

PICTURE PERFECT WEEKEND



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The summer-like temperatures sent people to the water this weekend. The thermometer climbed to above 30 C across southern Ontario. Here, a kayaker takes in a sunset on the waters of Lake Huron in Plympton-Wyoming.

Ready to reopen after dismal spring

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dayana Ouzounova cannot wait for Friday. The owner of Tais Art Studio on Petrolia's main street is among the many retailers itching to open their doors after weeks of being closed down during the Third Wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ouzounova opened her doors in late November and estimates with recurring lockdowns, she's only been open a total

of one month. "It's just crazy, annoying and frustrating," says the artist who has been able to survive because she sells her products online and owns another business. Monday, the province announced retailers could reopen with 15 per cent capacity on June 11. Ouzounova says "it was the happiest day of my life. I can't wait for things to be back to normal." Ouzounova is not alone. Businesses across the province are preparing.

SEE REOPENING PG 2



Dayana Ouzounova readies for Friday

Hacked

OPP investigating cyber attack of the County of Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Hackers looking for a ransom were behind a massive computer problem at the County of Lambton, but officials aren't saying how much they actually wanted.

Lambton's Solicitor, Stephane Thiffeault, told *The Independent* June 4, the servers crashed May 28. Employees were left without email communication and all departments across the system were having a hard time accessing information.

It took the IT people until May 31 to bring email back on line.

And he says, while it's working, it is significantly slower than usual.

"We still have some server issues...meaning that some software application may be still impacted.... As an example, email, it's available at a certain speed, and that reduces as it is used," he says. Some county employees, Thiffeault adds, still do not have access to their email accounts.

The breach also affected municipal governments which rely on the county server including Plympton-Wyoming and Warwick.

"No doubt about it, frustration levels are high. But with resumption of emails, to the degree that it has resumed, and it has resumed to quite a significant degree, that helps," Thiffeault says.

"When you're so dependent on technology, and technology fails you, it gets quite frustrating in a hurry."

Thiffeault adds staff have found many innovative – and sometimes old fashioned – ways to communicate.

"The good old fashioned way of walking down the hall and talking to your colleagues has certainly increased over the last week."

Tuesday, Thiffeault confirmed the problems were caused by a hacker.

"It's a cyber incident and it's an individual who is touching our Information Technology Network," says Thiffeault.

"Typically, these things are done in order to to extort dollars and cents -absolutely; but at the end of the day, I can't comment further than that, because the investigation is ongoing."

SEE CYBER PG 2

A black and white photograph of a man and a woman looking at a diamond ring. The man is holding the ring, and the woman is looking at it with a smile. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a jewelry store.

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PIZZA PIZZAZ



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The pizza dough was flying all over Petrolia as the 8th Annual Pizzafest went virtual again this year because of the pandemic. Here Pete Salaris tosses some dough while preparing a pie Saturday afternoon. Petrolia Pizza and Subs was not only involved in Pizzafest, but was also raising money for the charity Parents for Parks.

Cyber attack investigated by OPP

CON'T FROM PG 1

Thiffeault says the investigation is being handled by the OPP and a firm which specializes in cyber attacks.

“We have specialist outside firms who handle that. We wouldn’t negotiate that on our own. We just don’t have the experience. So, at this point in time, we’re waiting for that process to evolve as why we’re not in the position to provide further information, because again, we’d be speculating at this point in time.”

The county believes none of the personal data in their system has been shared through the hack. And systems such as Lambton Public Health’s vaccine booking system were not impacted.

Hacking of municipal bodies has become more common. In 2018, several Ontario municipalities were the victim of hacking including Wasaga Beach and Midland, prompting the OPP to issue a warning

to them. In 2019, Stratford paid hackers \$75,000 to end an attack and Woodstock shelled out \$660,000 to the hackers.

Thiffeault wouldn’t reveal how much ransom the hackers were looking for nor did he have a handle yet on what the crash cost the county including the security expert.

“There’s obviously been some overtime, but other than that, there has been no estimation just yet of the dollars and cents.”

Thiffeault did say Lambton has insurance which will cover the costs of the cyber attack.

While the investigation is ongoing, Thiffeault says it’s not clear whether the people involved will ever be found.

“I’m not aware from any sources, about any data or statistics as to the frequency that they can track down individuals ... all I understand is that cyber security incidents are gaining in terms of prevalence in Ontario, Canada, North America.”

Restaurants, retail and churches reopening

CON'T FROM PG 1

Restaurant patios and non-essential retail stores will be opening Friday as the province begins the reopening of the province in the wake of the Third Wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In May, the province outlined what was necessary to begin reopening businesses after weeks of a Stay At Home order. Ontario set a target of vaccinating 60 per cent of adults with one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for two weeks. It also wanted to see the number of patients in intensive care units go down significantly.

As of Saturday, 72 per cent of people over 18 have been vaccinated with one dose with 10 million shots being given.

There are still 305 people in ICU across the province, including some from Manitoba.


Sarnia Lambton MPP, Bob Bailey, says people have done their best to stay home to get the Third Wave under control. And he’s pleased to see a good uptake in vaccines in Lambton.

Under the first phase of reopening, there will be gatherings of up to 10 people outdoors, restaurant patios can open for dining of four people per table and non-essential retail can open doors to 15 per cent of its capacity. Churches will also be able to meet indoors with 15 per cent capacity.


“There was a lot of presentations to caucus from different members who said constituents said worshipping, that is an essential service, a lot of people thought with the numbers and the vaccines, they could certainly restore those services.”

The province is expected to leave Step One restrictions in place for 21 days.


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No in-person graduations in Lambton

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The Lambton Kent District School Board says there won’t be outdoor graduation ceremonies this year.

This following a surprising announcement from Premier Doug Ford who said Wednesday he wanted to see every school hold outdoor ceremonies for every grade this summer.

“Traditional graduations are not possible, even outdoors, based on the reopening guidelines of Phase 1,” says Director of Education John Howitt.

“However we understand the spirit of the announcement and are exploring ways that when children come to pick up their personal belongings... we might be able to have some sort of a way for closure. We just haven’t settled on what that is yet.”

Like last year, some schools are planning a drive-by event to hand graduates diplomas and give them a photo opportunity.

Ford’s outdoor graduation call came during the largely expected announcement that in-person school won’t be returning until September.

Howitt says the board was planning to reopen in-person, but now they’ve “already moved past the point of disappointment that schools are not reopening.”

Howitt says although the news is a blow to many students and families, it’s still important to finish the virtual year strong.

“This by no means is an announcement that the school year is over... These two

credits they’re currently taking are very relevant toward their pathway to graduation and to be graduating within the year that they hope to,” he says of all high school kids. “For our Grade 12’s these two courses that they’re taking currently also impact scholarship abilities and diplomas for post-secondary pathways, whether those students are choosing to continue in college, university, apprenticeships or the world of work.”

With the focus now shifted to opening the doors to the classrooms in the fall, Howitt is confident the return to class will go smoothly.

“Planning for September and the next school year, our teams are reviewing what we know now and what needs to be put in place,” says Public Relations Officer Heather Hughes. “We anticipate that any plans put forward as required by the ministry and any public health measures, we’ll be able to implement those efficiently and effectively as we have in this past year.”

Hughes cautions though that “a lot of things can change between now and September... It is a bit difficult to project what will be expected for September because we just don’t know if there’s going to be any new requirements.”

Public health officials say it will be very important to get students vaccinated over the summer to make sure September is as normal as possible.

Vaccines are currently available for kids 12 and up. Health Canada is in the process of examining their safety for younger kids.

Sixty-seven per cent vaccination rate in Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Vaccine rates are climbing and the number of people with COVID-19 continues to dwindle across Ontario.

In Lambton, public health officials reported 38 new cases of COVID-19 since June 1. Thirty seven of those people are still ill.

The downward trend mirrors what is going on in Ontario, where Tuesday the province reported 469 new cases of the virus. Eighteen people died Monday, bringing the death toll in Ontario for the pandemic to 8,887.

Part of the reason COVID-19 infection rates have dropped so dramatically is the rapid increase in vaccination.

Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, said Tuesday there have been 85,685 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine administered in Lambton. That’s 67 per cent of adults over 18 and 10 per cent of kids under

17. Another 10 per cent are fully vaccinated.

Ranade told Lambton County councillors June 1 he’s expecting 30,000 doses to be shipped to the community in June to further the vaccination effort.

“From my personal perspective it is going really well,” says Ranade adding there are a lot of people in the community making the clinics possible.

He says more of those will be second doses since the province moved up the date for the second doses from 16 weeks. Ranade says people should not consider the second dose vaccine date which they received valid. Public health will email you with a new appointment date.

According to statistics released June 1, Lambton’s per capita daily COVID-19 cases has dropped dramatically from 43 per 100,000 people last week to 23 cases per 100,000. Statistics also show 1.3 per cent of all the tests in the last week came back positive.

LTC families can give hugs, hold hands post vax

The Independent

After pressure from advocacy groups, the provincial government is lifting some of the restrictions in place at long term care homes.

The province says residents who have been fully immunized can leave their long-term care homes for day and overnight social outings and trips.

Residents with mobility limitations or health conditions that make participating in outdoor visits highly unlikely or impossible may have one general visitor at a time inside

the long-term care home, in addition to an essential caregiver.


Regardless of resident and visitor vaccination status, brief hugs can now take place.

Where both the resident and visitors are fully immunized, close physical contact, including hand holding, can now take place safely.

It continues to be important that residents and visitors adhere to public health measures in the home, including good hand hygiene and appropriate masking, the ministry news release says.

CORRECTION

In the page 3 article in the May 27, 2021 edition titled *MOE wants Florence Plan by end of May* concerning Dawn-Euphemia’s ongoing sewage problems, it was incorrectly stated the township was looking for full funding from upper levels of government to fix the problem. The township also clarified the cost for the preferred system would be \$2.7 million. The article stated it would be ‘more than \$1 million.’ *The Independent* regrets the errors.



TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

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(For Watford/Warwick Township Residents ONLY)

WHEN: Saturday, June 12, 2021 **TIMES: 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

As a Warwick township resident you can take your unwanted items of refuse and e-waste to the following depots, at no charge:

LARGE ITEMS taken to Twin Creeks Landfill - 5768 Nauvoo Road

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Only large items that will not fit into a regular size garbage bag (i.e. furniture)
- Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners (freon must be removed & certification paperwork provided to the scale attendant)
- Steel - it must be sorted and put in the recyclable steel bin, at the landfill

UNACCEPTABLE WASTE:

• Tire	• PCB Waste	• Severely Toxic Waste
• Construction Materials (drywall, shingles, etc.)	• Waste Chemicals	• Biomedical Waste
• Liquid Waste	• Liquid Industrial Waste	• Pathological Waste
• Ignitable Waste	• Animal Carcasses	• Car Batteries
• Corrosive Waste	• Drums with Lids	• Paint
• Reactive Waste	• Computer Monitors	• Microwaves
	• White Goods Containing CFC’s	

Please note: Tires, Commercial, Industrial, and Agricultural Waste will be subject to regular tipping fees. Any questions can be directed to Waste Management at 519-849-5810

E-WASTE ITEMS taken to the Watford Public Works Yard - 7923 Confederation Line, Watford.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

• Amplifiers	• Audio & Video Players	• Cameras
• Cell Phones	• Computers & Peripherals	• Copiers
• Digital Cameras	• Fax Machines	• Monitors
• Papers & PDAs	• Printers	• Radios
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• Tuners	• Video Projectors	• Turntables
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FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.warwicktownship.ca Township Office: 519-849-3926

NOTICE OF SECOND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING A PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Petrolia will hold a Public Meeting on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to consider a proposed Official Plan Amendment under Section 21 of the Planning Act and a Zoning By-law Amendment under Section 34 of the Planning Act. These amendments were previously reviewed at a Public Hearing held on November 9, 2020.

THE PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT would re-designate a portion of the lands owned by 1432324 Ontario Limited and described as Part of Lots 13 and 14, Concession 9 in the Town of Petrolia from “Major Open Space” and “Hazard/Environmental Protection” to “Residential”. The Amendment would recognize a proposed extension of the Glenview Subdivision.

THE PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT would rezone the abovenoted lands from “Open Space (OS)” and “Hazard/Environmental Protection (EP)” to “Residential-1 (R1)”.

The attached Key Map is provided to show the general location of the lands to which the Amendments pertain.

ANY PERSON may attend the public meeting and/or make written or oral representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Official Plan Amendment and/or Zoning By-law Amendment. If you wish to submit a written or make an oral presentation at the public meeting, please contact the Town of Petrolia no later than 4:30 p.m. on June 25th, 2021. The public meeting will be held via a ZOOM Teleconference format.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY that files an appeal of a decision of the Town of Petrolia in respect of the proposed Official Plan Amendment and/or Zoning Bylaw Amendment, does not make oral submissions at the Public Meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the proposed Official Plan Amendment is adopted and the Zoning By-law Amendment is passed, the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal may dismiss all or part of the appeal.


IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY that files a notice of appeal of a decision of the Approval Authority, the County of Lambton, in respect of the proposed Official Plan Amendment does not make oral submissions at the Public Meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the proposed Official Plan Amendment is adopted, the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal may dismiss all or part of the appeal.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Official Plan Amendment and/or the passing of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Town of Petrolia, by contacting the undersigned during regular business hours.


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION relating to the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment is available for inspection at the Clerk’s office

(Attn: Mandi Pearson) located at 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON or at the County of Lambton Department of Planning and Development (Attn: Rob Nesbitt) located at 789 Broadway St. Wyoming, ON.

Dated at the Town of Petrolia this 26th day of May 2021.



Mandi Pearson
Clerk/Operations Clerk,
Town of Petrolia
mpearson@petrolia.ca
411 Greenfield St.
PETROLIA, ON, N0N 1R0



Canada

Peacekeeper Park looks to Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Peacekeeper Park may find a home in Lambton County.

The park, which was the brainchild of the late Ret. Maj. Gene Smith of Petrolia, opened at the Whittaker Conservation Area in Elgin County in 2001.

It is a memorial to honour peacekeepers who had died in the line of duty, to educate people about the missions they served, to give veterans a place to go to reflect on what they’ve experienced and to serve as a training and team building area for cadets.

But after 20 years, the Kettle Creek Conservation Area decided the park would have to move.

“We were notified the same week COVID hit they were not going to be

renewing our lease,” Sarah Duplisea, the treasurer at Peacekeeper Park, told Lambton County councillors Wednesday. “We have been packing up and moving our stuff since then.”

But so far, the park doesn’t have a home.

Duplisea says there are many links between the park and Lambton. It’s founder – Smith – was from Petrolia, there is a memorial to the late Cpl. Brent Poland of Camlachie who died in Afghanistan, and there is a cabin dedicated to Pr. William Cushley of Port Lambton. And she says countless cadets from Lambton visit the park yearly.

Duplisea was told there may be land available in Lambton for the park to relocate.

County councillors wanted to investigate the possibilities. They’ve



The late Gene Smith - the founder of Peacekeeper Park during the dedication of the Brent’s Tower in honour of the late Cpl. Brent Poland of Camlachie, at Peacekeepers Park near Aylmer. The park is looking for a new home.

asked staff to contact Lambton’s municipalities for possible locations on either public or private land where Peacekeeper Park could be located.

Staff is to report back in 90 days.

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Dealer - Florence ON,
226-373-6244
- **Julie Maw**
Dealer - Courtright ON,
519-384-2281
- **Dave Foulon**
Dealer - Tupperville ON,
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- **Dave Emery**, Territory Manager
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Victoria Hall mechanical systems get \$400k upgrade

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia will spend almost \$394,000 over the next three years to repair the heating and cooling systems in Victoria Hall.

The town hired a consultant, Rick Takacs of Baseline Energy Services, to look at the mechanical systems in the town hall. He came to the conclusion that 30 years after the rebuilding of the hall, the systems were in need of some upgrades.

He suggested \$214,000 in repairs this year to the boiler and hot water plants, the hot water distribution system, air handlers and exhaust fans.

Another \$126,000 would be spent in 2022 and just under \$54,000 in 2023.

Staff recommended the consultant be hired as a project manager to complete the project. “With successful grants and pre-planned capital budgeting, staff are moving ahead with the full three year plan as quick as possible to limit any disruption to town hall and the VPP,” wrote Dave Menzies, director of facilities. The consultant will be in charge of the purchasing which will happen with Requests For Proposals (an invitation to bid) instead of tenders.

SMOKE NO FIRE



DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

There was some smoke, but no fire. Firefighters were called to the Henry Company plant in Petrolia to help put out some smouldering insulation on the side of an asphalt tank June 1. Petrolia/North Enniskillen Chief Jay Arns says “product spilled into the insulation between outside cladding and the tank making the insulation smoulder. Crews quickly cooled it down once the (insulation) cladding was removed.” There was only minor damage to the insulation on the tank.

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Warwick looks south for ice time

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Township is hoping Brooke-Alvinston will help solve its ice-time dilemma. Mayor Jackie Rombouts says normally, the Watford arena would open for hockey camps and figure skating in early August after Cornfest. But this year, the arena is likely to still be under construction. “Because of the construction, we’re not going to be able to open up probably until early

October, depending on how things go,” she says. The township staff has been talking with Brooke-Alvinston staff about the possibility of opening the Alvinston arena sooner than normal. But there are issues with that as well. Brooke-Alvinston doesn’t normally put in ice until after the fall fair in early October. Rombouts says there may be work-arounds for that as well. “Even if we had to rent a tent for one year or something if

they can’t use the ice surface for the fall fair,” she suggested. “I know they are building their big pavilion there as well. So, it’s an opportunity for the community to utilize that space as well.” Staff from both Warwick and Brooke-Alvinston will discuss the possibilities with their respective councils this week. Rombouts is hopeful there is a solution but adds; “Hockey season... we still don’t even know what it’s going to look like.”

Discovery ends 2020 with balanced books, 660 visitors

Heather Wright
The Independent

It was a challenge, but the Petrolia Discovery Foundation ended 2020 without a deficit. The historic site has been undergoing major changes since 2017 when a transitional board took over, according to Chairman Richard Poore. The group has been repairing the buildings on site and setting a direction for the future. But, like every organization,

COVID-19 threw a curveball into the plans. The year-end financial documents presented at the recent Annual General Meeting show the foundation had to defer payments to a loan from the Sarnia-Lambton Business Development Corporation which was secured to keep the operation going prior to 2017. During the pandemic, the federal government made it possible to defer loan payments, something the organization did

for five months. That means the foundation will carry the debt for two extra years. But it also allowed the organization to stay on budget for 2020. And Poore told people at the virtual AGM, Discovery was even able to host 660 visitors with a pandemic friendly self-guided tour. “As we move forward and continue to improve and enhance the site, the plan is to schedule more and more open days and other tours.”

SLITHERY SURPRISE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brooke-Alvinston firefighter Rachel Bryans helps some of the 13 snakes found in a Dawn-Euphemia water well out of the dark pit. The department had been called to a possible gas leak and found the slithery snakes in the pit. Some had already died. Deputy Fire Chief Kris Redick says Bryans is a nature lover and jumped right in to help. He says it's one of his “Top Five” unusual fire calls.

Dawn-Euphemia to start testing in Florence to determine sources of septic leaks

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia plans to start testing drains in Florence to pinpoint what septic systems are leaking into the Sydenham River. And the council plans to draft a plan outlining the moves for the Ministry of the Environment, which lately has been insistent the township council deal with the three decade long problem. Various MOE officials have sent

three letters to the township asking it to move forward on a solution to the septic systems leaking into the Sydenham River through a couple of drains. The ministry retested the drains in November and found there were still problems including contaminant levels that were high enough to cause public health concerns and environmental impairment, according to Andrew Winkler, a provincial officer in the Sarnia District office. Council had told the MOE it

was dealing with any concerns as they arose but, the MOE is looking for a long term solution. “It is the township’s responsibility to develop an action plan... including establishing timelines for when the storm water quality will be restored,” he wrote. Clerk Donna Clermont told council Monday, she and Mayor Al Broad and members of the township staff met with the county June 3. “In order to start, we could look at testing along the catch

basins, at various intervals and that would hopefully help to isolate some of the contaminated areas,” she says. “At least we can hopefully eliminate some properties and reduce the number of investigations on the drain. “We can show them (the MOE) where we feel the problem areas are and get direction as far as going forward.” Clermont says that could take some time and a private contractor will have to do the work. Once

it is complete, she said, “we can send out a information package to the residents once we get the test results. And we can identify our problem areas. But I think to get started, we’d like to look at doing some focus testing along the catch basins.” Broad spoke in favour of the plan saying the MOE doesn’t seem ready to help solve the issue. “We can’t sit around any longer for any help or any authority from them to work.”

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3				5		8		
			6					

Here's How It Works:

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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Charlotte's Corner

Celebrating the Impact of Dr. Frank Riedl

Dr. Frank Riedl passed away on Friday, May 28, leaving behind an impactful and important legacy at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart (CEEH) of Bluewater Health, and in the town of Petrolia.

Dr. Riedl began practicing medicine in Petrolia in 1967, and continued to do so up until his passing. He played an integral role in the lifespan of CEEH, working as the Chief of Staff in the 1970s before becoming the Vice-President for Rural Health when the Lambton Hospitals Group was formed.

“Every small town has a legend, and Dr. Riedl was one in Petrolia. As a physician, he was a bridge between the old times and the new era of physicians. He had either worked or knew many of the pre and post Second World War physicians who practiced in the area. He knew his patients personally, and cared for them deeply, still making house calls to this day. For Dr. Riedl, being a doctor was a lifestyle not just a profession. His life revolved around caring for his patients. His entire life's commitment was to the patient, the medicine, and Petrolia,” said Dr. Tanvir Ahmed.

Dr. Riedl was the first Medical Director for Rural Health at CEEH, serving in this role from 2001-2012. He cared deeply about CEEH, advocating for its role in meeting the care needs for people in Petrolia and surrounding area. He worked tirelessly to bring more doctors to the Emergency Department at CEEH and was a strong defender of services at the hospital.

Both separate from and because of his strength as a physician, Dr. Riedl was highly regarded as a kind and supportive coworker and leader.

In a letter written for Dr. Riedl, Dr. Angela Wang wrote, “Even though you respected and celebrated my independence, you also saw me with a sense of warmth. You have been a great example of a physician with passion. We are very sad as a community to lose you. Thank you for all that you have done for your patients and for us.”

Debbie Freeman, retired Executive Assistant for CEEH, remembers Dr. Riedl and their years spent working together fondly, saying, “Hearing of Dr. Riedl's passing saddened me deeply. As I reflected on the many years of knowing him, the time he had as Medical Director was when we bonded as a team. Dr. Riedl was very dedicated to CEEH of Bluewater Health and his patients, and had the best darn memory. He was always very kind and generous to me, and I will never forget him.”

CEEH and Petrolia will not be the same with the passing of Dr. Riedl. He exemplified the strength, care, and compassion that it takes to be a great physician and leader. From patients, to coworkers, to community members, we know he will be greatly missed and remembered fondly. We thank him for his constant service to CEEH and our community.

Dr. Frank Riedl

EYE-DEAL



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Petrolia Farmers’ Market opened for its 2021 season Saturday. Like last year, the Town of Petrolia had restrictions in place to keep traffic flowing. That didn’t stop residents from keeping their eyes on the deals.

Uncertainty over COVID rules ends soccer

The Independent

Not wanting to keep young soccer players in limbo any longer, the Petrolia Soccer Association has cancelled this year’s season. A news release from the board says they met last night to discuss the 2021 season and “We desperately want to have a season for the kids,” said Jessica Hext.

“But the picture of what that would look like, with so many unknowns and the very strict restrictions and guidelines we would have to follow, didn’t look at all feasible” because of pandemic restrictions. Hext says the board is considering some indoor soccer at Kingswell Glen later in the year to “try to salvage something for these kids who have been through so much this year.”

Keep the green space green say park neighbours

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Port Lambton homeowners didn’t want a parking lot in their backyards but paving is still set to begin on 45 new vehicle spaces next to McDonald Park. It’s the latest development in the ongoing saga of the attempts to fix issues at the ball park and playground. Some steps taken during the past year included a redesign of the baseball fields and the removal of trees. “At every stage of this project the neighbouring community has had issues with these improvements,” says Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay. Parking remains a problem with users parking on the River Trail on St. Clair Parkway or even on homeowner’s lawns. Lindsay wants to add 45 parking spaces on the west side of the park. Reedy Lane and Reedy Street between First and Second Streets would be connected in the plan. This quickly drew the ire of homeowners who want the green space to remain green. Karen Moran collected 120 signatures supporting the stand. “A paved parking lot in this space would not invite dog walkers or the kids, but instead create a permanent change in the footprint of McDonald Park, a huge loss of privacy in the backyards that border it, create a significant increase in noise and undoubtedly decrease the property values,” says Moran. “For Council to make a decision that results in such an extreme alteration of a community park is an incredible misstep of authority,” she wrote in an accompanying letter. Moran says enough green space was already lost when the township cut down several trees during park renovations last year. “The decision to remove the trees and forever change the footprint of a beautiful community space was

done with zero input from the local community, particularly those neighbours whose properties directly line the park space,” wrote Moran. Mayor Steve Arnold says the trees were old and diseased and had to come down for safety reasons. “McDonald Park is a community park that is used by many people for other interests beside baseball. I have seen children play tag, soccer and fly kites, adults exercising and doing yoga,” wrote Port Lambton resident Shawn Morgan. “If this area is paved, where do you expect the taxpayers of this community go to enjoy some green space away from the general main road? There is no such place.” John Moran questioned why the township couldn’t explore delaying the parking lot while trying to buy the land on the east side of the park from CSX Rail and putting it there instead. Arnold says St. Clair has been trying to acquire that land for decades and gotten nowhere. “It’s a point of frustration for all of us,” he says. Councillor Rose Atkins says “We cannot have a park without parking.” “The River Trail is used now more than it’s ever been used in history. The more that cars park along there... that just creates another safety issue for anyone trying to get to the park... I empathize completely but I cannot see having a park with nowhere for cars to go to,” says Atkins. Council voted to approve Lindsay’s proposal and move ahead with the parking lot, with some conditions. The parking lot will be gated off to vehicle traffic at each end of the newly connected Reedy Street and Lane except for when the park is in use for games or events. This is to prevent the new road being used as a through street and to keep off road vehicles out of the parking lot. Council specified the parking lot and connecting road should be made available to pedestrian traffic at all times however.

- The Independent



**NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND
BY PUBLIC TENDER**
TOWN OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING

TAKE NOTICE THAT Council has declared the following parcel of land to be surplus to the needs of the municipality:

Concession 2 Plan 5 Lot 73 Leyton Street in Wanstead and the Unopened Road Allowance to the South of Lot 73

MINIMUM TENDER AMOUNT: \$ 30,500.00

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described and will be received until 12:00p.m. local time on Friday June 18th, 2021, at the Town of Plympton-Wyoming office, 546 Niagara St, Wyoming, On N0N 1T0.

For full tender details, please visit the Town’s website at:
www.plympton-wyoming.com

If you have any questions or require more information on the proposed surplus land tender, please contact the municipality at 519-845-3939 ext. 222 or by email at elassaline@plympton-wyoming.ca before June 18th, 2021.



DON’T LET A
FALL GET YOU
DOWN

As we grow older, our risk of falling increases and so does the risk of serious injury from a fall. Most trips, slips and falls happen in and around the home. Here are some simple things you can do to make sure your home doesn’t trip you up.

THE BATHROOM

- Use a non-slip mat inside and outside the tub or shower.
- Install grab bars by the toilet and in the tub and shower area.
- Purchase a non-slip bath and shower bench to get in and out safely.
- Install a raised toilet seat to make getting on and off easier.



THE KITCHEN

- Replace loose scatter mats with rugs the have rubber backing
- Wipe up spills immediately
- Keep everyday items on shelves within easy reach
- Make sure no extension cords cross your path
- Never climb on a chair or stool to reach for something. Always ask for assistance
- Use non-slip floor wax
- Add gliders to your chairs to make moving them easier when you sit down or get up from the table.



www.lambtonchiropractic.ca

Lambton Chiropractic Centre

431 King Street, Petrolia
519-882-1880



Dr.Storozuk Dr.Martyniuk



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW**
TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

The Township of the Warwick is reviewing feedback on the proposed update to the Township’s Official Plan at an upcoming Public Meeting.

The Public Meeting will provide residents, business owners, and members of the community with the opportunity to review the draft Official Plan Amendment and text, to learn about public feedback provided to date, to provide further feedback and to learn more about the Official Plan Update.

The Public Meeting will be virtual. The Public Meeting will be held on:

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021
6:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL

To participate in the Public Meeting, please use the credentials below to access the meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/97170077782?pwd=UzFrcGUvcGJwakp4S2g4bEt2OEpyZz09>
Meeting ID: 971 7007 7782
Passcode: 840499

Dial by your location

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

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

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

www.warwicktownship.ca

Stewardson, Fraleigh and Marriott honoured by Hall of Fame

Heather Wright
The Independent

The first female president of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture, a member of parliament who was a champion for the pork industry and the current warden of Lambton County have been inducted into the Lambton Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Dona Stewardson, Sid Fraleigh and Kevin Marriott were honoured Friday night during a virtual ceremony for their contributions to agriculture in Lambton and beyond.

Stewardson grew up on a farm in Lambton Shores and always loved working on the farm.

In 1981, she became involved in farm politics and by 1987, she was the first woman to be president of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture. She went on to serve on the executive of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture - the only woman on the seven person team.

She also served on several provincial and federal advisory panels including one which revised the Environmental Bill of Rights for Agriculture.

Stewardson also is keenly aware of environmental challenges, serving as a field inspector for the then newly formed Rural Lambton Stewardship Program. She was also a member of the Remedial Action Committee.

She represented farmers on the Sarnia Chamber of Commerce Environment Committee.

Stewardson was involved in the organization of the Lambton Rural Childcare Program which began as a pilot project in Lambton.



Dona Stewardson

She worked with OMAF staff and members of the Women's Institute to put on a new program called Agriculture in the Classroom, for students and teachers of Lambton. It continues today.

Stewardson also was involved in municipal politics in Bosanquet Township, is active in her church and served on the Huron County Playhouse.

"From childhood to retirement, to be able to stand up to introduce oneself and say I am a farmer is so rewarding and the best life ever," Stewardson is known to say.

Former MP Sid Fraleigh was also inducted into the hall of fame. While he's likely best known for his work as a Conservative politician to the majority of Lambton residents, in the farm community, Fraleigh's work in the pork industry is remembered.

Brian Boyle, who nominated Fraleigh for the honour, said his accomplishments could be summed up as "pork and politics." The now 90 year-old was the head of the Pork Producers Marketing Board for 10 years. It was a tumultuous time, says Boyle, with many pork producers going out of business.

"In many situations Sid demonstrated he could "think outside the box" and aim for goals that would be a benefit to many.

"One example was when, as Chair of Ontario Pork Producers Marketing Board, he helped develop an export market in Japan for Ontario pork that flourished and still exists today having a positive impact on the sustainable financial returns to Ontario swine farmers," says Boyle.

Kevin Marriott was inducted citing his love of agriculture and his life-long involvement in farm leadership. He's



Sid Fraleigh

served as a member of the Enniskillen and Dawn 4-H Beef Club where he mentored the next generation, and went on to become a member of the Lambton County 4-H Leaders Association; he was a member of the Enniskillen Township Jr. Farmers and director and eventually President of Lambton County Jr. Farmers and participated in many County and Provincial activities. Marriott says that was among his favourite positions.

He also served on the Lambton County Soybean Committee, the Grain Farmers of Ontario, Agriculture in the Classroom, the Lambton Soil & Crop Improvement Association and as well, the Bluewater Conservation Club.

He was a provincial director for the Ontario Soybean Growers for 10 years and was one of the founding directors of the Grain Farmers of Ontario.

He also held a position on the American Soybean Association board.

He led a delegation to Japan in 2008 to promote Canadian food grain beans.

Marriott still grows food grade soybean for the Japanese market.

He was also involved in the national agriculture scene, serving as the Canadian director of the National Biodiesel Board and on the Canadian Farm Debt Management Board.

Marriott, like Stewardson and Fraleigh, has been active in municipal politics. He's served on Enniskillen Township council 17 years, including 10 as mayor.

In 2020, he was elected to a two-year term as the Warden of Lambton County.

The Lambton Agricultural Hall of Fame has inducted 16 members since it began its yearly ceremonies in 2010.



Kevin Marriott

MP Marilyn Gladu Sarnia-Lambton

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NEWS

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email us at: news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Oil Springs Cemetery
Decoration Day
Sunday, June 20th, 2021

CANCELLED

Due to the current COVID-19 lockdown restrictions unfortunately our 2021 Decoration Day has been cancelled. We encourage you to use this day as personal reflection and if you plan to visit the cemetery individually, please respect social distancing measures.

The Municipal Office is currently closed to the public but donations to the Oil Springs Cemetery are gratefully welcomed. Please contact the Municipal Office at 519-834-2939 if you have any questions or concerns.



Sincerely,
Oil Springs Cemetery Board

LAMBTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

lcdds

One person at a time.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 28, 2021 • 7:00 PM

PLEASE JOIN US VIRTUALLY!

Only members of LCDS, in good standing, are qualified to vote.
Become a Member of LCDS Today!

LCDS IS LOOKING TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

If you are interested & would like to learn more about each position. Please visit our website www.lcdspetrolia.ca or call Nick Salaris at 519-882-0933X12 or email nsalaris@lcdds.on.ca

PLEASE RSVP TO mwillard@lcdds.on.ca

WYOMING PUBLIC CEMETERY

ANNUAL DECORATION DAY

Sunday, June 13th, 2021

In light of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the Wyoming Public Cemetery and Inactive Cemetery Committee have decided to promote this day as one of individual reflection.

We are reminding all those that choose to participate in person to do so while respecting social distancing and provincial requirements.

Hopefully, we will be able to host an event again next year.

Regards,
Your Wyoming Public Cemetery & Inactive Cemetery Committee

Guild Chocolates



Closing for summer break.

Last day to purchase chocolate: Saturday, June 19th.

See you in the Fall!

www.guildchocolates.com

Sports

Wyoming teen selected in OHL draft

Barry Wright
The Independent

Jace McGrail admits to being antsy as the second day of the OHL Priority Selection continued Saturday without his name being called.

But his restlessness quickly turned to excitement when the Lambton Jr. and Petrolia Oiler grad heard his name announced in the 10th round, 195th overall, by the Peterborough Petes.

“When my name was finally called by those guys, I was pretty excited. I was over the moon.”

Although the Petes didn’t tip their hand that he was on their radar, the 16 year-old LCCVI student felt like he had a good interview with Peterborough; one of six teams he had pre-draft discussions with.

“I could tell they were definitely interested, but they didn’t give me any indication about anything.”

The Grade 10 student hasn’t had any concrete

conversations yet with his new team about what they want him to work on prior to training camp in September. He says, if COVID protocols allow, Peterborough is considering a mini camp in July.

But, despite the elation over his selection, McGrail, a better than average student, has not made a definitive decision yet about going the OHL hockey route.

“As of right now I’m keeping all my options open and NCAA (hockey) is not ruled out yet.”

Two of McGrail’s Junior Sting teammates were also taken in the draft.

Tanner Winegard and Jaxon Priddle were chosen with back-to-back picks in the 11th round to Windsor and the Sarnia Sting respectively.



Jace McGrail

Sarnia Sting draft first female to an OHL team

Barry Wright
The Independent

It’s not often the 267th overall pick in the OHL Priority Selection causes as much excitement as it did this year.

The Sarnia Sting made OHL history when the team selected Taya Currie at that juncture of the 14th round.

Since then, the 16 year-old goaltender has been the focus of media attention across North America for being the first female player ever chosen by an OHL team.

“It’s such a great feeling,” said the Parkhill-area product during an interview on Hockey Night in Canada mere hours after her selection by the

Sting.

“I don’t really know what to say. It’s just awesome,” she told OHL TV.

She hopes to be a role model for other young girls to follow their hockey dreams.

Currie has played the past seven straight seasons in the Chiefs’ organization.

Meantime, another one of Sarnia’s draft choices has a Petrolia connection.

Brayden Degelas’ dad, DJ, played with the former Petrolia Jets for parts of three seasons in the late 1990’s.

The younger Degelas was taken by the Sting in the sixth round from the roster of the Chatham-Kent Cyclones AAA program.

Flyers sign local talent for the 2021-2022 season

The Independent

The Petrolia Flyers are gearing up for a new season by signing four new players to their roster.

Petrolia products Andrew Jaques and Noah Harse are among the group along with Sarnia’s Landon Marcy and Ethan Everaert of Port Franks.

“We consider him (Everaert) to be one of the top goaltending prospects in the county,” said a statement from the club this week.

The team says it expects Jaques to contribute offensively, while they are “excited” to have Marcy in the fold.

They expect Harse to have “an immediate” impact on the blueline.

The signings are in addition to four players who signed a year ago but have yet to suit up for a regular season contest for the Flyers due to pandemic restrictions.

They are Cam Hackett, Daniel Gibson, Bailey Moffatt and Jake MacLean.

Myers and South Carolina season over tournament loss

The Independent

The season is over for Wyoming’s Noah Myers and his University of South Carolina Gamecocks after one-run losses to Old Dominion and Virginia on the weekend.

The Gamecocks had beaten Virginia by a run in their tournament opener.

SC finished the season with a record of 34-23.

Myers, a Blue Jays draft choice, hit .129 this season with six runs scored and four RBI in 25 games. He had a double, his first D1 collegiate homer and two stolen bases.

The graduate of the Wyoming Wranglers and Great Lake Canadians programs had not seen any game action since May 15.

Bluewater Granfondo virtual week long event this summer

Due to ongoing restrictions limiting large gatherings and travel, the Bluewater International Granfondo (BIG) will be a virtual event this year.

“Although greatly disappointed with this direction in light of the cancellation in 2020, this year’s BIG must align with Ontario’s current rules,” said a recent statement from the organizing committee.

“While large gatherings are not permitted right now, there’s never been a better time to get outdoors, ride your bike and enjoy cycling. The

difference this year will be a one-week window over which to complete your ride,” said officials, noting that riders will have flexibility over what time of day they ride, the weather, wind direction and with whom they ride.

The week-long event will take place from July 26-August 1.

As usual, proceeds from the event will be donated to Palliative Care education and St. Joseph’s Hospice.

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1 DAY PASS FOR \$1

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- One Time Fee

The Independent
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PUBLIC NOTICE - HERBICIDE USE

County of Lambton

Township of Brooke-Alvinston

County Rd #4 - ALL

County Rd #8 - ALL

County Rd #79 - ALL

County Rd #80 - Road 79 West

Township of Dawn-Euphemia

County Rd #2 - ALL

County Rd #8 - ALL

County Rd #15 - ALL

County Rd #21 - ALL

County Rd #26 - ALL

County Rd #79 - ALL

Township of Enniskillen

County Rd #4 - ALL

County Rd #8 - ALL

County Rd #14 - ALL

County Rd #21 - ALL

County Rd #26 - ALL

County Rd #80 - ALL

Municipality of Lambton Shores

County Rd #5 - ALL

County Rd #6 - ALL

County Rd # 9 - ALL

County Rd #12 - ALL

County Rd #18 - ALL

County Rd #79 - ALL

County Rd # 7 - ALL

City of Sarnia

County Rd. # 7 - County Rd 26 West to Telfer Road

County Rd #20 - ALL

County Rd #26 - ALL

County Rd. # 27 - Hwy 402 North to Blackwell Road

County Rd #31 - ALL

Town of Plympton-Wyoming

County Rd # 7 - ALL

County Rd # 8 - ALL

County Rd #11 - ALL

County Rd #12 - ALL

County Rd #14 - ALL

County Rd #21 - ALL

County Rd #22 - ALL

County Rd #26 - ALL

County Rd #30 - ALL

Township of St. Clair

County Rd #1 - Marshy Creek - East to Hwy #40.

County Rd. #2 - ALL

County Rd #4 - ALL

County Rd #20 - ALL

County Rd #26 - ALL

County Rd #28 - ALL

County Rd #31 - ALL

County Rd #36 - ALL

County Rd #80 - ALL

Township of Warwick

County Rd # 8 - ALL

County Rd # 9 - ALL

County Rd # 12 - ALL

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>

For more information call:

Green Stream- Steve Ford Contact:
Office: 1-905-510-1229 Collect calls will be accepted
Cell: 905-802-3347

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

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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

Real Estate



30 Arthur Street
FOREST




\$495,000

This beautiful brick 4 bed 2 bath open concept home with spacious rooms throughout boasts 2,000 sq. ft. of living space. The great room with oak hardwood floors consists of an abundance of oak Kitchen cabinets, a breakfast bar, dining area and a spacious living room leading to a large deck in the rear yard with plenty of room for children and pets to play, fenced on 3 sides. A wide concrete driveway leads up to the 1 1/2 car garage. Only 10 minutes to Lake Huron and 7+ golf courses.

Call now for more info.

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Card of Thanks




The family of
SHIRLEY CAMPBELL
would like to take this opportunity to thank all our family, friends and neighbours for all the food, flowers, donations, love and support during our time of sorrow.

It is sincerely appreciated and will always be remembered.

Ken, Tim, Jeff and Dana



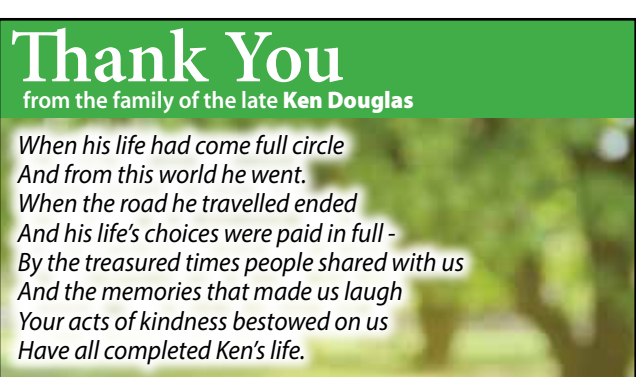
Card of Thanks



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr.Suryavanshi and the nurses and staff on the surgery floor for the wonderful care I received during my recent stay at Bluewater Health Sarnia. I would also like to thank Gail and the late Dr. Frank Riedl and the emergency staff at CEE Hospital for the care provided prior to and after my surgery. To all my campground friends, thank you for the calls and concerns. To my family, I am so fortunate to have my children and niece in my life. They have all been there for us. A heartfelt thank you to you all.

LLOYD HYATT

Card of Thanks



Thank You
from the family of the late **Ken Douglas**

*When his life had come full circle
And from this world he went.
When the road he travelled ended
And his life's choices were paid in full -
By the treasured times people shared with us
And the memories that made us laugh
Your acts of kindness bestowed on us
Have all completed Ken's life.*

A HUGE THANK YOU FROM:
*Mary Ethel Douglas,
Laura, Frank, Luke and Marissa Ingratta,
Les, Sue, Sarah and Michael Douglas*

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/>


Card of Thanks




A little note of thank you to all those who bought plants at 414 Huggard Street "Proceeds to Cancer". It was much appreciated. I would have liked to have raised more, but \$200 dollars was great.

**Thank You Again
Martha Johnston**

Card of Thanks



We would like to thank the gentleman and his wife who brought us a beautiful flower planters for the fifth anniversary of our son, John Duffy's, passing. We did not get his name but his wife's name is Dawn. We are greatly applicative and would like to extend our heart warming thankfulness.



**Geraldine &
Jack Duffy**

For Sale

PLANT SALE - Perennial plants, Rose of Sharon Bushes and Vegetable Plants. **Self Serve. We will recycle plant pots. 458 Ignatfina St., Petrolia.**

WANTED

House Wanted to Rent - 2-3 bedroom in Petrolia, \$1,500 - 2,000 monthly depending on sizing and condition. Needed by August 1st. Please call Pete 519-330-6816.

WANTED

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

WANTED

FARMLAND - Younger Farm family looking for a opportunity to moderately expand cash crop acres by sharecrop, rent or lease. Competitive Rates. **Please call Shawn at Font Farms (519) 384-2855**

Coming Events

SHORELINE CLEANUP - Bluewater Anglers, with regret, have to cancel our **June 12th Shoreline Cleanup Event** — with a possible re-scheduling sometime in the early Fall. As well as the above, we are cancelling or Family Fun Fishing Derby scheduled for Saturday July 10th - with no plan for re-scheduling this year. **All cancellation are due to COVID restrictions and public health guidelines.**

Obituary



RIEDL
Dr. Frank

RIEDL, Dr. Frank died suddenly at Victoria Hospital, London on **Friday, May 28, 2021**. Dr. Frank William Riedl, of Petrolia, was **81 years of age**. He was a Loving husband for 53 years to Lynne (nee Lampitt). He will be missed by his children Becky (David), Craig (Marit), Jenny (Liam), and Frankie, and his grandchildren Jared, Vala, Linus, Oliver, Kennan, Maelyn, Sam, Andrew, Jessica, Maya, and Frankie IV. Frank is the brother of Ed (Odra) Riedl and Ron (Loretta) Riedl, a brother-in-law to Brenda Young, Donna (Bill) Heffron, Kathy (Jeff) Heximer, and an uncle to nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Frank (1990) and Helen (2019) and his sister-in-law Judy McLachlan (2021). A dedicated family physician who was devoted to his patients, Frank has practiced medicine in Petrolia and Alvinston since 1967. In his spare time Frank was an avid gardener. **Visitation will be held on Friday, June 11 from 3 to 8 pm and Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 1 to 4, due to current COVID 19 restrictions you must register at signup.com/go/zaotVyX to attend. Masks are mandatory. A funeral mass will be held in the near future, please check www.needhamjay.com for further information.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.cee hf.ca). Arrangments by Needham-Jay Funeral Home (519)882-0100.

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!!

WANTED

FARMLAND - Younger Farm family looking for a opportunity to moderately expand cash crop acres by sharecrop, rent or lease. Competitive Rates. **Please call Shawn at Font Farms (519) 384-2855**

Obituary



DROPE
William

At his home on **Wednesday, June 2, 2021** William Harold "Bill" Drope, of Petrolia, was in his **63rd year**. Bill was the son of the late Harold (1997) and Jean (2006) Drope. He is survived by cousins Keith and Marjorie Drope and Cathy McRae. Bill had worked many years at Duststop Air Filters and was a member of St. Paul's United Church, both in Petrolia. A sports fan, Bill enjoyed going to hockey games in Petrolia and Sarnia and occasionally going to Detroit for Tiger games. **Due to COVID 19 restrictions a private service was held. Interment will be in Wyoming Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation(www.cee hf.ca) or Diabetes Canada ([www. diabetes.ca](http://www.diabetes.ca)). Arrangments by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.

Obituary



JOYCE
Christie

Christie, Joyce died peacefully with her family by her side on **Friday, June 4, 2021** at C.E.E. Hospital, Petrolia. Joyce Christie (Spinks)(nee Derry), **94 years**, of Petrolia. Joyce was predeceased by her husbands Clifford Spinks (2004) and Emery Christie (2017). She will be missed by her children Penny Wallace, Glen and Shirley Spinks, Goldie Spinks, Diane and the late Ron Farr, Jim and Sandra Spinks, and her many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Beatrice Giffen and brother Dave (Donna) Spinks. Joyce was a long time and active member of the Royal Canadina Legion Br. 216 in Petrolia. **Due COVID 19 restrictions a private service was held on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. and can be viewed at www.facebook.com/Needham-Jay. Interment in Zion Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.cee hf.ca).

Obituary



KING
Jessie

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Jessie King (nee Anderson), of Wyoming, who was in her **97th year**. Predeceased by her husband Stanley (1989), Daughter of Reid and Flora Anderson, Mother of Wayne (Wren) King and Pat (Roy) Van Damme. Granny to Derek (Lyndsey) King, Mia (Andy Sit) King, Katie King, Corey (Stephanie) Wilkinson, and Kyle Wilkinson. Great Granny to Dawson, Reid, and Hunter King, Ryan Wilkinson and Estelle Sit. Thanks to the staff of Bluewater Health, C.E.E. Petrolia for the great care of the past week. Many thanks to the V.O.N. personal support workers for the compassionate care provided over the past 8 years. **Due to COVID-19 restrictions a private family service was held, with interment in Wyoming Cemetery. A celebration of life will be held at a future date.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made Wyoming United Church or V.O.N. Sarnia-Lambton (von.ca). Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com

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.

Coming Event

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. 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.

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

IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter is pleased to offer four scholarships and bursaries to graduating LCCVI students for post-secondary education at college or university. For further information, and applications, please contact Student Services or refer to the IODE website. <https://www.iodemargaretstokespetrolia.ca/bursary-application.html>


Notice

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Notice

ATTENTION All “Beef Dinner” Ticket Holders for the Moore Agricultural Society - ANNUAL BEEF DINNER Previously scheduled for **Sunday, March 29, 2020 DINNER HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021** as a Take Out Meal. To schedule your meal, you must pre-register by sending an email to Homecraft@brigdenfair.ca Or calling 519-864-4889 asap. We will need Your Name; Your Ticket #; Telephone number/Contact Number to set up pick up time). You will need to show your ticket at time of pick up for proof of purchase. Thank you for your support. Some tickets are still available for sale.

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Answers to this week's
Sudoku
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Auto / Home / Business Insurance

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

Death Notices
May 29 - June 4, 2021

SATURDAY, MAY 29

GEORGE, Robin
Age 67, of Kettle & Stoney Point
Gilpin Funeral Home

FORTIN, Nadine
Age 73, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

ANDERSON, William “Bill”
Age 82, of Petrolia
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

FLEMING, John
Age 87, of Sarnia
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

BARKER, Randall
McCormack Funeral Home

SUNDAY, MAY 30

GODDARD, Teresa Lynn
Age 51, of Wyoming
Smith Funeral Home

CHEESEMAN, Candace
Age 70, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

FLETCHER, George
Age 70, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

PRULIERE, William
Age 89, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

RAWLINGS, Patricia
Age 92, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, MAY 31

COOKE, Stuart
Age 70, of Forest
Denning's of Forest

RAUSA, Susan
Age 70, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

LAWRENCE, Lynne
Age 73, of Strathroy
Denning's of Forest

ROWE, Kenneth
Age 87, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

POTTS, Kenneth
Age 91, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

GRANT, Norma
Age 94, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

TERPSTRA, Raymond
Age 71, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

DROPE, Bill
Age 63, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

ANDERSON, Flora
Age 91, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

DA SILVA, Manny
Age 35, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

PEARCE, Jacqueline
Age 72, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

HAGAN, George
Age 74, of Sarnia
Knight Funeral Home

JARDINE, Harold
Age 97, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

HALDENBY, Madeline
Age 100, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

HOUTBY, Jeffery “Jeff”
Age 46, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

BOURASSA, Marcel
Age 92, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home


CHRISTIE, Joyce
Age 94, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay 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
wyoming_united@outlook.com to be
sent the Zoom link to join us for our
10am live service.


 Rev. Steven Longmoore
Church Office 519-845-3963
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‘His future was robbed from him’

One punch on Canada Day in Grand Bend led to a life-long brain injury

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

What should be the punishment for making a man “a prisoner in his own body for the rest of his life?”

That was at the heart of a sentencing hearing in Sarnia Court Tuesday. On Canada Day, 2019, Cole Willemsen, now 24, was arguing with Kyle Hern, 22, on Grand Bend’s Main Street.

They knew each other and were in a heated exchange.

Willemsen had walked away, but when he heard Hern yelling, he turned around, walked back and punched him in the face.

“He was struck hard and fast before he had a chance to act,” says Crown Attorney Nila Mulpuru.

“Mr. Willemsen acknowledged he despised Mr. Hern and he wanted him to pay for offences Mr. Willemsen believed he committed.”

Mulpuru says Willemsen acted “out of revenge.”

Hern was knocked to the ground and struck his head on the curb.

Court heard Hern was offered help but initially refused.

He went to hospital later that night, but was released.

Soon after, Hern suffered bleeding in his brain and had a massive stroke.

“He is still unable to function without daily assistance. He continues to reside in a rehabilitation facility. He will never be able to fully recover,” says Mulpuru.

“My son is a prisoner in his own body for the rest of his life,” said his father in a victim impact statement. Hern’s brain injury has forced him into relearning basic movements such as talking, seeing, chewing, walking and using his hands.

He’s undergone four major surgeries and continues to recover at the Parkwood Institute in London.

“Kyle Hern is my hero for going through all he has and can still smile,” says his father.

His loss of memory means he is retraumatized on a constant basis. “As he always asked for Mom,” said his sister. “Every time we would have to remind him that she already passed and witness him grieve her loss over and over again because his brain trauma is so severe he cannot recall.

“It is absolutely heartbreaking.”

Their mother passed away from cancer before the attack on Hern.

“There are no amount of words that can describe how deeply this incident has broken my heart and the lifelong impact that it will have on my siblings and I,” says his sister.

“It has shaken my faith in the idea that good people who do good things and work to support their friends and family will have good things come to them.”

Other family members recounted how Hern was a natural athlete who loved all sports, especially hockey and the Washington Capitals. He lit up when a jersey was hung in his room at the rehab centre.

Hern was a reliable worker at the

Hayter turkey farm and always made time for family.

“Although we do have hope he will get better we can’t help but feel like we will never see him walk through our back door again, running to the couch to hold his nieces,” says Hern’s brother.

“His future was robbed from him and it is so heartbreaking and infuriating that someone so senseless could take his future away from him and him away from us.”

During the trial Defence Lawyer Scott Cowan argued Willemsen acted in self defence after being threatened by Hern.

Justice John Desotti rejected this argument finding him guilty.

Cowan says the full extent of Hern’s injuries were an “unforeseeable result.

“A single punch to the face generally does not cause serious injury,” he says.

“If this punch had happened on grass it might have never been a police matter...”

“It was a coincidence that this happened so close to the curb, it was an exquisitely awful confluence of factors.”

Cowan says nobody could have predicted the resulting brain injury, including Hern. Cowan says even after the punch Hern declined help and attempted to get back in the bar, also texting Willemsen saying they weren’t finished.

“I’m not trying to blame anybody for how this injury aggravated... I only point that out because this shows the unforeseeability of it,” says Cowan.

“The person that happened to, the people who care about him, didn’t know he needed the hospital. Surely Cole Willemsen can’t be held to a higher standard.”

Cowan provided 20 reference letters to the court describing Willemsen as “polite, helpful, and hard working... Those elements of his background show that he is governable.”

Cowan says a short conditional sentence in the community or even an intermittent sentence not lasting more than a few months would be an appropriate punishment.

He says Willemsen has an “excellent reputation in the community,” and is not a threat to the public.

“He is very sorry for this injury. He wishes things had turned out differently and he wishes these injuries did not aggravate themselves.”

Mulpuru argued a jail term in the two to three year range would be more just.

“A one punch assault does not necessarily lessen the gravity of what Mr. Willemsen did.”

She says Hern was alone and vulnerable at the time of the attack and Willemsen was in no danger and had the chance to walk away.

“His role in returning to confront Mr. Hern in the middle of Main Street was critical to the eventual strike and the serious wounding that ultimately occurred,” says Mulpuru.

“There is a high degree of moral blameworthiness in this case.”

Justice Desotti says he’ll need time to review the submissions before making a decision.

He adjourned the case to Sept. 27 when he will hand down Willemsen’s punishment.

- The Independent



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