

A MOMENT TO HOPE



Carly Pembelton Crawford, 23, turns away as Lambton County paramedic Alexander Goldoni gives the COVID-19 vaccine. Pembelton Crawford is one of the 200 clients of Lambton County Developmental Services who have been isolated from family and friends since the pandemic began. Lambton Public Health organized the clinic for about 90 residents at LCDS Petrolia office Monday. See more on page 2.

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Ready to
roll up our
sleeves

Heather Wright
The Independent

It seems Petrolia and Central Lambton residents are ready to roll up their sleeves to start putting an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Heathcare providers have been worried about vaccine hesitancy - public concerns about vaccines developed quickly or medical side effects stopping people from getting a shot. That’s particularly true of Astra Zeneca which some countries stopped using temporarily over blood clotting concerns.

Scientists say while there have been a handful of cases, your chances of being in a car accident going to get the vaccine is far higher than having a side affect from it.

The Central Lambton Family Health Team was given 200 doses of AstraZeneca to give to patients. Another health care provider had also been given shots, but because of some of the concerns about clotting, they were not able to book enough people to use the shots.

Sarah Milner, executive director of the Central Lambton Health Team says they found lots of willing arms in the region.

So Friday, members of the Central Lambton Team will give up to 300 people their first dose of their COVID-19 vaccine.

“It was unreal,” says Milner of how quickly the appointments in Petrolia started filling up.

She says people between the ages of 40 and 60 were most interested in rolling up their sleeves. The vaccine was only approved for those over 40 on Monday.

Milner and her staff have been working with the Town of Petrolia to set up the clinic at the now idled Greenwood Recreation Centre. Originally, the health team was trying to figure out how to continue regular appointments and have the vaccine clinic at the same time when the town reached out and offered the arena.

The added bonus, Milner says, is the clinic will remain at the ready at the arena until the next doses of vaccines are delivered to the family health team.

Plympton-Wyoming’s pumping stations not doing their job

Heather Wright
The Independent

More than half of Plympton-Wyoming’s waste water pumping stations are not working the way they should.

And it could cost a lot of cash to fix the problem.

Adam Sobanski, Director of Public Works told town councillors April 15, Jacobs, which operates the town’s waste water system, has found some significant

problems with six of the 10 pumping stations in the municipality.

“What Jacobs found is that six pumping stations are performing below the approved design capacity due to multiple factors,” says Sobanski in a report to council.

“The pumps can’t even pump the sewage as they’ve been designed to and approved by the Ministry of the Environment. So if we have a pump, say that was rated to pump 100 milliliters a second, it’s only pumping 60 milliliters a second,” he told council. “In

a couple of the pumping stations, the way they’re designed they are working against each other...In a couple of areas, the force mains are under tremendous pressure,” he added. “So the force mains themselves may have not been designed and installed in the most efficient manner.”

The town spent \$40,000 on a “desktop” review of the pumping system in 2015, Sobanski added, but it did not uncover the problems.

SEE PUMPING PG 2



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
APRIL 18-24, 2021





#VolunteersBringChange

THE VALUE
OF ONE.
THE POWER
OF MANY.

Lambton vaccine clinic operating three days a week during shortage

The Independent

The Lambton Public Health mass vaccination station is once again running just three days a week.

The center had to scale back last week when shipments of Moderna were delayed by the manufacturer. That stretched resources across the province, particularly as the government tried to pour 25 per cent more doses in high risk areas.

Public health said April 15 that 35,443 people have had their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Just 1,575 – people in long term care and high risk retirement homes – have been fully vaccinated.

Public health says that’s about 31 per cent of the population who are eligible. A vaccine for people under 16 has not been approved yet.

Public Health officials say 70 per cent of the population should be vaccinated to make a significant impact on the spread of the virus.

Lambton will receive about 5,000 doses this week. It can administer up to 2,500.

A clinic in Alvinston which had been cancelled because of the vaccine shortage will be held Friday.

Pumping station problems in PW

CON’T FROM PG 1

“What we’re finding during the subdivision approval process is that the 2015 study had some holes in it. There was one minor error, well, one fairly major error, that kind of led to some capacity concerns,” he says.

That frustrated Councillor Tim Wilkins who suggested the authors of the 2015 study should be held accountable for not finding the problem.

Sobanski says there are avenues to hold engineers to account, however council will have to examine what it asked the engineer to investigate.

And Councillor Netty McEwen wanted to be assured the problem wasn’t because of development in the community. Sobanski says while there is more waste coming in, that’s not the primary problem. “It has to do with the pumps ability to move fluid out.”

Staff did not estimate how much it would cost to fix the problem. The municipality is working with Jacobs to determine the scope of the problem however Sobanski admitted “We know for sure there’s a few pump stations which are going to need significant funding to bring them up to needed and design capacity.”

That could have an impact on sewage rates since any repairs to the system must be funded by the user according to provincial legislation.

Council agreed to change the scope of the current Wastewater Master Plan to start an Environmental Assessment process which would give Plympton-Wyoming a plan to improve the system and look for funding for the project.

The beginning of hope for people living in LCDS homes

Heather Wright
The Independent

Carly Pembleton Crawford is dreaming of the things she loves to do.

For the 23 year-old who is a client of Lambton County Developmental Services this has been a very long year waiting out COVID-19.

Residents of the local congregate care homes have been staying inside, visiting with family and friends virtually and only leaving with the approval of LCDS staff.

For someone used to getting together with family and friends, heading out shopping or volunteering with Parkway Church in Corunna to deliver meals, staying at home has been difficult for Pembleton Crawford.

“It’s been rough, really hard,” she says from beneath the mask on her face.

Nick Salaris, the executive director of LCDS, agrees.

“It’s been tough. Basically it’s very similar to long term care or group living situations,” he says. “It’s been hard on the people, they’ve been phenomenal. They’ve basically been in their homes for 13 months.”

Through that time, Salaris says not one LCDS client has tested positive for COVID-19 although a handful of their workers have.

Salaris says the success of keeping COVID at bay with the pandemic restrictions has been tempered because it has been tough on the clients and their families.

“They haven’t been able to have that physical contact... we’ve done a lot of great things as far as virtual, but it’s not the same.

“Obviously, there’s mental health concerns with people, you know, and anxiety and all those sorts of things...we’ve done the best we can to provide opportunities for people to do things a bit differently, but it’s not the same as that hug and that family contact.”

Pembleton Crawford has been trying to keep busy to pass the pandemic days away.

“I do knitting. I knit hats. I do scrapbooking. I’m play board games with my roommate Teresa, clean the house... it’s trying to keep myself busy,” she says.

Monday brought something different to do,



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Carly Pembleton Crawford looks out of the corner of her eye to see if her vaccine is done. She was one of about 90 LCDS clients getting the COVID-19 shot Monday in Petrolia.

one of the few times during the last 13 months she’s been able to leave her home. And it was for a very good reason. Pembleton Crawford was one of about 90 LCDS clients who arrived at the organization’s Center Street offices to get the first shot of her COVID-19 vaccine. While you couldn’t see her smile, the excitement was in her eyes.

“It feels amazing,” she said as she waited the required 15 minutes to make sure there were no side effects from getting the shot. “Really awesome.”

And she was thinking about all the things she hopes to be able to do again soon - like giving her roommate a big hug and being with her family.

“I’m going to be meeting with my friends and family and going shopping, going down to the Bluewater Bridge. I’m doing volunteer-

ing again...I love doing that.”

When that will happen isn’t clear yet. Like long term care homes, the rules keeping residents confined to their homes haven’t eased up yet.

And Salaris says they’re still waiting to hear from the province when vaccinated people, like Pembleton Crawford, will have more freedom.

And Salaris says there is the added problem that not everyone will get the vaccine and that could limit what LCDS clients can do.

But he’s hopeful the tide is turning and the people they serve will soon have more freedom. Salaris says they need it.

“We’ve seen people just falter, like they’re just not who they were. And we’re hoping that we can get there again, and I’m hoping that it’s not too late.”

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 to submit your entry*



Sarnia
714 London Rd

Petrolia
4130 Glenview Rd

Corunna
348 Lyndoch St

519.344.8887 | www.bluewaterhearing.ca

*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).

Bailey says province wants to ‘fill the gaps’ for paid sick leave

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey says the Conservative government is looking for a way to “fill the gaps” for paid leave for essential workers.

This comes after months of calls from top doctors and scientists for the move and dozens of chances to implement paid sick leave through private members bills to help people make the choice to stay home when they’re sick with COVID-19.

Friday, Premier Doug Ford tightened restrictions in the Stay at Home order including closing playgrounds and giving police extraordinary - and unconstitutional powers according to some experts - to stop people randomly and enforce the order. He walked back both of those restrictions later.

That left scientific experts questioning again why the province wasn’t making paid sick leave mandatory. The Conservatives have always said employees should use a federal benefit designed for use in the pandemic.

Tuesday, after the federal budget, cabinet signalled they were looking at filling the gaps in the system, they said because the federal government didn’t increase the benefit - a comment echoed by Bailey.

“We were hoping that they (the federal government) would take that \$700 million that the federal government set aside to pay

this benefit and improve it, add to it, maybe restructure it; use that money. But they didn’t do that. So now the provinces, we’re gonna have to step in, I guess and do that as well.”

Under the provincial Employment Standards Act, the province has the power and authority to implement paid sick days. The Ford government reduced the number of paid sick days to just two when it took office.

During the pandemic, it guaranteed people would not lose their jobs if they stayed home ill, but many essential workers, who made minimum wage, were not able to take the time off. The federal benefit does cover up to four weeks, but there is a wait of days - sometimes - weeks to receive it.

Bailey says cabinet, including the premier who has been absent from the Legislature both Monday and Tuesday, is considering a new program now.

“I don’t know what they’re going to call it, they’re going to fill in the gaps. That’s what the minister said, fill in the gaps in the federal program. So I don’t even know what it is yet. But they know, I was just talking to premier and others there. He said, Now they haven’t done that, we’re going to have to step in and do something to fill in those gaps.

“I personally didn’t understand why we didn’t encourage the employers to continue paying their employee and get reimbursed by the Feds...because you know,

THE BIG DIG



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

New life is being breathed into a historic site in Petrolia. After years of planning, the owners of Albany Retirement Village, construction is beginning on “The Walk.” It is a 10 unit seniors retirement residence on the former site of the Oil Rig Restaurant. Doug Simpson received Petrolia council’s approval last month to begin construction on the building and by Monday, workers were on site lifting giant pieces of cement from the area. The new building will cover 60 per cent of the lot and will provide residents with parking and a separate entrance into their own rented one or two bedroom unit.

they’re already on payroll, these employees, they’re already in the system, they probably get their banking information, they’re about to get direct deposit. To me, I would have tried to work for something like that.”

As cabinet tries to fill the gaps, the COVID-19 Science Advisory committee again asked the government to implement a paid sick leave and limit even more businesses from operating to stop the spread of

More COVID-19 deaths in Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, says the lockdown and the provincial shutdown seem to be easing the spread of COVID-19 in Lambton.

Tuesday, Lambton marked the 55th death from COVID-19 - a man in his 70s who had been in the hospital.

And there is another outbreak; three students at the Lambton College residence are COVID-19 positive.

In all, there were just five new cases in Lambton today. Eighty four people are actively ill. Seven are in hospital and one is on a ventilator.

“I think it is important to add a bit of caution to that statement because we do see a few days where there are 20 or so cases and some days where we’ve got five or so cases,” he says. Ranade says the seven day average is trending lower and that is “directly due to the impact of multiple restrictions on what people can do.”

Meantime, Ranade says Lambton County

has written to the provincial government to figure out why the community was not named a hotspot and eligible for more vaccine.

Ranade says the situation has changed enough Lambton wouldn’t qualify anymore but he still wants clarity from the province.

“We have pushed to have a reasonable amount of vaccination based on our population, we have pushed to have more of the supplies than we have now and we’ve also pushed for some openness and transparency about how it is decided what a hotspot is, so we have an understanding whether we did fit into that category or criteria.”

Meantime in Ontario, there was a significant drop in the number of cases reported – 3,469 Tuesday compared to 4,447 Monday. That may be due, in part to a problem with telecommunications giant Rogers, officials said. Ontario’s seven day average for COVID-19 cases is around 4,400 a day.

Another 22 Ontarians died Tuesday.

KNIAZIEW

OPTOMETRY

Dr. Kaitlyn Sinclair was born and raised in Oil City. Kaitlyn is very excited to be returning to the community that has provided so much for her over the years and is looking forward to providing you and your family with all of your eyecare and vision needs!

Now accepting new patients.

Petrolia - 413 Wingfield St. - 519.882.1316
Corunna - 197 Hill St. - 519.813.9851

Editorial

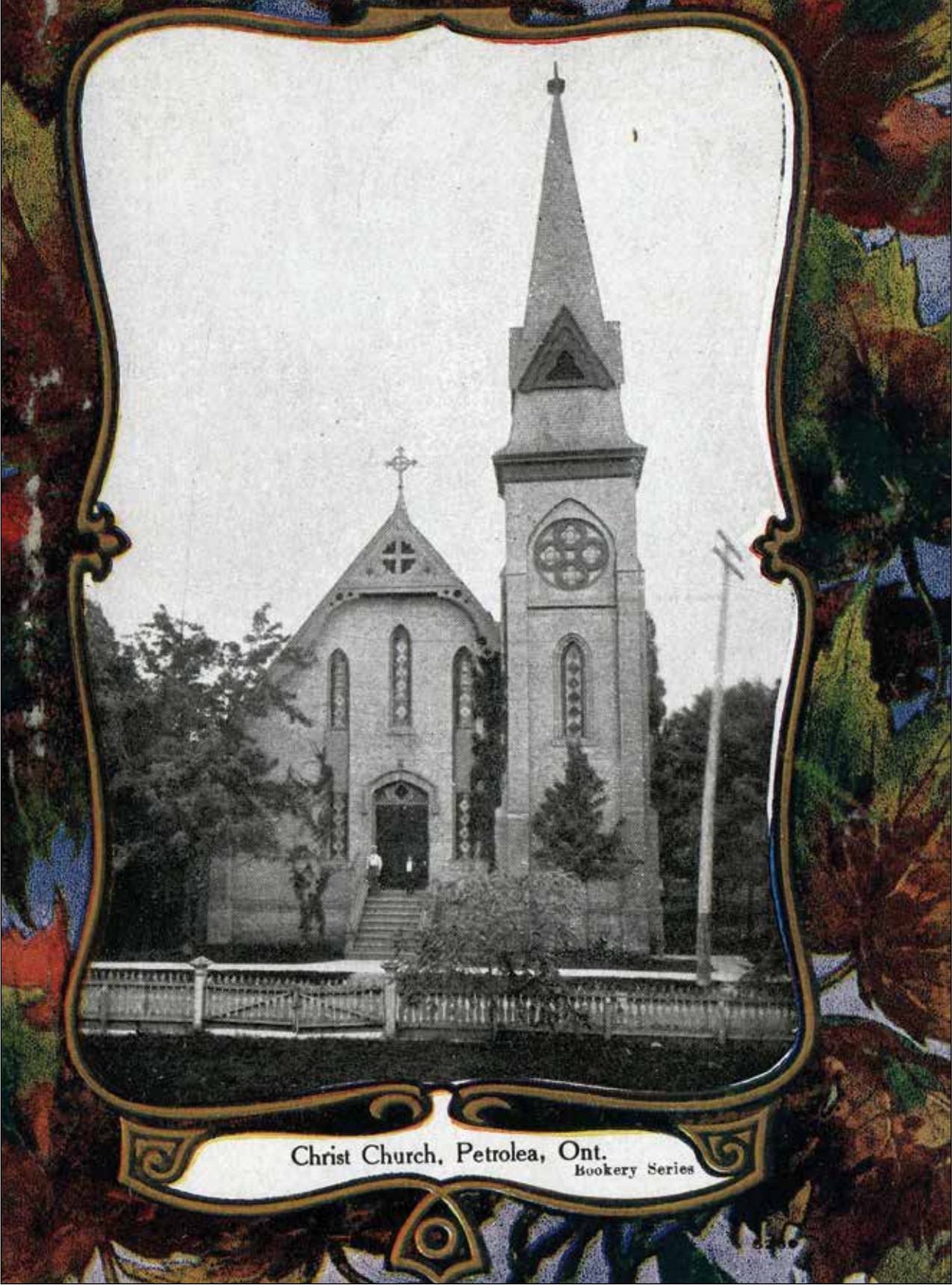
Deficit \$354 billion, but does it matter

The numbers are mind boggling.
The federal budget put out its spending plan Monday saying Canada will have a deficit of \$354 billion in 2021.
That’s the deficit - not the spending.
And that number is actually lower than many people thought and down from the finance minister’s own projection in November of \$382 billion.
It won’t be until 2025-2026 that the Liberal government expects to have a deficit of “only” \$30.7 billion.
I’m old enough to remember when a \$30 billion deficit was enough to cause the vapours in most of the starchy banker types. And, to be sure, for some, it still does. Marilyn Gladu, the MP for Sarnia-Lambton, sent out a news release decrying the spending.
“We have waited, anxiously, until today to see the actual current and projected totals of the Liberals’ out-of-control pandemic spending—and their plans for the future, which bring more anxiety than hope,” says Gladu.
Gladu, in her news release about the budget, to her credit points out the things she likes - more mental health care money, more cash for seniors, Black and Indigenous people. She talks about the national debt of \$1.8 trillion and that we’re passing on ‘eye watering’ debt to our kids, but never actually says what the deficit is. Her leader, Erin O’Toole, also isn’t banging the debt drum very hard. He has admitted it would take 10 years for a Conservative government to balance the budget. Ten years. That’s not very Conservative thinking.
There is a reason why even conservatives aren’t that conservative about the deficit anymore; by and large, many Canadians aren’t either. We carry more personal debt than ever, from housing and school and credit cards, as if it were normal.
And Canadians who relied on the federal government for aid during the pandemic, see it as a good investment. So don’t expect to see any politician flogging the size of the debt with any great gusto as we head into an election. It simply won’t win them very many votes.

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



DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION
A beautiful postcard of Christ Church Petrolia. The Anglicans had many different houses of worship over the years, including a saloon. This brick building stood on Oil Street and Warren Ave until 1957 when it was destroyed by fire. A new church was built in its place and with the bells which were saved.

The

Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

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

Subscription Rates:

\$55.00/year within 50 kms of Petrolia Post Office

\$65.00/year outside of 50 km radius

\$75.00/year other provinces

(HST included on all prices) Subscriptions are non-refundable

News Media Canada

Médias d'Info Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada

Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

Proud host of the Local Journalism Initiative

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



First GTA COVID-19 patients arrive in Lambton

One to two patients
a day expected from
Toronto hospitals

Heather Wright
The Independent

The first of what is likely to be many COVID-19 patients from the metro Toronto area have arrived in Lambton County.

Julia Oosterman, chief of communications and public affairs at Bluewater Health, says Lambton paramedics went to Toronto to pick up the patient who is now in the Sarnia COVID-19 unit.

The GTA is struggling in the third wave of the pandemic. Today, there are 2,360 people hospitalized in the province; 773 in are in intensive care, many of those people are in the GTA.

Oosterman says Bluewater Health, like other hospitals across the province, are now being asked to step in.

“We have capacity in our ICU,” says Oosterman. Right now, Bluewater Health has seven people in the intensive care unit – down from 11 a couple of days ago.

“We were asked to ramp down surgeries to prepare for this because there’s some hospitals in the GTA that are getting, you know, 50, 60,70, 100 COVID patients walking in their

emergency department a day.”

While only one patient is heading to Sarnia now, she expects to see between one or two people a day as the crisis increases.

“We’re anticipating that we’re prepared for that. It’s kind of a team Ontario approach being taken right now. As we would want, frankly, if we had 100 COVID patients walking through our door.”

Bluewater Health’s COVID-19 unit is geared to provide care for up to 30 people, however Oosterman says the unit may be stretched if needed.

That could mean non-COVID-19 patients may end up in Petrolia for care.

Oosterman says as we head into the 14th month of the pandemic, doctors, nurses and all other health care workers are on board to do their best to help relieve the pressure in Toronto.

“The province is entering that phase that Italy was in at the beginning of the pandemic Some physicians are talking about what triage would be... what you would do if you had to decide which patient required a ventilator and which patients didn’t if you had a short supply of ventilators, we’re not in that position in Sarnia.”

Bluewater Health has seen people in their 40s in the ICU similar to what Toronto is seeing.

And while the situation in Sarnia has not been as dire as what the GTA is seeing now, it has been tough,

Oosterman says.

“We’ve had 38 deaths, it would be unrealistic and unfair of me to characterize this as anything but an exhausting time. Staff are absolutely exhausted. I have spoken to many physicians, many nurses, I can’t even believe what our colleagues in Toronto are going through.

“On a good day, we have a difficult time, having people wait in the emergency four or five, six hours; that bothers us. What happens if it’s a COVID patient who’s on a gurney in the hallway? That’s what’s happening right now...not here, but that’s what’s happening.”

While Lambton’s number of daily COVID-19 cases has decreased steadily since a lockdown order in March, Oosterman says “we’re not totally naive to recognize that we are about one bush party away from this being us.”

Despite all that, Oosterman says Bluewater Health employees are ready to do even more.

“We also have had employees who have stood up and raised their hand and said, ‘If you need me in Toronto, I’ll go to Toronto.’ “They’re recognizing that this is not a local issue. This is a provincial, national and international pandemic. And they’re wanting to go and help.

So, it is the most inspiring group of people I’ve ever worked with in my entire life.”

- **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





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

Education leaders optimistic for return to school

Heather Wright
The Independent

The directors of education of the public and Catholic school boards both believe students will return to the classroom before June.

Students will begin online learning again next week – the third time students have been kept from the classroom since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020. The province hasn’t said how long it will last.

It’s reminiscent of March 2020 when students went on March Break and didn’t return to the classroom.

Before the Ontario Science Table

released information saying we would need six weeks of strict measures to make an impact on the rise of COVID-19, both John Howitt of the Lambton-Kent District School Board and Deb Crawford of the St. Clair District Catholic School Board were optimistic about the chances of a return to the classroom.

“I’m very hopeful that they will be going back before the end of the year. I think that is the desire of everyone in the education system,” says Crawford.

“I know that the ministry is very determined that as soon as we can bring the kids back to school safely, they’ll be back in school.”

Crawford is hopeful the community

will follow public health measures carefully “I hope that working all together that we can bring this down.”

Howitt agreed saying he’s “very optimistic that our students will be back. We are not at the end of the school year by any stretch of the imagination.”

“For our secondary students, they still have two credits ahead of them this school year that are just starting. We’re very optimistic that the students will be back.

“We believe our schools are safe places to learn. And we believe the data supports that and subscribe to the philosophy last close and first to be open.”

COVID cash flows in for more school repairs

Heather Wright
The Independent

Over \$10 million in provincial and federal cash will be pumped into schools in the region for updates.

The money is part of the ongoing funding to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Projects can include HVAC renovations to improve air quality, installing water bottle refilling stations to improve access to safe drinking water, and space reconfigurations such as new walls and doors to enhance physical distancing.

The St. Clair District Catholic School Board received about \$3.7 million in funding. It will be used to replace heading and cooling units, windows that won’t open and provide drinking fountains. Six of the 14 approved projects are in Chatham-Kent with St.

Philip in Petrolia receiving \$40,000 for new water stations. At the Lambton-Kent District School Board, \$6.3 million will be spent on 10 different projects including four in Chatham-Kent.

But Brian McKay, director of finance, says every school will benefit as part of the money is used to upgrade the board’s WiFi.

“One of our biggest projects... is a Wi Fi upgrade of just over \$2.1 million, and that is one upgrade that will impact all schools,” he says.

“What that entailed is with all of our hardware at the schools that the switching gear that is necessary to kind of bring the WiFi into the school and make it available in our classes and our for our students and staff.”

There will also be some heating and cooling projects in the schools.



The added bonus to the one time funding, says McKay, it allows the board to complete more renovations that it planned in 2021.

“What it also does is allows us to take some of our existing capital money from the normal capital sources like school renewal and school condition improvement and, reallocate those dollars to other projects in the board,” he says.

“For us it was a good news story and that this gave us added flexibility to undertake more projects in the school. So most of those projects with the other capital dollars would be like classroom refreshes and revitalizing some of our students spaces in schools that might have been delayed for a longer period of time.

“So it had a domino effect in our capital planning.”

SHOP LOCAL



**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

Wyoming man urges changes to woodlot bylaw to save more trees

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming councillors say Lambton County should keep a better eye on landowners chopping down trees to help preserve the tree cover.

But at least one councillor believes people will continue cutting unless they're given the financial incentive to keep them.

The discussion April 15 at council was prompted by a letter from Ymko Boersma. The retired principal was surprised one day in

January to find a tree stand near the cemetery had been cleared away. It was the third time trees around the cemetery had been cleared in the past several years.

Boersma says he knows it would be hard for one woodlot bylaw officer to enforce the current county law everywhere and that small stands of under a hectare can be taken down without permission.

"I accept that farmland is precious and that community growth and its attendant need for housing is important, yet it's become too easy to dismiss the significant

place of woodlots within our community."

Boersma says they provide erosion control, habitat for animals, plants and insects, including pollinators, and are carbon absorbing not to mention aesthetically pleasing adding "immeasurable benefit to the community.

"It's important to acknowledge that woodlots have deep value and should not be considered simply a commodity."

A number of councillors agreed with Boersma, with Netty McEwen asking Mayor Lonny Nap-

per - who is part of county council - to ask the county to increase its enforcement.

Councillor Bob Woolvett believes more education about the bylaw is needed.

But Boersma asked council to push for a tougher woodlot bylaw adding "a bold move would be to encourage sustainable woodlot development by reducing the taxes levied on them."

Councillor Tim Wilkins agreed.

"Trees are valuable and if they're valuable to us and if they are valuable to this province and if they're

valuable to our country, then there has to be some kind of a subsidy that goes to farmers," he told council.

"We cannot expect farmers just to out of the goodness of their heart, have 30 acres, five acres, two acres...and just donate it to the province... That's in the woods, north of \$18,000 an acre and up. ...that's a that's a huge value.

"I think that if you expect farmers to keep land...your province has got to give ...some kind of a tax deduction...but there has to be a value to them."

MOE orders sewage signs erected

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia council has been ordered to put up signs along the Sydenham river in Florence warning people the river may be contaminated with sewage.

It's the latest move by the Ministry of the Environment which has been dealing with concerns about private septic systems leaking into the storm drains and the river since 1989.

Last year, after decades of work and about \$150,000 in consultant fees, township council told the MOE it had a sewage system designed for the village but it wouldn't proceed without full funding from the provincial and federal governments. Mayor Al Broad says the million dollar system would be too great of a tax burden for the 67 homeowners to bear.

He added it had been years since the original testing had been done and it may not be accurate anymore. So the ministry ordered testing.

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

The MOE again asked for a plan.

Clerk Donna Clermont told council Monday she outlined in the last letter to the MOE that the municipality will deal with each complaint of a damaged septic system as it came about. If there was a problem, she said, the township would deal with it under the building code, having each individual owner take responsibility for the maintenance of their own septic system.

But that wasn't good enough for the ministry.

"The Ministry continues to have significant concerns with the ongoing discharge of sewage from the storm drains in the township and the resulting potential impacts to public health and the environment," wrote Provincial Officer Andrew Winkler.

He's asked the township to put up signs warning of possible sewage contamination, prepare a written action plan by May 29 and submit the copy by May 31.

Mayor Al Broad says when the homes were built, the septic systems were up to code; now the MOE doesn't accept them.

Council will once again tell the MOE that when a complaint is received, the township will investigate with Lambton County officials and agreed to post the signs at the drains involved.

"We'll just put it as close as we can to the outlet and let the chips fall where they may," says Broad.

Kiwanis Club sets up shop in Petrolia

The Independent

There is a new service club in Petrolia.

The Petrolia and Area Kiwanis Club received charter status Saturday.

The club started recruiting

members in Petrolia in December and held its first meeting in late January.

Donna Kelso, Lieutenant Governor, Division 3, Eastern Canada and Caribbean District says Kiwanis' goal is to serve children of the world "and

starting April 24, the children of the Petrolia and area community."

Three major service clubs, Rotary, Optimists and Kiwanis, now have a presence in the community.

Petrolia singer nominated for Forest City award

Heather Wright
The Independent

Michael Vanhevel is a little surprised to be nominated for a Forest City Music Award.

The Petrolia singer has been nominated in the jazz vocal group or solo category.

"I found it a little ironic that the year I get nominated is the year where I feel like I've done less than any other year," he said laughing. "I was like, 'Oh, this is what I need to just disappear off the map for a year and then watch the nominations roll.'"

Vanhevel hasn't exactly doing nothing through the pandemic. He works with Kingswell Glen Golf Club doing social media. He recorded a vocal/piano album with his friend, Mark Payne, the musical director of the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia and he and his friends started a band - True North Music. They've had a couple of pandemic gigs, too.

Vanhevel posted the nomination and many of his friends have gone to the site to vote for him before the April 30th deadline.

"I think people are very eager right now to



JUSTIN CLARK PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

Michael Vanhevel performing at Grand Bend beach.

support the artists...supporting local businesses and things like that. We're all trying to help each other out. And so it's wonderful to feel that after a year of, sort not working to be supported in this way," he says.

Vanhevel was nominated for the award once before although he only figured it out the day before the ceremony. A friend approached him after his concert at the Imperial Theatre in Sarnia saying she would see him at the awards show. "I was like 'Well, I mean, I hadn't made plans, but I'll probably stop by.'"



WARWICK TOWNSHIP

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION SPECIALIST

The Economic Development Promotion Specialist is responsible for developing programs and initiatives to encourage business growth and tourism activity in the Township of Warwick. Includes marketing campaigns from concept to implementation, of print and virtual media. This position reports to the Treasurer/Deputy CAO and works with all departments, Township Council, stakeholder groups, and various committees to develop strategic plans for economic development.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are asked to apply online at www.lambtononline.ca/jobs and select **Job # J0421-0565**. The deadline to apply is **Thursday, May 6, 2021**. The Township of Warwick has partnered with the County of Lambton to advertise this job opportunity. The job description can be found in the job posting from the link above.

Any questions regarding this job opportunity with the Township of Warwick should be directed to:

Trevor Jarrett
Email: tjarrett@warwicktownship.ca
Phone: 519-849-3926

Job Board: www.lambtononline.ca/jobs

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

 **Sarnia**
714 London Rd

 **Petrolia**
4130 Glenview Rd

 **Corunna**
348 Lyndoch St

No referral required.

 **519.344.8887**  www.bluewaterhearing.ca

WE OFFER IN-CLINIC APPOINTMENT FOR WAX REMOVALS

Shine comes off the Silverdome; hundreds of thousands in repairs needed

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The shine has come off the Courtright Silverdome. The decades-old facility, commonly known as the Silverdome for its rounded silver roof, but officially named the Courtright Community Centre, is barely operational with repair estimates in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to a report to St. Clair Council. It only has two bookings for all of 2021. Councillor Pat Brown says putting more money into the hall is “sort of like beating a dead horse.” “The facility even aside from

COVID is still unusable because of this mould and the roof repairs that have to be made,” says Brown. Council reached out to the Moore Optimist Club and Girl Guides, each regular users of the hall, to ask their opinion on its future and if they wish to invest in repairs. A report will be brought back to council at a future date. But it seems there may be little the groups can do. “The consensus from the (Optimist) was although they would be disappointed to see the hall left unusable, they all agreed the repairs were too costly to consider fixing,” says Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay.

“In the end, the Courtright Community Hall has many repairs that need to be done and these repairs are challenging to fiscally justify,” says Lindsay. The alternative of a new hall is not cheap either though. Mayor Steve Arnold indicated that project could top one million dollars. A previous council chose to invest in repairs rather than a new building. Since the hall is closed during the pandemic, the Optimists and Girl Guides have found other meeting spots, “This is probably a good time for us to take a little time and think about it and decide what we’re going to do,” says Deputy Mayor



Steve Miller. The Silverdome has been home to hundreds of community events from Little Shakespeare to Easter Egg Hunts, concerts - such as the Mudmen - and roller derby. It sits near on the finest ball parks in Lambton County, the Courtright Ball Park, often known as the field of dreams. Council will consider the halls future when the report from staff returns to council.

THE INDEPENDENT

Judge skeptical man was unaware of Ontario’s marijuana laws

Caught with \$50,000 in marijuana products man fined \$1,500, to take pot education

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

“Am I going to jail?” This was Clifford Warriner’s first question after being arrested for cannabis trafficking. In Sarnia Court April 19 Warriner received his answer. No jail time, but a sizeable fine and other penalties were ordered by Justice Krista Leszczynski. Warriner, 60, appeared to be on the fortunate side securing a non-custodial sentence as Leszczynski expressed serious doubts about his excuse for the incident. The incident took place outside a Kettle Point cannabis store last February. Anishinabek Police had been investigating suspected cannabis trafficking and pursued a man after spotting him speaking with the dispensary owner. The man, Warriner, didn’t get far from the store before he was pulled over. A heavy odour of marijuana was immediately detected. This came from the 11 pounds of vacuum sealed cannabis in the vehicle, along with 2,000 cannabis cigarettes, 145 CBD drops, 33 CBD bath bombs, three vials of cannabis oil and 0.5 grams of hash.

A check of Warriner’s cannabis licence showed he was approved to have 90 grams of cannabis for personal use, a far cry from the more than 5,000 grams he was found with. While Warriner works in the cannabis industry as a consultant, he had no distribution rights for the drug. The total value of all Warriner’s cannabis products was \$50,000. Court heard Warriner amassed such a large amount of drugs by regularly accepting payment from cannabis businesses in the form of product rather than money. “I didn’t know what I was doing was wrong,” said Warriner during booking, before asking whether he’d land behind bars. “I’m screwed.” Ultimately, it was Warriner’s claimed ignorance of the law that saved him from harsher punishment. “He was operating under a mistaken belief that he could sell cannabis back to cannabis retailers,” says Defence Lawyer Vince Mazza. “There was no malice or bad intention, just a very poor understanding of the law.” “I would submit that we’re not dealing by any means with a drug dealer in the traditional dangerous sense,” says Mazza, insisting his client never sold his product to an individual or on the street. “He is embarrassed and remorseful. He knows that a person working in the cannabis industry for so long should have had a better understanding of the rules of his industry,” says Mazza. Leszczynski had trouble accepting this could truly be the case. “This is a situation that you find

yourself in after you have been involved in this industry for a very long time,” she told Warriner. “For that reason it makes it difficult... to accept that you would have no understanding that your conduct in this circumstance was wrong and unlawful.”

But it didn’t stop her from accepting the joint submission. In addition to a \$1,500 fine are a lifetime weapons ban and forfeiture of all cannabis products seized along with \$1,164 cash and drug paraphernalia. Warriner will also take a cannabis education program.

“As you will now appreciate the cannabis industry is one that is highly regulated and if you’re going to remain involved in that industry in any capacity I strongly recommend that you are well educated about those rules and regulations that govern it moving forward,” says Leszczynski.



The National Volunteer Week theme for 2021, **The Value of One, The Power of Many**, reflects on the awe-inspiring acts of kindness by millions of individuals AND the magic that happens when we work together towards a common purpose. Working together is how the volunteers of the **Watford Warwick Horticultural Society** ensure that our community is beautified each year! Among the many things they do, every year the Watford Warwick Horticultural Society contributes countless volunteer hours providing and maintaining the beautiful flowers throughout Warwick Township! Take a moment this year to recognize the work of the Watford Warwick Horticultural Society volunteers by enjoying Memorial Park, Sunken Gardens and Bluebird Parkette, the hanging basket and planters.

The Watford Warwick Horticultural Society is an active service club which promotes all aspects of horticulture. The WWHS is involved in beautification, education and stimulating an interest in horticulture and are a proud member of the Ontario Horticultural Association. New members are always welcome!

Watford Warwick Horticultural Society - Upcoming Events
Plant Sale - May 22-24, 2021

For more information on the Watford Warwick Horticultural Society, visit Facebook.



Mayor Jackie Rombouts recognizing the great work of the Watford Warwick Horticultural Society with engraved hand trowels.

#VolunteersBringChange
TOWNSHIP OF
Warwick

Petrolia man fined after refusing breath sample

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Petrolia man who didn’t believe he had to comply with a breath test has received an expensive lesson in the law. Noah O’Dwyer Bristol, 21, was fined \$2,000 and banned from driving for a year by Justice Deborah Austin in Sarnia Court April 8. Bristol was wanted on outstanding warrants when he was spotted driving on Indian Road in Sarnia by police in the early morning hours of March 16, 2020. A strong smell of alcohol was detected and a breath demand issued. Bristol refused and was arrested. “Mr. Bristol really offers no excuse for what transpired. There was a small misunderstanding... of the law,” says Defence Lawyer Nick Cake. “Mr. Bristol thought that he didn’t have to provide a sample, and we all know that you do. Unfortunately Mr. Bristol has learned that lesson and learned it the hard way.” Bristol can apply for the ignition interlock program after six months.

Wammes to take on the world at the Olympics

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Nick Wammes’ journey to the Tokyo Olympics was anything but assured, but now the 21 year old from Bothwell is preparing to be on the world’s biggest sporting stage.

Wammes’ cycling success is well documented. He’s represented Canada at the Cycling World Cup and Pan American Games. At home he’s won numerous titles in the Canadian Championships. And he’s still just 21 years old.

Olympics were next up on Wammes’ checklist. Qualifying takes place spanning several race days over two years and near the end it looked like Canada would be held to one spot in the sprint categories. Wammes was planning to duel with teammate Hugo Barrette for the opportunity.

But good fortune struck when poor results in other countries allowed both Wammes and Barrette to capture a spot. “It still boggles my mind how it happened but there were two countries we needed to not score points at Worlds and they didn’t score a single point,” says Wammes.

“We saw this and we were like... what? There’s no way! We couldn’t believe it.”

The turn of events took much of the pressure off of Wammes, who trains at the Mattamy National Cycling Centre in Milton. He returned home to Bothwell for a recovery week. Days later the COVID-19 pandemic effectively shut down the entire world.

About a week later Team Canada announced they wouldn’t be participating in the 2020 Olympics. “Obviously you’re heartbroken,” says Wammes.

But he held out hope Canadian athletes may get a reprieve. “At that point I had this feeling there’s no way the IOC would continue,” he says as

COVID spread and more countries expressed reservations. Australia dropped out as well.

Two days after Canada’s decision the Olympic Games were officially postponed. Wammes says knowing their spot was assured meant athletes weren’t “panicking anymore about what we’re going to do and how we’re going to train. We have time, we can take our time and get back into it slowly.”

But getting back into things was anything but normal. The Mattamy Centre didn’t reopen until June 1. Even then only the track portion was made available. Wammes and his teammates, also roommates, turned their garage and driveway into a homemade gym until the velodrome’s facilities fully returned.

Now, Wammes and the team are finally back in full swing with just three months to go until the games. Wammes says a typical week is a combination of morning gym sessions and afternoons on the track. Saturday’s consist of a 90 minute ride around Milton, weather permitting.

“We’re pretty lucky that we’re the only group that trains here,” says Wammes. “We’re in a pretty tight bubble.”

Wammes and Barrette will compete in the Sprint and Keirin events in Tokyo. Sprint races, which Wammes says he prefers, are a traditional race where cyclists compete one-on-one for the fastest time until medalists are decided.

Keirin racing, which originated in Japan, involves six riders following a motor bike for three laps before the pace setter departs and the racers sprint to the finish. Wammes says speeds in these final laps can reach 80 km/h.

Wammes plans on the usual suspects providing strong competition, such as the Netherlands, Australia and Great



INSTAGRAM PHOTO

Nick Wammes of Bothwell heads around the track at the Mattamy National Cycling Centre.

Britain. But he adds it’s hard to know what to expect this year since COVID has cancelled the usual competitions. “Until we get there it’s still anyone’s guess who’s going to do what,” says Wammes.

Wammes hasn’t raced competitively since January 2020. “We’ve done some simulated races with our team but it’s very different from being in an actual race environment,” he says. “You can train really hard but until you get into that race environment... it’s hard to simulate that and drive under that adrenaline and pressure.”

COVID regulations mean Wammes won’t have his family or the usual strong contingent of travelling Canadian fans at the games. The team will be flying in a few days after the games begin and leaving immediately after their events are complete.

But while some of the traditional Olympic fanfare may be lost, Wammes says he’ll be ready to go once he hits the track. “It’s been a very difficult year. I’m really trying to be ready to go when I get there and put on the best performance I can.”

DuChene hopes to help Olympians’ families feel like they’re in

The Independent

Brooke-Central and LCCVI grad Krista DuChene has been added to the CBC broadcast team for the Summer Olympics in Tokyo in July.

DuChene was originally going to try to compete at the event. From the beginning, she knew it would be an uphill climb because of the talent in women’s marathon. When the Summer Games were postponed last summer, DuChene said her decision was easy.

“Even if I wanted to, I likely wouldn’t be able to run fast enough. And I was totally fine with that, I’m happy to see the depth now that we

have, because back when I ran in 2016, there’s only one other woman and I who made the standard.”

Some might say broadcasting instead of running was bittersweet - but not DuChene. She says in 2016, she did everything she could to drink in the experience. “I absorbed it; just really loved the experience when I was there with the expectation that that might be it for me, and I’m completely content with that.”

DuChene says broadcasting is a great transition.

“This was a perfect fit for me to take this opportunity. So I guess with my experience that I have with

broadcasting, I thought this would be the next best thing to running the event itself.”

Over the next few weeks, DuChene will be studying Canada’s Olympic Marathoners so she can provide analysis.

And she’ll reach out to them to get to know them a little better.

DuChene hopes to be a link between the athletes and their families who won’t be able to attend this year because of the pandemic.

“It will be important for me to do a really good job so that they feel like they were in the moment when they should have been there physically.”

TURNER MOORE

Chartered Professional Accountants

Auditing + Accounting + Bookkeeping
Corporate & Personal Tax Returns + Payroll
Start-Up & Securing Financing

Accessible + Approachable + Accountable



316 George Street
Sarnia, ON N7T 4P4
Tel: (519) 344-1271

Brian Moore, FCPA, FCGA, LPA

www.turnermoore.com

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





The Corporation of the
Township of Enniskillen

Requires An
Equipment Operator
for the Roads Department

The Equipment Operator will be required to:

- carry out a variety of duties in connection with road maintenance and road construction within a rural municipality
- operate a motor grader, dump trucks, sand/salter, backhoe

Qualifications:

- must have a current DZ license (prefer AZ)
- must have experience operating road maintenance/construction equipment

Wages:

- Competitive wages with benefit program

Applicants must submit a resume and cover letter by
12:00 (noon) Friday, May 7, 2021
addressed to Mike Cumming, Road Superintendent
mcumming@enniskillen.ca

The Township is an equal opportunity employer which values diversity in the workplace. Please inform us if you require any accommodations to ensure you can participate fully and equally during the recruitment and selection process. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom Information and Privacy Protection Act, all information collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and will be used only during the selection process for the subject of this posting.



The War Amps

Since 1946, the Key Tag Service
has been protecting your keys
and supporting our essential
programs for amputees.



Jeanne

Order key
tags online
– free.

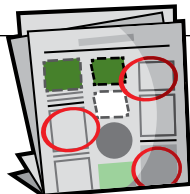
75 years



1 800 250-3030 • waramps.ca

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
FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS!
Spacious, brick bungalow on a double lot with a fenced in backyard! 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, open concept living/dining/kitchen with a bonus family room. Natural gas/hot water heat system, central air in ceiling, fibre optic internet available. Outside there is a large 20x36 insulated workshop that can easily be heated!
Call Now !!

\$369,000 MLS: 21003998

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

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 care 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 streaming the service so members of our family could be with us on the day.

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

Obituary

LYONS
Frances

Lyons, Frances - Passed away peacefully at Fiddick's Nursing Home, Petrolia on **Saturday, April 17, 2021**. Born is Chicago the daughter of the late Walter and Annabelle Thomson Frances Marie Lyons (nee Thomson), of Petrolia, was in her 97th year. She was the loving wife of the late Murray (1993) and was a proud mother Laurena (the late David (2020)) Singleton, the late Beth (2018) (Wayne) Donald, and Maxine (Ray) Mason. She will be deeply missed by her grandchildren Laura (Ron) Poirier, Michael (Ruby) Singleton, Sarah (Dan) Lebelle , Rob (Tracy) Donald, Karla (Dan) Moffatt, Krista Mason, and Aaron Mason, great grandchildren Jeffery (Taylor) Sleaford, Mackenzie (Megan) Ravensberg, Brendan Mason, Emily and Nicolas Poirier, Rawson Donald, Karter and Geordie Moffatt, and great great granddaughter Hadley Sleaford. She is also survived by her sister Jean Krolak and her brother Ken (Billie Jean) Thomson and is predeceased by brothers Murray (Juanita) Thomson and Wally (Margery) Thomson and their spouses and brother in law Edward Krolak. She will also be missed by her many nieces & nephews. Fran was a life long member of United Church Women of Canada. **Due to current COVID 19 restrictions a private service was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 2 pm Which will be available at www.facebook.com/NeedhamJay. Interment will be in Hillsdale Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to St. Paul's United Church, Petrolia. Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home, Petrolia. Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com.

Celebration

HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY
John & Heike Hewitt
APRIL 17, 1971
Love your Family

NOTICE

LFA POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP - The Lambton Federation of Agriculture will be offering ten scholarships this year for the 2022 school year, for both college and university students. For the regular scholarships: Applicants need to be from a family actively farming in Lambton County: While you do not need to be an LFA/OFA member, it is required that you (or parents or grandparents or guardian) have a valid FBR number registered in Lambton County. The **deadline to apply for the scholarships is July 15th 2021**. For a list of the scholarships and their individual criteria, please see the LFA Website scholarships page at <https://lambtonfederation.ca/scholarships/>

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 virtualcommunitylawschool@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 than 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

CANCELATION - The Bluewater Anglers have canceled their Annual Kids Training Day on Saturday May 19 at the Hatchery in Point Edward due to Covid 19 restrictions.

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

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

CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 12 - Join the Canadian Cancer Society on Saturday, June 12 to Relay for Life from the comfort of your own home! Sarnia-Lambton residents of all ages are welcome to attend our virtual event, which will be hosted on Facebook and Youtube and broadcasted on YESTV. This Year's virtual Relay will include all the signature components of our in-person events, including an opening ceremony with inspirational stories, performances from incredible entertainers, a virtual luminary celebration and more to help celebrate survivors and support those living with cancer. Even though this year we are physically apart, we still Relay together. Join us - register today at relayforlife.ca/sarnia. Stay up to date with the latest news at Facebook.com/SarniaRelayForLife.

Coming Events

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH PETROLIA - Online Silent Auction. June 12th at 10am until June 18th at 8pm. All proceeds to St. Paul's & Lambton Centre. Online auction on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/867305777448106> . If you would like more information or wish to donate an item for the auction, please contact: Carl Watt email StPaulsFundraising@hotmail.com call/text 519-312-6505. Thank your for your support!!

Notice

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

Notice

Get creative at home with Lambton County Library. Pick up a DIY kit at one of our participating curbside pickup locations to make a Pull Spinner. Register by Sunday, May 2, 2021 to reserve your kit here: <https://lclibrary.libnet.info/event/4946335>

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.

▼ issue date ▼
PTRPINDY 2018-12-20 (8992)
subscriber, name **(LAST ISSUE)**
4156 Petrolia Line **▲ expiry date ▲**
Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

4 EASY WAYS TO RENEW

1 E-Transfer
to: news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
with the password: *renewal*

2 Over The Phone
with your credit card
Call 226-738-0728

3 Mail A Cheque
mail to: 4156 Petrolia Line
Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

4 Drop It Off At The Office
Drop off a cheque or cash with your name and address in our mail slot at 4156 Petrolia Line, beside Tim Horton's

In Print - 1 Year
50 weeks of Local News

\$55 within 50 kms of Petrolia

\$65 ONTARIO outside 50 km radius

\$75 OTHER PROVINCES

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.

National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week is April 18-24

Two minutes can make a difference

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

April 10 - April 16, 2021

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

HOLMES, Sharron
Age 72, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

SOMERVILLE, James
Age 88, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

MAW, Tyler
Age 35, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

CALLANDER, Marie
Age 81, of Sarnia
Gilpin Funeral Home

MANNING, John
Age 88, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

DOUCET, Luella
Age 92, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

ALLEN, Thomas
Age 102, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, APRIL 12

GUTHRIE, Ross
Age 73, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

ATKINSON, William "Bill"
Age 77, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

GORMLEY, Brian
Age 83, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

POLTORAK, Walter
Age 69, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

BUTLER, Mary "Catherine"
Age 93, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

COOPER, John
Age 51, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

GILSON, Patricia
Age 81, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

BENETEAU, Alfred
Age 84, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

EDWARDS, Robert "Eddie"
Age 70, of Bright's Grove
Smith Funeral Home

HART, Susannah
Age 95, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

WALTHAM, Richard
Age 74, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

GRONDIN, Jacques
Age 77, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

NAPPER, Earl
Age 85, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WALKER, Leonard "Russ"
Age 98, 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
email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com
www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

Find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia



Wyoming United Church
730 Second Street, Wyoming

**In-person services suspended at this
time. Please contact our office at
wyming_united@outlook.com to be
sent the Zoom link to join us for our
10am live service.**

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



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



News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

NEWSMEDIACANADA.CA

[#NewsMatter](https://twitter.com/NewsMatter)

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



Business & Service Directory

**BOURQUE
RENOVATIONS**



Additions - Renovations
Kitchens & Baths
Trim Work - Custom Carpentry

329 Centre St., Petrolia
www.bourquerenovations.com

519-882-3344

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

\$29.50 per week.

Call and find out more
226-738-0728

PRO-TAX

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

Professional INCOME TAX SERVICES

519-882-2966

3927 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON

*Appointments ** Drop-Offs ** Contactless*

MARK AND JOANNE JAMIESON

jam_jo11@hotmail.com | www.protaxpetrolia.com

Man can't stay away from drug house

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Strathroy man who just couldn't stay away from a Forest home was sentenced to 20 days jail for an "obvious breach" of his bail.

Shane Smith, 32, was handed the sentence by Justice Krista Leszczynski in Sarnia Court April 19. He listened via video feed from the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre in London where he awaits court dates on a slew of other charges.

Unlike the more serious allegations he's facing the next county over, Smith's plea in Sarnia was fairly straightforward.

Smith and four others were arrested at a George Street home in Forest November 2019.

All five were charged with drug trafficking after more than \$20,000 worth of fentanyl, heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine was found.

Smith was released a week later with orders to stay away from the George Street house. But when police

responded to a mischief call at the property five months later they arrived to find Smith. He took off running but police caught up and arrested him a block away.

Defence Lawyer Damon Hardy says his client has a long standing struggle with opioids that goes back at least 15 years. "His addiction issues have been a significant issue for him as he tries to move forward," says Hardy. "He continues to struggle in that regard."

The 20 days were easily covered by pre-sentence custody. That's because Smith has been in jail since January 8 after being arrested during a traffic stop in Strathroy. This led to a search warrant for a Head Street home where Strathroy-Caradoc officers found more than \$11,000 worth of fentanyl, cocaine and methamphetamine. Several weapons, including a shotgun, \$3,605 cash and drug paraphernalia was also seized.

Smith was hit with a total of 20 charges that day.

- 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.

Three lane crossover after drinking 'only three shots'

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia woman miscounted her alcohol intake in a big way.

Kalie Companion, 28, gave blood alcohol readings more than three times the legal limit after being arrested for drunk driving last October.

The 28 year-old's adventure around Sarnia began in the early morning hours as Companion drove her white Volkswagen along Campbell Street. At the last second she realized her path would send her into the back of a parked police cruiser and braked hard to avoid the collision.

Companion continued up to Confederation Street where she crossed three lanes of traffic and blew through a red light. The maneuvers caught the attention of a police officer who pulled her over.

After multiple knocks Companion rolled down her window. The officer detected a strong smell of alcohol

along with red eyes and slurred speech. After fumbling for her insurance and saying she'd "only had three shots," Companion was arrested following a failed breath test.

A subsequent blood alcohol reading of .270 at the Sarnia Police station showed the failure wasn't close either.

"She's made some real positive improvements and taken some very voluntary personal steps to take responsibility for this matter and improve her life," says Defence Lawyer Sarah Edgar including enrolling in an addictions treatment program.

"That will not only improve your own personal circumstances but will assist in preventing us from seeing you back before the court committing this type of offence or any other type of offence," says Justice Krista Leszczynski during Companion's April 14 sentencing.

But she still imposed an elevated fine of \$2,200 and a one year driving ban.

COMMUNITY CORNER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In honour of World Health Day IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter from Petrolia presented a cheque to the Petrolia Food Bank to pay tribute to all the Health Care Workers and First Responders in our area. The funds will help meet the ongoing need for supplies at the Petrolia Food Bank. Pictured presenting the cheque are L to R Sandra Hartman, manager of the Petrolia Food Bank, IODE members Janet Hext, Joanne Brand and Wendy Loosley.

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

