

## Lambton kids learning online as last COVID outbreak ends

Heather Wright  
The Independent

For the first time since March 6, there is not a single COVID-19 outbreak in Lambton schools.

But when Spring Break is over this week, kids will be learning online.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced the return to online learning as the numbers of COVID-19 cases across the province continue to rise.

“The problem is not in the schools it is in our community,” says Ford. He says bringing kids back to school who have spent a week in the community “is not a risk I’m willing to take.”

John Howitt, director of education for the Lambton Kent District School Board, says it will be a difficult transition. And he says education is better face-to-face.

“We know we’re social animals and that face-to-face is a better style of learning,” Howitt says.

In Lambton, there had been a significant number of cases of COVID-19 in the schools. At one point, two-thirds of the schools in Lambton had at least one case of COVID-19 registered. And there had been an outbreak in at least one school since March 6, when Queen Elizabeth II School in Sarnia was declared in outbreak.

“I think that steep incline that we experienced, especially in Lambton County, before the rest of the province, had people really recognize that public health measures were still necessary,” says Howitt. “And people got back to implementing them consistently.”

Howitt says co-operative efforts between educators and public health have “consistently demonstrated” schools are safe.

Howitt says students won’t be right back to the books Monday; officials say there will be a day for teachers and families to prepare for online learning before logging into classes again Tuesday.

SEE ONLINE PG 3

## SPRING BREAK FISHING



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Welsh family from Enniskillen was trying their luck on Bear Creek in Bridgeview Park North on Spring Break. Carter and Abby, both 9, and Jacob, 7, had only caught a small fish on Tuesday.

## Construction on new Watford centre likely by May

Heather Wright  
The Independent

A London contractor will begin work on the Watford Arena Expansion to Community Centre and Arena Renovations Project in a matter of weeks.

Warwick Council unanimously approved a \$11,128,634 contract for the project which will see the arena redeveloped and a new community centre which will be home, in part, to a local Y facility.

Bronnenco Construction Ltd. won the contract for the project over four other contractors.

The highest bid for the project was \$13.2 million. The top three bidders were within \$500,000 of each other.

Theresa Klachan, Manager Parks and

Recreation, will begin working with the contractors immediately.

“We go into development of contracts, we’ll get those done in probably about a week, and following that we will have our first site meeting.

“And following that we’ll start construction,” says Klachan. That could mean construction would begin in May.

Deputy Mayor Jerry Westgate says he was surprised Bronnenco was named the contractor adding he had not heard of them before this.

“A large company that has been around for 40 years,” she says.

“They are doing the Grand Theatre renovations in London; they have a history with Spriet.” Spriet is the engineering firm working with Warwick on the project.

Mayor Jackie Rombouts says this is a big moment for Warwick.

“When I started on council, that was the one project that I wanted to get done, and that was seven years ago, so to be able to see it coming to fruition is just so exciting.”

Rombouts says the timing was just right for the project to move forward particularly since the community recognizes the need to replace the aging Centennial Hall.

“We did a lot of community consultation, really making sure that this is something that the community wanted, before we made the decision to go ahead with the project.”

A survey done by Inspire Consultant says 100 per cent of the people who they talked to were in favour of the project.

Rombouts says it is possible the first construction at the arena will begin by May.

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# Familiar faces welcome patients to Kniaziew Optometry in Petrolia

There is a new sign but a lot of familiar faces at Petrolia’s longest serving optometry practice.

Dr. Richard Kniaziew is returning to Petrolia which has “a community environment like no other.”

Dr. Kniaziew started this practice 40 years ago and worked in the community for several years before transferring the practice to Dr. Gail Tanner.

Dr. Tanner, whom Dr. Kniaziew says is an institution in Petrolia, is in her 40th year as an optometrist in Petrolia and works alongside Kniaziew Optometry’s newest optometrist, Dr. Kaitlyn Sinclair.



*Kniaziew Optometry offers a wide range of Optometric services and eye care products*

Both doctors share a deep love for the community.

Dr. Tanner has been a member of the Petrolia Lioness and Lion Clubs since 1984, has been on the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia’s advisory committee, and is active in her church, St. Paul’s United.

She’s also shared her skills as an optometrist with people in Central America, volunteering with Rayjon Share Care as an eyeglass clinic team member from 2006 to 2018. Dr. Tanner has fitted people from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Belize, and the Dominican Republic for their first set of glasses.

The practice’s newest member, Dr. Sinclair, also has a strong background in community involvement. Many people know Dr. Sinclair from her time as part of the Enniskillen Express – the local girl’s softball team which claimed two provincial championships. Dr. Sinclair also competed in the Nationals for several years as a member of Team Ontario.

After distinguishing herself as a Nichol Scholar at LCCVI, Sinclair went to Spring Arbor University in Michigan on a softball scholarship. She later attended the University of Waterloo’s School of Optometry and Vision Science for her optometry education, graduating in 2020.

There, Dr. Sinclair was the president of the Waterloo Independent Optometry Club, a member of the Canadian Association of Optometry



*Kniaziew Optometry offers a wide range of prescription lenses, specialty eyewear, exclusive frames, sunglasses and contact lenses.*

Students club, University of Waterloo Association for Guide Dogs, and was a part of a team of researchers assessing visual needs in hospitalized patients. Dr. Sinclair also had the opportunity to travel and provide eye care to the people of Senegal, Africa.

Dr. Kniaziew shares Dr. Sinclair’s love of sports. After high school in 1969, he went to the Hamilton Tiger Cats CFL rookie camp. He quickly realized he wanted to follow an academic path, enrolling in McMaster’s Natural Science program.

Dr. Kniaziew always knew he wanted to work in health care, but uncovered his passion for optometry during his first year at university. After spending a week with an optometrist, he discovered how amazing the profession was. By the end of the first year, he knew he wanted to be an optometrist and gained entry into the University of Waterloo’s School of Optometry.

Over the years, Dr. Kniaziew has worked around southwestern Ontario and now owns nine locations in Lambton, Essex, and Chatham-Kent with 50 team members helping people in Tecumseh, Essex, Leamington, Blenheim, Chatham, Dresden, Wallaceburg, Corunna, and Petrolia.

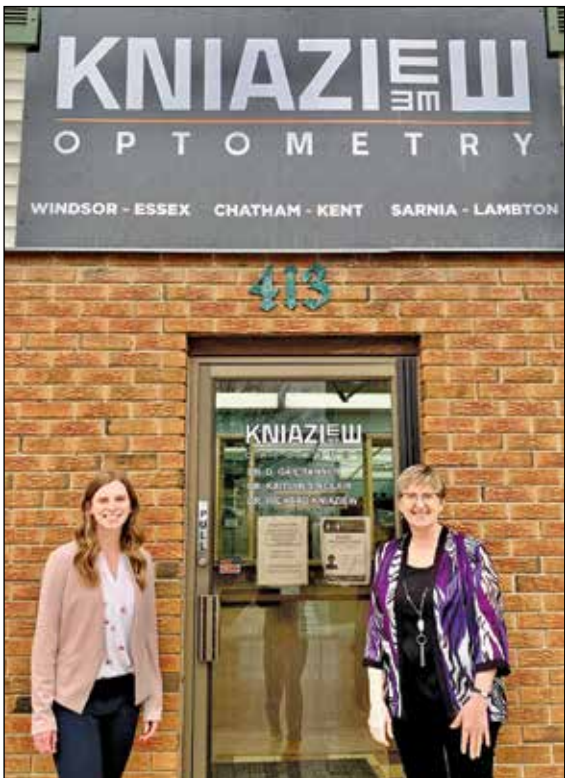
“The recent growth has been fueled by the strong community support for our team,” says Dr. Kniaziew. “What it comes down to, is each community that we have recently opened in, there was a lack of timely attention for eye health care. We continue to do a tremendous amount of market research before opening up into a new community. The reality is, if a community is asking for us to come, we work towards that demand.”

Dr. Kniaziew has always wanted to return to Petrolia and was able to do this last year when Dr. Tanner transferred the practice back to him. “The community environment is like no other,” he says.

“You really see the strong support for local businesses in Petrolia and Sarnia-Lambton. It really does feel like one big family.

“We were seeing a lot of patients from Petrolia at our Wallaceburg location. We knew the time was right to open up in Petrolia and Corunna.”

*Dr. Kaitlyn Sinclair and Dr. Gail Tanner are ready to welcome existing and new patients to Kniaziew Optometry on Wingfield Street in Petrolia.*



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# Editorial

## Ford Flounders

One year and one month later, we seem to be in the same place again; locked down and online.

Monday, a much deserved Spring Break was interrupted by the province with the news that school would resume online after the break. The announcement came just one day after the Minister of Education said schools will go back to in person learning after the break. At the news conference, reporters asked what changed in one day to convince the government that online learning was necessary in schools which they said for months were safe.

The premier said the variants of COVID-19 were moving swiftly, forcing the government to change its plans. He said the schools are safe, but the government just didn't want children who had been out in the community for the last week back in a classroom spreading around whatever virus they picked up.

The argument, kindly put, doesn't hold water.

Since February, the scientists Premier Ford says he's been listening to have said the variants could cause a huge problem. Those scientists were predicting exactly what is now playing out in February.

Ford knew Friday the level of COVID-19 variants was at the highest level we had ever seen. He also knew school kids would be out in their communities, because where else would they be during lockdown?

Ford's flimsy reasoning and decision making is the main reason the province is facing a crisis in its intensive care units. For all his bluster of listening to the experts, it was clear he didn't. His Solicitor General clearly said that the Conservative government didn't act earlier because it was waiting to see if the projections from the scientists would actually happen. By then it was too late.

Ford can rail on about the lack of vaccine - which is an issue - but the truth is it's a miracle there is even a vaccine a year and a half after the virus started taking its toll. Lord knows what kind of mess we'd be in now if the vaccine was not making a dent in the number of people sick and dying.

The real reason we're in lockdown and school will be online is the lack of sound decision making by the Ontario government. And that rests squarely with Premier Ford. Ford continues to flounder and we pay the price.

## Letters to the Editor

*The Independent* welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to [news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca) (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website [www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca](http://www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca). You can also deliver letters to *The Independent* at 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia or drop them in the mail at *The Independent*, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0. *The Independent* reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity. All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

## Our Story



This lovely photo is of the Petrolia Old Boys Baseball team. It was taken during a reunion, the photo says, in 1908. LAMBTON ARCHIVES

## Bailey says Lambton not left behind as vaccine clinics cancelled

If Lambton Public Health wants to convince the province it needs more vaccine, it will have to get the local MPP on board.

And from his comments in the last few days, it appears Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey is not convinced.

In fact, he's telling anyone who will listen Lambton has some of the highest vaccination rates in Ontario.

Lambton was on the leading edge of the third wave of this seemingly unending pandemic.

The number of people who were ill from COVID-19 soared in January (wave two) and then again in March. Then, it filtered into the school system as families, tired of the restrictions, went back to normal life including socializing.

Through that, Lambton finally received enough vaccine to make sure the elderly in long term care were protected. But just barely. The premier was proclaiming all of the long term care and retirement home staff and residents vaccinated on Feb. 10. It took until Feb. 25 for Lambton to have enough vaccine to even open clinics for the workers of those homes.

By then, only the residents had one shot in the arm - 1,156 people.

And by then, Lambton had already been put into the red zone with more restrictions because COVID-19 cases were climbing.

Not two weeks later, on the anniversary of the declaration of the pandemic, public health sent Brooke Central School students home at noon. Variants of COVID had been found in the test of one of the students who had the virus.

North Lambton also had a big problem. On March 17, the school was closed for a week because there were so many teachers either sick or isolating there simply wasn't enough staff.

The next day, Lambton recorded its highest number of COVID cases in the classroom - 70, with two-thirds of the schools in the county affected.

Five days later, March 23, Lambton registered the second highest rate of COVID-19 cases per capita in the province, right behind Peel, which is now getting extra vaccines after being declared a hot spot.

Through all that, Bailey sent out one letter pleading for more vaccines, in January.

It appears the facts of the pandemic in Lambton haven't convinced Bailey of the need for more vaccines since he

sure doesn't seem to be supporting public health's call for more doses.

Friday he said there is a "lot of negative chatter" that Lambton has been left behind. "It's simply not true," he says pointing to the fact just over 19 per cent of the population of Lambton has one shot of the vaccine.

Bailey rose in the legislature Monday to say the same thing - the same day as Lambton Public Health had to cancel vaccine clinics which were booked solid because of lack of vaccine.

Without the active help of the local MPP, Lambton's bid for more vaccines will never even reach the ears of the decision makers.

It would be nice if Lambton residents didn't have to ask their MPP to advocate for vaccines for his own community, but it's 2021 and I guess that's where we are now.



Heather Wright

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# Nova’s construction projects 65 per cent done

The Independent

Nova Chemicals says its \$2 billion expansion at the Rokeby site and the third phase of the Corunna Cracker Expansion Project are 65 per cent done.

The company estimates both projects will begin full start-up activities in late 2022, after the Corunna Site turnaround which is targeted for spring 2022.

The new polyethylene unit will have a capacity of approximately one billion pounds per year. The cracker expansion will provide ethylene feedstock to the new Rokeby facility, expanding the existing unit’s current capacity by more than 50 per cent.

The combined investment of approximately \$2.5 billion brings 150 new full time jobs and long-term viability to the region. Since the growth projects began in late

2017, NOVA Chemicals has added approximately \$1.1 billion to the provincial economy in labour and materials says Luis Sierra, Nova Chemicals’ president and CEO.

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# Major Lambton events cancelled because of COVID

The Independent

Four major events have been cancelled for a second year because of uncertainty around the pandemic.

The Plympton-Wyoming Agricultural Society announced April 8, the 174th Annual Fair has been cancelled.

Members of the board of directors say the “uncertainty of when the government will allow festival type events to resume,” was one of the major concerns. And, the board says, it’s not the right time to ask businesses to support the fair financially.

“We cannot in good conscious ask sponsors for support in these financially stressful times when many of them have been closed.”

The board also cited the “ongoing

use of the fairgrounds as a vaccination center for rural Lambton County.

“We felt it was the right thing to do.”

The organizers of one of the largest outdoor art shows in the region – Petrolia’s Art in the Park – have also cancelled the event which was slated for July 9 and 10.

It will be the second year the events will be sidelined because of the pandemic.

The Town of Petrolia also cancelled the Town-Wide Yard Sale, normally held at the end of April.

Thousands of people and cars will jam the streets - sometimes leading to traffic intervention by the local fire department - during the two day event. That would be a no-no during the pandemic.

Town officials add residents may hold individual yard sales when the pandemic restrictions allow it.

And the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has cancelled the Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race for another year.

The 2021 edition was supposed to be held April 28.

Melissa Levi, Conservation Education Coordinator, says “holding the race would not comply with the Ontario government’s emergency stay-at-home orders.”

“It’s unfortunate that we are unable to hold the race this year, especially when we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the SCRCA,” says Levi.

It draws between 80 and 100 participants every year.

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# Lambton surgeries delayed because of ICU crunch

Heather Wright  
The Independent

It is the news Lambton residents waiting for surgery didn’t want to hear.

The large increase in people in intensive care units across Ontario because of COVID-19 will affect surgeries scheduled at Bluewater Health.

Starting Monday, the hospital is ramping down and postponing some surgical cases because of extreme pressure on critical care capacity across the province. This comes in response to direction from Ontario Health which is monitoring the ICUs in Toronto as they fill with people with COVID-19.

Provincial officials say COVID-19 related ICU admissions are already over the peak of wave two with 1,822 people in hospital including 11 at Bluewater Health. That’s up 176 people in one day. There were 626 people in the intensive care unit Tuesday, 422 of them were on ventilators.

The Health Minister, Christine

Elliott, says the province also plans to expand the ICU capacity in Ontario to 1,000 beds to deal with the surge of people needing care in the third wave.

ICU doctors, in a letter penned on April 1, said while having more beds is important, the units also have to be staffed which is not as easy to do.

Bluewater Health officials say to deal with the pressure on ICU capacity, doctors are looking at each local surgery which has been scheduled to determine their urgency based on individual circumstances to determine if it should be deferred or cancelled.

Officials ask that residents wait for a call from the hospital or their surgeon instead of calling to see if their surgery has been postponed adding surgeries will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

“We are deeply disappointed that the current situation requires hospitals to take these emergency measures to protect capacity for life-saving critical care,” says Mike Lapaine, President and CEO in a news release Friday.

“We understand the impact postponing surgeries has on patients,

families and caregivers, and we want to assure patients that their health and well-being are our top priority.

“We’re committed to resuming all surgical care as soon as it is safe to do so and we appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding as we implement these difficult and complex changes.”

On Friday, officials said Bluewater Health has capacity in its Intensive Care Unit and will increase critical care capacity, when it is needed.

It’s likely Bluewater Health will be receiving patients from other parts of the province.

Friday night, the provincial government passed another order under the Emergency Act which allows hospitals to move patients to other parts of the province for care, without the patient’s consent.

It also issued an order which allows hospitals to redeploy staff without staff consent to deal with the rising number of people in the ICUs across the province. Elliott said Monday the province was considering using health care workers from other provinces.



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# Forty new homes could spring up in Watford soon

Heather Wright  
The Independent

There is a very large housing development in the works in Watford.

Warwick Township council has approved a zoning change that paves the way for the first phase of Heritage Creek Subdivision.

The land is owned by Donald and Marion Hollingsworth and was zoned in part for agriculture. Council gave the go ahead for residential use and Mayor Jackie Rombouts says this is the first step to create the first phase of

the subdivision.

Plans show the Confederation Line subdivision will be west of the Tim Hortons and will include the extension of both Sunset Ave and John Streets into the new development.

Rombouts says the first phase will see 40 homes built.


“They want to give a variety (of housing), so there will be some that are larger lots and some that are smaller, more affordable homes,” she says. “They want to give a variety so that they can attract all different demographics.”


And Rombouts says there will be more housing there in the future.

“They’ve purchased 100 acres so I believe they’re looking at maybe three phases. So, it will be a big project over time.

“There, there’s still all kinds of hoops to jump through before they can break ground, but they’re on their way, right, it’s one step.”

Meantime Warwick council also approved the zoning for four one-storey townhouses on Victoria Street. It’s not clear how long it will take to develop the seniors units.

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# Another food truck in Petrolia’s Bridgeview Park still a possibility

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

It appears another food truck could still set up shop in Bridgeview Park in the future. In March, Petrolia council tabled a new food truck bylaw with some councillors saying the timing was wrong since restaurants are struggling through the pandemic. But Monday, council got a better idea of what the proposed bylaw would do. Dave Menzies, director of community services, told council the bylaw would allow up to four food trucks – two on each side of the park – but

not immediately. Menzies is suggesting council allow two food trucks on the south side for the time being. One of those licenses has already been contracted. Menzies says, over time, if council thought it was appropriate, it could offer two contracts on the north side of Bridgeview Park. The proposed bylaw also sets a minimum bid for the license of \$5,000. Menzies says over the years, there has not been a big demand for the licenses on municipal property. Only one food truck applied for the last license.

Council placed a cost for that at \$2,500 at the time. “I think adding another one or a different type of truck would be smart. When you see the amount of fry trucks at the Bluewater Bridge and friends, people it draws, that’s going to bring even more people (to Bridgeview Park),” says Councillor Joel Field. “I think having them out of the downtown is positive.” But Menzies says the proposed bylaw would not prohibit downtown food trucks. He says it is possible for operators to work with local business and use their parking lots for a location. That

would need approval through the planning process. Some councillors question whether anyone would bid \$5,000 to operate a food truck in a municipal park. Councillor Wade Deighton says some of the people on the Community Services Committee wanted the fee even higher. He says with the municipality now paying hydro and water for the existing food truck, the fees needed to be restructured “to bring it up to a more acceptable level.” One local food truck operator, Bill Wellington who operates Dips, told council in March the

\$5,000 fee would be too much and he wouldn’t bid for it. Deighton says that’s okay. “If they don’t like it, they don’t apply for it.” Councillor Marty Souch remains the only one opposed to the proposed bylaw. “The problem that I had is, we’re in tough times now and I’ve heard some of the stories of restaurants trying to survive. I’m not against it. I’m against the time, I think now is not a good time to do it.” Council will take another look at the proposed bylaw next meeting April 26 and could pass it at that time.

# OHL prospect falls into drug addiction, ends up in court

**Alex Kurial**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Kevin Johnston was an athletic teenager with a promising hockey career ahead of him. But a devastating injury sent him spiralling down a near deadly path. Instead of appearing before fans in arenas, Johnston has found himself in and out of courtrooms. His latest appearance, April 8 in Sarnia Court, was to plead guilty to fentanyl possession and impaired driving. Defence Lawyer Terry Brandon says her client had been a standout defenceman in junior hockey, even courted by the Kingston Frontenacs of the OHL. But a career ending injury sidelined that dream before it began. The injury also led Johnston, 25, to experiment with pain killing drugs. Starting off with marijuana and lower

grade pills, Johnston’s addiction escalated into reliance on some of the most powerful opioids on the market. “Like we hear with many who start with an injury and move themselves into pills or self-medication... it’s a slippery slope,” says Brandon. Johnston was arrested in September when Sarnia Police received a call of an impaired man at the Capel Street Esso station. Officers arrived and found Johnston next to his Jeep unsteady and barely able to keep his eyes open. Multiple bags of fentanyl were found on Johnston and he later failed a drug test. “Your lawyer has set out what is really a very tragic story that lands you now before the court struggling... for some time with an addiction to a dangerous and lethal drug,” says Justice Krista Leszczynski. “You have suffered the consequences

that come with an addiction like this now time and time again,” says Leszczynski. “Your life is in your hands right now and this is a turning point for you to make some hard decisions and to take some strong action to address this issue for your own well-being and your own safety as well as that of the community.” Leszczynski gave Johnston a three month conditional sentence which he will serve in the community. The first 60 days will be house arrest with the last month under curfew and he can’t have any drugs or alcohol during this time. Johnston was also sentenced to a year of probation to include counselling for substance abuse. He was fined \$1,200 and banned from driving for a year on the impaired charge.

- THE INDEPENDENT

# Guilty plea after dozens of oxycodone pills found in Forest raid

**Alex Kurial**  
Local Journalism Initiative

A Forest man has plead guilty to trafficking oxycodone out of his Albert Street home. Carl Parsons, 57, appeared in Sarnia Court April 12 to admit the charges. He was arrested during a raid at his

house Jan. 17, 2020 following an investigation by the Lambton OPP Community Street Crimes Unit. A search of Parsons and his house found dozens of hidden oxycodone pills of varying strength and \$626 cash. After accepting Parsons’ guilty pleas Justice Anne McFadyen adjourned

sentencing to July 5 while a pre-sentence report is prepared. The report will focus on the nature of Parsons’ substance abuse issues. It will also give him time to prepare for what Defence Lawyer Don Henderson says will likely be time behind bars.

- THE INDEPENDENT



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## HISTORIC MAZE OF WIRES



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Kyle Woodrow of Elgin Construction tries to trace what wire goes where at the Oil Museum of Canada. The St. Thomas construction firm is continuing the renovation of the Oil Museum of Canada in Oil Springs, despite the province wide shutdown. Construction is exempt from the order. Jason Edwards says about 20 per cent of the work is now complete. County of Lambton officials hope to have the renovation complete by June.

## Neighbours file formal appeal to lot splitting on Bird Lanes

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The plans of a developer to split a lot and build two homes in Plympton-Wyoming have been put on hold. Residents of the Bird Lanes have filed a formal appeal to the Local Planning Advisory Committee to stop the move. Realtor Tim Dillon bought the Hummingbird Lane home earlier this year and planned to remove the current house and build two on the property. He ran into tough opposition from the neighbours, 92 per cent of whom objected. The issue is the size of the lots. The Bird Lanes were developed in the

1970s along the lake with large, heavily treed lots. Over the years, as new subdivisions emerged with smaller lots, the Bird Lanes became highly sought after because of the different atmosphere of the neighbourhood. Neighbours said Dillon’s plan to take one of the lots and divide it in two would be completely out of character with the neighbourhood. The neighbours are also concerned if one developer can split a lot in the Bird Lanes, others will follow. Dillon’s planner, Patti Richardson, said the town’s own planning report clearly outlined Dillon was within his rights under the Zoning Bylaw and the Official Plan. Plympton-Wyoming council said it

had no choice but to approve the severance. The town’s CAO, Carolyn Tripp, said the group has now filed a formal appeal. In the meantime, council is working with the residents of the Bird Lanes to maintain the character of the area. It’s drawn up an Official Plan amendment recognizing the treed community as a unique development whose character should not be changed by infilling with new houses. The application meeting for the amendment will be held April 21. Should the amendment pass and the neighbours lose their appeal of Dillon’s development, it would still move forward.

## Sheldon, aka Oil Springs Ollie, passes away; Harvey to take his place

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Groundhogs are normally not laid back says Peggy Jenkins. That’s what made Sheldon - better known as weather predicting groundhog Oil Spring Ollie - so special. The eight year old groundhog who had grown used to the spotlight and the children who crowded around to get a glimpse of him every Feb. 2, died Friday. Sheldon was introduced as Oil Springs Ollie in January 2014. He was just a year old at the time and had been taken in by Heaven’s Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre which is in Oil Springs. He had spent so much time with humans, Sheldon couldn’t be released into the wild. Jenkins, the founder of the centre, suggested Oil Springs could have its own Groundhog Day ceremony, with Sheldon/Ollie at the centre. At the time, Jenkins expected the

mild-mannered groundhog would adapt well to life in the spotlight. “He’s very good,” she says. “He’s not afraid of people at all.” That’s not always the case. One groundhog prognosticator in the US actually bit a mayor one February 2nd. Oil Springs Mayor Ian Veen met Ollie before his debut, just to make sure they got along. And they did. The first event was a big success. Over the years, Ollie went to different communities or schools to make his prediction and became a local celebrity. Jenkins says he seemed to enjoy all the fuss. “He actually liked people,” she told *The Independent* Tuesday. “He was mostly laid back and calm. He was just like ‘Let’s go.’” But Sheldon was getting into his golden years. While most groundhogs live to be three or four years, Sheldon was eight and nearing the end of his life. Jenkins brought in a friend, another



Peggy Jenkins and Sheldon in Jan. 2014

groundhog who couldn’t be released back into the wild named Harvey, to live with Sheldon. The pair became friends and would sleep and play together. This past Groundhog Day, Harvey joined Sheldon for the big event. Jenkins says he’ll take Sheldon’s place next year.

## MP Marilyn Gladu Sarnia-Lambton

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## 6 BACK SAVING TIPS FOR GARDENING

### 1. WARM UP & BREATHE

Prepare your body for new movements, take in some deep breaths to nourish your muscles and help improve circulation.

### 2. TAKE BREAKS

Set a timer and take a break every 15-20 minutes to stand up, stretch and walk around.

### 3. DRINK WATER

Carry a bottle of water with your garden tools. When you take your break have a drink of water.

### 4. LISTEN TO YOUR BODY

Do not ignore those nagging aches and pains until it’s too late, if you feel a twinge, take a break or change positions.

### 5. BE MINDFUL OF LARGE LOADS

Divide large loads into smaller batches that are easier to handle or use a wheeled cart.

### 6. VARY YOUR TASKS

Ensure that you aren’t holding the same position for extended periods.



Lambton  
Chiropractic Centre

www.lambtonchiropractic.ca

431 King Street, Petrolia 519-882-1880



Dr. Storozuk



Dr. Martyniuk



## Important Fair Announcement

After a long and consequential discussions, it is with heavy hearts that we announce the **cancellation of our 2021 Plympton-Wyoming Fall Fair**, due to the continuing COVID -19 Pandemic.

This was not an easy decision to make, but it was one that was made for a variety of reasons. One being the uncertainty of when the government will begin to allow festival type events to resume. Sponsorship is also a large part of what helps our event run and we cannot have a successful fair without their amazing support! We cannot in good conscience ask our sponsors for their support in these financially stressful times when many of them have been closed. Another factor was the current ongoing use of the fairgrounds as one of the Vaccination Centres for rural Lambton.

We felt it was the right thing to do for the members of our community, our sponsors, donors, volunteers and our membership.

The Plympton Wyoming Agricultural Society would like to wish everyone good health ...and please stay safe.

**We look forward to seeing you at our 2022 Fall Fair.**

Plympton Wyoming Agricultural Society  
Members and Directors



# Sarnia-Lambton named a Foreign Trade Zone to boost trade in the region

The Independent

A new trade designation may boost Sarnia-Lambton’s economy. The region was named a Foreign Trade Zone by the federal Ministry of Economic Development Tuesday. It’s hoped the access to resources and information about programs to relieve duties, tariffs and taxes will make Sarnia-Lambton a hub for

international trade. The designation allows the region to coordinate programs that benefit businesses, such as the Duty Deferral Program, the Duties Relief Program, the Drawback Program, the Customs Bonded Warehouse Program and the Export Distribution Centre Program. “The area has always been a vital link for trade between Canada and the United States. This announce-

ment builds on the area’s strengths and increases our competitive advantage,” says Lambton Warden Kevin Marriott. “Beyond our globally recognized expertise in these areas, the ability to streamline the trade of goods and services beyond our borders is paramount in the sustainability and growth of our communities,” says the head of the Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce, Allan

Calvert. “This new designation provided to us by the Government of Canada adds to our value proposition in conducting business in Sarnia-Lambton.” The chamber spearheaded the drive to be named a Foreign Trade Zone. Stephen Thompson, the head of the Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership, added the “announcement will raise the profile of the

Sarnia-Lambton area and reduce red tape for exporters. “Not only will it strengthen market access for our existing businesses, it will also add to the Sarnia-Lambton area’s efforts to attract jobs and investment, while elevating our area as a hub for international trade.” Sarnia and Lambton County will be one of 16 Foreign Trade Zones in Canada.

# Fines after Lambton man found with loaded firearm in car while driving drunk

Alex Kurial  
Local Journalism Initiative

Alcohol, firearms and driving are three things that never go well together. One local hunter had to learn this the hard way. But thankfully for Justin Battista, 26, the lesson will be administered by a Sarnia court ordered fine of \$1,400 rather than through a tragic accident. The amount reflects careless driving and careless

firearm storage charges stemming from an incident just before Christmas last year. OPP officers were conducting impaired driving checks along Lasalle Line the night of Dec. 21 when they stopped Battista at Marthaville Road. Noticing multiple liquor bottles in his truck, one of them open, officers asked him to get out the vehicle. Battista had slurred speech and

was unsteady, later failing a breath test. A .270 calibre rifle with several rounds of ammunition was in the truck as well. Battista said the gun was unloaded but a search found a live round in the chamber. The rifle was also in an unlocked box. While a firearms conviction usually includes a lengthy weapons ban, Defence Lawyer Nick Cake wanted to ensure his

client didn’t lose his hunting rights. Cake says Battista is a sustenance hunter from Aamjiwnaang First Nation who lives off the meat he hunts while also giving some to family and friends. Factoring this in, along with Battista’s First Nations hunting rights, led Justice Deborah Austin to dismiss the Crown’s request for a blanket five year weapons

ban and forfeiture order for the rifle. Battista will instead have a modified three year weapons prohibition where he can have a firearm for hunting but must have a blood alcohol content of zero at all times. Battista also received a one year driving probation where he must complete the Back On Track program and not drink any alcohol before getting behind the wheel.

- THE INDEPENDENT

# Family hurt by graveside flower theft

Heather Wright  
The Independent

To some, it may be just a floral arrangement but to Janice and Lonnie Cope, it is a tribute to a much loved daughter who passed away too soon. So, when a basket with purple flours, made by Janice, disappeared from the Hillsdale Cemetery, the Cope’s were sad and angry. The Cope’s daughter, Stephanie, was 10 when she died from cancer. Lonny visits the grave every day, Janice, a couple of times a week. The couple marked the 29th anniversary of her passing by placing the basket of flowers at the grave April 2. “April 1st is the Anniversary of her passing. Because of clean up at the cemetery we were not allowed to put anything at the grave site till the 2nd so, that’s what we did,” says Janice. She also made one to place at the nearby grave of Cindy Stenton, the 17 year-old daughter of the couple’s friend, Jim Stenton. When Lonnie



returned the next day, the flowers were gone. The couple is certain they were not taken by cemetery staff; someone stole the planters. “With the way the world is now, why would anyone add pressure to anyone else,” asks Janice, adding the grief of a parent for a child is hard enough already. “The picture is right on the stone they know she was a child....” The Cope’s are hoping whoever took the flowers from the graves will simply return them to the cemetery, no questions asked.

# Construction starts but lease for Warwick building not done

Heather Wright  
The Independent

It will be late this year or early next before Warwick Township moves into its new office building. But it is still not clear exactly what it will cost. The township is working with Watford Investment Group on the new building on Nauvoo Road. Work has already started and in a report to council Administrator Amanda Gubbels says the exterior of the building should be complete in six months.

It will take another six months to complete the interior of the building with staff moving in late 2021 or early 2022. Watford Investment Group will own the building and the township will lease it, however the lease agreement has yet to be worked out. “I think it’s just about there, we are crossing T’s and dotting I’s at this point,” says Mayor Jackie Rombouts. “It is just (negotiating) an agreeable price for the lease and making sure that we get what we want, and they get what they want.”

The mayor says council has an idea of what the lease payment will be. Gubbels adds staff still has to provide a final cost for the interior and furnishings. Rombouts says staff is ready to move to town. Right now the municipal office is in rural Warwick on Nauvoo Road. “I’m excited that the office will be in town, because a lot of times I think people go directly out to the office, and they’re not in town to see what’s going on,” says Rombouts.

# Oil Springs voters will have vote by mail option in 2022

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Oil Springs residents will have a new way to vote in the 2022 municipal election. Council has approved the use of a vote by mail system,

suggesting some people may want an alternative to in-person voting in the wake of the pandemic. Residents will be able to vote in person too. Several other Lambton municipalities use vote by mail, including Dawn-Euphemia and

Lambton Shores. The village did consider joining with Sarnia, Petrolia and several other Lambton municipalities to get a company to run an internet vote in 2022 but councillors decided not to approve that route.

# 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.ca/giftofhearing](http://bluewaterhearing.ca/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](http://www.bluewaterhearing.ca)



## 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](http://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**



# Sports

## Killer Bees’ competition named

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

The Alvinston Killer Bees are now officially one of the original six franchises in the newly formed Western Ontario Super Hockey League (WOSHL).

The other teams are in Strathroy, Stratford, Tillsonburg, Langton and Elora.

Although the Bees had previously announced their intentions through correspondence to Brooke-Alvinston Council, the league made its first locations official with a league podcast Monday.

“We’re hoping to be your new hockey fix,” said league President Jamie Petrie in a launch video. He expects more teams to be added to the roster in the coming weeks.

Depending on COVID-19 restrictions, he hopes the league can hit the ice in early October for an inaugural 24 game regular season.

The league is aimed at players between 20 and 30 years old but there will not be an upper end age limit. He expects the vast majority of each roster



to be local players.

“We don’t see this as a one or two-year wonder,” said Petrie. “We think this (the league) will blossom.”

The vision for the league, according to Petrie, is to be young, fast and competitive.

“If a person can come to a game and be entertained at a reasonable dollar, that’s a win-win,” he said.

According to its website, the Killer Bees already have commitments from several area players for the coming season, including ex-Petrolia Squire Tyler Ryan, former Alvinston Flyer Scott Case and Strathroy Rockets’ alum Cameron Rombouts and Matthew Stevens.

## No surprise as GOJHL calls 2020-2021 season

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

What seemed like an inevitability for months has now come to fruition for the Sarnia Legionnaires and other members of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League.

The GOJHL officially cancelled the 2020-21 season.

Calling it a “difficult and unfortunate” decision, the league says the latest stay-at-home order imposed by the Ontario government has made any thought of a meaningful season impossible, saying most towns and cities in the province are now in the process of taking out their ice if they haven’t done so already.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating to all Ontarians for so many reasons. Our front-line workers have certainly endured the greatest challenges and losses but our devoted athletes, coaches and staff who live for the game have lost as well,” said newly-appointed GOJHL Commissioner Brent Garbutt. He added “there will be more obstacles to overcome in the future.”

Several players from Central Lambton were expected to be on the Sarnia roster this season.

The Canadian Hockey League cancelled the Memorial Cup Tuesday, however the OHL and the Provincial Junior Hockey League haven’t made an official announcement.

## Verbeek joins Red Wings at trade deadline

The Independent

Hayden Verbeek is taking his talents to Grand Rapids.

The nephew of former NHLer and Red Wings assistant general manager Pat Verbeek of Reece’s Corners was dealt from Montreal to Detroit in advance of Monday’s NHL trade deadline.

Prior to the deal, the younger Verbeek had a goal and two assists in

seven games with Montreal’s top AHL affiliate in Laval this season.

He has since been assigned to the Grand Rapids Griffins of the AHL, the top affiliate for the Wings.

Verbeek played in the GOJHL with the Chatham Maroons in 2013-14 before embarking on a five-year career with the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds of the OHL.

He signed as a free agent with the Habs in 2018.

## Alvinston’s Cumming hits first college HR

The Independent

Ally Cumming went deep to right field with a runner on base in the fourth inning to lead Northwestern Ohio to a 5-0 road victory over Indiana Tech in NAIA Women’s Softball action.

It was the first collegiate home run for the LCCVI grad who is now in her

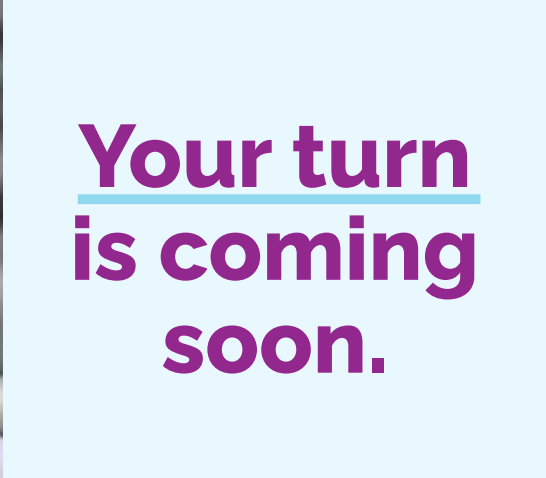
third season with the Racers.

She also drove in a third run with a sixth inning groundout for a career high in that category as well.

Cumming is hitting .194 in 17 appearances this season for the Racers.

Northwestern Ohio is 5-3 in conference play and 17-11 overall.

The Racers’ regular season comes to a conclusion at the end of this month.



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](https://ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan) or call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance in more than 300 languages.

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Classified Deadline:  
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words  
Stop in at the office 9a-5p Mon-Fri  
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Real Estate



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This beautiful brick family home has a large kitchen, 3 bedrooms, extra large oversized lot, fenced in yard for kids and pets to play, and sits on a quiet street. Nearby are two dog parks, a recreation centre offering baseball, hockey, figure skatin, aswell as a skateboard park, a children's park and much more in this quaint town.  
**Call for more details!**

In Memory



In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather & great-grandfather.

RAY  
FREER

who passed away April 17, 2013

Our hearts are full of memories, Which we never will forget. All the happy times we shared, Are treasured souvenirs. Although we are together, We will never be apart. Because you have a special place, Right here in our hearts.

Forever loved and greatly missed by Kay and family

In Memory

In loving memory of

ARLENE BOURNE

August 24, 1933 - April 15, 2020

A LETTER FROM HEAVEN


*I'm writing this from Heaven  
Where I dwell with God above  
Where there's no more  
Tears or sadness  
There's just eternal love.*

*When you are walking down the street  
And you've got me on your mind  
I'm walking in your footsteps  
Only half a step behind.*

*And when you feel that gentle breeze  
Or the wind upon your face  
That's me giving you a great big hug  
Or just a soft embrace.*

*And when it's time for you to go  
From that body to be free  
Remember you're not going  
You are coming here to me.*

*Thanks for all the fun, family and friendship, Mom!  
We miss you! We rest assured that by God's grace, we will be united again one day.  
Your loving family*



Notice

The County of lambton is working together on the community vaccination efforts. **Lambton County Libraries are offering free, contact less curb side 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.

Notice

Get creative at home with Lambton County Library. Pick up a **DIY kit** at one of our participating curbside pickup locations to make a book page dahlia blossom. Register by Sunday, April 11, 2021 to reserve your kit here: <https://lclibrary.libnet.info/event/4946324>

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


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

**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 the 7am the day of your regularly scheduled collection. **ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:** Anything hazardous (paint, aerosols, ect.), broken glass, window panes or sliding doors, recyclable materials, compost, construction material, vehicles or vehicle parts, electronics, appliances (washer, dryer, refrigerator, ect.)

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.

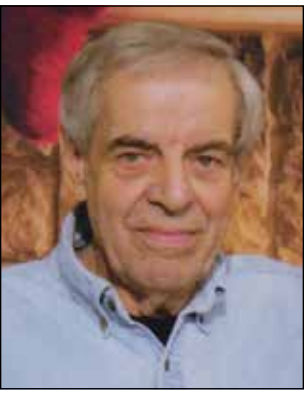
Card of Thanks



There are no words that can express our gratitude for the kindness shown to us the last few weeks. The family of Eleanor Parr (Lumley) (nee Moran) would like to thank our family, friends and neighbours for the car shown to mom in the last couple of years. Thank you also to Steven and Laura of Needham-Jay for guiding us through unfamiliar territory and steaming the service so members of our family could be with us on the day.

**Darlene & John, Charlene & Dan, Dori & Nick, Bobbie Lynn & Chris and their families**

Obituary



**LUKER**  
Roy Allen

LUKER, Roy Allen, **April 27, 1937 - April 6, 2021** passed away at Bluewater Health, Sarnia. Roy is survived by his daughter Jackie (Joel) Morinville, Alberta and his son Craig (Melanie) Seattle, Washington. Also mourning their loss are 4 grandchildren Jordan & Marcus Luker and Jorja & Jose Chevalier. He is also survived by his sister Jean (Leo) Bradshaw of Petrolia, sister-in-laws, Anita of Trenton, Laurel of B.C. and Trish of England, brother-in-law George of Windsor, and many nieces and nephews. Roy was predeceased by his parents Alonzo (1976) & Valerie (1979) Luker, brothers Earl (1989), George (2008), Ray (2015), and Lorne (2020), and sisters Grace (2016) and Zelma (2016). Roy was born and raised in Petrolia and attended Maude & Central elementary schools and P.D.H.S. (LCCVI). Following in his three older brothers' footsteps he enlisted in the military retiring with a hearing disability. He pursued welding and became a boilermaker and spent many years working in Sarnia's Chemical Valley before moving to BC followed by many years at the Pickering Hydro Plant, until his retirement back in Petrolia. Roy loved his home town and the local Tim Horton's staff became his third family. Hundreds of Petrolia residents swam in his pool on Juniper Crescent over the years, he was known by many as just "Uncle Roy". **A service will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at Needham-Jay Funeral Home, Petrolia due to COVID 19 restrictions the service will be private with a livestream at [www.facebook.com/NeedhamJay](http://www.facebook.com/NeedhamJay).** Memorial Donations may be made to the Tim Horton's Foundation Camps ([www.timscamps.com](http://www.timscamps.com)). Memories and condolences may be shared on-line at [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com).


Obituary



**WINTER**  
Gail Sharon (Prudom)

At Bluewater Health Sarnia on **Tuesday, April 6, 2021**, Gail Sharon (Prudom) Winter, age **77**, of Petrolia, formerly of the Camlachie area, loving wife of Ronald Winter for 52 years. Daughter of the late Floyd and Dorothy (Maw) Prudom. Daughter-in-law of the late G. Francis and Eileen Winter. Mother of Duane, Darryl (Lisa), Curt and Kyle. Grandmother of Nicole (Iain Douglas), Celine Leblanc, Reilly Winter (Paul Sowinski), Ryan Winter and Rebecca Winter. Great grandmother of Charlotte Douglas. Survived by her Aunt June and siblings James Prudom (Deborah Don Carlos), Linda Prudom, Karen Madsen (Ben), R. John Smith (Janet), late LeRoy Smith (Gwen), brother-in-law Ross Winter and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. Gail enjoyed her life on the farm raising a family, being a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She followed in her parents ways for the love of family, church and travelling. The family would like to thank all those who cared for mom, the many special caregivers, doctors, and nurses over the past few years. **A private family service was held on Saturday, April 10, 2021, with interment in Wyoming Cemetery.** Sympathy may be expressed through memorial donations to the Canadian Diabetes Association, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, and ALS Canada (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). Arrangements entrusted to Smith Funeral Home, 1576 London Line, Sarnia. Memories and condolences may sent online at [www.smithfuneralhome.ca](http://www.smithfuneralhome.ca)

Obituary



**SOMERVILLE**  
James

Somerville, James - Died at his home in Petrolia on Saturday, **April 10, 2021**. James Somerville, was in his **88th year**. He was predeceased by his wife of 64 years Shirley (nee Metcalfe)(2017). He will be missed by his daughters Maureen Somerville, Jill (Dave) White, Betty Ann (Duane) Hurlock, and Heather (Mark) Pokrajac. He was the loved grandfather to Melinda, Joey (Meagan), Leeanne, Chantelle, Alysha (Jamie), Ryan (Kim), Brad (Chantelle), Derek (Kaitie), Megan, Todd (Crystal), and Chelsea and great grandfather to Amber, Zachary, Hailey, Isaac, Gavin, Emery, Madison, Rocco, Levi, Jessa, and Presley. He was predeceased by parents Arthur and Florence Somerville and his brother Bill (Gayle) Somerville. **A private graveside service will be held in Hillsdale Cemetery, Petrolia.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Society ([www.alzheimers.ca](http://www.alzheimers.ca)) and may arranged by contacting Needham-Jay Funeral Home at (519)882-0100. Memories and condolences may be shared on-line at [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com).

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.


**WANTED**  
**WANTED TO BUY** - Adult bicycles Women & Men. All sizes. Good to fair condition. All types of bikes wanted. Please call 519-882-2548 and ask for Dave.

Card of Thanks

**THANK YOU**  
*Words cannot express the comfort and appreciation that your kind acts have brought to our family in the recent passing of our beloved "Jack Dolbear"*  
*For the beautiful flowers, food, condolences, phone calls, cards and memorial donations, we are truly grateful.*  
*Our thanks, too, for the wonderful care he received at Bluewater Health Hospital.*  
*He would be so happy to know his former students, colleagues, team-mates and friends were so kind to remember him.*  
*A big thank you to Rev. Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, the Pall-bearers and Van Heck Funeral Home for your care.*  
**MARILYN, DOUG, SU & FAMILIES**



Classified Deadline:  
Monday @ 12 noon



Solution

Answers to this week's  
**Sudoku**

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Give yourself  
peace of mind  
with the right  
coverage  
for you.

Call us today!

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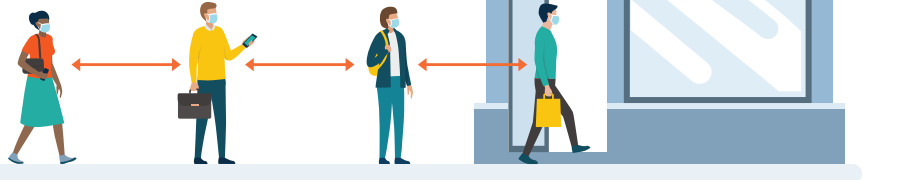
# Classifieds

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](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)



**COVID-19**  
SOCIAL DISTANCING

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



**Notice**

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Death Notices

April 3 - April 9, 2021

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

**WILSON, Richard "Dick"**  
Age 73, of Sarnia  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**LEACH, Barry**  
Age 84, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

**CAUDLE, Kenneth**  
Age 78, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, APRIL 5

**AQUASH, Alphonse Jr.**  
Age 29, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**CHALMERS, Lee**  
Age 29, of Courtright  
Knight Funeral Home

**LECLAIR, John**  
Age 50, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**MASSE, Fr. Raymond**  
Age 63, of Sarnia  
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

**CAROLIS, Elio De**  
Age 80, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**LUMLEY, Thomas**  
Age 87, of Sarnia  
Steadman brothers Funeral  
Chapels

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

**TRIPP, Rosanna**  
Age 68, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**VAUTOUR, Diane**  
Age 76, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**WINTER, Gail**  
Age 77, of Petrolia  
Smith Funeral Home

**DE HAAN, Theresa**  
Age 79, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**HUSSAIN, Muhammad**  
Age 81, of Sarnia  
Gilpin Funeral Home

**LUKER, Roy**  
Age 83, of Petrolia  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

**NIX, Robert "Bob"**  
Age 75, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**SCHIEMAN, Dan**  
Age 84, of Petrolia  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**MURCH, Bruce**  
Age 86, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, APRIL 8


**HOYLE, Wilfred**  
Age 91, of Forest  
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

**VAN DEN BROEK, Frank**  
Age 64, of Alvinston  
VanHeck 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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  
email: [fbcpetrolia@gmail.com](mailto:fbcpetrolia@gmail.com)  
[www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca](http://www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca)  
Find us on Facebook!  
 [www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia](http://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](mailto:wyoming_united@outlook.com) to be  
sent the Zoom link to join us for our  
10am live service.

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




# Business & Service Directory

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

Professional INCOME TAX SERVICES


**519-882-2966**

3927 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON


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MARK AND JOANNE JAMIESON

[jam\\_jo11@hotmail.com](mailto:jam_jo11@hotmail.com) | [www.protaxpetrolia.com](http://www.protaxpetrolia.com)



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Factory order may be required. \*COSTCO MEMBER OFFER: To qualify for the Costco Member Pricing, you must be a Canadian resident holding a valid driver's license, have been a Costco member since March 1, 2021, or earlier and must: (1) Register with Costco to receive your non-transferable Authorization Number; (2) Present the Authorization Number to a participating dealer; (3) Retail purchase, finance or lease an eligible new or demonstrator in-stock GMC, Terrain, Acadia, delivered from March 2, 2021, to April 30, 2021. In addition, to receive a \$500 Costco Shop Card by mail, submit a redemption form to Costco within thirty (30) days of vehicle delivery and complete a Costco member satisfaction survey. Please allow 4 weeks for Costco Shop Card delivery, pending completion of all eligibility requirements; including redemption form submission, purchase verification and survey completion. Costco Shop Cards will be mailed to the mailing address provided to Costco at the time of registration. The purchase or lease of a vehicle does not qualify for the calculation of the Costco Executive Membership 2% Reward. Offer may not be redeemed for cash. Conditions and limitations apply to this limited time offer. For full program details and for any applicable exclusions see a participating dealer or [costcoauto.ca/GM](http://costcoauto.ca/GM). For Costco Shop Card terms and conditions, visit [Costco.ca](http://Costco.ca) and search "Shop Card". Tax, title, registration and license fees, personal property registration fees, and additional products and services are not included in the Costco Member Pricing. Offer is valid at participating authorized GM Canada dealers. Offer not available in the U.S. or Mexico. Offer is subject to change without notice. Void where prohibited. Costco and its affiliates do not sell automobiles nor negotiate individual transactions. © Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. TERRAIN FINANCE & Offer available to qualified retail customers in Ontario on select vehicles purchased and delivered from April 1, to April 30, 2021. 0% purchase financing (0% APR) offered on approved credit by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank® or RBC Royal Bank for 84 months on eligible 2021 Terrain SE All-Wheel Drive models; includes Enterprise Credit of \$500 (Tax Inclusive). \$500 Enterprise Credit not compatible with Costco Member offer. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders may vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: \$36,200 financed at 0% nominal rate (0% APR) equals \$414 monthly for 84 months with \$1,500 down payment. \$1,500 down payment required. Cost of borrowing is \$0, for a total obligation of \$36,200. Freight (\$1,900) and air conditioning charge (\$100, if applicable) included. License, insurance, registration, PPSA, applicable taxes and, dealer fees not included (all of which may vary by dealer and region). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. Factory order may be required. General Motors of Canada Company (GM Canada) may modify, extend or terminate offers for any reason, in whole or in part, at any time, without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. These offers may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Conditions and limitations apply. Void where prohibited. Chargeable paint costs may vary depending on the vehicle/colour. See Dealer for full program details. ©Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. TD Auto Finance is a registered trademark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. ACADIA LEASE ¥: Offer available to qualified retail customers in Ontario for vehicles leased and delivered between April 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021. Lease based on suggested retail price of \$43,892, towards the lease of an eligible 2021 Acadia SE All-Wheel Drive model; includes Enterprise Credit of \$500 (Tax Inclusive), \$250 Dealer-To-Consumer Credit (Tax Exclusive). \$500 Enterprise Credit not compatible with Costco Member offer. Bi-weekly payment is \$223 for 48 months at 2.9% lease rate (2.9% APR) on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. The \$111 weekly payment is calculated by dividing the bi-weekly payments. Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis. Equivalent weekly payments are for informational purposes only. Annual kilometer limit of 20,000 km, \$0.16 per excess kilometer. \$2,000 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Cost of borrowing is \$3,672 for a total obligation of \$25,076. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and applicable fees, levies, duties and, dealer fees (all of which may vary by dealer and region) are extra. Option to purchase at lease end is \$22,046. Chargeable paint costs may vary depending on the vehicle/colour. See dealer for details. Credits vary by model. Dealer may sell for less. Factory order may be required. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. General Motors of Canada Company may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. Offers may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. See dealer for details. Q Whoever comes first. Limit of four complimentary Lube-Oil/Filter services in total. Fluid top-ups, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc., are not covered. See the Warranty Booklet or your dealer for details. ∞ Whichever comes first. See your dealer. Δ Visit [onstar.ca](http://onstar.ca) for vehicle availability, coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services and connectivity vary by model and conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. 4G LTE service available in select markets. Requires active connected vehicle services and a data plan to access the vehicle's built-in Wi-Fi hotspot. Accessory Power must be active to use the Wi-Fi hotspot. Data plans provided by AT&T or its local service provider. Credit card is required for purchase.