

MNR warn black bear - last seen in Camlachie - moving around Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Black bears don't normally make a home in southern Ontario, but there is at least one this year who has found a temporary home in Lambton.

The Ministry of Natural Resources says there have been 16 black bear sightings in Lambton in June. That doesn't include the most recent photos appearing on social media this weekend of a large animal in a yard on Hyslop Line near Camlachie.

The MNR issued a bulletin June 16, warning of a bear which had been spotted in Lambton Shores.

"In the past two weeks there have been 16 bear sightings in Lambton Shores area including sightings in the Ipperwash Beach, Port Franks and Grand Bend areas," officials say in a news release.

Of these reported incidents, all involved bears around items such as garbage and bird feeders. In Camlachie, the bear was seen around a garden.

"It's important to note that the same bear can result in multiple sightings," the bulletin says.

It is estimated 75,000 to 100,000 black bears live in the province. They usually make their home on the Bruce Peninsula or north of Highway 7. But they have been known to wander south occasionally.

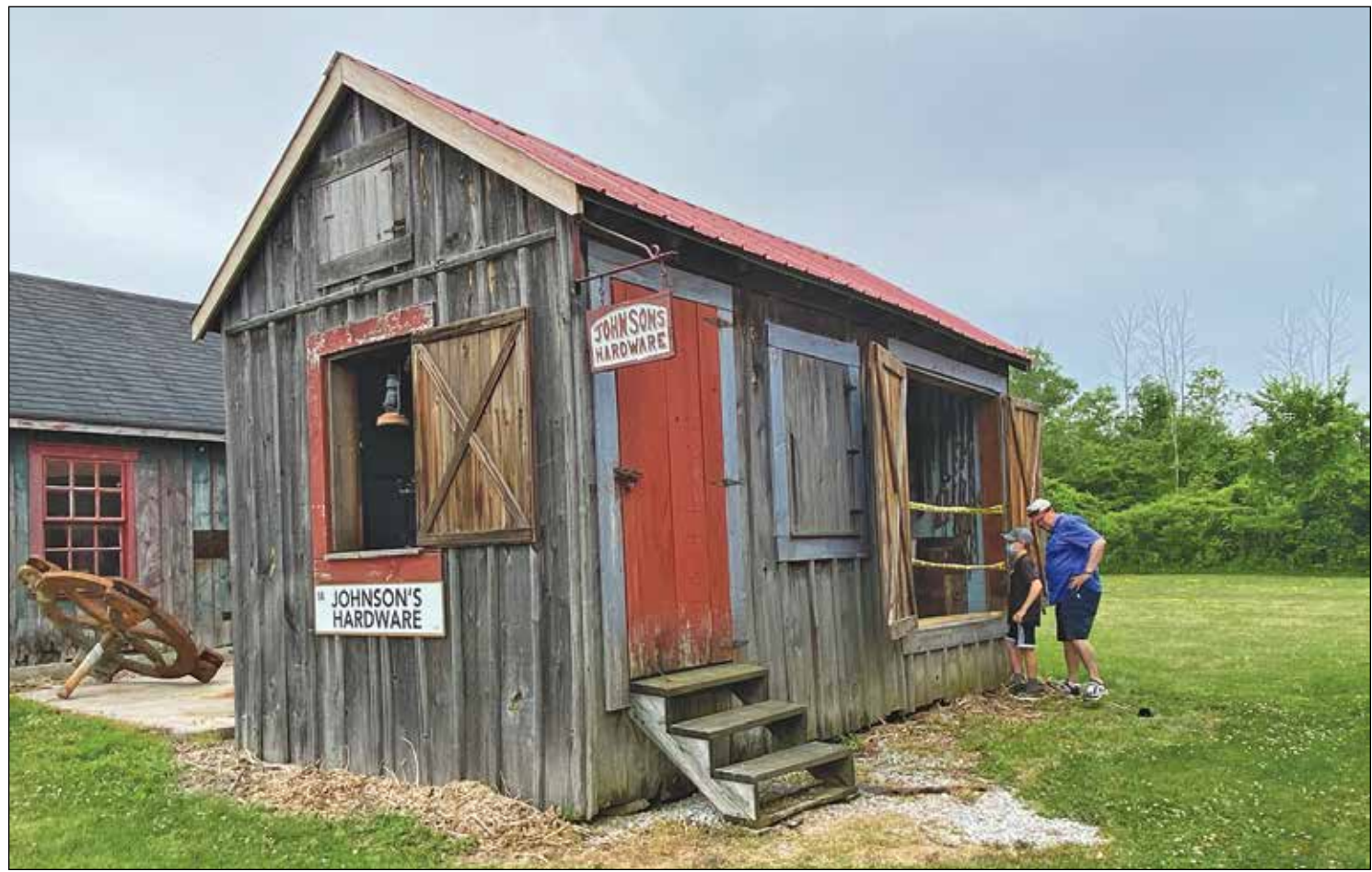
Normally, adult bears stay within four to 24 kilometres from their homes but can travel up to 200 kilometres at one time. Usually, they're looking for food.

The MNR says if humans move available food sources indoors, the bears will eventually move on to find food elsewhere.



The black bear spotted in Camlachie over the weekend. There have been over 16 sightings.

DISCOVERING PETROLIA DISCOVERY



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Tate VanBilsen of Glencoe peers into Johnson's Hardware at Petrolia Discovery. He was on a tour with his grandfather, Dave Tetreault of Marthaville this weekend during an open house at the site. For more, see page 7.

Migrant advocate wants answers in death of Lambton worker

Heather Wright
The Independent

An advocate for temporary foreign workers says both the federal and provincial government have to find out why a Guatemalan worker bound for a Lambton farm died in a Sarnia hotel.

Chris Ramsaroop of Justice 4 Migrant workers says the worker had arrived in Canada to go to work at Roeland Plant Farms just outside of Forest. Ramsaroop said this would have been the workers' third year there. But, like so many others, the man, who has not been named, first had to quarantine at a Sarnia hotel under the federal government's COVID-19 protocols.

Ramsaroop says another migrant worker checked on him one day, but by last Monday he had died.

Lambton Public Health confirms there was a death of a man in his 30s last Monday, but would release no further details about what might have happened.

The Independent reached out to his employer via email about the worker's death but had not received a call back by press time.

The Independent also contacted the federal government, which administers the quarantine stays and the migrant worker program. Officials there could also not provide any answers as to who should be checking on people while they're in quarantine.

Employment and Social Development Canada's website explains employers must not stop migrant workers from quarantining and should be helping them access basic necessities including food and medicine. But the website has no guidance on who is to check on the workers.

Ramsaroop says tragically, the migrant worker bound for Forest is not the first to die this year.

Seven workers have died including five who were in quarantine at the time.

"We've having more people die this year that we know of than last year and that's a concern."

SEE MIGRANT PG 3



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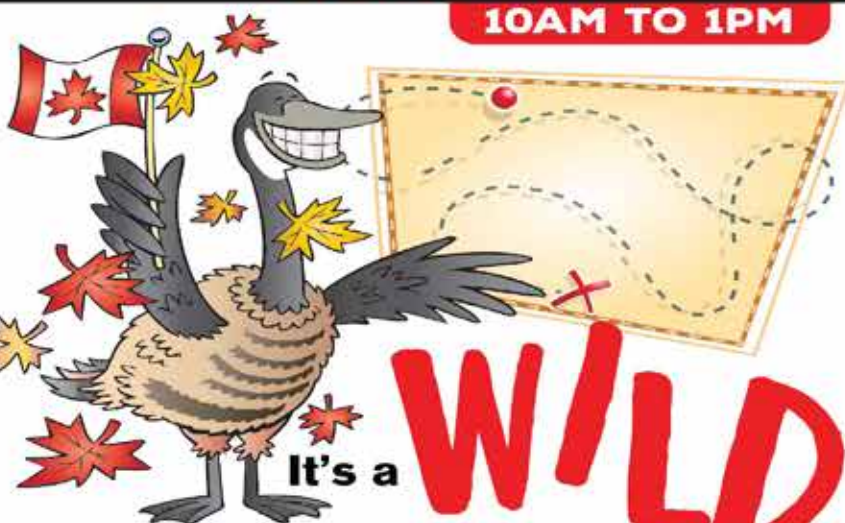




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9:30 PM

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Calls growing for accident prevention measures at London Line and Forest Road

Heather Wright
The Independent

There is growing pressure to do something to prevent accidents at the corner of London Line and Forest Road in Plympton-Wyoming.

And the calls are coming from both the public and the politicians after the most recent accident two weeks ago saw a motorcyclist airlifted to hospital with serious injuries.

Stephanie Cattrysse has started a petition calling on the County of Lambton to find a way to improve the safety measures at the corner.

Her step-dad, Bob Hollings-

worth, died in a crash at the corner Sept. 20.

“It’s been horrible. Especially because it’s preventable.”

Cattrysse, who worked as a journalist in the past, went digging for statistics and found there have been more than 31 accidents at the corner in the last 10 years. One took her step-dad’s life, another the life of a good friend in Warwick Township, Brenda Rogers.

Cattrysse started a petition Monday calling on the county to take “immediate action in implementing additional, appropriate safety measures... including but not limited to transverse rumble strips, additional signage, flashing

solar lights or a roundabout.”

At press time 972 people had signed it.

One person backing Cattrysse’s call for action is Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Lonny Napper. He raised the issue at county council June 16.

Napper says neighbours in the area, who respond to the accidents, have been calling asking for the county to do something to make the intersection safer. “These folks are getting quite concerned...my council will probably support what they’re saying,” says Napper. The mayor adds it’s very trying on the neighbours “because they’re the first ones there.”

“I don’t understand why there are accidents there; it’s an open intersection. I think what it is, is driver error a lot of the time,” Napper added.

There have been concerns voiced about the intersection at the county level before, however so far staff have not presented a report which might shed light on the problem.

Jason Cole, general manager of infrastructure and development, says staff “is working with the OPP to see if there was any fundamental cause or reason” for the most recent accident, “that would support a singular action (by the roads department.) At this time we don’t have that to

demonstrate.”

And officials say the intersection is up for renewal soon. “That stretch of London Line, where it transitions to Egremont Road, is scheduled to have work done on it in the next two to three years. We’ll have an update on it in the fall,” says Matt Deline, the manager of public works.

Cattrysse is hoping the voices of her neighbours will spur county councillors into action.

“The family feels that this is needed. I know the folks who live around that intersection think this is needed... officials needed to get additional safety measures so we can prevent future fatalities.”

Fireworks - both real and virtual - to mark Canada Day in Central Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

Municipalities in Central Lambton are gearing up for another pandemic Canada Day.

While some municipalities are hosting events which follow COVID-19 pandemic protocols, many of the popular Canada Day traditions are being set aside as the province continues to ease into the reopening of the economy after a long shutdown.

And it seems the only place to see a large live fireworks display is Alvinston.

Petrolia is getting ready for a second pandemic Canada Day. But there is a hope there may be an in person celebration come September.

The day starts with a Flag

Raising at Petrolia Legion at 11 am. They’re asking people to gather in their cars or small groups of 10 to watch.

The Legion is also hosting a Canada Day Barbecue with orders placed in advance at 519-882-1201.

The town’s community services committee has also set up a Canada Day Wild Goose Chase from 10 am to 1 pm. You can download the free GooseChase app on your smart phone and then choose from five different scavenger hunts including Petrolia Culture and Curiosities, Sports, Petrolia History Mysteries, Kids Fun and Be One with Nature.

The committee suggests decorating your car or bike with red and white while you do the tours.

From 1 pm to 4 pm, listen

for the Canada Day Party Wagon as it makes its way around Petrolia handing out a Canada Day Family Fun Pack.

Petrolia’s Fishing Derby, sponsored by the Lambton Central Petrolia Optimist Club, will start Canada Day. Kids are encouraged to catch a fish, take a photo with the measuring tape visible and then release it. The Derby will run for ten days starting July 1 through July 11.

The day caps off with a virtual fireworks show. You can download the Hub App by ‘snapd’ for the free display starting at 9:30 pm.

Dave Menzies, director of facilities and community services, says that while Canada Day events will be virtual, the organizers are hopeful provincial gathering

limits will allow a bigger celebration by the Labour Day weekend.

“We are ready to go ahead when larger groups are permitted to gather. We are asking that you save the dates of September 3, 4 and 5 and watch for an announcement in August,” he says. The town hopes to hold Rock the Park and a fireworks display.

In Brooke-Alvinston, the Canada Day Committee has altered some of its most popular events to fit with the pandemic protocols.

The popular chicken dinner will be a drive thru event. There will be a car rally this year instead of events at the local arena. Both events require pre-registration.

Brooke-Alvinston ap-

pears to be one of the few municipalities in Southwestern Ontario which will light fireworks at dusk Canada Day.

There will be no pulling out a blanket to watch though, people can come to the arena, but have to stay in their cars.

None of the other Central Lambton communities are advertising events.

Migrant worker headed to Forest dies in hotel

CON’T FROM PG 1

Justice 4 Migrant Workers believes foreign workers should become permanent residents when they come to Canada for work. That would give them all the rights to a safe workplace and home as well as health care like every other worker.

Ramsaroop says right now, we consider the workers “temporary and not as equal members of our community.”

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, communal living spaces like those many migrant workers use on farms were a hot bed for the virus. But Ramsaroop says while they had the biggest stake in the conversation about measures which could be taken, the migrant workers were excluded from the discussions.

“The employers and the employer lobby organizations are dictating (the policies to government) and we’re seeing how policies are being created or implemented, not necessarily in the best interest of workers.”

Ramsaroop says there is an element of racism to that.

Right now, his biggest concern is the family of the Guatemalan man. He left behind a wife and two small children who are “devastated” by the loss.

And he says the local, provincial and federal governments, who all have some responsibility for migrant workers during the pandemic, have to stop passing the buck and find out why this man died.


“These are precarious communities,” Ramsaroop says. “Throughout this COVID crisis, we haven’t seen...the public health units going to bat for migrant workers.”

While he has yet to talk with the family of the man, Ramsaroop suggests a coroner’s inquest may be necessary.

“We have to find a way to get answers, you know, not just for us as a society, but also for the families of these workers.”

But he knows it may be difficult to convince them.

“I have no illusions about either the provincial or federal government even just listening to people like myself. It’s going to be, I think, tough conversations with communities and communities basically putting pressure on each level of government to say that they don’t want workers working under conditions of indentured labor, that they want a system where everybody has mobility, labor and social mobility. And everyone is treated decently if you’re at work.”



Notice of Review – Draft Terms of Reference for an Environmental Assessment
Twin Creeks Environmental Centre Landfill Optimization Project

Waste Management of Canada Corporation (WMCC), the owner and operator of the Twin Creeks Environmental Centre (TCEC) in Watford, Ontario, has initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) seeking approval to optimize the landfill design and operation, maximizing the use of the constructed infrastructure and the significant investment made at the TCEC. The optimization could involve a vertical expansion of the landfill within the approved 101.8 ha Expansion Landfill footprint by modifying the side slopes and increasing the elevation of the landfill. This optimization could provide additional airspace of up to approximately 14M m³, which could extend the site life by approximately 12 years (from 2031 to 2043). There would be no change to the current 101.8 ha landfill footprint area, the approved service area, or the annual fill rate.


There is a need for the continued development of the TCEC as it is a significant component of the provincial waste management network and infrastructure, which is lacking in sufficient and secure long-term disposal capacity. Optimizing the future development of the TCEC allows for ongoing sustainable business operations and the continued provision of essential financial support for community services and programs.

The TCEC is located in the Township of Warwick near the Village of Watford, at the corner of Nauvoo Road and Zion Line (see Key Plan below). The purpose of the EA is to assess the potential effects of the proposed landfill optimization on the environment.

The Process

The EA will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The first step in the process is the preparation of a Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference will set out the framework and work plan for addressing the *Environmental Assessment Act* requirements when preparing the EA, including such things as the alternatives that will be considered and the public consultation and engagement activities that will be carried out. If approved by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Terms of Reference will provide the framework and requirements for the preparation of the EA.

KEY PLAN



Draft Terms of Reference Review

The Draft Terms of Reference will be available for review from **June 15 to July 13, 2021**. Members of the public, agencies, Indigenous communities and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in reviewing and providing comments on the Draft Terms of Reference. We request that you provide any questions or comments to the study team using the contact information provided below by **July 13, 2021**. All comments received as part of this review will be considered in the preparation of the Final Terms of Reference, to be submitted for approval by the Minister.

The Draft Terms of Reference will be posted for review on the TCEC project website www.wm.com/ca/en/twin-creeks-landfill/landfill-optimization-project. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Draft Terms of Reference will not be available for review in person at publicly accessible locations. If you have difficulty accessing the Draft Terms of Reference on the project website, please inform WMCC using the contact information below.

Virtual Consultation and Engagement Event

WMCC invites you to attend **Virtual Consultation & Engagement Event 2** for an overview of the landfill optimization project and the contents of the Draft Terms of Reference. **Virtual Consultation & Engagement Event 2** is an online event accessible from the project website www.wm.com/ca/en/twin-creeks-landfill/landfill-optimization-project, which will run between **June 15 and July 13, 2021**. You are encouraged to participate by reviewing the information provided during the event and providing feedback. A comment form is included as part of the information.

In addition to participating in **Virtual Consultation & Engagement Event 2**, you are invited to submit your comments by mail, email, or phone to the project contacts listed below. If you would like to be added to the project mailing list or have project-related questions, please contact:

Wayne Jenken Area Landfill Manager, Eastern Canada Area Waste Management of Canada Corporation 5768 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON N0M 2S0 Phone: 519.849.5810 E-mail: wjenken@wm.com	Larry Fedec, P.Eng. M.B.A. Solid Waste Program Lead, Canada HDR Corporation 100 York Blvd., Suite 300, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1J8 Phone: 289.695.4696 E-mail: larry.fedec@hdrinc.com
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All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purposes of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

Published June 15, 2021

Editorial

Long past due

It is heartening to hear the Ontario government relinquished its role in providing foster care services for Indigenous children.

Monday, Mnaasged Child and Family Services, which provides children’s services for Indigenous communities in southern Ontario, announced it can now provide foster care services.

The announcement of the alternative care licences from the provincial government, made on Indigenous Peoples Day, is part of a multi-year plan by the agency to become a children’s aid society by 2024.

Many Canadians now know how the federal government forced Indigenous children from their homes and brought them to residential schools from the time of confederation to the 1990s. As we begin to understand some of the horrors inflicted on those young children at the hands of the people who ran the schools, we begin to understand the damage and trauma that has left on their communities.

The abuse suffered by Indigenous children marked them as adults, making it difficult to parent their own children and help them understand their own culture.

That led to another type of separation; foster care. Our governments, with all their biases still intact, took children from homes they felt were not adequate and placed them with white families. It was another opportunity to “remove the Indian” from the child.

The practice of removing kids from their homes was so common in the 1960s, it became known as the Sixties Scoop.

Indigenous children are still more likely to be placed in foster care than any other child.

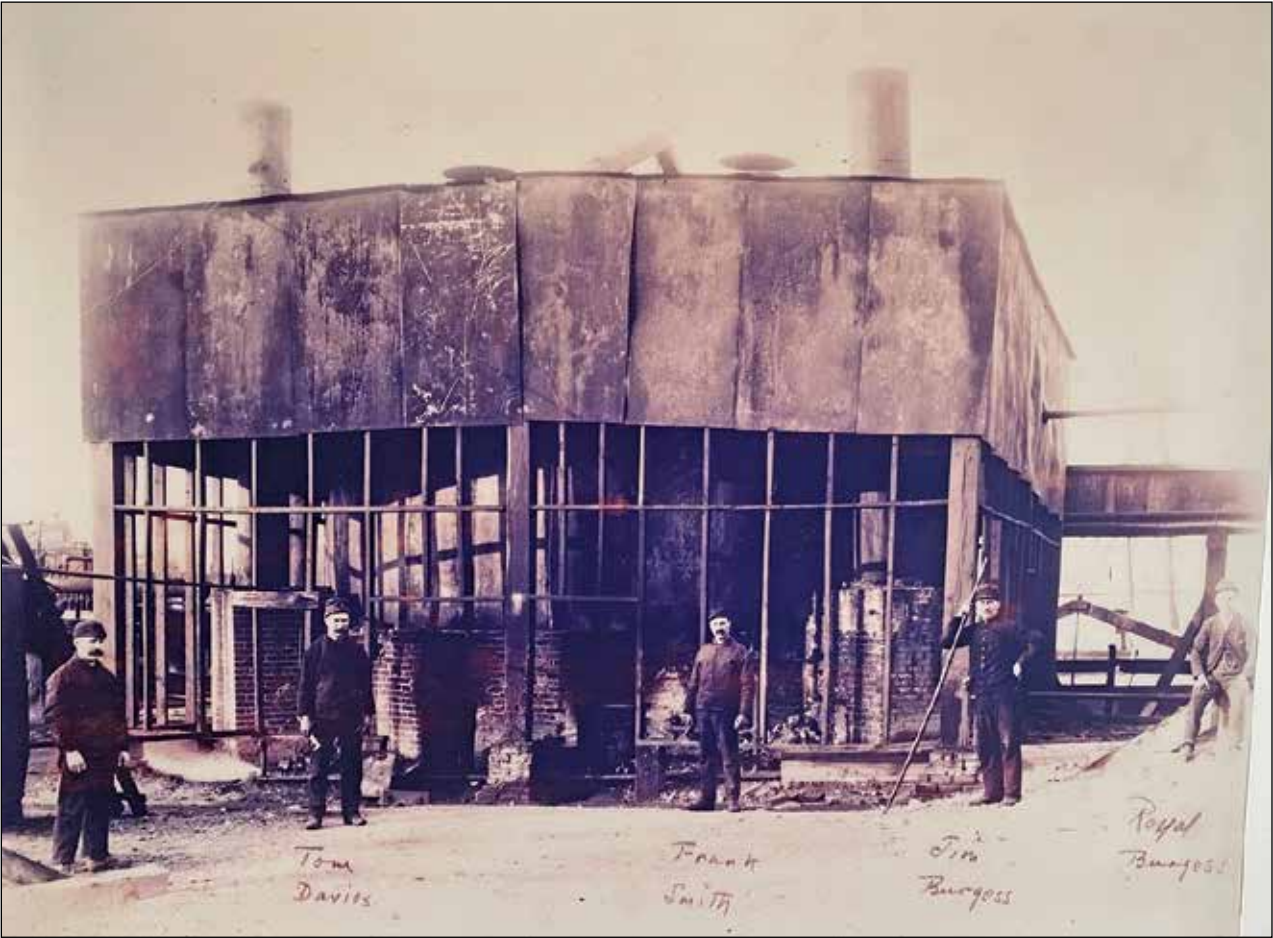
That’s why it is so important for Indigenous agencies to be involved in the health of families. Children will still need to be protected, but the process should not change their identity.

It is significant here too, to be careful with the language we use to describe this major milestone. The province isn’t “letting” Indigenous people run the foster care system, the province is relinquishing a role it created for itself without the Indigenous communities’ consent. First Nations peoples are simply reclaiming the systems they should have been in charge of all along. And the transition is long past due.

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



PETROLIA DISCOVERY PHOTO

This is called a cheese box still at Imperial’s paraffine department in Petrolia. The photo, displayed at Petrolia Discovery, is part of an exhibit on the Petrolia beginnings of the oil giant. Imperial’s Paraffine department made all grades of wax for every known use of wax including candles.

You should see the progress at Petrolia Discovery

I’ve been fascinated by Petrolia Discovery for years. It’s quite amazing to me to be able to walk the grounds where history happened. It’s part of the reason I like being a journalist.

In the past few years however, it has been hard to watch as the foundation that runs the historic site faltered.

The passing of the general manager, money problems and an ill-fated partnership with the Town of Petrolia, was disheartening to say the least.

Historic sites like this should be built up and celebrated - even in a time when the oil and gas industry doesn’t often seem to be.

This place, after all, is part of the industry which made Canada so prosperous.

In the last year or two, a new group of volunteers have taken over and have been setting a new course.

The group has done things which may raise some eyebrows like the removal of the Blue House and the three pole derrick on the site. The Blue House, which once served as a welcoming point for visitors, was in need of extensive repair. The board didn’t think it could afford to invest that kind of cash in a building which didn’t have a tie to the story they were trying to tell. The three pole derrick which towered above the site is only gone temporarily. The wood was rotted and it needed to be replaced.

And if you look around at the sprawling site, you will see lots of replacements - a few boards on a building here, a new deck or walkway there.

But what most surprised me when I attended the site Saturday for an event was two buildings which I have seen many times but had never been open

for the public to view.

I could peer inside Johnson’s Hardware Store and walk through the Imperial Oil display. And of course, for me it was interesting.

If you haven’t been to the site or haven’t been in a long time, it would be worth your while to go when the foundation has its next open house. Much has changed in the last few years, but all of the changes are to reflect the story of our community - the story of oil.



Heather Wright

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Canada

Giving Indigenous kids care ‘grounded in their cultural identity’

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

It’s seen as a major step forward in healing Indigenous communities and making sure children stay connected and engaged with their cultures.

Mnaasged Child and Family Services, which provides children’s services for Indigenous communities in southern Ontario, can now provide foster care services.

The announcement of the alternative care licences from the provincial government, made on Indigenous Peoples Day, is part of a multi-year plan by the agency to become a children’s aid society by 2024.

“This is a really significant milestone both for our organizational development and for the children that we serve,” says Mike George, executive director. “We expect that the alternative care program will provide additional opportunities for members of our communities to volunteer as potential foster parents... in order to increase the likelihood and possibility of our children starting out in a good way.”

The relationship between child services and Indigenous communities has been a long and damaging one. While residential schools are often seen as the main offender in removing Indigenous children from their culture, since their closure child removal practices have continued to break apart families and place Indigenous kids outside of their communities.

“Child welfare has not been very kind to Indigenous people and children for over a century. The history before that as well has not done our families or our children any great service,” says Melissa Patriquin, director of services.

“We have hundreds of years of trauma and grief to undo and we wanted to make sure we were doing this in the best possible way.

“We want to make sure that what we’re giving our children is the very best that we can and that it’s grounded in their cultural identity and their teachings and their traditions,” she says.

“We’re not just a place for Indigenous children to be safe, we’re also a place for Indigenous children to heal and to grow.”

George says the foster care program will “address the systemic barriers to services and supports experienced by children and families,” and “ensure First Nations families receive the highest level of service that is trauma-informed, evidence based and inclusive of their identities, cultures and customs.”

Values, beliefs and traditions from the Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Lunaapeew peoples will be emphasized, representing Mnaasged’s partners in Aamjiwnaang, Kettle & Stony Point, Munsee Delaware, Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewit, Caldwell, and Oneida Nation of the Thames.

“What’s special about our program is the heart and spirit,” says Kyleigh Alexander, alternative care supervisor, referencing two main steps of the placement process. This includes training developed specifically for First Nations children and foster families.

“It equips them with the history of Indigenous children and child welfare disruptions to families, so it brings the culture piece with the creation story.

“That provides education, whether or not the families are Indigenous they are going to be knowledgeable because with knowledge comes understanding

and we want a safe and understanding home for these children,” says Alexander.

Child Services was also in attendance for the announcement and expressed their support for the First Nations led approach.

“We acknowledge the colonial and systemic racist history in child welfare in Ontario and in particular how it’s led to the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the care of children’s aid societies,” says Chris Stevens, executive director of the Children’s Aid Society of London and Middlesex.

“Although across Ontario children’s aid societies have pledged and worked in recent years to address those issues, it’s fair to say that most mainstream agencies can’t do it with the wisdom and traditions that First Nations themselves can,” says Stevens.

Mnaasged is currently searching for potential foster parents and hopes to begin placing children in homes by the fall.

Anybody, single or in a relationship, can apply to be a caregiver and can find out more by getting in touch with the agency.

“When we think about Indigenous knowledge we’re talking about a holistic way of understanding the world,” says Nicholas Delaney, Mnaasged’s Indigenous Knowledge Coordinator.

“When we look around our community today, yes there is tragedy, there is trauma, there is sadness. But on the whole our communities are still there. We still know the value and meaning of family, we know the meaning of community.

“And for the most part, that’s what Indigenous knowledge is all about.”

Vaccinated travellers soon won’t have to quarantine

The Independent

The federal government says fully vaccinated Canadians won’t have to quarantine after travel anymore.

The federal health minister says people will still have to have COVID-19 screenings before they leave and when they return to Canada, however staying at a government approved quarantine hotel won’t be necessary starting July 5. You will have to prove your vaccination with a paper or digital copy of your vaccination record.

The federal government has yet to release any details of how or when the border with the U.S. will fully open.

Meantime, Lambton Public Health says it won’t guarantee what type of COVID-19 vaccine you’ll receive.

Right now, public health is getting the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines and Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health says the supply coming in is ramping up. “We have enough vaccine coming in the next two to four weeks to increase our local vaccination rates significantly,” says Dr. Sudit Ranade, “and doing so will allow us to safely return to the activities and gatherings we have missed so much. I strongly encourage all Lambton residents to take the first available dose they can, whether they are coming for their first or second dose.”

There have been reports of people going to vaccination clinics across the province and turning down a vaccine because it is not the brand they were expecting.

“What’s most important is that as many Lambton County residents receive both first and second doses as soon as possible...two doses provides the strongest possible protection against the Delta variant,” says Ranade. The only exception is 12 to 17 year olds. The Pfizer vaccine is the only one approved for them so far.

By Monday, 71.9 per cent of people over 18 in Lambton County have received their first dose with 25.3 per cent fully vaccinated. So far, 108,037 doses have been put in arms. The federal government says 75 per cent of Canadians have one dose.

Emery Huszka
Dealer - Florence ON,
226-373-6244

Julie Maw
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Dave Foulon
Dealer - Tupperville ON,
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Rally begins at 1:00pm
\$5
Pre-register at the Municipal Office by June 28 at noon
Attendees must remain in vehicles due to Provincial regulations

DRIVE THROUGH


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Fireworks

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Attendees must remain in vehicles due to Provincial regulations

for more info contact
Jeannette 519-878-5303
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Opioid deaths in Lambton nearly double in pandemic

Heather Wright
The Independent

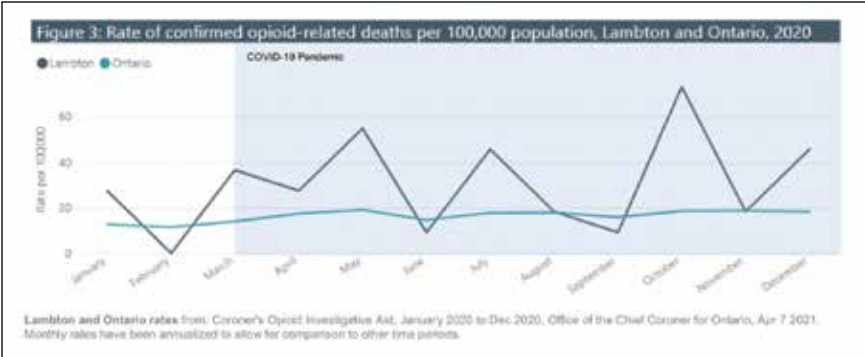
Lambton county residents are dying of opioid overdoses at nearly double the rate of the rest of Ontario.

That shocking statistic from a report to Lambton County councillors Wednesday. And local public health officials say the number of drug overdoses is far higher than pre-pandemic times.

Provincial statistics show in 2020, 2,426 people died of a confirmed or suspected opioid-related death in Ontario, a 60 per cent increase over 2019.

In Lambton, public health officials say there was a 48 per cent increase in deaths, from 21 in 2019 to 40 in 2020. That means there were nearly 31 deaths from opioids in Lambton for every 100,000 people in Lambton. Across the province, that number is 16.4 deaths per 100,000.

Public health doesn't have death statistics yet for 2021 but what Mike Gorgey, Manager, Health Promotion at Lambton Public Health, can say is the rate the number of people accessing care for overdoses at the emergency department is still higher than the rest of the province. Lambton had 38 opioid related visits to the ER for



every 100,000 people compared to 30 per 100,000 across the province so far in 2021.

Gorgey told county councillors the number of deaths can be linked to a number of problems caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic including "changes in the unregulated drug supply, lack of access to health care services and community based programs, early release from prisons and increased isolation due to public health measures."

County councillors voiced concern about the opioid related deaths and asked what could be done now to save lives. Gorgey says public health has been reaching out to as many people as is safely possible during the pandemic and gave out over 1,110 naloxone kits for intervention during an opioid overdose.

As the pandemic eases, Gorgey says public health will be able to do more.

Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley says another important piece to easing addiction in the community is a permanent withdrawal management program. A permanent centre has been in the works for years and the province did provide money for a temporary program which has been helping as many people as possible. Bradley says that's good, but not enough.

"We need to get the permanent funding for addiction treatment facility," he told councillors, adding if in September the government has yet to approve the facility he'll be asking the county to "really ratchet up" the pressure on the government.

"That's the big thing, to get permanent funding for a permanent facility."

PW eases town's financial requirements for greenhouse build

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming is easing some financial requirements for a local greenhouse as it plans an expansion.

But some councillors and Lambton's chief building officials worry the changes could set a precedent for other businesses.

Sipkens Nurseries on London Line is planning a \$1.2 million expansion over the next two years. The company was required to have a site plan done and have it formally approved by council, something the company didn't have to do in its last two expansions.

Part of the site plan agreement requires the developer to give the municipality a line of credit or certified cheque to the municipality worth 25 per cent of the value of the project.

In Sipkens case, that would be \$300,000. The company asked for relief.

"This (project) will not require any road works or services brought in nor will the county have any work required on their part except approving our site water management plan," Mark Sipkens wrote in a letter to council.

"We intend to have the site water management plan completed before our building project even begins. The new structure will be installed by a reputable greenhouse building, existing retrofits will be completed by Sipkens Nurseries before the new building even begins.

"We do not think the amount requested on our project is necessary. The cost for incurring the letter of credit is excessive as per our bank manager's advice."

Many of the councillors agreed, including Tim Wilkins.

"We want our businesses to thrive and to succeed here...we don't want to

cripple them," he told council.

"That's the atrocious number."

Councillor Bob Woolvett says it seems like a lot of money when much of the project is renovation.

"It is a revamp of a lot of the existing greenhouses, that's the part that I just don't quite understand; why would we be charging this kind of money to hold back for just revamping what's already there?"

Mayor Lonny Napper added that many businesses were having a difficult time during the pandemic and it seemed unfair to saddle a company with this type of economic pressure right now.

"I think if somebody has been in business 32 years, they pay all their taxes and they've been building something, that's going to be more of a benefit to the community here."

Chief Administrative Officer Carolyn Tripp says the town's bylaw lays out a percentage figure so developers are charged equally.

And she says there are times when developers, particularly in subdivision projects, leave work unfinished. The town would then use the letter of credit to finish the work that had been abandoned.

"I know from a lot of members of council, there's definitely a feeling of why so much? But all it takes is a couple of projects to go badly" for the municipality to have a problem.

Adam Sobanski, director of operations, added all municipalities have a hold back although Plympton-Wyoming's is one of the higher percentages in the region. Sarnia for example asks for a letter of credit for 10 per cent of the project's worth.

The Sipkens in their letter to council suggested \$10,000 - less than one per cent of the entire project - was recommended by their banker.

Wilkins was the lone councillor supporting that idea.

"Honestly, if it was my own project, I'd be upset even at \$10,000. That's my land, I'm rebuilding my things and have somebody come in saying 'you have to do this, this, this and this and that' when it has absolutely nothing to do with any other property owner, I don't think that's right."

Corrine Nauta, Lambton County's chief building official, weighed in on the concern echoing Sobanski's comments that monetary hold backs are a part of development everywhere.

She worried if council simply threw out a number, it could cause problems in the future.

"If you are passing this motion (to reduce the holdback) be very clear that this is a site specific, one-time consideration, because I don't want any future site plans or phases to be influenced by this precedent for this specific property."

Councillors also voiced concern about other developers who might want the same treatment.

"If we do this, it would be precedent setting for anything coming forward," says Councillor Netty McEwen.

Napper suggested that instead of "just pulling numbers out of the air" staff should go back and look at what actually would be needed.

Planner Sarah Baldwin says that would delay the project.

"They cannot get the building permit for this project until the site plan agreement is finalized and signed. Mr. Sipkens won't sign the agreement with the amount that's in there until he has that sorted."

Council decided to set the requirement at 10 per cent of the cost or \$120,000. As the building is complete, the line of credit can be lowered, reducing the interest to be paid.

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Janet Denkers
Clerk Administrator
Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston
3236 River Street, P. O. Box 28
Alvinston, Ontario N0N 1A0
jdenkers@brookealvinston.com

All applications will be held in strict confidence. We thank all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used for employment assessment purposes only.

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- 4. LISTEN TO YOUR BODY**
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Discovery seeks grants to fix Marthaville church

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia Discovery Foundation is looking for grants to help restore the old Marthaville Church.

The board has been going through the buildings on site, according to Richard Poore, board president, with an eye to repairing buildings and artifacts which tell the story of oil in Petrolia. Many buildings have been repaired and cleaned up inside but the church building is still closed to the public.

Over the years, raccoons got inside fouling the area. Parts of the roof and walls also deteriorated.

But Poore says the board wants the church to remain, believing it not only has a unique story but can, in the long term, be a revenue generator for the foundation.

He suggests the churches could be used for a fee for family celebrations like weddings and funerals or even small concerts.

The Marthaville Church was built by the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Marthaville in 1880. The Methodists united with the

Episcopal Church and in 1925 it became part of the United Church of Canada.

Regular services stopped at the church by 1930, but a group maintained the building for community use. It was moved to the Discovery site in 2000 and was named an Ontario Heritage Site.

Poore says there haven't been any renovations of the building since 2009 when some exterior work was done.

A work plan prepared for the foundation has the building being restored right from the studs, but renewed as close to the original as possible.

That will take a fair amount of cash. Poore estimates the work at \$160,000.

The foundation is seeking some grants for the project including with the Alix Foundation which has invested millions in Lambton County projects. While Discovery didn't receive a grant this year, Poore is encouraged by the response they received and the board will continue trying.

Until then, the church will remained closed to the public for the foundation's summer open houses. The next event is July 10.

Petrolia to start Tuesday Night Market in July

The Independent

Petrolia is starting what it hopes will be a new Tuesday tradition.

The town is starting a Tuesday Night Market. It will be different vendors than the Saturday Farmers' Market and offer a variety of arts, crafts, food vendors, breweries and wineries. It starts July 6 and runs until Aug. 31.

"The idea of an evening market has been on our radar for a few years," says

Dave Menzies, director of facilities and community services in Petrolia. "I am looking forward to families enjoying a visit to the Tuesday Night Market and browsing the unique items."

The town will have COVID-19 protocols in place at the Tuesday night market as it does during the Saturday market.

The town is looking for vendors. If you're interested, you can find applications on the town's website.

Plan for landfill expansion study up for discussion

The Independent

Waste Management plans to look at everything from odour, to air and water quality as well as the economic and social impacts of a proposed landfill expansion.

It has laid out what it proposes to study as part of the Environmental Assessment underway.

The company is in the long process of expanding its Watford site. The area of the landfill won't be expanding, instead, Waste Management wants to increase the height of the landfill. Right now it's about 262 meters tall. If the company gets approval for its expansion, it could rise to 320 meters high or 1,050 feet.

The Twin Creeks Landfill has 12 years of

capacity left. The expansion would allow waste to be accepted until 2044.

Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts says the explanation of the terms of reference of the study, which are online until mid July, is the first of many steps before the Ontario government looks at the project.

Township council's biggest concern, Rombouts says, is whether the existing infrastructure in the ground would support the weight of all the garbage being added on top of it.

Rombouts says the township's environmental team is reviewing Waste Management's proposal and it could take some time before the township even considers whether it would support the expansion plan to the Ministry of the Environment.

Just how many people should be on conservation board?

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley doesn't think the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority needs 20 board members and he has the backing of council to try and change that.

Recently, the province changed the rules governing conservation authorities. Part of the changes are how many people can be on the authority board.

The St. Clair Region board decided it wanted to have 20 members, representing almost every municipality which pays into the watershed. So it's asking the province for an exemption to the new rules. The idea also needs the approval of every municipal council involved.

But Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley recently told his council he thought a 20 member board was unwieldy and it was easier to

make decisions with less people around the table. So Petrolia rejected the proposal. It suggested the board of directors consider a smaller conservation board, particularly as the general manager is retiring making it a good time for new ideas.

In Brooke-Alvinston, councillors wanted to add another voice around the table. That council is asking the conservation authority board of directors to allow a member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture staff to become part of the board to advise it from a farming perspective.

That idea wasn't well received by Plympton-Wyoming council members, many of whom argued there were already farmers on the board of directors. It rejected the Brooke-Alvinston suggestion.

It's not clear what will happen if all member municipalities can't agree with the request to the province for a larger board.

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This Month In Lambton

June 2021

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Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

Sarnia-Lambton Civic Lab Partnership

The County and Lambton College are collaborating on future research and development services through the Sarnia-Lambton Civic Lab Partnership. The Partnership sets a clear path forward for collaboration between Lambton College and the County.

This Partnership opens the doors for Lambton County and Lambton College to easily share ideas, generate initiatives, define community problems, and ultimately find solutions. The Partnership will help develop short- and long-term strategies, goals, policies, products, and recommendations on how to best meet the needs of our community, government and other civic organizations.

The Partnership does not commit the County or College to any one particular project. Rather, it sets out the broad terms and conditions governing future projects and collaboration.

Heroes of Lambton

Suit up for Lambton County Library's Summer Reading Program! Every hero has a story and we encourage heroes of all ages from around Lambton County to read stories, participate in activities and discover online programs this summer. The more you read and participate the more chances you'll have to win amazing prizes! Visit lclibrary.ca/srp for more information.

#EveryoneCountsLambton

Building upon an earlier iteration in 2018, the County will be conducting an enumeration of the local homeless population the week of June 21 – 25, 2021.

The County of Lambton Homelessness Prevention team will lead the project with support from staff within the Social Services division, the Sarnia Lambton Native Friendship Center, the Inn of the Good Shepherd and the North Lambton Community Health Centre. Participation in the enumeration is voluntary and an honorarium will be offered to those who complete the questionnaire.

The community has been consulted to determine the best methods to approach the enumeration. Enumeration results will be shared with the community and used enhance system planning and program development that will meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness.


Looking Ahead

9:30 a.m., July 7, 2021 - Lambton County Council Meeting


9 a.m. & 11 a.m., July 21, 2021 - Committee A.M. & Committee P.M. ** tentative

Agendas, minutes and links to meeting live stream videos can be found at lambtononline.ca/meetings.

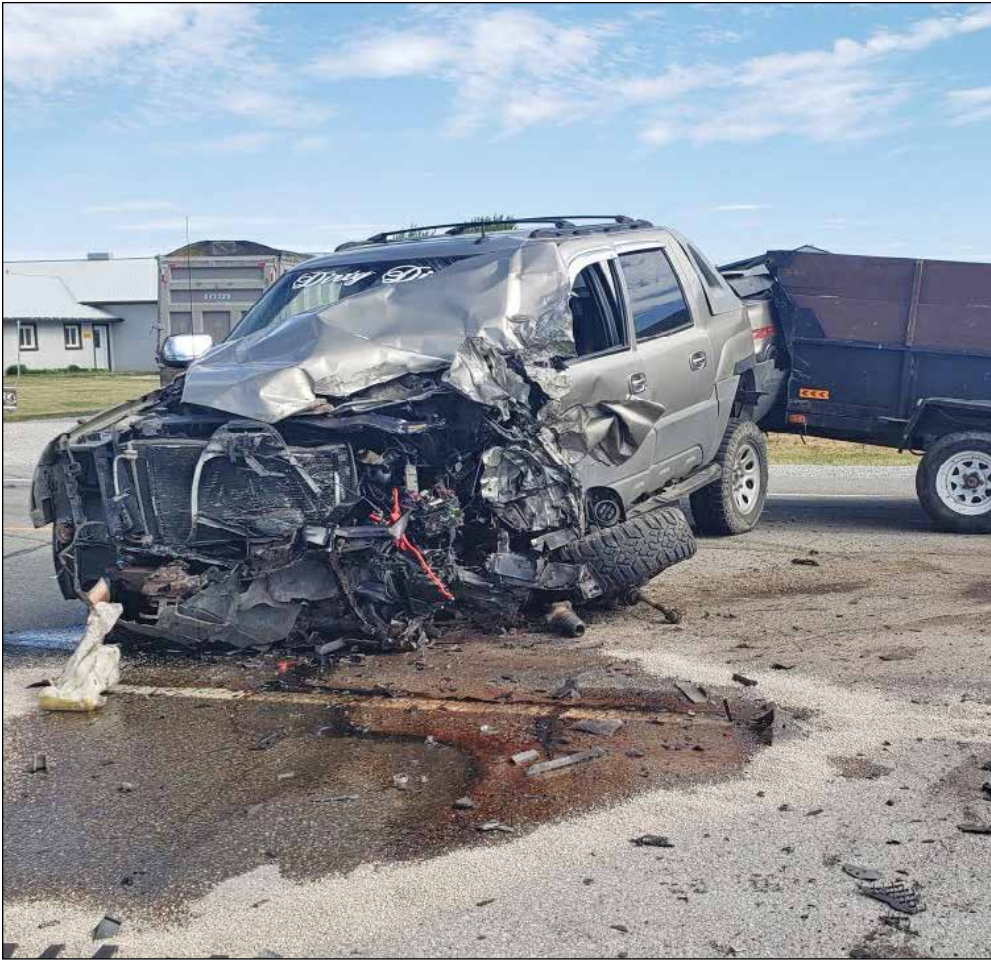
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LONDON LINE COLLISION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

An Arkona man is facing charges after a four vehicle accident on London Line near Mandaumin Road. OPP say one driver was taken to hospital with minor injuries after the accident around 4:40 pm June 16. London Line was closed for two hours while crews removed the vehicles. A 25 year-old has been charged with careless driving.

St. Clair to offer pared back camps

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair’s summer day camps will be offered to kids this year, with some conditions.

Summer camps got the go-ahead following a narrow vote at council Monday. Both councillors and staff raised concerns about opening up to kids during the COVID pandemic.

“On one hand I really want to proceed with this and make this happen for the community and on the other hand I’m really reserved because we are opening ourselves up to this virus that we know is still out there,” says Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay.

“If council decides to open we will do our best to make sure this is 100 per cent as safe as it can be.

“But there still is risk,” says Lindsay.

The reopening plan, drawn up by Lindsay and Coordinator of Community Programs Michelle Rottier, includes an extensive list of COVID-related protocols.

The pair wrote “we believe that our community members desperately want normalcy in programming for their children. We believe that (offering camp) is a safe option for both the health and safety of our users and staff, but we need to take into consideration that we have been battling this virus,

restrictions and public stresses for over 450 days all while being successful in not having any outbreak linked to our facility.”

One new safety requirement will be that day campers aged 5 to 8 and ages 9 to 12 will be placed in the same groups this year, reducing much of the usual programming.

“It also looks like a lot of activities that we would normally have the kids do aren’t going to be available,” says Deputy Mayor Steve Miller.

“I think this is an awful lot of work for our people... It’s unfortunate but I don’t think that we should do it.”

Councillor Tracy Kingston agreed. “As much as we would love to do it for the kids it’s just too much work and risk we shouldn’t be taking.”

But Councillor Pat Brown says the kids need something positive.

“I think these kids have been doing their virtual school and sort of locked up... If the need is there and we can meet the need I would say that we should be.”

Council voted 4-2 to go forward with summer camps on the conditions that adequate staffing and participant numbers can be secured. Rottier says they’ll need 15 kids to be signed up each day to cover staffing costs.

Depending on how successful the staff search and enrollment numbers are the camps will open either June 28 or July 5.

Sarnia man arrested after car found on golf course

Lambton OPP have charged a Sarnia man after a car was found driving across a golf course in Petrolia.

Police were called around 7:20 pm June 17 about an erratic driver in town. The caller saw the driver on a closed road before making his way across the golf course.

Police found the driver and suspected he had been drinking. Officers did a roadside screening test and then charged Jack Laanstra, 51, with two counts of operation of a vehicle while impaired and driving on a closed highway. He’ll appear in court July 26.



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PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

A Wyoming family is heartbroken after vandals smashed a memorial bench at McKay Park.

Family looking for answers after vandals strike

Heather Wright
The Independent

After Zack Bedard died in a car accident nearly three years ago, his family wanted to do something to remember him.

So, a cousin, Stephanie Tom, started a fundraiser for a granite bench to be placed at the skateboard park where Zack and his buddies spent a lot of time. Plympton-Wyoming gave permission for the bench to be placed near the bike ramps at McKay Park.

Kim Hinchberger, Zack's aunt, says the bench lifted the hearts of the Bedard family, particularly her sister, Kelly.

"It was the first time after losing Zack that she was very happy about something. The bench was going to be something that would be there forever."

But the family is now heartbroken after someone broke the bench into pieces earlier

this month.

The top of the bench, which bears the memorial inscription and a picture of Zack flying through the air with his bike, was smashed in pieces.

Hinchberger says her sister is “devastated and so are Zack’s brothers and friends. They’re extremely upset. It’s a slap in the face” with Bedard asking “why would someone do that to my son?”

"It's just hurtful."

Hinchberger says alcohol containers and eggs were found around the broken memorial.

The town, she says, have been very helpful and the maker of the bench, Canton Memorials, has already been to the park to start the process of fixing the bench.

Hinchberger says anyone who may have information about who could have destroyed the bench is asked to call the OPP.

Driver with three times the legal alcohol limit fined

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Matthew Almeida says he made a “big mistake” when he steered his car off the road earlier this year.

"I wholeheartedly agree with you," says Justice Deborah Austin during his court sentencing last week.

Almeida, 34, was travelling west on London Line near Brigden Road shortly after 6 pm Jan. 31. He failed to navigate the straight stretch of road and crashed his 2005 Honda Civic into the ditch.

Sarnia Fire arrived on scene and found the car resting on its side with Almeida trapped. They were able to get him out through the front windshield. Police then noticed Almeida had slurred speech, glossy eyes, smelled of alcohol and had an overall drunk demeanor. He was arrested on suspicion of impaired driving.

Almeida registered a blood alcohol reading more than triple the legal limit. Combined with the fact there was a crash, the Crown asked for a fine of \$2,400.

Defence Lawyer Nick Cake says Almeida “does not identify himself as an alcoholic.”

“Rather he identifies himself as an individual who made a very bad choice one night while being heavily intoxicated. Alcohol doesn’t control his life, it’s not a factor in his life... He was letting off some steam unfortunately and as I’ve said and as he will tell you, made the very big mistake to drive home.”

"I made a mistake... I regret it," says Almeida.

Austin imposed a \$2,200 fine.

“This was a significant event where your blood alcohol levels were not more than double, but more than triple the legal limit,” she says of Almeida’s .290 reading.

“You obviously required the response of first responders to become involved and to extract you. Thankfully, you were not injured but the risk you posed to yourself and others was significant.”

Almeida is banned from driving for a year but can apply for the ignition interlock program after three months.

\$25K Petrolia fire caused by careless smoking

The Independent

The residents of a Petrolia house were able to get out safely after finding smoke in their home.



Fire crews were called to the home on Princess Street around 5:30 am Monday, says Chief Jay Arns. By then, the residents had left the building.

Firefighters found a working basement fire and were able put it out quickly, says Arns.

The chief says smoking materials caught fire to a mattress in the basement.


The downstairs had heavy fire damage and there was smoke damage throughout the home.

About \$25,000 damage was done.

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Prevent the BITE

Mosquito Larviciding set to begin in Lambton County

Catch basin larviciding is set to begin late June and will continue until September 2021. Lambton Public Health will be monitoring and larviciding catch basins on public property, under the authority of the local Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, to control vector mosquito larvae that have the ability to transmit West Nile virus.

Larvicide will be applied by the St. Clair Conservation Authority, a Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks licensed operator with licensed pesticide exterminators and qualified pesticide technicians, contracted by Lambton Public Health.

Within this time period three separate applications of the pellet formula of the larvicide Methoprene, Altosid, Pest Control Products Act (PCP) # 21809 will be applied at 21 day intervals. It will be placed in up to 16,500 catch basins in urban settings in Lambton County.

The Larvicide B.t.i (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis), VectoBac 200G (granular formula), PCP # 18158, will be used in affected stagnant water on public lands in Urban areas in Lambton County where there is ample evidence of vector mosquito larvae present.

Please Prepare to Stop

The public is encouraged to take precautions when driving this summer in consideration of employees who will be treating catch basins across the county. Please look out for vehicles equipped with a roof top yellow flashing light, West Nile virus signs, and a caution signs reading "Makes Frequent Stops."

Prevention - Reduce Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Reduce the amount of stagnant water on your property
- Keep roof eaves clear of debris
- Drain water from containers or toys

Personal protection includes the use of insect repellent (DEET or Icaridin) during peak times or locations where mosquitoes are active.

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Bathrooms now available at Highland Glen, with the town’s help

Heather Wright
The Independent

There is relief for people who want to spend a summer afternoon at Highland Glen Conservation Area in Plympton-Wyoming.

The town has stepped up to help maintain porta-potties at Highland Glen after a complaint the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority wasn’t providing bathrooms at the popular lakeside park.

Former councillor Ben Dekker wrote to council after a day at the beach with his grandchildren. He told *The Independent* in the eight hours they were there, about 1,000 people came through and there were no bathrooms there at the time.

Dekker says people were using the woods to relieve themselves and he voiced concern in the letter that it was not sanitary.

And he said people from out

of town were questioning why the park didn’t have a washroom facility.

The park is owned and managed by the conservation authority. There was a washroom facility there in the past, but it was closed after it was extensively damaged several years ago.

The conservation authority has been bringing in porta-potties since then but have not done that during the pandemic.

Officials say the provincial protocols say the washrooms have to be cleaned twice a day and the authority doesn’t have the staff to do that.

Dekker, in an email to the conservation authority, called that “a litany of well thought out excuses as opposed to practical solutions.”

“The reality is that people are using the park and need basic services, such as bathrooms.”

Councillor Bob Woolvett echoed Dekker’s concerns at council June 16.

“It’s a sad situation that St. Clair Conservation Authority, that has many parks, failed to put even porta-potties out there in Highland Glen,” he says. “I think it’s absolutely ridiculous.”

“If they’re going to have that park open, they should have those porta-potties, or whatever washrooms that’s out there, open and I do agree 100 per cent with Mr. Dekker,” Woolvett added.

“I’ve been there two or three times in the last week or so and there’s all kinds of people out in there with nowhere to go.”

Plympton-Wyoming CAO Carolyn Tripp agreed, telling council she wanted the park to remain open for public use but “one would question if you can’t provide that basic of an essential why weren’t they closed.”

Tripp, after getting Dekker’s letter, contacted the conservation authority for an explanation and to offer the town’s help.

“We do have staff going through that area every day, we can certainly pick up the garbage and certainly help them by contacting a company to provide them with porta-potties. I do know companies that will clean them for them once a day.

“He (GM of SCRCA Brian McDougall) thought they needed to be cleaned twice a day. I said, ‘Well, we could certainly look into our staff maybe doing the other clean.’”

Tripp added she would expect the conservation authority would pay for the porta-potties and lower the fees the municipality pays it to maintain the park because of the municipality’s help.

“I think it’s a good gesture,” says Mayor Lonny Napper.

“And make sure there’s a sign on there that says washrooms courtesy of Plympton-Wyoming.”

By the weekend, the porta-potties were placed in the park for use.

Plympton-Wyoming has, in the past, voiced some interest in having the conservation area returned to the town so it can maintain it. The conservation authority showed little interest in that idea since Highland Glen is considered a regional facility because of its boat launch.

That boat launch has been out of commission for two years now. Officials don’t expect any work to be done on the \$3 million project this year.

The town did however take over the maintenance of McEwen Park, down Lakeshore Road from Highland Glen, earlier this year after complaints about the quality of care of the facilities there in the past.



Brownie Berry Ice Cream Sandwiches

This sensational make-ahead treat will please strawberry and chocolate lovers of all ages.

Ingredients

- 1 cup (250 mL) granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) unsweetened cocoa
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each baking powder and salt
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) vegetable oil
- 2 Ontario Eggs
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) water
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla

Filling and Topping:

- 1/4 cup (50 mL) strawberry jam
- 3 cups (750 mL) vanilla ice cream, softened
- 3 cups (750 mL) sliced fresh Ontario Strawberries
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) granulated sugar

Directions

Line 8-inch (20 cm) square baking pan with foil, allowing 2-inch (5 cm) overhang on 2 sides of pan; grease the pan and foil.

In large bowl, stir together sugar, flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt. Add oil, eggs, water and vanilla; mix well. Spoon batter into pan; smooth top. Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven for 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean. Let cool completely in pan.

Loosen edges and using foil, lift brownies to counter. Cut horizontally in half. Slip flexible cutting board between halves to easily remove top. Set foil and bottom half back into the pan. Cut top half into 9 pieces. Set aside.

Filling and Topping: Spread bottom half of brownie with strawberry jam. Spoon ice cream over jam, making a smooth layer. Arrange top pieces over ice cream; press gently into place. Wrap and freeze until firm.

In medium bowl, combine strawberries and sugar; let sit for 15 minutes. To serve, cut into pieces and top with strawberries.



Baking Time: 40 minutes

Freezing Time: 4 hours

Preparation Time: 20 minutes

Serves: 9

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PW agrees to find another home for new volleyball court

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming won't be building a volleyball court at Wilps-tra Tot Park in Wyoming.

Council recently agreed to build the outdoor courts at the park after some local business people, including Wyoming Tree Service owned

by Councillor Tim Wilkins, offered to donate the materials and services. Administration sent a letter to the neighbours of the park about the courts, but they were adamant the parks should not be so close to homes.

When they appeared before council June 16, council agreed to find another spot. "It was never the

intent to put volleyball courts any place without the neighbours (approval)," said Deputy Mayor Muriel Wright. Councillor Netty McEwen agreed, saying the sport needed lots of room and suggested Lakeshore Park, which already has volleyball courts, may be the best place.

The decision is now in the parks board's court.

Driver avoids drunk driving charge due to COVID

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A 30 year-old Sarnia man who wiped out on Highway 402 after drinking and driving plead guilty to careless driving.

But the Crown's decision to allow this plea instead of the more serious over 80 charge left a local justice with questions.

Vaughn Brazeau appeared June 14 to answer for a snowy crash earlier this year on Highway 402. Lambton OPP arrived to the Plympton-Wyoming stretch of highway around 5:30 pm Feb. 18 to find a 2010 grey Honda Civic stuck in deep snow in the middle ditch. Brazeau was still behind the wheel of the running car.

Brazeau said he'd been snowboarding with family in Forest. But he had trouble answering questions and his speech was slow.

Officers decided to administer a breath test after smelling alcohol. He failed. Brazeau was taken back

to the Petrolia OPP station where he blew a .109 on the blood alcohol test.

“Those facts support a finding of guilt to the offence for which you have entered,” said Justice Deborah Austin, because the careless grounds centered on him having too much alcohol in his body.

But, Austin says the evidence "would support a finding of guilt to a more serious offence in the criminal code."

Responding to the justice's puzzlement at why the over 80 wasn't pursued, Crown Attorney David Nicol says the Attorney General has COVID guidelines which lay out circumstances where serious charges can be resolved with lesser pleas to avoid courtroom backlog during the pandemic, "notwithstanding how seriously the Attorney General, the courts and the Crown take impaired driving cases," says Nicol.

Austin accepted the explanation though didn't seem fully convinced

by it. “At the end of the day you have the benefit of proceeding under the Highway Traffic Act. That’s not a choice of the court, that’s a choice of the Crown Attorney’s office and an impact of the pandemic which is to your benefit,” she says to Brazeau.

“This incident involved alcohol as a factor and your safety was placed at risk as a result of this incident. Police had to intervene and deal with you and were concerned about your condition vis-à-vis alcohol.”

Brazeau was handed an \$1,100 fine and must complete the Back On Track remedial driving program. He also can't drive after consuming any amount of alcohol for the next year.

“Obviously this penalty is in your interest... You’ve been allowed an opportunity to deal with this matter not as a criminal offence, so hopefully you take this every bit as seriously and maintain your responsibility as a sober driver going forward,” says Austin.

- THE INDEPENDENT

County to acknowledge land

The Independent

Lambton County councilors will take a moment at the beginning of council meetings to acknowledge First Nations lands.

Many public bodies read a land acknowledgement which says the land they use was the territory of Indigenous people. Lambton County does this as well, but normally just at special ceremonies.

Recently, while working on an exhibit about Kettle and Stoney Point, officials in the cultural services division realized the acknowledgement didn't name specific treaties. They discussed the idea with local historian David Plain and compiled a more complete acknowledgement suggesting it be read at ceremonies, meetings, gatherings and events in

the county.

All but one councillor, Oil Springs Mayor Ian Veen, agreed with adopting the land acknowledgement.

Veen said he understood the need to recognize Aboriginal partners but not at every meeting.

"I don't think we actually need to do this every meeting that we have, and I don't really think that every councillor should be subjected to reading it...I'm fine with anybody that wants to have it at their own council, but I don't think we need it at county council."

Councillors approved the policy which states either the warden or the clerk will read the acknowledgement. It will also be hung in the county buildings in a prominent place and placed on the county website.

Corunna man pleads guilty to trafficking

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative


Chris McArthur, 23, plead guilty to trafficking cocaine Tuesday following a Sarnia drug bust early last year.

Sarnia Police's Vice Unit and the Lambton OPP Street Crimes Unit received info from a confidential informant that cocaine was being trafficked out

of an apartment on Whitmore Ave. Officers executed a search warrant Jan. 23, 2020.

McArthur and three other men were all arrested. Court heard officers found 13.45 grams of cocaine, worth around \$1,350, drug paraphernalia, Xanax and codeine pills and \$1,000 cash.

McArthur has no criminal record and returns to court on Sept. 8.



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- MARILYN.GLADU@PARLGC.CA

Sports

Minor ball returns

The Independent

The sounds of ‘Play Ball!’ will be heard soon across Central Lambton as a number of minor baseball leagues announce they’re ready to play again.

Today, the Wyoming Wranglers and Lady Wranglers announced baseball will start June 21. The first three weeks will be practice with teams of 10 which will be randomly drawn from people who have already registered.

Officials expect there will be games in Stage Two of the province’s reopening guidelines, likely early July.

“We understand that this has been a very confusing and sometimes frustrating process for our Wrangler families while we worked together with everyone’s health and safety being paramount for a season to happen. To say we as a board are ecstatic to see our players back on the field would be an understatement,” says Matt Helps, Wyoming Minor Baseball Association president.

Helps urges players and families to check the minor ball website for details about how the season will unfold.

In Alvinston, the minor baseball association is taking letters of intent from families so practices can also begin June 20.

And Corunna Minor baseball is also working to get the season underway. In a note to families on the minor ball website, officials say they’re scheduling tryouts for the boys hardball select teams and the groups for the local league age groups.

INTRODUCING #21



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

Wyoming teen Jace McGrail was all smiles as Peterborough Petes General manager Mike Oke surprised him to drop off his 2021 Draft Jersey Monday and a bag of Petes goodies. The teen, who played with the Lambton Junior Sting, was the first member drafted by an OHL club in this year’s event.

McGregor leads Canada to world semis

Forest’s Tyler McGregor has become just the fifth player to reach 150 career points on the international stage with Canada’s para hockey program.

He reached the milestone on Tuesday with three goals and two assists in a 10-0 romp over the host nation at the IPC World Para Hockey Championships in the Czech Republic.

McGregor and Team Canada advance directly to the semi-finals Friday morning, automatically qualifying for the 2022 Paralympic Winter Games in Beijing.

Letang to fill Hatcher’s shoes behind Sting bench

Barry Wright
The Independent

Despite growing up in the Ottawa Valley and playing and coaching all over the world, Alan Letang considers Sarnia his home.

That’s why he left a head coaching job with the Owen Sound Attack to take the same position with the Sarnia Sting.

The 45 year-old was officially introduced at a news conference Tuesday at the Sarnia Golf and Curling Club.

He replaces Derian Hatcher who announced earlier this month that he would not return behind the bench for the coming campaign.

“The Sting is probably the only team in the league that I would have left Owen Sound to come to,” said Letang.

The team alumni played the inaugural season with the Sting in the mid-1990’s after the franchise relocated to Sarnia from Newmarket along with

Aaron Brand, Andy Delmore and current Windsor Spitfires coach Trevor Letowski.

“I’m excited about the challenge,” he said.

Once given permission by the Attack to speak with Letang, Sting GM Dylan Seca says hiring him was a no-brainer.

He noted that Letang has experience, passion and dedication, all the attributes the team seeks in a head coach.

“It was an easy decision.”

Flyers to hit the ice Oct. 1

The Independent

PJHL sets Oct. 1 as projected start date for the 2021-22 campaign.

On the heels of a recent return to play announcement by the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League, the Provincial Junior Hockey League has followed suit.

In a Tuesday afternoon news release, the PJHL says it hopes to begin its new season on Oct. 1.

Typically, the league begins in mid-September.

“The schedules for all eight divisions are being worked on,” said the statement. “And they will be announced in the upcoming weeks.”

The league, which includes the Petrolia Flyers and Mooretown Flags, has not played since March 2020 when it was shut down because of COVID-19.

2021 Games cancelled

London will have to wait until 2024 to host an Ontario Summer Games event.

The Forest City was slated to host the amateur event, which draws thousands of people, in 2020.

It was then cancelled because of the pandemic.

The city was prepared to host again in 2021, but again, uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 rules led officials to cancel this summer’s event.

Instead, the city will have to settle for hosting the event in 2024.

Next year’s games will be held in Mississauga.

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5-9 P.M.

TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parks and Recreation Labourers (3 positions)

Parks and Recreation Labourers will assist with grass and grounds maintenance, cleaning and setting up facilities, special events, watering flowers and supporting summer programming. Successful candidates will work 30 to 40 hours per week and be required to be available during evening and weekends.

Position Requirements – P&R Labourers:

- Full-Time Student in the past academic year and returning to full-time studies in the fall of 2021
- Completed their 2020/2021 School Term
- A Valid Driver’s Licence (Class G or G2)
- Be between 15 and 30 years of age
- Canadian Citizens, permanent residents or have refugee protection status under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- Legally entitled to work in Canada
- Will not have another full-time job.
- Be able to work days, weekends and weeknights during the period of July and August 2021.

(Dates and hours per week subject to change with COVID restrictions.)

Application Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 2, 2021

Written resumes will be received until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 2, 2021 and should be addressed to: Township of Warwick, 6332 Nauvoo Road, R.R. #8 Watford, Ontario, N0M 2S0 or fax to 519-849-6136.

E-mail submission of resumes and questions can be submitted the Township of Warwick Manager Parks and Recreation, Theresa Klachan at tklachan@warwicktownship.ca or 519-849-3926.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The Township of Warwick is an equal opportunity employer. The Township of Warwick provides reasonable accommodations throughout the hiring process. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request throughout the hiring process as required under the Township of Warwick’s policies and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, and will be used for the purpose of candidate selection.

www.warwicktownship.ca



Community Corner



A group of seven people, including adults and children, are posed on wooden steps in front of a green paneled wall. On the far left is a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark short-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. Next to him is a woman in a light-colored jacket over a white shirt and dark pants. In the center, a woman holds a young child, and another young girl in a yellow dress stands in front of her. To the right of the center is a woman in a floral shirt and dark pants. On the far right is a man in a white t-shirt and patterned pants. The group is smiling for the camera.

A man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a blue patterned t-shirt, is drinking from a clear plastic cup. He is standing next to a small, colorful stand with yellow and red vertical stripes. Behind the stand, two children are sitting. The child on the left is wearing a black t-shirt with 'PAC COV' visible. The child on the right is wearing a yellow t-shirt. A sign on the stand reads 'DANAM' in red letters. In the background, there is a white trailer with a '23' sign and a white pickup truck.

Ryan Maclean of Ron Clark Motors contributes to the cause as Mateo and Aveleena (not pictured) Domingos raised money for the Kidney Foundation Sarnia chapter. The kids from Watford like to do a fundraiser each year. This year, they set goals of raising money based on the numbers of their favourite Sarnia Sting players. In all, the pair, with the help of their mom, raised \$1,700 at the event in Wyoming.



PARKS & RECREATION & FACILITIES ASSISTANT

The Parks and Recreation (P&R) and Facilities Assistant is a full time position that serves as the primary administrative customer contact for the Parks and Recreation department. Reporting to the Parks and Recreation Manager this position will provide support and assistance to the Parks and Recreation Manager in the delivery of parks and recreation services, including front line customer service, booking of facilities and ice, administrative financial services, program and event planning including communications and marketing.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Degree/Certificate of office administration, public or business administration, recreation and leisure, marketing or related field.
- Two years of experience, preferred in a public office environment.
- Demonstrated knowledge of computers and ability to learn new software programs.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, organizational, and time management skills, including proper telephone etiquette, and to work effectively as a member of a team.
- Excellent customer service skills and ability to maintain discretion in a confidential environment with a high level of detail.
- Knowledge of Occupational Health and Safety practices and their application in the workplace.
- Strong organizational skills to effectively complete/deliver and prioritize assigned tasks and responsibilities with established timelines.
- Valid Ontario's driver's license.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants are asked to apply online at www.lambtononline.ca/jobs and select **Job # J0621-1175**. The deadline to apply is **Thursday, July 22, 2021**. The Township of Warwick has partnered with the County of Lambton to advertise this job opportunity. The job description can be found in the job posting from the link above.

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

Theresa Klachan
Manager Parks and Recreation
Email: tklachan@warwicktownship.ca
Phone: 519-849-3926

Job Board: www.lambtononline.ca/jobs

For a copy of the draft job description email: tklachan@warwicktownship.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The Township of Warwick is an equal opportunity employer. The Township of Warwick provides reasonable accommodations throughout the hiring process. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request throughout the hiring process as required under the Township of Warwick's policies and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, and will be used for the purpose of candidate selection.

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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Death Notices

June 12- June 18, 2021

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

VERNON, Jeanie
Age 83, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

SPINKS, David
Age 76, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, JUNE 14

GILMORE, Roger Sr.
Age 70, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SMITH, Lina
Age 74, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

ANDERSON, Bob
Age 76, of Arkona
Gilpin Funeral Home

BYDELEY, Marilyn Ann
Age 78, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

HAXTON, Jeanne
Age 88, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

TUESDAY, JUNE 15

VAN EYK, William
Age 81, of Watford
Denning's of Watford

PECILE, Eddo
Age 85, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

RODRIGUE, Geraldine Marie
Age 87, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

SHRIGLEY, Dean
Age 91, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

BROOKS, Jeff
Age 34, of Wyoming
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

RICHARDSON, Robert "Gordie"
Age 63, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

ROBERTSON, Warren
Age 64, of Port Franks
Denning's of Forest

BISHOP, Wayne
Age 74, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

GINGRICH, Beth
Age 84, of Petrolia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

CROSS, Joan
Age 88, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WING, Angela
Age 91, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

KAMEKA, Yvonne
Age 71, of Cournna
Knight Funeral Home

WILKINSON, Kenneth
Age 81, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

McCULLY, William
Age 86, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

SIMRAK, Mary
Age 86, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home


FRIDAY, JUNE 18

HETU, Connie
Age 62, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

GARVIN, Terry
Age 66, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

BECHARD, Heidi
Age 71, of Collingwood
Smith Funeral Home

LUCK, Ronald
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.

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Obituary



CROSS
Joan

Joan, passed away peacefully at Lambton Meadowview Villa, Petrolia on **Wednesday, June 16, 2021**. Joan Cross (nee Hargin), of Petrolia, was in her **88th year**. Joan was predeceased by her husband Neal "Oogy" (1994). She is survived by her sons Greg (Karen) Cross and Brad (Debbie) Cross, her grandchildren Rob Cross, Jennifer (Jason) Verbeek, Tyler (Kaylyn) Cross, Shealyn Cross, and Emily Cross, and her great grandchildren Seth, Paige, and Cohen. Joan was predeceased by her parents Robert and Irene Hargin, her brothers Bruce Hargin and Bud Hargin, and sisters Helen Clark and Dorothy Jennison. Joan worked for many years in the office of Dr. Harold Shabsove. **A private graveside service will be held in Hillsdale Cemetery in Petrolia.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceehf.ca). Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.


Obituary



LUCK
Ronald

Ronald Luck, formerly of Oil Springs, passed away peacefully at Lambton Meadowview Villa in Petrolia on **Friday, June 18, 2021**, he was **94 years of age**. Ron was a loving father to the late Ted Luck, Debbie (Randy) St Pierre, Julie (Scott) Hammond, Jeff (the late Helen) Luck, Brad (Bea) Luck, and Phil Luck, and Paul (Kathy) Luck. He was a proud grandfather to Dawn (Dave) McQuiggan, Gerri (Gary) St Pierre, and Dallas (Kali) Moore and great grandfather to Austin, Hayli, Davon, Ryder, and Kaden. Ron was the son of the late Reginald and Ada Luck and a brother to the late Harry (Nellie) Luck. Ron was a long time truck driver, who had a favorite saying "Thanks for the Warning". **Cremation has taken place, with interment of cremated remains in Oil Springs Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Lambton Meadowview Villa Auxiliary (www.lambtoncares.ca). Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.

Obituary



LEITCH
Donald "Donny"

Donald "Donny" Alexander peacefully passed away on **June 20th, 2021** at Bluewater Heath, Sarnia. Special friend of the late Beckylyn Smith. He is survived by his brother Kenneth of Forest. He will be remembered by several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents Alex and Ruby, niece Tammy and nephew Brandon. Donny was a long time, well known resident of Watford. Donny enjoyed spending time going to baseball games and riding his scooter around socializing with everyone. He cheered for the Montreal Canadiens. Donny was a member of the Watford Legion for many years. Special thanks to Bayshore Sarnia PSWs and the palliative care team at Bluewater Health in Sarnia. **As requested by Donny, cremation has taken place. There will be no visitation.** As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Red Cross Transportation Fund would be appreciated. Online condolences and donations may be made at www.watfordfuneralhome.com. Arrangements entrusted to **DENNING'S OF WATFORD.**

Card of Thanks

Thank You

The family of William Lyle (Bill) Anderson wishes to thank all their relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind thoughtfulness in sending tributes on Bill's passing. Many people shared warm memories of Bill and were so complimentary about what a happy gentle soul he was.

We also wish to thank the amazing staff at Fiddick's Nursing Home for their compassionate care of Bill over the past year and a half. We truly appreciate everything you did to make Bill's life as comfortable as possible despite all the difficulties stemming from the Covid 19 pandemic. We also want to thank Dr. John Butler and his assistant, Stephanie, for their patient and attentive care of Bill.

Thank you as well to Rev. Brian Baxter for his comforting words at our time of need and to Adam and Mark Steadman for their warm and professional assistance with Bill's funeral.

You demonstrate everything that is good about living in a small community.

Betty Searson-Anderson and Family

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@briddenfair.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.

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/>

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

Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

of events

Events are listed FREE for non-profit groups in Petrolia and Lambton County (space permitting). To be included in this listing email the required information to office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca Subject: **FREE EVENT LISTING**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Jun 25	3-8p	Forest	Forest Legion is OPEN. Back patio. Social distancing and masks please. Horseshoe pits ready to go.	
Jun 26	10am-noon 1-3pm	Petrolia	LC Petrolia Optimist Club Bottle & Can Drive Fundraiser at Kerr Park. For more info contact Ted edwardgravelle2@gmail.com or 519-882-1255.	
Jun 26	2-8p	Forest	Forest Legion is OPEN. Back patio. Social distancing and masks please. Horseshoe pits ready to go.	
Jun 30	8a-1p	Grand Bend	Grand Bend Farmers' Market at the Lambton Heritage Museum Parking lot. Visit the new website for vendor & safety protocols. www.lambtonshoremkt.com	
Jul 1	10a-1p	Petrolia	Town of Petrolia Canada Day Wild Goose Chase! for more info check out www.town.petrolia.on.ca	
Jul 1	11am	Petrolia	Canada Day Flag Rising at Petrolia Legion Br. 216. Residents are welcome to gather in their cars or in small groups of 10 or less to watch.	
Jul 1	11a-1p	Petrolia	Petrolia Legion Canada Day BBQ featuring hamburgers \$5, hotdogs \$3, sausages \$5. Lunch is available for take away only. Please call 519-882-1201 in advance to place your order.	
Jul 1	4-8p	Forest	Forest Farmers' Market at the corner of Jefferson and Main St. Visit the new website for vendor & safety protocols. www.lambtonshoremkt.com	
Jul 1	4:30-6:30p	Alvinston	Brooke-Alvinston Canada Day. 1/2 Chicken Dinner. Take out only. \$17.50 per meal. Tickets at Three Maples in Alvinston, Inwood Variety, Brooke-Alvinston Township Office, and Jeannette Douglas 519-8785-303	
Jul 1	Dusk	Alvinston	Canada Day Fireworks at the Alvinston arena. Attendees must remain in vehicles due to Provincial regulations.	
Jul 3	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vendor's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Jul 3	7-noon	Sombra	Sombra Days Family Fishing Event. Free activity for all children, youth and families. Sign up at the Sombra Township Optimist booth at the public dock in Sombra.	
Jul 6	5-9p	Petrolia	Petrolia Night Market at 396 Fletcher (Behind the library). Makers, creators, food vendors, crafters and more! call 519-882-2350 for more info.	
Jul 7	8a-1p	Grand Bend	Grand Bend Farmers' Market at the Lambton Heritage Museum Parking lot. Visit the new website for vendor & safety protocols. www.lambtonshoremkt.com	
Jul 8	4-8p	Forest	Forest Farmers' Market at the corner of Jefferson and Main St. Visit the new website for vendor & safety protocols. www.lambtonshoremkt.com	
Jul 10	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vendor's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Jul 10	10-3p	Petrolia	Petrolia Discovery Tours. Admission by donation. All public health protocols will be followed. Masks Mandatory inside.	
Jul 13	5-9p	Petrolia	Petrolia Night Market at 396 Fletcher (Behind the library). Makers, creators, food vendors, crafters and more! call 519-882-2350 for more info.	
Jul 14	8a-1p	Grand Bend	Grand Bend Farmers' Market at the Lambton Heritage Museum Parking lot. Visit the new website for vendor & safety protocols. www.lambtonshoremkt.com	
Jul 15	4-8p	Forest	Forest Farmers' Market at the corner of Jefferson and Main St. Visit the new website for vendor & safety protocols. www.lambtonshoremkt.com	

Please join us for an
OUTDOOR CHURCH SERVICE
at the First Baptist Church Parking Lot
SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021 AT 10:30AM

Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy Christian fellowship again as we worship God outside in the open air.



Sarnia Flea Market
114 N. Christina St
Open Every Sunday 9am to 4pm

Truck Loads of Antiques Quality Used Furniture
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... so much MORE!

New Vendors Welcome!
COME CHECK IT OUT!
519-330-6816

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

Professional INCOME TAX SERVICES

519-882-2966

3927 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON

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jam_jo11@hotmail.com | www.protaxpetrolia.com

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May has more Hard Oilers stories

Heather Wright
The Independent

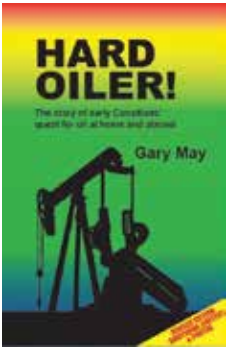
Gary May had more stories to tell about Lambton County’s hard oilers. The former *London Free Press* reporter who worked in Sarnia wrote what is considered one of the most detailed accounts of the opening of Lambton’s oil fields. It’s called *Hard Oilers*. The book went out of print two or three years ago but May was still getting requests for copies. So, he approached his former publishing company to see if they would be interested in reprinting the book if he updated it and added more stories. The company declined.

May, who writes family history books now, decided to publish it on his own through his own publishing company. The book isn’t simply a reissue; May has found more stories about the Lambton County residents who worked in the oil fields and then went around the world to teach others how to pull oil from the ground. May says he was able to dig deeper into the *Hard Oilers*’ work in Trinidad and he also found a fascinating story about a family who went to Europe to make their fortune. The Vansickle family left the Oil Springs/Petrolia area and went to where they set up successful oil businesses in Romania and Austria, says May. “It was very successful, up to the time of the Second World War, when Hitler took over production and the operation of the company,” says May. “Keith Vansickle was very upset to discover that his oil was being used by the Nazis to fight the British and their allies. So, he actually joined the British military and worked in North Africa during the war, drilling for water to help the British military defeat the Nazis.”

After the war, Vansickle went back to Vienna to take the reins of his company back, only to find out it was in Soviet territory and the communists had taken it over. “He had a fight that lasted for many years to attempt to get back control of the company. And he actually was one of the few people – Westerners – who were successful in getting compensation from the Soviets for the oil that they took over the years

from him. He then rebuilt the company under his own name and turned it over eventually to his son, James, who only sold it in the late 1990s.” May believes some of Vansickle’s tenacity to get compensation from the Soviets was bred in the oil fields of Lambton County. “There was a level of toughness that came with being from Central Lambton county that the *Hard Oilers* had; they took the name to heart. They were very hard individuals who, when they saw something that they wanted, they went out and got it. And they fought tenaciously to overcome all sorts of barriers; physical barriers, social barriers, and political barriers and in many cases, they simply did not give up.”

May also was able to correct a historic error in the new edition. At the time he wrote the original book, Hugh Nixon Shaw was credited with the first oil gusher but recent research at the Oil Museum of Canada clarified it was actually John Shaw. The new book gives John Shaw the proper credit. The book also takes a look at the industry in light of the current concerns about oil’s impact on the environment. “The world is a lot more tuned into environmental issues than it was 20 some years ago. And I know there has been a lot of controversy, especially in relation to the the oil sands in Alberta, but generally about the pollution that is created by petroleum and natural gas. And so, I tried to address that a little bit in the book, making references to what’s happening in terms of the world slowly moving away from petroleum, and into other sources of energy. “I think there’s more of an acknowledgement of petroleum’s environmental impact, and the sorts of things that we as human beings are trying to do to alleviate that pollution,” he says. May’s second edition of *Hard Oiler* is available at The Bookkeeper in Sarnia and will be available at the Oil Museum of Canada when it reopens after renovations this summer.



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McNaughton still labour minister after shuffle

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton remains the Labour Minister after Premier Doug Ford shuffled his cabinet. Some notable changes included long-time Agriculture Minister Ernie Hardeman being removed from the portfolio. Lisa Thompson, the MPP for Huron Bruce, who farms with her husband in Teeswater, takes over. An MPP since Oct. 2011, she had been Education Minister in the past and has a degree in public administration and consumer economics. And Rod Phillips returns to cabinet as the Minister of Long Term Care. Phillips left cabinet in January after



taking a tropical vacation while the province was in a lockdown order and posting pre-recorded videos to hide the fact he was away. Dr. Merrilee Fullerton – who was highly criticized as nearly 4,000 seniors died in long term care homes during the pandemic – now becomes the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services.