



A SHOT IN THE ARM



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Joan D'Hooghe, 90, of Wyoming was surprised as she received her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. "It's done? Boy, is she good," she said of the public health nurse who administered her shot. "I didn't even know she was done." D'Hooghe was among the first seniors to be offered the vaccine. Lambton Public Health invited seniors over 90 to mass vaccination clinics in Point Edward and Wyoming in the last few days. People in their 80s will sign up for vaccines March 15. See more on pg 13.

Waste Management wants expansion approval in three years

Heather Wright
The Independent

Waste Management officials say a plan to stack more waste in the Watford landfill to extend its life could be approved in three years.

But it will be a lot longer than that before construction begins.

Wayne Jenken, Area Landfill Engineer for Waste Management, told Warwick Council recently the Twin Creeks site has 12 years before it has reached capacity so the company needs to start planning now.

Jenken says WM considered a number of options to continue to provide services in the region, including redirecting waste to another site, developing a new landfill, enlarging the footprint of the Watford site or what he calls "optimizing" the current facility.

Waste Management is proposing building up by increasing the berms surrounding the landfill as much as 120 feet in some spots.

Jenken says the best plan is to have the approvals in place and then wait until the current landfill is near capacity before beginning construction. "We would prefer

not to have to install the landfill cap and then remove it in the future." That, he says would increase costs and likely cause odour issues with the neighbours.

But the mayor and council voiced some concern about the project. "How do we know it (the new slopes and current infrastructure) is not going to collapse under the weight," asked Mayor Jackie Rombouts. Councillor Wayne Morris pointed out "You've had failure with these pipes before, I'm a little concerned about the extra weight," he says.

SEE LANDFILL PAGE 2

Taxes creep up one per cent in PW

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming councillors have approved the 2021 budget - with over \$21 million in spending - but there are still some questions to be answered.

And at least two members of council are concerned about rising costs for people struggling during the pandemic.

Council approved the towns \$14,405,736 operating budget and \$6,645,630 capital budget Monday in a special meeting which stretched over nearly four hours.

Councillors made no changes to the document presented by Treasurer Norma Roddick-Preece.

In a report to council, Roddick-Preece said there was an 8.8 per cent increase in spending for general government which includes the cost of administration and council. That's about \$125,795 more than 2020. Some of that can be attributed to the cost of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The fire department's operating budget is just \$64 more than last year. This despite a \$20,000 increase in the spending for the leadership of the department.

Plympton-Wyoming is about to hire a new fire chief. The line also includes the stipend for the volunteers who serve as district chiefs. Councillor Mike Vasey asked why that line was increased by \$20,000 in 2021. CAO Carolyn Tripp said she was "not comfortable" discussing the increase in open session. Under privacy rules, the salaries of individuals should not be revealed however councils may discuss the salaries of vacant positions in open session.

Tripp says the line budget includes a one per cent cost of living increase and "the new chief will be paid in accordance with the salary grid previously approved for the position."

She did not immediately respond to an email asking how that could constitute a \$20,000 increase.

SEE BUDGET PG 2



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 14

AT 2:00AM

MARK YOUR CALENDERS



Plympton-Wyoming operations budget up \$982,655, but tax increase is about one per cent

CON'T FROM PG 1

In all, the Plympton-Wyoming Fire Department will spend \$396,856 on wages in 2021, about 57 per cent of the operating costs of the department.

Two new fire trucks are also on their way to Plympton-Wyoming. The department ordered the trucks in 2020, and the \$1,316,270 for their purchase - which included money from an insurance payout after an accident during a call - had already been set aside for the purchase.

The fire department will spend \$1.5 million on equipment for a total budget of \$2,191,874.

The town also plans to spend about 3.6 per cent more or \$167,613 more on roads this year, according to Roddick-Preece.

Insurance premiums have increased by \$51,000 over last year according to Adam Sobanski, director of public works. An additional \$30,000 for COVID-19 related expenses.

One of the big projects this year will be the reconstruction of Niagara Street, west of London Street. The road, sidewalk, drainage, water mains and parking will be reconstructed at a cost of

\$500,000. The same amount was spent last year in preparation for the work.

Sobanski has also budgeted \$1.14 million for the town's portion of new municipal drains.

About \$500,000 has been put aside to find a fix for Hillcrest Road. Councillor Bob Woolvett says the slope of the road has collapsed and is now nearly at the edge of the road. Sobanski hopes to fix the problem this year, but first the engineering work has to be done.

The town will also spend \$175,000 resurfacing roads and another \$130,000 improving trails and sidewalks. That's about \$55,000 more than 2020.

Another \$350,000 has been put into the building reserve in the hope of replacing the Reece's Corners public works building. A recent service review found it should be replaced as soon as possible, saying it was "dangerous" for employees and did not meet the building code.

Public works also plans to buy a new tandem axle dump and plow for \$350,000. It's a replacement for an older version in the fleet.

There are a number of projects in the works in the parks and recreation budget costing \$158,491. It includes fencing at Centennial Park, \$20,000 for building improvements at Canton park and about \$6,000 worth of improvements at the Arnold Minielly Park.

There will be \$25,000 in repairs to the Blue Point Park tennis courts, and \$40,000 in new equipment at Mandaumin Park.

The total spending on yearly operations is now \$14,405,736. That's up \$982,655 from 2020.

Plympton-Wyoming did receive about \$485,000 in new grants in 2021, much of it funding because of COVID-19.

There is another \$130,376 in taxation growth because of assessment to help cushion the increased spending.

Roddick-Preece says the result of the one per cent tax increase will be about \$6.59 for every \$100,000 of assessed value of the property for homeowners.

Taxpayers are also facing increases in water and sewer rates. Both will increase 3.6 per cent to pay for running the system. Some money has also been put into reserves for future improvements

to the infrastructure.

For the average family of four this will result in an approximate increase of \$6.95 bi-monthly.

Both Councillor Bob Wool-

vett and Mayor Lonny Napper expressed concern about the increase, saying there are some people struggling to make ends meet because of the pandemic.

PW not collecting cash for 402 rescues

Heather Wright
The Independent

One Plympton-Wyoming councillor is wondering where the money has gone.

Councillor Mike Vasey - who three years ago was the fire chief in Wyoming - questioned why the revenue from the Ministry of Transportation for fire response on the 402 is non-existent.

The ministry paid Wyoming Fire around \$20,000 a year for responding to accidents on the provincial highway. But in the last three years, that money has dried up.

Vasey wondered what happened.

CAO Carolyn Tripp, a member of the fire executive board, says the MTO has recently changed its billing system.

"The whole system changed and everyone's having problems with it, but Warwick has figured it

out recently, so we're going to be working with them, we've already had one meeting with them. And that's going to be worked out over this year. But there's no guarantees. The MTO won't share any information and the OPP won't either," she says.

"It's been a long battle to get these things done."

"I just don't know how this could go on for three years and no one pick up on it," Vasey says.

He suggested at one time the municipality threatened to stop servicing the 402 and perhaps that should be on the table again if the MTO isn't willing to cooperate.

He says if things don't improve quickly, the town should contact the local MPP, Bob Bailey, and the ministry and OPP to straighten out the problem.

Tripp is hopeful once a solution is found, the revenue from the past three years can be recouped.

Landfill work won't start for years

CON'T FROM PG 1

Jenken agreed there has been problems in the past. "We didn't respond fast enough," he says as they brought in more waste, weighing down the pipes which are installed to handle the gases produced by landfills.

Jenken says since that incident, the company put in better controls "so it won't be repeated."

And he says it will take a lot of engineering to figure out how the berms should be reenforced and increased in height without further problems.

Waste Management is hoping to work with the municipality to make sure the application will eventually make it to the Minister of the Environment's desk for approval. Jenken says company officials have set a target of five years to get the necessary government approvals for the plan. "We think it is approve-able in approximately three

years if everything came together and everyone worked together."

Jenken says the terms of reference for the project should be ready for review by April. He's asked Warwick to make sure its technical review team is ready to take on the project when the paperwork is finalized.

And he says the company wants to start working with Warwick officials on improvements to the host site agreement, should the life of the landfill be extended.

Even if Waste Management gets the necessary approvals for the vertical expansion in three years, it will be some time before Watford residents notice construction.

Jenken told councillors the work would not likely begin until the current capacity of the landfill is almost reached. The lifespan of Twin Creeks is another 12 years.

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

Paid for by the
Government of Ontario



4

REASONS FOR ORTHOTICS

There are some situations that require extra foot support.

ONGOING FOOT PAIN

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

YOU HAVE A FALLEN ARCH

While orthotics don't correct a fallen arch, they can repetition 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 arches such as plantar 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 because your muscles will fatigue. It's important to move around and give your feet a break.

DIABETES

If you suffer from 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 Chiropractic Centre

431 King Street, Petrolia
519-882-1880

Dr.Storozuk Dr.Martyniuk

Lambton tax increase 1.75 per cent for 2021

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton county councillors have held a county tax increase to the rate of inflation.

Councillors looked at the \$240.8 million budget March 3 and passed it without making significant changes. It did agree to give Bluewater Health about \$400,000 to build a helipad - see story below - but that won't affect taxes since the money will be taken from reserves.

Spending is up, however \$12.5 million in grants to help pay for costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic and about \$657,000 in added assessment helped keep the tax increase to

1.75 per cent.

Social Services budget is up \$5.27 million over 2021 for a total of \$79.7 million in total spending. That's the largest budget of any of the county's divisions.

Social services expects to spend \$3.5 million more on homelessness initiatives in the wake of the pandemic – with the federal government chipping in \$1 million for a new program called Reaching Home.

Valerie Colasanti, the general manager of social services, is also anticipating a two per cent increase in the number of people accessing Ontario Works in 2021 when the federal Canadian Emergency Relief Benefit expires. She's anticipating up

to 2,844 cases per month.

Public health – which heads up the pandemic response in the community – is also spending significantly more than 2020. County figures show \$29.4 million will be spent on public health services. That's up \$2.249 million over 2020.

And the long term care division will spend \$3 million more this year than last for a total of \$36.8 million in 2021, should the budget pass as is.

The treasurer says the county has been given grants and subsidies from the federal government which covered the \$12.5 million costs due to the pandemic.

Warden Kevin Marriott has said he's satisfied with inflationary increases.

Lift off for BWH helipad but no long term Lambton deal yet

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton County will pay for half of the cost of the new helipad at Bluewater Health.

The hospital listed the landing pad which is being developed to bring critically injured patients to regional hospitals, as one of its priorities when it made a request for \$10 million over the next 10 years.

The grant would also help pay for the redevelopment of Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital and improved cancer care.

Lambton Shores Mayor Bill Weber suggested council should look at the affects that a long-term grant to the hospital would have on the county's ability to continue to improve its own infrastructure.

"We have so much of our own infrastructure that needs our consideration," Weber said during budget deliberations March 3.

"Granting (money) to an outside organization that is actually a mandate of the province...to me, this is their responsibility; our responsibilty is to look after our infrastructure and our homes for the aged."

County administrators say that need is growing. In a report to council, the county treasurer says next year, the county will need between \$3.8 million

and \$6.5 million to maintain its own assets. That could translate into a 4.8 to 8.1 per cent tax increase.

One of the big areas of concern is long term care. County officials say all three homes will need to be replaced in the near future; Lambton Meadowview in Petrolia is most urgently in need. Repairs for the facility in the next five years will top \$9 million.

Weber says councillors need a report from administrators to see what impact a large donation would have on the ability to keep up with Lambton's own capital needs.

Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts agreed. "I'm not doubting our hospitals are important," she says. "As a county we do have mandates in long term care and in public health...that has to be our number one priority."

Rombouts says it seems odd to hear to give an outside agency \$1 million per year and then go to the province for funding for county needs.

"Coming out of this pandemic there are a lot of problems we have to solve," she says.

"If we agree to this for the next ten years, we're not going to have the money for the services we have to provide for our communities."

But Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley doesn't agree. "I feel it is the mandate of this county council as far as the health and well being of our residents,"

he says.

Loosley believed just giving money for the helipad this year was not enough. "We need to go further."

Sarnia City/County Councillor Mike Stark agreed, saying for years it has been the community's responsibility to support expansion at local hospitals.

But councillors agreed the funding request needed more thought and agreed in the short term to fund only the \$800,000 helipad project, paying up to half of the cost.

Some councillors, including Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley, expressed concern that by delaying the grant request, the county is pushing the hospital's improvement plans back.

This is the second year the county has considered the \$10 million request.

IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter

Annual

PLANT SALE

• Order Deadline April 1, 2021 •

For Sale

Geraniums

pink, red, salmon, white, magenta

3/\$10
15/\$47

10" Baskets

boston fern, fuchsia, million bells

\$17^{ea}

12" Mixed Patio Planter

please specify either shade/sun

\$25^{ea}

PLANT PICK UP DATE

May 6, 2021

9:00-11:30am

Windover Nurseries

Gift Certificates to

Windover Nurseries

& DeGroot's Nursery

Available for Mother's Day

May 9, 2021

Safe Curbside Pick Up Available

To Order

Wendy 519.882.2073 | Dawn 519.882.4919

Please no calls after 9pm

What do you save your money for?

☐ Children

☐ Vacation

☐ Emergency

☐ Retirement

Managing your money can be a snap.

Visit **Online.ABCMoneyMatters.ca** to learn more about saving and spending plans and take charge of your money.

ABC
Life Literacy Canada

Money
Matters
Founding Sponsor TD

Petrolia Line/Kimball Road roundabout on hold

Heather Wright
The Independent

It will be at least another year before Lambton County decides whether to install a roundabout at a deadly corner on Petrolia Line.

There were calls for a roundabout – known to slow traffic and reduce the number of accidents by eliminating intersections - from both neighbours and St. Clair Township Council after a Glencoe truck driver was killed in a crash at the corner May 4, 2020.

Jolene DeGurse-MacDonald's family has lived at the corner of Kimball and Petrolia Line for decades.

At the time of the May accident, she recalled dozens of accidents and deaths, and her mother's efforts to get municipal leaders to do something to improve the deadly corner.

In the 1970s, her mother convinced local government to install an amber light, a larger stop sign and to lower the speed limit to 70 km/h on Petrolia Line.

In the 1990s, rumble strips were added. But still, there are near misses and accidents. DeGurse-MacDonald believes a roundabout is the only solution. A petition she started gathered nearly 1,000 signatures of support.

St. Clair Township backed the call and county councillors agreed to discuss the idea at the 2021 budget.

A roundabout is a costly solution. County officials estimated the traffic calming device would cost about \$1.8 million. There isn't enough land to create a roundabout at the corner, so Lambton would have to buy land from the surrounding neighbours.

During budget consultations, St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold asked for the roundabout decision to be delayed for a year.

"There is some new technology that has come out around radar and flashing lights and we also have some (land) acquisition problems in the area."

The roundabout proposal will come up again in a year.

– ADVERTORIAL –



CHARLOTTE ELEANOR
ENGLEHART HOSPITAL
OF
BLUEWATER HEALTH

Charlotte's Corner

Managing Mental Wellness
through COVID & Beyond

*By Dr. Charles Winegard, Medical Director,
Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital of
Bluewater Health*

With COVID-19 continuing to have a great impact on our lives, it's important that we continue to check-in with ourselves and our needs. It is easy to get overwhelmed and forget the basics of managing stress, practically and logistically.

Prioritizing the events in your day is the best way to manage your stress, both during COVID and beyond. Part of those priorities should always be taking time to care for yourself. Getting enough sleep, eating well, and decreasing alcohol are easy ways to ensure you are taking care of your body. Limiting media exposure and screen time allows you to give your brain a break, and opens up time to, safely, be with your loved ones. Getting outside with your kids or partner is a great way to

get your half hour of exercise daily and spend some time out of the house.

Checking in with and managing your emotions makes it easier to control your stress before it overwhelms you. Using the Sad, Mad, Glad method ensures you are expressing your emotions in a healthy way. When you are feeling upset about the pandemic, give yourself permission to be sad about it, express your anger in healthy ways, and try to counteract your negative feelings with laughter or love. Knowing what you can and can't control is a great way to help you stay positive during this time.

Sometimes the most effective way to feel good is to do good for others. The pandemic can make us all feel lonely. Spreading joy to those in your life helps us all feel a little less alone. Give to a foodbank if you have the means to do so, shovel snow for your neighbour, call a friend who you haven't spoken with in a while. Going out of your way to help others nurtures a feeling of community in a moment where many of us feel isolated.

It is impossible to be the best version of yourself if you are not making it a priority, even without COVID. Developing structure, taking care of yourself, making time for those around you, and trying to stay positive makes it easier to know what you need to do well. Please remember, your feelings, both negative and positive, are valid and deserve to be shared and listened to. Lean on your support system, and know you are not alone.

Editorial

Low tax increase but not lower spending

It all sounds good - a one per cent tax increase, a 1.75 per cent tax increase. Municipal leaders are holding the line on taxes for you in a time of economic turmoil.

Many municipalities and the County of Lambton have now completed their municipal budgets. Many have kept the percentage tax increase fairly low - around one or two per cent.

Along with the general back patting which occurs, there are usually statements about the tough economic times because of the worldwide pandemic and how taxpayers should not have to bear anymore increases.

And, to be fair, taxpayers don't really notice the increases as they paid the tax bill since generally it amounts to about \$100 or so and really, that's not a bad deal.

But we would like to submit that while you're paying just a little more, municipal and county governments are not tightening their belts. The fact is almost every Lambton municipality will spend more - some a lot more - of your money in 2021 than they did in 2020.

Take Plympton-Wyoming which passed its budget this week with a one per cent increase; about \$6.50 per \$100,000 of assessment on a property. That's not too bad at all until you really look at the numbers. The town plans to spend over \$980,000 more in 2021 than it did in 2020 just to operate the municipality. Sure, some of that is due to COVID-19 expenses but both the feds and the province are handing out cash. PW has had its share - nearly \$485,000 is expected in 2021.

And the county's budget has ballooned to \$240.8 million with both operating and capital expenses - over three per cent higher than 2020. The tax increase is only at 1.75 per cent because there was almost \$670,000 of new tax dollars coming in the door. Petrolia is no different; it is spending up over \$317,000 more.

So, the next time a politician tells you they're saving you money, ask them the most relevant questions - how much more is government spending this year.

Some day, the revenue spigots of COVID-19 funding will close and the province and federal government won't be handing out cash. There may not tax growth forever. Then your municipal tax bill will reflect the true cost and we bet you're not going to like it.

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor.

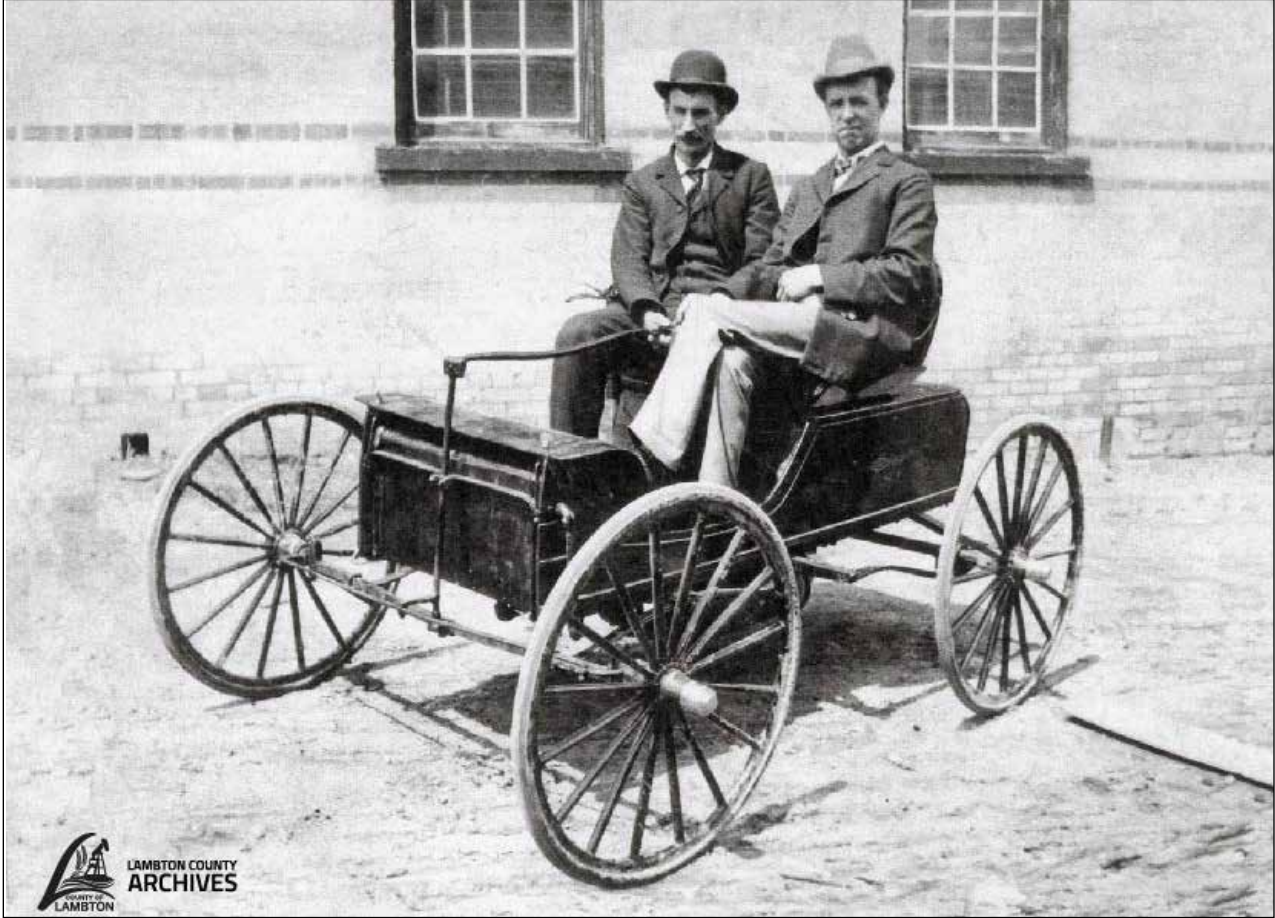
Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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



This is David Maxwell - one of Lambton County's great inventors. Maxwell, a blacksmith by trade, was known for his ingenuity. After Ford started developing the quadricycle, Maxwell got to work on his own horseless carriage. He would build the Maxmobile. It was capable of speeds of up to 20 miles an hour.

Province said expert solutions in LTC were too expensive

There has been a lot said about the problems which lead to the deaths of 3,876 people in long term care with COVID-19. The Ontario homes never seem to have enough staff to give individual attention to the people who are at a medically fragile time of their lives. Add in a pandemic and the situation only grows worse.

But, for many people the double tragedy of COVID-19 in long term care is that more people died in the second wave than the first; 1,900 in all. Did we learn nothing?

Of course there are a lot of political answers, but Tuesday, I came across the testimony of Dr. Allison McGeer. You might remember her as the Infectious Disease expert who lead the province through the SARS pandemic.

She has been advising the Ontario government about long term care. McGeer was one of the people testifying to an independent commission

uncovering the failures in long term care during COVID.

I wanted to share a few lines of what she said because in all the finger pointing and blame and sadness, Dr. McGeer gives the clearest explanation of what happened in the second wave.

"Most of us, I think, who are more experienced in infection control, and know how deep the inadequacies are in the system, I think, looked at it and were confident that (A) it is not possible to change the behaviour of 75,000 staff members who, generally speaking, have deeply inadequate training and education in a four-month period. You're not going to change culture in an entire sector in that period of time.

"And (B) a number of proposals went to the Ministry about what could be done; and all of them were deemed by the Ministry to be too expensive... I don't think we could have fixed wave

2. I think the issues were too big to be solved in that four-month period. But I also think that there were a number of things that we chose not to do because pretty much everybody got fooled into thinking that it was going to be okay in the second wave."

In short, our leaders thought they had things under control in an industry which had many problems before COVID-19 emerged, so they chose not to follow the more expensive advice of experts in the field.

It costs lives. It leaves me speechless.



Heather Wright

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0 • 226-738-0728

Subscription Rates: \$55.00/year within 50 kms of Petrolia Post Office
\$65.00/year outside of 50 km radius \$75.00/year other provinces
(HST included on all prices) Subscriptions are non-refundable

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

The contents of this newspaper are protected by copyright.
No material from this edition may be reproduced without expressed written consent of The Independent of Petrolia & Central Lambton

Publisher / Editor: Heather Wright
news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Reporters: Alex Kurial

Sales Associates: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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

Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

Proud host of the Local Journalism Initiative

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada

Opinion

Calls for change to continue on Women’s Day

EDITOR:
I would first like to congratulate *The Independent* on its recent nomination for your coverage of the firing of a female firefighter in Wyoming. Your coverage was honest, fair, and deeply insightful. As we celebrate International Woman’s Day, I remind the members of our community to think of the women in Lambton County who have recently been victimized by their male

counterparts in the workplace. I ask you to remember the years of oppression women endured and the hard work the generation before us put in to allow us our God given freedom. The news this past few weeks has been riddled with stories of abuse of power and a lack of justice. I was saddened to read of the inappropriate behaviour a local police officer has had to tolerate without the aid of her superiors, and I am saddened by the

continued refusal of the county to defend a female firefighter here in Lambton County. This is a very special time in history. COVID-19, the “Me Too” movement, Black Lives Matter. This can be a time of change. Let’s keep things going in the right direction.

Tammy With Wyoming, ON

- **Emery Huszka**
Dealer - Florence ON,
226-373-6244
- **Julie Maw**
Dealer - Courtright ON,
519-384-2281
- **Dave Foulon**
Dealer - Tupperville ON,
519-683-2136
- **Dave Emery**, Territory Manager
South Lambton ON,
519-360-6072
- **Kirk Van Will**, Territory Manager
North Lambton ON,
519-899-3255



maizex

www.maizex.com

4488 Mint Line,
RR#2 Tilbury, Ontario
N0P 2L0

MAIZE SEEDS INC.
Canada's Best

Watford man pulls out kitchen knives to defend friend

Alex Kurial
The Independent

A Watford man avoided a criminal record after brandishing a pair of knives during a fight to protect a friend. That, according to Justice Deborah Austin, was because “there is a context here that is unusual.” She was referring to the motive behind Adam Fillion’s involvement in a neighbourly dispute that quickly escalated to violence. A number of people were drinking at an Ontario St. apartment complex in Watford last July when they noticed a neighbor attempting to get in his car. This concerned them, partly because

he had no insurance but also because they believed he was high on cocaine. The man became angry at a suggestion to hand over his keys and attacked Fillion’s friend, causing a swollen eye. That’s when Fillion stepped in, running inside to grab a pair of kitchen knives and bringing them outside to wave at the aggressor. The presence of the weapons brought the scuffle to a close. “What I did was to defend my friend and to stop a fight,” Fillion says in court Mar. 3. “But I absolutely agree that I went overboard, and I accept my punishment.” “It was an excessive response, but it was motivated in self-defence and defence of others,” Austin says when it came time for his punishment. “Obviously some force is justified, but your description of going overboard has really hit the nail on the head.” “It is not contrary to the public interest that I grant you the benefit of a conditional discharge in these circumstances,” says Austin. “You will be spared a criminal record.” Fillion also received a year of probation. He can’t contact or go near the man he waved the knives at, or possess any weapons.

- The Independent

COVID-19 in Central Lambton classrooms a sign virus still active

Heather Wright
The Independent

It’s a sign COVID-19 is still active. There are 24 people in Lambton schools who have tested positive for COVID-19. It’s the highest number of students and teachers reported with the virus since the pandemic began a year ago. Lambton Public Health declared two outbreaks over the weekend; one at Lambton Meadowview Villa in Petrolia where a staff of the long term care home tested positive for COVID-19 and one at Queen Elizabeth II School in Sarnia where a teacher and a student are COVID-19 positive. An outbreak is only declared at a school if the virus was transmitted at the school. The virus has also surfaced in Central Lambton Schools. At St. Peter Canisius Catholic School in Watford, two classrooms are closed after four students tested positive. Two students at Brooke Central are also COVID-19 positive as is one student at LCCVI.

There are several classrooms in Corunna also closed because of the virus – one at Col. Cameron Public School and two at St. Joseph’s School where the virus has also been found. In all, there are 24 cases of COVID-19 in schools in the Lambton-Kent District – the most since the pandemic began. The number of COVID-19 cases rose significantly in the past week. Lambton Public Health reported 21 new cases Saturday morning, 24 Sunday morning, 22 new cases Monday and just 4 Tuesday to bring the number of total cases in Lambton to 2,259 as we approach the one year anniversary of the declaration of the world wide pandemic. One of the drivers of the increased numbers is an outbreak near Forest. There are now 38 people at Kettle and Stony Point who have tested positive for the virus. The outbreak came to light Thursday and four positive results were confirmed on the weekend. Chief Jason Henry is asking residents

to return to the health protocols of early in the pandemic and not to visit with people outside their households. “We did our part for 50 weeks strong....and after nearly a year of being involved in a global pandemic, we let our guard down a little bit and the virus crept in.” “There were 50 tests administered Monday, there were 20 results back and all 20 were positive,” Henry says. “We know more people are involved.. other people have been mentioning others people who have symptoms who have not be tested. “I can’t put enough stress on getting tested; early testing can stop this from going farther and farther. Let’s stop this where it is.” Henry said anyone who has associated with people who aren’t in their household should be tested. And he urged the community to “go back” to all the health protocols and to stay home except for essential purposes. He also credits the local schools for closing down March 3 which he says may limit the spread of the virus .

Camlachie area couple face drug trafficking charges

Two people from Plympton-Wyoming face drug charges after a raid by Lambton and Elgin Middlesex OPP. Police executed a search warrant on Michigan Line in the Camlachie area. Police seized illegal drugs including cocaine and mushrooms worth about \$46,000 on the street. Steve French, 42, and Sara French, 38, both of Plympton-Wyoming have been charged with two counts of drug possession for the purpose of trafficking. They were released and will be in court at a later date.



The drugs seized near Camlachie

HAVE YOU HEARD?



At **Lambton Audiology Associates**, we believe that providing exceptional audiological care should be the rule, not the exception. That’s why we work extra hard to provide the highest level of patient care and customer support in our community. After all, **We’re here to help YOU hear better!®**

OUR SERVICES

- Hearing assessments for all ages
- Hearing aid batteries and accessories
- Assistive listening devices
- Tinnitus treatment program
- Hearing help classes
- Home visits
- Convenient Saturday appointments
- Caring for Sarnia-Lambton since 1988
- Balance Assessment and Rehabilitation

CALL US TODAY TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT!




SARNIA
519-542-0569
102-1433 London Rd.
Sarnia, ON

PETROLIA
226-738-0401
4-4119 Petrolia Line
Petrolia, ON

www.lambtonaudiology.com

Petrolia Dentistry



There’s a home for healthy, attractive smiles in your neighbourhood

Looking for a dentist close to home?
Petrolia Dentistry offers dentistry for the whole family, from cleanings and exams to natural looking fillings, crowns, bridges & more. With convenient hours and a clean modern office, you’ll feel completely comfortable.

Dr. Mike Hoben
Dr. Rudha Al-Rohani
Dr. Rebecca Phillips

519-882-0520

430 Albany Street • petroliadentistry.com

Another \$3.4 million of COVID-19 funding in Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Another \$3.4 million is heading the Lambton County municipalities to deal with the financial burdens of COVID-19.

The province announced the second round of municipal funding this morning as part of \$500 million in grants across the province.

“Our municipalities have been clear that they need ongoing operating funding in 2021, and it’s important that we step up and provide more financial relief,” says Municipal Affairs Minister Steve Clark in a news release.

” At the same time, we need the federal government to join us and provide our municipal partners with the additional support they deserve.”

The local governments will all get some funding based on property assessment and COVID-19 data from the local public health unit.

Lambton County, which is in charge of public health and long term care – two areas with the highest expenses because of the pandemic – receives the most cash;

- Lambton County \$1,537,251
- Brooke-Alvinston \$44,249
- Dawn-Euphemia \$38,715
- Enniskillen \$47,066
- Oil Springs \$19,229
- Petrolia \$96,386
- Plympton-Wyoming \$139,073
- St. Clair \$250,680
- Warwick \$58,637
- Pt. Edward \$41,733
- Lambton Shores \$293,329
- Sarnia \$1,201,071

The province and federal government has already provided about \$1.39 billion to municipalities for COVID-19 relief.

Lambton’s treasurer says the funding was not built into the just passed 2021 budget.

“Although we have new funding from this program, we also have a number of service areas that have additional costs,” says Treasurer Larry Palarchio. “For example, in social services, our shelter costs have confirmed funding until early spring, we also have new unanticipated costs related to the public health vaccination roll out, and our corporate support areas are being stretched.”

He adds some of the new funding could be used if Lambton and Ontario faces a third wave of the pandemic.

MP Marilyn Gladu Sarnia-Lambton

We Are Here To Serve You

1000 Finch Drive,
Sarnia, Ontario
N7S 6G5

519-383-6600

marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca

www.mpmarilyngladu.ca



Scammers hone in on seniors waiting for vaccines

The Independent

Lambton Public Health officials are warning seniors not to be taken in by scammers trying to make money off COVID-19 vaccines.

“Since the opening of our local call centre and online COVID-19 pre-registration for those 90 years of age and older yesterday, we’ve had several

reports of seniors being contacted,” said Donna Schmidtmeier, Supervisor – Health Promotion in a news release.

“The public should know that Lambton Public Health does not charge a fee to pre-register for the vaccine, nor do we charge a fee for the vaccine itself. We will not ask you for any financial information whatsoever. And, unless you have called LPH to

pre-register for the vaccine directly or signed up for the pre-registration using our online platform, no one should contact you and ask for any personal information.”

Schmidtmeier says if something tells you the call is off, hang up and call Lambton Public Health at 519-383-8331 to verify the information.

Watford man to use lotto win for renos

A Watford man is \$76,000 richer after winning a lottery prize.

Stephen Mclean was checking his tickets when he discovered the win.

“I thought something was wrong at first.

“I scanned it a few more times and then compared my numbers to the

winning numbers to convince myself it was real!” he says in a news release.

“I was shocked and surprised more than anything.”

Mclean says he’ll complete renovations he’s been wanting to do for some time now.

“It feels pretty good!”



Watford's Stephen Mclean

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

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

Don't be puzzled by complicated insurance. At Brokerlink, we'll help you piece together an insurance policy to fit your needs. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.

SUDOKU PUZZLE = CHALLENGING
YOUR INSURANCE SHOULDN'T BE.

519.882.1290 4146 Petrolia Line

BrokerLink
Auto/Home/Business Insurance

Services available in Ontario through Canada Brokerlink (Ontario) Inc. "B" Brokerlink & Design is a trademark of Canada Brokerlink Inc. used under license. © Copyright 2016 Canada Brokerlink Inc. All rights reserved.



COMMUNITY NOTICE ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Every year, CN is required to clear its right-of-way of any vegetation that may pose a safety hazard. Vegetation on railway right-of-way, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to trackside fires and impair proper inspection of track infrastructure.

For safe railway operations, CN will conduct its annual vegetation control program on its rail lines in the province of Ontario. A certified professional will be applying herbicides on wand around the railway tracks (primarily along the 16 feet graveled area/ballast). All product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

The program is expected to take place from April to October 2021. Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation to see the list of cities as well as the updated schedule.

For more information, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.

CN.CA



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 N0M 2S0
or by emailing hwillemse@warwicktownship.ca

www.warwicktownship.ca

PW gives developer wings to split Bird Lane lot

Heather Wright
The Independent

A developer who wants to build two homes on one lot in Plympton-Wyoming’s Bird Streets has been given the okay. But he faces some new restrictions as the committee of adjustment tries to maintain the character of the neighbourhood near Erroll Village.

Realtor Tim Dillon bought the Hummingbird Lane home recently and now plans to remove the current house and build two on the property. But 92 per cent of the members of the community objected.

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 Roland 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’s planner, Patti Richardson, said the town’s own planning report clearly outlined Dillon was within his rights under the Zoning Bylaw and the

Official Plan.

The neighbours are also concerned if one developer can split a lot in the Bird Lanes, others will follow.

Linda Jared was one of the 93 people online for Tuesday’s meeting. She said the Plympton-Wyoming planning report was not accurate because it suggested the new lot sizes are compatible with the neighbourhood.

The new homes would have a frontage of 65 feet; Jared’s home, across the street, has a frontage of 130 feet. Jared suggested the committee wait until it has complete information from the developer before deciding.

And one of the former owners of the home, Laura Carruthers, told the committee she and her brothers sold the house to Dillon - the highest of six bidders. At the time, Carruthers says, Dillon told them he might build a new home or his daughter might live there for a while.

“It was never meant to be severed. And quite frankly, had we known this, we would never have considered selling the property to Mr. Dillon,” she said and the apologized to the neighbours.

Councillor Mike Vasey sided with the residents saying the severance would change the subdivision.

“Plympton-Wyoming has several unique small communities along the lake, all with their own character and it is one of our biggest assets,” he says.

“We have plenty of new subdivisions with the tight city feel along with others that have very large estate lots.

“I don’t see any advantage or need for Plympton-Wyoming to start carving up or older established neighborhoods.”

But while the members of Plympton-Wyoming’s committee of adjustment understood the neighbours concerns, the majority felt there was not a reason in the Zoning bylaw or the Official Plan which could justify turning the required minor variance down.

However, Councillor Netty McEwen suggested Dillon be required to make sure the new homes do not jut out in front of the other homes in the community, ruining the character of the streetscape. The committee agreed. Dillion will now have to place the homes further back on the lots.

The neighbours have 20 days to appeal the minor variance. At least one has suggested the municipality didn’t follow its own rules since it didn’t require Dillion to produce a plan with measurements for the meeting. He’s also suggested he is planning to appeal.

Same talk, still no action on Florence sewage

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad says after 32 years, the conversation has not changed much.

Broad and town staff met with officials from the Ministry of the Environment Thursday who still want the municipality to fix septic beds leaking into the Sydenham River.

Thirty-two years after the MOE alerted Dawn-Euphemia of the problem and after more than a decade of trying to come up with a fix for sewage from Florence homes, Dawn-Euphemia council notified the MOE it would only pursue a communal sewage bed to solve the problem if the province provided 100 per cent funding for it.

Council had come up with the solution which would cost over \$1 million - far more than the 67 homeowners could afford.

The council also questioned if the pollution was still occurring since the first testing was done 30 years ago. So the MOE returned to Florence in November and retested two of the drains which were running.

“The recent sampling has confirmed that the water quality in the drains is significantly degraded. The analytical results are consistent with those observed during the 2010 sampling survey. Both sampling surveys confirm that there is a significant load of untreated sanitary sewage in the storm water system,” MOE officials wrote.

Reports from the ministry’s surface water specialist at the ministry says E. Coli, phosphorus and ammonia were still major problems for runoff into the Sydenham River. It noted some samples had 1,000 times the allowable limit of E. Coli and Phosphorus was 100 times higher than the ministry

guidelines.

Broad met with MOE officials Thursday and says “the discussion was pretty well the same as it has been in the past. We have not changed our position. We do respond to complaints but we have not received an official complaint yet.”

Broad said ministry officials suggested going to the homes suspected of being the problem and do some checking; that’s something Dawn-Euphemia refuses to do.

Broad says the MOE found the problem in 1989 and did “nothing about it” for the nine years it had authority over homeowners septic systems.

“Now they want us to do their work.” Broad says the municipality will “wait and see” what the MOE will do saying “the ball is in their court.”

The ministry could order Dawn-Euphemia to act, but in the last 32 years, it has avoided that option.

Adelaide-Metcalf residents try to stop biosolids storage

People in Adelaide-Metcalf are rallying to try to stop a Lambton County fertilizer company from setting up shop near the Sydenham River.

Lasalle Agri wants to build a biosolids storage facility near the river and several agri-tourist businesses. The municipality has placed a hold on all development which

stopped the application. Lasalle Agri is appealing the decision to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal.


Fred Cahill, the owner of the nearby Texas Longhorn Ranch says the smell of the biosolids would drive customers away from the ranch getaway he’s built over the last 37 years.

“The last time they temporarily

stored these biosolids on this land, the smell would take your breath away,” he says.

The residents are intervening in the hearing.

Lasalle Agri is also embroiled in a Normal Farm Practices Hearing with three Lambton municipalities, Brooke-Alvinston, Warwick and Dawn-Euphemia.



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.

Description of Land:

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
RR #8
Watford ON N0M 2S0
(519) 849-3926









All donations are welcomed, however **we currently are in need of the items shown here.**

PETROLIA FOOD BANK
Here to lend a helping hand

4156 Petrolia Line, Unit 1 (rear)
519-882-3950

Donations can be left at
Heidi's Independent - Petrolia,
Wyoming Foodland and Corunna NoFrills
or dropped off to the Food Bank
Mondays 9:00-11:30am or
4th Wednesday 6-7:45pm

Your Generosity & Support
Are Greatly Appreciated.

DON'T HAVE TIME TO SHOP - GROCERY GIFT CARDS ALWAYS WELCOMED!

Ag Safety Week

Planning is good for farmers mental health

“This is the way it’s always been done.”
“There’s not enough time.”
“We’re doing fine without one.”

There are endless excuses for not having a farm business plan, but a recent study has found that farm business management isn’t just good for business, it’s also good for mental health.

Healthy Minds, Healthy Farms, a research study from Farm Management Canada, explored the relationship between farmer mental health and farm business management, looking to identify how one can help or perhaps hinder the other.

“I wondered if, for already busy and overwhelmed farms, our encouragement to improve farm business practices was adding stress to an already stressful situation, or whether we are helping,” Heather Watson, executive director of Farm Management Canada, says of the research’s premise.

Business management practices can play a significant role in producing healthy farms and farmers.

In fact, the study, which surveyed 1,735 Canadian farmers, found 88 per cent of farmers who follow a written business plan say it has contributed to their peace of mind.

Watson says there is a flip side to that promising finding; with more than 75 per cent of those surveyed saying they are experiencing medium to high levels of stress, she was surprised 41 per cent of farmers are not following a business plan because they believe they are succeeding without one.

“It just doesn’t add up when you consider the sheer number of farmers experiencing significant stress,” Watson says. Women and young farmers stood out as having particularly high levels of stress as a result of farm transition and family conflict.

“We hope that our research findings can help farmers start to redefine success and what it means not only for themselves but for their farm team.”

So what’s stopping so many farmers from using business management practices? Watson explains that a lot of it comes down to misconceptions about business planning. A prime example of those misconceptions: once a business plan is in writing, it’s written in stone.

“Farmers tell us the agriculture sector is too unpredictable and complex to put any plan in writing. Many cite they have a plan, but then point to their head. However, writing the plan down is key, as it’s not the plan itself that is the most important, but rather the process of planning – thinking about your end goals, risks and opportunities, and inviting others into creating the vision for the farm, family and themselves,” says Watson.

“Planning ahead does not mean predicting the future – it means preparing for whatever might happen in the future.”



It’s no secret that risk management is a key ingredient for planning ahead. But Watson says the common status quo practices aren’t adequate.

She says there is a need for the agricultural industry “to be bold” in taking a more comprehensive approach to managing risk.

That means having risk management go beyond just the financial side of things and include business planning factors, like human resources, marketing, and production.

“What good is a profitable farm if its people are stressed and heading towards burnout or worse?”

“What good is a profitable farm if its people are compromising their farm safety and taking unnecessary chances with their lives?” says Watson.

“We must, as an industry, realize and promote the interconnectedness of managing risk, including mental health, and managing the farm through proven business practices.”

In addition to proving a positive connection between farm business management and mental health, the Healthy Minds, Healthy Farms study also identified 24 comprehensive recommendations. Those recommendations include a range of actions from raising awareness about farmer mental health and improving mental health literacy for farmers to providing risk management support and advocating for farmer-specific mental health services.

“Our research results provide a roadmap for Canada’s entire agricultural industry to support mental health and likewise farm business management,” Watson explains.

Farm Management Canada is working to ensure the study doesn’t “sit on the shelf collecting dust,” and has incorporated the findings and recommendations across all of the organization’s services and programs.

“We have a chance to really step up our game as an industry and support our farmers where they need it most.”

After all, as the study title suggests: a healthy mind goes hand in hand with a healthy farm.

-Canadian Agricultural Safety Association



John Couwenberg CCA-ON, CCS
Area Manager
Elgin, Middlesex and
Lambton Counties

AGRIS Co-operative Ltd.
260 Currie Rd., Dutton, ON N0L1J0
T 519-762-2836 C 519-490-4372
johnc@agris.coop

www.agris.coop



**L&D
CONCRETE INC.**

FREE ESTIMATES

**SMALL CONCRETE POURS
EXCAVATOR**

519-466-7276

**LEAD
an AgSafe
CANADA**

March 14-20, 2021
agsafetyweek.ca
SAFE & STRONG FARMS
#AgSafeCanada

PRESENTED BY





**Celebrating
Safe &
Strong
Farms**



**McCORMICK INSURANCE
BROKERS LTD.**

Representing Lambton Mutual
Insurance Company

519-864-1293 | www.mccormickins.ca



CANADIAN AGRICULTURE SAFETY WEEK

Thank you to our Canadian farmers for
leading the agricultural industry in safety
and sustainability.



**MARILYN
GLADU MP**
SARNIA—LAMBTON



MPMARILYNGLADU.CA • 519-383-6600

Ag Safety Week

Handle anhydrous ammonia with care

While fertilizers share a common purpose, there's no 'one-size-fits-all' instruction manual. Learning about the unique properties and precautions for each fertilizer used on your operation, could save time, money, and prevent serious injury.

Anhydrous ammonia, or NH₃, is one of the most commonly used fertilizers. It's low-cost, highly effective and contains one of the most concentrated forms of nitrogen. It can also be highly hazardous.

Anhydrous means without water, and anhydrous ammonia can rapidly cause dehydration and severe burns if it combines with water in the body. Symptoms can include difficulty breathing, irritation to the eyes, nose or throat, burns or blisters. Exposure to high concentrations can lead to death. One deep breath of the gas can be fatal or cause severe damage to the throat and lungs. Needless to say, the handling and storage of NH₃ requires special care.

One of the first 'safety stops' farmers would have to consider is the storage of the fertilizer. If it's being stored on your property, the proper handling practices and treatment in the case of an incident should be detailed in your Emergency Response Plan. The local fire department should also be made

aware of where the fertilizer is being stored.

When handling the fertilizer, we recommend that you not work alone. It's also important that anyone handling or applying NH₃ wear proper Personal Protective Equipment. This includes a face shield and safety eyewear, gloves, and appropriate respiratory protection where appropriate.

Weather is an ever-present factor in farming, and the application of fertilizer is no exception. It's important to pay special attention to the direction of the wind. If there's an uncontrolled release of NH₃, quickly move upwind to avoid exposure and shut down all ignition sources if safe to do so. In the event of an exposure, follow the first aid measures indicated on the Safety Data Sheet.

Special precautions should also be taken to prevent NH₃ runoff from contaminating the surrounding environment.

If you're the farm owner or employer, it's your responsibility to provide training, develop procedures, and review the Safety Data Sheet with your employees. Associations such as the Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers and Fertilizer Canada are helpful sources of information, and provide training courses.

CN focusing on grain truck safety

Erin Kelly
Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

'It'll never happen to me.'

It's a phrase many farmers say when comes to railway incidents.

It's a mindset the CN Police Service is looking to change with a safety program focusing on grain truck drivers.

After analyzing data and realizing a significant number of incidents occurring at crossings involved professional truck drivers, CN police started looking for ways outside of enforcement to change that trend.

"You can stop vehicles, you can ticket drivers, but it is more important to change attitudes and behaviours about crossings," says Sgt. Paul Leaden, operations supervisor for the CN Police Service's Prairie Division, which includes Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northwestern Ontario.

CN police recognized one of the best ways to help change those attitudes would be to meet drivers in their own environment. It decided to take a hands-on approach and began going out to grain elevators in the Prairie Division to speak with drivers directly.

CN police officers "are targeting the drivers while they are actually in the line loading up at the elevators," Leaden explains of the Grain Initiative endeavour launched in 2018.

"We have always been doing

educational outreach, but we really shifted the focus to the grain industry and have been able to spread the safety message to these drivers in a very positive way."

Much of the safety messaging relayed to drivers is about the capabilities of trains including it takes roughly 1,850 metres for the average train to stop.

Police are also pointing out warning signals to watch for at crossings. The information heighten overall awareness about trains, and helps drivers anticipate rail movements when they are approaching tracks.

"Our goal is to have zero incidents, and so we are trying to be as proactive as we can.

"We want to prevent incidents from ever happening rather than responding to them and dealing with them after the fact," says Leaden.

He points out an essential part of reaching and maintaining that goal is community engagement.

While professional truck drivers are the target audience for this particular program, the initiative undoubtedly helps build greater rail safety awareness throughout communities where train tracks and grain facilities are commonplace.

"Community engagement is a number one priority for us because our tracks run through communities across the country."



LAMBTON MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY



FARM SAFETY

————— Make farm safety your number 1 priority! —————

Farm safety is about everyone who lives, works on, or visits a farm being aware of the potential dangers on the farm, and how to avoid putting themselves at risk.

We know that you want your farm to be productive and successful, but it is also your home, and the place where the people whom you love most, live too!

Watford, Ontario ~ 1-800-561-4136 ~ Neighbours helping neighbours



Lakeside
GRAIN & FEED LIMITED



Have a Safe 2021 Growing Season

Forest | 1-800-265-3899
Petrolia | 519-882-2240
Melbourne | 519-289-26067
Wardsville | 519-695-3454



lakesidegrain.com

Ag Safety Week

Safety association helps find out if your farm is safe

Working day in and day out, it's easy to go into auto-pilot. But it can lead to unwanted consequences in a hazardous environment.

Documenting the potential hazards on your farm, being aware of the risks, and putting controls in place can go a long way in protecting yourself, your family, your workers and visitors.

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association has developed a Hazard Assessment Tool that guides farmers in cataloguing potential risks on their property. We distinguish between hazardous conditions and hazardous acts.

We also found it important to categorize the various sources of risk. There are a number of risks that aren't commonly considered, so reviewing the categories can help ensure a thorough risk assessment.

The risk categories outlined in the tool include:

- a hazardous condition is a hazard that can be observed, like an icy walkway.
- hazardous act is a hazard

that is created by a person or thing, such as rain or spraying water onto a walkway in freezing temperatures.

Hazardous acts often result in hazardous conditions.

- Biological: bacteria, viruses, insects, plants, birds, animals, and humans, etc.
- Chemical: depends on the physical, chemical and toxic properties of the chemical
- Ergonomic: repetitive movements, improper set up of workstation, etc.
- Physical: radiation, magnetic fields, pressure extremes (high pressure or vacuum), noise.
- Psychosocial: stress, violence, harassment, time constraints
- Safety: slipping/tripping hazards, inappropriate machine guarding, equipment malfunctions or breakdowns

The Hazard Assessment Tool will also prompt you to rank the likelihood of an incident to occur from extremely remote to imminent and the severity if it did happen – from serious injury or fatal to no injury. Once the hazard has been ranked,

you will want to identify how to control it. This is done using what is called the 'hierarchy of controls'. The priority of this process is eliminating the hazard, substitution, isolating the hazard from the worker, controlling the hazard through administrative controls such as job rotation, shiftwork, training, or procedures, or using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect the worker

Hazard assessment is an important part of keeping your farm, your workers, and visitors safe. All hazard assessments should be documented for due diligence purposes. Our Hazard Assessment Tool can be found at agsafetyweek.ca under resources.

This safety advice article is a part of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week. Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW) is an annual campaign held the third week of March of each year. CASW is presented by Farm Credit Canada.

- Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

We're fortunate here in Lambton to have such a strong and renowned agri-food industry. It's the hardworking farmers, farm workers and food processors, and others across our supply chain, who continue to produce and deliver the incredible food that feeds Canadians, thank you.

BOB BAILEY

MPP - Sarnia - Lambton

Constituency Office:
805 Christina St. N., Suite 102
Point Edward ON N7V 1X6
Tel: 519-337-0051

www.bobbaileympp.com • bobbaileycp@pc.ola.org



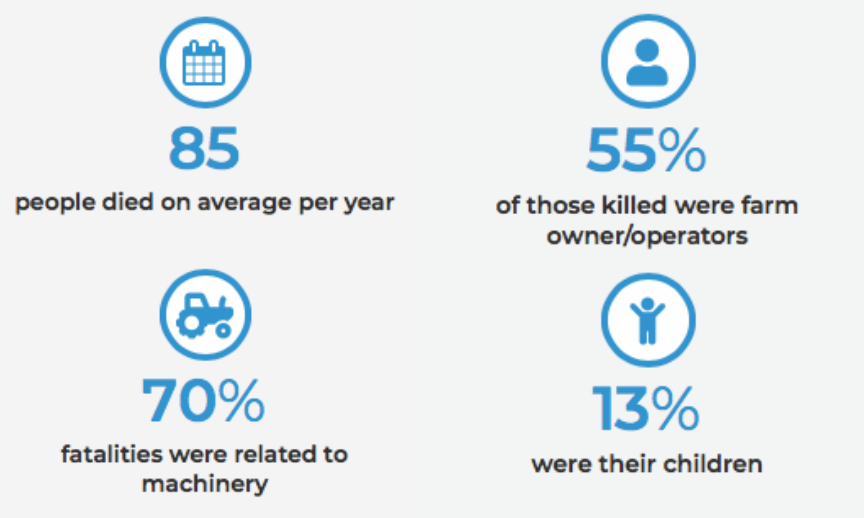
Lead an AgSafe Canada



BEBINGH
INSURANCE LIMITED
REPRESENTING LAMBTON MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

519-876-2538 • 1-800-967-2538
5310 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON N0M 2S0

Children need safe places to play on the farm




Seventy-four percent of the agriculture-related child and youth fatalities were boys. Children less than five years of age had the highest fatality rate of 11.1 fatalities per 100,000 farm population.

There are some places that kids shouldn't play on our farm. It's best to stay away from places like:

Roads and where other traffic or farm equipment is moving, places where there's lots of dust or wind, where chemical and medicines are stored, near water, close to livestock or pests or toxic plants (like poison ivy)

The adults on the farm want to keep you safe. So it's important that you always follow the rules.

the barnders by gord.coulthart



"I'm taking a bit of time for self-care."



Let us protect your livelihood



Whether you own a large-scale commercial operation or a hobby farm, we'll find you the best insurance for your unique needs.

Ask us how you can save even more with **Farm Advantage**®.

519.882.2470
BrokerLink.ca/farm    

BrokerLink Insurance

*Customers with a minimum \$5,000 in premium can participate in the Farm Advantage points program. Subject to policy conditions and exclusions.
©2021 BrokerLink Inc. "BrokerLink & Design" is a trademark of BrokerLink Inc. All rights reserved.

Ag Safety Week

Agriculture has opportunity to be stronger after the COVID-19 pandemic

Erin Kelly
Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

We can all agree that 2020 was a year like none other. It was a year that tested everyone's readiness to adapt to change quickly. And the agricultural industry was no exception.

From labour logistics and personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages to processing delays and pivoting to online marketing, many farmers across the country encountered a long and ever-changing list of challenges due to COVID-19.

"Farmers faced a lot of new challenges in their ability to function within the restrictions, as did everybody," says Wendy Bennett, executive director of AgSafe in British Columbia. "But if you have a farm, the opportunity for everybody to work from home doesn't work. Here I am working at my dining room table, but that's not an option if there

are 100 acres of apples to pick."

There is no denying challenges experienced across the Canadian agricultural industry. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has also provided the sector with a unique learning opportunity.

"We all adapted because we were forced to. It's never fun to have to do something because you're backed into a corner, but there has also been some benefit to being forced to explore change, to make it a priority," explains Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, director of outreach and member relations with Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

"We all hit some bumps and hurdles along the way while figuring it all out and if we look at how our food value chain adapted, it's really impressive and worth recognizing."

Health and safety procedures top the list of what has been impacted

across Canada. "COVID opened a lot of eyes to worker health and safety requirements across the board. Those requirements have largely always been there, but some people didn't think they applied to them. I think, moving forward, the experience of dealing with COVID is going to make people pay more attention," says Bennett. Her organization has seen a noticeable increase in requests for help with health and safety measures.

Van Den Heuvel says the pandemic underscored the importance of implementing a farm safety plan and conducting a risk assessment.

"We are going to look at health and safety differently going forward. COVID has been, for lack of a better term, a good exercise for implementing a farm safety plan," she says.

"Health and safety are part of an overall farm management

plan, and having a solid management plan, understanding processes for making decisions, and communicating with family members and workers were shown to be fundamental during COVID."

In fact, communication became an essential component across the agricultural industry in response to COVID-19, with collaboration proving particularly beneficial for commodity groups, which used shared experiences to find solutions and address challenges.

"The importance of having open communication really came to the forefront with COVID. The only way that all of us were able to adapt to COVID successfully was by working together," says Van Den Heuvel.

"COVID showed us what true collaboration brings us; it showed us when we work together, how much further we can get." But the benefits of increased communication

haven't been limited to the agricultural industry. With more people cooking at home during the pandemic, COVID-19 has provided agriculture with a valuable opportunity to connect with consumers about their food and talk about food security.

"There is definitely a recognition for agriculture amongst the public like we haven't necessarily seen in the past, and that means more opportunities to connect with the public about their food," says Van Den Heuvel.

What things will look like post-pandemic is still anyone's guess. One thing is certain; farmers' continue to produce safe and healthy products

"Everyone recognizes that everyone else in agriculture is going through similar challenges and that collaboration will only make the industry stronger for everyone because COVID showed us that you never know what's next."

THANK YOU FARMERS,

For continuing to work and provide for us. We appreciate you!

Beth Hackett
INSURANCE AGENCY LTD

AUTO - HOME - FARM - COMMERCIAL INSURANCE



LAMBTON MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY

Proudly representing Lambton Mutual Insurance Company

519-845-3212

beth@bethhackettins.ca

663 Broadway, Wyoming, ON

Sports



PHOTOS VIA TWITTER

Oil Springs native Meghan Hunter urges young women to never give up and work hard. Hunter, who started as a Petrolia Oiler and played for Team Canada is now the director of administration and amateur scouting for the Chicago Blackhawks.

‘Never let anyone tell you that something is not possible’

Barry Wright
The Independent

Keep working hard and never give up. That was the central message from Meghan Hunter during an interview this Monday on the London Knights website in celebration of International Women’s Day. “Nothing ever beats hard work,” said the Oil Springs native. “Never let anyone tell you that something is not possible.” The Director of Administration and Amateur Scout with the NHL’s Chicago Blackhawks is thankful for the opportunities in hockey and wants to continue to support women in their goals in the sport.

“Be confident in what you do and keep working toward your dreams,” she added. Hunter, the seventh leading scorer in the history of women’s hockey at the University of Wisconsin and a finalist for the top collegiate women’s player in the US in 2001, has recently been talked about as potentially the first female general manager in the National Hockey League. While she is “excited, and a bit nervous” about the possibility, Hunter feels the talk may be a bit premature. “It would be an honour, for sure, but I have more to learn still,” she said. “I’m just trying to be a sponge and ask questions and we’ll see what happens.”

Prevost named Women’s Ambassador

The Independent

As part of International Women’s Day on Monday, the Sarnia Sting announced the hiring of Carolyn Prevost as its new Women’s Hockey Ambassador. “I am really looking forward to getting started,” said Prevost in a statement. “Although I am not currently living in Sarnia, my family is all there, and it holds a special place in my heart. I look forward to getting to work with the Sting and young women in the Sarnia-Lambton area, while creating a bigger connection between the men’s and women’s programs.”

The Lambton Junior Sting and Bluewater Hawks grad, who over the years has been nationally recognized in hockey, taekwondo and CrossFit, is currently a high school teacher in Oakville. “To say Carolyn’s resume and experience is impressive would be an understatement,” commented Sting General Manager Dylan Seca. “To add someone of her caliber to our group is a tremendous opportunity. We are looking forward to working with Carolyn to continue to celebrate her accomplishments and promote the opportunities for women in the game of hockey.”

Kyle Dawson could play in Owen Sound

The Independent

If Kyle Dawson is to play senior lacrosse this summer it will be in Owen Sound, not Brampton. After several months of back-and-forth, the Ontario Lacrosse Association has approved the relocation of the historic GTA franchise to Owen Sound. Dawson, from Florence but now studying in Toronto, was selected by Brampton in the Major League Series draft last year. Dawson says the league is contemplating a ten-game season this summer. It would include a home-and-home

schedule with the other teams from Brooklin, Cobourg, Oakville, Six Nations, and Peterborough in July and August. But, while a shortened season has been discussed, it is anything but a certainty according to the MSL commissioner. In a recent interview, Doug Luey said the league would not play this season unless current non-contact rules were eased by the province. He says a decision will be made by mid-April. If Dawson is not able to play this summer, he’ll set his sights on his National Lacrosse League pro debut with Rochester later this year.

Public Notice of Service Change for Yard Waste & Brush



Effective April 1, 2021, the current yard waste and brush collection sites located at the Watford Arena and on Warwick Village Road will be closed.

The current collection sites no longer meet environmental best practices, have experienced a high volume of contamination and are continually used by persons who do not reside in our community. Further, future planned development in area surrounding the arena creates a conflict with the use of this space for the purposes of yard waste and brush collection.

The Township of Warwick has partnered with Waste Management to continue to provide a **FREE drop off site** for yard waste and brush to all residents in our community. This free service will be available to all residents who live in Watford, Warwick Village and the rural area.

Starting on April 1st all yard waste clippings and brush can be taken by residents to the Twin Creeks Landfill at 5768 Nauvoo Road, Watford ON during all regular landfill operating hours free of charge:

Monday to Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The new collection site at the landfill will be located in the same drop off area as the existing household waste and recycling drop off. Please ensure your material is free of contaminants (plastics, metals) and is either loose or bagged in certified compostable paper bags.

Acceptable Material:

- Plants
- Tree clippings
- Leaves
- Grass clippings
- Garden waste
- Hedges
- Shrubs
- Pumpkins
- Christmas Trees

Non Acceptable Material:

- Plastic bags
- Waste and recyclables
- Sod, soil and sand
- Building materials (i.e. wood)
- Stones
- Tree limbs/branches exceeding 4” in diameter

Erickson's

AUTO CARE SERVICE

SINCE 2005

SERVICE Domestic AND Import Vehicles

CERTIFIED U-HAUL DEALER

VISA Interac MasterCard

Discovery Line

OUR LOCATION

Ambulance

Centre Street

Access Mini Storage

Tim Hortons

Petrolia Line

N

NEW HOFMANN® WHEEL ALIGNMENT MACHINE

SPECIAL \$15 OFF

Wheel Alignments

Until March 20, 2021

A/C Systems • Electrical Diagnostics • Brakes/ABS Brakes
Safeties • Alternators • Steering/Suspension • Coolant Flushes
Tires • Starters • Engine Tune-Ups • Batteries • Exhaust System
Oil Changes • Reprogram Powertrain Control Module

519-882-3652

265 Centre Street, Petrolia

www.ericksonsaautoservice.ca

Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday 8am-5:30pm & Saturdays By Appointment Only



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Marion Higgin, 96, was among the first people to get the COVID-19 vaccine in a community clinic in Point Edward as Lambton Public Health opened its mass vaccination clinics for those over 90. People over 80 will begin registering for the vaccine March 18.

A shot of hope for Lambton seniors

Heather Wright
The Independent

They have missed the hugs of grandchildren, visiting with friends and travelling, but hundreds of seniors are a little closer to enjoying the important things in life after getting the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Lambton Public Health opened its mass vaccination clinics for the first time on the weekend, calling people over 90 to come in for their first shot. For many, it was the first time in months they had been out of the house.

Nelly Dykhous, 97, of Port Lambton took one of her first extended trips Monday to get a vaccine in Wyoming. She hasn't seen her son, Henk, who lives in Florida, for a year. As she rolled up her sleeve to get the COVID-19 vaccine, she was hoping she could soon go to see him, although she thinks it may be next year.

Irvine Syer, 95, of Enniskillen was excited to be getting his vaccine, too. A few people have been by to say hello during the pandemic, but he misses his grandchildren and great grandchildren

- all 26 of them.

Jocelyn Daunt, who lives in a granny suite at her daughter her and son-in-law's home just outside of Petrolia also misses the pre-pandemic closeness of visiting with grandchildren. Before, there were hugs, now, grandchildren sit well away from her and some, who work in the health care field, are wary to visit for fear of making Daunt ill. "It will be a relief to my children and grandchildren," she says while resting after the vaccine. "They'll be more comfortable to be around me."

Doris Withenshaw, 97, has also been fairly isolated in her Sarnia home, her daughter, Arlene Duchert, says. To help pass the time, the pair have been sewing quilts. "I'm the only one who has seen her regularly," says Duchert. "She has lost a lot of social contact with people."

For some, the vaccine was relief and surprise. Joan D'Hooghe, 90, of Wyoming was shocked as she received her shot. "It's done? Boy, is she good," she said of the public health nurse who administered her shot. "I didn't even know she was done."



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS



Irvine Syer of Enniskillen wore his piano key mask to be vaccinated in Wyoming. Doris Withenshaw, 97, middle, has been sewing quilts during the pandemic to keep busy. Emily Brouwer talks to Frances Robb, 97 at the clinic in Point Edward while Nelly Dykhous of Port Lambton rolled up her sleeve in Wyoming.

Classifieds

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.

Card of Thanks

Thank you

Joan Bogaert and family wish to extend a sincere thank you to all the family and friends for their support during this difficult time, your kind words of comfort, food, flowers, cards and donations to the Parkinson's Canada have all been appreciated. A special thank you to Erie St. Clair LHIN and the care they organised through their in-home service programs. We would also like to extend thanks to Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels.

Card of Thanks

Thank You

It is difficult to find the words to express our gratitude for the kindness shown to us in the past few weeks. The family of the late V. Pauline Hill (Kelly, Adams) would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, food, flowers and donations. We wish that all of her friends and relatives could have attended her funeral but being able to watch on livestream was wonderful in these Covid times.

We send our deepest appreciation to the wonderful staff at Meadowview Villa for providing her with excellent care for the past 15 years. Thank you to the pallbearers and to Steven and staff at Needham Jay Funeral Home for honouring our Mom with such dignity. Lastly, we all know she will be seeing the smiling faces of Dad, Dan, Dennis and Owen.

Sincerely,
Joyce, Judy, Debbie, Lorrain and Cheryl

Card of Thanks

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness and generosity given to us during our Karen's illness and after passing.

Thank you for all the support and prayers and encouragement given to her through Team Karen and many other ways.

Thank you for all the donations, food, plants, flowers and many cards of sympathy and some special gifts given to us. Thank you for the great care given to Karen by Dr.Mall, Dr.Madison and her Lone Team of Doctors.

Thank you to Adam and Steadman Funeral Home for guiding us with Covid rules. We are hoping to have a church service this summer. This is per Karen's wishes.

Al, Ken & Norma

In Memory

In memory of

ROBERT L.

Dobbin

A dear husband, father and grandfather with much love

Your life was a blessing,
Your memory a treasure ...
You are loved beyond words
and missed beyond measure
You are loved,
You are missed,
You are remembered

With much love
Coleen, Len, Patti, Lynn, Tracy and families

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

Obituary

WRIGHT
David George

December 8, 1947 – January 15, 2021

David’s family and friends are missing him. This was sudden. David’s optimism was contagious so we also expected recovery. David passed away peacefully on **January 15th** in London’s Victoria Hospital. His playlist was mostly Beatles beginning with these songs; Hey Jude, Because, I Will, & There Are Places I Remember. They turned up the music so everyone in the ICU could hear. They said it was lovely. David was the loving husband of Diana Wilson Wright; Dad to Dale (Temple) of Willow Beach, ON, and Karl (Chantalle) of Guelph, ON; Grandpa to Vanessa (Sara), Alicia, Kyndra, and Haley, and Great-Grandfather to Lincoln; brother to Diane Dumbleton (Paul) of Kingston, ON and Pat Villebrun of Belleville, ON; brother-in-law to Lex Wilson (Ellie) of Sackville, NB. He will be fondly remembered by nieces & nephews in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Nova Scotia. Long term commitments were important to David. In a world where the average Canadian marriage lasts 12 years, David and Diana’s partnership lasted fifty. In a world where people may change postal codes often, they called Warwick Township home for 45 years. And in a world of multiple employers and careers, David worked for St Clair Child and Youth Services from 1973 until his retirement in 2005. He was no less committed to his family and his friends. David was part of many communities. As a musician, he was one of the locally renowned Casuals. They played many venues, having met at the Sarnia Yacht Club’s Tuesday Night musicians’ session. David is much missed by his closest friend, Bill Hines, his partner in Two’s Company. At the Yacht Club, David served on many committees, on the Board, and as Commodore in 2014. In his work, he had a lasting positive impact on the culture of St Clair Child and Youth Services and Children’s Mental Health



in Ontario. His leadership style was remarkable. A man without ego is an amazing leader. He is remembered fondly by his former colleagues there, as well as at other Children’s Mental Health Centres in Ontario. David enjoyed his life. Working and playing with his sons, Dale and Karl, was a great joy. He worked in a job he loved. David was a natural in the water, as a swimmer, a scuba instructor, and then, a sailor. He excelled at old house renovations and the maintenance of Kairos. He cherished every one of his 37 pets. He was always game to travel with his family by air, land or water. He baked really good bread and cookies. He escaped into books and music every day. He had the most wonderful laugh. You could hear it across a room. It could lift you in the way that good music does. **As it is not possible to gather at this time, you can remember David by making some music, baking some bread, reading a book, knitting some mitts, being kind to animals, or helping a child.** If you wish, two causes close to David’s heart are St. Clair Child and Youth Services, and Forest Kineto Theatre, Kiwanis Club of Forest Capital Campaign. The family would like to thank Dr. Saini and everyone at The Regional Cancer Centre at LHSC for giving us some extra time with David, and to Dr. Ball’s extraordinary team at Victoria Hospital ICU, especially Nurse Marlie, and Social Worker Bev Lewis for helping him on his way. Online Condolences at www.woodlandcemetery.ca

In Memory

In loving memory of **PEARL BRYDGES** my mother who let us March 12, 2004.

No one knows how much we miss you.
No one knows the pain.
Time has too much credit,
It’s not a great healer.
Now that your seat is empty,
Life has never been the same.
In our hearts your memory lingers
There’s not a day.
I don’t think of you.

Lovingly Remembered,
Son Bob and Family

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.**

Obituary

DALZIEL
Rose Marie (Walsh)

Jan 22, 1936 - Feb 27, 2021

Rose Marie passed away at WRH-Ouellette Campus in Windsor, ON. She is predeceased by her husband Bruce Dalziel (1985). She will be missed by her children, Tom Dalziel (Cindy Wood) and Mary Dalziel (Bill Peco). She is the proud Grandmother of Adam, Jason, Stephanie, Katy, Kevin, Samantha & Ryley. Rose Marie is the beloved daughter of the late Albert and Mary (“Molly” Gallagher) Walsh. She is predeceased by her brother Joe Walsh (Marion). She leaves behind her brother Ed Walsh (Karen), sisters in law: Marguerite Boyd (Don) and Jan Dalziel (Alex) and many nieces and nephews. Rose Marie worked for 28 years as a Registered Practical Nurse at the Leamington Memorial Hospital and was never able to completely give up her caregiver roll. She enjoyed taking care of Ida for 10 years after retiring from the hospital. She volunteered at the Sun Parlour Nursing Home until last year. Grandma always enjoyed a good game of cards. Half the fun was teasing Grandma about changing the rules part way through the game. Grandma enjoyed a good laugh even if she was laughing at herself. In her spare time, Rosie would play shuffleboard, go to Tai Chi, walk with a friend or go shopping. She loved to go to dances and try her luck at the casino. She was an active member of the CWL at St. John de Brebeuf Church in Kingsville. Rosie was blessed to have many special friends over the years. Mom was fiercely independent and just as stubborn when she needed to be. She could “stretch a dollar” farther then you could imagine. These qualities and strengths are what helped her face some of life’s most difficult challenges. She came into this world 85 years ago just weighing 1 lb. She was born with survival instincts. She



lost her Mom when she was just a child. She persevered, went to school and graduated as a Registered Practical Nurse. She fell in love, married our Dad and had us. They moved from the Petrolia area to start a new life in Kingsville. When Dad died May 23, 1985 that rocked our worlds. Mom knew she had the support of her brothers and so many others that offered their help but she took charge, did what she needed to do, like it or not. Fast forward past our marriages and growing families to today... Mom was living on her own, independently, doing things the way she wanted to do them, until recently. She went for a test related to a heart valve issue Feb 17th. Four days later she developed a cough. She received a positive COVID 19 diagnosis on Feb 26th. She passed away at 12:25am on the 27th. Mom, Grandma, Rose Marie, Rosie..it is your time to dance, laugh and embrace those that are waiting for you. Our hearts hurt to see you go but there is comfort in knowing that you are “home”. **We will have a celebration of life in the Spring. There will be an interment in the Mount Calvary Cemetery, Wyoming, ON. at that time.** Arrangements entrusted to Kendrick Funeral Home - Kingsville (519-733-4111). Memories and condolences may be shared at www.Kendrickfuneralhome.com

Obituary

HART
Linda

At Bluewater Health Services, Sarnia on **Thursday, March 4, 2021**. Linda Hart (Burns) of Watford at the age of **76**. Lovingly remembered by her husband of 55 years, Don Hart and her son Jim (Bridget) Hart and her grandchildren; Emma and Audrey. Dear sister of Larry (Marie) Burns, Gord (Nancy) Burns, Wanda (Larry) Lawson, Sue (Will) Wiendels and Kim Burns (late Mary). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her son John in 1994. **A celebration of Linda’s life will take place at a later date.** In memory of Linda, please consider a donation to the Sarnia-Lambton Branch of the VON or Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital. Arrangements entrusted to DENNING’S OF WATFORD 519 876-2218. Share a memory at www.watfordfuneralhome.com

Obituary



DALES
J. Crawford

DALES, J. Crawford - Died peacefully at his home near Petrolia, with his wife by his side on **Saturday, March 6, 2021**. J. Crawford Dales, was in his **85 year**. Crawford is survived by his wife of 60 years Helene (nee Graf) and his daughters Jody (Francis Muscatt) Harshaw and her son J.T. and Jennifer (Dave) Creighton. Crawford was a retired chemical engineer from Imperial Oil, he was also a member and former regional chair of the Canadian Pony Club. **Cremation has taken place.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society (www.cancer.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared o-line at www.needhamjay.com.

Coming Event

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA - The Petrolia & District Lions 33rd Annual Easter Eggstravaganza 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.

Coming Events

COMMUNITY LAW SCHOOL (SARNIA-LAMBTON) INC. - Virtual Community Law School. April 14, 2021 virtual on zoom from 11-12am. “Legal Protections for Survivors of Labour Trafficking & Domestic Servitude” Please send any questions to sign up email virtualcommnitylawschool@gmail.com.

Obituary



VOKES
Bruce

VOKES, Bruce - Passed away peacefully in his home on **Monday, March 8, 2021**. Bruce Vokes, **70 years**, was of Petrolia. Bruce will be missed by his wife of 50 years Susan (nee Sambell). He was a proud father of Todd and Trina Vokes and Adam and Dana Vokes, grandfather to Taylor (Chad Laton), Jaymi-Lynn, Maddison (Nick Milford), Sydney, and great grandfather to Boston. He will be missed by his sister Bonnie and Bob Tower and his brother Brian Vokes. Bruce was predeceased by his parents Ross and Betty Vokes and brother Tom and his wife Christine Vokes. **Cremation has taken place and a private graveside interment will be held in Wyoming Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society (www.cancer.ca). Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.

Coming Event

**BUYING
ALL
GOLD
SILVER
ALL JEWELRY
ALL COINS
TOP PRICE
PAID**

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 19
9 am - 5 pm**

PETROLIA LIONS HALL
451 Huggard St., Petrolia
Next to Arena

**Covid 19 Precautions
in Place**

52 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Serving Petrolia Since 2004!
Dan W. Jones B.A.B. Ed.
519-818-1805

Death Notices
February 27 - March 5, 2021

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

PARR, Eleanor
Age 87, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

DEVOS, Marguerite
Age 90, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, MARCH 1

NOBLE, Ryan
Age 29, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SAHVER, Donelda
Age 85, of Watford
Denning’s of Watford

LAIRD, Yvonne
Age 87, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MACKANESS, Bernice
Age 87, of Sarnia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

STRICKLAND, Pauline
Age 91, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

SHEPHARD, James
Age 93, of Brigden
Steadman Funeral Chapels

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

VENTURA, Gaeteno
Age 89, of Petrolia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

STEVEN, Norma
Age 84, of Forest
Denning’s of Forest

PAYNE, Bess
Age 91, of Corunna
Knight Funeral Home

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

RUMBOLD, Anongnart
Age 52, of Brigden
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

HART, Linda
Age 76, of Watford
Denning’s of Watford

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

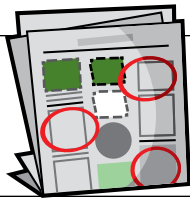
ALTAF, Mohammed
Age 61, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

BURR, Bob
Age 85, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

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

Classified Walhline: Monday @ 12noon

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

Real Estate



405 Erie St. WATFORD

Pride of ownership is evident in this extremely well maintained 2 bedroom one floor home. Ideal for seniors or first time home buyers. Spacious living room, dining room and eat in kitchen, concrete driveway to garage, huge deck, fenced yard and more. Too many updates to mention. High speed unlimited fiber optics internet available.
Call for more details!

\$350,000

SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE
7963 Egremont Road, Watford • 519.849.6783 www.shanahanrealty.com
Leo Shanahan Sales Representative
Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Fax-519.849.6683






at 2:00am
on Sunday, March 14
mark your calendars

Answers to this week's

Sudoku

Brought to you by:

519.882.1290
4146 Petrolia Line
Petrolia



Auto/Home/Business Insurance

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

Notice

Sarnia Flea Market

114 N. Christina St
Open Every Sunday 9am to 4pm

Truck Loads of Antiques Quality Used Furniture
Collectables, Jewellery, Books, Coke Collectables
Video & Games for Big & Little Kids!
... so much MORE!

New Vendors Welcome!
COME CHECK IT OUT!
519-330-6816


Coming Event

Lambton County Science Fair

Open to students
Grades 3-12

Judging
April 9&10 2021
Virtual Event

For information and to register
www.lambtoncountysciencefair.ca
Registration Closes March 26th.



Church DIRECTORY



Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

We are closed due to Covid-19 at this time.

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.

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 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



Business & Service Directory



BOURQUE RENOVATIONS

Additions • Renovations
Kitchens & Baths
Trim Work • Custom Carpentry

329 Centre St., Petrolia
www.bourquerenovations.com

519-882-3344



Advertise your business or service here
for as little as

\$29.50 per week.
Call and find out more
226-738-0728

PRO-TAX

(Pro-Tax is a division of Teogotha Inc.)

Professional INCOME TAX SERVICES

519-882-2966
3927 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON
*Appointments ** Drop-Offs ** Contactless*
MARK AND JOANNE JAMIESON
jam_jo11@hotmail.com | www.protaxpetrolia.com

Drive-thru overdose leads to fine

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The lineup at the drive thru of the local coffee shop can get long, but a Tim Hortons in Sarnia had more than just the usual backup recently.

On Jan. 2 the drive thru at the Vidal St. Tim Hortons was blocked by a running car. The mini traffic jam caught the attention of staff who came outside to investigate.

In the white Saturn sedan sat Graham Jillson, slumped over the wheel. Sarnia Court heard Mar. 4 Jillson, 33, had passed out after smoking a substantial amount of fentanyl in the parking lot before heading through the drive thru and hitting the menu board.

Staff called emergency services who arrived and tried to get Jillson’s attention. Police busted a car window and peeled back the glass to turn off the running car.

Paramedics were able to revive Jillson, who said he’d just smoked fentanyl. He was taken to the hospital for treatment.

“The situation that occurred I feel very bad for, because I could have put

people at harm,” says Jillson. “I’m grateful that the first responders came and got me out of my car.”

“It really bothers me that I could have hurt somebody, and I’m embarrassed,” he says. “I’m willing to accept any of the consequences.”

“There was a tremendous level of impairment. The police had to break into his car to get him out as he was unresponsive while the vehicle was still in drive,” says Crown Attorney Ryan Iaquinta as he asked for a \$2,300 fine. “These are obviously very aggravating features, to have someone behind a vehicle in that state.”

But Justice Krista Leszczynski says Jillson understands the gravity of his actions, and was impressed he’s enrolled in addiction treatment programs since. “Your words are genuine and they demonstrate some insight into the wrongfulness of your conduct and the risk that you posed.”

Leszczynski settled on a \$2,000 fine and one year driving ban. “I wish you all the very best in addressing your addiction.”

- The Independent

Probation for cocaine possession

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The man awaiting trial for the murder of a Sarnia woman one year ago has resolved a drug possession charge.

Owen Clarke, 35 from London, appeared in Sarnia Court Mar. 8 pleading guilty to cocaine possession. He phoned in from the Central North Correctional Centre in Penetanguishene after being moved from the Stratford Jail, which recently closed after a COVID-19 outbreak.

Clarke was arrested in October 2019 following an investigation by the Sarnia Police Vice Unit. Clarke and a woman were followed as they drove to London to complete a drug deal, and were arrested during a traffic stop as they returned to Sarnia.

Clarke was found with 6.1 grams of cocaine, \$1,350 cash and various drug paraphernalia.

Clarke received a conditional discharge from Justice Anne McFadyen, with 18 months probation. He can’t have any weapons during that time, and cannot contact the woman he was arrested with.

Clarke is unlikely to be released anytime soon though. He remains in jail on a first-degree murder charge in the killing of Sarah Marie Thwaites last March. Thwaites, a 29 year-old mother of infant twins, died a day after she was found with injuries resulting from a “vicious assault,” according to Sarnia Police.

Clarke returns to court Apr. 6 on the murder charge.

- The Independent

Lunch time jail attack with tray gets probation

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A cafeteria assault at the Sarnia Jail means another 90 days for an inmate.

But since Bradley Kelly is already serving a 14 month term on other convictions, he won’t spend any further time behind bars.

Kelly, 21, appeared from the jail he’s called home since last year, after pleading guilty to drug charges, mischief, stolen property, and breaching bail conditions.

In January, Kelly entered the jail cafeteria at lunch and threw a series of punches at another inmate’s head. He grabbed the man’s lunch and dumped it on the floor before bashing him with the tray until guards intervened.

Kelly and the man had undisclosed, unresolved issues. “Obviously an assault in the context of the jail setting is considered a serious matter by the court because it’s hard for people to live with each other in

jail under that pressure and in that context,” says Justice Deborah Austin.

But Defense Lawyer Sarah Donohue spoke highly of her client, saying it was a “pleasant experience” working with Kelly.

“I represent a lot of people in this jurisdiction, and I think that goes highly to his credit.”

Austin took this into consideration, along with the fact Kelly had a difficult upbringing that saw him exposed to drugs at an early age. She decided the 90 days could be served concurrent to his current imprisonment, rather than added on at the end.

“I do hope that this sentence gives you an opportunity to get a little more of your education done and focus on some programming that’s going to help you to have a successful time in the community when you are released,” says Austin.

- The Independent



Social gatherings can have deadly consequences.



Stay home to stop the spread of COVID-19. Learn more at ontario.ca/covid-19

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario 