

LET'S DO SHOTS



PHOTO CREDIT

Registered Nurse Sue Dunlop - who was wearing a t-shirt that said Let's Do Shots - reassures Cindy Powell of Petrolia about the COVID-19 vaccine she was about to get during one of three vaccination clinics at the Central Lambton Family Health Team. The Petrolia health care group was one of four in the community given vaccines to administer to their most vulnerable patients. Executive Director Sarah Milner says the shots are a fraction of what was needed to protect the thousands of vulnerable people they serve. Doctors combed through some of the 15,000 patient files over the weekend to figure out who would benefit the most from the vaccine. Meantime, Milner and the staff tried to figure out the best way to make sure everyone got in and out of the clinics efficiently. She says it was good practice, adding it's hoped family doctors will continue to play a significant role in the COVID-19 immunization.

Heather Wright
The Independent

There are now just three Central Lambton municipalities who don't have employees on the Sunshine List.

Every year, public bodies have to disclose who makes more than \$100,000 under the Public Salary Disclosure Act before April 1.

The list came out Friday and for the first time, there were more Central Lambton municipalities

who reported executive salaries than those which didn't.

Only Brooke-Alvinston, Oil Springs and Enniskillen were exempt from the list in 2020.

St. Clair Township once again tops the list with the most people and the highest salaries on the list. Ten people made the list - up two from last year. That included the CAO, John Rodey, whose salary jumped over \$27,000 or 18 per cent to over \$178,000 with taxable benefits.

Petrolia's CAO, Rick Charlebois, also saw a significant pay increase of just under \$8,700. That's about a six per cent increase. He's Petrolia's only member of the club, earning about \$154,000.

Two people earned more than \$100,000 in both Plympton-Wyoming and Warwick Township.

In Plympton-Wyoming, CAO Carolyn Tripp earned \$15,400 more in 2020 - an increase of almost 11 per cent to over \$161,000 with benefits. Treasurer Norma

Roddick-Preece's salary also went up \$15,000 or about 14.5 per cent to just under \$119,000.

In Warwick, CAO Amanda Gubbels' wages were up about 18 per cent to just over \$119,000. Treasurer and Deputy CAO Trevor Jarrett was listed for the first time making about \$112,000.

And Dawn-Euphemia also had to file under the Public Salary Disclosure Act as its Administrator, Donna Clermont, made \$100,686 in 2020.

The disclosures act doesn't specify if the amounts paid to employees included overtime due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Not every public sector leader had a pay increase. Bluewater Health CEO Mike Lapaine was once again one of the highest paid public servants in Lambton but he took home about \$10,000 less than 2019 with \$319,546.60 in salary and \$10,577.37 in benefits listed for 2020.

SEE PUBLIC SALARY PG 2

Petrolia green lights removal of 17 acres of trees for housing

Heather Wright
The Independent

A plan to remove about 17 acres of bush in Countryview Estates has been given the green light.

But Petrolia council is making what's left of the 25 acres of trees a "no touch" area, according to Lambton County Planner Rob Nesbitt.

Since February 2020, neighbours in the Countryview Estates have voiced concerns about Developers Bob Leaper's and Louis Bratanek's plans to create 74 housing lots in the trees. For about three hours over the course of two meetings, neighbours voiced concern about the woodlot being removed with some saying significant trees, like the butternut, are in the area and should be preserved.

The move also drew the criticism of a local farmer who worries more homes near his cattle operation would mean more problems, including encroachment onto his land and complaints about ordinary farm smells.

Monday, when the issue went back to council to remove the significant woodlot status of the area and zone it residential, people had one more chance to voice their opinions.

Former Councillor Liz Welsh, who was on council when the original development which included housing in the trees was approved, was skeptical about the plans, questioning how the remaining trees would be protected.

SEE COUNTRYVIEW PG 2

Public salaries climb at a rate above inflation in 2020



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Countryview developers may cut 17 acres of trees

CON'T FROM PG 1

Welsh says she finds it “odd” that council would remove the significant woodlot status and then label the “disparate few acres that are left” as an Environmental Protection area. The developer plans to keep a 50 to 60 foot buffer of trees around the property edge and a swath of trees through the middle of the property which will now be zoned Environmental Protection areas.

Welsh wasn’t sure that land actually would be protected. “There are currently two very visible properties in Petrolia that have an EP designation on their properties and the owners are flagrantly doing damage and nothing seems to be done. So, I don’t have a whole lot of confidence that the Environmental Protection designation would be honored,” she told councillors. When asked by *The Independent* which lots had “flagrant” damaged, she said it wouldn’t be appropriate to reveal that publicly although “council knows what they are.”

Nesbitt says the county would be

watching to ensure the trees were protected. “The intent is that those areas are essentially no touch areas.”

Normally, developers would have to replant the same amount of trees they’re removing, however there is not space available. Instead, Leaper and Bratanek will pay \$75,000 to a Lambton County fund to buy and plant trees.

“I just find that quite ironic that we’re approving the removal of a significant woodlot with the promise to plant an equivalent amount of trees and yet there isn’t even land for them to meet that contractual obligation,” said resident Ashley Shortridge. “A financial offering in place of those trees isn’t going to improve the environment, it isn’t going to get trees planted, if there is no land to plant.”

Nesbitt says the trees would be planted outside of Petrolia.

Councillors defended the woodlot removal saying there was little else they could do.

“This process was put into motion basically 14 years ago,” says Councillor Grant Purdy. He says

council in 2007 approved the idea of cutting the trees when it approved the subdivision agreement without flagging the issue.

“The conditions have been satisfied by the developer...If we were to try and do something to stop that, we face potential court costs, challenges, because basically, the developers have done their due diligence, they’ve done what’s asked and the various government agencies have actually approved this,” says Purdy.

Councillor Ross O’Hara agreed.

“It’s nice if you can leave everything as is forever and never touch it,” he said before the vote was taken. “I think it’s a great development and it needs to go ahead.”

Councillor Joel Field also voiced support, adding he expects the Environmental Protection designation to protect the remaining trees.

Mayor Brad Loosley declared a conflict on the rezoning, saying he had accepted financial help during his 2018 election campaign from Bratanek.

The developers still need a site plan approved before moving ahead.

No new food trucks in P-town

The Independent

Petrolia councillors have put the idea of more food trucks in the community on hold.

Councillor Wade Deighton wanted to see more than one food truck in the community. A committee had suggested one more in North Bridgeview Park. The permit would be at

least \$5,000 a year for three years.

Council tabled the plan at the suggestion of Councillor Marty Souch.

“It’s probably the worst time that we could have ever done this,” he says, adding it can be brought up when “they’re in charge of their own destiny” after the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

Watford rest home to be apartments

The Independent

An Watford retirement home with a checkered past will get new life.

The home on Victoria Street used to be a 32 person retirement village. In the last few years it attracted residents with significant needs which were not being met. But Brock Development Group purchased the home and plans 20 apartments.

Neighbours voiced concern, but Michelle Doornbosch said they plan a significant investment. “We are not proposing to expand the building...We know that there are substantial upgrades that are required,” she says. That will include a new fence and parking lot.

Warwick council okayed the residential zoning Monday.

Most public salaries rise above the rate of inflation in 2020 according to Sunshine List

CON'T FROM PG 1

Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, brought home just over \$314,000 in wages and benefits in 2020. That’s up from \$299,567.24 in 2019 or a five per cent increase.

Lambton’s top administrator, Ron Van Horne made about

\$226,000 in 2020. That’s up about \$14,000 from 2019.

In education, Lambton-Kent District School Board Director of Education John Howitt earned \$235,905.43 - there are 273 people - including dozens of teachers - from the public board on the list. The director of the St. Clair

District Catholic Board, Director Deb Crawford made \$218,196.02 in 2020.

There were 104 employees from the board on the public disclosure list.

Four of the five top public wage earners are at Ontario Power Generation including Kenneth

Hartiwick, the president, who makes nearly \$1.26 million a year.

Premier Doug Ford makes far less - about \$209,000 a year. Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP and Labour Minister, Monte McNaughton earned about \$166,000 in 2020, Bob Bailey brought home just over \$147,000 for his work

as an MPP and Parliamentary Assistant.

Over the years, unions have argued the \$100,000, which was set as the benchmark for the Sunshine List, isn’t reflecting inflation. The \$100,000 mark adjusted for today’s inflation would be \$156,492.06.

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Three months until farm practice board gives Buurma ruling

Heather Wright
The Independent

It could take three months for the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board to decide whether David Buurma’s biosolid fertilizer storage on his Churchill Road farm is a normal farm practice.

The Brooke-Alvinston farmer launched the appeal after receiving complaints from the municipality about the storage bunker on his property. 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 Lasalle Agri which is operated by members of the Buurma family. David Buurma is also a director of Lasalle Agri.

Buurma, in his witness statement, said Brooke-Alvinston’s administrator seemed to think the storage was part of the commercial operation. So, he launched the case with the board to get a clear ruling that what he was doing was part of a normal farming operation.

“I am centrally storing fertilizer for the exclusive use of the Buurma Acres Farm Unit,” he said in his witness statement submitted during the six-day hearing. Buurma 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. He estimated he had about 2,000 tonnes of the biosolids stored at the Churchill Line farm to be used over the course of nine months over his grain acreage “on an as needed basis.” The concrete bunker, he told the hearing, can hold up to 4,000 tonnes of biosolids.

The storage, he says, provides “economies of scale” so he 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, adding it was “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.

Two other neighbours, both who had farmed, testified about the odour as well, saying it would saturate clothing and even stick

to sandwiches hours later in the damp weather.

In closing arguments, Buurma’s lawyers dismissed that testimony, downplaying the trio’s farm experience saying their evidence was subjective. Trent Johnson added the farmers had never complained to Buurma about the odours before.

Instead, Johnson pointed to their expert witnesses - including farmers who had used the material - who agreed storing large amounts of fertilizer is normal practice on larger farms. Trent Johnson added it’s clear Buurma is only using it on his farm. “Given the agricultural use, and rural nature of the subject lands, and those that surround the subject lands, the subject lands are an ideal location for the centralized storage,” he told the board.

And he rejected the idea that the biosolid fertilizer “should somehow be treated differently than other fertilizers.” The municipality in its bylaws specifically talked about biosolid fertilizer. “Whether they like it or not, it’s regulated under the Canadian Fertilizers Act. It’s regulated as a fertilizer.”

But Brooke-Alvinston’s lawyer, Peter Pickfield, argued his witnesses showed “the product which is being stored has the specialized characteristics that

necessitates special consideration of storage.” He added Mike Muffels, an engineer with GHD, says “the biosolid properties of fertilizer will reactivate,” which other fertilizers do not. “And under open storage conditions, the greater exposure to moisture and humidity and the higher the volume of material stored, the greater the risk of off site odor and combustion.”

Pickfield argued the former silage bunker which now holds the biosolids fertilizer wasn’t constructed to keep it dry and that’s creating problems. He says most farmers follow the rules of the fertilizer label, and the manufacturer of this material says it must be stored in a dry place. The manufacturer, he says, instructs farmers to “purchase only the quantities that may be required for crops. Estimate required fertilizer quantities as accurately as possible; store no more than one tonne of fertilizer, no longer than the immediate use.”

Pickfield also pointed out that the zoning bylaws don’t speak to fertilizer being stored on agricultural land, only commercial zoning does.

And he says the neighbours who testified for the municipality were well qualified to understand the issues before the board, and that they had never talked to Buurma

about their concerns should not matter.

“There’s an obligation on the operator who is generated to also consult with his neighbors in my submission, neighbors in my submission, and the circumstances.

“I don’t think it’s appropriate to set a standard that a resident can only have a legitimate concern, if it has to proactively complain about the issue. That’s an indicator that you’re asking the resident to be the policeman rather than asking the generator of the impact to address the issue,” says Pickfield.

The municipality’s lawyer asked the board to find this is not a normal farm practice or to give guidance on its proper storage on the farm.

“There’s a regulatory gap in the storage of this fertilizer. It’s governed by the fertilizer Fertilizers Act. The only available guidance is a manufacturer’s label that would be stored in a dry place or recommendation to which the subject practice does not adhere. The manner of storage of the fertilizer in the subject property is not consistent with the standard of dry storage set out in the manufacturer’s label.”

The board will review the hours of arguments and give a decision in 90 business days by releasing its report.

Two Lambton homes to expand

Heather Wright
The Independent

Two long term care homes have been given the green light to expand.

Lambton County has been given approval to start a 10-bed unit which will exclusively serve people with dementia. The idea is to provide a home-like unit with dedicated staff who engage residents in everyday tasks.

Jane Joris, general manager of long term care for Lambton, says the application for \$4 million in funding for the project was only submitted in September.

She says there is still a lot of work to do before the shovels get in the ground, likely in 2022. It may be 2023 before seniors actually call the new unit home.

Joris is excited to add a new service in Petrolia.

“We have we have some services in the home that certainly can support this. We do know that there’s some research that shows that campuses of care are efficient and helpful and people can have the support they need there,” she says.

“We have long term care. We have the adult day program. The apartments, though we don’t operate them, they’re close by. And you know, we have the daycare and some offices, so there’s opportunity for shared resources on that space.”

And Watford Quality Care Centre has been given the go ahead for 33 new spaces at its home. The home will also be able to upgrade the 63 spaces already there.


The projects are part of a \$991 million commitment announced by Ontario’s finance and long term care ministers March 17 for 80 new long-term care projects with over 10,000 spaces.

GLENVIEW ACCIDENT





ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE


Two vehicles were damaged, including an airbag deployment, following an accident outside LCCVI early Tuesday afternoon. Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Chief Jay Arns says there were no injuries, but the driver of the Nissan SUV was taken to hospital as a precaution.



This Month In Lambton

March 2021



Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

Community Safety & Well-being Plan Public Survey

A public survey to assist in the development of a Community Safety & Well-being Plan for Lambton County is now available online at lambtononline.ca/communitysafety. The survey will be open until March 31, 2021.

An Evening with Author K.L. Armstrong

Celebrate One Book Lambton on Friday, April 9 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. with a Facebook Live Author Talk with this year’s featured author K.L. Armstrong.

Armstrong will participate in an interactive conversation exploring the book and its themes and end with an open question and answer period that anyone can participate in through Facebook. Register at onebooklambton.ca/programs to receive a link to the event or follow @LCLibrary on Facebook. A Facebook account is not necessary to participate.

Expand Your Garden

Lambton County Library cardholders can once again reserve vegetable and herb seeds! Seeds can be borrowed through Lambton County Library’s contactless curbside pickup service. Visit lclibrary.ca/seedlibrary for a list of seeds.

DigSafe

Many Lambton County residents are beginning to think about outdoor projects they want to tackle this spring.

Remember, knowing what’s below the ground helps to protect you, your family, and others. Homeowners and contractors are required, by law, to obtain utility locates before starting construction or excavation projects.

Once your property has been inspected and lines have been marked, you will know the approximate location of utilities and can dig safely.


For more information about safe digging practices, visit digsafe.ca. If you have construction or landscaping plans, contact Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 or visit ontarioonecall.ca to learn more.

Looking Ahead


9:30 a.m., April 7, 2021 - Council Meeting

9 a.m. & 11 a.m., April 21, 2021 - Committee A.M. & Committee P.M.

Agendas, minutes and links to meeting live stream videos can be found at lambtononline.ca/meetings.



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Discoveries That Matter

Editorial

Time to change the Sunshine List

For several years, people have been questioning the value of the Sunshine List.

In 1996, Mike Harris brought in the Public Salaries Disclosures Act to show voters all those fat cats working in cushy government jobs. Anyone who made more than \$100,000 was in that category.

In the early years, the list wasn't that big but over the years it's grown to a huge database. The province's unions say one in 10 Ontario workers now makes over \$100,000. That's about 11 per cent more than most Ontario workers.

But there is that nasty little problem of inflation. The magic number continues to be \$100,000 even though inflation has gone up over 50 per cent since 1996.

What does that mean in real dollars? If there were 151,040 people on the Sunshine List in 2018 and then the government changed that magic number to reflect inflation, the list would drop to just 23,208 people.

Or if the Sunshine List were adjusted to inflation, that \$100,000 would now be about \$154,000.

And when you look at the lower tier municipalities, most of those on that list are at or below that range.

So should we scrap the list all together? We don't think so. We still believe there is value in knowing that Ontario Power Generation is still paying people far more money than most of us will ever make while increasing our hydro rates.

There is also value in seeing what our municipal leaders are agreeing to with local employees. Some of the percentage increases in this year's list were far higher than the rate of inflation and you can bet that's raising some eyebrows - COVID or no COVID.

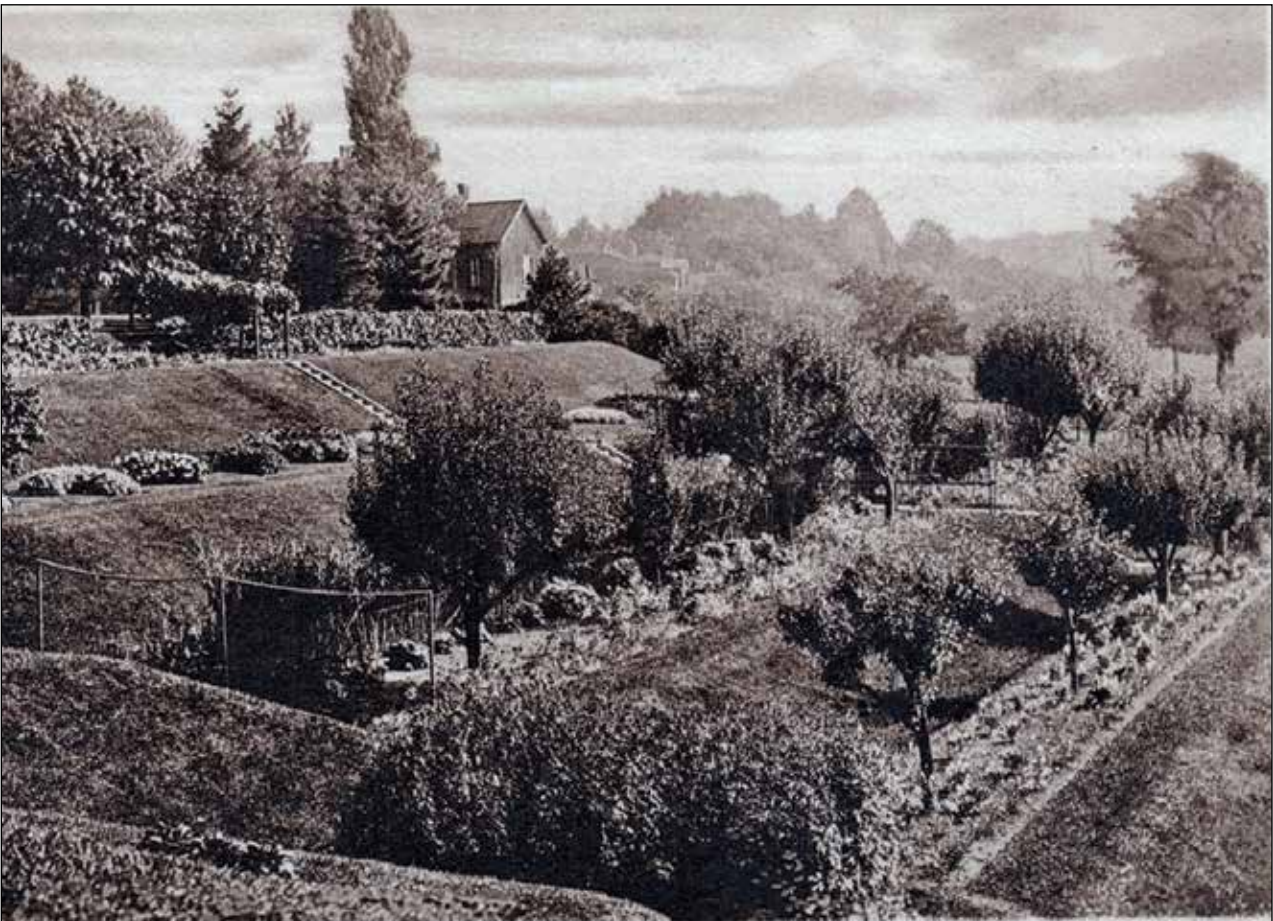
And it is also good to see there are some people who are not clamouring for more every year - it may build a little faith in the idea that people enter the public service to serve the public, not get rich.

We think the province needs to look at linking the Sunshine List to the cost of living in the future. That way it will be fair and yet we'll still be able to hold those to account who aren't spending taxpayers dollars wisely.

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

You likely wouldn't have been able to play through at the time, but this terraced garden at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital is now part of the Kingswell Glen Golf Club. It opened March 20.

Norm's right, Petrolia council should meet more often

Norm Sutherland is kind of like my mom, he's not happy unless he's complaining about something. Monday, he had something worth complaining about.

The long-time council watcher was on the virtual council meeting and asked why council sometimes goes an entire month without meeting. Sutherland believed - as I did several months ago - Petrolia must have dropped a few meetings from the schedule.

It hasn't. Town council only met 16 times in 2020 in regular session and will meet the same in 2021. More meetings can be called, says the clerk, if the mayor believes there is a need.

With a four week gap between meetings, it's understandable how Sutherland might think they're not meeting as much. Of course Sutherland blames it on a lack of coverage from *The Independent* - which I don't buy. Sutherland never did like our investigation

of the last CAO's shenanigans.

But, the point Sutherland is trying to get at is council isn't as transparent as they say they are. I'm not sure transparent is the right word, but I certainly agree there isn't nearly enough discussion about issues facing council.

Petrolia council meets 16 times in regular session. Most local municipalities meet twice a month. So, for example, Brooke-Alvinston has 16 meetings done by early September.

Do councils which meet twice a month have more business to do?

Some do. Plympton-Wyoming for example has a huge number of planning issues.

Some don't - Brooke-Alvinston after years of a number of major issues dominating the discussions, had a 42 minute meeting the other day. And they accomplished a lot.

Petrolia on the other hand, squeezes as many items on the agenda as possible

and few councillors take time to ask the questions that are necessary for good government. Wouldn't want to be the one to drag out the night.

If Petrolia council is holding fewer meetings for efficiency, they're not getting it. In fact, they're more likely getting an ineffective council which allows policies they know little about to pass, whether they're any good or not. So this time, I'm with Norm; Petrolia should return to meeting twice a month and really discuss the big issues facing the town, not just agree to whatever has been suggested.



Heather Wright

The

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Police may lay charges against protest organizers

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sarnia Police say they may still lay charges after hundreds of people gathered to protest pandemic measures.

Saturday, a crowd gathered in front of Sarnia City Hall, even though under the province’s reopening framework, Lambton residents are not allowed to gathering at all in public places while under lockdown. Only a handful were wearing masks.

Some speakers, like Corunna Fitness Center Owner Rob Theriault, urged small businesses which are barred from opening in Lambton because of the prevalence of the virus to open their doors anyway. “It is possible. We can do it together,” he told the crowd.

Many of the speakers and signs at the Sarnia rally referenced anti-mask sentiments and the “government lies” which have led to the pandemic restrictions. The event was billed as part of a world-wide freedom rally.

MPP Bob Bailey offered this comment about the lack of enforcement of provincial government gathering limits.

“You know, the bylaw officers and the police kind of have their hands tied other than maybe (charging) organizers. You know, what do you do with all those people because there’s no law that says they have to be distanced, (it’s) only out of respect for your family and colleagues.”

Bailey came under fire in the Ontario legislature for his comments. Tuesday, he clarified his support was for small business people feeling the pinch and



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Several hundred people, most without masks, held what was billed as a World Wide Freedom Rally in Sarnia Saturday. Police are investigating and could charge organizers under the province’s pandemic rules. Lambton’s in the grey reopening zone and gatherings of any size are not allowed.

the government’s measures to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizers of the event declined to comment to members of the media about the event. One Petrolia organizer, Erin Robinson, invited *The Independent* to attend and after the event said all the organizers had agreed they would not be speaking to the media.

Social media posts earlier in the week urged people not to give out the names of the organizers of the rally, fearing the police would arrest them before the event.

Sarnia Police Media Relations Officer, Const. John Sottosanti, says there were plain clothes officers on patrol and police are now trying to determine who organized the event.

Police are working with Sarnia’s bylaw enforcement and Sottosanti says charges are possible. He points out it took several weeks before officers laid charges in protests in front of Walmart earlier in the year.

Sottosanti adds the police are trying to balance the public’s right to protest and being safe.

And he says as the pandemic drags on, people on both sides of the issue have “drawn lines in the sand” and police “don’t want to spark a battle.”

“It would be good if everyone calmed down and takes a deep breath and be sensible.”

Sottosanti says police will continue to monitor the organizers which he believes plan another event at Sarnia City Hall March 27.

Worries of community COVID spread after protest

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health says a large protest could spark more cases of COVID-19.

“All gatherings are just a bad idea with COVID,” says Dr. Sudit Ranade. “But of course if you don’t believe in COVID, then you’re not going to believe that gatherings are a bad idea.”

Ranade admits he didn’t hear about the protest in Sarnia Saturday, which drew hundreds of largely unmasked people - both seniors, adults and children. But he says any large gatherings during a pandemic are a bad idea.

“We’ve had some gatherings that have been outdoors where people wear masks that we didn’t see any disease transmission from, so like, that’s one way to mitigate it,” he says. “If these people are both congregating and also not wearing masks, you know, it’s very

possible that we might see the spread of disease from that kind of activity, which is concerning to me.”

The protest came as Lambton saw dozens of cases and two-thirds of elementary and secondary schools dealing with COVID-19 at one point.

Brooke Central School is still in outbreak, however public health officials say students will return to class Thursday.

Students at North Lambton Secondary in Forest returned to class Monday after a week online. The public school board could not find enough teachers to safely run the school. It has 18 students and one teacher with COVID-19 now. LCCVI has eight students affected.

And while schools deal with COVID in the classroom, public health officials put the finishing touches on a mass vaccination site at the Point Edward Arena. Officials began using the site

Monday. It may replicate the model, which has dozens of small booths for privacy, in Forest and Wyoming in the future.

Lambton passed a vaccine milestone March 17 - 10 per cent of the population had at least their first COVID-19 shot.

That number is expected to rise substantially with the opening of the mass Point Edward clinic and family health teams receiving 2,600 doses to give out. About 900 vaccines were delivered to Central Lambton Family Health team Friday and were expected to be in arms by Wednesday night.

Lambton Public Health is reporting another 17 cases of COVID-19 Tuesday to bring the total to 2,642. Officials say 220 people are actively ill with the virus, 23 less than yesterday.

Lambton once again has the highest case per 100,000 rate in the province at 164 cases for every 100,000 people.

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Joan Spalding who has been gracing Lambton stages for over 50 years wasn't about to let the pandemic stop the music or separate her from her loyal fans. On March 29, she celebrates one year of daily Facebook concerts.

First Lady of Bluewater Country sings through pandemic

Heather Wright
The Independent

As a little girl, Joan Spalding would crawl out of bed and peer through the staircase to watch her family make music together. It's been her life ever since and she wasn't about to give it up because of a pandemic.

Spalding, who is known as the First Lady of Bluewater Country, can't remember a time without music. "There was always music and all our families went to the Hagan's and we'd play at the farmhouse and I'd watch everybody."

Spalding loved every stolen minute. And even at that young age, she made a keen observation; the family didn't have a guitar in the band.

One day, her parents went to see Don Pablo - billed as the conductor of the Biggest Little Band. They brought him home. Spalding already knew how to play the piano and Pablo agreed to show her the guitar. "I just looked at

him and what he did. He showed me three chords and that's how we did it." Spalding took to the instrument easily because she was playing by ear. "Music is my right hand," she says.

By the time the Plympton-Wyoming woman was "16 or maybe 17; I wasn't old enough to be in that place" the Rhythm Ramblers snuck her up the backstairs of the bar they were playing and put her out on stage. She was home.

Spalding played every bar with live music in Lambton, recorded albums with friends including Doug Springstead and entered music competitions. She's the only woman to win the Canadian Open Singing Contest three years in a row.

So, when COVID-19 hit and Spalding's gigs stopped, she was a bit lost. "I didn't know what to do...but it came in to me as a dream. So I got this as a dream (to play) on the computer, so that's how I started."

Spalding didn't know anything about

computers or social media, but on March 29, she played her first virtual gig - just one song.

"And the first song I did, because I didn't know how I was going to connect to my people, I cried after I was done.

"It hit my heart because I didn't know how to stay in touch with my fans."

But her fans found her. In a couple of days, singing live became a habit. Some days Spalding plays three songs, some days more. She takes requests from the dozens of people who log on live. That's stretched her - learning new songs she wouldn't normally sing.

As she heads up to the first anniversary of her online daily concerts, Spalding is grateful she can still connect with all the people who love music like she does.

"You work so hard, keeping your career up, and then all of a sudden you think you're gonna lose it. Anyway, that's how I continued."

MP Marilyn Gladu Sarnia-Lambton

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WE OFFER IN-CLINIC APPOINTMENT FOR WAX REMOVALS

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

Watford Arena Addition and Renovations 61 Centennial Avenue, Watford, Ontario

Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned until 2:00pm Wednesday March 31, 2021 for the Addition and Renovations to the Watford Arena. The building addition consists of approximately 34,311 sq. ft.

Bids must be accompanied by a 10% Bid Bond and the successful Contractor is required to furnish a 50% Labour and Materials Bond and a 50% Performance Bond.

Due to Lambton County moving to Grey-Lockdown Zone, there will not be a site meeting. Contractors are free to visit the site but internal access to the buildings will be prohibited unless a private tour has been arranged with the Manager Parks and Recreation, Theresa Klachan by emailing tklachan@warwicktownship.ca.

Tender documents are available for digital download upon request from:

Spriet Associates London Limited,
Engineers and Architects,
155 York Street, London, Ontario, N6A 1A8.

Email your request to mail@spriet.ca on or after noon on March 10, 2021.

Contract Documents will be on display at the Sarnia Construction Association and the London and District Construction Association.

Any Tender or the lowest Tender not necessarily accepted.

Our Job No. 217258-1

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www.spriet.ca

Dawn-Euphemia man hid in a field after car crash

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Dawn-Euphemia man's misguided flight from police has netted thousands of dollars in fines and an understanding of his alcohol abuse..

Drew Bristol, 24, plead guilty to three counts during his Mar. 17 appearance, including a bizarre crash on Oil Heritage Road in October.

Bristol was driving his white 2018 Mazda erratically just before 3 pm Oct. 17 when he flew off Oil Heritage Line between Petrolia and Oil Springs. The car smashed into a ditch before coming to rest upright in a farmer's field.

When police arrived Bristol had moved several hundred metres into the field. He lay down attempting to hide, taking his shirt off and concealing himself in some tall grass. Police dispatched a canine unit and emergency response team but the search dragged on.

After an hour, officers finally drove into the field to flush Bristol out. He started to run but was caught in a foot chase.

Bristol was taken to the Petrolia hospital to treat eye injuries. While there he registered blood alcohol readings of .160, double the legal limit.

It was his second run-in with the law. Bristol had already been arrested for drunk driving just three months before.

Anishinabek Police pulled him over after clocking a vehicle going about 160 km/h in an 80 km/h zone on Rawlings Road.

Bristol said he hadn't been drinking but had slurred speech, slow movements and smelled of alcohol. And there was open liquor in the vehicle.

Bristol was taken to the Grand Bend OPP detachment where he blew .200 on the blood alcohol test.

Crown Attorney David Nicol asked for \$5,000 in total fines, \$2,000 each for the impaired charges and \$1,000 for the subsequent chase reflecting “the extremely odd circumstances where it took some time for police to actually arrest Mr. Bristol.

"The seriousness of Mr. Bristol evading the police warrants a fine above the minimum," says Nicol.

Defence Lawyer Nick Cake requested a \$4,000 total punishment, saying Bristol is "insightful into why things have happened this way."

Cake says Bristol grew up in a house where drug addictions were rampant.

"He tried to avoid drugs for so long because he didn't want to have a criminal record, he didn't want to lose his liberty," says Cake.

"And ultimately his avoidance of drugs led him to alcohol, and led him down the same lines."

Cake says his client has cut back heavily on his drinking. This was spurred in large part by a wake-up moment the night of his second arrest, when an officer made the off-hand comment that Bristol was on the same path as his family members who've fallen victim to addiction.

"That really stuck with him... the message really hit home that if he continues down this road he may in fact end up with lengthier criminal records," says Cake.

"I'm really sorry for my actions. It's a hard lesson for me to learn," says Bristol.

"I lost my job, I lost my vehicle, I lost my licence. It's a big bump in the road, but after I get past this I plan to keep on moving forward and never looking back, and learning from this mistake and never making it again."

Justice Krista Leszczynski says Bristol had learned from the experience. "I'm glad to hear that you do have some significant insight into what caused you to find yourself in a situation where you made these decisions in the first place, and you have taken some active steps to address that so that you don't make those mistakes again," she says.

"It's obvious that although you wanted the right thing when you made the conscious decision to stay out of drugs... that you did unfortunately go about it in the wrong way," says Leszczynski.

Leszczynski kept Bristol's impaired fines at \$2,000 each, but reduced his other punishment to the \$400 minimum for a total of \$4,400 in fines. Bristol is also banned from driving for two years.

Biweekly meetings or pay cut in Petrolia says Sutherland

Heather Wright
The Independent

Norm Sutherland says Petrolia councillors should take a pay cut since they're not meeting that often.

During Monday's virtual council meeting, Sutherland asked why the town sometimes went four weeks without a meeting. "When you wait

for almost four, in fact, four weeks, a lot must be going on,” he says adding town residents don’t know about it “because we all know the paper doesn’t cover it - very little anymore. Transparency, let’s get back to transparency that you people promised.”

Sutherland suggested council should meet every two weeks "for the benefit of the populace." And, he says if the

town wasn't meeting as much, pay should be cut.

Clerk Mandi Pearson says council will hold 16 meetings as it did last year. There were other special meetings in 2020, which added to the total. Those are not on the council calendar.

And she said councillors receive base pay and pay per each meeting attended.

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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.

ALSO ACCEPTED: Sharps (Hypodermic Needles)

NOT ACCEPTED: PCB's, commercial, industrial or radioactive wastes, tires, explosives (flares, ammunition), electronics.

PLEASE NOTE: For safety reasons, residents are asked to segregate lithium batteries from all other battery types prior to drop-off.

2021 Household Hazardous Waste Depot Schedule

March 27	April 24	May 29
June 26	September 25	October 30

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ATVs welcome on St. Clair roads

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

After several reports, presentations and much discussion over several months, St. Clair Council decided the bylaw to deal with off-road vehicles on the roads, is no bylaw at all.

The discussion was sparked by a provincial change that came into effect New Year’s Day making the vehicles street legal in any municipality without a bylaw preventing them.

But St. Clair could not decide what to do. Staff brought a series of drafts and revisions to winter meetings in an attempt to balance the wishes of riders and the rest of the community.

One or more sticking points was usually found, with the lack of a decision leaving ATV’s de facto legal since the beginning of the year.

A new bylaw returned to council Mar. 15 and yet again was met with many of the same arguments that stalled previous versions. Use of ORV’s in town cores and along the St. Clair Parkway were the major impediments.

The option that finally came to a vote was to allow ORV use on all roads with some exceptions in busier areas. Councillors Bill Myers and Tracy Kingston voted yes, but

Rose Atkins, Pat Brown and Jim DeGurse cast their votes for no. Deputy Mayor Steve Miller abstained, causing the vote to fail.

Following this latest impasse, Myers suggested another option: pass no bylaw at all. Clerk Jeff Baranek wasn’t in favour of the option.

“Opting to authorize the use of ORV’s by not passing a restrictive or prohibitive bylaw, eliminates the ability to control the time and location where they are used,” says Baranek in his report.

“There would be nothing preventing a licensed operator to ride a permitted ORV to the grocery stores in downtown Corunna, or any other use an operator deems desirable. This scenario creates too many concerns by eliminating all control.”

But council decided it was time to finally put the issue to rest. Miller and DeGurse joined Myers and Kingston to give this option the votes, choosing to legalize ORV’s by not passing a bylaw.

“We’re hoping these people are going to be respectable people,” says Kingston. “Yes we’re going to have a few people that aren’t going to follow the rules. But we have to experiment with this... before we put so many restrictions on that people say forget it, I’m not even going to bother with it.”

- THE INDEPENDENT

Cabin at home in Lambton Shores but needs work

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The Canatara Park Cabin has moved in at the Lambton Heritage Museum but it’s going to need a lot of help to get back to its old, renewed self.

The historic cabin, with roots tracing back to the 1830s, currently sits in pieces at the Grand Bend museum. But it’s temporary, and fans of the cabin are on a push to reconstruct the log structure. Along with the museum, they made their case during an online presentation to the public earlier this month.

The cabin was a fixture in Canatara Park since 1971 after being donated to the city by the family of former Alderman Lorne Hay. But after 50 years, it was in need of extensive and expensive repairs. Sarnia City Council voted to pull it down and rebuild a replica in its place.

“This was a very sad hour for us, we had long faces and were wondering just what the heck was going to happen,” says Roger Hay, Lorne’s son.

Hay was part of the Save the Canatara Cabin Committee, formed to try and save the original structure.

Another twist awaited the cabin’s long history though. “Out of the blue, we were contacted by the County of Lambton, and

they were expressing an interest in the log cabin,” says Hay. “It was wonderful.”

“Since we have a long standing tradition of welcoming historic buildings to our museum site, the museum was a natural fit,” says Dana Thorne, museum curator. It’s the museum’s oldest building and first log structure.

The journey was not easy. Construction crews worked for weeks carefully dismantling each log and marking them so it could be put together exactly as before. The roof was transported on its own, and even needed an oak tree at the museum to be winched aside so it could fit. By December, all parts of the cabin arrived at their new home.

“What’s really important today is not tearing things down, but conserving them,” says Sandi Spaulding. She is the daughter of Maud Hanna, a Sarnia philanthropist who once owned the cabin and donated the land that would become Canatara Park.

Spaulding emphasizes “putting the Canatara Cabin back together again, so it can stand as a legacy from us to future generations of Canadians... The Canatara Cabin made it through one pandemic 100 years ago, and now, once funding is completed, it will be restored and make it through this one.”

- THE INDEPENDENT

Appeal in the works to stop Bird Lane construction

The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming neighbourhood is banding together to stop a developer from splitting a lot in two.

Tim Dillon bought a home in what’s called the Bird Lanes. The lots there are larger than many in new subdivisions. Some have up to 160 feet of frontage.

He wants to create two lots with frontage of about 70 feet each and build two houses.

But neighbours say it isn’t in keeping with the character of the neighbourhood. Over 90 per cent of the community signed a petition asking Plympton-Wyoming to halt the project.

But, the majority of council felt there was no legal reason to turn down the application. Councillor Mike Vasey argued allowing the smaller lots would change the neighbourhood. He added there were plenty of subdivisions with smaller lots and the Bird Lanes is a unique area.

The argument didn’t sway council.

So now, the neighbours are getting together again to send the application to the Local Planning Advisory Committee. It reviews zoning decisions.

Hearings at L-PAC can take months to be decided.

Until then, the development will have to wait.

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

TOWN OF PETROLIA NOTICE OF PASSING OF A ZONING BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Petrolia passed By-Law No. 16-2021 on the 22nd day of March 2021, under Section 34 of the *Planning Act*.

THE ZONING BY-LAW AMENDS the Town of Petrolia’s Comprehensive Zoning By-law 63 of 2017 to rezone property described as Part of Lot 10, Concession 10 & Part 2 RP25R8811. The subject lands are generally located west of Countryview Drive, between Joe Street and Valentina Street. The amendment rezones a majority of the property from “Significant Woodlot” to “Residential - 1 (R1)”.

The amendment rezones a portion of the property from “Significant Woodlot” to “Environmental Protection (EP)”. The “EP” zone applies to 61 foot wide strips of land along the east, west and south sides of the property and to a 120 foot wide strip of land in the centre of the property.

The Amendment would accommodate a proposed extension of an existing draft approved plan of subdivision, while preserving residual forest and vegetation within a portion of the property

THE KEY MAP shows more particularly the subject lands.

APPEALS to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in respect of the By-law may be made by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Petrolia a written notice of appeal, **not later than the 11th day of April 2021**, setting out the reasons for the appeal and accompanied by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal fee made payable to the Minister of Finance.

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

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

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

Dated at the Town of Petrolia this 23rd day of March 2021



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



Sports

Lambton Jr. Sting holding out hope for hockey

Barry Wright
The Independent

Despite Sarnia-Lambton continuing to have some of the highest per capita COVID case counts in Ontario, the Lambton Junior Sting clings to the possibility of some additional AAA hockey in the area between now and the end of May.

Junior Sting President Paul Moffatt tells *The Independent* his organization and others have been instructed by the Minor Hockey Alliance of Ontario to hang onto the hope of getting back on the ice, especially for the sake of OHL draft eligible players.

The OHL had previously circled May 8 as the date for its 2021 draft proceedings and no further updates have been announced since that date was chosen several months ago.

With this area in Grey protocol, all arenas,

including the Sting's home ice, the Progressive Auto Sales Arena, have been closed. Moffatt says all they can do now is wait.

"Please continue to watch the website for any further updates concerning the remainder of the season," said the most recent post of the organization's website.

"Thank you for all your patience and understanding during these times."

Moffatt says the Junior Sting put showcase games earlier this season against the Chatham-Kent Cyclones on social media as well as streaming many practices in order for OHL scouts to see Lambton players in advance of the league draft.

Meantime, the Sarnia Lady Sting is the latest organization to succumb to COVID restrictions. They decided last week to "pull the plug" on the remainder of their season. Minor hockey associations in Lambton are also finished playing.

Brubaker banned from gymnastics in Canada

Barry Wright
The Independent

An internal discipline panel has banned a former local gymnastics coach from any further association with Gymnastics Canada.

"The discipline panel for this case, chaired by Mr. Daniel Ratushny, held that Dave and Liz Brubaker did breach the relevant organizational Code of Ethics and Conduct policies that were in effect during the time frame when the events occurred (1996-2017)," said a statement on the GymCan website.

The panel ruled that Dave Brubaker is permanently banned from Gymnastics Canada member associations or clubs.

The suspension of his wife, Liz, has been

extended until January 2024, pending the completion of reinstatement conditions, the statement read.

The couple had 15 days from the decision late last week to appeal the decision.

Dave Brubaker, a National Team Director for GymCan's women's artistic gymnastics national team was suspended on December 15, 2017 after being charged by the police with sex-related offenses. He was acquitted in a Sarnia courtroom just over a year later.

The pair were both elite coaches at Bluewater Gymnastics in Sarnia for many years.

In a statement on its website signed by board chair Rob Dawson, The Bluewater Gymnastics Club says it is aware of the decision and will make no comment.

Alvinston's Cumming leads Racers to college softball victory

The Independent

Ally Cumming tripled and scored the lone run of the contest in the third inning of a 1-0 win by Northwestern Ohio against Kentucky's Midway University in NAIA women's softball last weekend.

The victory capped a four-game sweep of doubleheaders against Ohio Christian and Midway to open the home portion of the Racers' schedule.

Northwestern Ohio is now 11-7 on the season.

They have the third best winning percentage in the 12-team circuit.

Cumming, from Alvinston and a graduate of LCCVI, is hitting .200 this season with two runs scored in eight games, but she has only struck out twice in 15 at bats.

Last season, the junior hit .269 with two doubles and four RBI in 11 games over a COVID-shortened schedule. The 2021 regular season continues until the end of April.

Local teens to compete at Jr Nationals

Declan Watson beat his previous personal best by 12 kilograms in finishing eighth in the 89 kilo category at the Canadian Junior Weightlifting Championships.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, the event was held online on the weekend.

The Errol Village Public School student from Camlachie had a Snatch of 75 kilos to go along with a Clean and Jerk of 95 kilos for a total of 170 kilos.


Meantime, Marlowe Robinson of LCCVI also placed eighth in her 59 kilo classification. The Wyoming lifter tied her personal best at 48 kilos in the Snatch and set a new personal best in the Clean and Jerk at 62 kilos for a total of 110 kilos, besting her previous mark of 107. It was the first national event for both Robinson and Watson.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

DOWNTOWN RESILIENCY STUDY VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021
6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

IMPORTANT: TO REGISTER AND RECEIVE THE ZOOM LOGIN DETAILS
PLEASE E-MAIL TWAGNER@PETROLIA.CA OR CALL (519) 882-2350





NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC MEETING

OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

TOWN OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING

The Town of the Plympton-Wyoming is releasing for public comment and feedback an update to the Town's Official Plan. The Town is inviting members of the community to learn more and participate in the update to the Town's Official Plan at upcoming public engagement events.

The update of the Official Plan is being undertaken in accordance with Section 26 of the Planning Act.

One Open House and one Statutory Public Meeting will be held to provide residents, business owners, and members of the community with the opportunity to review the draft Official Plan Amendment and text, to provide feedback, and to learn more about the Official Plan Update. The Open House and Public Meeting are to hear from residents. No decision is being made on the Official Plan Update at the April open house and public meeting.

Both the Open House and Public Meeting will be virtual.

The Open House will be held on:

MONDAY APRIL 19, 2021
6:00 P.M.
VIRTUAL

The Statutory Public Meeting will be held on:

MONDAY APRIL 26, 2021
6:00 P.M.
VIRTUAL

The Draft of the Official Plan Update (text) and associated Schedules will be available on the Town's website starting on April 1, 2021.

To register for the Open House, the Public Meeting, or both, please contact:

Lisa Smeekens, Planning Technician, by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on April 19th, 2021 for the Open House and by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on April 26, 2021 for the Public Meeting for instructions. Note: A personal internet or a telephone connection will be required.

If you have questions regarding the Official Plan Update, please contact NPG Planning Solutions, the consultant working with the Town on this update, via the following:

Mary Lou Tanner, FCIP, RPP
Principal Planner
mtanner@npgsolutions.ca

Dated this 19th day of March 2021

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

THE GIFT OF HEARING CONTEST

Bluewater hearing wants to give the gift of hearing—one free pair of hearing aids to someone who is deserving in the community.

Nominate:
Yourself, a friend, or loved one who may be in need of hearing aids but may not have access to them.

Submit your entry!
Simply write a 100-word essay on why you or someone you love deserves to have hearing aids.

Visit:
bluewaterhearing.com/giftofhearing to submit your entry*

*Please note: All submissions are evaluated by Bluewater Hearing staff. Contest winner must be able to travel to our clinic for all initial appointments (including, but not limited to, initial hearing test, hearing aid fitting, and hearing aid delivery. Contest ends May 31st, 2021).



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Stop in at the office 9a-5p Mon-Fri
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Card of Thanks

Thank You!

Shirley Humphrey and family like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers, e-mails and gifts for her **100th birthday!**

They are very appreciated by Shirley Humphrey and daughters, Catherine Tyrie, Donna Derbyshire & Lorna Ryan



Card of Thanks

Thank You

The family of the late William (Bill) Shaw would like to extend a sincere thank you to our family, friends and neighbors for your kind works, expressions of sympathy, cards., meals/food, flowers and donation to Brigden United Church or alternate charity during this difficult time. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Steadman Brother’s Funeral Chapel.

Betty, Susan, Barb and Bob and families

Card of Thanks

THANK YOU

The family of Dorothy Macaulay wish to thank everyone who offered condolences following the recent loss of our dear mother and grandmother

The calls, cards, messages, flowers and delicious food were all gratefully received.

We will miss her so much but it has been wonderful to share memories with others who are mourning her loss as well.

Special thanks to Badder Funeral Home and to all the caring and compassionate staff at Lambton Meadowview.

In Memory

Roy L. Caley

who passed away on March 16, 1999

In loving memory of a special Dad, Grandpa, and Great Grandpa

Dad we miss you every day, you were so precious and unique, A guiding light throughout our lives, you were strong when we were weak. Happy memories flood our minds, whenever we think of you, but you can never be replaced that much is sadly true.


We will always remember the closeness we had, we love you and miss you so much, our kind and thoughtful Dad.

Love, Ann and Lyle Moffatt, Doug and Joan Caley, Debbie and Bert Bork, and families


Thurs., April 1 at 12noon

Early Deadline Reminder!

For the April 8th issue



Celebration




THIS KID is turning **70**

Happy Birthday Steven Rathwell

March 25

Celebration



HAPPY 81st BIRTHDAY

Coleen Dobbin

MARCH 28TH

Love from
Len, Patti, Lynne, Tracy and Families

In Memory

McCALLUM

In loving memory of our father, grandfather, great grandfather

Elwood, March 29, 1998, our mother, grandmother, great grandmother

Lucille, May 16, 1971 and our sister

Lou-anne, April 12, 2017 (also a mother & grandmother)

*Loving memories we will never forget
Sadly missed along life's way
With silent thought & deep regret
We think of you every day
No longer in our lives to share
But in our hearts you will be there.*

Forever Loved & Sadly Missed by
Gary & Judi
Sherry & Randy
Wayne & Mary Lynne
Kevin & Cheryl
Cathy & Tony
Jim & Denise
Maureen & Ron
Souzanne & Mark and families

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 virtual-communitylawschool@gmail.com.

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 virtualcommunitylawschool@gmail.com.

For Sale

LINCOLN MIG WELDER - with small quantity of wire \$250 or best offer. **GARDEN SKID** - Low to ground garden skid. Kubota engine. Great for planting & harvesting. Must be seen. **SINGLE BED** - Brand new twin bed. Comes with heavy duty frame & mattress protector. Asking \$500 or best offer. **HEAVY DUTY TRANSFER CHAIR** - Brand new. 19 inch wide. Comes with foot paddles. Asking \$200. **Call 226-738-2025**

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

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

Notice

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

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



Vegetable & Mushroom Soups only



Canned Pasta



Family Snacks



Cleaning Supplies



PETROLIA FOOD BANK



Gift Cards

PLEASE NOTE: Kleenex and Toilet Paper are not needed at this time.

Your Generosity & Support Are Greatly Appreciated.

Donations can be left at: Heidi's YIG - Petrolia; Wyoming Foodland and Corunna NoFrills or dropped off to 4156 PETROLIA LINE, UNIT 1 (REAR) • 519-882-3950 • MONDAY 9-11:30 AM & 4TH WEDNESDAY 6-7:45 PM

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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Death Notices

March 13 -March 19, 2021

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

GEORGE, Penny
Age 40, of Kettle Point
Denning's of Forest

WILSON, Gordon
Age 81, of Point Edward
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

PRIOR, Cecilia
Age 97, of Petrolia
Van Heck Funeral Home

IRVINE, Bruce
Age 90, of Cunniff
Knight Funeral Home

MONDAY, MARCH 15

COUTURE, Robert
Age 36, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SHERWOOD, Brad
Age 49, of Petrolia
McCormack Funeral Home

LAIDLER, Barbara
Age 63, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

TYRIE, Linda
Age 76, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

CUTHBERT, Patricia
Age 74, of Sarnia
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

LAPIER, Maxine
Age 84, of Watford
Smith Funeral Home

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

CUSHMAN, Noreen
Age 80, of Wyoming
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

GARSIDE, Bernice
Age 85, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

PLOYART, Robert
Of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

PEDDEN, Gerald
Age 77, of Watford
Denning's of Watford

LARSEN, Thelma
Age 84, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

CALLAN, Thomas
Age 57, of Sarnia
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

PARSONS, Marielle
Age 84, of Sarnia
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

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

NEWTON, William
Age 67, of Sarnia
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

BRAZEAU, Albert "Red"
Age 81, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

PIGOTT, Desmond
Age 90, of Sarnia
McKenzie Blundy 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 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



COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING

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



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‘I probably shouldn’t have been driving’

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

After admitting at the scene of a head-on collision that severely injured another woman that she shouldn’t have been behind the wheel, a 31 year-old woman has pled guilty to impaired driving charges. Christina Bell was travelling north on the St. Clair Parkway the evening of Aug. 30, 2019. Her grey 2010 Chevy Equinox aroused suspicion from a fellow motorist when it waited at a green light. After a honk from the man, Bell, with her nine year-old daughter in the SUV, took off swerving through the intersection. The man followed as Bell passed north through Corunna when she suddenly entered the opposite traffic lane and collided head-on with a truck. Both Bell’s SUV and the Ford F-150 driven by the woman she hit were severely damaged. A woman and her seven month-old grandson were in the truck. The infant was

unharmd, the woman suffered three broken vertebrae, a neck fracture, and numerous bruises all over her body. She continues with physiotherapy for her injuries. Bell’s daughter was also unharmd, and removed from the wrecked SUV by people on the scene. OPP officers arrived and found Bell “barefoot and hysterical,” with cuts to her arms, hands and legs. Police also noticed several signs of alcohol impairment, including red glossy eyes, slurred speech, unsteadiness, and a strong odor of alcohol. “I probably shouldn’t have been driving,” Bell said at the scene. Bell, who needed help walking to the police cruiser, was arrested for drunk driving. At the Corunna OPP station she registered a blood alcohol reading of .169, more than double the legal limit. Following Bell’s guilty plea Mar. 15, Justice Anne McFadyen adjourned sentencing to May 10 to allow for a pre-sentence report.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Drug issues led to driver sleeping in Warwick

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man who just couldn’t stay awake behind the wheel has been fined heavily. Ryan Swartz, 38, wasn’t tired though. On each occasion he was so high on drugs he could barely function, much less operate a vehicle. “I’m very apologetic for the situation that’s happened. It was a bad time in my life that I’ve put behind me,” says Swartz in court Mar. 15. Sept. 4, 2019 Swartz was found passed out in a truck on Warwick Village Road. A bystander became concerned after he hadn’t moved for two hours. Police arrived and found Swartz confused, disoriented and sweating profusely. He was treated for high heart rate and blood pressure and taken to Petrolia OPP detachment. Drug testing revealed a stimulant in his system. Five months later, Swartz was found passed out behind the wheel of a truck again, this time by the YMCA on Oakdale Ave. in Sarnia. Witnesses called police after finding an unresponsive man inside. When officers arrived a strange

argument ensued. Swartz was asked to roll down his window, he responded that it was. When officers demonstrated that it was clearly up, Swartz again insisted that it was down. The officers had enough and shattered the window. Swartz was dragged out of the truck and arrested. White powder was found in the truck, and a drug test at the Sarnia Police station found cocaine and other drugs in his body. “Clearly there was a period in his life where cocaine had won the battle,” says Defence Lawyer Nick Cake. He showed Swartz has since taken several counselling programs to address addiction issues. “He’s realized he had an issue with the substances, he’s gone out and he has taken matters into his own hands,” says Cake. “If our concern is substance abuse coupled with the operation of motor vehicles... we have eliminated those two things.” Justice Anne McFadyen imposed a one year driving ban on Swartz. In addition he’s fined \$3,000, but McFadyen decided Swartz’s rehabilitation efforts since last year were enough to avoid a probation term.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Did you take a taxi in Sarnia March 11 or 12?

The Independent

Lambton Public Health is looking for people who may have used a Sarnia taxi service after one of the drivers came down with COVID-19. Officials say if you travelled with Greg’s Taxi Service on March 11 from 5 am to 5 pm and/or March 12 from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm and your trip was more than 15 minutes, you should contact Lambton Public Health. Local health officials want to investigate the level of risk for each interaction and give advice on whether you need to be tested. The health department is taking steps to work with the company

to collect information about its passengers’ trips for the days in question, but not all contact information is available. “It is difficult to trace this person’s close contacts because of the nature of the taxi-cab industry, and we know that this taxi driver would have been in a confined space with members of the public while operating the taxi,” said Lori Lucas, Supervisor of Health Protection. “These reasons make it imperative that we release these details to the public, so that we can speak with anyone who used this service and give them the best guidance possible.” Call public health at 519-383-8331.



Social gatherings can have deadly consequences.



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

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