

The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

Vol. 8, Issue 32

Newsstand Price \$1.50 per week

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Lambton educators among first to get vaccine

Heather Wright
The Independent

Teachers, educational support workers, administrators and janitors in Lambton County will be among the first in the province to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

And union leaders say they're relieved. Lambton Public Health has decided teachers and other education workers will be getting priority for the COVID-19 vaccine.

The provincial guidelines did not include education workers in the second phase, however the president of the Lambton-Kent Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Laurel Liddicoat-Newton says Lambton Public Health has given education workers the okay to book appointments. She says the union, both locally and provincially, has been lobbying hard for the move.

All staff knew on April 1 they could register. Some, says Liddicoat-Newton, have already been vaccinated.

The rates of COVID-19 in Lambton in the classroom have been high, she says. At one point in March 66 per cent of the schools had cases of COVID-19 in the classroom. A number of schools have also closed because of the virus – one because there were not enough teachers to staff the classrooms. Liddicoat-Newton, who will get her first vaccination this week, says it is a relief to be able to be vaccinated, particularly for elementary teachers.

"It's been very disturbing, very upsetting for our teachers," says Liddicoat-Newton.

"I can tell you that union leaders... receive hundreds of emails per week, concerned members scared, very worried about themselves, their families, and especially their students in class.

"It's very hard to be socially distanced when you teach primary children; they are up close and personal. And it's so difficult to modify the way we teach now, in the COVID era."

Officials with District 10 Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation are also pleased teachers are among the earliest professions getting COVID-19 vaccines.

SEE EDUCATORS PG 2

HELLO BUNNY



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Easter Bunny was creating smiles in Petrolia over the weekend. With the pandemic shutting down all events, the Petrolia Lions, with the help of officials from the Town of Petrolia, reimagined their annual egg hunt. The club prepared treats for over 480 kids and set up a drive thru event. Families dropped off donations to the Petrolia Food Bank, then went to each station to collect a treat of some kind before having a brief curbside visit with the Easter Bunny. Here Veronica and Leo Bechard of Petrolia get an egg from the Easter Bunny.

Trains to roll through St. Clair as LGS demo ramps up

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The demolition at the former Lambton Generating Station is ramping up and residents are going to notice.

The newly hired demolition team will be removing thousands of tonnes of steel and other scrap metal and all of that will be heading along the rail line which has not seen this much traffic in recent memory.

Demolition of the plant which closed in 2013 had stalled recently. JMX Contracting was working on site but went bankrupt

shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

The job was taken over by Delsan-AIM. The company has said decommissioning of the plant should be complete by the end of 2022.

To accommodate the scrap removal, the CSX rail spur located on the OPG site will be reactivated. Rail cars began moving along the rail spur this week and are expected to run until Dec. 2021.

Project Manager Ralph Curitti says six rail cars will leave the site two or three times a week. Trains will run between 7 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday.

"Could be as high as 100 cars a month," says Mayor Steve Arnold of extra train traffic.

St. Clair Township councillors considered increased safety measures but decided since the tracks are already in use, people will just exercise the usual caution.

"It's a better way than having a bunch of truck traffic on the roads," says Councillor Pat Brown.

The rail cars will run north from the OPG plant, passing through Courtright, Mooretown and Corunna before heading up to Sarnia.

When daffodils bloom, hope grows

Support the Daffodil Campaign today

Donate now – cancer.ca



Canadian
Cancer
Society

Mobile vaccine team getting COVID-19 shots to rural Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton’s mobile vaccine team is certainly getting around.

After making sure about 1,500 people in long term care and retirement homes were protected against COVID-19, the mobile crew has been on the road, putting needles in the arms of seniors and soon farmers and teachers.

Jennifer Beaubien is the Superintendent of Family Services at Lambton Public Health. She heads up the mobile unit.

Wednesday, she and the team were at one of three planned ‘pop-up clinics’ at the Brigden Fairgrounds. The team was in Corunna March 26 and will be at the Brooke-Inwood-Alvinston Community Centre April 14 for clinics which are booked solid.

Beaubien says farmers were notified by the Lambton Federation of Agriculture they could now register for a vaccine as essential workers. Farmers, who aren’t yet on the field, jumped at the chance, filling 245 appointments at both the Brigden and the Alvinston clinics.

But the team has also been busy at local seniors apartments, including the Lambtonian in Petrolia where any senior who wanted a vaccine was able to receive one in the lobby of their building April 1.

The group will be back in Petrolia Monday working with Lambton County Developmental Services and St. Francis House to vaccinate the people in their community living homes.

Beaubien says LCDS will bring the residents to their Petrolia office for the vaccination. Without the mobile clinic, Beaubien says LCDS would have spent a lot of time shuttling people to clinics in Petrolia.

Lambton Public Health is trying to bring the vaccine to those who simply can’t get to a mass vaccination site.

“Transportation is a barrier for many,” she says. The mobile clinics are “easier” for some of the most vulnerable people but it is “not possible to do it for everyone.”

Meantime, three Lambton pharmacies are among those who will now be offering COVID-19 vaccines.

The province is expanding the program to 350 pharmacies across the province including Bright’s Grove Family Pharmacy, The Real Canadian Superstore Pharmacy in Sarnia and the Forest Pharmasave Pharmacy.

There are also clinics in nearby Dresden.

Check the list here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations>

Anyone over 55 can receive the AstraZeneca vaccine by booking an appointment at the three pharmacies.

Officials hope to have 1,500 pharmacies with clinics by the end of April.

Educators get the COVID vaccine

CON’T FROM PG 1

“We want everybody to be vaccinated as soon as they can. And so, you know, allowing the opportunity for frontline educators, for teachers, to be vaccinated... it’s one more step to ensuring that schools are safe and can remain open,” says District 10 President Jennifer Kumpf.

“Everybody, everyday is doing the best they can to ensure a safe school for students to report to, for teachers to report to, for staff to report to,” she says. “Teachers are diligent about following processes and protocols that are in place...to keep schools open when it’s safe to do so.”

While Lambton educators are getting shots in the arm now, their counter parts in Chatham-Kent are not. The number of COVID-19 cases there in schools is much lower.

But in the larger communities - Toronto, Peel and York - where the highest numbers of COVID-19 are found and where schools are being closed because of the pandemic again, teachers haven’t been moved to the front of the line.

At his press briefing Tuesday, Premier Doug Ford says the province is “working on a plan as well for the teachers” but as it stands in most parts of Ontario, teachers will be waiting until at least May.

Ford says the province has other priorities.

“We have to get the most vulnerable, the most elderly vaccinated...we have to go into the hot areas, the hotspots, targeting them,” he says. That includes essential manufacturers including meat factories and places like Amazon, Ford added.

Distress line calls up 146 per cent in Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Since the pandemic started, the Sarnia-Lambton Distress line has been swamped with calls.

Adults struggling in a relationship during isolation, people who have lost their jobs and more than ever, children and teens have been calling for mental health help.

Donna Martin, program coordinator for the Family Counselling Centre, says since the end of March, there have been 146 per cent more calls.

And it’s become clear more help is needed.

So, the centre is teaming up with St. Clair Child and Youth Services to use a grant from the Trillium Foundation to set up a dedicated crisis line for children and teens.

Martin says early in the pandemic, volunteers were answering calls on the existing distress line from their own homes. And there were a lot to handle.

“We were getting an increase in calls from people who were mostly worried; worried about what was going to happen, confused about what they should and shouldn’t do,” says Martin.

“It was anxiety, depression as a result of the isolation that’s inherent with the pandemic. And the volunteers have just been there for them to help kind of allay their worries and normalize things for others; to help them understand that we’re all going through this together. And what they were experiencing is for the most part pretty normal.”

And while the volunteers were helping callers to see their feelings were normal, it was clear the level of need was anything but normal.

Martin says since March 2020, they had answered over 3,000 calls; over half were from people considering suicide. The other half were suffering from mental health issues like depression or anxiety.

“I think for the most part, we’re all doing the best that we can but that doesn’t mean that we’re not struggling inside. We’re getting through each day but sometimes it just takes one thing to tip you over the edge. And I think that’s what we’re hearing is things that people could, in the past, probably cope with, they’re not coping with them.”

And Martin says more than ever children and teens were calling in with those complex feelings. “We didn’t get calls from children as much in the past,” says Martin.

That changed during the pandemic. And many found the help which had been available, like the Kids Help Line, wasn’t easily accessed.

“We have heard from some youth calling in that it’s been hard for them to get through. And they appreciate having a local person on the other end of the phone, for volunteers are well trained.”

The new funding will give local children and youth a dedicated place to call. And it will give the volunteers even more opportunity to give a listening ear and point people to counselling services if needed.

And while many children and teens connect with their friends constantly through social media, in difficult times, Martin says, that simply isn’t enough.

Many who called in, both teens and adults, had lost a job and wondered how they would make ends meet. The majority Martin says were from people struggling in a relationship.

Those calls, Martin says, were the most difficult and the most rewarding for the volunteers.

“Often the caller was feeling ab-

solutely desperate, concerned about their relationship and concerned about whether their relationship was going to last. But coupled with that, what people are bringing forward is some of the mental health issues... what we’re finding is some of the callers are experiencing triggers, past experience, experiences, where they’ve struggled with mental health issues or where they’ve struggled with abuse,” says Martin.

“At the beginning of the call, the emotions are at a very heightened state. And then what the volunteers will do is they’ll give them all the time that they need to just unload. So our volunteers act as a sounding board for these callers.

“When people are in the throes of being upset, they often don’t see that they have got strength that they have; they do have the inherent strength to pull themselves through.”

So, Martin says, after the caller unloads all their hurt and worry, the volunteers reassure them they do have the strength to move on, acknowledging that they’re “going through a tough patch right now. And once we can start reflecting those strengths back to our callers, it kind of stops them in their tracks, and they’ll think, ‘yeah, you know, I have made it through some tough times before. And so I can probably make it through these tough times as well.

“But they’ve just forgotten who to reach out to. They’ve forgotten that they’ve had those inherent strengths.

“So what the volunteers said to me is that then, by the end of the call, they’re feeling more hopeful, like, yeah, ‘I think I can do it. I can get through this.’”

If you need help the new Crisis Line for Children and Youth can be reached at 1-833-622-1320. Adults may call 1-888-347-8737 for help.

– ADVERTORIAL –



Charlotte's Corner

COVID-19: Get the Shot

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

The vaccine rollout in Lambton County is off to a great start, and even though we are sick of talking about COVID, I think it's important that I answer some of the questions I've heard from our community. There seems to be a lot of confusion around the topic of COVID vaccines, and while we'll need to keep washing our hands, masking, and distancing (sorry, it's necessary), vaccines are our best bet at returning to a somewhat normal life.

Which vaccine should I get?

If you take one thing from this article, let it be that any vaccine you are offered is a good vaccine. It doesn't matter if it's Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, or Johnson & Johnson. They all work extremely well (95-100%) at preventing hospitalization, severe disease or death. When you have the opportunity to get the vaccine, no matter which one, take it.

Should I be afraid of side effects?

Most side effects are mild to moderate. You may get a sore arm, or mild fever or headache for a short time, but major allergic reactions are rare, and easily treatable with Adrenalin. AstraZeneca is temporarily not recommended for people under 55 as an extreme safety precaution due to a rare bleeding problem, which may or may not be associated with the vaccine. Overall, the COVID vaccines do not cause long or short-term problems, including neurological.

Can any of the medications I take make me ineligible for the vaccine?

Anyone who is eligible to receive the vaccine should get it. There are no medications that make it necessary for you not to get it.

I'm young and healthy, do I need to be vaccinated?

As the older populations begin to receive their vaccines, we are seeing an increase in those 20-50 years old contracting the virus and being hospitalized, some in the ICU. Even if you are young, getting the vaccine is incredibly important.

Does the vaccine protect against the variants?

With the variants of concern spreading across our community, it is important to note that while we think the vaccines protect against variants, we aren't completely sure. This makes it all the more important that you get vaccinated, as herd immunity (around 75% of the population) is the best way to ensure protection before the variants can spread too much.

Do I need to wear a mask now that I've been vaccinated?

Even after you've been vaccinated, it is still important to follow public health guidelines, especially wearing a mask. You may have a mild case of the virus and pass it on to someone, and we still aren't sure how long immunity lasts. As well, the first dose of the vaccine doesn't have as much protection as the second one. Although some will have 90% immunity after three weeks of the first shot, the second shot is absolutely necessary.

Can I walk into a clinic and get vaccinated?

Appointments are needed. Lambton Public Health continues to roll out vaccines at public vaccination clinics, as they work through the prioritization schedule for Lambton County. For more information, visit their website at GetTheVaccine.ca. The Central Lambton Family Health team is also giving vaccines, and will contact those who are eligible when the time comes. As soon as you are eligible for the vaccine, no matter which vaccine, and which clinic, please be immunized. It protects you, it protects those around you, and it is our best chance at beating this as a community.

Measures to increase business reversed with province wide lockdown

Heather Wright
The Independent

Local hairstylists and restaurateurs are frustrated after the provincial government changed its COVID-19 protocols. At the end of March, the province announced salons would be able to open starting April 12 even if they were in lockdown. Restaurants could start serving customers on the patio immediately. But a week later, Premier Doug Ford announced a four-week province wide lockdown and took those options off the table. Saturday, restaurants returned to takeout service only and salons won't be able to open April 12 as planned. "I'm very emotional today. It's very frustrating to know we can't open again," Jen Pama of Total Hair and Body Care in Petrolia told *The Independent* after the announcement. Pama has been closed for a total of seven months in the last year. "This has definitely been a mental struggle; open, closed, open, closed, open And closed for the third time." Jenilynn Booy of Wyoming agrees. She reopened her business, Styles Salon, a year before the pandemic began hoping to make

a living as a single mom. "I'd just been trying to get everybody in from the last lockdown," she says. "And they're still calling." "I'm always the one to get you in at the last minute; it's really hard for me not to honour that." Tom Stoukas of Athena's Restaurant just brought his patio chairs out this week preparing to reopen his permanent patio on Petrolia Line. The chairs will stay unused for the next month. "It's really disappointing because we spent a lot of money on that patio...and now we're being told we can't use it." "They tell us indoor dining is dangerous, now we're told outdoor dining is dangerous, there is going to be a lot of anger over this." "We're doing everything they're asking...and there is a lot of anger." Stoukas says he's lost about 40 per cent of his business over the last year because of the pandemic restrictions. And he says, in the restaurant industry, that massive decrease is still pretty good. "We're lucky to be down only 40 per cent; some places are much worse," he says. "A lot of the restaurants were counting on the patio for relief and now they took that away...It's bizarre." Stoukas says government

programs and loyal customers have helped keep his restaurant afloat, but after a year in business, he's still waiting to turn a profit. "It's hard to run a business when they're making changes week-by-week," says Stoukas. Meantime, salon owners are calling back clients telling them they will be rebooking appointments in a month. Pama is worried it may be longer. "The key word that stood out for me today was we will be closed for at least 28 days." And she says, it doesn't make sense salons have to close when all the other retail stores are staying open with 25 per cent capacity. "I understand we are in close contact with people but does he (Premier Ford) understand the extensive cleaning that was already in place before COVID happened?" "We already had to follow the strictest protocol because of our industry," she says. For Booy, the shutdown of salons means she has to find other ways to make money. "I have bills to pay and rent to pay," she says. She's taking the odd job here and there but she admits, it has been difficult. "I feel like I have no control over my life; it is controlled by everything else."

What does the new lockdown mean?

Premier Doug Ford has "pulled the emergency brake" for the entire province putting all 34 public health unit regions into shutdown for a period of four weeks. Measures include only five people gathered inside with those in immediate family. Indoor and patio dining is over for a month. Religious services can have 15 per cent capacity indoors or as many people who can be distanced by two meters outdoors. Here's how the province described the measures announced Thursday:

- Prohibiting indoor organized public events and social gatherings and limiting the capacity for outdoor organized public events or social gatherings to a five person maximum, except for gatherings with the people you live with or gatherings of members of one household and one other person from another household who lives alone.
- Restricting in-person shopping in all retail settings, including a 50 per cent capacity limit for supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, indoor farmers' markets, other stores that primarily sell food and pharmacies, and 25 per cent for all other retail including big box stores, along with other public health and workplace safety measures;
- Prohibiting personal care services;
- Prohibiting indoor and outdoor dining. Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments will be permitted to operate by take-out, drive-through, and delivery only;
- Prohibiting the use of facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness (e.g., gyms) with very limited exceptions;
- Requiring day camps to close;
- Limiting capacity at weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites or ceremonies to 15 per cent occupancy per room indoors, and to the number of individuals that can maintain two metres of physical distance outdoors. This does not include social gatherings associated with these services such as receptions, which are not permitted indoors and are limited to five people outdoors.
- On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, all Ontarians are asked to limit trips outside the home to necessities such as food, medication, medical appointments, supporting vulnerable community members, or exercising outdoors with members of their household.
- Employers in all industries should make every effort to allow employees to work from home.

Tuesday, Ford told reporters more measures were likely in the hardest hit regions of Toronto, Peel and York. Schools in Lambton are open.

Petrolia Y membership drops 75 per cent during 30 weeks of COVID shutdowns

Heather Wright
The Independent

Tracey Taylor says the Petrolia Y is facing the same problems as every other fitness centre in the province during the COVID-19 pandemic; they've been closed for more than half of the year and their revenues are plummeting. Taylor is the Y's general manager of the Petrolia fitness center and pool. Since 2017, the Y has run the programs for the municipality, getting paid a fee for the service. The move was to reduce the deficit to run the complex which at the time was about \$450,000 a year.

And it did improve for some time. The Y had more members than it expected in the first year - almost 850. And in 2019, the deficit was much lower, just under \$200,000. But the pandemic has changed all that. In the 2021 budget, the town forecasts a deficit of over \$433,000. And it is no wonder, Taylor says the building has been closed for 30 weeks in the last year, about 58 per cent of the centre's normal operating year. "It's been a long haul for sure," she tells *The Independent*. "Our members certainly aren't

angry," Taylor says. "The majority of them would love to see the YMCA be open and available for them to work out, to socialize and, you know, to get back to normal." "When we have been open, the members who have been coming are very thankful to have the doors open." But Taylor says there is some hesitancy to return to the gym as well. "There's a lot of members as well, who just regardless of when we open our doors, they just aren't ready to come back. And they're just not feeling like, you know,

until things are back to a relatively normal situation - whatever that might be - they're just not ready to come back." Taylor says it may take some time to get the same number of people coming in to work out. During the pandemic, about 75 per cent of the membership has let membership lapse. "About 25 per cent of our members who haven't put their membership on hold, when we reopen the doors, their membership payments start again, and they come back," she says. The others will have to do the paper work to get back in the gym and that could

take some time. A few others are continuing to pay, a donation to their local gym. Taylor couldn't say exactly what that decline in membership translates into in dollars. Rick Charlebois, CAO and Treasurer of Petrolia, says the town has been able to recoup some of the losses through federal and provincial funding - about \$40,000 for 2020. There may be more cash coming for 2021. With a budgeted projected deficit of over \$433,000 it seems unlikely the municipality will be able to recoup it all and taxpayers may be left footing the bill.

WAXY

WEDNESDAYS!

Weekly Wax Removal Clinic

Our wax removal clinic is fully equipped to handle all of your wax removal needs in a safe and effective way.





SUCTION (VACUUM)



IRRIGATION (WATER)



CURETTAGE (TOOLS)



VIDEO OF EAR

BOOK

YOUR WAX REMOVAL APPOINTMENT TODAY!



BLUEWATER
HEARING

No referral required.

 **Sarnia**
714 London Rd


 **519.344.8887**

Petrolia
4130 Glenview Rd

Corunna
348 Lyndoch St

 www.bluewaterhearing.ca


WE OFFER IN-CLINIC APPOINTMENT FOR WAX REMOVALS



NOTICE

FLUSHING OF HYDRANTS AND WATERMAINS

April 19th to May 7th, 2021
7:30am to 4:30pm



The Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) will be flushing water mains throughout Petrolia, as part of the annual flushing program.

You may experience discoloured water coming from your tap. If this happens, we suggest you try the following:

- Remove the aerators from your taps and flush all the house lines until the water runs clear.
- You may also decide to refrain from doing laundry during this period to avoid staining of your clothing.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

OCWA will continue to work on the flushing programs to ensure consumer satisfaction. Any concerns, please contact OCWA at the phone numbers below.

Town of Petrolia 411 Greenfields St. Petrolia, Ontario N0N 1R0 519-882-2350 www.town.petrolia.on.ca	Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) Southwest Region 9210 Graham Rd. West Elgin, Ontario N0L 2P0
--	--

OCWA's 24 hour Emergency Contact # 1-888-522-0117

Editorial

Crisis Line welcomed

You only have to log on to social media to see the mental health affects of the pandemic.

People are frustrated with neighbours who are following the rules. People are frustrated with neighbours who aren't following the rules. People are just frustrated of the rules.

They miss family, friends, sports, school activities, shopping and not wearing a mask.

It's all wearing thin and sometimes people just need somewhere to unload all their concerns.

Family Counselling Services and St. Clair Child and Youth know this first hand. They've handled 146 per cent more calls for mental health issues and thoughts of suicide since the pandemic began. It's not really a surprise; this is an extremely stressful time. Losing a job or a girlfriend can be a very big deal at the best of times; now it is devastating.

Imagine how much more difficult that is when you're young. The friends who would have consoled you can't hang out with you and it's hard to bear your soul on Snapchat. And there are some things you just can't talk about to the people you know - especially if they're having a hard time, too.

That's why we're so glad to see Family Counselling Services and St. Clair Child and Youth set up a dedicated crisis line for teens. There will be people a phone call away who are specially trained to deal with their problems giving sound advice or help if it's needed without judgement. It really is a gift right now.

It is sad, however, that it takes a pandemic and astronomical numbers of people suffering through anxiety and depression or thoughts of suicide to find the cash to do something that we know helps, something we know doesn't take massive amounts of funding to accomplish.

Hopefully one of the things that we can learn from this pandemic is placing the mental health of our children and teens as one of our top priorities.

In the meantime, if you need help or your child needs someone to talk to, the phone line is there; 1-833-622-1320.

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

This is the Brigden Methodist Church. The inscription on the bottom of this photo from the Dave Burwell Collection shows it opened its doors in 1911. The church remains in Brigden as the United Church in front of the Brigden Public School and Library.

The

Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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

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

 News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

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

Publisher / Editor: Heather Wright
news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Reporters: Alex Kurial

Sales Associates: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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

Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

Proud host of the Local Journalism Initiative

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



Four times the legal limit; driver could have been in coma

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

“I have been in the criminal justice system for a number of years and I have seen a lot of high readings. However, I don’t know that I’ve ever seen readings that high,” says Justice Krista Leszczynski.

The veteran judge was referring to blood alcohol readings obtained from Dresden man Johan Klassen, 27, the night of his arrest for drunk driving in Plympton-Wyoming.

The highest reading from Klassen, a .371, is more than four and a half times the legal limit. This is considered a range where serious risk to a person’s health begins, including a coma or even death.

“It’s most aggravating, it’s most concerning,” says Leszczynski during court Mar. 17.

Klassen was flagged by an OPP

officer June 29 last year for an expired plate. When he pulled into a Plympton-Wyoming gas station the officer noticed a strong odor of alcohol, glossy and bloodshot eyes, and a flushed face on Klassen.

The officer also noticed an open half-drunk tall-boy beer can in the cup holder and dozens of other beer cans throughout Klassen’s vehicle, some open or finished.

Klassen, who had been steadying himself against the gas station wall, was arrested and taken to the Petrolia OPP station where he gave the staggering readings.

“I’m not an alcoholic,” says Klassen. He says it was a one-off event, and he drank so much after becoming upset over a relationship issue.

“I hate drinking and driving, it’s all bad and terrible. I just made a stupid mistake, and I hope you take it easy on me,” he says.

Klassen added he doesn’t have time for probation, which had been a suggestion of the Crown.

“When individuals are operating motor vehicles with alcohol levels that high, there can only be the assumption that there must be some alcohol issues with that individual,” says Crown Attorney David Nicol.

Leszczynski told Klassen he would have to make the time, calling the incident a “red flag.” He was given 12 months of probation, during which he must complete counselling for alcohol abuse.

“Frankly sir, although you indicate this was just a stupid mistake, it’s one that could have cost you your life, or it could have cost the lives of others in this community,” says Leszczynski.

Klassen was also handed a \$2,500 fine and is banned from driving for one year.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Lambton man gets probation after giving ex a concussion

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Lambton County man who plead guilty to a pair of assaults on his former partner has received 20 months probation as punishment.

This despite the Crown suggesting a harsher penalty was needed to address the behaviour in question.

Sarnia Court heard about two incidents that took place nearly a year apart at Cody Pietz’s Mar. 16 appearance.

The first recorded instance of abuse was July 2019 when the couple lived in Corunna. An argument at home led to Pietz putting his hand around his fiancée’s neck with enough force to cause breathing difficulty and leave red marks.

The woman didn’t report the incident at the time, later explaining she was scared.

By July 2020 the couple was living in

Petrolia, but Pietz’s abusive behavior continued. During an Independence Day fight the woman pulled out her phone to record Pietz. This angered him further, and while trying to grab the phone he ripped out some of her hair. Pietz then shoved the woman to the ground where she hit her head on a closet door.

The blow was bad enough to send the woman to the Petrolia hospital, where she was treated for concussion symptoms. Court heard she missed several weeks of work with the head injury.

“Given the fact that violence occurred in the context of an intimate partner relationship and that injuries were sustained... I’m of the view that something more than a period of probation is required in these circumstances,” says Crown Attorney Nila Mulpuru.

Mulpuru asked for a 30 day conditional sentence which Pietz could

serve at home, followed by 18 months of probation.

But Justice Deborah Austin decided a suspended sentence with a lengthier probation was more appropriate.

“That in my view is a less complicated way of imposing a liberty restriction that is intended to be part of the consequence here,” she says.

A suspended sentence allows Pietz to be out of the house anytime aside from his curfew hours. The conditional sentence would have required him to be home at all times except for going to and from work.

Pietz is under an 8 pm to 6 am curfew for the first 45 days of his sentence. He’s also ordered to take counselling for intimate partner violence and must not contact and stay away from his ex-partner.

He’ll also be banned from possessing weapons, except he may continue hunting with a crossbow.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Vaccinated seniors can finally go outside at nursing homes

Heather Wright
The Independent

The provincial government is making some changes to how it deals with COVID-19 in long term care homes.

Late April 1, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, Dr. Barbara Yaffe, released two changes to Directive 3 which governs the COVID-19 response in long term care homes.

One allows essential care givers to take long term care residents for a

walk on the grounds of their home. Until now, that had been considered an “absence” from the home and was not allowed. For weeks, families have been begging for seniors – some of whom have not been outside since the pandemic began – to be let outdoors now that 90 per cent of the long term care residents are vaccinated.

Yaffe has also changed the definition of a COVID-19 outbreak. When the pandemic began, even one case in a long term care home prompted public health to declare an outbreak at a

home. That meant more restrictions and inevitably led to further isolation of the seniors living in the home.

Now Yaffe says there must be two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the home and one must have been acquired at the home, for an outbreak to be declared.

The letter to medical officers of health also says the province is working on a “more significant update” to the rules by Monday. At press time, no new details had been released.

Spread of COVID-19 in Lambton seems to be slowing

Heather Wright
The Independent

The rate of COVID-19 in Lambton seems to be slowing down.

During a public health briefing Thursday Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, pointed out lockdowns had reduced the number of cases in Lambton. Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, agreed the seven day average of cases is trending down.

Tuesday, public health data showed

there have been 2,936 cases since the pandemic began in Lambton. Monday, officials reported another death - the 51st in Lambton from COVID-19.

There are 11 outbreaks in Lambton, the largest of which is at Rosewood Village in Sarnia where at last word Friday 19 residents and two staff had tested positive for the virus, with mild symptoms. They had been vaccinated. There are also four workplace outbreaks and three school outbreaks including at the Virtual Learning Center at LCCVI. In all there are 17

people with COVID-19 in Lambton public schools including two at Hillcrest in Petrolia and five students with COVID-19 in the local Catholic Schools.

While Lambton’s numbers are moving down, the province’s are on a distinct upward trend with 12,077 cases reported over the four day Easter Weekend across the province and another 61 deaths.

Tuesday, Ontario’s public health officials reported another 3,065 cases and eight deaths due to COVID-19.

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



www.maizex.com

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



SHOP LOCAL



HAVE YOU HEARD?

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

OUR SERVICES

- Hearing assessments for all ages
- Hearing aid batteries and accessories
- Assistive listening devices
- Tinnitus treatment program
- Hearing help classes

- Home visits
- Convenient Saturday appointments
- Caring for Sarnia-Lambton since 1988
- Balance Assessment and Rehabilitation



CALL US TODAY TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT!



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

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

www.lambtonaudiology.com



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

Looking for a dentist close to home?

Petrolia Dentistry offers dentistry for the whole family, from cleanings and exams to natural looking fillings, crowns, bridges & more.

With convenient hours and a clean modern office, you’ll feel completely comfortable.

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

519-882-0520

430 Albany Street • petroliadentistry.com

Bluewater Health chief of staff says variants could cause big problems

Heather Wright
The Independent

The chief of staff at Bluewater Health is warning people not to let their guards down yet. Lambton has been in lockdown since mid-March after the number of cases of COVID-19 surged in the community. In the last few days, the number of new cases has eased and Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Wil-

liams has pointed to the region as proof lockdowns produce results. While Dr. Michael Haddad is happy the measures are having an effect, he says the new variants could cause big problems and we only need look to the Toronto area for proof. “The main concern with variants is that they’re more contagious and more lethal; 60 per cent more in terms of mortality risk,” Haddad says. “It’s affecting a wide

spectrum of a population not just 70 plus, but now we’re looking at younger patients presenting with more and more serious diseases. In the past, most younger patients get better at home. Still, older patients usually get admitted or die from it potentially. We’re seeing younger patients with a variant get sicker and be admitted to hospital.” And while the number of people in Bluewater Health with COVID-19 is not especially high

now Haddad says “we do have actually patients in their 40s and 50s, with COVID disease hospitalized, which wasn’t really the case in the first wave, where we had mostly 70 plus.” And he adds, recent studies in Ontario show the variants are up to 55 per cent more deadly. “It works the same way. It’s just more effective at what it does.” Haddad says those who down-play the seriousness of the

pandemic and the affect of getting COVID-19 are “taking their chances when we’re very close to the end as the vaccines roll out.” “It’s hard for us to still tell who’s going to get really sick from it or who’s going to recover...so why take the risk of catching the virus. And now that we have effective vaccines is more of a reason to just get vaccinated so at least you reduce the risk of you getting sick from it.”

WARWICK IS SWEET




PHOTOS VIA FACEBOOK
It was a sweet weekend in Warwick Township as the municipal government and local service clubs made the best of a pandemic situation. Instead of the normal Maple Syrup Festival, for the second year in a row the community sent out bottles of syrup for a Homestyle Festival. Here, at the top, Ainsley Salomons gets a good look at the bottle of syrup while eating her pancakes, Mayor Jackie Rombouts family also was digging in (left centre) Bennett Lichty, 2, the grandson of Garry Gilliard, the one who made the syrup, also had a few pancakes and right, Diana Wilson digs right in at her home. The residents used the hashtag Warwick is Sweet to share photos of their family events.

PW to ask for environmental screen

Heather Wright
The Independent

Developers in Plympton-Wyoming will have another step to getting ready to build. The municipality will be asking for preliminary Environment Screening Assessment. Ken Melanson, the director of planning with the County of Lambton, recently told town council the province has required the screening tests since 2006. It’s a simple process, he says, with developers checking to see there were not any gas stations or the possibilities of contaminants in the soil. But Plympton-Wyoming doesn’t always require developers to provide one. Neither Melanson nor Carolyn Tripp, the CAO of Plympton-Wyoming and a for-

mer planner, can say exactly how often the process was skipped. Both told *The Independent* they didn’t know how many were done. Melanson added the ESA requirement was “inconsistently applied and so there are subdivisions where it was provided and some where it was not.” Council agreed to follow the provincial planning rules to ask for the assessment. It’s not clear what would happen if a homeowner found an environmental problem in a subdivision which had not had the assessment, however Melanson says the screening is done in part for liability reasons. Councillor Tim Wilkins suggested this was just one more rule and cost for developers. “What we got that’s working, if it ain’t broke, why fix it?”



NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC MEETING OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

The Township of Warwick is releasing for public comment and feedback an update to the Township's Official Plan. The Township is inviting members of the community to learn more and participate in the update to the Township'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:

**TUESDAY APRIL 20, 2021
6:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL**

The Statutory Public Meeting will be held on:

**TUESDAY APRIL 27, 2021
6:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL**

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

To participate in the Open House, the Public Meeting, or both, please use the credentials below to access the meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/98220414011?pwd=UUo2bXVtdThSMk9GeEdZU2hWWIhZz09>
Meeting ID: 982 2041 4011
Passcode: 275109

Call in numbers:
+1 438 809 7799 Canada
+1 587 328 1099 Canada
+1 647 374 4685 Canada
+1 647 558 0588 Canada
+1 778 907 2071 Canada
+1 204 272 7920 Canada

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

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

www.warwicktownship.ca

Cogeco to build an \$882,000 fiber optic project in Dawn-Euphemia

Heather Wright
The Independent

It's either feast or famine when it comes to internet service in rural Lambton County. After years of struggling to get any company to service its community, Dawn-Euphemia now has another internet provider ready

to sign up residents to high speed service. Five years ago, politicians were searching for ways to provide better coverage in the southern most municipality in Lambton. Some residents could not access traditional service and had to use expensive internet data sticks. Last year MPV out of Thames-

ville worked with an internet consortium to come up with a new high speed service for much of Dawn-Euphemia - focusing on getting the village of Florence online. The system used farm buildings, like grain elevators, as towers for the service. The network has been operational since the fall of 2020.

Now, Mayor Al Broad, says Cogeco has been given a federal grant to provide an internet service between Rutherford and Florence. Cogeco plans to provide Fiber to the Home to 145 residences in the region for a total cost of \$882,000. The Canadian Radio and Television Commission is giving Cogeco \$540,000 or 64 per cent

of the project's cost to complete the effort. Cogeco is now working out the details of the plan but it's not clear when construction will actually begin. Mayor Al Broad is pleased yet another project is on the horizon and says it will be good for the people of Florence to have a choice of internet providers.

Environment ministry worried about wild pigs in southern Ontario

Pam Wright
Local Journalism Initiative

Wild pigs have yet to invade says a top Ontario wildlife biologist, but the threat is real. According to Dr. Keith Munro wild pigs are on the Ministry of Environment and Forestry's radar as the government hopes to stop a wild porcine population from taking hold in Southwestern Ontario. That includes everything from pot-bellied pigs which escape from their owners, to farm animals who have wandered away, to wild boars. Munro, who works for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, says there were 81 reported sightings of 'wild' pigs to a hotline dedicated to the issue over the past year.

Wild pigs are a serious problem on the Canadian prairies and the southern United States, says Munro, with large numbers of the animals destroying crops, wreaking havoc on the land. "You can see how it could easily get out of control," Munro explains. The pigs, known to be clever, are adept at avoiding detection and capture. Hunting the pigs, while a challenging past time for hunting enthusiasts, isn't a good solution to get rid of them. Munro says the animals become stressed and will alter their behaviour and become more evasive when having litters. "When you hunt them, you educate them," Munro explains. The only true solution is to trap them, he says. Traps have to be baited and remain open to allow

the pigs to get used to them. Officials have to plan to catch them all at once. Munro says MOEF has brought in experts from New York State, which has been successful in getting rid of their invasive pig population using the trapping method. Only 25 locations are involved in the 81 sightings in the region. Munro says many of the reports are multiple sightings of the same pig and so far, most of these involved domestic swine that had got loose. Pigs can be tough and aggressive, Munro notes. "It's not a good idea to have any kind of pig wandering across the landscape," he adds. "All pigs have the potential to go feral," he says, and "this needs to be reported."



The Ministry of the Environment is tracking wild feral pigs in southwestern Ontario.

Senior MOEF spokeswoman Jolanta Kowalski says the number of wild pigs in the region is very small, with one reported sighting in Chatham-Kent. "Sightings that have been received so far include anecdotal observations from the past as well as more

recent observations," Kowalski said, adding the ministry is using "citizen science" to track them. For more information or to report a sighting contact: www.ontario.ca/page/reporting-wild-pigs-ontario

- THE HERALD

Sarnia man lucky to be alive to serve over two years in prison for trafficking

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man will serve a multi-year stint behind bars for his role in the fentanyl trade. But despite losing his freedom, like so many dealers of the deadly drug Todd Campbell is fortunate to even be alive. "He's very lucky, quite frankly, that he's not dead," says Defence Lawyer Sarah Donohue during Campbell's sentencing Mar. 22. "Mr. Campbell has overdosed many times, and has been brought back. He realizes that this is

something that he needs to really look at if he wants to survive going forward." Going forward will involve two years and five months prison after Campbell, 32, plead guilty to fentanyl trafficking and possession. Following a three month investigation of Campbell by the Sarnia Police's Vice Unit, a raid was conducted the evening of Feb. 27, 2020. Police busted down a locked door leading to the basement of a Kathleen Ave. home where they found Campbell hiding with two other people. Along with them

was 2.65 grams of fentanyl in Campbell's pocket. "It appears to be a small quantity of fentanyl," says Crown Attorney Brian Higgins, but added "2.65 grams is actually rather significant because of the potency of fentanyl and the value that even a small quantity holds." Asking for nearly 2.5 years jail, Higgins felt Campbell's sentence needed to drive a point home. Justice Anne McFadyen agreed. "Despite being charged with trafficking in fentanyl in February 2019, Mr. Campbell continued to involve himself with such

substances... A significant period of incarceration is warranted," she says. "Substance abuse is a menace that has invaded our society," says McFadyen. "Trafficking in such substances is to knowingly participate in this devastation. A sentence for such activity must reflect the insidious consequences." Campbell, appearing from the Sarnia Jail's video suite, thanked Donohue during his turn to speak. She offered some parting encouragement to her client before he was led away,

saying he'd shown "moments of insight into his offending pattern, and was honestly able to identify relationships and negative behaviour patterns." Campbell's past year in jail means more than half his sentence is already served. He received further credit for time spent in COVID-19 lockdown conditions, leaving him 332 days remaining. McFadyen recommended the balance be served at a facility offering substance abuse treatment, likely meaning a move away from Sarnia.

- THE INDEPENDENT



HELP WANTED

Journeyman Electrician

Full time Journeyman Electrician needed. \$35 - \$40 an hour based on years of experience.

We are a small electrical contractor located in Camlachie. Our work consists of installation and maintenance of pole lines, agricultural building's, grain handling facilities, stand by power systems and industrial control systems and equipment.

Must have valid driver's license.

Email resumes to hleystrasons@outlook.com

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).

**Sarnia**
714 London Rd

**Petrolia**
4130 Glenview Rd

**Corunna**
348 Lyndoch St

**519.344.8887**  www.bluewaterhearing.ca

Stain glass artist left his mark on Petrolia

Pat McGee
Special to The Independent

His artwork is seen by tens of thousands across Canada but his name is virtually unknown. Christopher Wallis, the nationally distinguished stained glass artist who produced all 13 windows in Petrolia’s Christ Church Anglican and the two Heritage Windows at Victoria Hall, has died at the age of 90.

In Petrolia, his Memorial Window at the church depicting the entire oil history of Enniskillen Township is his best-known work.

Reaching a commanding height of nearly five metres, the central figure of Christ is flanked by four historic depictions of pioneers drilling, refining, and transporting oil, and working in foreign lands.

Wrapped around the window is a timeline of 30 oil history milestones in Enniskillen between 1846 and 1899.

Wallis completed the church’s 13 windows over 22 years, culminating in the Memorial Window in 1983. Much earlier, in 1957, a devastating fire at the church destroyed all but the bell tower.

The new church opened in 1959 with plain windows. Reverend George Menzies arranged for Wallis to create stained glass windows as funding became available. All Wallis’s work was in a non-traditional style and used hand-blown glass, revered for its rich colours.

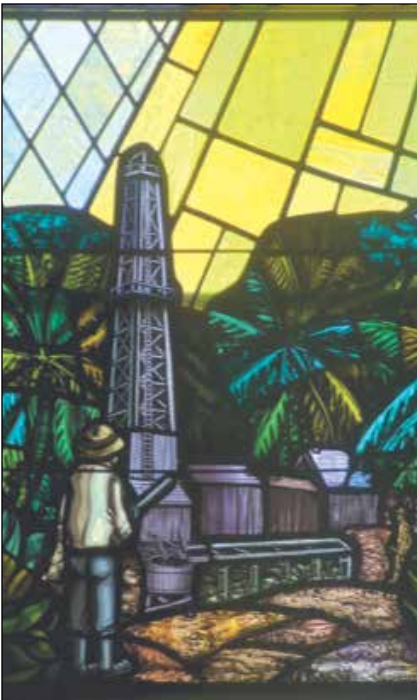
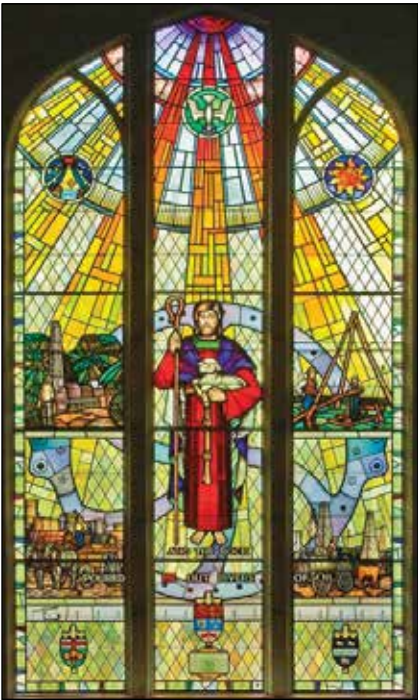
In 2010, the book Wonders of Light celebrated the church history and the Wallis windows. Written by Patricia McGee, the photographs were by Carol Graham.

Also in 2010, Charlie Fairbank commissioned him to create three solar-powered/electric stained glass panels on the Evolution of Oil for VanTuyl and Fairbank Solarware.

In 2011, a large crowd gathering was held at Victoria Hall for the unveiling of Wallis’ two new Heritage Windows at the entrance, which encapsulated the town’s rich oil history. The panels were a gift to the Town of Petrolia from Fairbank Oil, which was celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Since immigrating from London, England as a well-trained stained glass artist in 1956 and establishing himself in London, Ontario and later Grand Bend, he created more than 800 stained glass windows across Canada. He helped found the Environmental Art Program at Fanshawe College in 1968 and worked full time there until 1979.

Prolific as he was, he was known



Christopher Wallis, seen here with Charlie Fairbank in 2011 at the dedication of the stained glass window at Victoria Hall, created 18 works in Petrolia. He died this week at the age of 90.

as a modest gentleman despite many prestigious national awards. Wallis was soft-spoken with a trace of a British accent. He made few public comments, preferring his windows to speak for themselves.

The stained glass windows of Christopher Wallis have been unveiled by the queen, photographed by Yousuf Karsh, exhibited in the Museum of Civilization and chosen by Canada Post for an international stamp. His windows grace Rideau Hall in Ottawa (two unveiled by the queen), Osgoode Hall in Toronto, Government House in Victoria as well as the University of Western Ontario and the University of Alberta. His list of noteworthy commissions is extensive.

Most of his works for churches, universities and other institutions were in Ontario – London, Ottawa, Brantford, Forest, Grand Bend, Arva,

Cornwall and Toronto. Petrolia’s Christ Church Anglican is the only church with windows exclusively created by Wallis. His massive stained glass work at Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, BC comprises three Gothic arched windows, each measuring an incredible seven metres high and three wide. To accommodate the vast size of his projects, he and his second wife Geri Binks, a multi-media artist, converted a barn that once housed 10,000 chickens, creating the two-storey Lakeside Studio just north of Grand Bend.

Chris was predeceased in 2019 by Geri Binks, his wife of nearly 40 years, and by his first wife, Clarice, in 2018. He leaves behind his son Simon, daughters Sarah and Elizabeth and his grandchildren. In his memory, charitable donations may be made to any Art for Youth initiatives.

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

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

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

SUDOKU PUZZLE = CHALLENGING
YOUR INSURANCE SHOULDN'T BE.

519.882.1290 4146 Petrolia Line

BrokerLink
Auto/Home/Business Insurance

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

Support the Local Businesses
Who Help Support
Our Community

ASSEMBLER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Comprehensive benefits and pension package
- Full time hours with the opportunity for overtime
- Day shift (Monday to Friday); 5 days a week - start time can vary between 6-7am
- Afternoon shift (Monday to Thursday); 4 days a week - start time 3:30pm plus an afternoon shift premium
- Opportunity to advance into other positions
- Starting wage is \$17 for entry level positions
- After 90 days there is a wage increase, benefits start, and there is a \$250 retention bonus

WHAT WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE?

- Assemble precut wooden parts to build trusses used in building construction
- Places metal reinforcement plates over connecting joints and connects parts at joints, using hammer, screwdriver, or pneumatic staple gun
- Read and understand truss requirements according to the 'cut sheet'
- Perform checks on product output to ensure quality control

WHAT ARE YOUR DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS?

- Physical ability to lift 50 to 70 lbs
- Ability to work in a fast paced and repetitive work environment
- Works well individually and as a team
- Exhibits a positive "can do" attitude
- Open to other opportunities and ability to be flexible

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS:

Sanitizing products are available throughout the production facility. We are practicing physical distancing and conducting cleaning between shifts.

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 we ask no resumes be dropped off at the plant. Online submission only

WANT TO KNOW A LITTLE MORE?

Check out our Indeed Company Page
<https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Watford-Roof-Truss>

WANT TO SHARE IN OUR SUCCESS & BE PART OF OUR FUTURE?

Apply now and share with your friends we are hiring, there are several Assembler positions available.

EMAIL TO SUBMIT RESUMES TO
greerk@watfordtruss.on.ca

Watford Roof Truss is committed to an inclusive and barrier-free workplace. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process.

SHOEMAKER
Quality Shoe Repairs • Leather & Sports Repairs

399 Eureka Street • Petrolia
(Across from Home Hardware)

John Serratore
Master Craftsman
40 years Experience
226-372-0205

- Sole & Heel Repairs
- Zippers
- Custom Dye
- Birkenstock Re-sole
- Harness Repair

SPRING & SUMMER SANDALS ARE IN

Open Saturdays 8am - 4pm

MP Marilyn Gladu
Sarnia-Lambton

We Are Here To Serve You

1000 Finch Drive,
Sarnia, Ontario
N7S 6G5

519-383-6600

marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca

www.mpmarilyngladu.ca

Sports

Mueller narrowly misses top ten finish

Barry Wright
The Independent

LCCVI grad Marissa Mueller was 11th of 23 competitors in the Women's Javelin event at the Big North Invitational Track and Field event in Florida.

Mueller, a senior at the University of Iowa, had a throw of 40.15 metres.

It followed a sixth-place finish at a Big Ten Invitational competition in Bloomington, Indiana the previous weekend.

Her personal best since joining the Hawkeyes was 47.02 metres at the Big Ten Championships in 2019.

This year, the Big Ten Championships are scheduled for mid-May in Champagne, Ill.

Meantime, St. Pat's grad Johnny Vanos was seventh earlier this season in the Weight Throw competition at the Big Ten Indoor Track and Field Championships in Geneva, Ohio.

The Forest product had a throw of 20.06 metres.

Verbeek playing well with Baby Habs

The Independent

A player with family ties to Plympton-Wyoming is making his mark with the Montreal Canadiens' top AHL farm club in Laval this season.

Hayden Verbeek has a goal and two assists in four games with the Rocket and is a plus three. He scored twice in four games earlier this season while on loan from the Habs to a

pro team in Slovakia.

Verbeek, whose father Brian and Uncle Pat are both from the area, signed a free agent deal with the Habs in 2018.

He played parts of five seasons in the OHL with the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds after playing Junior B hockey in the region for the Chatham Maroons.

Laval leads the league's Canadian Division with 17 wins and are unbeaten in 12.

Sting's captain named to Team Canada U18 squad

The Independent

Sarnia Sting goaltender Ben Gaudreau has been named to the 25 man Team Canada roster for the IIHF U18 World Championships in suburban Dallas beginning later this month.

The North Bay-area native is one of three goalies on the roster.

Gaudreau won ten games as a rookie for the Sting after being selected seventh overall in the OHL Priority Selection by Sarnia in 2019.

He also made four appearances for Team Canada-Black at the World U17 Challenge in Alberta that same year.

"We are excited to announce the 25

players that have been selected to wear the Maple Leaf at the 2021 IIHF U18 World Championship. Despite a difficult year for our players and staff, we are confident this group will represent our country with pride while giving us a chance to compete for a gold medal in Texas,” said Alan Miller, the director of player personnel for Hockey Canada.

Miller is a former general manager with the Sting from 2004-09.

The tournament begins on April 26 and runs to May 6.

Canada is in a pool with Sweden, Switzerland, Belarus and Latvia. Their opening game is against defending champion Sweden on April 27.

Greater Ontario Jr. league names new commissioner

The Independent

The Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League, which includes the Sarnia Legionnaires as one of its members, has named its new commissioner.

Brent Garbutt comes to the GOJHL from his position as Manager of Sport for Ontario University Athletics (OUA) as well as the current Video Coordinator in the National Hockey League Situation Room.

He also has a host of experience with the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL), Hockey Canada, NHL Central Scouting, the ECHL and his hometown Ottawa Senators.

Garbutt is thrilled with the new opportunity.

"The GOJHL is a tremendous league with a great product, a vast alumni network and

very talented players, coaches and staff.

"I am very excited to work with Scott Miller and the rest of the board along with all other league governors in further building the GOJHL brand and executing the GOJHL's vision."

In the meantime, Miller is looking forward to the new union between the board and the new hire.

"We are highly confident in Brent's ability to navigate the needs of the league and provide integral solutions and innovations," said Miller in a league statement Tuesday.

Garbutt, who now lives in Burlington with his family, begins the new job Monday.

The league has not played for 13 months after being shut down over health concerns related to COVID-19.

The reaction to the mandate has been swift, with many local fans calling it ridiculous and an overreach. The daughter of the late Joe Panik says while the decision makes her sad, she can see both sides of the issue. Panik, born in Enniskillen Township, was a tireless supporter of minor baseball up until his death last June. Aamjiwnaang Chief Chris Plain is on record as not offended by the Braves' moniker.

The club will unveil its new name soon.



Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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

Real Estate



6487 Moore St.
INWOOD



\$369,000
MLS: 21003998

This spacious, 1 floor brick home is on a double lot in Inwood & features 3 bedrooms. It's ideal for seniors or first time home buyers! This wonderful house includes a bonus family room in addition to an open concept living room, dining, & kitchen area. Check out the 20x36 marvelous workshop insulated! Ideal home for a car hobbyist woodworker or handyman. Call now for more details!

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

Notice

Bluewater Anglers - The General Membership Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday April 13th has been cancelled. The Club Spring Derby Scheduled for Saturday April 24 has been cancelled. Both events are cancelled due to COVID lockdown restrictions.

Notice

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

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 virtualcommunitylawschool@gmail.com.

2021 PETROLIA



Curbside
WOOD
CHIPPING

MON-AND-TUES
April 6 & 7
May 10 & 11
June 14 & 15
July 12 & 13
August 16 & 17
September 13 & 14
October 4 & 5

Collection is
NOT STREET SPECIFIC,
residents can place their brush to the curb on any of these days and it will be processed.

Residents are asked to place the brush no sooner than 4:00pm, the night before a collection date, and to have all brush at the curb by 7:00 am the day of collection, and are requested to not impede sidewalk access.


If any brush piles have root bulbs attached, consist of waste, or other non-organic items the brush pile will not be processed, and the resident will be responsible for removal.

For more information:
519-882-2350
www.town.petrolia.on.ca



Celebration

Happy
70th
Birthday
GERALDINE



Love from Family & Friends

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

The County of Lambton is working together on the community vaccination efforts. Lambton County Libraries are offering free, contact less curbside pickup of vaccine screening & consent forms, no library card required. Getting us all vaccinated and safe is a community effort. But we can do it.

Coming Event

SAVE your
EMPTY!
BOTTLE DRIVE



Oil Springs
Legion
Br#535
PROCEEDS TO GO TOWARDS BUILDING UPGRADES

Help support your local Legion
Saturday
April 10
8am - 12 noon
Drop off your bottles & cans at the Oil Springs Legion 4598 Oil Springs Line - or - leave them at the end of your laneway for pick up
Contact any Legion member with questions | Thank you for your support.

Solution

Answers to this week's
Sudoku
Brought to you by:
519.882.1290
4146 Petrolia Line
Petrolia
BrokerLink
Auto/Home/Business Insurance

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

Notice

Large Item Collection for Town of Petrolia: April 26-30, 2021 on your regular collection day. All items are to be placed at the curb no sooner than 7am the day of your regularly scheduled collection. ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: Anything hazardous (paint, aerosols, etc.), broken glass, window panes or sliding doors, recyclable materials, compost, construction material, vehicles or vehicle parts, electronics, appliances (washer, dryer, refrigerator, ect.)

For Sale

CAMPING TRAIL - 2003 27ft Mal-lard Camping Trailer. Sleeps 6. 4 pc Bath. New tires. Tows easily. Aluminum siding with pop out. Comes with A/C, stove and oven combo, fridge, microwave, double kitchen sink, hot water tank, furnace, mast queen size bed. All features works. No leaks. Excellent condition. One owner only. Asking \$7,500. Call or text 226-349-3604 or 226-886-2331.

Coming Event

Ham
Dinner

Saturday April 24th
Between 5 & 6:30pm
Preorders ONLY by April 16
London Rd West
United Church
2092 London Line, Sarnia
519-542-2084
HAM | BEANS | CHEESY HASH
BROWN POTATOES | DESSERT
Curbside Pickup OR Free Delivery
Adults \$15 Children 5-12 \$6
Contact: Susan Wilkins 519-869-6281 or Church Office 519-542-2084 or email to lrwunitedchurch@gmail.com
Cheques, made out to "LRW UCW" or correct money in an envelope

Wanted

Small Dog - Looking for a small dog for a retired man. Apartment living in a loving home. 519-491-2607

Obituary




SWARTZ
Morris

Peacefully at Lambton Meadowview Villa Petrolia, on **Wednesday, March 31, 2021**, Morris Swartz formerly of Inwood passed away in his **87th year**. Predeceased by his wife Isabell (2018). Dear father of Randy Swartz and Nancy Craig (John Gould) and grandfather of Dustin Craig (Tia Brooks) and great grandfather of Kade and Kelis Craig. Predeceased by his brothers Ken and Larry Swartz and sister Marion Cates. His family hope he is enjoying Isabell's apple pie again and sharing all the hunting and fishing stories with his buddies. Special thanks to the staff at Lambton Meadowview Villa for the excellent care Morris received during his stay with them. **A private service will be held at the Van Heck Funeral Home, Alvinston with interment to follow at the Alvinston Cemetery.** Online condolences may left at www.vanheckfuneralhome.ca

Notice

Household Hazardous Waste Collection: The County of Lambton, in conjunction with Clean Harbors Canada Inc., hosts several HHW collections events each year. The events give Lambton County residents an opportunity to properly dispose of potentially dangerous waste from their homes and protect our environment at the same time. If hazardous products are thrown in with the regular garbage, it can injure sanitation workers and cause long-term environmental problems. HHW Days take place at the Clean Harbors Canada Inc. site, 4090 Telfer Road in St. Clair Township the last Saturdays of April, May, June, September, and October. Bring your household derived hazardous wastes to the special depot, and it will be dealt with by experts, at no cost to you!



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

Death Notices

March 27 - April 2, 2021

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

EVANS, Cheryl
Age 64, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

PALMER, Christine
Age 72, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

KERRIGAN, Timothy
Age 70, of Forest
Denning's of Forest

FARRAH, Don
Age 83, of Sarnia
Gulpin Funeral Home

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

MANDERS, Richard
Age 71, of Watford
Denning's of Watford

LENNAN, Ronald
Age 88, of Mooretown
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

MONDAY, MARCH 29

BARRETT, Paul
Age 56, of Cambridge
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

CHAWNER, Stanley
Age 77, of Sarnia
Denning's of Watford

ALLINGHAM, William
Age 79, of Brigden
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

CASEY, Venolia
Age 82, of Wyoming
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

EVANS, Margery
Age 83, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

VANDESCHOOT, Johanna
Age 86, of Watford
Denning's of Watford

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

MORNINGSTAR, Bruce
Age 66, of Corunna
Knight Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

GUERETTE, Wilson
Age 64, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

ANDERSON, Dorothy
Age 78, of Oil Springs
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

SWARTZ, Morris
Age 87, of Petrolia
VanHeck Funeral Home

THOMSON, John
Age 92, of Watford
Denning's of Watford

HEGADOREN, Russell
Age 95, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

FRIDAY, April 2

LEVERT, Judith
Age 63, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

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



COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING

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



Church DIRECTORY

Christ Anglican Church
414 Oil Street, Petrolia

**We are closed due to
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
wyoing_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



**NEWSPAPERS
ARE TRENDING**
88% ARE READING
ON ANY PLATFORM



News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

NEWSMEDIACANADA.CA

[#NewspapersMatter](https://twitter.com/NewsMatters)

* Totum Research; Canadians 18+, weekly readership, March 2019



Business & Service Directory

**Advertise your business
or service here**
for as little as

\$29.50 per week.

Call and find out more
226-738-0728

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

Professional INCOME TAX SERVICES

519-882-2966

3927 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON

*Appointments ** Drop-Offs ** Contactless*

MARK AND JOANNE JAMIESON

jam_jo11@hotmail.com | www.protaxpetrolia.com

**BOURQUE
RENOVATIONS**



**Additions • Renovations
Kitchens & Baths
Trim Work • Custom Carpentry**

329 Centre St., Petrolia
www.bourquerenovations.com

519-882-3344

Seven years for fentanyl trafficking

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man will spend seven years in prison after a drug bust yielding more than \$70,000 worth of fentanyl. Deanis Smith, 27, plead guilty in Sarnia Court Mar. 29 to trafficking the drug. Local justices have given heavy sentences for fentanyl trafficking and Smith’s punishment was no different. He was discovered with 143 grams of the deadly narcotic during a May 2020 raid at an East St. South home in Sarnia. The amount seized was in powdered form, making it even more lethal. Police found \$18,000 cash in a duffel bag. Smith’s drug and cash total topped \$90,000. Three other people were arrested and face a variety of charges. “The fact that Mr. Smith chose to participate in trafficking such a substance into the community is extremely devastating and concerning, and must warrant a significant period of incarceration,” says Justice Anne McFadyen. “A message must be sent to Mr. Smith and others who choose to traffic in such a substance that the consequences will be severe.” “It is Russian roulette for addicts,” says Smith’s Defence Lawyer Neil Rooke, who says users “can succumb to this drug relatively easily as a result of the people who sell it not knowing the potency and not being able to accurately measure it.” Rooke has several clients who have passed away to overdoses in recent years. Smith has lost friends as well and has himself been resuscitated with

naloxone after overdosing. But this life-threatening experience, and even a previous two-year sentence for the same crime, did nothing to sway Smith. “He understands that he has to change his lifestyle or the sentences won’t get shorter, which is a terrifying prospect for someone looking at a seven year jail sentence,” says Rooke. Smith was also sentenced to 18 months jail for a bizarre break and enter in December. He went with another man to a house where they believed the owners stole \$5,000 from them. After busting down the front door of the Kipling St. home and threatening the people inside with a hammer, Smith realized he was at the wrong house. “Sorry, I’ll pay for the damages,” he said before leaving. Smith was quickly arrested by police next door at the address of his intended target. “I’m so stupid, I can’t believe I went to the wrong place,” he told officers. McFadyen says the invasion “must have been absolutely terrifying... makes one wonder how they will ever feel safe in their own residence again.” Smith has credit for 420 days time served, leaving him five years, 10 months and 10 days on the trafficking charge. The one and a half year break and enter sentence will run at the same time as the drug sentence. Smith also forfeits the \$18,000 cash and a replica firearm, is banned for life from owning a weapon, will submit a DNA order, and must pay \$507 restitution for the busted door.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Warwick man faces more jail time

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Warwick man is back in jail after a Sarnia judge threw his conditional sentence out the window. Justice Deborah Austin enacted the punishment on Brendon Bolduc, 34, after he ignored his bail conditions last year. He’ll now spend 75 extra days in jail in addition to the balance of his conditional sentence, which was being served at home. Bolduc’s most recent brushes with the law started Oct. 26 when he was pulled over on Exmouth Street. Bolduc drove his black GMC Canyon into a parking lot and started walking away on foot, but the cop told him to come back. He was arrested for driving with a suspended licence. Police searched him and found 13.3 grams of crystal meth and five hydromorphone tablets. A few weeks later, Bolduc was on police radar again, this time in Warwick Township. Lambton OPP received a call just after noon about a suspicious vehicle moving around a bush lot off First School Road. When

officers arrived, the vehicle, a black GMC Canyon tore off into the field toward Bethel Road and escaped. Several hours later police received another call about a strange man walking on Bethel Road. They tracked the man, Bolduc, to an address on Brickyard Line, where he was arrested. A joint submission asked that Bolduc have 75 days tacked onto his sentence, the majority of that extra time for the drug charges. “The quantity of methamphetamine is not small,” says Crown Attorney Brian Higgins of the 13.3 grams. Bolduc would receive 60 days for possession, and 15 days for the police chase in Warwick. “It’s very concerning that the last sentence imposed was a conditional sentence, and it was during that sentence that this took place,” Austin says of Bolduc’s latest infractions. In light of this she called the joint submission of two and a half extra months a “lenient one”, but did accept it.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Chatham man stopped in Petrolia with drugs

A Chatham man is facing drug charges after an incident in Petrolia. Lambton OPP noticed what they say was a suspicious vehicle on Petrolia Line April 2 just before 8 pm. The officers stopped the vehicle on Gem Street and arrested one of the people in the car. They also found what drug police believe is Percocet.

William Taylor, 53, of Chatham has been charged with driving while under suspension, operating a motor vehicle without insurance, using a plate not authorized for the vehicle and possession of a prohibited drug. Police say he will appear in court to answer to the charges at a later date.

- THE INDEPENDENT



Your turn
is coming
soon.

Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine plan is helping to stop the spread and save lives. Thousands of people across the province are getting vaccinated every day.

As vaccinations continue, we need to stay the course to protect those we love. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Keep your distance.

Find out when, where and how to get vaccinated at ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan or call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance in more than 300 languages.

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

