



No official cause yet

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia/North Enniskillen fire officials are still trying to figure out what sparked a blaze in one of the town’s historic landmarks. Saturday morning around 7:30, a man inside Sunnyside Manor – commonly called Fairbank House for its original owners – was awakened by a smoke detector and called for help, according to Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Chief Jay Arns. The man and his two dogs escaped without injury but inside the historic home, the fire moved rapidly, generating a lot of heavy smoke. “There was smoke showing from the third floor from the eaves of the house when we arrived on scene,” Arns told *The Independent*. The fire was not visible from the road but it was extensive. “Because there is so much space inside the house it was able to contain a lot of smoke. “We had fire on all three floors,” says Arns. “As soon as we got the back door open, there was fire right there.” “It was mostly in the back portion of the home...not in the front where the old fire was,” says the chief referring to a 2002 fire which heavily damaged the home. Photos of the scene at that time showed holes in the slate roof of the turret and the front of the



majestic house which sits on Petrolia Line. The damage from Saturday’s fire was not visible, but it was extensive. Fire damaged three floors - destroying the third floor completely - and the smoke damage was heavy. “We saved a lot,” says Arns. “We lost one floor and there is smoke damage throughout.” Arns says since the home is stripped to the studs in many places the fire burned quickly. Investigators from the Petrolia/North Enniskillen department returned to the home Monday and Tuesday to try to figure out how the fire started. While the chief didn’t want to give a damage estimate at this time, the Ontario Fire Marshal’s office is called in if damage is over \$500,000. The home is privately owned by the Burnie family. The town in 2018 took steps to declare it a heritage site however the designation was never officially completed.



DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

There were lots of spectators as Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters took on a blaze at Sunnyside Manor, commonly known as Fairbank House, Saturday. Three floors of the back of the house built by JH Fairbank - the founder of Imperial Oil - were damaged in the fire. On the left, firefighters adjust their air packs before heading back into the house.

Neighbours question sudden removal of bush behind Woodland Estates

Heather Wright
The Independent

Friday was not a good day at Ryan Colvin’s Redwood Court home. As his two children sat at their desks for school, they could watch out their backyard as a bush behind their home was systematically destroyed and along with it, the treehouse and trails they’d spent hours discovering during the pandemic.

“The neighbourhood kids were all sobbing,” says Colvin, standing in his backyard looking out at the mangled tree stumps. The Petrolia man readily admits the bush behind the Woodland Estates belongs to someone else but, he says, during the pandemic it became a haven for children at home with not a lot to do. Colvin and his kids built a fort there. The other neighbourhood kids played along and spent time on the trails until the equipment moved in

April 27. The grinder moved around the edge of the bushlot that day. The next day, he called Petrolia Town Hall about the work. Colvin says the town seemed to know about the bush being cleared, Mayor Brad Loosley said there had been a number of complaints. He believed the work had been stopped and there were still trees left standing. Town officials sent Lambton’s woodlot bylaw enforcement offi-

cer, Tim Payne, to take a look after getting the complaints. While it was clear the bush was being taken down, it didn’t meet the qualifications for a woodlot - about 1,000 tree stems per acre. “There wasn’t enough stems per acre, to have the definition of a woodland, it was all shrub species and European buckthorn, the non native invasive species.” The developer’s excavator went back to work the next day and Colvin says by Friday, the treed

area was gone. “Friday was not a good day,” says Colvin. It’s not clear who owns the land - when *The Independent* talked to the mayor he acknowledged a developer was putting together a proposal for housing, however he couldn’t remember the company’s name. Loosley says the development is still in the planning stages and has yet to come to council. **SEE APPROVAL PG 3**





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LEAF BEE-LIEVER



JENNIFER RAYNER PHOTO

Steve Bryans helped his son, Luke, 11, wear his first bee-beard over the weekend at Munro Honey. Luke is a goalie with the East Lambton Eagles and a fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs, so he thought it would be fun to wear his favourite goalie's jersey and get his playoff bee beard going to cheer the team on.

New fire truck on order in Oil Springs

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

For the first time in 20 years, there's a new pumper truck on order for the Enniskillen/Oil Springs Fire Department.

But it will still be awhile before it puts out any blazes.

Fire Chief Al Charlton says he and other firefighters in the department have been researching which pumper truck to get for several months. Charlton also consulted with other fire departments from St. Clair to Brooke-Alvinston.

The final selection was a Rosenbauer pumper truck purchased through the ResQTech fire equipment company in Woodstock. The purchase was approved after presentations to Oil Springs and Enniskillen councils and the fire board.

The total cost of the truck stands at \$565,000.

"Oil Springs, we're not all about flash. We don't need chrome bumpers for a picture. We need a functional truck," says Charlton. "The truck is actually build above and beyond safety standards, it's the highest rated truck in terms of cab safety."

Charlton says issues like a short wheel base for rural communities were factored in. He says the truck is also ergonomically improved, the equipment is lower and more accessible and the shelving is better. The truck is able to pump 1,050 gallons of water per minute.

"We got basically the standard, not much custom hot-rodding on this truck. We need a short truck that fits in farm properties," says Charlton. "We've got a quality truck coming our way."

The move was brought on by rules rather than necessity.

Charlton says while their pumper truck is still in good condition,

guidelines mandate trucks must be replaced every few decades. The current truck has been in use for 20 years.

While the order for the truck went in this week, Charlton says the most recent estimate for delivery is still 400 days away.

COVID has slowed down production and a freak winter weather storm in Texas earlier this year delayed manufacturing work at the frame and cab factory. He's hoping the truck arrives before the end of summer 2022.

In the meantime, Charlton has every confidence in their veteran pumper. "We're always doing our truck checks, they have to go through their safety programs," he says. "We don't let that thing get out of shape on us. We just can't. At the end of the day we're an emergency service."

"There's absolutely nothing wrong with the truck. It seems a shame that it's got to go," says Charlton.

The truck's fate will be up to the fire board and Oil Springs and Enniskillen councils as they look for a buyer. Charlton says older trucks are sometimes refurbished to serve as backup trucks for departments, but with the type of calls the area gets a second pumper truck is rarely if ever needed.

Other possible destinations include Northern Ontario, Central or South America, or even purchase by a local farmer interested in acquiring the pump.

Enniskillen will pay 78 per cent of the truck's cost, around \$440,700. They'll pay their share through the township's fire levy. The levy, which covers fire costs in the Petrolia and Oil Springs departments, was raised by \$50,000 this year in anticipation of the new pumper purchase.

Oil Springs will cover the other \$124,300 through its reserves.

-THE INDEPENDENT



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Fresh eyes, new perspective as Thompson becomes PW chief

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming’s new fire chief knows volunteer firefighters provide a vital community service.

Town council hired Darryl Thompson as the director of fire and emergency services and the fire chief April 28.

Thompson grew up wanting to get into emergency services, but went to work out of high school instead. As years rolled on, he became a volunteer firefighter in Caledon. “Then, the opportunity

came up to be full time here. And I applied for it and I got it and it was best thing I’ve ever done.”

Thompson has served with the Town of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services in senior management for 15 years according to the town’s news release. He’s also a graduate of Dalhousie University’s Fire Service Leadership and Incident Command programs.

Thompson also served as the head of the professional firefighters association.

While he’s worked as a full-time firefighter, Thompson says

volunteer firefighters are vital.

“Their passion for the fire service and their compassion for their community, I think that makes a very good volunteer firefighter.”

And he says, volunteers know how important training is in their service to community.

“Live to train and train to live... anyone who thinks they’ve learned it all, hasn’t.”

Taking over as Plympton-Wyoming’s chief fulfills a goal the new chief set for himself and he’s excited to get started.

He’s expected to be on the

job sometime in June.

Thompson takes over from acting chief Scott Jordon, who stepped in when Steve Clemens resigned in October.

The recent turmoil at the Wyoming station doesn’t seem to bother Thompson; he plans to make his own mark on the department.

“I’m looking forward to coming in here with a bright new perspective, fresh eyes.”



Plympton-Wyoming Fire Chief Darryl Thompson

Construction on Warwick centre to start in days

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Councillors are likely to circle May 17th with a red marker on their calendar.

That’s the day construction on the \$11.5 million East Lambton Community Complex project will begin.

Warwick officials have been planning for years to replace Centennial Hall, which was in dire need of repairs in 2017. The final concept of the community centre attached to the arena came together in 2020 and last month, council chose a London contractor to begin the work. Councillors heard Monday that work is finally slated to start in a matter of days.

While there is excitement, there are sacrifices as well. Council agreed there should be no summer

programs in the arena this year to help speed up the redevelopment of the arena. Normally, there are summer programs like ball hockey and summer camp at the complex. That may have been unlikely anyway considering the current state of the pandemic and the affect it is having on group activities.

Theresa Klachan, Manager Parks and Recreation, says it may be possible to have one time events, like the Cornfest Dance, at the arena on weekends. But, it’s not clear if the event will even happen.

Meantime, the municipality has gone to Infrastructure Ontario for an \$11 million loan for the project. Initially, the money will be borrowed at 0.6 per cent, says Warwick Treasurer Trevor Jarrett. That will be renegotiated when the build is complete.



The bush behind Woodland Estates before the excavation last week and after the job was complete

Approval needed before bush removed

CON’T FROM PG 1

The town’s zoning bylaw map shows some of the area as a woodlot. North of the area, along Discovery Line, is shown as a woodlot however it is difficult to tell whether the bush which was destroyed was considered woodlot under the zoning rules.

It’s not the first time this was an issue. Spectra Construction is removing a small area of trees at the corner of Edward and Valentina. It was also marked as a woodlot, although again the woodlot bylaw officer said it was not really a woodlot under the bylaw.

But that doesn’t mean the developer could remove the trees. Payne says there are considerations for habitat under the Natural Heritage guidelines in Lambton County’s official plan. He said the town should have talked with the developer about the process to remove trees including determining whether it was subject to the woodlot bylaw.

Mayor Loosley acknowledged someone moved ahead without consulting the town.

“That shouldn’t happen...they have to get the necessary approval to start. And I think that’s

why we went out to stop it ...They’ll have to get the necessary approval to do those types of things.

“There’s no fast tracking, everything will be done according to the way it should be,” Loosley added. “It’s unfortunate that if they jumped the gun as far as maybe the clearing and things, but there’s nothing that’s come to the point where it has to come before council.”

The land in the area has been in question recently. In July, the town paid the developer of Woodland Estates \$200,000 for several parcels of land that were never deeded to the municipality in 1992, when the planning for the subdivision began. Loosley was the clerk of Petrolia at the time. One town resident, Norm Sutherland, has questioned why taxpayers’ dollars were spent on land which normally would be turned over for free in a subdivision agreement.

The town says it was necessary to purchase the land so the subdivision behind Woodland Estates could be serviced.

Both Loosley and the town’s CAO say the development fees from the new projects will cover the purchase of the land by the town.



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County of Lambton

Township of Brooke-Alvinston	City of Sarnia
County Rd #4 - ALL	County Rd. # 7 - County Rd 26
County Rd #8 - ALL	West to Telfer Road
County Rd #79 - ALL	County Rd #20 - ALL
County Rd #80 - Road 79	County Rd #26 - ALL
West	County Rd. # 27 - Hwy 402
Township of Dawn-Euphemia	North to Blackwell Road
County Rd #2 - ALL	County Rd #31 - ALL
County Rd #8 - ALL	Town of Plympton-Wyoming
County Rd #15 - ALL	County Rd # 7 - ALL
County Rd #21 - ALL	County Rd # 8 - ALL
County Rd #26 - ALL	County Rd #11 - ALL
County Rd #79 - ALL	County Rd #12 - ALL
Township of Enniskillen	County Rd #14 - ALL
County Rd #4 - ALL	County Rd #21 - ALL
County Rd #8 - ALL	County Rd #22 - ALL
County Rd #14 - ALL	County Rd #26 - ALL
County Rd #21 - ALL	County Rd #30 - ALL
County Rd #26 - ALL	Township of St. Clair
County Rd #80 - ALL	County Rd #1 - Marshy
Municipality of Lambton	Creek - East to Hwy #40.
Shores	County Rd. #2 - ALL
County Rd #5 - ALL	County Rd #4 - ALL
County Rd #6 - ALL	County Rd #20 - ALL
County Rd # 9 - ALL	County Rd #26 - ALL
County Rd #12 - ALL	County Rd #28 - ALL
County Rd #18 - ALL	County Rd #31 - ALL
County Rd #79 - ALL	County Rd #36 - ALL
County Rd # 7 - ALL	County Rd #80 - ALL
	Township of Warwick
	County Rd # 8 - ALL
	County Rd # 9 - ALL
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	County Rd #22 - ALL
	County Rd # 39 - ALL
	County Rd # 79 - ALL

The Corporation of The County of Lambton intends to control Noxious Weeds under Public Works Exception of the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban for the promotion of public health and safety within its jurisdiction along its rural County Roadsides using Clearview Herbicide, which contains the active ingredients, Aminopyralid present as potassium salt and Metsulfuron-methyl. PCP Registration Number 29752 in combination with Hasten NT Spray Adjuvant, which contains active ingredients Methyl and ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil). PCP Registration Number 28277.

All of the above products are registered under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada)

Application will commence on May 31, 2021, weather permitting, and ending June 30, 2021

<http://www.lambtononline.ca/home/residents/publicworks/roads/Documents/2020%20Lambton%20County%20Weed%20Ad.pdf>

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Cell: 905-802-3347

County of Lambton
Tom Kelly
Operations Manager, Roads
1-866-324-6912
519-845-0801

Editorial

Bearing witness

Normally, *The Independent* gives our opinion in this space. Today, we turn it over to the Ontario Long Term Care Commission, which released its report Friday. It was a damning report on the state of long term care and the government’s actions during the pandemic. Here is some of what they said.

“The risks were known, and in the first few months of 2020, the devastating impact of COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care facilities was evident in countries such as Italy and the United States. And yet, when the virus breached the doors of a handful of Ontario’s long-term care homes in March 2020, few were prepared for the horror that was to come.

The loss of human life due to COVID-19 is hard to comprehend. Between Canada’s first COVID-19 death on March 8, 2020, and the one-year anniversary of that grim milestone, 22,239 Canadians died of the virus. By comparison, over the six-year period from 1939 to 1945, approximately 45,000 Canadians died in the Second World War.

A year into the pandemic, the numbers in Ontario’s long-term care homes are staggering. There have been more than 1,300 outbreaks in long-term care facilities. More than 15,000 residents contracted COVID-19, and almost 4,000 died...there were more than 6,700 staff cases of COVID-19, and 11 deaths.

What the numbers do not capture is the agony experienced by long-term care residents, their families and the staff who lived through and died during the pandemic. The numbers do not tell the stories of residents who begged for help and answers as life slowly drained from their bodies and light dimmed in their eyes.

The numbers do not speak to the extreme heartbreak of families who peered into windows of long-term care homes to see their loved ones locked down like prisoners. They do not illustrate their constant pleas, many of which went unanswered, and the tireless efforts of some long-term care staff to protect and save them.

The numbers do not reflect the incredible bravery, dedication and suffering experienced by long-term care staff and others who risked their own lives and worked countless days and nights to support and care for vulnerable residents amid the crisis.

This report is grounded in the death and devastation that has marked Ontario’s long-term care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. It serves to bear witness to the tragedy experienced by residents, families and staff and to uncover the factors that contributed to this shameful period in Ontario’s history.

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor.

Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca

You can also deliver letters to *The Independent* at 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia or drop them in the mail at *The Independent*, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0.

The Independent reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity.

All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

Our Story



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

The fire at Sunnyside, also known as Fairbank House, sent us looking for pictures of the historic home in years gone by. This undated photo shows the home, with awnings to shade people from the sun and a retaining wall which ran along the main street.

The need for a free press should not be taken lightly

May 3rd was World Press Freedom Day. It’s a “reminder to governments of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom,” according to the United Nations.

It also acknowledges some journalists are barred from reporting the truth and others die as they try to relay information to the world. Generally speaking, in Canada, journalists don’t worry that much about dying on the job.

That doesn’t mean life is always a bowl of cherries. I’ve been threatened more than once on the job, even though I was within my rights as a journalist. Usually, it was by the people in charge of government or law enforcement. It’s not a great feeling.

And there is the quiet intimidation and character assassination; emails sent to other politicians mocking journalists for their work or idle chatter

among political colleagues about what a pain certain journalists are.

In some ways, that’s a badge of honour, but it does undermine a reporter’s reputation leading people to question how much of what that person says is “fake news” which is now every politician’s new favourite phrase to deflect any form of criticism.

Backroom political griping has always existed; the issue now is how journalists are increasingly facing those critics alone.

The number of journalists working in Canada is shrinking. Many work in one or two person newsrooms. When the assault on journalists begins, it can be overwhelming.

Some journalists cave to the pressure. Others leave the business. The result is the same; the public is not well served.

During COVID-19, when individuals

are asked to make great sacrifices of their own freedoms, a strong free press is important. Consider the province’s attempt to give police power to stop you for no reason other to check if you’ve left home.

Media members raised the red flags, talked to others to explain the problem and eventually, the province backed down.

That’s the power of journalists who are free to do their jobs. It’s something we shouldn’t take lightly.



Heather Wright

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Opinion

Be Nice. We're people too, says businessman

EDITOR:

We are now well into our second year of this pandemic and I need to get something off my chest.

As a small business owner I have been faced with many challenges that include supply chain disruptions, extended shipping delays and of course the dreaded constantly changing government-mandated regulations.

My business has not been affected as severely as some others but we have certainly had our struggles.

I'm writing this today on behalf of myself and all the people who are doing their best to provide you the products and services in local businesses around this town.

Let me point out a few facts.

We don't make the rules; Lambton Public Health and the Government of Ontario set the complex regulations that we as owners and employees of small businesses are mandated to follow.

The consequences for not following these regulations are economically devastating to a small business. Small businesses face fines of up to \$10,000 for not following the rules and these fines can be levied even for the actions of the customers who frequent the location.

We face the same personal challenges and frustration that you are facing. We have families to provide for and worry about at home.

So why am I writing this letter?

It's time to talk about the shameful conduct of some of the citizens of this town. I have seen grown men have full out temper tantrums when asked to please wear a mask in an establishment.

I have heard of repeated abuse and even violence directed at the staff of our local grocery store. Do you honestly think the individual working the checkout has the power to overturn public health guidelines?

All too often members of the public will approach a locked door at a business, read the sign that asks them to book an appointment or call for curbside service, and instead storm off in frustration rather than comply with the new and hopefully temporary procedures that are currently in place.

What can you do to help?

First off you can call ahead.

Communication with the business will help establish what they can and can't do for you under these conditions.

Comply with public health regulations. Again, we don't make the rules but we're stuck with the consequences of non-compliance. If you walk into an establishment without your mask, you're the a-hole not me.

Please don't make the poor girl at the grocery store ask you to put on a mask. Regardless of how you personally feel about the regulations, the checkout line is not the place to enact change to the

"Reopening Ontario Act."

Be patient. Everything takes longer than before.

Fourteen months ago, if I put an order into one of my wholesalers by 3 pm, it was in my hands the next day by 2 o'clock, every time.

Now if I don't have the order in by 3 on Monday, I may not see it at all this week and that's assuming our suppliers have any stock.

Be reasonable. Everything is more expensive than it was a year ago. Raw materials have more than doubled, transportation prices have gone through the roof. We as small businesses have no control over the price of a 2x4.

Be Nice. We are people, too. I'm absolutely sick and tired of this mess but I can't change the conditions without your help.

Having a hissy fit or making personal attacks will not improve your customer experience.

Direct your frustrations with regulations where it belongs. Bob Bailey, Member of Provincial Parliament is anxiously awaiting your call at 519-337-0051 where you are free to rip in to him for how these regulations have inconvenienced you.

Again, I don't make the rules, I'm just stuck with the consequences.

Greg Hilliard
local small business owner.
Petrolia, ON

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First Baptist prepares for 150th celebration

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Petrolia's First Baptist Church celebrated 149 years of existence this past weekend. While the pandemic subdued celebrations, the church is already looking ahead to their 150th anniversary next year.

A planning committee has been hard at work since last fall organizing events and festivities leading up to the May 1, 2022 date.

Members Wanda Pratt and Jean Bradshaw are working on a history book focusing on the stories and people of the past century and a half. The church made similar books for their 100 and 135th anniversaries, but this one is much more ambitious.

"We're hoping by September to be able to launch our book," says Pratt. "I got notes, lots of notes. And some of it written.

"Not just the numbers and the facts, but I like the stories of the people, too," One of the sections will highlight veteran members of the church.

"That's the important part

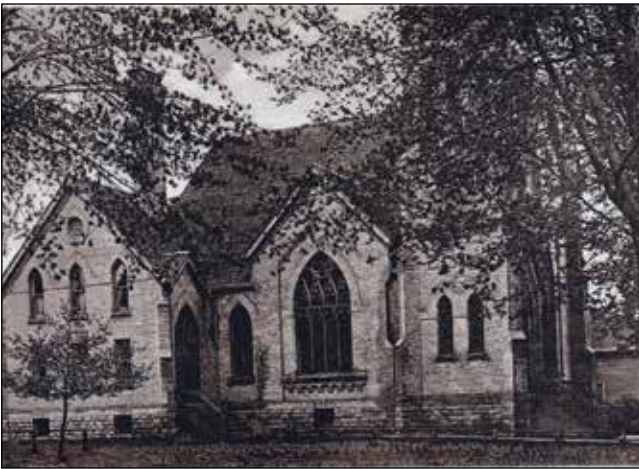
to me," says Pratt on the human stories.

To gather information volunteers have been pouring over old record books and albums as well as talking to family members of past church members.

Bradshaw says this can be a time consuming task. "The minute you open one of those albums you just have to look at every picture and talk about everyone and discuss it and think about it," she says. "You go, oh my goodness an hour has passed and I've only looked at one album! It's interesting, it's fun, it's questioning."

On May 1, 2022 the 150th Anniversary Celebration will take place. The Sunday Service will host Rev. Brian Horrobin from the First Baptist Church in Wallaceburg as guest speaker and feature music from the Lambton Youth Choir. A catered meal at the Petrolia Legion will take place after.

Bradshaw says everyone is "hoping and praying that it (COVID) certainly settles down," and that they may be able to add more events



The appearance of First Baptist Church has not changed a lot over 150 years.

FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POST CARD COLLECTION

if so. "It makes you aware of what you've missed. You take so much for granted until it's taken away from you and then you go, okay that was important to me," she says.

The church itself continues to run virtually meanwhile, save for the organist who plays in-person each week. While Pastor Alex Craig has worked hard to keep in touch with the congregation since the pandemic shutdown, a return to traditional church-going can't happen soon enough.



"You miss it," says

Bradshaw. "You miss the camaraderie, you miss just sitting down and talking, and the coffee breaks."

"We're looking forward to when we can get together physically," says Pratt.

Leading up to the 150th celebration there is also a Jews for Jesus presentation of the "Fall Feasts of Israel" scheduled for Sept. 19 and in April 2022, First Baptist plans a 10 day reading of the entire Bible by church and community members where anyone can sign up to read a portion of the bible from 8 am to 8 pm.

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Calls for person centered care in LTC homes

Heather Wright
The Independent

Shirley Roebuck thinks a new report by the Ontario Long Term Care Commission is a good place for the provincial government to start improving homes for seniors.

The commission was asked to look into COVID-19’s affect on long term care homes. Over 3,900 seniors have died since the pandemic began. Eleven staff members of the homes have also died.

The Ford government commissioned the report between the first and second waves of the pandemic, hoping to fix some of the problems which led to the deaths. But the number of COVID-19 cases started rising in September and by December, the province was in the middle of another lockdown. That’s when the death toll in long term care started climbing again.

The commission delivered its final 322-page report late Friday.

It found while there were long standing problems in long term care, the Conservative government didn’t have a pandemic plan and that made things worse. “Without an established, practised plan in place, the government found itself making up its emergency response as it went along.

“Critical decisions came too late, and the government’s emergency response system proved inadequate to protect staff and residents from COVID-19.”

Roebuck, the head of the Sarnia/Lambton Health Coalition, agrees. “There was a very slow response from the Ontario government. As if they just didn’t know how to respond,” she says.

The commission offered 85 recommendations to make changes.

There should be an inspection system in place where every home would get at least one unannounced comprehensive inspection a year. The Ford government did away with yearly inspections in 2018. The commission suggested the Ministry of Labour and public health units be involved in the inspections.

There should be progressive consequences for homes found not to be following the regulations, including losing their licence. Right now, homes generally have to write a report on the incident under investigation. Even though over 3,900 seniors have died in long term care in the pandemic, not a single home has lost its licence.

The commission wants non-elected officials to have clear authority in the Health Protection and Promotion Act after finding the Chief Medical Officer of Health waited for cabinet approval to take action on items like masking inside long term care homes and limiting PSWs to working in one home. That, the commission said, likely cost lives.

The commission also weighed in on the rights of residents. Long term care homes were locked down March 15, 2020 and families had no access to their seniors for months at a time. When the restrictions eased in June and July, families found seniors who had declined in isolation. The commission found the restrictions also led to decreased care in the homes.

“As a result of staff shortages, and with no family members to help, residents were confined to their rooms

for extended periods without access to recreation programs or visitors. With visitor restrictions in place, the care burden on staff increased.”

When the Canadian military came in to help, they found 26 residents had died of dehydration in just one home, showing the basic care needs weren’t being met.

“Residents do not lose their rights upon entering a long-term care home. They have the same rights as everyone else in society, and those rights must be protected and respected. Residents are entitled to receive quality care and deserve to enjoy a quality of life,” wrote the commission.

It recommends the Resident Bill of Rights to recognize the role of essential caregivers. It wants an end to banning all visitors in outbreaks “because of the negative effects of isolation on the quality of life and health of LTC residents...(the government) must seek to place the minimum possible restrictions on visits.”

The commission also wants an update to the Residents Bill of Rights to allow video monitoring of rooms, and have the homes provide Wi-Fi and technology for communications that are private. And the homes should be mandated to have clearer communications, including having one person being the point of communication. Some families only knew their senior had COVID-19 when the homes sent out an automated message or called to say they were dead.

The report says home licensees should make counselling services available to the residents and staff living and working in long-term care during the pandemic to deal with the trauma they saw.

The commission also zeroed in on staffing and how it affected the care given. It called for better infection control policies including having a registered nurse dedicated to the task for every 120 people.

Physicians, it said, must go to homes within 24 hours of request for care. Some physicians were not in homes during the initial lockdown.

The province has started training and recruiting more PSWs – over 16,000 according to the minister of long term care - but the commission called for more than just extra PSWs. It recommends a mix of trained staff; 20 per cent of home staff to be registered nurses, 25 per cent to be registered practical nurses and 55 per cent of staff to be PSWs to “increase the skill level in long term care homes.”

The commission says there also needs to be more dieticians, speech language pathologists, audiologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, recreation therapists and social workers in the homes.

The report recommends minimum standards for PSW education and the industry should be regulated. Wages should be increased, it said, and there should be more training in geriatric care and dementia.

The report also addressed the need for more long term care beds. The commission says by 2041, there will be a need for 115,000 more beds and it doesn’t believe that can happen the way homes are now developed.

The commission called for the building of homes and the provision of care to be provided by different groups, adding there should not be profit in providing care. It suggested private companies build homes and lease them back to the province. The province would then hire another company to manage the home.

The commission wants the province to build smaller, self-contained homes, and clear some of the administrative hurdles to build more municipal homes.

The commission also recommends the homes have enough space to separate residents in outbreaks, have palliative care units and provide better ventilation including air conditioning to improve life in long term care.

“Leaders at every level must put their hearts, as well as their minds, into reimagining the care of the elderly in this province. This will require a philosophy of care that is anchored in respect, compassion and kindness for the people who live and work in LTC,” the commission wrote. “It is not just about building more homes. There needs to be a transformation to a person-centred care model, which motivates different behaviours and rewards innovation that leads to better outcomes for residents and staff.”

Monday, the Minister of Long Term Care, Merilee Fullerton, did not apologize to the families of long term care residents. She said she had come to politics to fix the problems in long term care.

Fullerton told reporters, society has to do some “soul searching” to find out why the long term care system declined over the years.

Roebuck takes issue with Fullerton and the Ford government’s response to its failures in long term care during the pandemic. “It’s true, that long term care has been in a crisis for years... But they’re in power. They’re the ones that have the opportunity to fix this now. And they’re not. They’re still providing new licenses and more beds to for profit homes, despite the horrible outcomes at (some of) these homes.”

Roebuck says there are a couple of key recommendations, including the return to more vigorous inspections.

“These homes will continue to operate as if nothing’s happened if there’s no consequences. That’s the same for any industry.”

And Roebuck likes the commission’s focus on person centered care instead of profit making.

“We need to be moving closer to a public system, a non-profit system, because the priority of making profit has not been good for the long term care sector of health care.”

Roebuck says there are many important recommendations in the long term care commission’s final report, but she’s not hopeful this government will act on them.

“I believe that (the Conservative government) has to tackle the chronic severe problems in long term care. And I think that the commission’s report is a wonderful guide for them.

“However, you know, most of the recommendations come with a price tag. I have little hope that Doug Ford will do the right thing because it will take tax dollars that he wants to either save or give to something else.”

MP Marilyn Gladu Sarnia-Lambton

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PUBLIC MEETING

and Information Session

Greenfield Street
Reconstruction

Monday, May 10, 2021

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Link available at:

petrolia.civicweb.net/Portal/,
on Facebook, or by request

by e-mail to:

clerksdepartment@petrolia.ca

Residents are
invited to learn
more about the
project.



519-882-2350 | www.town.petrolia.on.ca

New fundraiser to be hired at VPP

Heather Wright
The Independent

Victoria Playhouse Petrolia will be hiring a full-time professional fundraiser with a \$135,000 Trillium Grant.

The plan, according to Director of Marketing, Arts and Communications in Petrolia, Laurissa Ellsworth, says the money will pay for the salary and supplies for a professional fundraiser to help in a large-scale fundraising campaign. The fundraiser will also deal with the existing sponsorship and donor programs.

Ellsworth says a larger scaled fundraising drive is being considered “for some identified accessibility changes to the Hall... potentially an additional passenger elevator, freight elevator), and additional washrooms are part of the considerations that will come to council in greater detail this summer/early fall.”

“The large scale campaign would be a fully fundraised project with potential grant funding. There is no ask of the ratepayer being considered,” says Ellsworth.

THANKS DOC



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Victoria Hall in Petrolia was one of many buildings across the province May 1 to celebrate Doctors Day. The Ontario Medical Association asked municipal governments to honour the work doctors have done during the pandemic by shining their lights.

Internet not good enough in St. Clair for online vote

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair Township residents will vote by mail for the fifth straight election because the township isn’t yet connected enough for an internet ballot.

Staff have been exploring telephone and internet voting for next year’s election. But the conclusion presented to council this week was not to shake up a system that’s been working well.

The township’s voter turnout three years ago was a 48.6 per cent, or 5,668 out of 11,664 eligible voters. St. Clair hired voting companies Datafix and Dominion to conduct that election and have renewed their contracts for 2022.

Clerk Jeff Baranek pointed to “the spotty internet in a high percentage of locations in St. Clair, and the aging population who had become familiar with the vote by mail method” as reasons to stick with mail in voting.

“Despite many efforts to improve internet

within the township, there are still many areas where reliable internet is not available.”

Baranek says while the SWIFT project is improving the online situation in St. Clair, the completion date for much of this high-speed internet initiative is too close to the potential election date to guarantee a smooth transition to online voting.

He added that clerks of neighbouring Lambton municipalities say internet voting didn’t have a drastic impact on improving voter turnout and that the factors driving people to the polls continue to be competitive races and decisive issues.

Baranek also says other municipalities that adopted telephone voting in 2018 had their own troubles with this method and are now considering scrapping it altogether.

If someone doesn’t receive a mail ballot or is new to the township, there will be an in-person voting option at town hall on election day.

Compost transfer station to open May 22 in Petrolia

The Independent

Pending the province’s Stay-At-Home order, Petrolia’s new compost transfer station will be opening May 22.

Town officials say there will be 13 Saturday’s the site will be open from 8 am to noon starting with May 22 and 29. Residents will need a pass to use the site, although they are complimentary this year.

You can call town hall or email jsmith@petrolia.ca. The pass will be picked up at the site the first time you visit. The new site will accept yard waste and brush with branches up to four inches.

The site has been in the planning stages since 2018 when the newly elected council decided it wanted a town run site over the site run by Waste Management. The compost station was shutdown by town officials in 2017 after a report by the Ministry of the Environment.

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TOWNSHIP OF ENNISKILLEN

MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR BEAR CREEK EROSION AT ROKEBY LINE

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT

THE PROJECT:

The Township of Enniskillen is initiating a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) process to address an ongoing issue with slope instability adjacent to Rokeby Line and Bear Creek, west of Plowing Match Road. The bank area adjacent to the roadway is showing evidence of active slumping and is threatening the long-term stability of the road. A number of approaches will be investigated to address the erosion and slope instability, including erosion protection installed at the toe of the slope, stabilization of the slope through regrading and use of vegetation, relocation of Rokeby Line adjacent to the creek, or a combination of the above.

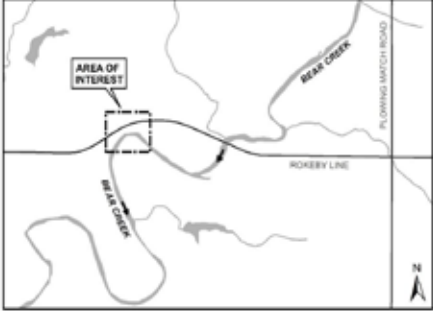
THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING PROCESS:

The planning for this project is following the environmental screening process set out for Schedule B activities under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process. The purpose of the screening process is to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project and to plan for appropriate mitigation of any impacts. The process includes consultation with the public, stakeholders, First Nation and Métis communities, and government review agencies.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Public input and comments are invited for incorporation into the planning and design of this project. Initial comments are welcomed and will be received until **May 28, 2021**, at the address listed below. Any comments collected in conjunction with the study, will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information on this project, or to review the Municipal Class EA process, please contact the consulting engineers: B.M. Ross and Associates: 62 North Street, Goderich, Ontario, N7A 2T4. Telephone (519) 524-2641. Fax (519) 524-4403. Kelly Vader, Environmental Planner (e-mail: kvader@bmross.net).



Duncan McTavish, Administrator Clerk/Treasurer

Township of Enniskillen

This Notice issued April 28, 2021

Back-to-school seems unlikely

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The door is closing fast on any possible return to in-class learning.

With just two months of school to go, and the provincial lockdown set to last until May 19, school boards are starting to acknowledge the 2020-21 year may finish like the last one: virtually.

Last week Thames Valley District School Board Education Director Mark Fisher said there’s a “strong likelihood” students won’t be coming back to class.

His Lambton counterparts also spoke to the prospect. “There are some conditions that the provincial science table will need to have in place for schools to return in Ontario,” says St. Clair Catholic District School Board Education Director Deb Crawford. “Much of that has to do with the situation around community spread of COVID.

“So we’re waiting for advisement from the ministry to let us know what could happen to us provincially,” says Crawford.

Lambton-Kent District School Board Education Director John Howitt agreed. “All school boards are prepared for whichever outcome.

“We’re hopeful for a return to face-to-face learning before the end of the school year. However we’ll continue to provide the best programming possible in a remote setting,” he says.

Education Minister Stephen Lecce didn’t shed a whole lot more light on the situation

Tuesday.

Leccee laid out the funding for the 2021-2022 school year at a news conference. He also stated parents would be able to choose online learning for the entire school year. “We’re ensuring every board will provide that choice,” he says.

Lecce would not commit to anything past the next school year. He was advancing the idea of online learning before the pandemic but so far has refused to say whether it will be a permanent option in Ontario schools.

As for returning to class this year, Lecce wouldn’t be pinned down on whether that would happen nor when the province will tell parents if the in-class portion of the year is over.

“We will follow the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer of Health... and his guidance has not changed.”

Local medical officers of health are also waiting on the decision.

“Obviously there are conflicting interests here. We all recognize the fact that kids will do much better in an in-class school environment rather than remote learning at home. On the other hand the situation with variants constantly changing the landscape is very hard to predict,” says Dr. David Colby in Chatham-Kent. There’s “not uniformity of opinion regarding return to school among the medical officers of health in Ontario,” but says that “should be no surprise to anyone, there are 34 medical officers of health and they don’t always sing as a choir, but we do try and reach a consensus.”

Fine and suspension after Florence incident

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A \$1,000 fine was levied against Tyler Boutette for his part in a drug and alcohol fueled incident outside Florence.

Court heard that Lambton OPP were called to the Dawn-Euphemia backroads in the early evening of Nov. 16, 2019 over a weapons complaint. Police at the time said a shotgun was being fired from a vehicle.

Officers eventually found Boutette, now 28, and another man on Naylor Road in a 2007 Ford F-150. Several liquor bottles, both open and closed, were found in the truck along with marijuana and a bong.

Boutette, the driver, smelled of alcohol and had bloodshot eyes along with delayed and slurred speech.

Both men were arrested. Boutette was taken to Petrolia OPP where he registered a blood alcohol reading of .114.

“The weapons complaint was legitimate but it was unrelated to the vehicle,” says Defence Lawyer Dan Scott. No weapons charges were laid against Boutette.

In addition to his careless driving fine Boutette received a year of probation.

He’ll take the Back On Track driving program and isn’t allowed to consume any alcohol before driving.

“While the fine is high and the conditions of the probation order certainly are serious, these are meant to reinforce to you that this type of conduct is dangerous and will not be tolerated,” says Justice Krista Leszczynski.

“Driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol to the extent that you were on that date posed a risk not only to your own safety but to that of others in this community who are using the roadway,” she says.

- THE INDEPENDENT

‘One bad decision’ leads to hefty fine for Petrolia man

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Petrolia man was handed a sizeable fine after a drunk driving crash on Plank Road.

Michael Anderson, 25, appeared in Sarnia Court April 23. Three months earlier, Anderson was lucky to walk away from a serious crash.

Anderson was travelling south on Plank Road in his 2013 Chrysler 200 just after 9 pm. He missed the left turn onto Petrolia Line and crashed into the ditch across the road. There was substantial damage to the car and the airbags went off, but Anderson was unharmed.

He did display several signs of impairment when officers arrived however. A smell of alcohol, unsteady footing and bloodshot eyes all led to his arrest. Back at the Petrolia OPP station Anderson registered a blood alcohol level of .164, double the legal limit.

“I barely drink anymore,” Anderson says for himself. “One bad decision caused this... I’m lucky I didn’t hurt myself or anybody else. This is definitely not me and I have definitely learned my lesson not to get behind the wheel after you’ve had anything to drink.”

Crown Attorney Sarah Carmody asked for a \$2,200 fine while Defence Lawyer Terry Brandon countered with a suggestion of \$1,500. Both agreed Anderson would receive a one year driving ban.

Justice Anne McFadyen opted toward the higher side by imposing a \$2,000 penalty. “I do agree with you that you are very fortunate that you or other people using the roadway were not injured in any fashion,” she says to Anderson as sentencing concluded.

Anderson can apply for the ignition interlock program after three months.

- THE INDEPENDENT

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Sports

Fulcher frustrated as AHL playoffs cancelled

Barry Wright
The Independent

On the heels of his first career American Hockey League victory comes word that Kaden Fulcher will not get a chance to record his first AHL postseason win this season. Citing league COVID-19 protocols, the league President Scott Howson announced late last week the AHL would not be able to conduct traditional Calder Cup playoffs this season. “While we are disappointed that we will not be able to award the Calder Cup this spring, we are grateful to have been able to provide a safe and competitive environment for more than 1,000 players to play AHL hockey and continue their development,” said Howson. “We’re especially thankful for the work done by our athletic trainers,

COVID-19 officers and other front-line workers to ensure the health and safety of all of our players and staff throughout the league.” Fulcher is also frustrated about the lack of a playoff run this year. “Obviously, it’s real disappointing,” said the Brigden product. “We have a good team here in Grand Rapids and could have made some noise come playoff time.” The league has announced the winner of the Central Division, based on the best winning percentage, will be awarded the Sam Pollock Trophy as divisional champion. “We’re hungry for it and we’re going to look to make our mark over these seven games even with the lack of a post-season,” Fulcher says. The Griffins are in third place in the division with a record of 12-9-4, following a 3-2 shootout loss to Rockford Monday.

Fulcher made 36 saves, including breakaway stops in both the first and second period, and drew the praise of head coach Ben Simon in his postgame comments. “Our goalie played fantastic,” Simon said. The final games for Grand Rapids are against the two teams ahead of them in the standings. They play the second-place Cleveland Monsters four times and have three games remaining against the division-leading Chicago Wolves. The regular season is scheduled to end May 15.



Kaden Fulcher

Cumming and Racers head to conference championship

The Independent

Ally Cumming and her University of Northwestern Ohio Racers have qualified for the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference Softball Championship. The eight-team tournament began

Wednesday and continues through Friday. The Racers set a new record for conference victories with a doubleheader sweep last week. UNOH finished with a conference record of 15-5 and an overall mark of 27-12. They were only a game behind

the eventual regular season champions. Cumming, an LCCVI and Enniskillen Express grad, has been red hot over an eight-game winning streak by the Racers to end the regular season. She has hit .353 over that span with four runs scored.

Canadian Softball championships nixed for 2021

The Independent

Typically, the area softball community is represented in some capacity at the Softball Canada Canadian Championships. That won’t be the case this year. “After carefully considering the health and safety of its members and consulting with its Provincial/Territorial Associations, Softball Canada’s Board of Directors has made the decision to cancel all of its Canadian Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch Championships for a

second consecutive year due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” read a Softball Canada release. Softball Canada normally hosts ten national championships from late July to September. “We share in the disappointment of the athletes who were looking forward to competing for a national title” stated Scott Neiles, President of Softball Canada. “With the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, it became increasingly apparent

that the health risks and travel restrictions would not allow for proper representation from across the country. “Our focus has now shifted towards supporting regional events to give athletes an opportunity to compete outside of local league play if public health and safety conditions allow.” Meantime, the skipper of the Alvinston Aces says there is no word on when or if the Southwest Middlesex Fastball League might play this season.



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Notice of Annual General Meeting
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Meeting Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting
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for more information or to register

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What's Up Warwick!

Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Culture Master Plan
The Township of Warwick is developing a Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Culture Master Plan (PRTCMP). The PRTCMP will help the Township identify needs for parks and open spaces, recreation and culture services, and amenities that can support tourism. The PRTCMP will establish strategies to meet local needs over the next ten years in collaboration with community partners. The PRTCMP will explore various topic areas including:

- Recreation, tourism and cultural facilities;
- Leisure programs, activities, and events;
- Parks, open spaces and trails; and
- Service delivery policies and practices.

Have your say! Please provide your input in one or more of the following ways:

1. Visit **www.warwicktownship.ca** to view the **Public Information Centre** to learn more about the parks, recreation, tourism and culture system in Warwick and the Master Plan!
2. Visit **www.warwicktownship.ca** to complete the **Community Survey**. The survey will be open until **May 23, 2021**.
3. Email **Question & Comments** to **whatsapp@warwicktownship.ca**

A **future Public Information Centre** will be held near the end of the planning process to present the draft PRTCMP and to obtain your feedback. Stay tuned for updates!

For more information, contact
Theresa Klachan, Manager Parks and Recreation
Phone: (519) 849-3926
Email: **tklachan@warwicktownship.ca**

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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Card of Thanks



We wish to thank all our friends and family for the support and best wishes extended to us when dealing with the unexpected bend in life's road. A special thanks to Dr. Butler and team in Petrolia. Also to Dr. Hebb (a fantastic surgeon) , his secretary Sheryl and all his team in University Hospital London. Everyone involved with the swift work to arrange the surgery is greatly appreciated. A Very Special thanks to our family for all their help and driving us to London for appointments. Thanks to Terry and Jack MacDonald for for taking control of the Cemetery Business in my absence. Also thanks to Trevor Dobbin for his excellent work looking after this years lawn customers. I am doing great with recovery. We appreciate everything done for us. THANK YOU!

Bob & Freida Alderman

Card of Thanks

THANK YOU

from the family of the late
Rose Marie Dalziel (Walsh).

We had a mass for Mom in Kingsville, April 12th at St. John de Brebeuf church. The CWL and Father Rick Janisse created a lovely service. It was extra special having Sam Peco (grand daughter) singing with organist Jim Gale. We were very fortunate that Father Tom was able to stream the mass for those that were near and far. You can view the mass at <https://youtu.be/ss1VwkAsoBE>.

The interment was April 13th at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Wyoming. Thank you Martin for your help with that. Thanks Father Dan for the lovely graveside service. We had prayers, poetry and more music. It was a beautiful day.

Last but not least...thank you from the bottom of our hearts to the Dalziel and Walsh families, our friends, neighbours and all that offered support, guidance, masses, cards, memories, food, flowers, plants and positive thoughts. Your kindness and love will always be remembered and appreciated.



Notice

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

Notice

CANCELLED - The 2021 ARLANXEO Retiree Dinner is cancelled. We will try again in 2022 (COVID permitting).

Celebration



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Boyd

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Celebration



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May 2, 2018

Though her smile is gone forever
and her hand I cannot touch
I still have so many memories
Of the one I loved so much
Her memory is now a keepsake
With which I will never part
God has her in his keeping
I have her in my heart
Sadly missed but never forgotten



In Memory

Eleanor Parr

(Lumley)

Our first Mother's Day without you.
We are lost . . . not sure what to do,
But we want you to know,
How much we love and miss you.

Happy Mother's Day

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

CANCELTION - 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.

Obituary



CAMPBELL

Shirley



SMITH

Ross

Obituary

On **Friday, April 30, 2021**, surrounded by her family at Bluewater health, Sarnia, Shirley Jean Campbell (nee McLean) of Alvinston passed away in her **75th year**. Predeceased by her parents Alex (1965) and Mary (1995). Beloved wife of 50 years to Ken Campbell. Loving mother of Tim Campbell (Stacy 2020), Jeff Campbell and Dana Demaiter (Jason). Deeply loved grandmother to Darienne, Mike, Erikah, Paris, Krysten, Evan, Lily, Grace and great-grandmother to Mason and Aria. Dear sister of Ariel McLean (1995), Kay Landstra (2009), Sharon (Ross) Moore of Chatham, Jim (Linda) McLean of Watford. Shirley will be fondly remembered by her nieces , nephews and many relatives and friends. **At Shirley's request cremation has taken place and a private family interment at the Alvinston Cemetery will be held.** Shirley's family would like to thank the caregivers of the Bluewater Health Palliative Care Unit for their kindness and compassion during her time there. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Canadian Diabetes Association, Canadian Cancer Society or charity of your choice by forwarding to the funeral home or online condolences at www.vanheckfuneralhome.ca

Obituary

Smith, Ross - passed away peacefully on **Sunday, May 2, 2021** at C.E.E. Hospital of Bluewater Health, Petrolia. Ross Smith, of Petrolia, was **89 years** of age. Ross was predeceased by his wife Dolores (nee McGeachie). He will be missed by his children Susan (Brian) Symington, David (Cindy) Smith, and Brenda (Ron) Graham, his grandchildren of Justin Symington, Megan (Jake Dewhirst) Symington, Victoria (Dave) McShane, and Nicole (Adam Allen) Smith, and great grandchildren to Elizabeth, Alexandria, Niklas, Mathew, Olivia, and Penelope. Ross was the son of the late Roy and Mabel Smith. Ross was a retired electrician and was a former business manager IBEW Local 530. **A private service will be held on Friday, May 7, 2021 at Needham-Jay Funeral Home, a livestream of the service will at 1:00 p.m. at www.facebook.com/NeedhamJay. Interment in Hillsdale Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.cee.hf.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared on-line www.needhamjay.com.

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.

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

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

Women's Institute Scholarship - Again this year the Women's Institute Scholarship is available to Lambton County students entering their first or second year at any Ontario college or university. **Application deadline is August 10, 2021.** Contact amcgugan@hotmail.com for complete details.

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 24 - April 30, 2021

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

ALIX, Yvonne
Age 70, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

BATSON, Harold
Age 77, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

McAULEY, Emily Ann
Age 36, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

FLYNN, Georgina
Age 73, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

KLYNE, Lawrence
Age 73, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, APRIL 26

STEPHENSON, Donald
Age 63, of Sarnia
Gilpin Funeral Home

ELLIOTT, Roy
Age 94, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

SCOTT, Donald
Age 98, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

CURRAN, Brian
Age 58, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

VANI, Antonia
Age 101, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

TOREN, Irene
Age 94, of Forest
Gilpin Funeral Home

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

GIBBS, William "Jack"
Age 78, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, APRIL 30


WAGNER, Douglas Lee
Age 73, of Oil Springs
Steadman Brother's Funeral Chapel

CAMPBELL, Shirley
Age 75, of Alvinston
Van Heck Funeral Home

PETTIT, Paul
Age 76, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

SIMPSON, Glenn
Age 91, of Petrolia
Gilpin Funeral Home

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



Church DIRECTORY



Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

We are closed due to Covid-19 at this time.

Rev. Michelle Collins-Wongkee
Church Office 519-882-1430
christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com

St. 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

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

Wyoming United Church

730 Second Street, Wyoming

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

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

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

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

Notice

Petrolia Resident Compost Transfer Site - This years site has moved to 546 Maude Street. 2021 Residents are required to have a pas to access the site. Passes are available for no charge at Town Hall now, and at the Petrolia Farmers' market during the 2021 Season. May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 26, July 17, August 7, September 11, 18, 25, Oct 2, 9 & 16, 2021 from 8am until 12noon. Petrolia compost depot will accept: grass clippings, dead plants, sticks/branches under 4", and leaves. The depot will NOT accept: mulch & fertilizer bags, rocks/bricks, plastic pots, dirt/sod, plastic barriers/fencing. Tips to make it a smooth drop off: Yard waste and brush will be separated into two bins - please do not bag it together. Please use paper bags or reusable bins. Brush must be of reasonable size and length. Residents will be asked to take unacceptable items home.

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

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.

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.**



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

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



COVID-19

SOCIAL DISTANCING

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





Your census. Your community. Your future.

Census information is used to plan
programs and services in your community.

**Complete your census today—it’s easy and
completely confidential!**



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