

Two people found dead in Petrolia home

Heather Wright & Alex Kurial
The Independent/Local Journalism Initiative

The long dandelions waving in the wind at the corner of Portland and Center Streets in Petrolia were a hint that those inside had not been out the door of the split-level white home for some time.

Neighbours around the home say the older couple who lived in the house had not been seen for several weeks. In the past, they said, a television could be seen on during the day from the street and people moving around inside.

But at least one neighbour said it had been at least April since he had seen the neighbours.

The long, unkempt grass was also unusual, they said. It was normally maintained regularly by the couple's son.

It seemed the neighbours weren't the only ones who noticed the changes around the home.

Lambton OPP were called to the home Monday, just before noon. Reports say a family member was worried they had not heard from the homeowner for a while and asked for police to check on their well being.

When police arrived, they discovered two people dead inside.



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Lambton OPP and officials from the Coroner's office removed the bodies of two people from a home in Petrolia Monday. Police are still investigating.

Neighbours watched as at least six police vehicles arrived at the home throughout the day, including the Forensic Identification Unit's truck.

The house was roped off with yellow crime scene tape Monday afternoon. It was still wrapped around the street sign Tuesday.

Investigators could be seen donning personal protective equipment and taking crime scene investigation equipment into the home.

An officer also went into the house with a camera to take pictures of the scene.

The coroner's van arrived at the home around 3:30 pm and at 4 pm a body was removed from the house.

Nearly half an hour later a second body was taken to the van.

OPP say post mortem was being completed Tuesday to find the cause of the deaths.

Police say it is "believed to be an isolated incident with no threat to public safety."

The investigation is being conducted by the Lambton County Crime Unit, under the

direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch.

Neighbours, such as Trish McAuslan-Wilson, were saddened by the incident.

"May they Rest In Peace," she wrote on social media. "Such a horrible thing to happen in our small town."

Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley agreed. "It's disturbing," he told *The Independent*. "I'm anxious to hear exactly what happened."

"Two deaths like that - it's just sad."

- THE INDEPENDENT

Enniskillen's mayor sees opportunity as High Park prepares to close

Heather Wright
The Independent

Enniskillen's mayor is hopeful the greenhouse vegetable industry will see an opportunity on Lasalle Line.

High Park Farms will harvest its last crop near Petrolia this summer, closing its operation in September.

Tilray completed a merger with Aphira on May 3. During the lead up to the merger, company officials had signalled Tilray and

Aphira would be merging operations in the Windsor area in the \$874 million deal.

The company, now branded as Tilray, controls more than 17 per cent of the retail cannabis market — the largest share held by any Canadian licensed producer.

"As Aphria and Tilray merge operations, the company is making changes to optimize operational efficiencies. Tilray will concentrate local cultivation and manufacturing in its Leamington and London facilities," said the company in a news release issued Wednesday.

"This move will strengthen the overall ability of Tilray to serve its customers as facilities in other locations, including Leamington, London and Nanaimo will continue business as usual."

Officials said the 200 people working at the Lasalle Line greenhouse are "encouraged to seek opportunities at our nearby cultivation and manufacturing operations in Leamington and London."

Lambton Warden, Enniskillen Mayor

Kevin Marriott, is disappointed by the closure. He admits there has been significant concern from neighbours about the smell coming from the greenhouse on Lasalle Line, however the company employed up to 250 people at times, including Enniskillen residents. Those jobs will be missed he says.

But the move doesn't come as a surprise to Marriott. He had heard the merger could mean the end of the Enniskillen greenhouse.

SEE HIGH PARK PG 2



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Thousands book vaccine in Lambton Tuesday

Heather Wright
The Independent

It seems the younger people in Lambton County are ready to get past the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over 4,500 people signed up for a COVID-19 vaccine Tuesday - the day the province opened up eligibility to anyone who was qualified to get one.

In Lambton, for example, only people over 50 could book a vaccine on Monday.

The province had expected to allow all comers to get the vaccine on May 31. But officials say 2.2 million doses are scheduled to arrive this week in advance of the long weekend. That led to the government extending the eligibility. The province is also allowing public health units to hold pop-up clinics for 12 to 17 year olds using the Pfizer vaccine if they wish. Lambton Public Health is encouraging families to register together to get the first dose at the Point Edward Clinic.

Kelly Francis of Lambton Public Health says residents heeded the call with 4,500 people booking appointments online Tuesday and another 477 calling in to the dedicated phone line to get the shot.

As of May 16, 2021, at 8:00 p.m., over 7.2 million vaccine doses have been administered across the province, with over 93 per cent of Ontario residents aged 80 and over and more than 92 per cent of residents aged 75 to 79 having received at least one dose.

More than 55 per cent of the population aged 18 and over have received at least one dose and more than 432,000 Ontarians are fully immunized, including 96 per cent of long-term care residents.

In May, Ontario expects to receive approximately 4.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Approximately 4.7 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine are expected in June.

To book a vaccine in Lambton go to lambtonpublichealth.ca

High Park to harvest last crop in September

CON'T FROM PG 1

“I’ve heard all those stories last year about oversupply. And you can see stock prices of many big companies dropping the price,” says Marriott. And he read some of the documents around the merger which outlined the assets of the company.

“I think the greenhouses in Leamington are four to five times the size of this one,” he says.

And, the mayor believes a legal dispute with neighbours in Enniskillen didn’t help matters. The Brand family filed a complaint with the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board last year after trying to get High Park Farms to do something about the smell coming from the greenhouses.

“I’m pretty sure that was one factor - the application to the normal farm practices board. And then I was told that this place would have been still half operating if they had the chocolate manufacturing... that’s what they’re telling people,” says Marriott.

Council turned down a zoning change which would have allowed High Park Farms to infuse chocolate and candies with

cannabis as part of its drive to get into the edibles market. The line would have created 25 jobs officials said. That business went to a new plant in London.

Even as the 225 workers contemplate their future, Marriott is hopeful the greenhouse will be put to good use again.

Marriott believes there will be a push to fill the greenhouse although he doubts it will be with cannabis again. “If the cannabis market is over supplied, like they say it is, and sounds like it is, then I have my doubts that another cannabis company would buy it. But I wonder, I know that demand for glass acres is huge for vegetables. I think it’s a real possibility.

“I know that the demand for more acres of glass is huge,” he says noting the vegetable industry is growing rapidly in Essex and Chatham-Kent.

“I’m optimistic that, maybe the best of both worlds will be to have vegetables back in there and no smell and the same amount of workers. But that’s being really optimistic. I’m just thinking about the possibilities.”

TREE BLITZ



PAT MCGEE PHOTO

A whopping 6,720 seedling tree planting blitz at Fairbank Oil Fields in Oil Springs in a former soybean field and a parcel of land north of the Oil Museum of Canada. As Wally Van Dunn slowly drives the tractor forward, Jim Gould and Stu Sharp plant rows of 130 with a strategic mix of oaks, hickories and other hardwoods. This completes a two-year plan between Fairbank Oil and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority with a total of 13,370 trees planted.

RUNNING TO HELP



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Four LCCVI students, Jace McGrail, Ty Moffatt, Victor Tang and Trevor Syer, seen here, took about three and a half hours to run 100 km, relay style, down the Reeces Corners to Wyoming Trail, to raise money for Frazer Anderson. He is a nine-year-old Forest boy dealing with the effects of a brain tumour. The students decided to do something to help, so they raised \$5,700 through the relay on Saturday. The teens sported shirts which said on the back “Nobody Fights Alone.”

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Two more Lambton COVID deaths

Heather Wright
The Independent

As Lambton County’s vaccine rollout gathers steam, there are still people contracting COVID-19 and dying from it.

In the last week, 75 people have tested positive for the virus in Lambton County. Two people from the region have died including a resident of Afton Park Place, a retirement home which has been in outbreak since May 7.

Lambton Public Health statistics show there were two residents and 10 staff members of the home who tested positive since then.

Public health says over 90 per cent of long term care residents have been vaccinated.

There have also been five people die of COVID-19 at Bluewater Health. The hospital is part of a province wide effort to ease overcrowded ICUs in Metro Toronto.

On May 18, there were 12 patients in the COVID-19 unit at the hospital. Since May 12, five people who are from the GTA have passed away from the virus.

While the fight against the virus continues, the vaccination process gathers steam. The federal government is seeing millions of vaccines come into the country in the next few weeks which allows public health units to open up eligibility to more people.

Right now in Lambton, children as

young as 12 can book a vaccine. Lambton Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, told reporters May 13, he was glad Lambton would be receiving more vaccines.

The province has been criticized because it decided to stop sending extra doses to hotspot areas after just two weeks instead of the four recommended by the province’s COVID-19 Science Table.

But Ranade isn’t among the critics. “From my perspective and for this community... there are some circumstances where I might agree that it was reasonable (to continue providing more doses in hotspots), but certainly after a two week pause in any increases, I would very much expect to receive more, just as every other community would,” he told reporters.

“I’ll take whatever vaccines we can get from legal quality controlled sources.”

As of May 12, 55,209 vaccine doses have been administered in Lambton County. That’s about 47 per cent of the population over 16.

Another 3,319 people have had both doses. That number is expected to increase as health care workers receive second doses soon.

Meantime, Lambton case numbers per capita continue to hold in the Red and Orange zone of the Reopening Framework with 53 cases per 100,000 people a week and two per cent of the tests coming back positive.

CRANE ROLLS ON HIGHWAY 40



OPP PHOTO

Lambton OPP have charged a Lambton Shores man after a large crane went over into the ditch on Highway 40 and Rokeby Line. There were no injuries however it took several hours to right the equipment. The road was closed for most of the day while crews moved the crane.

Health coalition considers private criminal charges in death by neglect cases in LTC

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Ontario Health Coalition is considering pursuing private criminal charges in the deaths of thousands of people who lived in long term care during COVID-19.

The coalition brought hundreds of families together to watch Question Period in the Legislative Assembly Tuesday as opposition MPP repeatedly asked the Ford government to be accountable for not only those who died of

COVID-19 but people who died of neglect during the pandemic.

Government ministers, including House Leader Paul Calandra, said a number of times how what they said would not take away the pain of families of those lost in long term care. But Calandra also listed the province’s fix for the situation, more beds, more personal support workers and more nurses.

That didn’t sit well with the families watching online.

“I no longer believe there is accountability – we are being

gas lit...they could not make it clearer...they’re telling us you have absolutely no value,” says Lainie Tessier.

“There are thousands and thousands more who have died who are not being acknowledged,” says Robin Nelson who removed her mother from long term care.

“When are we going to find out what the real number is?”

Senior’s Advocate Dr. Vivian Stamatopoulos, says there are very simple things the province could have done right away to prove

they are serious about seniors in care including implementing four hours of care per resident per day now instead of four years from now.

Stamatopoulos also says giving families access to seniors again would help repair some of the damage.

And she says they should reinstate surprise inspections with penalties for offenders.

Natalie Mehra of the health coalition says families are “deeply disappointed Premier Ford and the

long term care minister, Merilee Fullerton, would not even be in the Legislature to hear their stories.

Merha says the coalition is now “looking at private criminal charges against the homes” and will “call the coroner to see where he stands” on charges against homes where seniors died from neglect.

Meantime the families aren’t sure the province will ever do anything to make the situation better now.

“I think they’re plugging their nose and walking away,” says Julia Blushak.

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Editorial

Blame for all

Do not be fooled. Premier Doug Ford is using politics to change the channel on his government’s abysmal, and some would say, criminal handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The premier, after disappearing the day the Long Term Care Commission’s report came out three weeks ago, extended the Stay-at-Home order until June 2.

He said little. The order is extended. Students will continue online. Outdoor activities are a no-go for now.

And then, Ford said what he really came to say; don’t look at what we’re doing because really, the federal government is to blame.

Ford has been laying low, many pundits say, because his popularity has plummeted. He’s hired a pit bull strategist who has worked for the Tories and the Republicans in the US in the past to get his polling numbers back on track.

What they’ve landed on is a strategy of deflecting the poor decision making of the province to blaming the federal government for “letting the variants into Ontario through the porous borders.” Ford spoke at length about it.

Let’s be clear; the federal government should have acted sooner to stop international travel at the beginning of the pandemic. And there are holes in the quarantine system - one which many Canadians are taking advantage of. However, there is more than enough blame for the provincial government and Doug Ford to bear.

Time and time again, Ford chose to cherry pick the advice from scientists who understand how viruses work to create regulations. Many of the rules were confusing and frustrating. In trying to give businesses in the province a way to make a living, he only prolonged their agony by allowing the virus to spread.

Nearly 4,000 people died in long term care - more when you consider those who died of neglect because families were not able to check on them. Ford blames almost all of it on the problems of the past when his own commission found Ford and his government made poor decisions which cost lives.

The Ford government wants you to believe all the problems in this pandemic are everyone else’s fault. The truth is many of the blunders lay at the Ford government’s feet.

Letters to the Editor

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

Our Story



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

This postcard gives you a look at Victoria Hall in all its glory before Victoria Park was fully treed. It also gives you a view of Greenfield Street with many trees leading down to Dufferin Ave where the Charlotte Englehart Memorial Hospital was and remains today.

Drivers, you have been warned to stay off Greenfield

Be forewarned drivers of Petrolia and Central Lambton; the neighbours on Greenfield Street are considering rising up. And it ain’t going to be pretty.

For the people of Greenfield Street the summer of 2021 likely won’t be remembered for warm days and cool drinks, our collective memories will instead be punctuated by the constant thumping, bumping and shaking of being a neighbourhood under construction.

The work has already begun on the major reconstruction of the street. It was long overdue, but it will still be a major inconvenience.

Workers have already peeled back the concrete, leaving a gravel surface. That makes for a huge amount of dust, especially because it has been a dry spring.

And there is noise. My favourite moment so far was a front-end loader trying to break up a concrete drive way

right across the street from my house. At 7 am.

The entire house shook and, of course, there was no more sleeping for me. Oh to be a teenager who can sleep through all the racket.

Even when the construction workers go home, we deal with the mess. Adventurers bring their pickups, SUVs, Jeeps, and, yes, even their dirt bikes and dune buggies to bounce down the street. It’s fun for them.

For us, not so much.

One grey GMC pickup, whose licence plate I didn’t catch, must have been going about 70 km/h - on a street which was closed. The dust billowed higher than the trees.

The shrieks of the gardeners that “the road is CLOSED!” were ignored.

This of course led to a neighbourhood “meeting” where several ideas were discussed - yelling back and forth over the block. There

was a spike belt, calls to police, a checkpoint and my personal favourite, water balloons lobbed at the offenders as they kicked up the dust.

For now, Greenfield Street is doing what most normal people do; we asked town hall to put up more signs to keep people who shouldn’t be there out.

But who knows though how long this rag-tag group will wait. There are rumblings and the Greenfield army may arm itself with signs, flags and who knows - water balloons. Drivers of Petrolia, you have been warned.



Heather Wright

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Canada

Dry weather helps farmers get grains in early

Heather Wright
The Independent

The tractors are kicking up a lot of dust in the fields, but Agricultural Economist Phillip Shaw isn't too worried about it right now.

Shaw, who farms near Dresden and into Lambton County, says this spring has been very dry. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority in the London area is issuing a low water advisory. It says the region received only 61 per cent of its regular rainfall in April and about 46 per cent of normal over the last three months.

Kevin Marriott, a director with the Grain Farmers in Lambton County, says it is the driest weather he's seen in decades.

"I've been telling people I've never seen this dry since 1988 was the year of the extreme, hot dry ...The only difference now is that it's cool."

Marriott says the ground in Lambton had just warmed up enough in the last couple of weeks and that's sent farmers out on the field.

The dry weather has been a boon for farmers wanting to get out and get planting says Shaw. He's finished putting his corn in the ground and has about one-third of his soybean acreage planted, much earlier than normal.

"The only limiting factor right now is me," he says noting he can't work 24 hours a day.

The earlier than normal plant is unusual in southern Ontario where Shaw says usually farmers are "managing against the wet."

"This year is so dry, a lot of crops are already planted."

Shaw estimates up to 80 per cent of the corn crop from Essex to the Quebec border is in the ground.

Of course, the ground is dry and



Agricultural Economist Phillip Shaw

Shaw says once all the grains are in the ground, the rain can start.

"I think farmers want it dry and then as soon as we have the crop in, we want the moisture," he says.

"That's the nature of the business."

Marriott adds he will be interested to see how soybeans, which were planted in April and had to endure a couple of nights of frost, will fare this season.

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

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Brooke-Alvinston shells out \$1.3 million to start Shiloh Line work

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston is moving ahead with the reconstruction of Shiloh Line even though the lowest bid is \$1.3 million more than first expected.

Treasurer Stephen Ikert says the municipality applied for a grant for the project, which will see the road rebuilt from AW Campbell Conservation Area to Forest Road with shoulders for pedestrians and cyclists, in 2019. At the time, staff expected the project to cost \$3,089,130.

In the spring of 2020, the federal and provincial government approved the project and offered to cover about 93 per cent of the project - about \$2.8 million.

Brooke-Alvinston would only have to cover \$206,045 of the project and any cost overruns.

That's where the problem came in. When the municipality asked for bids on the project, the lowest price came from Cope Construction at \$4,345,034.90 - a 40 per cent cost overrun.

Ikert told council there were a number of options including cancelling the project, continue and borrow the

money to fund the extra, use money left in the township's reserves to fund the extra or change the project to bring the costs in line with the budget.

Ikert says borrowing the money means Brooke-Alvinston would have less money for other projects in the future. Over 10 years, he estimates it will cost about \$75,000 to finance the loan.

Ikert says there is \$1.3 million in reserves, but that would mean there would be no money set aside for road projects in the future.

Modifying the project would only work if the two levels of government would agree. And he says it would likely mean removing the paved shoulder from the construction.

Council decided to move forward, using some money from reserves to cover the cost overrun and borrowing the rest.

Councillor Jamie Armstrong says while removing the paved shoulders from the project would save money, it wouldn't be the best option.

"I've known, like, for a long time that road is dangerous. We used to warn our kids coming down there from the park all the time....the superintendent of AW Campbell Conservation Area, posted a warning about Shiloh,"

he says. "I really don't want to see this project get deferred for a year, personally, I would like to see us follow through with the project."

Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek thought there was an alternative to fully paved shoulders.

"If we're going to wait one more year, this is going to go up another 5 per cent or 10 per cent - I know for a fact. So what my idea would be is remove the paved shoulders from 79 (Nauvoo Road) to Forest Road and leaving them in from 79 to the Campbell Park."

Ikert noted that would need approval of the provincial and federal governments and it could down the project.

Mayor Dave Ferguson cautioned moving ahead at the \$4.35 million cost and borrowing some of the cash to cover the overrun could lead to tax increases of seven or eight per cent in the coming years.

Armstrong argued the full project should move ahead. "If we don't do this project, now, I would not want to guess how long we may have to wait to do this project," he says.

Council in a 3-2 vote agreed to move forward using some cash from reserves and borrowing the rest.

COVID-19 ices Petrolia Fair for second year in a row

Heather Wright
The Independent

It will be another year without the Petrolia Enniskillen Fall Fair.

The president of the Petrolia Enniskillen Agricultural Society, Demi Krall, made the announcement via social media this week.

"I am sad to say that our 2021 Fall Fair is cancelled."

While vaccines are now starting to make an impact in Ontario, there is still a lot of uncertainty for community groups planning large events – uncertainty over how many people will be able to gather in one spot or what

the COVID-19 protocols might be.

"I'm sure you probably already saw this coming," says Krall "but as I said last year, we have to follow government rules.

"More importantly we have to do what's best for the health and safety of our community and volunteers," she says.

"To put it simply, this sucks!"


Petrolia is the second Central Lambton fair to announce it won't run this year because of the pandemic. Plympton-Wyoming announced last month it won't be hosting an event this year because of the ongoing pandemic and the concern over large gatherings.




Fair fun will have to wait another year in Petrolia.

CORRECTION

In the April 29, 2021 edition of *The Independent*, the photo in Our Story was misidentified as Braemore School and should be correctly identified as SS#8 Euphemia Township Ousley School. The Lambton Archive says the photo was misidentified in our collections. We regret the error and the confusion it caused.



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TURNING HEADS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Deo Nliba, 3, was turning heads as he made his way down Petrolia Line Tuesday with his mom, Sherri. The young driver was not only carefully navigating the sidewalk, he was towing his truck behind him.

Parkway traffic won't slow down

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Despite a push from Port Lambton residents the speed limit will remain 70 km/h along the St. Clair Parkway. The stretch in question runs from Holt Line down to Riverview Central Public School. Around 30 people living there, representing more than 85 per cent of the neighbourhood's homes, wrote letters requesting council consider a speed reduction to 50 km/h. Staff conducted a speed study and found the average speed of vehicles travelling the portion of road was 68.7 km/h. Eighty-five per cent of vehicles were going less than 78.48 km/h.

The OPP performed their own speed monitoring in the area and reported they "did not observe vehicles travelling at a rate notably in excess of the posted speed limit." They'll be performing another focused patrol of the road in the coming weeks. Based on the findings staff recommended no change to the speed limit and council unanimously agreed. Following a request by Councillor Rose Atkins, staff will revisit the issue to determine if a solid yellow line could be installed instead. A 2019 request to reduce speeds by the same amount between Corunna and Mooretown was also denied at the time.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Summer classic posed to run in PW

Heather Wright
The Independent

The crack of the bat and the splash of children in the pool will be heard in Plympton-Wyoming this summer. As groups struggle to provide summer programs and events during the pandemic, the Camlachie Athletic Association is getting ready to provide baseball. Municipal council approved the group's COVID-19 plan on May 12. The association says it will do its best to make the game safe for everyone. That includes screening for the virus, no sharing water bottles, everyone using their own chairs, fogging the bleachers and dugouts and having volunteers assigned to sanitize everything from balls and bats to door knobs in the umpires room. "Although baseball is moderate in contact, there are several factors that each Member Organization will need to evaluate. Our traditional ways of competing will need to be altered in many instances to allow us to

be back on the field of play while minimizing the risk of infection," wrote the association in its protocol. The association plans to run local games and compete in the area. But that may be limited depending on the spread of the virus. "Travel outside of your public health zone is not permitted to an area of lesser restriction," says the protocol. Some spectators will also be allowed. And some of the regulations, while they make sense, would seem odd in normal times. "Players shall not lick their fingers, blow on their hands or otherwise go to their mouth. When a pitcher violates this rule the umpire will stop the game, the pitcher will be required to sanitize his/her hands and the game ball will be replaced." Adult teams will also be expected to follow the rules and keep a contact list of the people involved in the games. Meantime, the town is also preparing for another season at the Wyoming pool. It's looking to hire lifeguards for July and August.

MP Marilyn Gladu
Sarnia-Lambton

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Petrolia sidewalk policy could be ignored

Heather Wright
The Independent

A new draft policy on sidewalks would allow Petrolia staff to override the policy without consulting the public.

There has been a push from residents for more sidewalks while developers and council has resisted the idea, saying it adds costs to neighbours. But a wellness plan created with Bluewater Health encouraged Petrolia to become a more walkable community. So council asked planning officials to look at the sidewalk policy.

On April 29, the town held a public meeting on the draft Official Plan Amendment which deals with sidewalks.

Lambton County Planner, Rob Nesbitt, outlined a number of policies which would have sidewalks on both sides of arterial roads, like Petrolia Line, collector roads such as Dufferin and Tank, and local roads.

According to the proposal, sidewalks

along arterial and collector streets will be a minimum width of 1.8 metres and along local streets a minimum width of 1.5 metres

The plan calls for a boulevard between the street and sidewalk “in all new residential subdivisions, except where physical conditions prohibit them.”

What was most surprising was a new policy which “will allow the Town’s Director of Public Works to modify or not apply the policies related to sidewalks when the implementation of the policies is not feasible or practical...(to) allow staff to make appropriate and timely decisions ... rather than delaying such decisions until a future Council meeting,” the report reads.

That worried Petrolia resident Liz Welsh, who is a former councillor. “It allows for no public consultation and I don’t think that should have been. That’s not accessible government and it’s not transparent.”

There will be another public meeting in the future before it goes to council.

New pumping stations, force mains to be studied

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming is moving ahead with an Environmental Assessment of its waste water management system.

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.

“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.”

In some cases the pumps were working against each other and “the force mains under tremendous pressure...the force mains themselves may have not been designed and installed in the most efficient manner.”

Council agreed to hire Jacobs to do the

Environmental Assessment of the system at a cost of \$49,500. In its proposal, the company says it will look at a number of different options including increasing pump sizes or constructing new pumping stations and equalization tanks.

The study will also look at upgrading pumping stations, particularly along the Lakeshore where development is strong.

That prompted Councillor Netty McEwen to again ask if the problem with the pumping stations was due to too much development.

“Development does add additional sewage to be moved,” says Sobanski. “But the existing problem is not capacity above what the pumping stations were designed for; the existing issue is that the pump stations are not able to work as they were designed.

“So the capacity coming in is not exceeding their design capacity. It’s the stations themselves cannot pump what they’re designed to do.”

Jacobs expects to have a final report for council in October.

It will have solutions which should be implemented over the next five years, says Sobanski.

Volleyball courts going up in Wyoming this summer

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming is installing two new outdoor volleyball courts in Wilpstra Park.

Council discussed the move at length during the May 12 council meeting after the parks committee suggested the idea.

It gave council a couple of ideas for location including the “Wilpstra Tot Park” which currently doesn’t have a lot of amenities.

It also suggested McKay Park, where many outdoor features, including the skateboard park and the splash pad are

already located.

Wilpstra Park was the final choice, however Councillor Gary Atkinson suggested council write to the neighbours to let them know what was going on.

“I think we owe it to them,” he says.

“I think we all would prefer that if that was where we lived, is to (have council) say ‘this is what’s going on, there probably won’t be at nighttime activity -just in the daytime. We’re not planning on putting any lights up.’” Staff will write the letter and the plan will move ahead unless there is opposition from the neighbours.

Petrolia Pizzafest virtual for its eighth edition

The Independent

The eighth annual Petrolia Pizzafest will once again be a virtual event.

The festival celebrating all things pizza will be held June 4 and 5 with seven local pizza places taking part.

“We had plans to return to (Victoria) Park this year but know that we need to wait a bit longer for that,” says Director of Facilities and Community Services, Dave Menzies noting the province’s COVID-19 regulations

don’t allow large groups to gather.

“We wanted to offer something that is fun for families to enjoy, from the comfort of their own homes.”

Athena’s Diner, Bud’s Pizza, Godfathers Pizza, Helen’s Hideaway Family Restaurant, Johnny G’s Premium Pizza Plus, Petrolia Pizza and Subs and Wise Guys Inc. will all be offering specials on the weekend and the town will be hosting entertainment with some of the area’s favourite performers for free via Facebook.

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Sixty years of adventures leads to a new challenge

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

After sixty years of marriage, most people hit the links or relax in the yard. But Bill and Linda Barton marked their diamond wedding anniversary last Thursday by talking with *The Independent* in the middle of their new Florence business.

Bill and Linda grew up close together in Toronto, near the Humber River. Bill’s father was in the army, serving six years overseas during World War Two. Bill and the family lived in wartime housing in York.

Linda’s uncle also signed up to serve, and as it happened their family ended up living across the street from Bill’s. Bill would often visit her four cousins, which is where Bill first met Linda; usually chasing her away, an early sign a crush was developing.

When he was 17, Bill signed up for the artillery corps, where he served three years. One weekend during this stretch his cousin called asking if Bill was coming home for the weekend. He had arranged a blind date for Bill.

When Bill showed up the mystery girl was the person he’d chased away years earlier. A little over a year later, Bill and Linda were married.

Since then the pair raised three children, had nine grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Their last 35 years have been spent farming and working in Shelburne following a twist of fate.

Returning back to Brampton from their Lake Simcoe cottage one weekend, traffic was busy. They instead took Highway 89 west, ending up in the small town.

While walking the Shelburne streets looking for a cup of coffee an ad caught their eye: 60 acres of farmland for \$89,000.

“Guess what? We’re buying that!” Bill remembers saying. Linda says they had no farming experience whatsoever, though Bill counters that he did spend time on a farm when he was four years old.

The farm started with a few cattle,



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Bill and Linda Barton decided after 60 years of marriage, and some interesting adventures, they needed one more challenge. Their new variety store in Florence had just opened as they celebrated their milestone anniversary.

later expanding to include turkeys and chickens. The farmhouse expanded too, starting off at 900 square feet and over three decades later standing at nearly 4000. Many family members occupied its walls over time.

But last year, Bill and Linda decided it was finally time to sell the farm they’d called home. They moved into their daughter’s house in Florence. That’s when a new opportunity presented itself.

The Old Mill Store was up for sale, coincidentally built by one of Bill and Linda’s sons. But it had fallen into a state of disrepair under current ownership. The couple purchased the property with one idea in mind.

“We’ve done it just for the town, no other reason,” says Bill. Over the past several months they’ve turned the derelict lot and building into a variety store offering food items, pharmacy goods and home supplies. There’s also a restaurant side ready to open, once

COVID restrictions allow it.

Bill and Linda say they want Florence residents to be able to buy food without leaving town. A loaf of bread or bag of milk would previously require a trip to Thamesville or Bothwell. “We’re doing our part to try and get everybody to stay home,” says Bill.

The store is now open and keeping the couple busy. RV trips across the country and golf outings have been replaced with renovations and stocking shelves. But they still managed to take some time to celebrate with some Chinese food for dinner Thursday, 60 years after tying the knot.

“The secret is to try and do something for your partner each day. It doesn’t matter whether it’s a cup of tea or you pick up something that’s fallen on the floor,” says Bill on the key to six decades together.

“And have a good sense of humour,” adds Linda.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Petrolia Farmers’ Market set to open June 5 with COVID rules

The Independent

Petrolia’s Farmers’ Market will open June 5 but it won’t be a social gathering hub, at least while the province continues to deal with the COVID pandemic.

Dave Menzies, director of Community Services in Petrolia says for the second year in a row, the

market will be set up to encourage people to visit vendors – at a distance – without large crowds.

The vendors will be set up facing Station and Fletcher Streets with no central walking path. Instead, people will be asked to follow a new footpath set out in the area.

There will only be eight vendors to start the season and masks will be

encouraged at the market when six feet distance can’t be maintained.

The Kerr Market also won’t be open and there will not be any socializing while the current Stay-At-Home restrictions are in place. Officials say they may be eased as the province lifts restrictions.

The market will open at 7:30 am.

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Sports

LCCVI’s Frew commits to Lambton’s soccer

Barry Wright
The Independent

Petrolia’s Caitlynn Frew is the latest piece of the puzzle to commit to the Lambton College women’s soccer program in hopes of playing this fall.

She was among the offensive leaders at LCCVI

during the ‘19 season.

Frew also played club soccer with the Strathroy United FC U-18 side.

“During her soccer career, Frew has achieved high levels of both individual and team success,” said a statement announcing her commitment on the Lambton Athletics website.

“As a group, she has been part of two league championship teams, and a finalist in a third season.

At Lambton College, Frew will look to replicate her success at the collegiate level and will have a group of players around her who are all looking to do the same.”

She joins five other recent recruits from the area over the past two weeks, including Lancer teammate Sarah Sanders of Wyoming.

The others are Sarnia’s Erin Murray and McKenna Gardner, Desiree Moniz of Strathroy and London’s Kayla Caeiro.

Mueller fouls out in final Big Ten track and field event

Barry Wright
The Independent

Marissa Mueller’s Big Ten track and field career came to a disappointing conclusion Sunday when she fouled out of the women’s javelin

competition at the Big Ten Outdoor Track and Field Championship at the University of Illinois.

Over her four-year career with the University of Iowa Hawkeyes, shortened by COVID, the LCCVI grad captured several Top 10

finishes including winning the Musco Twilight event on her home campus in 2018 where she set a personal best of 47.02 metres.

She will attend the University of Oxford in England on a Rhodes Scholarship this fall,

followed by further study at Harvard Medical School.

While she ended her athletic career fouling out, Mueller was the valedictorian of the graduating class at University of Iowa.

Plympton-Wyoming’s Harper drafted by Boston-area club

Barry Wright
The Independent

Austin Harper has been drafted by the Islanders Hockey Club of the National Collegiate Development Conference (NCDC) of the USPHL.

The Islanders play on

the campus of Merrimack College, about 45 minutes north of Boston.

The NCDC is a 13-team tuition-free league dedicated to the mission of player development and advancement to college hockey, according to its website.

Harper had 24 goals and 52 points in 40 regular season and playoff games with the Lambton Jr. Sting in 2019-20 before being selected in the 10th round by the Sarnia Sting in the 2020 OHL Priority Selection.

The Junior Sting Captain

added two assists in six regular season and playoff games with the Sarnia Legionnaires that same season.

He was scheduled to play with the Legionnaires this past season before the 2020-21 campaign was cancelled due to COVID.

Brigden native season with Griffins over for this year

The Independent

The 2020-21 hockey season has come to end for Kaden Fulcher. He was pulled early in a 6-4 loss to Cleveland in the season finale with the AHL’s Grand

Rapids Griffins last Friday.

The Griffins are the top farm club for the NHL’s Detroit Red Wings.

The Brigden product finished the season with a record of 2-2-2 with a goal-against average of 2.84 and

a save percentage of .905.

He also earned his first career AHL shutout.

The OHL champion with the Hamilton Bulldogs also spent a considerable amount of time this season on the Wings’ taxi squad.

The Griffins finished third in the Central Division with a record of 16-12-4.

Last month, the league cancelled its traditional Calder Cup playoffs due to COVID-19 protocols.

OHL hockey set to start October 7 according to league officials

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Ontario Hockey League is hoping to drop the puck on a new season on October 7.

“It’s an exciting time

for everyone as we turn our attention to a new season,” said Commissioner David Branch in a recent statement. “We look forward to getting our players back into their OHL communities where they can continue

to pursue their goals both on the ice and in the classroom.”

Players will report to training camps on Saturday, September 4 before the League embarks on a conventional 68-game

regular season schedule, Branch said.

He says a full schedule, including one for the Sarnia Sting, is expected to be released in the coming weeks.

Women’s driving championship comes to Dresden Raceway this year

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Ontario Women’s Driving Championship is coming to Dresden Raceway in July.

The cream of the crop in women’s harness racing drivers in Ontario will be making a stop at Dresden Raceway this summer. The second leg of the two-day event comes to Dresden Sunday, July 18. The first race is in Clinton a day



Britt Kennedy will compete in the women’s series at Dresden Raceway earlier.

Each track will hold five races for the Ontario Women’s Driving Championship with drivers earning points depending on how they place.

Drivers in Dresden will donate their earnings to “Harness for Hope”, a

London-based fundraising initiative that supports breast cancer programs, awareness, and research.

Classifieds

Notice

REMINDER - The deadline for applications to the SCRCAs 2021 Conservation Scholarships is fast approaching (May 31, 2021). Please visit our website for more information on eligibility and how to apply: <https://www.scrca.on.ca/foundation/scholarships/>

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.

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 May, June, September, and October.

Celebration

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May 19th

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Love Sandi, Marie & grandchildren

In Memory



In loving memory of
LLOYD LONG
ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY
December 9, 1935 - May 23, 2020
*If I could write a story,
It would be the greatest ever told
Of a kind and loving father
Who had a heart of gold.
I could write a million pages
But still be unable to say just how
Much I love and miss him
Every single day.
I will remember all he taught me.
I'm hurt but won't be sad,
Because he'll send me down the answers,
And he'll always be my dad.
From Ruth, Laurie, Karen and family*

In Memory

In memory of
JOHN DUFFY
Who passed away five year ago
May 22, 2016
*To lose someone so special is really hard to bear,
It hardly seems believable that you're no longer here.
You left us far to early, before your time it seems,
and now you will never have the chance to fulfill all
your dreams.
However hard it is though, we will comfort in the
thought, of all the memories that we have and the
happiness you're bringing.
You always lived life to
the fullest but ours will
never be the same until
the day we can see your
smiling face again.*
Love always and Forever xoxo,
Mom, Dad & Sister Myrna



Coming Event

Watford Warwick
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PLANT SALE - Perennial
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es. Self Serve. We will recycle
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Coming Events

STEAM - Get creative at home
with Lambton County Library.
Pick up a DIY kit at one of our
participating curbside pickup lo-
cations to make **Jumping Frogs**.
Register by **Sunday, May 23,**
2021 to reserve your kit here:
[https://lclibrary.libnet.info/
event/4946264](https://lclibrary.libnet.info/event/4946264)

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 Farm-
ers' market during the 2021 Sea-
son. 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 un-
der 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 sepa-
rated 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 un-
acceptable items home.

Card of Thanks




Thank
You!

I wish to thank the I.O.D.E., the United
Church, friends, neighbours and
everyone that sent me well wishes for
my 90th Birthday on May 8th.
All the gifts, food, cards, flowers and loving support
were all appreciated.
Eula Evans

Obituary


McNEIL
Christopher Scott
Christopher Scott McNeil died
peacefully at home in Petrolia,
on **Wednesday May 12, 2021**
at the age of **69**. Chris spent
many years helping with Petrolia
minor soccer and hockey, as his
son's were growing up. Worked
at Nova Corunna for 35 years.
Unfortunately he passed away
due to Cancer. He spent his final
days at home with family around
him. His loving wife Jennifer
McNeil, his sons Steve (Wife
Jeannette) and Alan McNeil.
His Grandchildren Matt and
Emily. **Private family burial
at Resurrection Cemetery,
Sarnia.** Donation to VON www.von.ca in Chris's memory would
be greatly appreciated. He will
truly be missed and his family
is forever grateful to have such
a wonderful man in their lives.
Thank you for everything. We
Love You. Arrangements by
Needham-Jay Funeral Home
www.needhamjay.com.

Obituary




PACKET
Marvin
With tremendous sadness the
brothers and sisters of Marvin
Jeffrey Packet, **48 years**,
announce his passing with
heavy hearts at C.E.E. Hospital
of Bluewater Health, Petrolia on
Thursday, May 13, 2021. Marvin
was predeceased by his parents
Raymond (2013) and Joanne
(nee Johnson)(2007) Packet and
his sister Laura Packet (2003).
He will be missed by his siblings
Eugene (Susan) Packet, Lynne
Packet, Eileen Packet, and Tim
(Sarah) Packet and his nieces
and nephews Dustin, Shane, Bailey,
Deanna, Kate, Clara, and Eric.
**A private service for Marvin
will be held with interment in
Wyoming Cemetery.** As Marv
enjoyed attending the livestock
show at the Wyoming Fall Fair
and tractor pull, expressions
of sympathy may be made to
Plympton-Wyoming Agricultural
Society or Wyoming Lions Club.
Arrangements by Needham-
Jay Funeral Home, Petrolia
www.needhamjay.com.

Obituary



GABORKO
Elizabeth "Betty"
Peacefully, surrounded by her
beloved family, on **Friday, May
14, 2021**, at Bluewater Health,
Elizabeth "Betty" Gaborko passed
away at the age of **92**. Beloved
wife of the late John (2019) for
72 years. Loving mother of Linda
Gaborko (Bruce Bennett), Evelyn
Gaborko (Bob Jones), and Tom
(Linda) Gaborko. Cherished
grandmother of Trevor Bennett
(Stephanie Ryan) and Seth Bennett
(Maria Adey), Rob Gaborko,
Melissa Gaborko (Jay Culbert),
and Kristy and Barry Jones.
Treasured great-grandmother
of Oliver and Eloise Culbert and
Emma and Griffin Knight. Dear
sister of Paul (Pat) Zimmerman,
Lloyd (Donna) Zimmerman, and
Les (Nancy) Zimmerman. Lovingly
remembered by several nieces
and nephews. Betty will be dearly
missed by all those who knew and
loved her. She was active in the
UCW with the United Church and
other charitable organizations.
**Close relatives were received
at Smith Funeral Home, 1576
London Line, Sarnia, on
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 from
10:00 to 11:00 a.m. A private
funeral service was held for
immediate family only. A video
of the funeral service will be
available on Betty's memorial
page on the Smith Funeral
Home website.** Sympathy
may be expressed through
donations to St. Joseph's Hospice
(cheques mailed to the funeral
home or made online, please).
Arrangements entrusted to SMITH
FUNERAL HOME, 1576 London
Line, Sarnia. Memories and
condolences may be sent online
at www.smithfuneralhome.ca

Obituary



TREMBLAY
Doris
Tremblay, Doris - Heaven has a
new angel, our beautiful mother
was welcomed home by God,
and into the loving embrace of
Raymond who has been waiting
for her for nine years. She is
survived by her children Marie
(Sime) Burcul, Carol (George)
Vosburg, Jean Sefeldas, Henry
(Karen) Tremblay, Rose (Bob)
Clements, Shirley (Ken) Kingston,
and Rick (Gayle) Tremblay, her
19 grandchildren and 18 great
grandchildren who are thankful
to have had her as their mother
and meme. In addition to being
a fabulous mother, Doris worked
as a full partner on their farms
near Inwood. She enjoyed
friends and community, and took
part in many activities, such as
card parties, square dancing,
and social gatherings at Shiloh
community centre. She was a
faithful member of the St. Philips
Parish Community. Doris is also
survived by her brother Francis
Jubenville and sister Irene (Ben)
Smit. She is predeceased by
her husband Raymond (2012),
her parents Clarence (1992)
and Amendine (Giroux)(1971)
Jubenville, her brothers Robert
(2021), Leonard (1998), Donald
(2013), and Leo (2013), and her
grandchildren Aaron Vosburg
(1979), Allison Tremblay (1985),
and Justin Tremblay (1990). The
family would like to thank the staff
of Lambton Meadowview Villa for
the care they provided for our
mother over the past nine years,
especially during the lockdown
as they stepped up to show her
love and compassion in addition
to the high standard of care
provided. **A private service was
held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021
at 11 am and will be availbe to
view at [www.facebook.com/
NeedhamJay](http://www.facebook.com/NeedhamJay). Interment will
be in Mount Calvary Cemetery.**
As expressions of sympathy,
memorial donations may be
made to the Arthritis Society (www.arthritis.ca) or the Heart
and Stroke Foundation([www.
heartandstroke.ca](http://www.heartandstroke.ca)). Arrangements
by Needham-Jay Funeral Home
www.needhamjay.com.

Obituary

NOTICE
**CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY
RELAY FOR LIFE ON SATURDAY,
JUNE 12** - Join the Canadian Can-
cer Society on Saturday, June 12
to Relay for Life from the comfort
of your own home! Sarnia-Lamb-
ton residents of all ages are wel-
come 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 compo-
nents of our in-person events,
including an opening ceremony
with inspirational stories, perfor-
mances from incredible entertain-
ers, a virtual luminary celebration
and more to help celebrate survi-
vors 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 Face-
book.com/SarniaRelayForLife.

Coming Events

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
PETROLIA - Online Silent Auc-
tion.** 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](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@hot-
mail.com](mailto:StPaulsFundraising@hotmail.com) call/text 519-312-6505.
Thank your for your support!!

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

Notice

In order to improve response times and provide better customer service, Lambton Public Health unveiled a new dedicated Vaccine Call Centre which will operate from **Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Individuals with COVID-19 vaccine inquiries are asked to call this new phone number to speak with an agent directly. **The new Vaccine Call Centre can be reached at 226-254-8222.**

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.

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/>

Death Notices

May 8 - May 14, 2021

SATURDAY, MAY 8

DESROCHERS, Paul Raymond
Age 64, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

TELFER, Marion
Age 87, of Forest
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

IACCINO, Mike
Age 88, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

JAMIESON, Mary "Joyce"
Age 91, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SHARPE, Derrick
Age 92, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

MILLER, Frances
Age 93, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MacDONALD, Joan
Age 95, of Forest
Gilpin Funeral Home

SUNDAY, MAY 9

SCOTT, John
Age 63, of Sarnia
D.J. Funeral Home

DAYMAN, Rosemary
Age 66, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

WARK, Lloyd
Age 74, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

DA SILVA, Maria Alice
Age 85, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

TUESDAY, MAY 11

DE JOURDAN, Mary Jean
Age 2, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

KNIGHT, Kathleen
Age 78, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

SELMAN, Helen
Age 92, of London
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

McNEIL, Chris
Age 69, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WATSON, Gertrude
Age 93, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

THURSDAY, MAY 13
WILSON-STEWART, Ashley
Age 37, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

PACKET, Marvin
Age 48, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

BROOKS, David
Age 63, of Wyoming
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

FULTON, Dianna
Age 66, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

PELLETIER, Janice Anne
Age 68, of Forest
Gilpin Funeral Home

DOUGLAS, Ken
Age 78, of Brooke-Alvinston
Van Heck Funeral Home

FORSYTHE, Diane
Age 84, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

BAKER, Ira Mae
Age 95, of Forest
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

FRIDAY, MAY 14

KARR, Coleen Donelda
Age 53, of Forest
Denning's of Forest


BALWAH, Lystra Jean
Age 81, of Forest
Denning's of Forest

TREMBLAY, Doris
Age 88, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

GABORKO, Elizabeth "Betty"
Age 92, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

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

Church DIRECTORY



Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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

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

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia
(Behind the Post Office)

In this time of Social distancing we invite you to join a virtual congregation and watch the Sunday morning worship at St. Andrew's.
10am Service - Live
www.standrews-petrolia.ca

St. Paul's United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In-person services have been suspended. Services can be viewed on our facebook page, youtube page, or website.

View us on YouTube at
St Paul's United Church Petrolia AV
10:30am Service
Rev. Carey Wagner
Church Office: 519-882-1390
www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

First Baptist Church

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

WORSHIP SERVICES
Via ZOOM
Sunday Mornings 10:30am

Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
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 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

Business & Service Directory

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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.

COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING

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



GOODBYE TO A FRIEND



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

Wyoming poured out its heart after the death of Randy Charge. Charge and his wife own the Wyoming Home Hardware and Randy was active in a number of service clubs including the Wyoming Lions, the Boy Scouts and as a Shriner, often seen in local parades in the little cars delighting crowds. Residents put messages of comfort on the store's windows when he passed. Mayor Lonny Napper paid tribute to Charge saying “Randy was a big part of our downtown...He touched a lot of lives here. Randy was just one great guy and it's going to be a big loss to the downtown businesses.”

Conditional sentence for knife wielding incident

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man faces a lengthy probation after pleading guilty to ambushing a romantic rival.

Matthew Sylvester, 20, plead guilty in March to assaulting another man with a knife last November.

The Crown referred to the weapon as “machete-style,” and the victim said the blade was more than a foot long.

The reason for the attack: a dispute over a woman.

Sylvester learned a friend of his had been involved with a woman he’d previously dated. Sylvester’s friend learned he was upset so he reached out to apologize and believed it was over.

But Sylvester wasn’t ready to let it go. During a late-night hangout with friends at his Michigan Avenue home Sylvester asked the man to help him take the trash out to the road. The pair went outside but upon lifting the garbage can the friend found it empty.

Sylvester’s request had been a trap. As soon as his friend turned around he was struck in the face with the weapon, stunning him.

Sylvester continued to strike him in the face causing lacerations to his nose and cheek. The man recovered and ran around a truck in the driveway, allowing time for other friends in the house to come out and subdue Sylvester.

Sylvester returned to court May 11 for sentencing where the Crown pushed for a conditional sentence.

“This was an assault against a friend of a violent nature resulting in significant laceration injuries to that individual,” says Crown Attorney David Nicol. The friend was taken to Bluewater Health where he received several stitches to repair cuts to his nose and cheek.

Nicol says despite Sylvester’s belief his friend had betrayed him, “the response, including this assault against the victim, is wholly inappropriate and requires the denunciation that a conditional sentence more properly

imposes as opposed to simply a probation order.”

Defence Lawyer Don Henderson wanted his client placed on probation. “What he did on the night in question was a stupid thing... He appears to have been upset because of the response of this individual,” he says.

Henderson added Sylvester says the man wasn’t “being apologetic or remorseful for what had occurred.”

“His remorse is obvious,” says Henderson of his client’s conduct.

“To say that there’s a necessity for the public interest for him to be made an example of because of his actions... seems not to really grasp what took place on a very spur of the moment decision.”

But Justice Krista Leszczynski felt there were enough aggravating factors to warrant the more serious sentence. “This was an unprovoked attack by Mr. Sylvester against a friend. It involves the use of a knife, the attack itself is not just one strike but rather multiple strikes to the victim’s face and it caused significant injury to the victim’s face,” she says.

“Because it involves violence... it is one that requires a form of denunciation in the form of a custodial sentence,” says Leszczynski. “I’m not satisfied that a suspended sentence in these circumstances is fit and appropriate. Rather a conditional sentence order is much more appropriate.”

This means Sylvester will serve the first six months of his punishment under strict conditions. He’ll be under house arrest for four months and a 10 pm to 6 am curfew for the final two. Sylvester can’t have any drugs or alcohol during that time. After that he’ll begin a year of probation.

Leszczynski also ordered anger management and wellness counselling for Sylvester during the 18 months. He receives a 10 year weapons ban, will submit a DNA order, can’t contact or go near the victim and forfeits the knife.

- THE INDEPENDENT



Your turn
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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
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