

PUTTING OUT THE SUN



St. Clair Township firefighters appeared to be trying to put out a fire on the sun during training Monday in Mooretown along the St. Clair River.

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

‘Please get help into LTC now’

Heather Wright
The Independent

Even though the concerns of COVID-19 are easing, Connie Moore has seen first hand there are still major staffing problems in long term care. And she wants politicians at all levels to find solutions quickly.

The Petrolia woman walked into Meadowview Villa in Petrolia one July afternoon to spend time with her husband. One of his favourite personal support workers was on her way out after a shift. Moore could sense the tension.

“I could tell by the look in her eyes that there was something wrong...She warned me they were short staffed. In fact, many were on stress leave...The afternoon shift that was coming on was a staff of one... This one PSW was to look after 21 residents by herself.”

As she stayed with her husband she saw a registered practical nurse help out however she had 40 people to attend to on her own. A resident care assistant also came in to help at dinner.

Moore, in a letter to politicians, says long term care homes are always under staffed, however this July 2 shift was enough to make her write a letter to let them know what life inside a long term care home really looks like.

Jane Joris, the general manager of Long Term Care for Lambton County which owns Meadowview, confirms there was just one PSW on that day with staff being pulled from other areas. Joris says normally two PSW work in the evening hours taking care of half of one floor - 21 people in all.

Joris says there are often staffing issues.

SEE LONG TERM CARE PG 5

Sentence at home after ‘life-altering’ crash

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The man responsible for a devastating vehicle crash in Brooke-Alvinston has been given the chance to serve his punishment at home.

Ivan Russell, 29, was facing a year behind bars for the March 2019 incident at the Alvinston Cemetery which ripped his SUV in half and ejected three of his friends at high speed.

But Defence Lawyer Robert DiPietro says his client poses no more danger to the community, largely due to massive injuries suffered himself.

Russell plead guilty in December to three counts of dangerous driving causing bodily harm. In June, Crown Attorney Melanie Nancekievill said crash scene photos were “astounding” and it “is a wonder that anyone survived this collision.”

Russell was driving south on Cameron

Road shortly after midnight March 2, 2019. His GMC Yukon hit speeds of 165 km/h, more than double the speed limit, when he passed the Alvinston Cemetery and lost control of the vehicle at the curve.

The SUV smashed into a hydro pole so savagely the frame was torn off the chassis and the pole was snapped off. The three passengers were flung from the SUV.

Russell was found in the remains of the SUV which then smashed into a tree. Brooke-Alvinston firefighters had to free him with the jaws of life.

Russell’s passengers – a man from Plympton-Wyoming, a man from Dawn-Euphemia, and a woman from Petrolia – were lucky to survive the crash. One man had severe neck and back injuries while the other man had a serious head injury. The woman sustained serious leg injuries that needed surgery.

SEE LIFE-ALTERING PG 2

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Support and new flag after Petrolia vandalism

Heather Wright
The Independent

A brand new Pride flag is hanging near Christopher Tripp’s food truck in Petrolia’s Bridgeview Park.

He put out a call for a new one after vandals spray painted a cross and a bible verse on his flag symbolizing equality which had been hanging near Truckin Mama’s chip truck for weeks.

“Sometimes people can be horrible,” wrote Tripp on social media Sunday after finding the flag damaged. “So much for equality and kindness. Who ever feels this is right to do. You can’t break me that easily.”

Owner Christopher Tripp posted the damaged flag on social media Sunday.

The damage was met with words of support from private citizens and groups such as the Petrolia Enniskillen Agricultural Society. “Very sad and disappointed to hear about the vandalism to Truckin Mamas Pride flag,” officials wrote on social media. “We can do better. Spread love not hate.”

Tripp put out a call for a Pride flag to put up until the one he ordered came in. The Town of Petrolia responded and a new unmarked flag was waving in a few hours.

Tripp urged people who were voicing



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

A new Pride flag is flying at Truckin Mama’s food truck at Bridgeview Park after someone vandalized the owner’s original emblem of equity.

anger about the incident to talk to people about equality instead.

“Don’t hate, Educate. We are no better than the ones who do this if we only get mad and try to get even.”

Mass vaccination clinics to close in Aug.

Heather Wright
The Independent

If you had your second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine booked for after August 10, you’ll have to re-book it.

Lambton Public Health is planning to wind down the mass vaccination clinics as more and more people get the shot.

As of July 26, 75.6 per cent of adults over 18 have had their first dose of the vaccine in Lambton and 65 per cent are fully vaccinated. Another 20.9 per cent of teens 12 to 17 have their first vaccination, 12.3 per cent have both.

“We are ahead of our original schedule and mass immunization clinics will begin to wind-down in August,” said Dr. Sudit Ranade, Medical Officer of Health for Lambton County in a news release. “While we will continue to hold smaller clinics at some locations, second dose appointments that were originally scheduled after August 10 will be cancelled and residents are encouraged to reschedule at their earliest convenience.

“We’ve achieved our goal of significantly reducing deaths and hospitalizations,” says Ranade. “Now, we must turn our attention to slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our community by ensuring as many people as possible are immunized.”

There will be a walk in clinic for youth Saturday at the Dow Centre. The next times for appointments are Friday’s in July at the Clearwater Arena, Aug. 3 and 4 at the Point Edward Arena, next Thursday in Wyoming and next Wednesday in Forest.

Lambton Public Health is also planning a clinic in August in Alvinston according to municipal staff.

If you don’t wish to make an appointment, you can sign up for the vaccine standby list daily for a call at the end of the day to get a shot.

Meantime, two more people from Lambton have died of COVID-19. Public health says a person in their 80s passed away in hospital July 21 but offered no further information. Another person in their 70s passed away July 24. Sixty-eight people in Lambton have now died.

Life-altering crash leads to house arrest

CON’T FROM PG 1

Nancekievill says all three victims suffered injuries, physical and mental, that were “life-altering, catastrophic... The impact is such that lives are forever changed.”

Russell did not escape unharmed. He was left with severe injuries to his lower body and has had reconstructive surgery. Russell has no memory of the crash. He’ll be in rehabilitation and physiotherapy for the foreseeable future.

“It’s a quite tragic event. If I could take back what happened I would, no matter what the cost,” says Russell last month. “We all got thrown quite a hardball here.”

“I’d just like to apologize to everyone and say how sorry I am for everything that’s happened here. I hope that I can gain some forgiveness from this. But I don’t expect it.”

Justice Anne McFadyen says “miraculously” everyone survived, noting the substantial nature of the injuries and highly excessive speed as aggravating

factors.

But factoring in Russell is largely immobile while he recovers, a positive pre-sentence report and a lack of desire from the victims to see him harshly punished, McFadyen decided jail time wouldn’t serve a purpose.

Russell walked out the front door of the courtroom rather than through the back door and across the street to Sarnia Jail.

Russell will serve 18 months at home with strict conditions.

His next year will be spent under house arrest where he can only leave his home for medical appointments and four hours on Friday to collect supplies. The final six months of the sentence he’ll transition to a curfew order. Russell can’t have any alcohol or intoxicating substances.

After the conditional sentence Russell will be on another three years of probation where he’ll have to take counselling. He also has a three year driving ban.



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Friends pitch in to help struggling Petrolia family

Heather Wright
The Independent

Megan Leblanc is scared what the future looks like.

The Petrolia woman has been dealt a string of blows, the most recent a fire in her home, and it is becoming nearly impossible to care for her son Caius, who is autistic.

Her friends are hoping to brighten her future with two fundraisers, but for Leblanc, the road ahead seems long.

Leblanc was born in West Virgina and when she was a teen, moved to Hamilton with her mother and stepfather. Around 2005, she met the man who would become her husband - Kristopher Leblanc of Petrolia.

When Leblanc was looking at options for school, Lambton College became top choice. "He was a big factor in me choosing Lambton College," she says.

In 2008, the economy crashed and as a pipefitter, work wasn't always steady for Kristopher. But in 2009, they found a house on Princess St. in Petrolia. By 2010, Caius had arrived.

Caius developed like a healthy toddler but Leblanc became concerned as he turned two. "He never started talking. He had met all of his developmental milestones up until about two-ish, and then he wouldn't talk."

The couple took him to the doctor and he started therapy right away. Caius was later diagnosed with autism.

By 2015, Kristopher was having a hard time dealing with financial concerns. He died by suicide in a car crash, leaving Megan devastated.

Her parents moved from Hamilton to stay with her and help her with Caius. And it worked for some time.

Leblanc started looking to the future and decided to become a registered practical nurse. She graduated top of her class, proud to have figured out a way to pay for the education and support her son on her own. She started working at Meadowview Villa in Petrolia while Caius went to Queen Elizabeth II Public School.

"He was doing pretty good. His language was developing really well. He was doing really well in school, he loves going to class which is really nice. His educational assistants, they make everything amazing for him and set up his routine so that he knows what to expect and keep him busy."

Life alone with Caius was looking up. But then in March 2020 the world shut down to fight COVID-19, and Leblanc and her son were left alone.

Leblanc was needed at Meadowview but the shift work meant it was impossible to find child care for Caius. She left work to become her son's caregiver. By then, her parents had found their own place to live and found stepping into help difficult, particularly as Caius reached his teens.

"It's hard for them to help, because as soon as he starts melting down, it's too overwhelming for them to take care of because he is getting bigger and stronger," says Leblanc.

But it was hard for the single mom, too.

Caius, now 11, was acting out. He loved going out, but was now forced to stay home for reasons he couldn't understand. He missed school and his educational assistants. Before long, Caius was breaking anything he could find in the house including the windows in his room.

Leblanc had to resort to putting plexi glass on them so he wouldn't hurt himself.

Before long, Caius was leaving the house when Leblanc turned her back. One day, he made his way into a neighbour's house. She had to call the OPP because she couldn't find him. Caius was only discovered when the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Megan and Caius Leblanc are struggling to stay afloat after a fire in their Petrolia home. Friends are trying to raise money to help fix the home through two online fundraisers.

neighbours came home and found him inside.

That made Leblanc even more vigilant watching her son. She would even take him to the bathroom with her because she didn't dare let him out of her sight.

"It was just me and him in the house. I had pre-existing mental health issues, I suffer with depression, anxiety, and certainly after my husband's death, those got worse," she said.

"But then, during quarantine, because of constantly being on 24 hour care with Cai and needing to be hyper vigilant at all times, it certainly started making that worse as well."

Leblanc was scrambling for help for her own mental health and for her son but found every social service agency she contacted had little to offer her.

"It is hard when you finally get to the point where you're like, 'Okay, I definitely need help.' And then they're like, 'yeah, we don't know what to do.'"

Life was tough financially too, but Leblanc and Caius still had the house and they were making things work by juggling bills, even if it meant not buying food at times.

Then, on June 21, Caius found a lighter in the back of Leblanc's dresser. Sometime in the middle of the night, he managed to set fire to a mattress. Leblanc didn't even know he was awake.

"You're exhausted and you've been hyper vigilant for however many months, 24/7 without hope. And then eventually something will happen."

After the Petrolia Fire Department had put out the flames, the damage was laid bare. Not only had Leblanc's room been destroyed, much of their furniture downstairs was gone as well as their clothing. Even worse, the heat of the flames caused serious damage to the electrical system. The hydro was shut off and Leblanc and Caius moved into her parent's one bedroom apartment.

Monday, the mother and son caught a break; Lambton County Developmental Services had a free apartment in Sarnia and they moved in. Leblanc doesn't know how long they'll be there.

And since the fire, respite care for Caius has increased from four hours a week to 10 - just enough time to give Leblanc an opportunity to sleep or do chores she can't do when Caius is around.

"I'm just tired. You know, it's..." Leblanc's voice trails off and she releases a long sigh. "It's just, it's overwhelming... it really becomes about just trying to get to the end of the day, and just be able to take a deep breath."

Leblanc wants to work but without the

much needed supports, she may be forced to go on Ontario Works. "I'm just scared about what our future looks like."

Her friends are trying to help ease Leblanc's burden. A GoFundMe page called Fundraiser for Megan Leblanc has been set up to raise \$75,000 to fix her house, replace furniture and clothing and pay some bills.

Nikki Morreau has set up an online Facebook auction as well. It runs until Aug. 1 at 8 pm.

"I just want to help take some stress off her shoulders," she says. "She's a wonderful person who has been dealt some pretty hard times and she deserves a little bit of a break."



This Month In Lambton

July 2021



Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

Museums, Gallery and Archives Reopening Soon

Lambton Heritage Museum, Lambton County Archives, and the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery will be reopening to the public on Wednesday, August 4.

All visits are by timed entry, requiring patrons to book an appointment in advance. If visitors do not have an appointment, they will only be accommodated as space and time allow. Hours of operation are 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and extended hours on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The Oil Museum of Canada, National Historic Site, remains closed as a significant renovation is completed. The Museum will be reopening in the coming weeks with an improved facility and new exhibit. Visit oilmuseum.ca or follow the Oil Museum of Canada on Facebook for updates regarding the reopening.

In advance of re-opening to the public, the museums, Gallery, and Archives ask patrons to familiarize themselves with all guidelines to ensure cultural facilities remain a safe place for all visitors and staff. The full list of guidelines will be available on lambtonmuseums.ca and jnaag.ca.

2020 Consolidated Financial Statements

The County of Lambton's Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended Dec. 31, 2020 have been completed and audited. Copies of the Statements are available by calling 519-845-0801, or online at lambtononline.ca/budget.

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Looking Ahead

9 a.m. & 11 a.m., August 18, 2021 - Committee A.M. & Committee P.M.

9:30 a.m., September 1, 2021 - Lambton County Council Meeting

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

To read more, go to lambtononline.ca



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Discoveries
That Matter

Editorial

Seniors need more care in LTC

You would think after seeing the horrors of COVID-19 unfold in long term care that things could only get better.

They're not. The strain on resources is more pronounced now that it has ever been. Even long term care homes which would be considered good by most people are struggling with staffing. As the general manager of long term care in Lambton told us, about half the people who train to be personal support workers never work in the field and those that do are still fleeing long term care to go to places where they are paid more, like hospitals and private companies.

And the province still hasn't revealed how it will accomplish providing four hours of care per resident in the homes by 2024.

What it all boils down to is people in the homes are barely getting the bare minimum of the necessary care. Any human contact with staff is rushed because the people who do work in long term care don't have enough time to do anything more.

And Canadians, after watching COVID-19 unfold, are wise to the problem.

A recent Angus Reid poll says nearly half of Canadians will do everything in their power to avoid going into a long term care home and to keep close family members out. One in five are already saving money to make sure it doesn't happen.

Three quarters of Canadians say significant changes are needed in long term care. The top of the list is better regulation and enforcement. Many also want the private sector out of the business.

While that may be true, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out to provide more care to people in long term care and to provide more care to the baby boomers who will soon fill those homes, we're going to need money. Canadians know. That same survey says 55 per cent of the people in this nation would pay more taxes to make life better for our seniors.

The problem is clear; long term care homes are understaffed. The solution is clear; there has to be more direct care for our seniors.

It's also clear Canadians are willing to pay for it. Now all we need is the political will to do it.

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's foreign drillers made some epic fashion choices as they travelled opening up oil fields all over the world. This photo from the Oil Museum of Canada, shows they managed to pull it off in style.

Services for families with autism sorely lacking

I was going to wait until I returned from my holidays to tell you Megan Leblanc's story, but after talking with her, I knew it couldn't wait.

I read about Megan a couple of weeks ago, but was having a hard time contacting her. I gave it one last try Tuesday and she agreed to talk by phone while her son Caius was in respite care.

I thought at the time that this was generous; I know I would find it hard telling a total stranger my life story but Megan's life is more difficult than anyone would want to tell let alone live. Knowing now that 45 minute interview was part of the scarce 10 hours a week she has for care for her son, it was beyond generous.

As the story tells you, Megan's son, Caius, is autistic. And in 2015, Leblanc's husband suffering mentally

from the strain of finances, took his own life. Megan was now a single mom raising an autistic boy in Petrolia.

By 2020, Megan had earned a degree as a registered practical nurse and landed a job in long term care. But then COVID-19 came knocking.

She left her job to care for her son. After months of struggling with Caius' destructive behavior on her own, he set fire to a mattress. Their house was now unlivable.

Yet, through all this - even dealing with her own mental health struggles - Megan has not given up. She wants to work and be productive - not be a drain on society. But, she can only get 10 hours of respite care for her son a week now.

How as a society have we allowed families with autism struggle, not just in the pandemic, but throughout their

lives. Ontario's Financial Accountability Office says there are 40,700 kids who need help this year. They need about \$95,000 a year for services while the province provides about \$20,000 to them. That doesn't leave much help for families like Megan and Caius.

While I hope by sharing her story you will be moved to help Megan financially, I also hope you'll take the time to talk to our local MPPs and demand better services for families in need.



Heather Wright

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Canada

Opinion

‘Please get more help into LTC now’ says reader

EDITOR’S NOTE: *This an open letter to local politicians. It was shared with The Independent.*

My husband, who is 88, lives in a government run long term care facility, a wonderful long term care facility in our town. He has been a resident for over two years. When I went to see him two days ago, I could feel tension in the air as soon as I walked down his hall at 2:30 pm. I met one of his most dedicated personal support workers in the hall and I could tell by the look in her eyes there was something wrong. She was leaving as her shift was over but warned me they were short staffed. Many were off on stress leave.

This PSW said those residents scheduled for baths that day only got a bed-bath as there was not enough help. The staff were also told to keep residents up out of bed after lunch so they would go to bed earlier after supper. The afternoon shift would have only one PSW. This one PSW was to look after 21 residents by herself. The same thing happened Saturday.

It has been common knowledge for years these facilities are short staffed. On my husband’s floor of 21 residents, several have dementia while others can function fairly well without too much help.

The one registered practical nurse on the floor is a lifesaver as the PSW said. She steps in with assistance if required. Her main job is to give medications which is a full shift job. She takes frequent temperatures, checks dressings if necessary and the list goes on. She also makes follow up calls to family as directed by the doctor. The RPN checks on 40 people per shift.

Staff is frequently pulled from other floors to fill in a shift. This is not fair to either the residents or that staff. These staff members do not know the residents, the residents do not know the face of these staff members. This

is not right. Residents must recognize the staff in order to work better or cooperate better with staff. Familiar staff know the idiosyncrasies of the residents which is really important.

This will avoid flare ups and behaviour issues which is better for everyone.

The facility my husband is in is a wonderful place. The whole staff has worked so very hard to keep it a safe place, especially since COVID-19 started. They continue to work hard to keep their residents safe.

So many of the staff, particularly those who work directly with the residents, have the hardest jobs. They deserve more pay. They take care of my loved one, every day.

So many are truly dedicated and should be rewarded for their dedication. Many others that call in sick show no dedication, treat it as “just a job” with old people, toileting, changing diapers, feeding – disgusting they think, too much work, they say.

The director of nursing works hard to get shifts covered and hire new workers, but it is a constant battle to keep new hires as a PSW’s job is so demanding. More staff per shift means the workload is spread out lessening the stress. Maybe the staff will be happier. It is true that staff literally run to some calls.

I am so grateful that I can be with my husband daily if I choose. Many residents have no one to visit them. That again is why we need more staff.

Residents need someone to give the attention, show them some affection, a hand on their arm or shoulder, someone that will talk with them even if only for a few minutes. Staff shortages do not allow this.

How much time will that resident get from one PSW who has 21 residents to take care of today? How long will that resident have to sit in a soiled diaper

before it is changed by that one PSW taking care of 21 people?

Here is something for you to think about; each morning, those 21 people wake up. There should be two PSWs to assist with the morning routine, which is lifting some out of bed, toileting, dressing, shaving, brushing hair, getting residents to the dining room. This happens 21 times. There is a timeline of only a few minutes to do these tasks with each resident. Do you know that in the morning or early afternoon, when there is a bit of quiet time, the PSW pulls tomorrows clothes for the resident out and leaves it neatly on a hanger in the closet – socks, underwear, pants and a shirt – because the staff are so rushed in the morning.

This letter is being sent to several government officials. Several of you have loved ones in long term care. Others and most private citizens of our dear country do not know what happens daily in long term care. I hope you have the idea now.

COVID-19 opened our eyes – tragically and sadly.

Please, please, please push for money to get facilities built. This will take years but let’s see it start to happen instead of just talk. Plus – so importantly – provide better pay and benefits to all our wonderful, overworked, deserving staff who take care of our loved ones. These dedicated people are headed to burnout. I saw this tension and fear in some eyes two days ago and it scared me.

Please, can you start to do something more than just talk about this dire situation – talk has been going on for years!

Please get more help into all long term care facilities now. Our dedicated staff need help now.

Connie Moore
Petrolia, ON

Long term care staffing still ‘precarious’ say county officials

CON’T FROM PG 1

“It’s very precarious - I’m not going to lie about that. We’re losing staff.... We’re having people leave to work at the hospital, we’re having people leave to work at the staffing agencies... We have nursing students working as PSW for the summer but we’re almost into August now and we need to hire. We are constantly hiring staff. We hire them and they leave to go to other sectors,” says Joris.

And she says long time workers are on leave from the stress of working through the pandemic or they are still without child care. Others are taking vacations for the first time since 2019.

Joris doesn’t see it getting any better anytime soon. While the province has promised to increase staffing to provide four hours of care per resident in 2024, there is no plan yet for what that will look like. The \$3 an hour pandemic pay is about to run out. And RPNs are “leaving in droves” because the pandemic pay increase doesn’t apply to them so now they are being paid less than PSWs.

Joris says the staffing shortages will

likely lead to Lambton using staffing agencies to fill the gaps. But that poses problems too.

“Having many different people care for you, when you move into a home, it takes a long time for that relationship to develop. And if you have too many people providing care to that person, nobody ever gets to get that information.

“If you don’t know people and know their routines and know their preferences, you can provide care but it might not be the very best care.”

Staffing - or the lack of it - has been pinpointed by the Ontario Long Term Care Commission as one of the big problems which led to COVID-19 ravaging long term care homes. One of the recommendations was to make more of the part-time staff permanent so care will be person centered. It’s a recommendation Lambton is working on for its homes, but Joris says it’s a difficult task.

And she says it’s only part of the solution. Joris says smaller homes where staff is constant, like the small home initiative Lambton plans for

people with dementia, would provide better care.

Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott says most politicians recognize there is a need to improve care - although he rarely hears from families of residents who are concerned.

Marriott says the county could increase funding for care, however it already pays for the cost of building and some of the costs of running the homes. Lambton’s long term care budget is \$8 million yearly. And that doesn’t take into account the coming crunch for more beds as baby boomers need care.

While more beds are needed, Joris is concerned the province is forgetting with new homes, there will need to be staff. “I’m afraid that our province’s thinking is to fix long term care, we just have to build more beds and keep doing things the same way we are. And I think there’s better ways.”

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SUMMER NIGHT



Two couples enjoy the evening sun at Marshy Creek Park on the St. Clair River Monday night.

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Warwick natural gas project not dead yet

Heather Wright
The Independent

There is still a chance people in Warwick Village will be able to tap into Enbridge’s natural gas pipeline. But, it may be a long shot. Last month, the province announced funding for 43 projects with Enbridge to extend natural gas service into rural, northern and Indigenous communities, investing \$243 million in the projects saying without government help, the projects would not be feasible. A project which would have brought gas to homes and farms in Warwick

village was one of 209 the province and the Ontario Energy Board reviewed. But for the second time, it was rejected for the provincial program. Enbridge officials squarely placed the blame at the provincial government’s feet in a meeting with Warwick Township Council Monday. “The province did make the decision on which projects would go forward... and unfortunately they didn’t choose the Warwick project,” says Enbridge’s Brian Lennie. There is another opportunity however for the \$4 million project which would serve the village and farmers in the region to move ahead. Officials said there is an option to use a customer expansion surcharge, where an extra 23 cents per cubic meter would be added to the natural gas bill for up to 40 years to pay for the project. Officials say even with the surcharge, natural gas would still cost up to 39 per cent less than either propane or oil for residential customers. Lennie says Enbridge is evaluating smaller projects, like Warwick Village’s, to see if they would be viable with the expansion surcharge. He expects a decision would be made whether to go ahead by the year end.

Ice to be ready for use Aug. 23 in Alvinston and likely Oct. 3 in Watford

The Independent

The ice in Alvinston will be ready for skaters Aug. 23. That’s according to the staff of Brooke-Alvinston. The municipality is working with Warwick Township to make ice time available for people who would normally use the Watford

Arena. The township is in the middle of a reconstruction project there. Warwick is building a new community centre and refurbishing the arena at a cost of \$11.5 million. Warwick normally has early ice but with the arena construction, officials worked out a deal with Brooke-Alvinston to open its arena early. And

it seems that deal is more important than ever. Delays getting materials because of the world-wide pandemic is having an effect on the construction with ice unavailable until Oct. 3. The early ice in Alvinston has attracted new users. Officials say two hockey camps have already booked 37 hours of ice-time in August.

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Probation after knife fight in Watford

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

The convictions continue following a neighbourly dispute that turned violent last summer.

Several people were drinking at an Ontario Street apartment last July when they saw their neighbour headed to his car. His lack of insurance paired with the fact they thought he was high on cocaine led them to intervene.

The neighbour didn’t appreciate their concern and the situation quickly escalated from an exchange of words to punches being thrown. Steven Marche, 35, was one of the men who stepped in and began fighting the man. His wife also joined the fray.

During this time another man, Adam Fillion, stepped inside and came out brandishing a pair of kitchen knives. He was granted a conditional discharge with a year of probation in March for this action.

The presence of the knives, along with the arrival of police who had fielded several calls about the fight, brought the scuffle to a close. Officers determined from audio at the scene that Marche’s wife and the neighbour

were the main instigators.

Now it was Marche’s turn to receive his penalty. His Sarnia Court appearance was specifically for several expletive laden threats he made to the man during the fight.

Marche has a lengthy relationship with the legal system. He says his top priority now is addressing his mental health.

“I apologize for everything I’ve done,” he says. “I wasn’t expecting my ex-wife to be that stupid... I should have left her a long time ago. I’ve been abused by her.”

The couple are now split up and Marche no longer lives at the Watford apartment.

Defence Lawyer Jamie Guggisberg asked for a suspended sentence with probation. “Appreciating Mr. Marche at least initiated his behaviour feeling as though he were doing good,” he says of the fight.

Justice Deborah Austin agreed this was appropriate. “I hope that the order we make today is constructive for you,” she said to Marche.

Marche’s 12 months of probation include counselling for mental health, an order not to contact or go near his ex-neighbour and a five year weapons ban.

THE INDEPENDENT

Man banned from Lambton for trying to use a phone

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Lambton County is now off limits for Mickey Lacourse following a series of disturbances in Arkona this winter.

Lacourse, 44, was passing through the town the evening of Dec. 17. People became alerted to his presence when he suddenly started entering homes without the owners permission.

Lacourse’s first encounter was on Townsend Line. The surprised owner found Lacourse in his home and told him to get out. His hand was bleeding and Lacourse refused. But he moved quickly when the owner chased him out.

Soon after Lacourse was in another house on Arkona Road. This time he left when the resident told him to go. By this point OPP arrived and took Lacourse away when the homeowners said they wanted charges laid.

“All I was trying to do was use a phone. That’s all I asked for and then they freaked out on me,” says Lacourse. But he admits “I didn’t do it properly and I apologize.”

Defence Lawyer Michael Barry, who has represented Lacourse since his first criminal

conviction in 1996, says “It appears to me this matter was somewhat isolated... He really was in a situation of distress and he needed some medical attention.” The injury was never explained.

A joint position between Barry and Crown Attorney Suzanne LaSha recommended a suspended sentence with the main condition to stay out of Lambton County entirely for a year. He’ll also have a 10 year weapons ban and submit a DNA sample.

Lacourse can’t have any contact with the people whose homes he entered, which should be easy because of his geographical ban.

Justice Krista Leszczynski accepted the deal but wanted to make it clear to Lacourse that despite him not causing any injuries or property damage, his behaviour had consequences.

“I appreciate you have indicated that you were just seeking the assistance of a phone,” she says. “However it’s important that you understand that your actions caused significant distress to the homeowners and that you had absolutely no right to enter the residences without their consent.”

- THE INDEPENDENT

Thedford man tracked another down for a beating

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Kyle Pinnell will be on probation for the next year following a 2019 incident where he chased a man down and beat him up.

On Dec. 7, 2019 Pinnell, now 22, became upset when a man walked by his Thedford home. The two began “chirping back and forth,” says Crown Attorney Ryan Iaquina.

Pinnell asked the man if he’d like to fight but the man said it was too cold. He continued walking into the dark and freezing winter night.

Not satisfied his invitation was rejected, Pinnell hopped in his red SUV and pursued

the man onto King Street. Pinnell hopped out and after being declined again, punched the man in the face.

Pinnell threw the stunned man to the ground and continued to punch and kick him in the head. He finally drove off, leaving the beaten man with injuries to his face and a torn jacket.

Iaquina asked for a suspended sentence since Pinnell has already been shown the leniency of a conditional discharge in the past. He’ll be on probation for the next year. Pinnell must take anger management counselling, can’t own a weapon for 10 years and owes the man \$100 for the jacket.

- THE INDEPENDENT

CORRECTION

In the July 22, 2021 edition of *The Independent* in a page 6 photo, the fire station of the Plympton-Wyoming firefighters was incorrectly identified. Acting District Chief Chris Freer had the honour of presenting his dad, Brian Freer, with his 30 year service award. The Freers have been members of the Wyoming department during their careers. *The Independent* regrets the error and the confusion it may have caused.



The County of Lambton is an urban-rural area in southwestern Ontario that is home to over 126,000 residents. The Corporation's seven divisions operate programs and services for the residents of Lambton County such as land ambulance, provincial offences court, three Long-Term Care Homes, 25 library branches, two museums, an art gallery, archives, local roadways, public health services, housing services, social services, building services and planning and development services.

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Enniskillen buys creek land hoping to save cash

Heather Wright
The Independent

Enniskillen Township has purchased about 4.5 acres of land hoping to reduce the cost of reconstructing the Bear Creek Bridge on Rokeby Line. The creek bed underneath the bridge is eroding and it's causing structural damage to the bridge. The township is working on an Environmental Assessment for the project this year and hopes to fix the bridge in 2022. But Mayor Kevin Marriott says it has become clear the erosion along the creek will have to be addressed as well and that was going to be difficult since the area around the bridge is all private property. So, council recently signed an agreement to pur-

chase the portion of the land where the erosion is occurring for \$20,000. Without fixing the creek bank, Marriott says the township may have had to relocate the road. "In the long run, this should be a cheaper way of fixing the road because it was gonna cost us probably at least \$100,000 to move the road. "This way, if we put that \$100,000 towards fixing the creek erosion we shouldn't have to move the road. And then it's all done. If we move the road, we still had to stabilize the bank." The bank stabilization will be similar to a project in Brooke-Alvinston on Old Walnut Road, where the municipality used natural materials like boulders and tree stumps to naturally attract silt, rebuilding the bank and stopping the erosion naturally.

Oil Springs looks for grant to make hall accessible

The Independent

Oil Springs hopes to attract some federal funding to make the old Community Hall accessible again. The historic hall - which has hardwood floors and a stage - has not been used for decades because the only access is a stairwell making it impossible for anyone with mobility problems to get to it. Several years ago, the village invested in new windows for the building hoping some funding

from either the federal or provincial government would come along to put in some kind of a lift. The village even applied to local foundations for cash, without luck. The village will try again, applying to a recently announced grant program for accessibility from the Federal Development office in southern Ontario. "We will be applying for funding for a stair lift and accessible washrooms to get that building useable again," says Clerk Lynda Thornton. "It's worth a shot."

TEARING UP THE STREET



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

There is no getting around the construction in front of Petrolia town hall right now. The \$1.5 million reconstruction of Greenfield Street is the most active in front of Victoria Hall right now. Earlier this week, the internet service was disrupted at the municipal office because of the work.

Brooke-Alvinston mayor shoots down question about Optimist applying for reno grant for the arena

The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston is not ready yet to move onto phase two of the Alvinston Optimists redevelopment of the local arena. The club has just completed

the construction of a pavilion on the grounds, the first part of a \$747,000 redevelopment of the arena. But when an opportunity to apply for a grant was raised at the July 22 council meeting, Council-

lor Jamie Armstrong was asking about the Optimist applying for it. "The engineer drawings are there. I just wondered, was there any interest from the managers to allow the Optimist Club to apply for

that grant," he asked, noting the dressing rooms in the arena could be upgraded. Mayor Dave Ferguson shut the request down, stating Armstrong, an Optimist member, was in

indirect conflict by asking and pointed out the club was still fundraising for the pavilion. "A simple no would have been fine, Dave," said Armstrong, dropping the subject.

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Sports

Brigden’s Fulcher still a Detroit Red Wing

The Independent

Kaden Fulcher’s name was among a list of unprotected players by the Detroit Red Wings heading into the NHL expansion draft. But the Brigden product was not chosen by the Seattle Kraken so his rights revert back to the Wings.

He is entering the final year of a free agent deal originally signed in 2017. Fulcher, 22, played seven games last season with the AHL’s Grand Rapids Griffins. He had a 2.84 goals-against average with Detroit’s top minor league affiliate with a .905 save percentage and one shutout.

Detroit’s goaltending stable got deeper over the past week when GM Steve Yzerman traded for Alex Nedeljkovic with Carolina as well as drafting Sebastian Cossa in the first round, 15th overall, of last weekend’s NHL draft. He was the top rated North American goaltender heading into the draft.

Wyoming Jrs making mark against older competition

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Wyoming Cowboys improved to 3-0 against Western Counties Senior Baseball competition with a 16-10 home field win over the Petrolia Raiders. A day earlier in Port Lambton, the Cowboys had a 9-8 lead in the seventh inning against the Pirates when play was suspended by rain.

Daniel Gibson pitched into the fifth inning for the mound victory against the Raiders while Tim Martin took the loss. Charlie Pakalnis had three hits and scored three times for the Cowboys while Jon Anderson went deep for Petrolia. Riley Brown earned the victory and Dylen Pepper drove in three runs as the Cowboys edged the Corunna Giants, 6-5.

Among other games, Corunna beat the Port Lambton Jrs twice by scores of 6-5 and 7-4, the Port Lambton Pirates beat their junior counterparts, 6-3, Courtright and Petrolia played to a 10-all tie and the Wyoming Cattlebarons downed the Courtright Cardinals, 11-2. A scheduled game last Saturday between the Raiders and Dresden in Petrolia was rained out. It has been rescheduled for August 14.

Wranglers begin OBA playdowns Saturday in Wyoming

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Ontario Baseball Association will decide its provincial champions this year in playdown style games

dubbed August Madness. But the Wyoming Wranglers will get a head start on the new month with a doubleheader Saturday against the Cambridge Cubs in the U16 AAA tournament.

Three Sting players picked in NHL draft

Barry Wright
The Independent

It may have been a little later than some had anticipated but Ben Gaudreau was selected in the third round, 81st overall, by the San Jose Sharks at the NHL draft. The Sting goalie, who led Canada to a gold medal at the World Under 18 Hockey Championships earlier this year, says being selected is a dream come true. “Can’t wait to get started,” he posted on social media.

Gaudreau was the second goalie from North America selected and the fourth overall. “It was a tough year but I did what I could to stay ready, to stay sharp,” Gaudreau said. Meantime, Ty Voit was chosen in the fifth round by the Toronto Maple Leafs while Ryan Mast was taken in the following round by the Boston Bruins. Sting draft choice Sean Behrens was taken near the end of the second round, 61st overall, by the Colorado Avalanche. He is committed to the University of Denver.

FATHER/SON WIN



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kaden Gray closed out his summer baseball season on a high note. The Wyoming product went 1-for-2 with an RBI in the Oklahoma Drillers 3-0 win over Victus Gold Elite in the championship game at the 2021 Connie Mack Classic on the weekend in Joplin, Missouri. The younger Gray was joined by his father Brett, who was a guest coach for the Drillers for the tournament. Gray has played for the Drillers since May in preparation for his collegiate career with the Kansas-based Cowley County College Tigers. The Tigers earned a trip to the Junior College World Series in Colorado last year.

Dolbear lights it up in Owen Sound

Alvinston’s Clay Dolbear poked a pair of homers on Saturday to lead the Owen Sound U23 Selects to a 9-4 win over an alumni squad as part of a four-game tune

up affair on the weekend. The teams split the games, two games each. Dolbear and the Selects will compete at the OASA Eliminations in Cambridge.

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Coming Event

MEETING NOTICE – Annual General Meeting of the **Moore Agricultural Society** will be held on **Thursday, August 12, 2021** at the Brigden Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. (Rescheduled from Thursday, January 21, 2021 due to COVID Restrictions). Membership registration and renewal will take place from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. with **meeting at 7 p.m.** All Covid Requirements will be followed (such as mask wearing, self distancing) as prescribed by Health Unit/Government at time of meeting.

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They say there is a reason
They say that time will heal
But neither time nor reason
Will change the way we feel.
Six long years have come and gone
And Dad we grieve for you still
You left a hole in our family
No one else can ever fill.
We often talk about you
And the things we miss so much
Your love of life, your laughter
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We treasure our wonderful memories
Of the good times that we shared
Of the many ways you showed us love
Of the many ways you cared.
If we had riches and wealth untold
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To see “Floyd’s Toy” come down the hill
And meet you at the sunroom door.
We faithfully visit your resting place
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But it breaks our heart all over again
To turn and leave you there.
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That one day joy is going to replace
Our sadness when we’re welcomed to Heaven
By your beloved, smiling face.

Deeply loved and dearly missed by
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Card of Thanks



Thank You

The family of the late Dorothy McAuslan wish to thank relatives, friends, and neighbours for their support and their thoughtfulness in sending flowers, condolences, tributes, cards, and donations.

We wish to thank the dedicated staff at Fiddick’s Retirement Home, Bluewater Health Sarnia and CEE Continuing Care for the compassion and care they showed Mom and our family throughout her illness. A special thanks also to Dr Daniel and staff.

Thank you to her ministers the Rev. Carey Wagner, St Paul’s United Church and the Rev. Dr. Bob Gibson Fiddick’s Chaplain for their visits, prayers and support, and also the staff at Needham-Jay Funeral Home for their professional assistance.

The McAuslan family

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.

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Smith Funeral Home
GAVAN, Gregory
Age 73, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

SUNDAY, JULY 18
NIXON, Alan
Age 67, of Corunna
Knight Funeral Home
WADE, Clifton
Age 69, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home
KIELT, Marley
Age 77, of Petrolia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home
BELANGER, Eila
Age 90, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, JULY 19
MORTON, Stanley
Age 72, of Forest
Gilpin Funeral Home
GRIGG, Judith
Age 74, of Wilkesport
Steadman Brother’s Funeral Chaple
SILVERA, William
Age 93, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

TUESDAY, JULY 20
ROBINSON, Robert “Bob”
Age 80, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home
RODRIGUES, Ruth
Age 83, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home
FYSH, Frederick
Age 88, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home
GOULET, Lina
Age 90, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21
WATSON, Nicole
Age 40, of Watford
Denning’s of Watford
STOREY, Patrick
Age 73, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home
McALPINE, Karen
Age 79, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home
GEDDES, Kenneth
Age 80, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home
KERRIGAN, James “Jim”
Age 80, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home
DENNIS, Leonard
Age 82, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home
SEWARD, Joseph
Age 86, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

THURSDAY, JULY 22
LESTER, Jim
Age 57, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home
HEWITT, Kenneth
Age 61, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home
CATES, Virginia
Age 82, of Parkhill
Denning’s of Forest
GOWER, Edythe “Judy”
Age 90, of Petrolia
Smith Funeral Home
SWAN, Margaret May
Age 101, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

FRIDAY, JULY 23
GLEASON, Charles
Age 83, of Petrolia
Smith Funeral Home

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

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
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	10-11a	Sarnia	Train to become a superhero at the Sarnia Library. Hosted outdoors. Plan for the weather. Register at lclibrary.ca/srp Registration only. Age 5-10. Attendance limited to 25.	
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.	
Jul 31	5pm	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Catch the Ace draw at 6pm. Covid Protocols in place. Stop by for a cool refreshment. ALL WELCOME!	
Jul 31	8-11pm	Petrolia	Crabby Joe's Petrolia Live Music on the patio with Mike Gallant . No reservations. Weather permitting. All provincial guidelines will be followed.	
Aug 1	6:30p	Dresden	Free All-Ages Concert - Sky Terminal at the Dresden Christian Concert Stage (1233 North St.) with a message from Pastor Nichelle Howarth	
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	10-11a	Mooretown	Train to become a superhero at the Mooretown Sports Complex. Hosted outdoors. Plan for the weather. Register at lclibrary.ca/srp Registration only. Age 5-10. Attendance limited to 25.	
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 5	6pm	Petrolia	Optimist Club of Lambton Central/ Petrolia Meat Draw at Crabby Joe's Petrolia. 6 Rounds played.	
Aug 6-7	6pm-9:30am	Pt. Edward	The Bluewater Anglers and Village of Point Edward present the Walley Derby . Tickets \$15 available at The Outdoorsman & Buck's Baits. Weigh-in at The Bluewater Anglers Hatchery from 9am-9:30am on Aug 7. www.bluewateranglers.com	
Aug 6	10-11a	Petrolia	Train to become a superhero at the Petrolia Library. Hosted outdoors. Plan for the weather. Register at lclibrary.ca/srp Registration only. Age 5-10. Attendance limited to 25.	
Aug 6	11a-5p	Sarnia	The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts will be opening its doors with Covid-19 restrictions in place, featuring the Floyd Gibson Juried Members' Show . Free admission. www.lawrencehouse.ca .	
Aug 6	4-6pm	Watford	Watford Warwick Horticultural Society Scarecrow Contest at Cornfet. Registration from 4-6pm for more info check out The Watford Cornfest facebook page.	
Aug 7	10a-noon	Sarnia	The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts hosts Will Graham from the Neon Crab who is offering a Street Art Workshop . Attendance is free however pre-registration is mandatory due to limited space. Spectators are welcome. www.lawrencehouse.ca .	
Aug 7	12-7pm	Watford	Watford Cornfest FREE Corn & Hotdogs at the Park. Available at the pavillion. Can be taken away or eaten at the park.	
Aug 7	2-4pm	Sarnia	The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts hosts Will Graham from the Neon Crab who is offering a Street Art Workshop . Attendance is free however pre-registration is mandatory due to limited space. Spectators are welcome. www.lawrencehouse.ca .	
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.	
Aug 7	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vender's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Aug 7	8-noon	Petrolia	Petrolia Transfer Site Open - Maude St. - Pass Required. Visit www.visitpetrolia.ca for more info.	
Aug 8	6:30pm	Dresden	Dresden Christian Concerts . Talent Night at the Dresden Christian Concerts Stage (1233 North St) with a message from Edwin Taylor	
Aug 9	10-11a	Alvinston	Train to become a superhero at the Alvinston Library. Hosted outdoors. Plan for the weather. Register at lclibrary.ca/srp Registration only. Age 5-10. Attendance limited to 25.	
Aug 10	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 12	10-11a	Forest	Train to become a superhero at the Forest Library. Hosted outdoors. Plan for the weather. Register at lclibrary.ca/srp Registration only. Age 5-10. Attendance limited to 25.	

of events

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
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AUGUST 6TH - 8TH

@WATFORD CORNFEST

FRIDAY
4pm-6pm
Scarecrow Contest

SATURDAY
12pm - 7pm
Free Corn & Hotdogs at the Park
12:30pm-2pm
Socailly Distanced meet with Princess Belle

SUNDAY
1pm-2:30pm
Drive-By Classic Car Cruise

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 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

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
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Lambton College professor runs for Liberals

Heather Wright
The Independent

A Lambton College professor is the Liberal’s choice to try to unseat Conservative MP Marilyn Gladu in the next federal election.

Lois Nantais beat Sarnia City Councillor George Vandenberg at Monday night’s nomination meeting.

Nantais is a professor of psychology at Lambton College. In her videotaped speech to delegates, she said her work will be an asset to her in the race to become MP. Nantais says she and her students “discuss some of the most contentious issues of the day” including COVID-19, the possible closure of Enbridge’s Line 5 by Michigan and the ongoing border closures with the US.

“I will win the arguments of the day with Conservatives because I win and live those arguments every day...

discussing important issues is critical to our society and that’s exactly my background.”

Nantais says Gladu hasn’t represented Sarnia-Lambton well, playing “to the fears and the lowest common values” in the community.

Gladu has already been cleared to run for re-election by the local Conservative Association.

United Minister Adam Kilner will carry the NDP banner in the riding. Brian Everaert will represent the People’s Party of Canada.

An election has yet to be called but is anticipated in the fall.



Lois Nantais

PW homeowners to get a more scenic view

The Independent

People living near storm water ponds in Plympton-Wyoming subdivision will notice town works staff coming around more.

Town council has agreed to increase the number of times it cuts the grass around the retention ponds after complaints from people living near them. Previously, the grass was being cut twice a year, leaving them “mosquito infested” according to Councillor Netty McEwen.

Mayor Lonny Napper understood how people in “million dollar homes” around the ponds would be frustrated. “Can we not put a little pride in these things when they’re turned over to us?” he asked when the matter was first discussed in early June.

Town staff says the ponds are not meant to be parks, so they were cut infrequently to discourage use. Neighbours have been setting up chairs along the banks anyway. Public works will cut the grass once a month. That will cost the town about \$8,600.

BARGAIN HUNTING RETURNS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The side streets of Petrolia were dotted with garage sales. After the annual spring yard sale was cancelled in town due to the COVID-19 lockdown, town officials declared July 23 and 24 Yard Sale Day. The streets of the town were packed with shoppers even though rain threatened most of the weekend.

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