

saying it has become obvious that the theatre and the local business community need each other to thrive.

"Even if we had 200 people here, you know, that's 200 people that are walking up and down the streets, right. That's good for us. We need it," Hogan says.

"It's a little bit of a blessing that we're all realizing that all of us as a community here in Petrolia, we need each other. I need the coffee shop to get it. I need the grocery store to be open so I can eat.

"Now I'm appreciating the value of living in such a gorgeous small community that I can walk to there, to get my mail go there. So I want to support, and I will support, the community."

That concern for the finances of the businesses in the community is real.

Mayor Brad Loosley says 2020 has been tough enough for local merchants and he's hopeful the

season will only be delayed. "The impact on the businesses has been tremendous," he says, noting without a season in 2020, there were 40,000 fewer potential customers.

"When you get that kind of people normally...there is a huge impact to our downtown. It will be really unfortunate if we are delayed too long." A study put the economic spinoff of the theater at \$2 million.

Whenever that light turns to green, Hogan says the VPP will be ready to go. "We'll just have a great time at the theatre."

Family says ERT response time slow

CON'T FROM PG 1

"There is no indication they did not move with all due dispatch," says Martino.

At 10:44 pm, ERT officers peeked through a hole in the barn boards and saw the man in pain and called in paramedics.

He died Nov. 1 in hospital.

Martino considered whether the delay could be considered criminal negligence causing death under Canada's Criminal Code.

"The issue is whether there was any want of care on the part of the subject officers in their decision-making that caused or contributed to the complainant's death and was sufficiently derelict to attract criminal sanction," he says.

Martino is "satisfied...the involved officers, including the subject officers, acted with due regard for the health and safety of the complainant throughout the course of police operations."

Mansfield's widow has issues with the SIU report. It reported some of the details of his self-inflicted wounds wrong. And she says the report doesn't say she and the first officers on the scene originally headed for the barn when they arrived. Halfway there, the officers said it was too dangerous because Mansfield had a gun. They called in the ERT and evacuated Sinclair-Mansfield and their four children.

"I didn't want to go anywhere. I was caught in a mix of emotions of what the hell is going on? How did everything go so wrong so fast? I

didn't want to leave."

Sinclair-Mansfield says she was in constant contact with the OPP. "I was hounding them, 'can you hurry up and get into the barn?' I continuously reminded them and spoke to anybody since 6:35 pm." It would be 10:44 pm before the police saw him lying injured and in pain.

Sinclair-Mansfield thinks her husband's outcome could have been different with quicker intervention.

"It would have been four hours of controlling the swelling of the brain, that would have been four hours less blood loss, it would have been four hours less lying on an ice cold barn floor."

She says the delay in the ERT arriving should concern anyone who lives in a small town. "I don't feel that two hours for an emergency response team together, just because we live in a small town, it is not fair to anyone."

Sinclair-Mansfield's sister-inlaw, Michelle Currie agrees. She understands why the police needed to take precautions, but the delay to get to her brother is troublesome. She hopes the OPP will consider finding a way to get resources to small towns faster.

The OPP is doing its own review of the incident. Petrolia's Media Relations Officer, Const. Jamie Bydeley says "the OPP have commenced our own review through our Professional Standards Bureau" on the incident.

Bydeley wasn't able to give details of the review since it has just begun.





Deputy Chief Darren Allan has been diagnosed with kidney cancer and his brothers and sisters in the fire department are stepping up to help.

Petrolia's got the Big D's back

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

The people of Petrolia are stepping up in a big way to help a community member in need.

Deputy Fire Chief Darren Allan has been with the Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Department for 21 years. Even so, he still says Petrolia is his adopted home. "I'm what they call a Johnny-Come-Lately. I'm not a Hard Oiler, I married a Hard Oiler," Allan says of his wife, Steph.

But after giving back to his new community for more than two decades, Allan finds himself needing some assistance of his own after receiving the medical news nobody wants to hear: he'd been diagnosed with cancer.

"I wasn't feeling well. So I contacted my physician and they sent me for blood work," Allan says of the early signs. "Next thing you know they found that my hemoglobin levels were off. They sent me for more tests and a CT scan and stuff like that.'

Allan received the results in January this year: He had cancer on both his kidneys and would need surgery.

"You kind of only get snippets from the conversation because you're so overwhelmed with information," he says about hearing the news. "It's been a huge blur for me.

Allan's doctors moved quickly though, and just last week removed his left kidney at Bluewater Health. Surgery went well and Allan is now resting at home. In six months he'll have a mass removed from his right

Like most aspects of life during the past year, COVID has made things more difficult. "You're not allowed to bring any additional support. My wife couldn't attend any meetings with doctors," says Allan. She was only allowed to see him briefly before and after his surgery.

This was especially hard, since unfortunately cancer is a shared experience for Steph and her husband. She is a recent breast cancer survivor.

"Who better to have in your corner than someone who's gone through it? Unfortunately the person I could ask the questions, given her experience, couldn't be here to be a second set of ears," says Allan.

The toll a cancer diagnosis takes is known by almost every family, physically, mentally, and financially. Allan is currently off work

while he recovers. "I generally keep pretty busy, then you go from all that happening in your life to putting on the brakes and everything comes to a screeching halt. But it's also needed or else I can't heal," he says.

Word began to get around that the family could use some help, prompting a tidal wave of support.

"It's hard to believe how much support I've received this far. To get this kind of support back from the community feels great," says Allan.

Colleen McLean, Steph's aunt, started the Facebook page "Help Darren Allan" where people shared memories and could help donate to Allan's fight and recovery. After just a few days an entire online auction was

planned to take the support even further.
McLean and Jimmy G's owner Amy Ewing, whose father Don is fire chief in Dawn-Euphemia, have been collecting items from local businesses for the auction. It's set to run March 19-22.

"I can't stress how much the community has given of themselves to help support us through all this... I'm glad I moved here back in 1999," says Allan.

"Even people just coming out and saying 'hope you get better soon'. It's huge." And of course there is Allan's firefighter

family - many of whom call him The Big D. "We're a tight-knit group already given the nature of the work that we do. We support each other through thick and thin," says Allan. "When I needed them they were right

there.' Word has spread beyond Petrolia, too. "I've had people as far as British Columbia reach out and offer support. Also Sarnia Southern Ontario, Toronto," says Allan.

"It's been truly awe-inspiring how something like this has opened my eyes to how people in various communities will band together to show support for somebody, in some cases some people that probably don't even know me.

Allan says once he's recovered and the pandemic is over, he's looking forward to thanking everyone personally.

"How do you say thanks to so many people? With COVID, I can't shake everybody's hand!"

"It can almost be overwhelming. But it's nice to know that people have each other's back even through all this," Allan says.

"I'm planning on sticking around for awhile!"

- The Independent

Vaccine clinics ramp up in Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Paramedics in Lambton County will be testing the province's new online immunization booking system.

Lambton is one of six health units involved in test runs of the provincial website which is slated to go live the week of March 15.

The province has been criticized for the slow rollout of the booking system as several provinces already have theirs up and running. Ontario officials want to avoid a repeat of what happened in Alberta where one minute after the online booking system opened, it crashed. Phone lines then became jammed.

Paramedics can now book their tests on the provincial system, according to Lambton Public Health.

They'll be getting the COVID-19 vaccine at either the Point Edward Arena or the Wyoming Fairgrounds between March 5 and 11.

Public health is also training its staff and readying its own local call centre for the larger priority groups and when more vaccines become available. Right now, public health is only reaching out to small groups of people to vaccinate them, due to limited vaccine supply.

Lambton has been receiving a lot more of the shots in the last two weeks. Until mid-February, the province only sent along about 1,100 doses to vaccinate people living in long term care and high risk retirement homes.

But the vaccine task force says there

have been 8,200 vaccines that arrived in the last two weeks.

The federal government also announced nearly one million doses will arrive in Canada next week.

All this comes as Lambton has seen an upswing in the number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19. There are now 73 people actively ill in the region with 22 new cases reported Friday, 16 reported Saturday, seven reported Sunday, 11 Monday and 10 Tuesday. There have now been 2,115 cases in Lambton since the pandemic began.

There are several cases of COVID-19 in local schools. One staff member at Col. Cameron School and two students at St. Joseph's School, both in Corunna.

Two students at Holy Rosary School in Wyoming are COVID-19 positive. And there are five cases in schools in Sarnia and Forest. Across Ontario, 10 per cent of the schools are reporting active cases of COVID-19. Twenty have been closed.

Loblaws reports there were two staff members at Heidi's Independent who tested positive for COVID-19 on Feb. 28. The last day the team members worked was Feb. 22 and 24.

And there has been an outbreak at the Inn of the Good Shepherd's Shelter with three staff and three residents testing positive.

The outbreak has placed a strain on the services at the shelter with the people who were staying there quarantined at the Confederation Street building. Members of the Sarnia Rotary Club are helping out by providing dinners for two weeks.



Editorial

Rising above the worst to give our best

It's easy to become jaded and discouraged after what will soon be a year of uncertainty.

We are still in the middle of this pandemic, as evidenced by our front page story about Victoria Playhouse Petrolia having to, at the very least, delay the opening of its season.

It will no doubt be another hit for business in the downtown already trying to keep afloat while changing direction every few days to stay in line with provincial pandemic rules. For them and for us, it is exhausting.

But, it's also good to know that despite all of this, the community still stands together.

Darren Allan is a good example of that. The deputy fire chief of the Petrolia/North Enniskillen department was recently diagnosed with cancer in both kidneys.

Surgery of any kind right now is daunting since patients face it without much family support while they're in the hospital.

But Allan - the Big D - is feeling the love. Family - both biological and the fire family - and friends are gathering around them to help pay the bills and do the things that need to be done.

Allan, who by all rights could be depressed about his medical condition, is buoyed by the support of the community and his fire family. "When I needed them they were right there."

It is great to see people rally around Allan. But it is more than that. It's a reminder that we all can make the best or the worst of a situation.

We can rise to the challenges that face us during the pandemic or we can chose to lash out and be negative. There are those who truly can't see beyond the gloom that envelopes them right now; as a community, we have to encircle them as well, either reaching out on our own to help them personally or banging on the halls of power to advocate for them.

This community, this province and this country, have the ability to respond to the worst with our best. After a year, it can be hard to muster up our best, but stories like the one of the community pouring out its love for Darren Allan show us we can do it. And we should.

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, NON 1R0.

The Independent reserves the right to edit letters for brevity

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

Our Story



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

A photo of the bustling downtown of Petrolia taken from the east side of what is now Petrolia Line. You can see the former Iroquois Hotel in the center of the card.

Technology is great, but it doesn't reach everyone

I think we rely on new technology too much.

I'm sure every generation has said that; usually it is the grizzled old men who don't want the world to change.

I don't consider myself grizzled or old, but I truly believe by relying completely on social media as one of our main means of communication, we're leaving people out of the loop. And during a world-wide pandemic, that's dangerous.

As Canada became aware of COVID-19 last year, the first images I remember seeing were from Italy where a lot of the elderly still live in their own homes. The image of an elderly man who lay dead from COVID-19 beside his favourite chair struck me particularly hard. He just didn't know what to do.

It was clear to me, and many others,

that the elderly are particularly vulnerable to COVÎD-19.

And by and large, government recognized this, too. The messaging continuously talked about protecting seniors, but the problem was, often that messaging was on social media.

It's fair to say people in the highest risk groups, the 80 year-olds and over, are unlikely to spend time on Facebook. And yet even here in Lambton public health chose social media over newspaper, a tried and true method of reaching their target market.

Now that the vaccines are finally arriving in greater quantities, seniors are getting ready to roll up their

But the province is still sticking with technology, setting up an online booking system for everyone to use. What happens to those without

someone to help with the technology?

It was heartening to see near-by Chatham-Kent recognize that hurdle and set up a call in system instead technology that every senior has at hand and can use. CK's 80 pluses are already getting immunized.

It appears Lambton will do

the same, thank goodness.

Going with the tried and true is sure to pay off. Technology is great, but it doesn't work for everyone.

Heather

Wright



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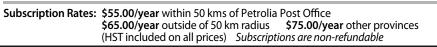
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Promises to work together on mental health retreat

Heather Wright
The Independent

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority officials say they'll work with a Dawn-Euphemia family hoping to build a mental health retreat for farmers and first responders.

The Bergsma family went to Dawn-Euphemia council recently to explain how they wanted to build a small cabin in a bushlot they own on Florence Road. It is in memory of their son, Dalles, a farmer and Dawn-Euphemia firefighter who died by suicide earlier this year. They hope to give other farmers and first responders a place to decompress and "hopefully avoid heartbreak" for many other families.

But the idea was stopped in its tracks when the conservation authority said it couldn't be placed in the woodlot because it was designated as significant.

Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad plead their case at the authority's annual general meeting Feb. 25.

"We suffered a considerable loss, not just the family, but the whole community. Dalles was really well respected in the volunteer fire department."

The mayor says it is unfortunate the Bergsmas didn't get support from the conservation authority considering they are "excellent environment people; stewards of the land." And he says there is a real need for services to help both farmers and first responders who have higher rates of suicide than most groups.

"We know it is a big problem, we know the resources aren't there and we know the infrastructure is not there. And here is a family who wants to move forward to this project and are being denied the opportunity for the St. Clair board to look at it," he says.

Authority General Manager Brian McDougall says the family had not filed a formal plan and the staff had been trying to get the Bergsmas to consider an alternative location.

"The location as identified is one of those places we have concerns, not only is it a woodlot it is a wetland," says McDougall.

"I really don't want them developing in an area where they see this building...I'm concerned there is going to be soil stability there to see the structure stand."

Broad said he'd been in the woods and didn't think water would be a problem.

Authority staff agreed to work with the family to make sure the cabin would not be on a wetland.

McDougall says there is "a lot of support with authority staff for the project."

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Suspended driver gets 20 months for dragging OPP officer

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

A suspended driver who dragged a Corunna OPP officer whose arm was caught in the vehicle has been sentenced to 20 months in jail.

The frightening scene "which could have ended much more tragically" was recounted in Sarnia Court during sentencing for Preston Siklosi recently. Siklosi, 29, attempted to flee from police twice.

It was just after 8 pm on Mar. 6, 2019 when a Lambton OPP officer pulled over an SUV that was drifting back and forth over the Hill St. centre line in Corunna. The officer found Siklosi was suspended for unpaid fines and told him to turn off the vehicle.

Siklosi protested, and when the officer reached into the black Kia Sorento to take the keys, Siklosi took off. The officer's arm was stuck in the SUV as it sped up Colborne St., dragging him 40 feet before he was thrown to the ground.

Siklosi blew threw a stop sign and escaped, but was arrested three hours later at the Chipican Motel in Sarnia.

Justice Krista Leszczynski says the flight posed a "particularly dangerous set of circumstances... where the officer's life was quite frankly in jeopardy."

Leszczynski agreed with the Crown's submission of consecutive six month sentences for both the assault on the officer and fleeing the scene.

Siklosi was released following his motel arrest, but just six months later was back on police radar in a high speed crash in St. Clair where a black Chevy Camaro flew off Mandaumin Road before rolling and smashing into the ditch near Moore Line.

Witnesses saw a man, Siklosi, climb out of the wreckage and into a waiting SUV - a Kia Sorento - driven by his wife.

Police contacted the owner of the Camaro, a Plympton-Wyoming man who told them his house had just been robbed and his car stolen.

Sarnia Police camped out at the home of the Sorento's owner and were rewarded the next night when Siklosi and his wife returned. They initially escaped, blowing through an alley and speeding away. But a few days later the pair was finally arrested.

Leszczynski again agreed to Crown Attorney David Rows' request for consecutive sentences totalling one year.

"The Crown's position is very reasonable in light of the very serious nature of these offenses, and the risk that you put the community at during the course of your conduct in both of these circumstances," she says.

"A lot of these decisions my client made were rooted in untreated mental health," says Defense Lawyer Terry Brandon. "We often hear of people who self-medicate and get into a drug addiction... and it's not a good mix."

"I'd like to apologize to the court, the community, and the victims for my poor lack of judgement due to heavy drug use as well as bipolar disorder, which led to my regretful crime spree," says Siklosi. "While being incarcerated I've had the time to reflect on my past and make new plans for the future, straying away from the path of drug use."

"I'm counting my blessings and I'm asking for one more chance to prove myself," says Siklosi.

Leszczynski altered Siklosi's sentence slightly, reducing total time from 24 to 20 months to "reflect the nature of the hardships you've experienced during your pre-sentence custody," referencing Sarnia Jail's recent COVID outbreak.

With time served Siklosi has 10 months and 11 days remaining.

Restitution also factored into the sentence. "You stole not only a motor vehicle, which you then wrecked, but you stole that family's most precious items, those which are irreplaceable and which I understand have not been returned," Leszczynski says of the Plympton-Wyoming break and enter. Stolen family photos and mementos were never recovered.

Siklosi will pay \$1,000 to the homeowner and just short of \$30,000 to the insurance company. Bans include no driving for three years, no drugs or alcohol for two years, and no weapons for 10 years.

Siklosi's two year probation following his release also includes mandatory counselling for trauma, anti-criminal thinking, substance abuse, healthy relationships, and marketable skills.

He must stay away from the house he robbed and give back the items, as well as provide a DNA sample.

- The Independent

Lambton County Science Fair Open to students Grades 3-12 Judging April 9&102021 Virtual Event For information and to register www.lambtoncountysciencefair.ca Registration Closes March 26th.



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St. Clair board cuts perk that gave them half price camping

Heather Wright The Independent

There will be no more camping perks for members of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors.

At the group's annual meeting, Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad took issue with a policy which was about to be passed which gave reduced rate camping fees for members of the board. Staff says the practice has been going on for some time but a new manager thought it was necessary to create a formal policy.

Directors and staff of the conservation authority have access to a pass that gives entry into conservation areas across the province. They also could get a seasonal camping site for half price.

"There are a couple of staff that have in the past had sites at campgrounds. And certainly, although that's not their job to be there, both when we've had those staff there, and when we've had board members that have been campers as well, it does provide a different input and a different insight for not only board members, but also staff," said General Manager Brian McDougall. "It provides a better awareness of what goes on."

"I don't think there is the appetite out there today to have perks for board members," says Broad. The board agreed unanimously.

Humphrey happy to turn 100 quietly

Heather WrightThe Independent

Shirley Humphrey will likely be celebrating her 100th birthday in a quiet way and that will likely suit her just fine.

The Wyoming woman has been weathering the pandemic fairly well, watching her classic game shows on TV, and doing puzzles with her daughter. And as she turns 100 on March 12, just one day after the first year anniversary of the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, she'll likely do the same thing, according to her daughter, Katherine Humphrey Tyrie.

Humphrey was born in her parent's home in Sarnia in 1921, the fourth of seven children and the only girl; a thorn between the roses her dad used to say.

She, like many others of the time, hung around with a group of friends in the neighbourhood. Humphrey's eye was drawn to her friend's brother, Charles. Shirley waited for him as he went off to serve his country during the Second World War

Shirley kept busy working at Muellers Munitions during that time. She was also a cashier at Loblaws

When Charles returned, they married. That was an eventful day, according to Humphrey-Tyrie.

"Father and one buddy came back in September of '45. Mother and Dad were married on the 17th of October. It was a Wednesday...During the ceremony, a flash went off and father and his best man were halfway to the floor when they realized it was from a camera, not an army flack."

Early into their marriage the Humphreys moved out to a farm in Plympton-Wyoming. They worked the small farm with animals and a few crops and raised three girls.

After they retired, the pair started to travel and Shirley remembers that with fondness.

Charles was part of the Forest Pipe Band and it travelled all over the world. The pair most memorably went to England in 1987 so Charles could play with the pipe band for the Queen on



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Shirley Humphrey sits in the porch of her home as she nears her 100th birthday.

Canada Day.

"The pipe band took the tour into Europe too," says Humphrey. "We've been a couple of times for the pipe band to Scotland and England. I have been to Australia. I think I've been to England and Scotland eight or nine times."

Now, Humphrey stays closer to home. Like many people during the pandemic, she's taken up puzzles. She's lost count how many she's done. She won't take on any that are over 750 pieces saying "750 is plenty."

And she says, she's always been a homebody, so she's quite happy even though the pandemic doesn't allow for visitors.

So what, according to Humphrey, is the secret to a long life?

"Mind your own business," she says, not clarifying if she didn't like the question or if that is the reason she's turning 100.

Warwick offering cheap ice time during restrictions

Heather Wright

The Independent

Warwick Township is offering cheap ice time to make up for the COVID-19 restrictions.

Warwick is one of the few communities which left the ice in its arena during the lockdown over December and January. Councillors wanted to provide fitness options for kids if they could.

Council agreed to keep the ice in, even though only 10 people at a time can use it.

Council decided to offer the ice for just \$60 per hour, less than half the regular price, because of the limitations.

That move prompted Brooke-Alvinston to pull the plug on its ice. Randy Hills, the manager of public works, said they couldn't compete with the \$60 ice time and the few programs which were still running.

Many groups decided to call their hockey seasons once the lockdown began. Petrolia also removed its ice at the time.

Woman with drug problem can't find help during COVID

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia woman who's spent much of the past decade in and out of court, and jail, hit another snag in her recovery as 2020 came to a close.

Cassandra Plain, 31, was staying at the Inn of the Good Shepherd late last year when staff asked her to leave one morning. The reason: suspected drug use.

"She's got involved with some of the nasty drugs that are floating around and she finds herself in custody right now because of that drug habit," says Plain's lawyer Robert McFadden in Sarnia Court Feb. 19. "She needs to address this problem"

But Plain wasn't prepared to address the problem the morning of Dec. 14. The first female employee who asked her to leave the Inn had her wrist grabbed by Plain before being kicked. Plain then turned her attention to another female employee, pushing and scratching her.

Plain kicked and damaged items inside the Inn before pulling the fire alarm on her way out. She was arrested four days later when officers found her and another man at a Queen St. apartment they'd broken into.

"She needs to get help, but during this COVID time all the help is sort of shut down," says McFadden. "Hopefully as we get a handle on this pandemic... people with problems will get back to getting the help they need."

"I'm sorry for my actions," says Plain, who's been in custody since her arrest. "I'm trying to get help, so I do hope I make it to treatment and change up the way I've been and stay away from drugs."

Justice Krista Leszczynski accepted a joint submission from McFadden and Crown Attorney David Nicol for a six month sentence. Plain has 85 days left to serve. She can't contact the women she assaulted, has a 10 year weapons ban, and is banned from the Inn of the Good Shepherd.

Plain's legal issues won't end with this sentence though. She still has 11 outstanding charges in London to resolve.

- The Independent

WARWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL



ARE LOOKING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES/BOARDS

ALL written submissions must be submitted by **12 Noon on Fri., March 12, 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 NOM 2S0
or by emailing hwillemse@warwicktownship.ca

www.warwicktownship.ca



Enbridge gearing up for \$164 million pipeline

Heather Wright
The Independent

Enbridge Gas is spending \$164 million to upgrade a natural gas line which runs from Dawn-Euphemia to London.

And Darryl Arnold, the manager of operations in the region, told councillors Monday, the company planned to use as many local contractors as possible.

Arnold says the project, which was approved by the Ontario Energy Board in late January, will replace two aging pipelines which run side by side over 82 kilometres from the Dawn Site in Dawn-Eupehmia to the Komoka Station in Middlesex Centre.

The original pipeline was built sometime between 1930 and 1950, says Arnold.

"The project will be focused on

hiring local construction employees and sourcing local materials whenever possible, creating jobs in a time of economic uncertainty," Arnold says. And a few more people in Dawn-

And a few more people in Dawn-Euphemia can hook into the new line, he says

"In addition to maintaining service for all existing customers, access to natural gas will be open to approximately five new properties that currently do not have access as a result of route changes."

Construction is planned to begin in the spring and be completed by December of 2021, with project cleanup and restoration occurring in 2022, according to the gas company officials

Once the new line is in service, Arnold said, the service interruption is fairly short and will be scheduled at a time that is convenient for the customers The switchover usually occurs within one business day.

The only concern Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad voiced was the construction timeline will fall during the wheat harvest this year. He asked the company to be aware they are sharing some narrow roadways with farmers during their peak season. Arnold says they will be consulting with neighbours throughout the process.

While the London Line project will be the most visible, Enbridge is also working on a number of projects from the Dawn site.

There will be the replacement of a 42 inch line onsite between May and September.

The company will also be looking at the aging compressors at the Corunna station with an eye to replace them in the future.

The Corporation of The Village of Oil Springs

INVITATION TO TENDER 2021 JANITORIAL CONTRACT

The Corporation of the Village of Oil Springs is inviting tenders for Janitorial/ Cleaning services required at the municipal Office Building located at 4591, Oil Springs Line, and occasional/as-needed at the Youth Centre located at 4517 Victoria Street, as well as the Community Hall (all located in Oil Springs, Ontario).

Sealed Tenders clearly marked **"Tender – Janitorial Service – Village of Oil Springs"** will be accepted until <u>5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 26th, 2021</u> at the municipal office:

Village of Oil Springs c/o Lynda Thornton, Clerk-Treasurer 4591 Oil Springs Line Oil Springs, ON NON 1P0

The Village of Oil Springs reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders and to waive any informality in the Tenders received, in each case without giving any notice. The Corporation of the Village of Oil Springs reserves the right to accept the Tender which it deems most advantageous.

Faxed submissions will not be accepted

Tender documents and further information are available online at the Village of Oil Springs website: www.oilsprings.ca, and also available by e-mail upon request. To arrange for a copy, please contact clerk@oilsprings.ca or call 519-834-2939.

Student COVID-19 testing to be offered March 5

Pam Wright

Local Journalism Initiative

The clinic to test Lambton students who may be asymptomatic for COVID-19 will open its doors March 5, but where it will be isn't final yet.

The Ministry of Education has mandated school boards offer testing to students and staff in five per cent of their school population each week with a goal of reaching two per cent of Ontario's elementary and secondary students. Officials hope it's another

tool to break the chain of transmission.

Parents who want to get their child tested will have to book appointments online. The testing is entirely voluntary and permission slips must be signed.

The Lambton-Kent District School Board and the St. Clair Catholic District School Board have chosen GVT Lab and Imaging Services to do the testing.

Catholic board Director of Education Deb Crawford says two testing teams will be available and both boards are working closely with the health unit on the initiative.

The clinic will run from Friday evenings and on Saturdays but the actual site had not been confirmed by press time. Crawford says clinics are expected to operate for seven weeks.

Public school board Director of Education John Howitt says the testing will be done at "arm's length" from the board. It will be overseen by CLASS Shared Services, the agency managing transportation for both boards.

- The Herald

Ontario's top scientist on COVID says better summer ahead

Heather Wright

The Independent

One of Ontario's top scientific advisors says there is a chance for a "better summer ahead."

University of Toronto's Dr. Adalsteinn Brown released the most current modelling of the COVID-19 pandemic Feb. 25. He says the lockdowns, while painful, have had an impact, saying the spread of the virus has slowed in the community. That, along with long term care residents receiving the COVID-19 vaccine in the last few months has lead to a "substantial" reduction in deaths in the homes. He estimated about 326 senior's lives have been saved.

And he says the number of health care workers getting sick is down 75

per cent

"A better summer is ahead if we remain cautious and keep focus," he says.

Brown is concerned about the variant strains of the virus which are now about 20 per cent of the cases seen in Ontario. A month ago, variants were only five per cent of the total cases.

In the UK, the COVID variants quickly took over and the number of cases tripled. Brown says a scenario like that is still "not off the table" for Ontario.

Brown expects with the current decline of cases, we could see about 500 new COVID cases a day by the end of March. Right now, there are between 1,000 and 1,100 daily.

But he says if the variants become the dominant virus, we could climb to between 2,000 and 4,000 cases a day by the end of March.

Brown was optimistic the vaccines being distributed now are highly effective and do provide protection against COVID-19, "but we have to give it time to work.

"We need a few weeks to understand how variants are acting and rolling out.

"We can't afford to rush through the minefield. There is a period of remaining risk," says Brown, adding loosening up public health measures should only be done carefully. And when the disease does flare up, government has to act quickly to intervene.

"We could be looking toward a much better summer," he says "but it requires us to maintain the gains we've achieved."



email us at: news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca



The Village of Oil Springs
Public Works and Roads Department

Invites applications for the position of PERMANENT PART-TIME LABOURER

The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Superintendent of Public Works and will perform road and public works duties as required.

Must have a valid Ontario Drivers Licence, Class G or higher and Grade 12 or equivalent. Experience with snowplow operation and other light duty equipment would be an asset, as well as being mechanically inclined. Successful candidate must be available for call-in during emergencies, inclement weather & weekends.

The position is permanent $\underline{\text{half-time}}$ (two weeks on / two weeks off), with a 40-hour work week. The Village participates in the OMERS Pension Plan and provides personal protective equipment, up to \$300 per year for safety clothing and \$250 for safety boots.

The position starts April 5th (or possibly sooner). Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume by March 12th, outlining experience, education and skills to:

Public Works Superintendent, Darren Morningstar publicworks@oilsprings.ca

Village of Oil Springs 4591 Oil Springs Line, Box 22, Oil Springs, ON NON 1P0 Phone (519) 834-2939 Fax (519) 834-2333

The successful candidate will be required to provide a satisfactory Driver's Abstract and Police Background check.

The Village of Oil Springs is committed to providing accommodations for people with disabilities and will make accommodations if required. We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used for the purpose of candidate selection.

Try our WINTER FAVOURITES Enjoy our collection for only \$59

- 1. Steak and Mushroom Casserole
- 2. Sliced Turkey in Gravy
- 3. Roast Beef with Rich Gravy
- 4. Hunter's Chicken
- 5. Scrambled Eggs and Sausages
- 6. Strawberries and Cream Oatmeal
- 7. Vegetable Pasta Primavera
- 8. Honey Mustard Chicken

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Mooretown hockey balks at 14 per cent ice hike

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

The price to rent a rink in St. Clair will be going up this season.

And the reason is simple according to township officials. "Our costs have significantly gone up, and our revenues have significantly gone down," says Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay.

COVID-19 closures ate up \$145,000 in arena revenues last year. Expenses rose \$137,404.

Much of this was insurance costs, which rose more than 30 per cent over the last two years.

Even before the pandemic hit, the arena operated at a deficit losing \$282,145 in 2019.

To try and reclaim some costs the Mooretown Sports Complex plans to increase ice rental this year from \$130 an hour to \$148 an hour.

Mooretown Minor Hockey, one of the biggest users of the ice, is hoping that the rental increase can be phased in. Geoff Dale, a coach with the organization, presented council with an alternate plan this week.

"If the ice rental rates go up, we need to look at increases from our members," says Dale. The association calculated an extra \$27,500 would be needed from its membership, or about \$78.50 per person.

"That's a drastic increase using our average membership of \$570," says Dale. He instead proposed a gradual three year increase of five per cent a year, where rentals would cost \$136.50 this year, \$143.33 next year, and \$150.49 the following season.

Dale says this would "take some of the sticker shock off a single year increase."

Under the three year plan total revenue from the minor hockey association would be around \$20,000 less than the \$148 per year proposal. Lindsay felt this may not be enough to address arena costs.

"Our concerns are revenues have stayed the same for 10 years basically," says Lindsay. "The alarming side of things are the expenditures, we just keep going up." Expenses are rising around 4.5 per cent a year.

Arena revenue in 2009 was \$463,278, rising only to \$467,892 in 2019. Expenditures meanwhile have risen from \$509,847 to \$750,037 in that same 10 year period.

Lindsay predicts, based on the 4.5 per cent growth, expenses will jump to \$945,915 by 2024.

Lindsay pointed out that even with an increase to \$148, Mooretown ice rentals would still be less than nearby rinks. Point Edward charges \$200 per hour, Walpole Island \$160, and Wallaceburg \$152.

The decision was adjourned until council's next meeting March 16 to give Lindsay time to prepare a full report on how Mooretown Minor Hockey's proposal would affect arena finances.

- The Independent

Feral cat caregivers worried about damage

Heather Wright

The Independent

For the past 30 years, animal lovers in Petrolia have been taking care of the feral cat population. It's been a fairly low profile group until recently, when some young children caused damage to the cat colony and stole kittens.

Julie Medeiros is one of three volunteers which makes sure the 40 or so cats which live in Petrolia's downtown are warm, watered and fed once a day. Occasionally, one of the cats has kittens. They're left with the mother for seven weeks and then taken to be fixed and adopted out by the Sarnia Humane Society. The mother is also fixed at that time, keeping the feral cat population at about 40.

Local businesses are appreciative, particularly restaurants in the core, says Medeiros, because the cats help keep the rodent population down. In turn, the businesses donate money and food for the cats to keep the group going. Black Gold Brewery has even named its beer after one of the cats, Frack.

"There's always going to be feral cats because ...people drop cats off that are pregnant, because they don't want to fix them," she says. "So, no matter what we do, they always come back in some way, shape or form. So it's best to control the population and keep the ones that can't be homed, healthy, and fed so that they're not wandering... If they're fixed, they'll tend to wander less.

But recently, some very young children were seen damaging the colony which is surrounded

by hay bales.
"We had three kittens stolen that were nursing. They must have took those kittens home and the parents didn't want them," says Medeiros. "Somehow the kittens wound up in a box outside of town on a road, and were discovered, and taken to the Humane Society."

Because the group works with the humane society, the kittens and their mother were reunited and then later adopted.

Medeiros is hoping parents will have a talk with their children about caring for animals and not destroying the places they live.

"It is important that kids respect property and animals. And if they don't, there are consequences for it," she says. "You know, kids that



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Muffin hangs out in the reeds near the Petrolia cat colony. Three volunteers who feed and care for the cats have become concerned with kids damaging the cat's home.

are taught compassion and held accountable for their actions are going to grow into better community citizens all the way around.

"You can't just hurt an animal and damage property and think that it's fine. It's certainly not fine. And if we just let it go, then what else will it escalate into?"

Medeiros says many studies show that abusers often begin their abuse with animals.

Medeiros says families do come to see the cats occasionally and "nine times out of 10 it's a positive experience, because people do go back there with their kids and families to see what's going on...try to talk to them about the animals and things like that and that's great. There's nothing wrong with that.

"But when it becomes a problem is when they're disrespectful, and generally unsupervised and hurt the cats.

The Petrolia OPP are looking into the incident and the Humane Society is prepared to take action if necessary.

Medeiros is also asking people passing by who may see people damaging the colonies to email the group at Petroliaferals@gmail.com





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 WARWICK

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 25, 2021, at the Warwick Municipal Office, 6332 Nauvoo Road, Watford Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office, 6332 Nauvoo Road, Watford.

Roll No. 38 41 042 002 04400 0000; 505 Huron St., Watford; PIN 43053-0307 (LT); PT LT 7 PL 1 WATFORD AS IN L770015; T/W INTEREST IN L770015; S/T L770015; S/T L233929, L340568; WARWICK; File No. 19-05

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$41,000

Minimum tender amount: \$40,023.50

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 or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. 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, visit: ***.OntarioTaxSales.ca or if no internet access available, contact:

Trevor Jarrett Treasurer/Deputy Administrator The Corporation of the Township of Warwick 6332 Nauvoo Road Watford ON N0M 2S0 (519) 849-3926

Senior hockey returns to Alvinston as the Killer Bees come to town



Logo for the new Senior Hockey team in Alvinston, the Killer Bees.

Heather Wright The Independent

The sounds of senior hockey will

be heard in Alvinston, likely on Friday night. Brooke-Alvinston Council has

given the preliminary thumbs up for Shawn Dickey - formerly of the Thedford Dirty Dogs - to set up a new senior hockey team for the Western Ontario Super Hockey

"This would be a team primarily made of ex Junior C, B and A players mixed with some former professional hockey players. A good blend of local and players found outside the area to form a competitive team that would be very involved within the community," Dickey told council in a letter.

"The team would be playing out of the newly formed Western Ontario Super Hockey League. Teams such as Paris, Stratford and Fergus would form the base of the league with interest from other towns as well," he says. "There is currently an Eastern division playing out of the Cornwall area that hosts 10 teams. At the end of the year there will be a provincial title where the East and the West champions meet."

Dickey says there are already 50 players interested in the tryouts coming in September. He's also looking for members of the Alvinston community to be on the club's board and staff.

"My aim when trying to start this team is to bring something exciting to a community that the people can get behind, support and be a part

"I picture a "buzz" in town when there's a big game or young players in the area pretending to be the players while out playing street hockey. A social gathering in town on game nights and an economic boost to the community after game nights to local establishments."

There is some work to be done. The Killer Bees want home games on Friday night - that ice time is already booked by East Lambton Minor Hockey. Town staff will have a meeting with the user groups to work out a schedule.

The club also wants the town to consider licensing the whole arena on game night. A plan for that still has to be worked out.

Mooretown Flags take to the ice but season is off the table says GM

Barry Wright The Independent

The general manager of the Mooretown Flags of the Provincial Junior Hockey League says two teams of 10 players each will be back on the ice this week, but John Baker is under no illusions that the activity will lead to a 2021 season. "We are well past the point of

being able to have a season this year," he tells *The Independent*. "We are working to prepare for the 2021-22 season," he added.

Meantime, GM Dennis Meston says the Petrolia Flyers "are playing it by ear" before deciding if and when they'll get back on the ice.

If the Flyers decide to skate, they would have to search for a location other than Petrolia as the town took the ice out at Greenwood Recreation Centre in January.

The league has yet to make an official announcement about this

season despite it being nearly a year since a game was played in the PJHL.

There is a movement afoot to extend the age for overage players to allow those who will miss this season to suit up for the 2021-22

Meantime, the GOJHL has yet

to officially cancel its season while OHL Commissioner David Branch says his league continues to work 'very closely' with the provincial government to facilitate a shortened season.

Fryfogles begin playoffs this weekend

Wyoming's Bayly and Brayden Fryfogle begin their first-round playoff series this weekend with the Northern Colorado Eagles of the United States Premier Hockey League.

The puck drops in the series against the Pueblo Bulls Friday afternoon. Bayly finished in a tie for 15th place in league scoring by rearguards with seven goals and 35 points in 44 regular season games.

Brayden had seven goals and 11 points in 41 games as a rookie with the

The two teams finished the regular season within one point of each other in the league's Mountain Division. Northern Colorado finished in second place with 58 points. Pueblo had 57.

Courtright native wins Swiss Cup

Dustin Jeffrey had two assists to lead SC Bern to a 5-2 win over the Zurich Lions in the Swiss Cup championship game last Sunday.

The Courtright native who celebrated his 33rd birthday the day before the final had a goal and five assists over five games throughout the tournament. Jeffrey had played in three previous Swiss Cup tourneys with Lausanne

dating back to 2016-17.

Canada in Switzerland in January

Jeffrey was originally a sixth-round pick in the 2007 draft by the Pittsburgh Penguins and played parts of seven seasons in the NHL before moving to Europe.

He won the Spengler Cup with Team

Fulcher continues to move around this season

The road between Detroit and Grand Rapids is becoming very familiar to goaltender Kaden Fulcher.

The Brigden native was called up to the Wings' taxi squad on Saturday but returned to Grand Rapids Monday.

The 22 year-old goalie has been up and down between the Motor City and Grand Rapids three times since late January but has not yet seen any game action for either the Red Wings or their top AHL affiliate.

McGregor tops goal for Terry Fox Foundation

The captain of Canada's national sledge hockey squad shattered his fundraising goal for his recent event for the Terry Fox Foundation.

Tyler McGregor says his 25 km. skate in Collingwood raised \$30,710. The goal was \$25,000. The Forest native thanked his many supporters

from across Canada.

"This will become an annual event, with many more people participating and involved when health and safety guidelines permit," said McGregor.
"Looking forward to building off momentum and future ideas created from this year's inaugural event."

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



We're working to ensure small businesses can keep employing people and serving their communities now and when COVID-19 is behind us.

Visit ontario.ca/COVIDsupport to apply

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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

Celebration



Graduation

CONGRATS GRADUATES!



Dr. Kaitlyn Sinclair

Kaitlyn graduated with Honours

from from the University of

Waterloo with a degree in

optometry. During her time at

Waterloo, Kaitlyn traveled to

Senegal, Africa to provide eye

examinations to those in need.

Kaitlyn was also active in multiple clubs and organizations at the

at Knaziew Optometry in Petrolia.

Cami Sinclair

Cami graduated with Honours from from the University of Detroit Mercy where she majored in social work and played softball for the Titans. During her time at Detroit, Cami won a Horizon League conference title, appeared in the NCAA Division I regional tournament and received the Huetter Award recognizing her positive attitude and leadership as a student-athlete.



We are proud of your accomplishments! Love, your family.

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.



In Memory

HOLLINGSWORTH

Frances Anne May 21, 1927 - March 1, 2016

MOM

It has been 5 years, since we sat by your side, telling you it was OK to let go.
It was time to say goodbye.

Russell Robert
October 29, 1926 - July 13, 1991

DAD

30 years have gone by since you were taken so suddenly, there was no warning, no chance to say goodbye.

You both are missed in our lives, more than words can express. You live forever in our hearts, thoughts and memories.

Loved Always, Pat Muxlow, Kathy Shea, Ruth Downie, Robin Warren, Sherry Aarts, Shelley Holbrook and families

Real Estate



SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

7963 Egremont Road, Watford • 519.849.6783 www.shanhanrealty.com

Leo Shauahau Sales Representative
Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Fax-519.849.6683

Card of Thanks

Thank You The list is long but we want to express our thanks for the many acts of kindness shown to our family during Owen's illness and passing. The amazing food just kept coming and the driveway was always cleaned off, it was really appreciated along with your prayers, emails, cards, visits and phone calls.

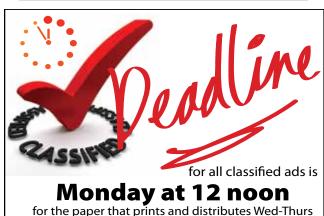
So many thoughts and tributes have been expressed. The memories shared brought us smiles, tears and comfort.

We wish to add a special thank you to Dr.Kim and his palliative care team who kept Own as comfortable as possible at home. Thank you to Dr.Wang and staff at C.E.E Hospital for their over the top care.

Thank you to Rev. Dr Christine O'Reilly, for the excellent service. Thank you also to the Florence Lodge No. 196 for "doing what they do" and for the dignity and respect shown to the lodge brother by their honour guard following the funeral service.

Thank you to Steven and Needham-Jay for keeping us safe during Covid times. We are very grateful to everyone for your care and kindness.

Jessie Dobbyn and Families



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

Service

BOB'S TAX SERVICE - 256 Warwick Street, Watford, Personal, Small Farm, Small Business, Rentals, Self Employed, Prior Years, e-filer, Fast Dependable Service, Reasonable Rates, Call Robert Alcock for Appointment - 519-876-2360.

Notice

The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership announces students in the Sarnia-Lambton area have the opportunity to apply for \$3,000 grants to start and run their own business this summer through the Ontario Summer Company Program. For more details visit sarnialambton.on.ca/summercompany.

Wanted to Buy

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

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

Coming Event

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA -

The Petrolia & District Lions 33rd Annual Easter Eggstravaganze will be on April 2, 2021. It is a Come & Go event from 12noon until 2pm at the Lions Pavillion, Huggard St.. This is a Drive-Thru event for the famiy. Walk ups can be accommodated. Goodies for Children ages 0 -8 years old. BYOB - Bring your own basket. Please follow current public health COVID requirements. Donations of canned food for the Petrolia Food Bank are gratefully accepted. For information please phone Lion Gail Tanner (519)882-0765.

Notice

Lambton County Library cardholders can once again reserve vegetable and herb seeds! Call Wyoming or Watford library today to reserve seeds to start your own unique garden. Learn more about the seed library at: https://www. lclibrary.ca/en/borrow/seed-library.aspx

Obituary



PARR Eleanor

It is with broken hearts that we announce the passing of Eleanor Jean Parr (Lumley)(nee Moran), of Petrolia, on Saturday, February 27, 2021 in her 87th year. Predeceased by her husband and soulmate Ross Parr, late husband Jack Lumley, parents Vince and Aileen Moran, infant son John, step-son David Parr son-in-law David Keates, and her canine companion Nosear. She is survived by daughters Darlene (John Stewart) Keats, Charlene (Dan) McMahon, Dori (Nick) Cotter, and Bobbi Lynn (Chris Cleaver) Lumley, step-daughter Kathy (Chris) Campbell and her family and the family of the late David Parr. Much loved grandmother to Erin (Paul), Meaghan (Fred), Courtney (Jeff), Nicky John (Sarah), Sheena (Justin), and Patrick. Proud great grandmother to Kylie, Leah, Harrison, and Aurelie. Survived also by siblings Colleen Abra, Mary Busey, Jack (Mary) Moran, Fran Murray, Ann (Lan) Evoy, Carol (Ian) Brown, Bill (Sue) Moran, and Sharon (Jim) Goodale. We would like to thank our family, friends, neighbours, C.E.E. Hospital, Charlene from V.O.N., and Bluewater Health Palliative Care for their assistance and support during mom's challenges the last couple of years. A private mass was held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, and can be viewed at www. facebook.com/NeedhamJay. Interment was in Bear Creek Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceehf.ca). Memories and condolences be shared may online www.needhamjay.com.

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.

Notice

ONTARIO PARKS DAY PASSES -

Lambton County Library has added Ontario Parks day-use passes to its collection. With a library card you can now borrow a seasonal day-use permit for up to seven days and gain entry into any provincial park in Ontario.

Notice

Get creative at home with Lambton County Library. Pick up a DIY kit at one of our participating curbside pickup locations to make a hedgehog from a book. Register by Sunday, March 14, 2021 to reserve your kit here: https://lclibrary.libnet.info/event/4757603

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 February 20 - February 26, 2021

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

PORTISS, Lawrence "Chico" Age 59, of Sarnia

FARINA, Joseph "Joe" Age 72, of Sarnia

Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 **BROUWER**, Gerrit Age 33, of Watford

D.J. Rob Funeral Home

Denning's of Watford **SMYTHE**, Michael Age 41, of Sarnia

D.J. Robb Funeral Home HARRIS, Joyce

Age 69, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

KENDALL, Patricia Age 81, of Sarnia

McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home **GROVES**, Patricia

Age 86, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

HILL, Pauline Age 99, of Petrolia Needham-Jav Funeral Home

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

ARMSTRONG, Sandra McCormack Funeral Home

MCKINLAY Christine Age 56, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home MCMAHON, Patricia

Age 60, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home

OOSTERHOF, Cathy Age 70, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

EASTMAN, Patricia Age 81, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

THORNTON, Patricia Age 60, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

MOROSICS, Judit "Judy" Age 73, of Sombra Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

COOPER, Bob

Age 81, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

CLEVELEY, Blanche

Age 86, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

GOSSE, Lillian

Age 93, of Sarnia McKensie & Blundy Funeral Home

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

THIBERT, Marie Age 44, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

SYMINGTON, Barry Age 77, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

TAYLOR, Judy Age 78, of Sarnia

Gilpin Funeral Chapel SHIPLEY, John "Bob"

Age 79, of Sarnia

DAMBRAUSKAS, Yvonne Age 81, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

AINSWORTH, Nathan Age 45, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

MAIDMENT, Freeman Age 78, of Sarnia McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

MCCALLUM, Bruce Age 89, of Brigden Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

BROWN, Richard Age 90, of Forest Gilpin Funeral Chapel

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



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

In-person services have been suspended.

> 10:30am Service Rev. Carey Wagner

Church Office: 519-882-1390 stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

First Baptist Church

Rev. Michelle Collins-Wongkee

Church Office 519-882-1430 christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com

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 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

Wyoming United Church 730 Second Street, Wyoming

In-person services suspended at this time. Please contact our office at wyoming_united@outlook.com to be sent the Zoom link to join us for our 10am live service.

Rev. Steven Longmoore Church Office 519-845-3963 Find us on Facebook



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PLYMPTON-WYOMING CONSERVATIONISTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Walter and Mary Petryschuk have been given a conservation award by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority after spending 16 years caring for a Plympton-Wyoming woodlot near Hickory Creek. The couple, who live in Sarnia, bought the 40 acre property over 40 years ago. Since then, they've planted over 500 trees, created trails and established a tallgrass prairie. They joined the Carolinian Canada Coalition to maintain the Carolinian Zone and created a plan to enhance wildlife there. The couple has already planned ahead with their family to make sure the land is continued to be enjoyed for years to come. Sandra Marshal, who has been fighting against phragmites in Ipperwash was also given the award by the conservation authority. All were recognized during the annual general meeting Friday.

Five year for trafficking despite COVID-19

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

Alfred Moore's voice broke as he asked for leniency during sentencing. But despite his pleas he'll spend five years behind bars for drug trafficking.

Moore's guilt was never in doubt. He'd already been found guilty of trafficking fentanyl following trial, and Feb. 22 appeared in Sarnia Court pleading to several more charges.

"Mr. Moore has spent the better part of 33 years in and out of incarceration," says Defense Lawyer Nick Cake. "It's clear what we have here is an addict's record."

But the length of Moore's total sentence was still in question. The COVID-19 pandemic and the current outbreak at the Sarnia Jail, would be a deciding factor.

Cake and Crown Attorney Brian Higgins were in agreement on the original five year term. With time served, Moore had credit for nearly 400 days. But Cake says conditions inside the jail warrant a further reduction, citing "What the pandemic has done to our correctional institutions, and what it will have the ability to do going forward"

There have been 47 inmate COVID-19 cases at the Sarnia Jail since Feb. 7. During Moore's appearance this was the largest correctional facility outbreak in Ontario. As of Mar. 2, 12 cases remained active.

Cake says his client, who's been in jail for several months during the pandemic, has suffered additional hardship due to the virus' threat. He referenced a decision from Windsor Superior Court in November where Mal Chol, 22, had a year taken off an eight year manslaughter sentence for pre-sentence time spent in COVID-19 lockdown conditions and "because of the psychological effects and awareness of the lingering pandemic in a confined environment," said Justice Bruce Thomas

during Chol's sentencing.

Chol was sentenced for helping Nour Rabee, then 19, forcibly take Chance Gauthier, 16, to an alley following an argument at a party. Rabee shot Gauthier in the back of the head with a shotgun, and Chol helped clean up the crime scene.

Chol helped clean up the crime scene.
Cake requested "Chol-time" for his
Sarnia client; a six month sentence
reduction. Higgins agreed that some credit
for time spent in COVID-19 lockdown
conditions was appropriate, but stressed the
aggravating factors in determining a final
number.

"Possession for the purpose of trafficking in fentanyl, particularly in the midst of an opioid crisis, in Canada, in North America and in our community, it's an extremely grave offence," says Higgins, adding Moore's criminal record is "dense, it's continuous, it's over quite a long span."

Justice Anne McFadyen also agreed a sentence reduction was warranted given the outbreak, though it wasn't nearly what Cake hoped for. After adjourning her decision a week to Mar. 1, McFadyen shaved off just 21 days, equal to a 14 day quarantine at time-and-a-half credit.

Moore conceded his addiction issues, but seemed surprised any further jail time was in his future.

"I never expected any kind of sentence like this," Moore says from the Sarnia Jail's video suite. "Is there any other kind of sentencing that can be imposed? I'd do any conditions, I'd do any stipulations, I'd do anything to get out."

But it will be three years, nine months and 26 days before Moore walks out of jail, following his final tally of 429 days presentence custody.

Moore also forfeits \$1,640 cash and a cell phone, receives a lifetime weapons ban, and must submit a DNA sample.

The Independent

4 REASONS FOR ORTHOTICS

There are some situations that require extra foot support.

ONGOING FOOT PAIN

Flt's Important to have a thorogh assessment to rule out certain issues. When serious issus have been ruled out, orthotics can be beneficial by removing pressure and strss from painful areas.

YOU HAVE A FALLEN ARCH

While orthotics don't correct a fallen arch, they can reposition structures in the foot to improve biomechanical function and reduce change of injury. There a few different conditions that contribute to, and are aggravated by fallen archs such as plantear fasciitis, hallux valgus and arthritis.



YOU STAND FOR LONG PERIODS AT YOUR JOB

If you are spending long periods of time on your feet, you will need extra support becuase your muscles will fatigue. It's important to move around and give your feet a break.

DIABETES

If you suffer frm diabetes, you have an increased risk of corns and calluses, especially if your foot alignment altered. Orthotics can be helpful in reducing these key pressure areas of the foot.

www.lambtonchiropractic.ca

Lambton 431 King Street, Petrolia 519-882-1880





Dr.Storozuk Dr.Ma





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 NON 1R0 519-882-2350 Ext. 225 rcharlebois@petrolia.ca www.town.petrolia.on.ca