

PETROLIA’S FUNNY MAN



CATHY DOBSON PHOTO

Neighbour Nina Hodgson helps Mark Shannon pick out some birthday jokes just before his 50th birthday. “I try to screen them so they aren’t groaners,” she says. Shannon can often be seen in Petrolia’s downtown handing passersby a new offering of jokes each day. See more on page 6.

Wheat weather worries; days of rain could mean lost income

Heather Wright
The Independent

Farmers in Central Lambton are keeping one eye on the skies and another on their weather radars, hoping the rain will stop in time to salvage this year’s wheat crop. Wheat is one of Lambton’s top three agricultural crops with almost 70,000 acres planted in 2020 and 4.8 million bushels harvested. In a normal year, farmers would be out in their combines into the wee hours of the morning bringing in the grain. And up until a couple of weeks ago, farm leaders were optimistic about the coming crop. Kevin Marriott is with the Lambton Grain

Farmers. He says the 2021 crop was shaping up to break some records in Lambton. Until it started raining. Lambton normally gets just a few millimeters of rain in July. In the last two weeks, there has been 41.2 mm and in the last month, there has been 147.7 mm, soaking the ground and giving farmers like Marriott who have wheat waiting in the field a reason to worry. And there is more rain in the forecast for Friday. “If we can just miss some of the rain they’re predicting this week, we still have a chance of getting some decent quality wheat without much downgrade in price,” says

Marriott. But with rain for another week, then the downgrade will probably be well over \$1 a bushel. For farmers with large acreages, that could mean a loss of \$15,000. Marriott says right now he’s watching for mildew. But if the rain continues, the wheat could sprout and that would mean even bigger problems. But he’s hopeful things will turn around. “If we just get some wind and sun the rest of the week, it won’t be quite as bad,” says Marriott. “If it would just stop today, we have a chance to do a lot. But that rain on Friday is what bothers me. “It all depends how much we get Friday again.”

Petrolia
Kiwanis
wants to
make a
splash (pad)

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia’s newest service club has come up with a community project which is expected to make quite a splash. Members of the Petrolia Kiwanis Club were at Petrolia Council Monday offering to partner with the town to build a splash pad at the Oil Heritage Community Centre. Kiwanis President-Elect Tara Manchester says there are a number of surveys which point out the desire for the children’s water park - including the town’s own recreation master plan. “A community survey administered in November 2019 indicated that the town should proceed with the development of a splash pad. The Parks and Recreation master plan September 2020 identifies a township proceed with the development of a splash pad,” she says. Manchester added 74 per cent of people supported the development of a splash pad in Petrolia. “Children and youth are being encouraged to trade indoor time for outdoor time. Spending more time being active and less time being sedentary helps children perform better in school, learn new skills and improve self-confidence,” the club said in its presentation. The Petrolia Kiwanis Club has worked with a company called WaterPlay to come up with a plan for the town. It would cost about \$150,000. Manchester is suggesting the town would foot the bill to start with the local Kiwanis Club paying it back over six years. The club is also prepared to pay the operating costs, estimated at about \$15,000 a year for water.

SEE SPLASH PAD PG 2

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The splash pad being proposed by the Petrolia Kiwanis Club at the Oil Heritage Community Centre.

Splash pad proposal to be studied

CON'T FROM PG 1

Mayor Brad Loosley was excited about the proposal saying it was nice to see a group come forward not just looking for amenities but offering to help pay for them.

But he did voice concern about the need for washrooms. Manchester says the Kiwanis Club has already looked into that.

“They have mobile washrooms and change rooms where they bring it in. It is very easy to hook water up into it. And then through the wintertime, if need be, we can take it away and store and bring back. It’s very cost effective and something our Kiwanis Club is looking to fundraise for that cost.”

The town has discussed the idea of a splash pad a number of times. In 2016, Director of Facilities and Community Services, Dave Menzies brought a report to council suggesting it would cost a lot more to build and maintain a splash pad than the Kiwanis now estimate.

Just to build a pad would cost about \$185,000. But Menzies says there is more to it than that. The cost doesn’t include hooking into the town’s water system or landscaping, nor does it include the \$150,000 system which would be needed to recycle the water being used. Many local municipalities don’t do that.

In his report, Menzies suggests there

should be someone on site each day (\$20,900) and the cost each month for running the splash pad could cost up to \$27,000 – mostly because of the sewage rate which would be charged to the water.

And at the time, Menzies said the town might have to consider building some change rooms which he estimates could cost \$125,000.

While most councillors like the idea, they weren’t ready to sign on the dotted line.

Council agreed the proposal has merit and should be investigated further. The Community Services Committee will look at it in the next few months.

Councillor Grant Purdy suggested Kiwanis look at partnering with other groups, like Parents for Parks. Manchester says they have talked to other service clubs which have expressed an interest in helping with the project.

“I’ve always been a big proponent, since I’ve been on council in 2014, of the splash pad. I think the difference now is that we actually have a service club that’s demonstrating a commitment and willing to put that on paper, which I think would help,” says Purdy.

“I realize it’s not going to happen overnight. There’s a lot of logistics to work out on things, but I think it definitely has merit.”

Stand by for your COVID-19 vaccine

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

There’s a new way to sign up for a COVID-19 shot on short notice in Lambton County.

Lambton Public Health now has a standby list where people can sign up first thing in the morning to receive either their first or second doses at a local vaccine clinic later in the day. After selecting a clinic in the morning, “you will be called if there are doses available at your preferred clinic, and you are available to travel to the clinic on short notice that day,” says Medical Officer of Health Dr. Sudit Ranade.

The wait lists will be cleared at 10 am every morning so people available on consecutive days will need to sign up each day. Public Health says space is limited and once the list is full for the day sign ups will close.

“There are no guarantees that you

will be called. The number of standby appointments is unpredictable, as it depends on the number of cancellations and no-shows.”

The idea is to use the available vaccine without wasting doses.

“Our Clearwater, Forest and Wyoming immunization clinics have many openings for appointments the week of July 12 and beyond,” says Ranade. “Please book a first dose appointment if you have not done so yet, and a second dose appointment as soon as you’re eligible.”

“Being fully vaccinated with two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine provides the best protection from the virus and its highly transmissible Delta variant which is circulating in the community.”

By July 13, 74 per cent of Lambton adults had one shot and 52.7 per cent were fully vaccinated. There’s been over 141,000 vaccinations in Lambton.

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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

New flashing lights have already been installed at the corner of London Line and Forest Line after Lambton County councillors approved the move July 7.

Safety lights installed at PW intersection

Cathy Dobson
Special to The Independent

Two days after an urgent plea to improve safety at a dangerous intersection, new flashing lights were installed on Forest Road at London Line.

“We lost no time in making things happen,” said Jason Cole, Lambton County’s general manager of infrastructure and development services.

A second flashing light is on order for the “Stop Ahead” warning sign already there. Cole said he budgeted \$5,000 for the two solar-powered lights authorized by a unanimous council vote.

There have been 31 accidents at that intersection in the last 10 years, including one that killed Stephanie Cattrysse’s stepfather Bob Hollingsworth.

Cattrysse was at county council’s July 7 meeting and said her stepfather’s death was preventable. “Our family wants to stop further lives being injured and lost,” she said.

Two weeks earlier, county council had approved a study to see what safety upgrades could be made to the intersection, but Cattrysse said that would take too long.

“Many residents are eager to see prompt action. We don’t want to wait for a report or two to three years for upgrades,” she said, presenting a petition with 1,800 signatures in support of immediate improvements.

Hollingsworth, 57, a well-known commercial painter from Watford was driving along London Line to a family birthday in Wyoming on September 20 when he was killed in a two-vehicle

crash.

A driver travelling south on Forest Road went through the stop sign.

“A few individuals parked in the lot at that intersection heard the crash, called 9-1-1 and ran to help,” Cattrysse said. “What many people do not know is that the 20-year-old running to the scene had no idea it would be his Uncle Bob’s Paint Man van lying before him, or his beloved uncle, whom he’d not be able to help.”

Cattrysse told council that at least three people have died at the intersection, according to OPP records. In each case, the fatalities were a result of drivers failing to stop at the stop sign.

Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Lonny Napper urged council to take immediate action.

“To wait (for a study) isn’t good enough,” Napper said. He put a motion forward to immediately install flashing lights on the signs.

Napper believes the intersection has a blind spot and more should be done to make it safer.

Council heard that rumble strips were at that location years ago, warning drivers to stop ahead. But the sound disturbed some people and they were removed, according to Cattrysse.

Since Hollingsworth was killed nine months ago, three more collisions have occurred at the intersection including one last month where a woman was airlifted to London, Cattrysse said.

She estimates there has been an accident there every three to four months for the past decade.

County staff will continue to study the intersection and file a report to council in the fall about further safety measures that could be taken.

No more quadesters for high school students

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The widely unpopular quadmester system won’t be returning to Lambton County schools next year.

The model, aimed at reducing COVID spread by having kids interact less, had students take one class all day.

But students and parents had become fed up with packing that much curriculum into a shortened time frame, along with the lacking class variety that came with being in the same two classes for more than two months straight.

So for 2020-21, the Lambton Kent District School Board and St. Clair Catholic District School Board will switch to a ‘modified semester model’.

The classes will still be long, 2.5 hours each, but now there will be

four of them spread out over a longer period of time.

Students will take four classes over 18 weeks. They’ll spend one week in their first and second classes, then switch the next week to their third and fourth classes under the same schedule.

When the first semester ends students will then take their other four classes.

“This modified semester model will address concerns about the pace and intensity of courses experienced during the current school year in the quadmester model,” says Lambton Kent’s Director of Education John Howitt.

Each semester will end with five evaluation days. “This model is a step towards a more normalized secondary school calendar,” says St. Clair Catholic’s Director of Education Deb Crawford.

NEW WINDOW ON OIL SPRINGS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Workers from Tillsonburg Glass and Mirror Limited were busy installing the new floor to ceiling windows at the Oil Heritage Museum in Oil Springs. The building was originally designed so visitors could look out to the historic oil fields from any part of the museum. Over the years, the windows were blocked off. Renovations to the museum are expected to be complete in August.



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Editorial

Mandatory vaccines

We believe in some cases, vaccines should be mandatory.

You would have to be living under a rock to avoid all the talk of the COVID-19 vaccine. When it was approved, there was much urgency to vaccinate the elderly, the most vulnerable to the respiratory disease. Health care workers were next in line since they were likely to be exposed to it at work.

When more doses became available, there was no shortage of volunteers to roll up their sleeves.

Recently, Ontario’s education minister said having school kids vaccinated was the key to keeping them in the classroom. It’s an interesting statement since any child under 11 can’t get a vaccine now. There is not one approved for them. We’re hoping the Ontario government is doing more than relying on vaccines this time around.

More concerning to us is the number of health care workers - particularly in long term care - who have not stepped up for the shot. It is their right to chose whether to be vaccinated, but particularly in long term care, we believe there should not be a choice.

COVID-19 has proven to be an effective killer of the elderly. There are almost 4,000 graves to prove that.

During the pandemic, when no one but health care workers entered the homes there were outbreaks all over the province. Workers were clearly the transmitters. And it is still happening today. In Burlington and in Sarnia, there are outbreaks at long term care homes. This is not only devastating for the families of those dying but for the rest of the community who are again locked away from family.

There should be certain expectations of health care workers; keeping patients safe is one of those. That means being vaccinated or not working. It’s as simple as that.

Canadian governments - both federal and provincial - don’t seem to want to tackle the issue. That’s not the case in other countries as France and England both will require the shot to work. In the US, hospitals have dismissed hundreds of staff because they wouldn’t vaccinate. There is precedent. We do require people to have other vaccines. But it seems as it is with everything surrounding COVID-19, it is not that simple.

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



WARWICK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO

Duncan Dunlop Jr. and his wife Elizabeth with Marjorie Thomson. Dunlop was one of the original settlers of Warwick. He came with his father, a one-legged Napoleonic War veteran. Both men worked clearing Egremont Road according to the Warwick Township Historical Society.

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Frustrated optometrists threaten to withdraw services

Cathy Dobson
Special to The Independent

Children and seniors in Central Lambton and across the province could lose all access to eye care on September 1.

It’s a stalemate that can be avoided if the Ontario government agrees to negotiate with optometrists on the cost of eye exams, says a spokesman for Kniaziew Optometry in Petrolia.

Jordan Kniaziew is the vice president of business development for the family-owned company that has nine optometry offices throughout southwestern Ontario.

Optometry has been drastically underfunded for decades and it’s finally reaching a breaking point, according to Kniaziew.

Members of the Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) have voted 96 per cent in favour to withdraw services they provide under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) unless the province steps up funding.

“We support the withdrawal of OHIP services,” Kniaziew said. “A lack of government funding for eye care directly impacts patient access and treatment.

“The less funding for eye care, the more the service as a whole suffers,” he said. “We don’t want our care for

our patients to be interrupted, but we are very concerned for the quality of care if the government does not come to the table.”

Optometrists say other regulated health professionals have a formal negotiation process that ensures regular talks to set fees for OHIP-insured care.

But eye care professionals are not given the same consideration and the result is a payment system that falls far short of covering the real cost of optometry.

“In 1989, the Ontario government paid \$39.15 to an optometrist for a single eye exam,” said Kniaziew.

“Since then, that figure has increased an average 17 cents a year.”

That level of funding doesn’t cover the cost to deliver an exam let alone pay to maintain and purchase modern equipment, monthly rent fees, loans, insurance and the salaries of office staff, Kniaziew said.

“Even if we don’t withdraw services, the quality of service we can provide is suffering.”

Without adequate payment, it is harder for Ontario optometrists to invest in modern technologies that aid in the early detection of serious eye diseases and other conditions, Kniaziew added.

Currently, the province covers about

55 per cent of the cost of eye exams insured by OHIP, according to the OAO.

The remainder of the cost is absorbed by optometrist clinics.

Seven out of ten patients are covered by OHIP, including people under 20, 65 and older or with specific medical conditions.

“Our ask is very simple- we simply want the government to agree to meet with us,” said Kniaziew.

“We know the government is well aware of the problem because we have reached out countless number of times and have not heard back from them since December,” he said.

If nothing changes by fall, seniors and children won’t have access to eye appointments since there is provincial legislation that makes it illegal to pay optometrists privately or through a third-party insurer, Kniaziew added.

He urged concerned patients to visit SaveEyeCare.ca to learn more and to contact Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey to ask him to work on a solution this summer.



Jordon Kniaziew

Developer wants to add tiny homes to new subdivision

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

There’s a new type of housing development being planned for Courtright, but not everybody is sold on the idea.

The proposed 61 unit subdivision would be located in the vacant stretch of land between Sixth and Eighth Streets and connect them by a new east-west street. The new subdivision would be surrounded by around 50 existing homes.

But these units would come with a twist. The owner and developer, London based Southside Construction Group, wants to build an approximate 2,000 square foot home and another unit, which could be considered a granny flat.

Currently in the township, a secondary dwelling must be attached to an existing structure, like a suite above a garage. Each of the new second units would measure about 721 square feet and be owned by the same people who own the main house.

The owners are also asking that lot coverage for the properties be increased from 35 to 40 per cent to allow for construction of larger primary homes and for the second dwellings to be exempt from the accessory lot coverage amount of 10 per cent.

The experimental design raised plenty of questions among council, staff and residents at last week’s public meeting.

There were at least 10 letters of opposition from neighbours who shared concerns about privacy, increased traffic and a general lack of accommodations in Courtright, such as parks and stores, to account for hundreds of new residents.

Many people attended the virtual meeting to personally voice their



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Southside Construction wants to build 61 homes with secondary units in the centre of an existing subdivision.

opposition.

There was not one resident speaking in favour of the proposed subdivision.

Staff had plenty of concerns too, mostly surrounding what they said was a lack of concrete information from the developer.

Ken Melanson, Lambton’s manager of planning and development services, says the lot coverage change requests are “considerable departures” from how St. Clair usually regulates building size.

Melanson also says staff are lacking detailed floor plans for the units, what their design and functionality will be, how visitors and emergency services will access them, what the parking situation will be and what the impacts to community character might be.

“At this point staff are left with a number of unanswered or unresolved issues and are unable to support the application at this time,” says Melanson.

Dave Hannam, a registered professional planner with Zelinka Priamo, Southside’s planning company, attempted to address some of the concerns.

He says the proposed changes fall in line with the province’s 2019 passing

of Bill 108, which promotes creation of additional dwelling units in new and existing builds to accommodate growing populations.

Hannam didn’t have any concerns about character impacts to Courtright and he believes all the planning criteria exists to permit the second dwellings.

He added the high number of new homes will make pricing more affordable, though no cost estimate was given for any of the units.

Hannam says detached second dwellings are an “emerging trend” in other parts of the province, but acknowledged Southside has not completed a project like this before.

“I think at this point our staff have several unanswered questions... So I’m not prepared to pass this at this point,” says Deputy Mayor Steve Miller.

“I would suggest we give them an opportunity to work with these people and get their questions answered.”

Council set aside the plans for now. Hannam says they’ll work with planning staff in St. Clair to provide the information needed to move ahead.

The issue will likely return to council at their next meeting August 9.

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EXTENSIVE DAMAGE AFTER WHEAT FIRE



PAPPLE AVIATION PHOTO

An Oil Springs family lost 25 acres of wheat after a mechanical issue with a combine sparked a fire at the corner of Courtright Line and Oakdale Road. Karen Cook says they had just begun harvesting their 130 acres of wheat when the fire started July 5. Firefighters from Oil Springs were among those who battled the blaze and a pilot from Papple Aviation in Goderich was able to get aerial photos of the damage from 5,000 feet in the air. Chief Al Charlton says the wind pushed the fire towards the buildings - including a home that the Cook's son lives in - however firefighters were able to push the flames back around the perimeter of the building. Cook says the combine was not damaged in the blaze.

Shannon celebrates 50 years with a joke of course

Cathy Dobson
Special to The Independent

Just call him Mr. Popularity. Petrolia's Mark Shannon is recognized almost everywhere he goes for the written jokes he likes to hand out and the smiles he leaves behind. "Everybody knows Mark," says long time friend and neighbour Nina Hodgson. "Every day he likes to walk uptown, go over to the park, and stop at the Scotiabank or the farmer's market. He finds people he knows and he hands them his jokes. "They smile, sometimes share a joke of their own and go on their way," she said. "He's a happy guy and he loves to make others smile and bring them joy." Mark was born with a developmental disability that makes communicating a challenge, says his sister Mary Jo Shannon. He attended LCCVI in the special needs program until he was 21. When he graduated, he continued to visit the school several times a week to help take attendance, said Mary Jo. "He'd go classroom to classroom in the morning and that's where the jokes started," she said. "He'd give the weather forecast and a few jokes to make everyone laugh. "They loved it and called him The Weatherman." For more than 20 years, Mark helped with attendance and made lots of friends at the high school. But about five years ago, the tradition

ended when attendance-taking went electronic and he wasn't needed anymore. When he couldn't take them to LCCVI anymore, Mark took his jokes to the community. "He knows so many people now that he can't go anywhere without someone saying hello," said Mary Jo. When Nina Hodgson moved in around the corner from Mark's house in 2011, she was immediately drawn to his sunny disposition and began helping him out. She often takes him on errands or helps him write out the best jokes he finds in paperback joke books. "Befriending Mark came naturally," Nina said. "He's like a brother to me and I believe it takes a village to support a guy like Mark. "But Mark is supporting others too. My kids love him. He's part of the neighbourhood and part of the community." Mary Jo Shannon said she is Mark's only close relative but lives in Sarnia and doesn't drive. "I'm really glad Nina and Mark are friends and he knows he can go to her if he needs something," she said. The pandemic has caused numerous challenges for Mark since he hasn't been able to follow his routine and do the things he likes such as bowling and going to the library. But he's still been uptown most days to hand out his one-liners and see some friendly smiles. Tuesday, July 13 is Mark's 50th birthday and Nina has helped him



CATHY DOBSON PHOTO

Mark Shannon, who celebrated his 50th birthday Tuesday, is known for his sunny disposition and the jokes he always has on hand to show people in downtown Petrolia. make plans so he can share it with the community. She organized an open house in Victoria Park with snacks and, of course, jokes for all. Later there will be an invite-only neighbourhood barbecue in honour of Mark. And of course, there is even a joke to go with that. "What do you call a primate hosting a barbecue?" ANSWER: "A g'rilla!"

MP Marilyn Gladu

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GOOD CATCH



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Anderson Webster was holding on tight to his fish. He was one of 24 kids who took part in the annual Petrolia Fishing Derby. Over the 11 days of the derby at Bridgeview Park, the kids caught 214 fish, two turtles, one clam and a clump of weeds. Hunter Kedwell caught the largest fish - a 31.5 inch carp. Jadin Vandenberghe caught 54 fish. Alex Core caught the smallest fish - a half inch minnow. Anderson won one of the randam draws for his 8.5 inch cattfish.

Turning point in pandemic says Ranade

Heather Wright
The Independent

Ontario’s doors open a little wider Friday as the province moves into the third stage of reopening after the brutal third wave of COVID-19 which led to mass shutdowns. And there is hope the Victoria Playhouse will be able to open soon as restrictions ease. It comes as local health officials say we’re at a turning point in the pandemic. Friday’s reopening comes as Ontario continues to make progress vaccinating against the virus which has killed 26,450 people in Canada including 9,258 in Ontario. As of July 12, 78 per cent of Ontarians 12 and up have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine; 54.7 per cent have had two. In order to enter Step Three of reopening, Ontario needed to have vaccinated 70 to 80 per cent of adults with one dose and 25 per cent with two doses. In Stage Three of the reopening, many of the restrictions are lifted, with more people allowed in one place. Retailers will only have to limit store capacity to the number of people who can be distanced by two meters; everything from museums, historic sites, zoos, bingo halls, fairs and festivals can hold indoor events with 50 per cent capacity. Theatres can also have up to 50 per cent capacity. There is no word yet when Victoria Playhouse Petrolia might begin performances although officials say plans are in the works and there will be an announcement shortly. Gyms can also let people back inside at 50 per cent capacity. Arenas will also be open with up to 50 per cent spectators allowed inside to watch. There will be dancing at nightclubs and

bars - although you have to be masked. You can also have up to 100 people outside for social gatherings. Indoors, officials want just 25. There are no capacity limits for religious services and ceremonies, including weddings and funerals; people simply have to be able to stay six feet apart. And there will be no limits on how many people can be in a salon or at a restaurant, as long as social distancing is maintained. Public health officials add wearing masks will still be necessary indoors and it is important to continue staying two meters away from others. While the province is lifting the restrictions, Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, recently told Lambton County councillors this is a turning point in the pandemic. “I think we’ve achieved the critical goals we set out to - reducing death and preserving the health care system,” he says. The question now, he says, is “how much should we hold on to the remaining interventions” like physical separation and masking. Ranade says vaccination rates are so high now, the impact of COVID-19 is going to be similar to influenza. The medical officer of health says the vaccine is 95 per cent effective and that will make the biggest difference in reducing death in the population, particularly the elderly who are most vulnerable. The problem, he says, will be those who aren’t vaccinated, adding “once you hit 40 (years of age) if you have COVID, you are more likely to die from COVID than if you were in a motor vehicle accident... it’s dramatically higher risk. “If the fatality rates are at or near the same as influenza, we can start treating this disease differently.”

Petrolia

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Sale Days

JULY

15, 16 & 17

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Participating merchants only!
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OTHER PROVINCES

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NIGHT MARKET MOVES



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Petrolia’s first ever Tuesday Night Market made for a night of browsing behind the Petrolia Library. Fourteen vendors of everything from arts and crafts to socks to butter tarts offered their wares as the crowds listened to the sounds of local artist Demi Krall. The market had to be cut short after a thunderstorm hit the area.

Plympton-Wyoming gets renovation cash

The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming is getting almost \$143,000 for renovations to community spaces. The money was announced by the federal and provincial

governments as part of the recreation infrastructure grants. Plympton-Wyoming will use the money to upgrade washrooms including installing an access ramp, replacing the existing roof on the Camlachie Community Centre, installing

and expanding an accessible parking area and walkways for the Camlachie Library and Museum building. Overall accessibility to the building will be improved according to a news release from the province.

Warwick’s history coming to a screen near you

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick’s history will soon unfold on a TV screen. Peter Janes is planning to use the Warwick Historical Society’s book, A Story Through Time, and bring it to life on film. “My plan is to follow a fictional family from just before Warwick was opened for settlement (1832) to the 1940s. With over six thousand entries now

in my collection I am sure I have the material to cover this period well,” he told Warwick councillors July 5. He expects it will take between one and three years to complete the two hour film based on the 25 chapter book which Janes says has become the standard for other historical societies to follow. Janes has produced a number of films about local history including a church supper in Warwick but never is paid.

“I’m retired. I love doing history. If I want to spend a day going over the stagecoaches which came through Warwick, that’s my privilege.” While he won’t be paid, the township has given him \$3,300 to buy a new computer to complete the task. The township is also talking with Janes about a project on the history of Centennial Hall. It is scheduled to be demolished once the new community centre is complete.

PW puts up murals

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming residents will soon see some of their history as they drive through town. In 2019, the town received a \$2,000 grant from the Creative County Grants in Lambton to start a mural project. But the pandemic brought the project to a halt. But the project is getting back on the rails and town staff are expecting to have a number of murals throughout the municipality. Officials have been choosing images from the Lambton County Archives which reflect the community. They’ll be mounted on four foot by eight foot panels made of an aluminum composite covered in digitally printed vinyl graphics. Some of the murals - like the one of the Grand Trunk Railway on the Home Hardware building on Broad Street - will be three panels wide. There will be a view of Broad-



This military photo will be mounted on the Camlachie Museum way Street North on the municipal building in Wyoming, a depiction of the original Lamrecton Camp at the park which bears its name, the Wyoming fire station will be home to a panel of Wyoming’s Antique Fire Truck and the Camlachie Community Centre will bear a photo of the Camlachie Saddle Club. And a new business in Wyoming, LOCA on Broadway, will host a historic picture of the building the restaurant now occupies. Town officials hope the murals will be complete in the next couple of months.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All Creditors and others having claims against the Estate of Michael Paul Lambert, late of the Town of Huntsville, in the Muskoka Region of Ontario, Retired Teacher, who died on or about the 22nd day of September, 2020, are to send their claims, if any, with full particulars by mailing them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of July, 2021, after which date the Estate Trustee will proceed to distribute the Estate among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall than has received notice.

WALLACE B. LANG
4245 Petrolia Line
Petrolia, Ontario
N0N 1R0

Solicitor for the Estate Trustee

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

37th Annual Lambton Cattlemen’s

BEEF BARBEQUE

Wednesday August 4th, 2021

DRIVE THRU

Brooke-Alvinston- Inwood Arena

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Rain or Shine!

Lambton County Beef, Salad,
Baked Potato, Roll, Baked Beans, & Dessert

Tickets \$20.00
ADVANCED TICKETS ONLY

For Tickets contact
Hanneke Mills
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lambtoncattlemens@hotmail.ca
or Lambton Cattlemen’s Directors



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Sports

Three time Stanley Cup winner tried out for Petrolia

Heather Wright
The Independent

As three-time Stanley Cup winner Pat Maroon hoisted the trophy with the Tampa Bay Lightning, Mark Hunter was filled with pride.

Maroon and the Lightning claimed the Cup July 7 with a 1-0 victory in the fifth game over the Montreal Canadiens.

But as Hunter watched, there was also a little regret for a missed opportunity in Petrolia many years before.

Hunter, owner and vice president of the London Knights, was the owner of the Petrolia Jets when Maroon was just 16 and he tried out for the Junior B team. It didn't work out so well for the teen. He was cut before the season began.

Maroon was big for his age and it was a drawback.

"He needed to get in shape," recalls Hunter.

But there was promise there. "He's got really good hands and a really good brain. He was that big then as he is now... his conditioning wasn't where it should be at. And so he came down, he played pretty well."

And he made a good impression, Hunter says. "He was a nice young man, very mature man. You know, but he was only 16 at the time."

Maroon had also signed with a team in St. Louis which wasn't very interested in releasing him.

Hunter says after trying to convince St. Louis to release Maroon, it got complicated.

The combination meant Maroon was cut from the team.

But that wasn't the end of Hunter's encounters with the man who goes down in the history books as one of the few modern day NHLers with three Cups to his name.

Maroon ended up with the London Knights after the Hunters bought the team. The change, Mark says, was



NHL.COM PHOTO

Pat Maroon of the Stanley Cup winning Tampa Bay Lightning once tried out for the Petrolia Jets.

remarkable.

"He played well, he got 90 points for us.

"He played really well. So he ended up getting drafted and getting a contract and going down this road - his way through the minors - to be national hockey league player. Three Cup repeat winner. So that's pretty impressive with the battle he went and the road he went - he didn't take an easy route."

Hunter says that work ethic which materialized between the time he was 16 and 19 was sheer determination to be in the NHL.

"He had size, determination, and he did his work to get better. And a lot of young men get discouraged. He didn't get discouraged and you can see that by the results.

"But, did he have some potential?

Yes, he did as a lot of young people do. Other young people get discouraged too quickly. He didn't. He battled."

And while Hunter was rooting for him as he watched the Stanley Cup, there were a few other players on his mind as well. Both Corey Perry and Josh Anderson of the Montreal Canadiens played for the Knights. Hunter wanted them to hoist the cup, too.

"I guess I'm like a parent now. You hope the individuals do well," says Hunter, noting both Perry and Anderson put in a lot of hard work to get to that final.

"If you had seen Josh Anderson, he came to us at 17, you'd be shocked what he is now, he is a beast now. He was just a skinny little boy when he came at 17."

Babula, Sarnia Brigade to open senior ball season this week

Petrolia's Wade Babula and the Sarnia Brigade open an abbreviated Southwestern Ontario Baseball League season with a contest against St. Thomas on Wednesday (July 14) at Errol Russell Park. First pitch is set for 7 pm. The Brigade (formerly the Sarnia Braves) entertain Ilderton this

Sunday at Errol Russell Park at 1 pm.

Babula threw three scoreless innings, striking out four, in an 8-0 win by the Brigade in the second game of a doubleheader in Kincardine last Sunday. Sarnia won the opener 5-4.

The Brigade are welcoming fans with physical distancing requirements in

effect and it notes on social media that schedules can change frequently as the league navigates COVID protocols.

Meantime, as of press time, the Western Counties senior loop had yet to finalize its 2021 schedule. It is hoped that, weather permitting, some games can be played this week.

Bright's Grove ball player selected by Detroit Tigers

Sometime in the future, Jordan Marks could toe the rubber for the Detroit Tigers. The Motor City crew selected the Bright's Grove product from the University of South Carolina Upstate

in the eighth round of the Major League Baseball draft Monday.

The Great Lakes alum set school records with the Spartans with ten wins and 101 strikeouts in 95.2 innings

pitched this season.

He led the conference with a 2.54 ERA. For his efforts, he was named the Big South Conference Pitcher of the Year.

Florence's Rombouts leads ladies' overall standings on junior golf tour

A victory and a second-place finish have landed Karolyn Rombouts of Florence atop the ladies' point standings on the Jamieson Junior Golf Tour.

The Florence product, who plays out of Maple City in Chatham, won in a nine-hole event at LaSalle's Seven Lakes Golf Course last Wednesday before placing second in an 18-hole

competition at Willow Ridge in Blenheim on Monday.

The next stop on the tour is in Kingsville on Monday, July 19.

Classifieds

Coming Event

SAVE your EMPTIES!
BOTTLE DRIVE

Oil Springs
Legion Br#535

PROCEEDS TO GO TOWARDS BUILDING UPGRADES

Contact any Legion member with questions | Thank you for your support.

Help support your local Legion

Saturday
July 24
8am - 12 noon

Drop off your bottles & cans at the Oil Springs Legion
4598 Oil Springs Line
- or - leave them at the end of your laneway for pick up in Oil Springs and Oil City

Celebration

In Memory of
the Centennial of the Birth of
Donald Campbell McKinlay
July 18, 1921 – August 18, 2018

Remembered by
his family and friends

Celebration

Wayne & Marybelle MacFARLANE
July 17th
Celebrating
50 YEARS

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary
Love your family

Celebration

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to
Jim Cassin
who is celebrating
90 Years on July 14th

A teacher and principal at LCCVI from 1960-1980, Jim also served the community as a town councilor, a Rotarian and member of St. Philip's church.

Years go by but Petrolia and the many colleagues and friends he met there remain a treasured part of his life and ours!

Happy Birthday Dad!
Jim, Stephen, Paula, Anne Marie, Siobhan and Philip Cassin

Notice

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

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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In Memory

In loving memory of
William “Bill” Alexander
who passed away July 19, 2019

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
For death leaves a heartache,
No one can heal,
And love leaves a memory
No one can steal.



Forever loved and missed by
Melba, Jim, Mary Ann, John, David and Greg



In Memory

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and friend
John Arthur GRIFFITH
Jan. 20, 1941 - July 20, 2008

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near
So loved, so missed and so very dear.
“In spirit, heart and memory,
love lives forever”



So sadly missed but never forgotten
your family,
Carolynne, Mandy, John and Ann Marie,
Julia, Brett & Katie

Card of Thanks

Thank You

The Nickels and Salts Family would like to thank everyone for their support during Lisa’s illness. Thank you for all the cards, texts, flowers and food. A special thank you to Dr. Maddison, Dr. Crombeen and all the staff at Bluewater Palliative Care unit.

Joe Nickels and Salts Family

Coming Event

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

Help Wanted

Wanted - Always in Bloom is looking for a **Delivery Driver**. Part time/ Casual. NEEDS a valid drivers license . Job entails delivery of flowers in town & surrounding areas. Must be available between the hours of 10am - 4pm. **Call 519-882-9034** for more information.

WANTED

CASH FOR GOLD SILVER ALL JEWELRY ALL COINS TOP PRICE PAID

FRIDAY, JULY 16
9 am - 4 pm
PETROLIA LIONS HALL
451 Huggard St., Petrolia
Next to Arena
PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

53 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Serving Petrolia Since 2004!
Dan W. Jones B.A.B. Ed.
519-818-1805

WANTED

FARMLAND - Do you want a farmer who wants and values your opinion on how to best farm your land ? One who will work with you to develop a crop plan, discuss when your farm is fit to plant and harvest to minimize compaction and maximise profit for the long term? **Then call Shawn at Font Farms (519) 384-2855.**

Notice

Take Your Shot Teen Photo Contest - Good vs. evil...can you capture this an epic photo? Teens are invited to participate in the 12th Annual Take Your Shot photography contest with Lambton County Library. This year’s theme is “Good vs. Evil”. Photos can only be submitted online between July 5, 2021 and August 8, 2021. The Take Your Shot Teen Photo Contest is open to teens between the ages of 13 and 18. for more information please go to: www.lclibrary.ca

For Sale

PLANT SALE - Hosta plants, Yucca Plants and Rose of Sharon Bushes. **Self Serve. We will recycle plant pots. 458 Ignatiefna St., Petrolia.**

Obituary



SIMPSON
Lois Eileen

August 1, 1931 - June 18, 2021

Peacefully at home with family on **Friday June 18th, 2021** in her **90th year**. Beloved wife of the late Lawrence Simpson. Sister of Robert O'Neill (Olive) and the late Norman O'Neill (Kathryne). Dear aunt of Brian (Karen), Marni (Rob), Arlis (Rod), Shane (Rhonda), Eirin (Paul), Tricia (Greg). Step-mother of Bob (Bev), Skip (Brenda) and Debbie (Robert). Lois will be fondly remembered by her great nieces , nephews, and step grandchildren. **Private family interment at Gillis Cemetery, West Lorne.** If desired donations in memory of Lois to the charity of your choice. The family would like to thank the many neighbours and friends for all their support to Lois. Condolences received at www.maccoubrey.com.

Obituary



MILLIKEN
David

Milliken, David passed away on **Saturday, July 10, 2021** at St. Joseph's Hospice. David Milliken, of Brooke Township, was **76 years** of age. David will be missed by his wife of 50 years Pat (nee Miner), his daughters Sarah Milliken-Tomlinson and her husband Scott and Rev. Wendy Milliken and her husband Evan Lucas, and his grandchildren Virginia, Charles, and Nathaniel. David is also survived by a brother Bill Milliken. David was born a farmer and spent his entire life farming. **At David's request there will be no funeral.** Instead of flowers please plant a tree, take your family out to lunch, or make donation to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (www.foodgrainsbank.ca). Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.

WANTED

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

Obituary



LUCK
Nellie Myrtle

LUCK, Nellie Myrtle passed peacefully at C.E.E. Hospital, Petrolia on **July 10, 2021**, at the age of **84**. She was predeceased by her beloved husband Harry Luck (2000). Loving mother of, Carson (Leslie) Luck, Robert (Liz) Luck, Cindy (Frank) Kerr, Nora (George) Cameron, Linda (Bloss) Esselmont, Pamela (Mark) Core, Sherry Crow (Tim) and Melissa Luck. She was the proud grandmother of 13 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren. Nellie was a long-time employee at Dresden Canadian Canners and was a life-time resident of Oil Springs/Petrolia. She will be remembered by many extended family members, friends and neighbors in the area. The family would like to extend a special than you to the staff of Fiddick's Nursing Home and C.E.E. Hospital for her exceptional care. **A private family service will take place at the Oil Springs Cemetery through Steadman Brothers Funeral Home at a later date.** Condolences may be expressed through donations to the C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceehf.ca) or the Town Of Petrolia Memorial Tree Planting Program (cheques mailed to funeral home). Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. Arrangements entrusted to STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden 519-864-1193.

Obituary



BARNES
Edward

Died peacefully at his home with his wife by his side. Edward Barnes, of Croton, at the age of **62**. Ed will be missed by his wife of 43 years Ila (nee Lynne). He was predeceased by his much loved daughter Angela (2017). He will be missed by his sisters Dorothy (Kari) Lylander, Shirley (John) Hall, and Susan (Julien) Hamel, his brother Melvin “Ted” (Faye) Barnes, and his brothers-in-law James (the late Valerie(2020)) Lynne and Ernest (Bonita) Lynne. Ed was predeceased by his parents Bob (1994) and Isabelle (2005) Barnes and his brother Richard Barnes (1998), and father and mother-in-law Gilbert (2015) and Marilyn (2013) Lynne. **Visitors were received at the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 4059 Petrolia Line, Petrolia on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 in the afternoon. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 2:00 pm and can be viewed at www.facebook.com/NeedhamJay. Interment in Oil Springs Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceehf.ca). Condolences and memories may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com.

WANTED

Wanted to Buy - Old and unique items. Single items to entire estates. **Call Chad 519-639-9102**

Death Notices

July 3 - July 9, 2021

SATURDAY, JULY 3
DOUWES, Albert “Dennis”
Age 61, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

BEATTY, Troy
Age 67, of Thailand
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

MARTIN, Valrae
Age 78, of Watford
Denning's of Forest

MONDAY, JULY 5
LECKIE, EVA
Age 90, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

D'SILVA, Lily
Age 93, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

TUESDAY, JULY 6
DIETZ, Brent
Age 43, of Calgary
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7
JOHNSON, Chad
Age 33, of Sarnia
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

McMULLAN, Noreen
Age 88, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

BURMAN, Doreen
Age 89, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, JULY 8
GRANDMAISON, Michael
Age 32, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

FRIDAY, JULY 9
BARNES, Edward
Age 62, of Croton
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

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

Notice

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

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

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

Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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.

of events

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
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	
Jul 16	3-8p	Forest	Forest Legion back patio open. Social distancing and masks please. Horseshoe pits ready to go. Weather permitting	
Jul 17		Petrolia	Petrolia Sidewalk Sales. visit www.visitpetrolia.ca	
Jul 17	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vender's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Jul 17	8-noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Transfer Site Open • Maude St. • Pass Required. Visit www.visitpetrolia.ca for more info.	
Jul 17	2-8p	Forest	Forest Legion back patio open. Social distancing and masks please. Horseshoe pits ready to go. Weather permitting	
Jul 17	7:30pm	Sarnia	Laugh Outside with Mike Wilmot at Valley Axe. 1886 London Line for more info visit valleyaxe.com . \$20 a ticket.	
Jul 20	5-9p	Petrolia	Petrolia Night Market at 396 Fletcher (Behind te library). Makers, creators, food vendors, crafters and more! call 519-882-2350 for more info.	
Jul 21	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 22	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 23-24		Petrolia	Petrolia Town-wide Garage Sales. Brought to you by the Volunteer Business Group & Town of Petrolia.	
Jul 23	3-8p	Forest	Forest Legion back patio open. Social distancing and masks please. Horseshoe pits ready to go. Weather permitting	
Jul 24	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vender's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Jul 24	8a-noon	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion Bottle Drive. Drop off your bottles & cans at the Oil Springs Legion (4598 Oil Springs Line) contact any Legion member with questions.	
Jul 24	8a-noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions E-Waste Drop Off at 100 Annie St. Pick up in the afternoon call 519-330-1621	
Jul 24	8a-noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Peameal on a Bun at 100 Annie St.	
Jul 24	3pm	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle. Social distancing and masks please. Horseshoe pits ready to go. Weather permitting. \$15 sticks includes 50/50 draw.	
Jul 24	6pm	Sarnia	Rotary Club of Sarnia's Virtual Balloon Race. \$10 to join. Visit www.rotaryballoonrace.com for more info and to join	
Jul 27	5-9p	Petrolia	Petrolia Night Market at 396 Fletcher (Behind te library). Makers, creators, food vendors, crafters and more! call 519-882-2350 for more info.	
Jul 28	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 29	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 30	2-6p	Sarnia	Kiwanis Club of Petrolia and Area Backyard BBQ Bundle. Accepting orders until Sat Jul 24. Dinner for two bundle includes blueberry hickory smoked back ribs, rosemary garlic roasted potatoes, artisan ceaser salas, vanilla caramel swirl fudge, 2 cans of endless summer citurs wheat beer. \$65 per bundle. Pick up at 1173 Michener Rd Unit 3, Sarnia	
Jul 30	3-8p	Forest	Forest Legion back patio open. Social distancing and masks please. Horseshoe pits ready to go. Weather permitting	
Jul 31	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vender's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Jul 31	3pm	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle. Social distancing and masks please. Horseshoe pits ready to go. Weather permitting. \$15 sticks includes 50/50 draw.	
Aug 3	5-9p	Petrolia	Petrolia Night Market at 396 Fletcher (Behind te library). Makers, creators, food vendors, crafters and more! call 519-882-2350 for more info.	
Aug 4	5-7pm	Alvinston	37th Annual Lambton Cattlemen's Beef Barbeque Drive Thru. Advanced tickets only. \$20 a meal. Contact Hanneke Mills 519-318-0897 or lambtoncattlemens@hotmail.ca or Lambton Cattlemen's Directors.	
Aug 7	4-7pm	Petrolia	St.Paul's United Church Chicken to Go Dinner. Pre-purchased tickets only. Order deadline is July 31 at noon. Your choice of Quarter Herbed Chicken or 3 pieces of Broasted Chicken. to order tickets contact Ruth Syer arsyer@brktel.on.ca call/text 519-383-9085.	

Notice

Petrolia to Host a Community Shred Day - The Community Services Department is pleased to announce a free community secure shred day for personal documents. The shred day is open to residents only, and will take place starting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 24, 2021, in the Municipal Parking Lot at the back of Victoria Hall off Wingfield Street. The service is being offered at no charge to residents by A&W Locksmith, and is sponsored in-part by John McCharles, Broker, Sarnia Re/Max. Participants are asked to please remove items from binders and are reminded that this is for paper only. Personal document shredding is an excellent way to protect yourself from identity theft, and to ensure that the paper is properly recycled.

Answers to this week's


Sudoku

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



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Church DIRECTORY



Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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

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

St. Paul's United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In Person Services now taking place Sunday's 10am

We will be closed for Summer Break August 1, 8 & 15 with no Sunday Service

Service will resume August 22 at 10am

Rev. Carey Wagner
Church Office: 519-882-1390
 www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

First Baptist Church

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

IN PERSON CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday Mornings 10:30am

 Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com
www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca
Find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia
(Behind the Post Office)

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

www.standrews-petrolia.ca

Wyoming United Church

730 Second Street, Wyoming

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

 Rev. Steven Longmoore
Church Office 519-845-3963
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Family hopes for change after assaults

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

“I love all those people.”

Jaden Burdett hopes to heal relationships with his mother and grandparents.

It may be a long road after Burdett, 19, assaulted them during a destructive six month stretch fuelled by drug addiction.

“You were not in any kind of trouble with the court system and then this series of very serious actions on your part have brought you not only into the criminal justice system, but into jail,” says Justice Deborah Austin to Burdett during his June 16 court appearance from behind bars.

An assault on his mother was the first major incident. Sarnia Police were called to an apartment complex on London Line Sept. 30 after she alerted them to her son’s behaviour. Burdett had physically assaulted and verbally threatened her when she wouldn’t give him her debit card.

Burdett was arrested and released on bail. But less than a month later he was back at his mother’s house and again assaulted her in another fight over the bank card. Burdett then barred the front door with a couch and wouldn’t let his mother leave the house while threatening her. A neighbour called police after hearing the fighting.

Burdett was released again and ordered to stay with his grandparents in Petrolia. The same issues developed though and OPP officers were called to the Garfield Avenue home April 11 after Burdett began acting erratically and destroying things. He fled when police arrived but was quickly tackled in the kitchen.

The investigation revealed Burdett had threatened his grandfather on several occasions, including raising his fists to him.

“What my client has to realize is you can’t be threatening the people who love you the

most because if you lose their love you’re going to be in big trouble,” says Defense Lawyer Robert McFadden.

“Not a whole lot of other people in the world will love you... It’s been a real rude awakening being over there at the Sarnia Jail,” says McFadden of Burdett’s home since his latest arrest.

McFadden says Burdett’s family is very concerned about him, but that he must work through his addiction and anger issues before reconciliation can begin.

For his part Burdett knows his drug use is a problem and he’s been working on addressing it while in jail.

“I don’t talk to those people anymore,” says Burdett of the crowd he was hanging around with on the outside. “I feel a tremendous amount of pain for being around them and it sucks that it took me to get here to realize.”

Austin told Burdett the drugs are something “you’ve agreed is at the root of your behaviour and perhaps why you were desperately trying to get your mother’s bank card. But that kind of drug related issue is something for which you need help and you need to follow through with that help.”

“I understand that and I agree fully that I need these people to get help and get my life on track,” says Burdett.

Austin sentenced him to four months for his crime – time he’s already served.

Burdett will be on probation for two years where he has to continue substance abuse counselling as well as anger management classes.

Burdett also can’t contact his family members until they’re satisfied he’s made progress. “Hopefully you will earn the trust and ability for those relationships to continue. But that only will be allowed if it’s safe for them,” says Austin.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Man beats friend with bat Christmas Day

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Holiday spirit was in short supply between two former friends who exchanged blows instead of gifts at Christmas.

Wesley Hrycak’s decision to grab a baseball bat to inflict his damage is what landed him in Sarnia Court facing an assault charge. A joint submission from Crown and Defence recommended a conditional discharge, allowing Hrycak, 32, to avoid a criminal record.

Defence Lawyer Joseph Stoesser says there had been a falling out between Hrycak and his friend. The friend had not returned a number of Hrycak’s possessions. The pair had several tense encounters in public leading up to Christmas Day.

Things boiled over when the friend showed up at Hrycak’s Sarnia home at 10:30 Christmas night. No good tidings occurred during a brief verbal exchange before Hrycak charged the man with a baseball bat. Hrycak landed blows to his hand and head during the ensuing struggle before the man escaped the house.

“He understands that his behaviour was criminal in nature,” says Stoesser. “But it was borne out of a relationship with this person showing up at his house at 10:30 on Christmas night and Mr. Hrycak was

scared... This is not a situation where Mr. Hrycak sought out (victim).”

Crown Attorney Aniko Coughlan says the incident was “upsetting to him (victim)... He’s still struggling with some issues with respect to this event.”

“I really liked the guy and felt that I was a friend to him,” Hrycak told the Justice. But he believes his former friend is “aiming down. He’s aiming low in his life and I think he can do better.

“That’s not a good thing that I did to him and I feel bad about that. I think he can be awesome. I think he can be a really good guy and I want him to have a good life. So I’ll just steer clear of him and that’s the best I can do,” says Hrycak.

Hrycak will be steering clear of the man by court order, one of the terms of the 12 month probation included with his conditional discharge. He’ll also take counselling and can’t have any weapons.

“Obviously this incident has had an effect that is significant,” says Justice Deborah Austin. “Despite the fact that I recognize the impact on (victim) of the trauma of this incident, on Christmas Day no less, all of the circumstances that have been pointed to the court as well as the mitigating factors justify my respect for the joint submission that has been achieved here.”

- THE INDEPENDENT

Longtime Petrolia crossing guard retires

When school begins in September a familiar face will be missing.

Long-time Petrolia crossing guard, George McPhee, is retiring. He’s been a crossing guard at the corner of Princess and Kerby Streets for 25 years. He also was at Petrolia’s compost yard. Mayor Brad Loosley thanked him for his years of service

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