

COVID-19 rules, outbreaks lead to school staff shortages

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The Lambton-Kent District School Board is struggling to find teachers to cover classes as dozens of teachers isolated after being exposed to COVID-19.

And the director of education is hoping to hire more substitute teachers to fix the problem.

The issue comes to light after students at North Lambton Secondary School were shifted to online learning Monday. Lambton Public Health declared an outbreak at the school Sunday. The board’s website says 15 students now have tested positive for COVID-19.

In a news release, the board said the school could not be operated safely because so many teachers had to isolate after being exposed to the virus.

Director of Education, John Howitt, says the exposure may not have only been at school. “In some cases due to exposure in the community, in some cases due to exposures at school, and in some cases due to exposures within their family that require them to be self-isolating,” says Howitt.

The board did try to find substitute teachers to fill the gaps, but there simply wasn’t anyone available. All of the substitutes were either isolating or already assigned to other schools.

The problem is twofold, Howitt says. “We are seeing an increased need for the use of vocational teachers and temporary staff in other job categories due to two main things; one, an increase of cases that has required the staff to self-isolate or two, the self-screener tells them that they are not to report to work that day due to a symptom that they may be experiencing.”

Howitt says the school board is attempting to hire more substitute teachers and staff, and also contacting retired members for possible shifts.

And the union representing high school teachers says substitute teachers face another set of problems during the pandemic.

SEE TEACHERS PG 2

HELPING HER NEIGHBOURS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Janessa O’Hara, who grew up in Brooke-Alvinston, reaches into one of the cars at the Brooke-Alvinston COVID-19 drive thru testing centre at the arena in Alvinston Saturday. It was set up by the Central Lambton Family Health Team, which is a partner in the Wyoming testing centre, and the emergency officials in the community after public health closed Brooke Central School. Seven students there tested positive for COVID-19 and two of the cases were variants of concern. For more on the story see page 3.

Lambton locked down, businesses question why

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton businesses face tight restrictions again as the province imposed lockdown because of rising COVID-19 rates.

It means restaurants are reduced to takeout service, and gyms, arenas and personal services such as hair salons are closed. Retail businesses will be reduced to 25 per cent capacity in their stores.

The move comes as Lambton has the second highest level of COVID-19 cases per capita in the province. Testing has also confirmed the fast-moving COVID-19 variants are in Lambton, including at an outbreak at Brooke Central School near

Alvinston. (See page 3)

For small business people, the latest move is causing frustration. Officials with one Petrolia hair salon took to social media to argue personal services are not spreading COVID-19. Provincial statistics show since Feb. 23, there have been 15 cases of COVID-19 linked to personal services.

“The personal service industry has not been responsible for spread within the community and we have some of the strictest protocols of any industry,” Jen Taylor writes in the social media post.

“We have done everything asked of us and then some, the protocols have worked. We will at this time adhere to the mandated closure of our shop once again.”

She directs her customers to the government website showing the statistics and then adds. “If after seeing this you feel compelled to question our closure, please contact our MP, MPP, the Premier’s office... We deserve an explanation given the documented low to no transmission and outbreak rates within the personal care settings.”

Several gyms, including one in Corunna, decided to stay open. Sharky’s in Sarnia was visited by police and bylaw enforcement officers on Monday and issued a ticket.

The gym’s owners say they won’t pay the ticket. An online fundraiser is being conducted to help cover the gym’s legal costs.

SEE LOCKDOWN PG 2



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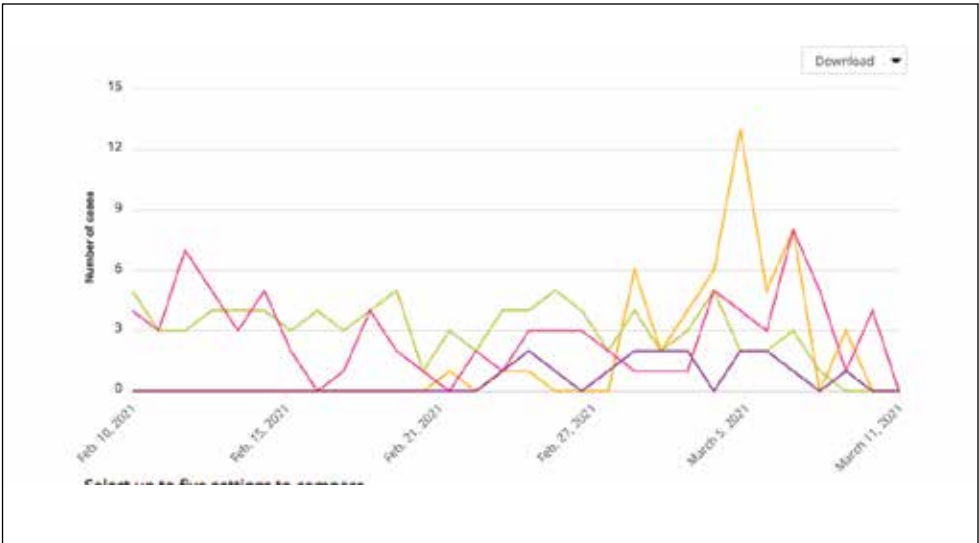
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This graph from the province’s COVID-19 website shows the number of COVID-19 cases linked to some of the businesses which will face the toughest measures under the lockdown which starts Monday in Lambton. Green is bars and restaurants, yellow is recreation and fitness, purple is personal services, like hair salons, and pink is retail. The graph spans two weeks.

Lockdown rules in Lambton questioned

CON’T FROM PG 1

A hair salon which was still serving customers in Sarnia was also issued a warning saying all business must stop by March 18. And two online social media groups are urging businesses which have been closed by the lockdown order to defy it. The sites are also promoting a Saturday rally in Sarnia to speak out against the current lockdown. While gyms, arenas, performing arts centres, personal services like hair salons, and restaurants are closed to the public by the order, other retail establishments can operate at 25 per cent capacity of their floor space. Here’s a summary of changes and restrictions under the Grey-Lockdown zone which are likely to be in effect until at least March 29:

Gatherings
No indoor gatherings with individuals other than your household. Option to join a household if you live alone.
Outdoor gatherings capped at 10.
Weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites or ceremonies will be permitted

to allow for up to 15 per cent total occupancy indoors, or up to 50 people outdoors – announced today by the Ontario Government.

Restaurants
Take-out only. No sit-down service

Sports and recreation
Indoor sports and recreation facilities closed. Exemption for high-performance. Outdoor amenities open for personal use (no teams)
Multi-use centres open for specific social services (not recreational)

Meeting spaces
Closed with exceptions. Open for specific social services.

Retail
Further capacity limitations
50 per cent primarily groceries/convenience/pharmacy
25 per cent all other retail
Mall must screen patrons before entry

Other businesses
Closed with some exceptions for drive-through and pick-up

Teachers in short supply due to isolation

CON’T FROM PG 1

“Unfortunately occasional teachers are a little more precarious in their work, in that they don’t have access to some of the types of leaves that they would if they were permanent teachers.”
That lack of benefit makes it harder to attract substitutes.
While the board pivoted the school to online learning, Kumpf says that’s not ideal either.
“My OSSTF members are teaching the students that chose face-to-face learning, and they chose that in-person learning for a good reason. That works for them and their individual circumstances or for their family.
“So it makes things a little more challenging because they’re learning in a format they didn’t choose for themselves, unlike someone who selected the virtual school and anticipated to be learning online for extended periods of time,” says Kumpf.
The sudden switch to online learning is just one of the issues high school teachers face this year, but Kumpf says they’re doing their best.
“They’re working diligently to follow health and safety protocols, and are doing their best to deliver programs in less than ideal pandemic conditions,” says Kumpf.
“There are a lot of additional pieces that are added into a school day that aren’t there outside of a pandemic.”

North Lambton is slated to reopen Monday, but Howitt says people need to be smart with their interactions, recognizing what they do affects an entire school community. “For the five hours that we have students a day, we’re able to put all the protocols in place to help and it’s difficult to accept when the same level of diligence is not going on in the community. And that’s a frustration. And here is an example of where a couple of hundred families are impacted by a breakdown in protocols at some point,” says Howitt.
“I am very concerned about the increase in the number of cases within our community. It’s not about the schools, the schools are a reflection of the cases in the community.”
Howitt says in Forest, three of the cases have been linked while the others “are separate, distinct exposures outside of the school. So it’s not one party that was a super spreader event.
“It is multiple cases of people being in a position where they’re exposed to COVID-19. That is very concerning to me. That is about choice and behaviours, and that can be controlled by following public health advice,” says Howitt.
“I just really hope that people are being vigilant out there. We’re not through this yet. And the variants of concern brings that to another level.”

-THE INDEPENDENT

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Concern after variants of COVID-19 found at Brooke Central

Heather Wright
The Independent

John Howitt says the entire community is concerned after Lambton Public Health sent students from Brooke Central School near Alvinston home after a COVID-19 variant of concern was detected.

Seven students at Brooke Central now have COVID-19. Lambton Public Health declared an outbreak after two tests showed the presence of the variant.

All 214 students were sent home March 10 to learn online until March 24.

Howitt, the director of education for the Lambton-Kent District School Board, says the outbreak is understandably causing concern about the children and their families who have COVID-19, and the possible spread of the virus.

“It’s the entire community, not just the school, schools are often a reflection of what’s going on within the community. And so we have been hearing concern, and a bit of frustration, from families as well,” he tells *The Independent*.

“You will often hear directors of education talking about first and foremost, our first concern is student safety and well being; that isn’t just a saying, We genuinely feel that right down to our heart. In every fibre, frankly....We want people to be safe and healthy.”

Lambton’s Medical officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, says the outbreaks in schools can be linked to recreational sports, like minor hockey, and socializing. Late Wednesday, East Lambton Minor Hockey Association cancelled the remainder of its season because of COVID-19 cases among players and the need for teams to isolate.

Howitt says it is obvious people are tired of COVID-19 and are taking risks in the community.

“In my own household, we asked the question is accepting this invitation or doing this activity worth the impact it could have on our schools or to our neighbors? You know, I just really hope that people are being vigilant out there. We’re not through this yet. And the variants of concern brings that to another level.”

Howitt knows it is difficult to keep restricting the activities of children. “COVID fatigue includes the fatigue of having to say no, having to withhold things from our children, that in a normal scenario, we would love them to be able to do or participate. But we can’t stop saying no, yet.”

On March 11 and 12, the school was deep cleaned. “We thought it was important from a point of confidence with the community as well to take these two days to have the school do that and do a deep clean with our custodial contractor, and then the building will be



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Dr. Samantha Cooper of the Central Lambton Family Health Team administers a COVID-19 test at the Alvinston drive-thru testing centre Saturday. Over 288 people, most related to the outbreak at the Brooke Central School, were tested in two days there.

empty on Saturday and Sunday. And we’ll make a decision come Monday when we have additional information from public health.”

Howitt says the home learning sessions may continue past 14 days if public health believes there are more issues which could cause the spread of COVID-19.

There are more schools in the

region dealing with COVID-19. There are nine students and one teacher at St. Peter Canisius who are COVID-19 positive. Public health says the virus was not spread in the school and it has not declared an outbreak there.

Nine students at LCCVI have tested positive. North Lambton Secondary School has 15 students

with the virus.

Three Corunna schools are also dealing with COVID-19, Col. Cameron, St. Joseph’s and Sir John Moore schools.

Today in Ontario there were 893 schools with COVID cases. That’s up 53 from the day before.

It’s also the highest number since Christmas.

As COVID-19 cases rise in Lambton MOH urges people to follow rules

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton’s medical officer of health says the number of people getting COVID-19 is rising. And as concerning is the increasing presence of the variants of concern.

From March 9 to 16, there were 172 people who tested positive for COVID-19 in Lambton.

As of Tuesday there were 32 cases linked to variants. That

jumped by about 20 per cent in one day, Dr. Sudit Ranade says.

“The test does not tell us what the variant is...all we know that 28 of our total cases (Monday) have screened positive for the variants.” There are still 10 outbreaks being monitored in Lambton including five in long term care. Ranade is hopeful those outbreaks will not affect residents who have already been immunized against COVID-19. Across the province, deaths due to COVID in long term

care have dropped over 92 per cent since the introduction of the vaccine.

In Lambton, over 11,000 people have now received at least their first shot of the vaccine. Thousands more have signed up online for appointments at mass vaccination clinics in Wyoming, Point Edward and Forest. Public health is accepting booking appointments for people 80 and older right now.

But as the number of cases in

Lambton rise, there have been calls for the province to ship more vaccine to the region.

Sarnia’s mayor has written to Premier Doug Ford saying if the province decides to lockdown a community because of COVID-19, officials should automatically start sending more vaccines to help deal with the problem.

Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, says that has been done, but only when there is a particularly vulner-

able group - like the homeless or those in jail, to be protected.

While Lambton residents wait for the vaccine, Ranade says we need to work together to get to the light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel.

“There are a lot of things that are happening that are not under the control of any one person or any one agency but in general together, we can have some control over this if we try to follow the rules,” he says.

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Editorial

We’re tired, but were almost there

It may be the understatement of 2021; we are all tired of the seemingly endless pandemic.

After one year of closing ourselves off from much of the world, washing our hands until they are raw, wearing masks almost everywhere, of online learning or all day single-subject classes, of being under employed, out of work, out of money for food, out of a place to live, or closing our dream business, it is enough.

More than enough.

And yet, one year later, here we are again. Lambton is actually in worse shape than it was when the pandemic first reared its ugly head here. We have more cases than we did in March 2020 or even May, when we went through the worst of the first wave of the pandemic.

Just three months ago, we were floundering in the second wave.

And now, with just a few days until we reach spring, here we are again.

It is no wonder the frustration is bubbling over online and people are railing against more restrictions.

But.

We need to stop and think. The one pandemic we know about through our high school history classes - the Spanish Flu - was exactly like this. People were tired, relaxed the very similar rules that we use now and more people died.

We are, scientists say, at the edge of the third wave. With faster spreading versions of COVID-19, many more people could be sick - just read what happened in England.

We have the advantage over England; vaccines. Our seniors in long term care are protected and a lot of our elders at home are, too. If the supply continues, officials think we could all have some protection by Canada Day. That’s a little over three months.

Lambton’s medical officer of health says he understands the frustrations but he’s asking people to remember why were doing this - to make sure the most vulnerable don’t suffer - to keep the people we love safe.

That’s something we hope none of us gets tired of doing.

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



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

An interesting view of Petrolia looking west from Town Hall - likely the clock tower. You can see the beginnings of LCCVI in the top left and the rail yard which will soon be more seniors apartments on Albany Street.

One year ago, I raced to my dad’s side only to be kept away

One year ago on March 14, I raced to the nursing home to see my dad before they locked the building down because of COVID-19; it was too late. I didn’t get one of his famous hugs again. I got to hug him again when he was in palliative care for one day. He was too weak to squeeze back.

Dad had been in the home just three days when the province closed the doors to keep COVID-19 out.

He had dementia. The lockdown was incredibly cruel for him. Dad was always the happiest around his family. The lockdown made that impossible. Worst of all, he didn’t know why.

Dad was a teenager in Holland during the Second World War. In the nursing home, surrounded by people he didn’t know, wearing masks, with no family in sight, he went back to those days. During a window visit, he talked about the Germans and being in prison.

When we were allowed to see him in June, the change was profound - the man who always greeted me by standing up and giving me a huge hug was in a wheelchair, barely awake.

And he didn’t look like himself - his clothes were not neat, his hair was not combed, he was missing his partial dentures, and he wasn’t wearing his hearing aides.

And, of course, we couldn’t touch him. I couldn’t give him the hug I knew he needed.

But we visited. And with each visit, we saw a little more of the Dad we knew. Mischievous, funny - happy to share a coffee and a specula cookie or four.

In September, two people from each family were able to be at their loved one’s bedside. That is if they knew about the new rules. The home Dad was in didn’t tell its families about essential care givers. We got in because we knew.

Even the essential care giver rule was cruel. Of course Mom would be one of the two. But then who? Four children and his much loved brother, a best friend - all wanted to be there to bring him comfort. In the end, my sister took the second spot - I encouraged it. She’s an RN.

But, it was hard. I was left to visit six feet away wearing a mask. My Dad was hard of hearing and read lips so this was more than difficult - it was impossible for good communication.

The only opportunity I had to hold my dad’s hand - aside from the one sneaky side hug I stole when the staff wasn’t looking - was as he lay dying, unable to speak or even squeeze a

hand. I believe he knew I was there.

I’m very glad long term care residents have their vaccines. I’m elated to see they’re no longer dying from COVID-19.

I’m horrified that so many family members who truly want to be with their seniors still are not.

I’m heartbroken that even now many don’t understand they can spend as much time as they want with their family member, even in a COVID-19 outbreak.

I’m angry that the people who have the authority to change that, don’t. The minister of long term care could send a directive to all the nursing homes that families are more than visitors. She could order every long term care home to let family - all family - in. She could make it a law, but she’s silent.

And one year later, families are still separated, just like I was from my dad, one year ago March 14.



Heather Wright

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Opinion

Board cutting conservation authority off at its knees

EDITOR:

Since their inception in 1946, a guiding principle in serving on a conservation authority board has been to approach decision-making based on a watershed basis and to work honestly to further environmental objectives.

While board members are appointed by the municipalities, members are to leave their municipal rhetoric at the door. It's a tightrope walk for sure, but one that good members do achieve.

Former Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Bill Bilton comes to mind as someone who took his board responsibilities seriously and was able to bring forward alternative solutions that were guided by environmental principles.

Recently I've noticed many board members no longer even feign an interest in the environment.

Why they even sit on the St. Clair Board is beyond me.

No solutions are proposed, just lots of bellyaching about permitting, that

the municipal levy is too high, and there's no 'value for money.'

No wonder St. Clair has a staff retention problem.

St. Clair's levy is the lowest in the province and a third of nearby Ausable-Bayfield's. Chronic underfunding is something we in St. Clair are supposed to be proud of.

And when St. Clair does use its meager resources to uphold basic environmental principles, staff get lambasted.

The most recent example is the proposed two-bedroom dwelling in a significant woodland. While it is indeed for a noble cause, the reality is that a dwelling is still a dwelling irrespective of who its intended user is, and if approved the precedent will be set for anyone in the watershed to blow out a chunk of their woodlands for a house.

Maybe that's not an issue for some, but it must be a concern for the body

legislatively tasked with maintaining our ecosystem. It's their job.

Seeing a board member throw staff under the bus as they're actively working on alternative solutions is truly disheartening. Either the board member knows the authority's obligations and is being disingenuous or they just haven't bothered to learn them. Maybe it's just that they don't care. So again, why sit on the board then?

If the conservation authority is to be endlessly criticized by some of its own board members for trying to protect the environment, perhaps they should get on with it and try to disband it.

If our municipal leadership is going to continue to undermine St. Clair for political gain while refusing to fund it properly, it's cutting it off at the knees anyway.

Kevin Edwards
Mosa Township, ON

How much water does Dawn-Euphemia have?

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia wants to figure out just how much water is available for new businesses to expand.

Public Works Superintendent Paul Dalton told councillors Monday he heard from an entrepreneur who is planning to build in the community but needs a commitment of 350 cubic meters of water a day.

Dalton says that's not a high water usage for some communities, but it could be a problem in Dawn-Euphemia.

The township buys its water from Enniskillen Township, which in turn buys the water from Petrolia. Dawn-Euphemia is allotted 1,309 cubic meters a

day - more than enough for residents, even on a hot summer day.

But Dalton says if the township has a number of people looking to use larger amounts of water, it could quickly become a problem.

"How many 350 meters a day do we want to give away?"

"We could easily be halfway to that at any one point in the very near future, just with what's here right now," says Dalton.

Several years ago, a greenhouse developer had to scrap a massive plan because the township simply didn't have the water supply without building larger pipelines from Petrolia's system.

"We should have a real good look at what we can supply and what the potential is," says Dalton.

"If I do a quick kind of synopsis of our municipality, we've got enough water, probably, and would be just about all utilized if we supplied water to each resident in the municipality; we would have not that much left to spare."

Dalton suggested and council agreed to use a local engineer to look at what the usage would be should the whole municipality have water, and what would be available for development.

Councillor Mark McGuire was among those who liked the idea.

"We're sitting here with our pants down when somebody comes in asking if there is enough water, we should know yes or no," says McGuire.

"Or maybe we should be doing something different to get more water."

Out of order; new provincial rules may mean change of leadership

Heather Wright
The Independent

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has a leadership problem.

The province recently changed the rules for conservation authorities including regulations setting term limits of two years for both the board's chair and vice chair.

Both Chair Joe Faas, who represents

Chatham-Kent, and Vice Chair Larry Gordon from Point Edward are in their third year.

Conservation authority General Manager Brian McDougall brought up the concern at a special meeting Monday saying the board should deal with the issue as soon as possible. He says many conservation authorities are in the same position and are asking for some time to make changes, although

McDougall wasn't sure how lenient the province would be.

The board asked staff for a report on options for the April meeting. Not many seemed too worried if the province's feathers would be ruffled.

"If the government can throw a wrench in our work and who we are, we can throw a wrench back," says Lambton Shores Representative Lori Scott.

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Level: Intermediate

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

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Is it normal or not? Buurma says Brooke-Alvinston rules hamper farming

Heather Wright
The Independent

David Buurma says storing between 2,000 and 4,000 tonnes of biosolid fertilizer on his Churchill Line farm is a normal part of farming. But Brooke-Alvinston and some of Buurma’s farming neighbours don’t agree. For years, Buurma has been using a concrete bunker on his farm in the north end of the township to store biosolids - a legal fertilizer made from human waste - sold to him by his brother’s business, Lasalle Agri. And for years, after complaints from his neighbours, Brooke-Alvinston has been trying to deal with the issue under its zoning rules and the Tidy Yards bylaw. The municipality says that storage of that amount of biosolids violates its bylaws which say farmers can only store what they need on each field for short periods of time. Buurma wanted the matter settled, so in February 2020 he launched a case with the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board. The hearings began this week. According to Buurma’s witness statement, he says he believed the municipality’s clerk, Janet Denkers, focused on the fact more biosolids were being stored than needed on his land. He

disagrees. “Not wanting to be wrongly prosecuted for either of those alleged contraventions, I decided to bring this application before the NFPPB, as I believe that what I am doing on the subject lands is a normal farm practice. Namely, I am centrally storing fertilizer for the exclusive use of the Buurma Acres Farm Unit.” In the statement, Buurma says he owns 55 farm parcels with about 5,000 acres under the names 1838107 Ontario LTD and LaSalle Farms, which he calls the Buurma Acres Farm Unit. Buurma estimates he had about 2,000 tonnes of the biosolids stored at the Churchill Line farm at the time of the hearing. It would be used over the course of nine months over his grain acreage “on an as needed basis.” Buurma, in his witness statement says storing the biosolids in one place provides “economies of scale” and wouldn’t have to invest in other fertilizer storage facilities when expanding. It would also allow him to “safely monitor” it by centrally storing it. The concrete bunker, he told the hearing can hold up to 4,000 tonnes of biosolids. Buurma also said the material is “carefully covered in poly plastic and stored on

a concrete pad. There is no leakage or run off. “By covering the fertilizer and keeping it dry, Buurma Acres ensures that no significant odours emit to abutting lands.” But that is not what neighbours told the four member normal farm practices board. Mary Ellen King, who lives down Churchill Line and farms about 2,500 acres, spoke at the hearing. “It’s putrid. It’s sickly, it’s rotten. It’s not a farm smell. It’s something I’ve never smelled before. And I try to avoid it,” she says. John Stokes, a retired farmer who has lived and worked on Churchill Line for decades, agreed recalling he once made a sandwich in his kitchen which had been inundated with the odour and when he went to eat it, the smell was there. “It has almost like a decomposing smell,” he says. Both agreed they could tell the difference between the biosolids and the nearby cow manure storage. One of the municipalities experts, Mike Muffels, an engineer leader from GHD, who worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in the past and now consults privately, says the reason the odour of the biosolids is so strong is it is not being kept dry at the

concrete bunker. He told the hearing farmers are required to follow the directions on use for all fertilizers, and biosolids are specifically supposed to be kept dry. Muffels says, if they don’t, there can be a risk of catching fire - something the neighbours said they had witnessed. Stokes presented pictures showing the pile on fire. Meantime, Lambton County’s Manager of Planning, Ken Melenson told the hearing that while it is normal farm practice to store manure, the provincial policy statement on planning says there can be manure storage on farms but “specifically does not include fertilizer

storage and distribution facilities or operations.” Melenson says Brooke-Alvinston’s zoning bylaw is similar, allowing manure storage. “Neither definition, however, identifies fertilizer storage and distribution as a permitted use.” Neighbours also complained about the number of trucks coming and going from the site throughout the course of the year. Melenson estimated that 100 trucks might deliver or take away the biosolids over the course of the year. And the planner says the odours coming from the fertilizer storage was impacting at least 16 homes in the one

to two kilometre radius of the Buurma’s biosolid storage area. Buurma’s lawyers called three other witnesses to back up their client’s assertions the storage of up to 4,000 tonnes of biosolids was a normal farm practice including Peter Johnston, an agronomist who also worked for the Ministry of Agriculture in the past. He says more farmers are centralizing fertilizer storage saying “it would be unusual for a large agricultural operation to store fertilizer separately across multiple farm properties.” The hearing continues virtually March 22.

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

Petrolia wants you to think big about downtown

The Independent

The Town of Petrolia wants you to think big about the downtown’s future. It’s set up an online survey to ask residents and merchants what things would make the downtown core resilient. Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communications, says the survey is part of a study being done to figure out a path forward for the downtown. The survey asks broad questions to get ideas, not hone in on individual issues, Ellsworth says. “Everyone here feels like, we have a strong downtown.... But we want to

maintain that strength and remain relevant for many, many years.” That could mean attracting new people to take over existing businesses as people retire or filling in some of the empty storefronts, she says. “We want them to tell us what they think a resilient downtown looks like and, what they think we have that’s great and what they think we are lacking?” The survey can be found on the town’s website and social media pages. The results, along with the comments from a public meeting held virtually, likely at the end of March, will be the basis of the consultant’s recommendations to council.

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Bailey presents the case for Line 5 in Michigan

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey says one third of the jobs in his riding will be affected if Michigan’s governor closes down Enbridge’s Line 5 through the Straits of Mackinac.

Gretchen Whitmer has given the company until May to close it saying it is a threat to the Great Lakes. The company has plans to replace the twin pipeline with one which runs 100 feet beneath the floor of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River in a concrete tunnel. That has yet to sway the governor to change her mind.

Bailey spoke to a joint session of the Michigan Senate Committees on Energy and Technology, and Natural Resources Tuesday and stressed the importance of Line 5 not only to bring resources to the petrochemical industry and beyond, but to the people in his riding.

“It supports a minimum of 4,900 direct and 23,000 indirect jobs in my riding of Sarnia-Lambton alone,” he told the senators. “That’s one-third of all the jobs in my riding and it supports some \$20 billion in trade revenue.”

He also pointed out the impacts of closing the line in May would be far reaching, “including the agricultural sector for drying crops, for possible protein price hikes and supply shortages, construction, transportation, home heating, refining, manufacturing and so many others that are already facing pandemic challenges.”

But some senators, like Winnie Brinks, said building a new pipeline which will last 70 years wasn’t thinking ahead.

“To make an investment...in continuing use of fossil fuels does not seem to be the most enlightened way to go forward,” the Democratic senator said.

Others voiced concern that the pipeline could fail. Not long ago it had been struck by an anchor from a large ship, which brought the issue forward.

Joe Mancinelli, the head of LIUNA 1087 from Sarnia, says the new design would elevate any concerns. “If it failed, it would still be contained within that concrete tunnel. And so what they’re doing is they’re designing these with checks and balances in place in the event that something would happen.”

Both Mancinelli and Bailey urged the US regulators to invite Enbridge to the hearing to talk about the project.

While there were concerns, Bailey did get a sympathetic ear from the Republican Chairman of the committee, David Lauwers. “We’re actually talking about shutting down the safer method to go to less safe methods with higher environmental impact,” he says.

And the Michigan representatives were reminded pipelines are regulated by a binational agreement and the Michigan governor doesn’t have the authority to shutdown Line 5 unilaterally under that document.

Petrolia online event brings in big bucks

The Independent

Petrolia officials are smiling after an online shopping event brought about 70 per cent more cash for local merchants.

The town hosted an online shopping weekend March 6 and 7. Thirty four of the local merchants participated by placing items on a Shopify site set

up and run by the town. Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communication, says every merchant had some sales from the event.

In all, over \$17,000 worth of merchandise, from clothing to food to Petrolia memorabilia to newspapers, were sold on the weekend.

That’s up from the first event which saw 22 merchants participate and earn \$10,000.

Sarnia jail now clear of COVID-19 after outbreak

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The COVID outbreak at the Sarnia Jail that lasted more than a month and affected more than 50 people is over.

It was the county’s second worst workplace outbreak of the entire pandemic, and during its peak was the largest outbreak in an Ontario corrections facility at the time.

“We’re happy we’re out of the outbreak and on the other side of it,” says Joel Bissonnette, president of OPSEU 128 representing correctional workers at the jail. “It was stressful working in those

conditions.”

The outbreak began Feb. 7 with two inmate cases. In a matter of days it ballooned to 47 inmates positive for the virus. Five staff members were ill. All 52 people recovered.

The jail attempted several measures to stop the spread, including separating positive inmates from those who hadn’t become sick. “The environment is what’s challenging, to keep something like that contained when it’s all open bars,” he says.

Bissonnette believes the jail will slowly see a return to pre-outbreak inmate numbers. “I don’t see any reason why we

won’t be back to operating like we were before the outbreak. It also depends on whether we’re getting people arrested and incarcerated,” says Bissonnette.

The Solicitor General’s office, through Spokesperson Andrew Morrison, says “The ministry has been working with its justice partners to reduce the number of individuals coming into custody across Ontario. These decisions are based on a number of factors to ensure community safety remains paramount.”

Inmates in the jail have returned to general population and can take their masks off while in their cells.

5

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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
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Watford ON N0M 2S0
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Diet no excuse says judge

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia woman's lawyer says her switch to the keto diet was behind her inflated blood alcohol readings behind the wheel.

But Justice Anne McFadyen didn't find the excuse digestible.

McFadyen handed a fine of \$1,800 to Hannah Pyne for drunk driving. McFadyen listed several aggravating factors as Pyne, 31, appeared in Sarnia Court Mar. 8. Pyne had not one, but two encounters with police Nov. 27. The first came when Pyne and a friend were found walking around downtown intoxicated. They said they were heading home by foot and carried on.

Shortly after, the same officer saw a white Chrysler minivan driving erratically nearby. The van swerved over the centre line of George St. and struck the curb. When the officer pulled the van over on Maria St., he discovered the same pair. Pyne's blood alcohol readings that night hit .190, well over double the legal limit.

Her Defence Lawyer, David Stoesser, offered a unique reason for his client's behavior.

"In the months preceding this incident Hannah had undertaken a keto diet," says Stoesser. Pyne was out celebrating the other woman's birthday, and "this was her first time consuming alcohol since going on that diet. The impact, you heard from the readings, was more significant than Hannah anticipated."

But Crown Attorney Aniko Coughlan says this doesn't excuse the behavior. "Regardless of whatever eating plan she might have been on, that's a significant amount of alcohol that was in someone's system."

"Regarding whatever health matters she was taking on for her own, she put herself in that situation," says Coughlan.

McFadyen cited "the erratic driving... as well as readings that are quite excessive," in choosing the higher than average \$1,800 fine.

Pyne is also banned from driving for a year, but can apply for the ignition interlock program after three months.

- THE INDEPENDENT

No jail time for throwing pregnant woman out the door

Alex Kurial
The Independent

A Sarnia woman is promising to address her long-standing addiction after a "horrific" record of alcohol abuse.

Beverly Dykstra, 44, came to Sarnia court with a record even her lawyer says is "horrific."

"Each and every time it's an incident where alcohol is involved, as is the case yet again here," says Defence Lawyer Terry Brandon.

Dykstra was already on two separate probation orders the morning of June 5, when a Sarnia police officer was alerted to her house by a woman crying for help outside. The pregnant woman was found cut and bloodied. The woman told the officer she was Dykstra's friend and spent the night at her East St. house drinking and smoking marijuana. But things took a turn when Dykstra accused the woman of breaking items. Dykstra attacked her and forcibly threw her out of the house.

"Your record is concerning, and it's concerning that not only are you struggling with an addiction issue, but that when under the influence you are committing criminal offences and acting out in a violent manner," said Justice Krista Leszczynski.

Dykstra has been taking regular counselling for anger management and domestic violence since the assault.

Brandon says the woman's "taking of responsibility, the guilty plea, the totality of the context, the positive engagement with probation," allowed her to strike a deal not to go to jail. "But for that state of affairs, frankly the record would have seen Ms. Dykstra facing real jail time."

Dykstra spent one day in pre-sentence custody, which Leszczynski agreed would cover the crime.

"Ms. Dykstra fully appreciates that reality from the many conversations she's had with me," Brandon says of her client's avoidance of more jail.

"She seems to be taking her situation in life seriously."

Dykstra will be on probation for 12 months, cannot contact or go near the woman she attacked, and receives a five year weapons ban.

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After 47 years, Caughlin's death still a mystery

The Independent

Insp. Chris Avery says 48 years later, Lambton OPP is still trying to find out who killed Karen Caughlin. The OPP issued a news release Tuesday, 48 years after the 14 year old left the Rose Gardens after a night of roller skating with friends. She

took a ride with some friends and was dropped off at her girlfriend's house alone near her own home on Brock Street. She wasn't seen alive again. Avery says science-based information released in 2017 indicated the teens injuries were consistent with being hit by a car. Her body was found on Plowing

Match Road March 16, 1974.

Avery, in a news release, says he's still committed to finding out what happened.

Caughlin's family pushed for the case to be reopened in 2011, but have largely remained silent since the OPP said in 2017 that Karen's injuries were from being hit by a car.

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Additionally, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, event attendees are asked to follow physical distancing protocols, including the following:

1. Package materials in disposable containers (i.e. cardboard boxes) as they will not be returned;
2. Place materials in the trunk or back of their vehicle to maximize distancing for event staff when collecting items; and
3. Remain in their vehicle at all times, as event staff will be removing materials from their vehicle.

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Sports

Fryfogle brothers return to Wyoming

Barry Wright
The Independent

The hockey season is over for Bayly and Brayden Fryfogle.

In the absence of junior hockey in this region, the Wyoming brothers went across the border to play for the Northern Colorado Eagles of the United States Premier Hockey League.

After finishing second in the league’s Mountain Division over the course of the 49 game regular season, the Eagles won their first two games in the round-robin Memorial Cup-style divisional playoffs but hit a speed bump in game three. Leading 3-0 in the contest last Friday that would have propelled them directly to the championship game Sunday, Northern Colorado couldn’t hold on, losing to the Pueblo Bulls 5-4 in overtime.

“I’m not going to lie, that loss deflated the boys for sure,” said Bayly Fryfogle, a thought echoed by his younger brother. “I think we just got a little too excited for the championship game,” said Brayden. With the loss, the Eagles were forced to play a sudden-death semi-final game against the Bulls on Saturday. They lost 5-2 and were eliminated from further play.

After a slow start to the season and missing time due to a separated shoulder, Bryden Fryfogle, 17, hit his stride around Christmas. The graduate of the Elgin-

Middlesex “AAA” program had seven goals and four assists in 41 regular season games along with two goals and an assist in four playoff encounters where he was “amazed” at the dramatic difference in postseason intensity.

“It was an amazing rookie season,” he commented. “It was really cool.”

Playing with the PJHL’s Dresden Junior Kings and Strathroy Rockets of the GOJHL before heading west, Bayly Fryfogle was among the top defencemen in league scoring this season, registering seven goals and 28 assists in 44 games. He added a goal and an assist in four playoff contests.

“I had a really good year,” said the 19 year-old. “I seem to get a lot of good bounces this season.”

The brothers are eligible to play for the Eagles again for the 2021-22 campaign, but both want to weigh their options before committing to another season in Colorado. They plan on heading home in a couple of weeks after spending some time with the graduating players from the team.

Sarnia’s Steve Haddon is the coach and general manager of Northern Colorado. He played primarily with the former Sarnia Blast before taking his game and subsequently his coaching and executive skill to the-Mile-High state where he’s been involved for the past 15 years. He also played a handful of games with the Petrolia Squires during the 2005-06 season.

COVID-19 torpedoes hockey in Warwick, Mooretown

Barry Wright
The Independent

Both the East Lambton and the Mooretown Minor Hockey Associations have ended their seasons.

“After the decision was made (by the province) to move Lambton County in grey, St. Clair Township has decided to remove the ice on rink one and begin much needed renovations on both ice surfaces,” said association president Hugh McCowan.

“We wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone for making the season as successful as it could have been,” he added.

He singled out players, coaches and parents for cooperating with the arena rules and regulations, MTMHA executives for their time and effort in keeping the season

going as long as it did and township staff for its work to get players safely back on the ice.

The downriver decision follows a similar determination by East Lambton Minor Hockey Thursday due to class and school closures within its boundaries.

Association President Adam MacKellar thanked players, parents, coaches, managers and township staff for their support throughout the shortened season.

“We hope to be back next season with some normalcy,” he said.

As a result of the shutdown, the ice at the Watford Arena was removed this week. Meantime, the Lambton Junior Sting “AAA” program has paused its programs, while the Lambton Attack Girls program has decided to cancel the remainder of its season.

Fourteen per cent Moore ice time increase sticks

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Mooretown Minor Hockey’s request to phase-in ice local rental increases has been denied.

The Mooretown Sports Complex announced an \$18 increase in icetime costs to \$148 per hour to address soaring deficits at the arena.

Arena revenue in 2019 was up just \$4,600 from 2009, while expenses rose more than \$240,000. Director of Recreation, Kendall Lindsay predicts by 2024 the cost to run the arena will hit \$945,000.

Mooretown Minor Hockey suggested instead of a 14 per cent increase in a year, the rates be hiked five per cent each in the next three years.

Minor Hockey President Geoff Dale says

this would “take some of the sticker shock off a single year increase.”

Lindsay says it wouldn’t solve the arena’s revenue problem, since the first year would mean about \$21,000 in extra revenue.

“We pride ourselves in having very competitive ice rates and this is not going to change, even with the proposed ice increase of 14 per cent we are still one of the lowest prices for ice regionally,” says Lindsay.

Point Edward, Walpole Island and Wallaceburg all charge more for hourly ice rentals.

“The Moore Sports Complex team really has considered all aspects before raising the cost of the ice, but with the continuous rise in expenditures we felt the price of ice needed to increase substantially,” says Lindsay.

- THE INDEPENDENT

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- 3. EMAIL**
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- Must be 18 or older to participate.
- May only win one of the 2 drawings.
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LAMBTON FARM SAFETY ASSOCIATION SPECIAL MEETING

Lambton Farm Safety Association & Lambton Federation of Agriculture

Join us for a special information meeting on March 31 2021, at 7:00 pm

- Mental Health and Coping Skills
- Tractor safety







Lauren Van Ewyk of Wellspring Counselling Services is speaking on coping skills for mental health.

Dean Anderson, Strategic Advisor for WSPS is speaking on tractor safety including new videos developed by WSPS and Dowler Karn.

RSVP at: lambtonfederation.ca/March31 or 519-864-4224

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

In Memory

ROSS FRASER
In Loving Memory of a dear husband, father, and grandfather Ross Fraser who passed away nine years ago, *March 21st 2012.*

From hospice bed to heavenly rest, God took him home to be his guest. We lived in hope and prayed in vain, That he would soon be well again. But God decided we must part, He eased his pain, but broke our hearts. And while he rests in peaceful sleep, His memory we shall always keep.

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by his wife Doris, our children Joan Helps, Dale and Deb Fraser, Kathy Fraser, Mark Fraser and Candace Holmes and families



Obituary

MACAULAY
Dorothy

September 16, 1928 - February 25, 2021

The family of Dorothy Macaulay sadly share that she passed away on **February 25, 2021** at Lambton Meadowview Villa in Petrolia. Dorothy was a loving mother to Neil, Scott (Maurene), Joanne (Ken), and Donna as well as a doting grandmother to Brooke (Nick), Kate (Owen), and Evan. She was predeceased by her devoted husband, Starr, in 1997. Dorothy was born into a large and happy household in Zone Township and was a big sister to Norine, Mary, Bob, Ross, and Edith. When she studied nursing, it was evident that this was her passion. Dorothy was an RN on the night shift at Four Counties General Hospital from its opening in 1967 to her retirement in 1992. Following retirement, Dorothy continued as a volunteer at Four Counties for many years with a focus on the Hospital Auxiliary. Dorothy was a faithful and committed member of Aughrim Anglican Church and more than willing to help her cherished local community in any way possible. The family will miss spending time with her at the farm, the home she loved so much. Sometimes, we could even convince her to sit down for a few minutes! We will miss Mum's care and attention and definitely her fudge. Special thanks to all the caring and compassionate staff at Lambton Meadowview Villa. **Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a private family service will be held at the John C. Badder Funeral Home, 72 Victoria St., Thamesville with immediate family only. Interment at St. John's in the Woods Aughrim Cemetery.** Those wishing to leave an expression of sympathy are asked to consider St. John's in the Wood's, Aughrim. Online condolences and donations may be left at **www.badderfuneralhome.com.**

Obituary

ROANE
Bruce

Being surrounded by his loved ones, gave Bruce much joy! Only after he had seen each and every one of them, did he give himself permission to let go and begin his journey home. After a lengthy illness, on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at C.E.E. Hospital, Petrolia, Bruce Howard Roane passed into the loving hands of his Lord and Saviour at the age of 85. Beloved Husband and best friend to Eleanor (nee Anderson) for 62 years. Proud and loving Father to Pamela and her husband Ken Dobbin and Connie and her husband Ken Macpherson. Treasured Grandpa to Kailey Dobbin (Derek Webster) and their children, Carter, Danton, and Dylan, Erika (Brad) Alderman and their children Ivy, Brooks and the late A.J. (2017), the late Taylor Grace (1997), Trevor Dobbin, Tyler Macpherson and Lindsay Macpherson. Survived by his sister Carol and predeceased by his parents, John and Janet Roane and his brothers Robert and Harold. Bruce will be remembered by his sister-in-law Kathleen (the late George) Hoven and many extended family members and dear friends. Bruce was a proud member and elder of Wyoming Presbyterian Church for more than 50 years. He was also a 50 year member of Burns' Lodge: A.F. & A.M. No. 153 Wyoming, and the Plympton-Wyoming Agricultural Society. Bruce wore many hats during his lifetime; driving a school bus for 55 years, Custodian at South Plympton for 38 years, RV sales manager at Ron Clark Motors as well as running his own entrepreneurial lawn care business. Faithful and trustworthy personal bus driver for many years for the Mooretown Flags Hockey team whenever they travelled out of town which he enjoyed thoroughly. Recipient of the Plympton-Wyoming Mayor's Community Appreciation Award in 2018 for his dedicated service. The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Dr. J. Lebert, Dr. A. Crombeen, Dr. G. Maddison and staff at Bluewater Health's Palliative and Rehab Units. Thanks also to C.E.E. Hospital's Continuing Care nurses, Dr. J. Mall, and special appreciation to Kaitlyn and Chelsea for their professional care and compassion during Dad's final journey. **Due to COVID restrictions, a private family service took place and is archived online at www.facebook.com/NeedhamJay. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Canadian Cancer Society for Prostate Cancer (prostatecancer.ca), Ronald McDonald House (rmhccanada.ca/) or the C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (ceehf.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared online at **www.needhamjay.com****

Obituary

VANDERZWART
Joyce

It is with heavy hearts, we announce the peaceful passing of Joyce Vanderzward of Port Lambton with her family present on **Wednesday, March 10th** at University Hospital in London, Ontario. Survived by her loving husband Hank of 56 years, her daughter Peggy Pullman (Vanderzward) of London and son Paul (Leslie) Vanderzward of Wallaceburg. A wonderful Nana to Mandy (Brandon) Gosden of Watford, Kayli (Jonathan) Vanderwal of Petrolia and Carter and Carson Vanderzward of Wallaceburg. A Great Nana to Emma Pullman of Petrolia, Alexis, Olivia and Doug Gosden of Watford. Sister of Robert Boyd of Alvinston, Clayton (Marlene) Boyd of Pt. Edward and Peggy Boyd of London. Sister-in-law to Carol Boyd, Helen Richardson, Margaret Harrison and Bill Vanderzward, all of Petrolia. Predeceased by her parents, Bill and Evla Boyd, brothers, William (Grace), George (Annie), Beverly, Grant and sister, Geraldine (Tom) Haggarty. Sister-in laws Joyce Boyd, Trudy Vanderzward and brother-in-laws Ross Richardson and Bill Kapral. She also leaves behind many nieces, nephews and cousins. Throughout her life Joyce always put her family and others first with unconditional love. She was a dedicated employee of Canada Post for 40 yrs and after retirement continued to volunteer in the community of Petrolia. **Cremation has taken place and at a later date when it is safe to do so, the interment of ashes at the Resurrection Cemetery in Sarnia and a Celebration of Life will take place.** Arrangements entrusted to Life Transitions Burial and Cremation Service Inc.

Obituary

GARSIDE
Bernice

Mrs. Bernice Garside, **85** yrs of Petrolia, passed away peacefully at C.E.E. Hospital of Bluewater Health, Petrolia on **March 16, 2021.** Wife of the late Robert Garside, the daughter of the late Robert and Hazel Clark, and zsister to the late Shirley Freer. Bernice loved Petrolia, her home, her family and wonderful neighbours. Bernice is survived by her son Kenneth Garside of Petrolia and her daughter Carol and Garth Ramage of Hanna Alberta. Many thanks to the staff at C.E.E. Hospital, LEO, and Needham-Jay. **Interment of cremated remains in St. James Cemetery. A private family gathering will be held at a later date.**

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.**

Wanted to Buy

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

Notice

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

Notice

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

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

In Memory

In memory of a loving husband, kind father and doting grandfather

PAUL GABORKO

Your Smile
Though your life is gone forever,
And your hands we cannot touch.
We have so many memories,
Of the one we love so much.
Your memory is our keepsake,
Which ill from us never part.
God has you in his keeping,
We have you in our hearts.

Lovingly remembered by
Emily, Karen, Gayle, Andrea, Mike, Emily, Connor, Sara and Melanie

Card of Thanks

Thank You

The family of the late Linda Hart would like to thank everyone for their cards, phone calls, e-mails, food, flowers and donations. We sit that all of Lind's friends and relatives could have attended her funeral but because of Covid-19 that was impossible. Their will be a celebration of Linda's life at a later date.

We send our appreciation to Dr. Wagner and the staff on Two South of Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital, as well as Dr. Lilly and staff at Sarnia Bluewater Health Palliative Care, for the great care given to Linda.

Thank you to Rev. Gordon Simmons of Watford Anglican Church and Denning's Funeral Home of Watford.

Sincerely Don, Bridget & Jim, Emma & Audrey

Card of Thanks

Thank You

The family of Bill McCutcheon express our Heartfelt Thanks and Appreciation to family, neighbours and friends, for the comfort and support in Sympathy by tributes posted, lit candles, donations, phone calls, floral arrangements, food sent to our homes, many beautiful cards and notes, visits, texts and emails.

Our Sincere Thank You to Jason and his staff at Badder Funeral Home Thamesville, for the personal and professional care and kindness at this difficult time.

"Loving memories sustain us in times of sadness"

Sincerely,
Judy
Maureen, David
Darcy, Kathren
Aaron, Shari
and Families

Coming Events

COMMUNITY LAW SCHOOL (SARNIA-LAMBTON) INC. - Virtual Community Law School. May 12, 2021 virtual on zoom from 11-12am. "Legal Protections for Survivors of Trafficking as Youth" Please send any questions to sign up email virtualcommnity-lawschool@gmail.com.

Notice

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

Deadline

for all classified ads is Monday at 12 noon
for the paper that prints and distributes Wed-Thurs

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

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

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Notice

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Death Notices

March 6 -March 12, 2021

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

HOFSTEEDE, Ronald
Age 55, of Sarnia
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

DALES, Crawford
Age 85, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

HARTLEY, Dorothy
Age 90, of Watford
Denning's of Watford

MONDAY, MARCH 7

DIXON, Tracey
Age 55, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

DUNSMOOR, Barbara Ann
Age 72, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MOOTREY, Clayton
Age 76, of Sarnia
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

MOFFATT, Keith
Age 86, of Watford
Denning's of Watford

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

VOKES, Bruce
Age 70, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

LARIVIERE, Raymond
Age 71, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MOORE, Elaine
Age 96, of London
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

KOZUB, Barbara Ann
Age 82, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

PEHLKE, Leola
Age 82, of Watford
Denning's of Watford

DOLBEAR, Jack
Age 85, of Alvinston
Van Heck Funeral Home

ROANE, Bruce
Age 85, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

YOUNG, Lynn
Age 56, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

WILSON, Beverley
Age 80, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

CAMPBELL, Sylvia
Age 87, of Sarnia
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

JAMES, Mary Louise
Age 87, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

GARSIDE, Edward "Ted"
Age 69, of Watford
Denning's of Watford

WELLINGTON, Richard
Age 70, of Corunna
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

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

Church DIRECTORY

Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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. Services can be viewed on our facebook page, youtube page, or website.

View us on YouTube at
St Paul's United Church Petrolia AV
10:30am Service

Rev. Carey Wagner
Church Office: 519-882-1390
www.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
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 wyming_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
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FILE PHOTO

Bruce Roane with some of the kids from his South Plympton School bus in 2018. He died March 9 at the age of 85.

PW plays tribute to Plympton’s bus driver

Heather Wright
The Independent

He was one of the first faces students of South Plympton School saw each morning for 55 years.

Bruce Roane, a bus driver for the rural school on Confederation Line for 55 years before it closed in 2018, died March 9 after a long battle with cancer. Friday, his family boarded a school bus to accompany him to his final resting place in Wyoming.

Pam Dobbin and her sister, Connie Macpherson, knew her dad was well loved, but as people reach out to them, they’re finding out the quiet, generous things her dad would do.

There was the family who moved in down the street. They didn’t have jobs, so Roane brought them groceries.

Another family he knew had three children heading to university and money was tight. Roane found mini-fridges for their dorm rooms.

He never told anyone what he had done. “He never wanted praise or looked to be in the limelight,” Dobbin says.

Sometimes, Dobbin says, her dad would be surprised when he did receive praise.

Roane was the long-time bus driver for the Mooretown Flags. Each year, the Flags would invite him to their appreciation banquet and Dobbin says he would be shocked when he was recognized and thanked by the team for doing his job. The Flags gave him his own jacket which, she says, he wore often with pride.

Roane was a skilled driver without an accident on his record. When Snowmageddon hit Lambton County in 2010 and drivers were stranded on the 402, Roane was asked to drive a bus from Wyoming to the Reece’s Corners truck stop to bring stranded drivers to safety.

Dobbin says her dad went without thinking about the weather. “I’ll get those people to where it is warm,” Dobbin says he told her mother, who was more than a little worried about the trip. Dobbin said her dad reassured Eleanor. “I got a snowplow ahead of me, the police are there. I’ll get them back.”

Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Lonny Napper also remembered Roane’s skill that day when he paid tribute to him at the March 10 council meeting.

“The one thing that really sticks out in my mind is the night we had Snowmageddon. He took the school bus out to the truck stop and loaded up with people out there to bring



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Bruce Roane’s family boarded a bus Friday to travel to the cemetery - a tribute to his long service as a bus driver for South Plympton School.

them back in here. And I understand from whoever was right in the front seat who says it was hard to see the windshield wipers and he drove that bus through.”

It wasn’t his first heroic act, says Dobbin. The family learned through online condolences he had once pulled a young girl back into the bus as a driver tried to pass him on the right hand side. The student, now an adult, says Roane saved her life that day.

There are likely many more stories of Roane’s kindness behind the wheel of that big yellow bus. At the time the South Plympton School closed in 2018, it was estimated Roane had driven more than two million miles in his career and met three generations of Plympton-Wyoming kids.

Former students would often approach him asking if he remembered them. Some of the children on his last bus route were the grandchildren of former riders.

“I love the little kids, especially the ones in junior and senior kindergarten and Grade 1,” he told *The Independent* when he was named to the Mayor’s Appreciation List. “I’ve had extremely good kids. When I hear what some of the other bus drivers say, why, I’m just real lucky – fortunate.”

Napper drove with him on his last ride to the school. “I couldn’t believe how Bruce can almost remember all those kids’ names.”

While many knew Roane as their bus driver, he was also an elder in the Wyoming Presbyterian Church, a member of the local Lodge, and the Plympton-Wyoming Agricultural Society, all for more than 50 years.

For Dobbin and her sister, he was the man who just wanted to be around family.

While in palliative care his much loved family came to visit him two by two. Dobbin says he passed away right after his last niece was able to say goodbye.

“He knew he’d seen everyone,” says Dobbin.

A large photograph showing a person's hands and arms. They are wearing a blue hard hat and a blue nitrile glove. They are holding a white mug. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a workshop or construction site.

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