

Lambton kids lag behind

Heather Wright
The Independent

With two weeks to go before students head back to school, 52 per cent of Lambton students are fully immunized against COVID-19.

Lambton Public Health officials say 66 per cent of students have had one dose, which provides some protection against the Delta variant.

But that lags behind the rest of the province, where 76 per cent have had one dose and 60 per cent of teens between 12 and 17 have already had two doses. In nearby London-Middlesex, 78 per cent of teens are vaxed to the max. And in Chatham-Kent - where public health officials have voiced concern about low vaccination rates, just 45 per cent of students have been double vaccinated.

Kevin Churchill, manager of family health at LPH, started calling on families

to have students vaccinated in late July so they would be fully protected and perhaps stave off school closures which plagued the province in the last two pandemic school years.

Churchill says Lambton’s student vaccination rate is “not bad, but we certainly could do better - we need to do better to provide a better level of protection for people going back to school.”

Churchill says it is widely accepted that less than 10 per cent of people will refuse a vaccine. Lambton may be lagging behind provincial vaccination rates because families are still on vacation and not thinking about school yet.

“Parents may be more comfortable with getting the vaccine going to the doctor” to ask questions about the vaccine, says Churchill. Public health is working to have vaccines delivered by family doctors by September.

SEE VACCINE PG 2

Cautious back to school plans

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Students in Central Lambton won’t be having assemblies or eating in the cafeteria when they return to class in September.

Those are just a couple of examples of how the Lambton-Kent District School Board and the St. Clair Catholic District School Board are getting ready for the new school year with a bit more caution than recommended by the province.

Earlier this month the Ontario government put out their guidelines for a return to class. Students will wear masks and the province is investing in HEPA filters for classrooms to improve ventilation. Sports and music are also allowed with safety conditions.

But the Lambton Kent public board and St. Clair Catholic board aren’t quite ready to adopt all the recommended provincial measures.

“There are a few things that are permitted that we are just not quite ready to embrace yet,” says Lambton-Kent Director of Education John Howitt. The public board put out its own back-to-school guidelines.

“An example of that is assemblies. We think we just need to gather a little bit

more data and let the school year get started before we go in that direction,” says Howitt.

The plan says all cafeterias will be closed to start the year but Howitt says there’s some wiggle room there.

“We have some really small schools where cafeterias may make sense to be used following the guidance of eating in cohorts and maintaining two metres minimum distance between cohorts. But we also have some context in schools where it may still be appropriate for students to eat in the classrooms.”

For schools where the cafeteria is closed, elementary students must bring their own food and eat it with their own class, without sharing.

High schoolers also need to bring their own food but are allowed to leave school to go buy lunch. There also won’t be any working vending machines.

All students are allowed to go home for lunch and there will be food at school if they forget to bring some. All ages must also bring a refillable water bottle because fountains will be closed.

The St. Clair Catholic board’s plan, expected next week, will be different.

SEE BACK TO SCHOOL PG 2

A RIDE TO REMEMBER



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Friends and family of the late Lori Neville hopped on their bikes and headed down the Reece’s Corners to Wyoming Trail. Neville was hit by a car while cycling near Petrolia to raise money for children’s cancer research a year ago. The Nevilles organized a ride in her memory last year and family and friends gathered at the Lambton County building and rode the trail Sunday.

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Vaccination clinics planned at schools

CON'T FROM PG 1

“We’re working on is setting up the physician’s offices to be able to get the vaccine in office. So somebody is more comfortable, that has a lot of questions there will be family doctors offering vaccine in September,” says Churchill.

Public health is also working on bringing the vaccines right to the school buildings. Plans are in the works for clinics in high schools and at Lambton College.

In the last week of July, Ontario averaged giving over 103,000 vaccines a day. This week, about 38,800 people are vaccinated daily.

Provincial officials recognize it is going to be tough to get the last 20 to 30 per cent of the people eligible fully vaccinated. Tuesday, Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kerian Moore, said the province is asking health units to focus on mobile clinics and community pop-up clinics to get the needles into arms. The provincial vaccine call in centre has also been calling residents who have booked and missed their second dose to rebook the shot.

Greensmith now acting Lambton MOH

The Independent

Dr. Christopher Greensmith is returning – at least temporarily.

Lambton’s former medical officer of health is returning to the role on an interim basis while the current MOH – Dr. Sudit Ranade – campaigns to become the MP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex for the Liberal Party in the federal election.

Andrew Taylor, the general manager of Lambton’s Public Health Services division says Greensmith is a “well-respected local family physician” and “well-known to the community” after being the MOH for 22 years.

Greensmith is also familiar with the local efforts to combat COVID-19, officials said. He’s been part of the county’s COVID-19 Immunization Task Force and is on the Infection and Prevention Control Committee for Bluewater Health.

Warden Kevin Marriott says “it is important to have strong, continued public health leadership at this time” adding the county is “very fortunate” to have a “seasoned and fully qualified public health physician” take over.

Back to school plans conservative in Lambton

CON'T FROM PG 1

“We’ve been working with the public board and our local medical officers of health to make sure that we’re pretty consistent in our applications,” he says.

Johnson says assemblies and cafeterias will also be unlikely to start the year. And unlike the public school board, field trips will be off the table for a while.

While there will be more activity in the schools, many parents and medical associations are calling for mandatory vaccines for people who work in the province’s schools. The Delta variant of COVID-19 is spreading rapidly and, as US schools have learned, children are susceptible to it. Couple that with the fact there isn’t a vaccine available for kids under 12 and schools could be vulnerable to the virus.

But, the provincial government isn’t mandating vaccination for staff. Instead it’s implemented a vaccination disclosure policy where staff must say if they have had a vaccine or have a medical exemption or taken a vaccine education course. Those who remain unvaccinated will have to take a rapid test at least once a week.

About 110,000 people have signed up again that way.

“A key component of Ontario’s last mile strategy is bringing the vaccines directly to people, where they are located,” says Moore in a news release.

Churchill adds public health is hoping to make it as easy as possible for people to get a vaccine in the next couple of weeks even though vaccination rates have slowed significantly across the province.

He expects to see vaccination numbers “creep up” as school draws closer and the number of cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in the fourth wave of the pandemic.

“It’s not too late and sooner is better,” he says.

“People need to think about what they enjoyed; returning to a lot of activities... since early July and August. If we want to continue to enjoy those things, certainly as we head into the fall into September having as many people as possible fully vaccinated is absolutely the key to maintaining those things that we enjoy and are so important for kids,” he says.

Ranade’s leave of absence is until Sept. 20 and comes as health officials across the province voice concern about a fall surge of COVID-19 cases fueled by the Delta variant.

Lambton is slightly behind the rest of the province with vaccination rates. In Ontario 75 per cent of people over 12 are fully vaccinated with 71 per cent of Lambton residents getting two doses.

Lambton falls far behind in the race to vaccinate school aged children before heading back to class. Across the province 60 per cent of youth to the age of 18 are fully vaccinated, in Lambton only 52 per cent are.

Public health officials say they’re working with school boards to hold special vaccination clinics for school age children in Lambton, however where and when that will happen has not yet been released.

Some parents and medical groups say that’s short of what is needed for a safe return to the classroom.

Howitt says as far as the public board is concerned, tighter restrictions are an issue for higher powers.

“I believe that’s a question not so much for us as employers as it is for the Ministry of Education, the Science Table, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and local health input. We will follow the guidance that we are provided,” he says. Johnson agrees.

The province’s top doctor seemed to disagree with that take.

Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Keiran Moore, announced the vaccination disclosure policy, he said individual employers could do more if they wish.

As parents make plans for back-to-school, they won’t know if the teachers in their schools have been vaccinated. Results from the vaccination disclosure policy - which identifies how many teachers and staff at each school have been vaccinated - will be available to the public by Sept. 15.



Dr. Christopher Greensmith

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Liquor Store plaza (parking lot)	Ernest St & Earnest St (stop sign)	Applewood & Parkside
	Ernest St & Applewood	Parkside & Parkside
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	Juniper & Sycamore St	
	Queen Elizabeth School (bus loading zone)	

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This Month In Lambton

August 2021

f t

Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

Update on Lakeshore Road Reconstruction

Motorists and cyclists are reminded that Lakeshore Road (County Road 7) is closed for reconstruction between Modeland Rd and Telfer Rd. Please use the posted detour route and drive safely. Construction is progressing well - the contractor remains on schedule and the project is expected to be completed in mid-September, weather permitting. Project staff would like to thank all residents for their continued patience and cooperation throughout the duration of this project. Visit lambtononline.ca/construction for updates, and Municipal511.ca for current road closure information.

HHW Collection Events

Household Hazardous Waste Day events will be held at Clean Harbours Canada, 4090 Telfer Road, St. Clair Township from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 25 and October 30. Corrosive, toxic, reactive and flammable materials will be collected. These items should never be placed in a regular landfill because they have the potential to injure sanitation workers and damage our environment. For more information call 519-845-0801 or visit lambtononline.ca/hhw.

Lambton County Library Reopening All 25 Locations

Lambton County Library will reopen all 25 locations beginning September 7, 2021 for curbside pickup service, scheduled appointments for computer use, wi-fi use, academic study and in-person browsing as capacity limits allow. As part of the library’s COVID-19 protocols, all visitors over the age of two must wear masks/face coverings, no food or drink is permitted, computer appointments are limited to 45 minutes once daily, patrons browsing are asked to spend no more than 45 minutes in the library, and capacity limits are in effect at all sites. Also starting September 7, Lambton County Library will be adjusting hours of operation to better align with community needs. Learn more at lclibrary.ca.

Looking Ahead

9:30 a.m., Sept. 1, 2021 - Council Meeting
9 a.m. & 11 a.m., Sept. 15, 2021 - Committee A.M. & Committee P.M.
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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PW development charges to climb 14 per cent

Heather Wright
The Independent

Development charges for builders are going up in Plympton-Wyoming. But it also means there will be better roads, parks and sidewalks. Municipalities across Ontario are able to levy development charges according to Lisa Courtney, of B.M. Ross and Associates, who is helping Plympton-Wyoming create its development charges bylaw which will govern the next five years. “Development charges are a tool that’s available to municipalities to recover capital costs that are associated with either putting in infrastructure or services that benefit future growth,” Courtney told council Tuesday. “The idea of development charges is that growth pays for its share so that your existing taxpayers aren’t paying for the cost of extending sewers, adding on to your treatment plants.” First, municipalities put together a list of capital projects which will benefit not just current taxpayers but those who will be building and living in the town in the future. Plympton-Wyoming’s list includes everything from rebuilding roads for more traffic, improving washrooms at local parks, putting in play and sports equipment in areas of high growth, like Blue Point and Sunset Park, or buy a new plow to keep new streets clean. The municipality then assigns a fee to those services and creates the charges. Right now, someone building a new single family home or a semi would pay \$9,127 in development charges. That money would be put away in specific accounts and then used when the projects began. New builds with multiple units pay \$8,885 per unit now and new apartment buildings now pay \$6,663 per unit. But Courtney says the fees will be higher between 2021 and 2026 because the town has identified more projects which can be supported with development charges. Starting in late September, when the current development charges bylaw expires, developers will pay \$10,393 for single family and semi detached homes. That’s 14 per cent increase or about \$1,260 per home.

Petrolia wants to have some projects ‘shovel ready’ in case there is any more infrastructure grants offered by the federal and provincial governments. Director of Operations, Mike Thompson, suggested in a report to council that engineers work out preliminary plans for a couple of areas in Petrolia, in case new grant opportunities arise. Often the timelines to apply and complete the work is short, so having plans at the ready helps speed the work along, he says. “Valentina and Third, Derby, Kentail, Mutual and Holland Street require full reconstruction, which will include new water, storm, sanitary along with gutter, curb and asphalt,” says Thompson. “With the recent increase to development in this area, these projects have been moved up in our capital plan, to best accommodate the incoming subdivision needs, as well as remedy the areas identified in the Master Drainage Plan,” he added in the report. Normally, if development occurs and upgrades are needed, developers foot the bill for some or all of the work. For example,

The fees were going to be even higher in Wyoming with a separate stormwater charge, which would have tacked another \$1,533. But Adam Sobanski, director of public works, asked council to drop the fee. He told council right now, any storm water management issues are dealt with through the Drainage Act in Wyoming. If the developer would pay the development charge and pass it along to the home buyer, the homebuyer may feel he’s paid twice if work has to be done through the Drainage Act. “In theory, they could pay it again through the Drainage Act for the expansion of that service.” Sobanski says that could be confusing for ratepayers. During the Tuesday night discussion, Councillor Tim Wilkins asked if council could eliminate development charges if it wanted to encourage a certain type of housing, like seniors apartments. Courtney says that could be done, but the municipality would have to pick up the development charges by charging more taxes. While the 14 per cent proposed increase seems large, Courtney says the cost of the charges only amounts to three per cent of the cost on a \$350,000 home. And she says other municipalities, with more infrastructure needs, charge far more. Development charges for single family homes in Sarnia are upwards of \$30,000. While home developers will pay more, non-residential builders will pay less. Courtney looked at the actual number of non-residential buildings which were being erected and determined a flat rate of about \$1,500 for buildings over 10,000 square feet would be fair. That same building would pay \$2,000 today. The development charges bylaw will be written, with the changes approved by council, and will come back for discussion in early September. Mayor Lonny Napper says council will have to make a decision on it at that meeting since the current development charges bylaw expires at the end of September. If that would happen, there would be a period where no charges would be levied.

the proposed subdivisions around Kingswell Glen Golf Course are working together on a storm water management plan which they will pay to build. Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer, Rick Charlebois, says even though the need for the streets to be rebuilt, according to Thompson, was because of increased development, the developers will not be footing this bill. Gold Leaf Developments paid to build a private road connecting Valentina, however Charlebois says town’s road is from Petrolia Line to “where the private road starts and is the town’s asset and responsibility.” The mayor and councillors were happy have MIG Engineering prepare the documents at a cost of \$150,058 in anticipation of more federal and provincial cash. “I think it’s good that we’re proactive, getting ready for opportunities and having this stuff done ahead of time,” says Councillor Joel Field. “It’s really important to have everything ready to go, so if there is an announcement or grants available, we can start construction very quickly, rather than having to wait another six months or a year to do the engineering,” added Mayor Brad Loosley.

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Editorial

Worries for the third pandemic school year

We fear this will be another year of disappointment for Ontario school children.

We’re heading into the third pandemic school year and it seems we are once again not prepared to deal with the virus which has dashed the dreams of provincial championship games, graduations, band trips and practices and just the every day joy of being with friends in the classroom and during break.

The fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is already upon us, so scientist say. And the best defense against it is vaccination. The problem is elementary school children in particular will walk into classrooms without this basic protection because a vaccine has yet been approved for their use.

So, logic would dictate that adults in the classroom would do their very best to protect those kids, as would their parents, by being vaccinated.

Ontario released what it calls a vaccination mandate for schools, which basically amounts to schools staff revealing if they are or are not vaccinated. If they’re not, they’ll be tested for COVID-19 - at first just once a week.

How is that good enough when we already know the Delta virus fueling the fourth wave moves quickly and spreads to more people.

Without an actual mandate for vaccine in Ontario schools, the writing is on the wall. Schools will have outbreaks and it may be a lot worse. Consider the fact some scientist say 80 per cent of those who are unvaccinated would become ill from Delta - that’s a lot of little kids in the path of a deadly illness. And, unlike before, Delta is making a lot of small kids sick.

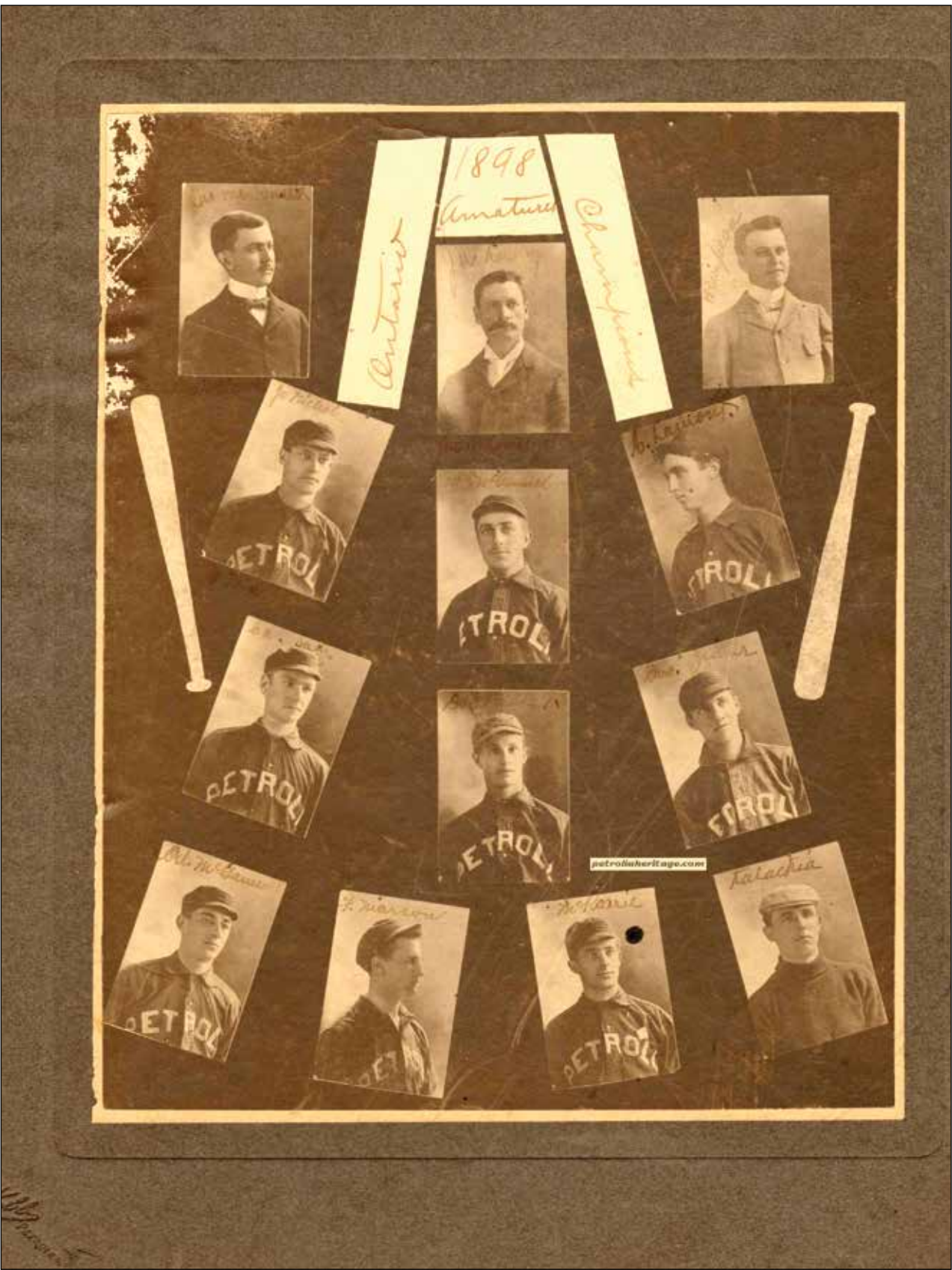
Couple all that with the fact Lambton is way behind on school vaccinations with just over 50 per cent of students vaxed to the max and it is the perfect storm.

Since the province refuses to mandate vaccines, the local school boards have to step up - perhaps forcing unvaccinated workers to provide daily tests. That cost should be borne by the province. Of course the best hope we have is by Sept. 7 parents will have their kids vaccinated. There’s still time but the clock is ticking.

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 HERITAGE PHOTO

One of the oldest sport photos on the Petrolia Heritage website depicts 1898 Ontario Amatuer Champions from Petrolia. While much of the writing is difficult to read, it appears the coach of the team was J.A. Harvey.

The

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Publisher / Editor: Heather Wright
news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Reporters: Alex Kurial

Sales Associates: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Classifieds / Graphics: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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New Warwick subdivision to have affordable options

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts is happy to see a new 40 home development in the planning stages will have some affordable homes.

The township council got a look at what Castel Homes is planning on the north side of Confederation Line.

The subdivision will have 34 lots for single family homes and six lots with semi-detached homes. Some of the single family homes will have only two bedrooms, making them more affordable than many new builds.

Housing prices across the country have soared during the pandemic. In Sarnia-Lambton, the average sale price of a home was \$487,000 in July compared to \$398,000 in July 2020.

During a planning meeting Monday night, Rombouts told developer Frank Callipari, she's happy to see some smaller homes and semi's in the

development.

"I really liked the setup of this and like that there is some really affordable options for people because I think that in Lambton County particularly that we need affordable housing. And there's a lot of young people who would love to buy a house, but just can't afford it at that higher price point. So I appreciate that you have taken that into consideration in this plan," says Rombouts.

Callipari says the hope to keep the cost of the homes down with smaller lots and buildings and perhaps build larger homes in the next phases of the project.

"We're looking at what they were doing in Wyoming, which is a stone's throw away, and they had great success out there.

"I see what we're doing in Mt. Brydges with the same size lots - great success. London is quickly turning to smaller lots, again, for keeping the

price points down and jamming in more houses into sites," he says.

"I think that light size is providing us with more affordable housing for the majority of the purchases out there. We do have options along the (storm water management) pond (in the subdivision) too that are a little bit larger. So, people want a little bit larger home or just a little bit more space, do you have that option as well."

There were few objections from the public with only one citizen attending the virtual public meeting.

She was concerned about the extra traffic which might be generated by the 40 new homes.

Planners say traffic studies say at this time, there will not be a major impact on traffic from the study.

Lambton County planners will review the comments from Monday's meeting and return to council for approval of the draft plan of subdivision in the future.

PW council needs more time to consider farm severances

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming councillors are not quite ready to pass the new official plan.

Last July, the town worked with Warwick Township and the Village of Point Edward to hire NPR Planners and Associates. All the municipalities needed their official plans updated and all had similar issues.

The consultants came back to each municipality with separate plans for each. But there were some things in common including tighter controls over any new cannabis operations and AirBnBs.

Both Warwick and Plympton also wanted to deal with the issue of farm severances. Generally, they haven't been permitted. But Planner Mary Lou Tanner suggest instead of farmers getting approval to sever lots, the municipality deals with the zoning issues first. If council feels a home could be severed, the zoning would be changed first. Then it would be up to farmers to

ask for the severance.

Tanner adds the only time a home should be severed from a farm property is when it is consolidating.

But Councillor Tim Wilkins said Monday farmers in Plympton-Wyoming have voiced concerns about the plan. He says during a public meeting in Camlachie farmers stood to oppose the idea.

"This is truly an agricultural community and at that particular time surplus farm dwellings were not supported...And I just, I don't understand what's changed from then to now. We're still agricultural community."

Wilkins suggested to council he could get 250 to sign a petition against the move if council wanted proof of opposition.

Councillor Mike Vasey says he's heard nothing but positive comments surrounding the idea of allowing some farm severances.

But Councillor Bob Woolvett was concerned the issue of farm severance had not had enough consultation with the farm community particularly

because of the restrictions around gathering during the pandemic.

Tanner believes they have.

"There are very few individuals that oppose surplus farm dwelling severances. I would say that even as late as this morning, I was dealing with inquiries about it. And, you know, what I would say to you is not everybody is happy with the process that we've laid out. But I think it's the right thing for the community because it puts the decision making squarely with council," she told Woolvett.

"It's not something that you get automatically. There are requirements for rezoning and requirements for consent. So there's still public engagement on the specifics and there's still a role for council in the process to make decisions if it's the right thing for that particular farm in that part of the community."

But the issue still worried councillors and they have put approval of the official plan off until council can meet and fully understand the implications of the plan.

Late night noise at PW wedding venue keeps everyone up

The noise from a local wedding venue is keeping it's neighbours up. And that's keeping members of Plympton-Wyoming council awake as well. And it's not sitting well with Councillor Tim Wilkins.

In 2020, council approved the use of the former Bonnie Doon Golf Course as a wedding venue. A neighbour objected saying the land was zoned for a golf course. Town staff worked

with Ferguson Estates to make sure a driving range was part of the plan so the zoning wouldn't have to change.

But there were some restrictions placed on the property to keep the noise of late night parties down on Egremont Road. Over the weekend, councillors were called in the middle of the night by a neighbour complaining of loud music keeping her up contrary to the rules the owner of

the venue agreed to. That raised the ire of Wilkins, who worried his kids might have had an accident. "I think there needs to be a letter... that no counselor needs to have a phone call at midnight. And that's just unacceptable. The constituent should be very glad that actually didn't answer the phone."

The mayor said that sort of thing comes with the job. Town staff will be speaking with the venue manager.

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Green candidate looks for fuel balance

Heather Wright
The Independent

The candidate for the Green Party in Sarnia-Lambton says there needs to be a better balance between oil and gas and renewable fuel sources.

Stefanie Bunko has been named the Green Party candidate in Sarnia-Lambton. The alternative energy engineering technologist works in renewable energy projects for the oil and gas industry.

“I do understand there is a need or requirement for conventional energy ... you can’t just cut it off right away. But at the end of the day, we do need to kind of level it out. No one can deny there’s pros and cons for both sides but if, as the saying goes, too much of anything is going to be hurtful or harmful, we need to learn to balance it in order to actually be beneficial for both the community and the environment.”

Bunko says the Green Party platform reflects

that view. “I do see the Green Party’s stance on the position and I am for, getting more towards the zero emission. Now, zero emission doesn’t necessarily have to be completely cutting off everything, you can achieve that by putting in more carbon sinks ... if there’s a way to capture it and refocus it, so it’s not released, then it’s technically zero emission.”

Bunko is in the running for the seat against incumbent Conservative Marilyn Gladu, Lois Nantis of the Liberals, United Church Minister Adam Kilner and People’s Party of Canada candidate Brian Everaert.

The Christian Heritage Party of Canada is also running a candidate in Sarnia-Lambton. Tom Laird has been acclaimed as the party’s representative. He ran in the last federal election for the CHP and says the party is one of “integrity.” The personal support worker is one of 23 CHP candidates across the country.

The election is Sept. 20.

St. Clair investigating gypsy moth damage

The Independent

St. Clair Township wants to see how much damage gypsy moths are doing in the community.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry observed record-breaking areas of defoliation in southern Ontario with nearly 600,000 hectares of trees stripped by this pest last year, beating the original record of 350,000 hectares in 1991.

The pests have been just as big a problem this year. Mayor Steve Arnold says Bioforest has been contracted to look at municipal properties with trees to see how big the problem is. Some residents have reported issues, however the municipality can’t act on private property.

The study will take place in January and will cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000.


Spraying would take place in the spring if council approves.

MAKING THE SUMMER SALE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Valerie Sipkens of Brims and Bonnets explains the fit of one of her creations to a customer at the Petrolia Tuesday night market. Vendors say the markets have been well attended however Tuesdays hot weather seemed to have dampened shoppers enthusiasm.



TOWN OF PETROLIA

MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
STORMWATER MASTER PLAN SERVICING STUDY
FOR THE PETROLIA SOUTHEAST SERVICE AREA

NOTICE OF COMPLETION

THE PROJECT:

The Town of Petrolia initiated a Stormwater Servicing Master Plan for the southeast service area of Petrolia in August 2018. The Master Plan was undertaken in order to inventory and evaluate existing stormwater facilities within developed areas of the community and to investigate the most cost effective and efficient manner to provide stormwater servicing within future development areas. The Master Plan process has now been completed. A preferred servicing strategy has been identified, which will be implemented in phases, within established areas. The plan has also identified a strategy to address stormwater servicing within future development lands.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS:

The Stormwater Servicing Master Plan was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) which is an approved process under the Environmental Assessment Act. Master Plan projects incorporate Phases 1 & 2 of the Class EA process and also include consultation with the general public, government review agencies, Indigenous communities and affected property owners. While the Master Plan addresses the need and justification for the proposed stormwater servicing facilities at a broad level, more detailed Class EA studies may be required prior to the construction of some components of the plan. The information below outlines the status of various works included as a component of the Master Plan, as well as their status in regards to the Class EA Master Plan process.

TYPE OF PROJECT:

Storm drainage construction or repair within limits of existing road allowances

Road reconstruction, including storm drainage upgrades, within existing road allowances

Construction of new stormwater management ponds and outlets

Construction of new stormwater drainage outlets

Upgrades to existing Golf Course Pond

STATUS:

Schedule A+ - Pre-Approved

Schedule A+ - Pre-Approved

Reviewed in conjunction with Planning Act review process – Schedule A – Pre-Approved

Schedule B – Additional Class EA Review Needed unless reviewed as part of Planning Act process


Schedule A+ - Pre-Approved

The Master Plan has been completed and, by this Notice, is being placed on the public record for review. A Master Plan Report will be available for review on the Petrolia website at www.town.petrolia.on.ca. Please provide written comments on the Stormwater Servicing Master Plan to the Study Engineers by **September 24, 2021**. Subject to comments received as a result of this Notice, the Master Plan will be formally adopted and Petrolia staff will move forward with implementation. For further information on this project, or to review the Class EA Master Plan process, please contact the study engineers: B.M. Ross and Associates: 2695 Hamilton Road, P.O. Box 400 Brights Grove, N7A 2T4. Telephone: (519) (519) 908-9564. Attn: Kelly Vader, Environmental Planner (e-mail: kvader@bmross.net).

Mike Thompson, Director of Operations
Town of Petrolia

This Notice issued August 25, 2021

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Vaccination concerns keep Warwick meetings online

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Township council isn't ready to return to in person meetings just yet.

Councillor Wayne Morris during the township's July meeting while discussing what technology should be purchased to continue streaming council meetings, suggested he would like to return to in person council meetings. But Councillor Todd White, who owns Brookside Retirement Home, isn't on the same page.

"With my business, I would like to ensure everybody I'm with is vaccinated," he said.

Seniors are the most vulnerable to COVID-19 and during the pandemic thousands living in care in Ontario died of the virus before the vaccine was available.

White wants to continue attending meetings virtually and would be comfortable doing that while other council members met in person. "I may still come with YouTube unless we have vaccination certificates for everyone who is there."

Mayor Jackie Rombouts says the new council chambers, expected to be ready early next year, would allow that. Right now, Warwick would need more technology to continue to live stream. The technology which would allow some councillors to meet in person and others to join the meeting remotely would cost about \$20,000 instead of the \$2,000 in equipment to allow in person meetings to be live streamed.

Deputy Mayor Jerry Westgate



PHOTO VIA YOUTUBE

Warwick councillors, seen here during a July meeting, aren't ready to return to in person meetings.

suggested it might not be needed; "Is everybody double vaccinated right now?" he asked.

"I don't think that's appropriate to ask," interjected Rombouts.

"We're not through this COVID thing yet," says White. "If we go back, I think we have to have some fairly clear and strict policies on what our expectations are of everyone, including ourselves around the table, or I won't be there."

Warwick's CAO said any municipal business would follow provincial protocols including limits to capacity of a meeting, using masks, filling out a screening questionnaire and using hand sanitizer.

Rombouts agreed with White that COVID is still a problem; "There is evidence saying even people who are double vaccinated are still contracting COVID and still passing it on; so that's not an assurance that we are 100 per

cent out of the woods yet."

"I just have to look out for my residents and my livelihood and I'm just not going to risk it for a council meeting – sorry," said White.

"Personally, at this point, I think it is important to take into consideration everyone's feelings," said Rombouts. "I'm sure even Councillor White would like to meet in person, but we have to be respectful of everyone."

"I would love to meet in person, but I don't completely understand the risks of that either yet," says White.

Council decided to continue meeting virtually until at least October and won't spend the money on extra technology.

"I just think the investment is pretty high for six months of use, when we have technology we are using," says Rombouts.

"I'm in no rush to spend \$20,000 for no reason," added Westgate.

St. Clair Township looking at making more space for staff

Heather Wright
The Independent

St. Clair Township might expand it's civic centre.

Council has given staff approval to look at some options because several employees have no place to do their work at the Emily St. complex.

In a report to council, CAO John Roddy says the building was constructed in 1990 for the Moore Township staff. Two people from Sombra Township moved in after amalgamation.

Then, St. Clair took over 12 parks from the St. Clair Parkway Commission as it closed in 2006.

Roddy says St. Clair also added people to the public works staff after the province changed the requirements for water and wastewater treatment.

The extra employees led the township

to hire a human resources coordinator to handle the staff and the health and safety requirements in the building.

"At the present time, we have no space available to accommodate our new HR Coordinator who is currently using the mayor's office," says Roddy in his report.

An IT consultant who is in the office most of the week also doesn't have a desk.

It's estimated up to 60 people work at the Civic Centre.

Roddy says during the pandemic, it became clear that staff are not always able to be two meters apart to work.

Council has asked staff to explore the issue. Some of the options are expanding the office. It already has the rough drawings for a 4,200 square foot addition that was contemplated when St. Clair was opening an OPP station in the community. Instead, the township



purchased a former call centre which is now the emergency services building.

Mayor Steve Arnold says there is still space on the second floor of that building and staff are being asked to look at the possibilities of renovating that for office space. That report is likely to be discussed during the 2022 budget.

Meantime, Roddy is looking to make minor modifications for two staff spaces.

He also suggested the township might consider a portable building next to the building to provide the space needed.

Enniskillen to display Indigenous land acknowledgement

The Independent

Enniskillen Township will take a step toward reconciliation with the Indigenous people of the area.

Council has agreed to place a land acknowledgement in the entryway of the municipal building.

Clerk Duncan McTavish brought the idea to council after watching the debate during a Lambton County council meeting in July.

"the county plans to basically provide

a number of their facilities to public statements, which will be accessible visible to the public entering their facilities, acknowledging the ancestral lands, but I would suggest to you that that's probably something that we should address within our own municipality," says McTavish.

The county's land acknowledgement recognizes the traditional and treaty territories of Indigenous peoples who called Lambton County home before settlers arrived. Officials say it "pro-

vides for reflection upon and recognition of Indigenous lands, people and treaties and our past."

At the county level, there has been discussion about whether the acknowledgement should be read, either by politicians or staff, at the beginning of each meeting.

However Enniskillen councillors agreed to have the same acknowledgement now used by Lambton County to be displayed in the Enniskillen township building.

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Remembering Tanner

Heather Wright
The Independent

Tanner Redick would have been in the middle of the action. That’s what Jenny Redick says as she waited for her game at the two-pitch tournament she and a committee organized in her son’s name in Alvinston Friday night. Tanner Redick, a firefighter in Alvinston and at Six Nations, died Dec. 13, 2019 when his truck collided with a combine on Petrolia Line. He was just 21. It was a blow not just to his family – Jenny, his sister Sydney and dad, Shawn – but to the Brooke Fire Rescue family. They responded that day and it left a deep impact losing one of their own. Redick started at the Alvinston station when he was just 16. He worked his way up the ranks and became a full fledged volunteer firefighter. It was his passion, friends and family say. He went to school and earned his credentials and landed his first job as a full time

firefighter at Six Nations. “He worked hard to get a post in a very competitive career,” says Dan Cumming – one of the members of the organizing committee. “They don’t usually give full time firefighter jobs to kids in their 20s.” But his career was cut short when the accident took his life less than a month after he started working. Jenny started organizing the tournament in February 2020, just a couple of months after Tanner’s death at the suggestion of his friends. They are frequent visitors at Redick’s home. Redick agreed. They opened registration for the tournament and within 30 minutes there was a full slate of 30 teams ready to play – 20 in the men’s division, 10 in the women’s. But the plans had to be delayed when the world was stopped by COVID-19. Redick says it probably wasn’t a bad thing. It gave them more time to figure out just what could be done to raise money for two of Tanner’s favourite causes – the



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Jenny Redick, dressed in her blue team T-shirt, stands with family and friends of her son, Tanner, during a moment of silence during the opening ceremonies of the Memorial Two Pitch Tournament.

Alvinston Firefighters Association and a group called I’ve Got Your Back 9-11 – which promotes mental health for first responders. Jenny says her son was passionate about making sure people were both strong physically and mentally to do the work of a firefighter. And the organization helped after Tanner’s death, holding a session for the first responders in Alvinston.

“It’s important for first responders to have a means to release what they have seen...they see some bad stuff sometimes, and it’s okay to talk about it.” As her team warmed up on the diamond at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre, Jenny Redick couldn’t help but smile with excitement. And both she, and Tanner’s dad, Shawn knew if he was around, Tanner would be having a great

time. “He would have been here. He would have been involved,” says Jenny. “He would have wanted to be MVP.” “He would have been right in the middle of it,” added Shawn. “Tanner was a very sociable kid. He loved getting out with his buddies.” “It’s a very positive day having this many friends together,” he added.

Goat Cheese, Honey, & Fruit Crostini

Prep Time: 20 minutes Cook Time: 10 minutes
Total Time: 30 minutes Yield: 24 crostini



Description
Crunchy toasted bread paired with a blend of honey and goat cheese is the perfect match for seasonal fresh fruit. Crunchy, tangy, and sweet. The honey is KEY to its flavor! Easiest appetizer ever.

Ingredients
1 French baguette (18 inches), cut into 3/4-inch slices
8 ounces creamy goat cheese
2 Tablespoons honey, plus more for drizzling
1 cup sliced fruit (strawberries, blackberries, peaches)

Instructions
Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Place bread slices on a baking sheet. Bake 10 -12 minutes or until lightly toasted. (This is the ONLY cooking you'll do! Woo-hoo!) Meanwhile, mix the goat cheese and honey together until relatively smooth. If it's a little crumbly, that's ok. Spread the goat cheese mixture on the toasted bread. Top with fruit. Before serving, drizzle each crostini with honey. Keep leftovers covered tightly in the refrigerator for a couple days.

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Sports

Former Petrolia Jet named head coach of Carolina Thunderbirds

The Independent

The Carolina Thunderbirds have hired Wyoming’s Garrett Rutledge as head coach and director of hockey operations.

The one-time member of the Petrolia Jets is just the second head coach in franchise history.

“We’re excited to have Garrett on board. He brings a very high level of knowledge and work ethic to the position,” said General Manager Kelly Curl.

“We are excited to see his

transition from the OHL to the FPHL and look forward to his style of coaching.”

Rutledge comes to Carolina from the Ontario Hockey League (OHL)’s Saginaw Spirit, where he served as the video coach since 2019.

Prior to Saginaw, he began his OHL career as a scout and later an assistant coach with the Flint Firebirds.

“What I’ve learned over the years is we’re going to have fun when we come to the rink. If you

look forward to coming to the rink and seeing the boys every day, it makes things a lot more enjoyable, and obviously you’re going to have success if you enjoy coming to play,” said Rutledge.

“If guys don’t believe in you, they’re never going to ‘run through the wall’ for you.”

Rutledge has described himself as a coach who welcomes high-pressure situations, as well as one his players tend to gravitate towards.

Rutledge is already looking

forward to his arrival in Carolina and wanted to see what the atmosphere was like.

“I can’t wait to actually get there and see the facility.

“I actually watched two games on YouTube, I was very impressed with the quality, the fans going crazy, and the pace of play,” said the coach.

The T-Birds play in the Federal Prospects Hockey League, -that includes the Port Huron Prowlers. Carolina’s league opener is Oct. 29 and will be in Port Huron Dec. 9.



Garrett Rutledge

OHL requires vaccination for entry

The Independent

Spectators wanting to see the Sarnia Sting, London Knights or any other Ontario-based OHL team this season will have to be fully vaccinated to do so.

“This expanded policy will cover all spectators and other attendees at all OHL games, including games and practices,” said a statement from the league last week noting the new regulation takes effect at the start of the 2021-22 regular season on October 7.

The statement says that those wanting to access any of the league’s 17 facilities in Ontario will need to provide proof of full

vaccination against COVID-19 as well as following any other safety protocols implemented by individual teams.

“Children under 12 will be required to be accompanied and supervised by a fully vaccinated adult,” the statement said.

“And will be required to follow all safety protocols.”

The Sting is scheduled to open the ’21-22 regular season against the Spitfires in Windsor on Oct. 7 before hosting the Spits the following night at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena.

London opens at home against the Owen Sound Attack on Oct. 8.

Verbeek has new job with Red Wings

The Independent

Pat Verbeek has a new job. He’s been named the new general manager of the Grand Rapids Griffins of the American Hockey League.

He will also retain his position of assistant general manager with the Wings.

The 57 year-old from Plympton-Wyoming is beginning his ninth season with Detroit, following a lengthy front office stint with the Tampa Bay Lightning.

In his expanded role with the Griffins, Verbeek will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the team, including personnel decisions, contract negotiation

and player movement.

“The Griffins are a first-class organization and Grand Rapids is a fantastic market for hockey,” said Verbeek.

“Both of those factors are critical in the successful development of prospects in the American Hockey League and the ability to help them get to the next level. I look forward to continuing the winning culture in Grand Rapids and providing our prospects every necessary resource to develop as professionals and become impactful players in the NHL.”

The Griffins have been affiliated with Detroit since 2002.

Dolbear brothers win provincial title with Selects

Clay and Carter Dolbear were part of a championship run by the Owen Sound Selects at the OASA Under-23 provincial championships.

The Selects defeated Tavistock, 11-1 in the final. Former Lambton College baseball standout, Brady Hogg, was also on the Selects’ roster.

Owen Sound opened the tournament with a win over the Alvinston Jr. Aces.

The Selects and Aces will both play at the Rawlings Grand Slam of Softball event in Saskatoon from Sept. 2-5.

The Grand Slam replaces the Nationals that were cancelled by Softball Canada over COVID concerns.

At the Grand Slam tournament, Aces are in a division with the Saskatoon Diamondback and the Peguis First Nation squad from northern Manitoba.

Cattlebarons win pair, Raiders lose to Pirates

Justin Grift had four hits and three RBI to lead the Wyoming Cattlebarons to a 9-5 win over Port Lambton’s second team in Western Counties Senior baseball action.

The victory followed a 1-0 verdict over the Corunna Giants Aug. 18 on the road.

Jeremy Park was the winning pitcher. Joe Stock took the tough-luck loss.

Both pitchers only surrendered three hits.

Mitch Robb knocked in the lone run of the contest.

Elsewhere last week, Paul Bezaire had three hits and a pair of RBI to lead Port Lambton over Petrolia, 4-2.

Steve Gray had two hits for the Raiders in a losing cause and Travis Moore had three hits including a homer to lead Corunna over Dresden, 10-3.

Provincial high school championships to return

The Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association’s Executive Council says all provincial high school championships and festivals will return for the 2021-22 season.

The decision follows a mandate from the provincial government that allows for sports in schools beginning next month.

“We’re confident that OFSAA events will be offered in a safe manner for all participants and volunteers, and in keeping with that, we are currently finalizing

protocols that will protect the safety of all involved,” said association president Nick Rowe in a prepared statement.

As of press time, the Lambton Kent association had yet to make a determination about the local season.

Southwestern Ontario is scheduled to host a variety of provincial championships this season, including Boys A volleyball, Boys A/AA hockey, Girls A soccer, badminton, girls golf and West regional baseball.

Flags, Flyers getting ready for the 2021-2022 season

The Mooretown Flags will begin training camp Aug. 29 at 7 pm, with the first of three 90-minute skates at the Moore Sports Complex. Camp continues Aug. 31 and Sept. 2 with skates at 7:30 pm. The Flags open their preseason schedule against

Wallaceburg at home on Sat. Sept. 11. Flags GM John Baker confirms Mooretown will open its regular season on Oct. 2 verses the Petrolia Flyers.

Petrolia elected to invite specific players out to try out instead of hold training camps.



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- Develop a Safe Long Term Care Act collaboratively

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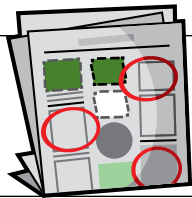
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Cash for GOLD SILVER Jewelry ALL COINS - Fri September 24 Lions Hall 457 Huggard St Petrolia (Next to Petrolia Arena) 9am-4pm **PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE** ALL Gold JEWELRY Any Gold (even teeth) Old coins Canada USA World War Medals Windup Watches Covid 19 Precautions in place. Dan Jones B.A.B.Ed.53 yrs Exp. House calls available-519-818-1805

In Memory HUNTER

In loving remembrance of **Bernice** who passed away, August 31, 1993.

The years go by so quickly seasons come and go Life goes on without you But we still miss you so.

Remembered by Kay

In Loving Memory of

Bernice Hunter

who passed away Aug. 31, 1993.


In our home she is fondly remembered.

Sweet memories cling to her name.

Those who loved her in life sincerely,

Still love her in death just the same.


Fondly remembered by Dick Hunter & Family.



Card of Thanks

Thank You! *From Shirley Mitchell*

To all my sons & wives for putting on my Birthday Party. To all who came to my party, sent cards, gifts, and baked cakes. To Rosemarie and Nancy Selman for hosting my party at Albany Retirement Village. To everyone else who made my Birthday a day to remember.



Death Notices

August 15 - August 22, 2021

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15 FOWLER, June Age 82, of Petrolia (formerly Dawn Twp) Needham-Jay Funeral Home	THURSDAY, AUGUST 19 ROWSELL, Constance Age 87, of Kettle Point Denning's of Forest
PARKER, Rev. Canon Harvey Age 98, of Strathroy Van Heck Funeral Home	SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 MILLS, John "Jack" Age 80, of Courtright Knight Funeral Home
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17 PRONG, Steven Age 60 Denning's of Forest	PHAIR, Marion Frances Age 90, of Dawn Valley Badder Funeral Home - Dresden
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19 HOLMES, Ida Grace Age 95, of Dresden Badder Funeral Home - Dresden	SUNDAY, AUGUST 22 GRAHAM, Renelda A (Druiett) Age 93, of RR2 Croton John C Badder Funeral Home

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

Obituary



SQUIRE (n. Vokes)
Doris Jeanette
January 26, 1932 - July 31, 2021

Doris passed away on **July 31, 2021** at the Comox Valley Hospital in Courtenay BC. After graduating high school Doris entered nursing school in Sarnia, Ontario. Upon graduation from nursing in 1954 she took her first nursing job at Vancouver General Hospital as a surgical nurse. Once married Doris and Harry moved to the Comox Valley where they resided for the remainder of their lives. In their early married life they raised their children, Janet and Chris. Doris was a very proud grandmother of 3 exceptional grandkids. Predeceased by her loving husband Harry, her parents Joseph and Alma Vokes and her siblings Maurice, Ross, John, Ralph, Margaret, and Kathleen. Survived by her sister Marion Smith, and her children, Janet Squire, her son Chris Squire (Maureen) and her grandchildren, Meghan Squire (Will), Brodie Squire (Emma) and Kelsey Fisher. **A private celebration of life was held on August 14th, 2021.**



GRAHAM
Renelda A. (Druiett)

A resident of **RR#2 Croton**, passed away peacefully at Four Counties Health Services, Newbury on **Sunday, August 22, 2021** at the age of **93**. Born in Dawn Twp., daughter of the late Edgar and Margaret (Anderson) Druiett. Renelda was a member of the Oakdale Women's Institute for many years. Beloved wife of the late Arthur Graham (2001). Loving mother of Dorothy Graham and Elaine Graham both of RR#2 Croton, Betty Poland (Michael McDonald) of Watford, and Robert Graham (Pauline) of Petrolia. Loving grandma of Scot Poland (Miranda), Jason Bourdeau (Tracie), Kathy Bourdeau and great-grandchildren Abby, Sierra, Hailey, Sean, and Katie. Dear sister and sister-in-law of John Druiett (Late Jackie), George Druiett (Sandra). Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by a sister Jean Wagner, a brother Norm Druiett, and sister-in-law Nellie Graham. **A Private Family Service will be held at the John C. Badder Funeral Home, Thamesville. Interment Shetland Cemetery.** If desired donations to the Oakdale Hall would be appreciated by the family. **Online condolences may be left at www.badderfuneralhome.com**

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Aug 26	6pm	Petrolia	Optimist Club of Lambton Central/ Petrolia Meat Draw at Crabby Joe's Petrolia. 6 Rounds played.	
Aug 26	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle @ Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Aug 27-Sept 3		Petrolia	Optimist Club of Lambton Central/Petrolia Online Toonie Auction . Visit the auction Facebook page "Petrolia Optimist Online Toonie Auction" Proceeds will benefit the youth of our community.	
Aug 27	8:30pm	Oil Springs	Outdoor Family Movie Night at the Oil Springs Youth Centre. Free Admission bring your kids, lawn chairs, and blankets.	
Aug 27	Sunset	Brigden	Brigden Fair Drive in Movie Night at the Brigden Fair Ground. Cost is \$10/vehicle.	
Aug 28	3:30pm	Alvinston	Alvinston Legion Meat Raffle & Catch the Ace .	
Aug 28	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vender's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Aug 29	4:30-7p	Wyoming	Plympton-Wyoming Truck & Tractor Pull Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner at the Wyoming Fairgrounds. 3piece Broasted Chicken, Potato, coleslaw, beans, roll, dessert. Deadline to order is Aug 20. No walk-ins accepted. To order call 519-384-4098 or visit ttpdrivethru.weebly.com	
Aug 28	3:30-5:30p	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle . Entertainment on the patio.	
Aug 29	6:30pm	Dresden	Dresden Christian Concerts . Free concert by Derrick Drover at the Dresden Christian Concerts Stage (1233 North St) with a message from Rev. Rob Elka.	
Aug 31	5-9pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Night Market at 396 Fletcher (Behind te library). Makers, creators, food vendors, crafters and more! call 519-882-2350 for more info.	
Sept 2	6pm	Petrolia	Optimist Club of Lambton Central/ Petrolia Meat Draw at Crabby Joe's Petrolia. 6 Rounds played.	
Sept 2	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petroli Lions Meat Raffle @ Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Sept 3	9pm	Petrolia	Canada Day Fireworks at the Greenwood Rec Centre	
Sept 4	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vender's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Sept 4	3:30-5:30p	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle . Entertainment on the patio.	
Sept 4	6pm	Petrolia	Petrolia's Barn Dance featuring Scott Manery and the Barnburners at the Petrolia Farmer's Market Pavilion	
Sept 4	7pm	Alvinston	Optimist Club of Alvinston & Districts Cornhole Tournament . \$100 a team of 2 players. 3 games guaranteed.	
Sept 5	6:30p	Dresden	Dresden Christian Concerts . Free concert by The Chapelaires at the Dresden Christian Concerts Stage (1233 North St) with a message from Rev. Andy Cornell.	
Sept 9	6pm	Petrolia	Optimist Club of Lambton Central/ Petrolia Meat Draw at Crabby Joe's Petrolia. 6 Rounds played.	
Sept 9	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petroli Lions Meat Raffle @ Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Sept 10	8:30-12noon	Petrolia	Petrolia & Enniskillen Fall Fair are present the Rumble Fish at the fair grounds.	
Sept 11	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vender's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Sept 11	4-6p	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion Meat Raffle .	
Sept 11	3:30-5:30p	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle . Entertainment on the patio.	
Sept 12-15		Wyoming	Plympton-Wyoming Agricultural Society Virtual Pie & Bake Auction. All proceeds to CEE Hospital. Online bidding online. To donate items contact Sandy Atkinson 519-845-0302. Register by Aug 9.	
Sept 16	6pm	Petrolia	Optimist Club of Lambton Central/ Petrolia Meat Draw at Crabby Joe's Petrolia. 6 Rounds played.	
Sept 18	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vender's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Sept 18	4-7p	Petrolia	LCDS & Petrolia Lions presents Beer & Wing Night at the Lions Hall. 10 wings plus veggies. tickets \$15. For more info 519-882-0933	
Sept 19	10:30a	Petrolia	Special Presentation " Fall Feasts of Israel " by Jews for Jesus. First Baptist, Petrolia	
Sept 25	4-6p	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion Meat Raffle .	
Sept 25	1-5p	Petrolia	Reunion Open House , First Baptist, Petrolia	



for all classified ads is
Monday at 12 noon
for the paper that prints and distributes Wed-Thurs

**3277 Walnut St. ALVINSTON**



\$399,900 MLS: 40148925

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This charming 3-bedroom Victorian Style home has high baseboards and original window trim. The interior was just updated and is ready for your family to move in. Spacious kitchen and dinning open concept with patio doors leading to an over-sized new deck. The open concept living room, family room is enormous. There is an ensuite 2-piece bath in the main floor bedroom that can be used as an office. The primary bedroom has been enlarged and includes a wall-to-wall closet. The primary bedroom is spacious and stunning. Recent vinyl flooring throughout. New front porch, partially covered. An asphalt driveway, leads up to garage. The fenced rear yard is 258 ft deep, shade trees, room for a garden and children and pets to play. High speed unlimited fiber optic Internet is available.

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
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 taking place Sunday's at 9:30a.m.

Rev. Steven Longmoore
Church Office 519-845-3963
wyoming_united@outlook.com
Find us on Facebook

PRO-TAX

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Death threats against man with rake were ‘self defense’ drunk driver says

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man says death threats hurled at his neighbours “weren’t serious”.
Jacob Currie, 38, appeared in court expected to plead guilty to several charges from an incident earlier this year. But his appearance didn’t go quite as planned.
Currie readily admitted he drove drunk the afternoon of Jan. 15. But he argued subsequent comments to his neighbours were taken out of context and perhaps even qualified as self-defence.
Currie’s saga began shortly

after noon at the Shoppers Drug Mart on Indian Road. He became enraged with staff following a mix up over a package delivery. Currie continued berating them as he stormed out of the store.
Workers followed him outside and saw him driving out of the parking lot. He narrowly missed several vehicles before screeching into the opposite lane of traffic and tearing away.
Currie arrived at his Front Street home where his poor driving caught the attention of a neighbour.
Crown Attorney Suzanne LaSha says Currie began yelling death threats at the man. When a female

neighbour heard the commotion and said she called police, Currie said he’d “kill her as well.”
The accused disputed this. “I was yelling but I wasn’t yelling at anyone in particular. I just actually got off the phone with someone I knew personally and they really riled me up,” says Currie.
“They weren’t serious,” he says of the threats.
Currie went on to say his neighbour was coming at him with a rake and any comments were meant to ward him off. Currie says he didn’t threaten his female neighbour.
Justice Krista Leszczynski said there’s too much discrepancy

in the stories and it’s possible Currie was indeed trying to protect himself from an aggressive neighbour.
The justice says the death threat charges would be heard at a later date.
What wasn’t in dispute was the extent of Currie’s impairment that afternoon. After Sarnia Police arrived and arrested Currie he registered a blood alcohol reading of 230.
“I wasn’t drinking that day... I was drinking excessively the night before and didn’t have much sleep,” explained Currie of his nearly triple the legal limit reading. He also says he didn’t

think his driving was really that bad.
“I was just in a bad state... I’ve never had any accidents, I don’t like drinking and driving at all.”
LaSha asked for an elevated \$2,500 fine, noting Currie’s driving was “erratic in nature and caused a great risk to other persons and vehicles in the roadway and in the area around it. Also the level of the readings which were very high.”
Leszczynski fined Currie \$2,200. Along with a \$660 victim fine surcharge he’ll pay \$2,860 total punishment. He also banned from driving for a year.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Addicted drug trafficker says police may have saved his life with drug raid arrest

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Derrick Pillon was addicted to drugs and selling them to feed his habit.
The Lambton County man has been in jail since February after Sarnia Police raided a home on Mitton Street, but he told the court it may have been the best thing for him.
Pillon, 41, appeared in Sarnia Court by video last month pleading guilty to his part in a February drug raid yielding thousands of dollars in drugs and cash. He’s been in custody since his arrest but a release date is now on the horizon.
Pillon became the focus of a drug investigation by the Sarnia Police

Vice Unit at the end of 2020. By Feb. 25, enough evidence had been gathered through surveillance on his Mitton Street South home to justify a search warrant.
Police entered the home and arrested Pillon and three others, including Pillon’s 20 year-old girlfriend who he was under a court order to stay away from.
The raid turned up 15.15 grams crystal meth, 3.95 grams cocaine, 3.79 grams fentanyl, \$3,300 cash and various drug paraphernalia including a debt list.
The total value of all drugs was \$3,384, according to police.
Pillon accepted responsibility for the crystal meth portion of the seizure in court along with a pair of bail breaches.
Defence Lawyer Sarah Donohue

says her client is an addict trafficker, dealing drugs to fuel his own habit.
Pillon, she says, “straightened out briefly” but then “self-sabotaged himself and put himself back in jail because he was unable to cope with his personal circumstances at that time.”
For his part, Pillon was anything but bitter about the experience. “I’m just thankful to the police for actually arresting me,” he says. “Without being arrested I could have very well died.”
Donohue says Pillon has participated in several rehabilitation programs while locked up despite enduring a lengthy COVID-19 lockdown and even contracting the disease.
Pillon admits it has been tough in

the last few months.
“I’ve been shipped around, I haven’t had any visitors, haven’t been able to see any family. So it’s been tough.
“But things are looking up for me,” says Pillon.
Donohue says Pillon already has a job lined up when he’s released.
Justice Deborah Austin sentenced the Lambton man to 270 days in jail. He was credited with serving 206 days for his time in custody before he plead guilty. Another 20 days was credited to him for being incarcerated during the pandemic.
That’s typical of many sentences during the pandemic.
That leaves 44 days of his 270 day sentence for Pillon yet to serve at the Stratford jail, where he is now housed.

“I think that, while lenient, it is a jail sentence of some significance that takes into account the nature of the substance, the quantity and the circumstances,” says Austin.
“A judicial pre-trial was held in which some frailties in the case were discussed and factored into the certainty of this resolution which I am prepared to respect,” she says.
Pillon’s lawyer added the amount of drugs seized during the Feb. 25 raid was at “lower end of trafficking level quantity of methamphetamine.”
Pillon has been banned from owning a weapon for the next 10 years and has forfeited any cash which police seized during the raid.

- THE INDEPENDENT

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



Sudit Ranade - A Candidate who Listens, Leads and Delivers

As Medical Officer of Health for Lambton County, Dr. Ranade shifted into crisis management mode when the COVID pandemic began. He worked with schools and set up testing centres for students and families. He became a regular radio guest, answering call-in questions with humour and in-depth medical knowledge. With the arrival of vaccines purchased by the federal government, Dr. Ranade called in industry experts to build an effective and efficient system of vaccine delivery on a mass scale. With a system that included rural, mobile and pop-up clinics, Dr. Ranade and his team fully immunized 70% of County residents in a few short months. That’s how he can work for you if he’s elected. He will bring ideas, resources and prosperity to our region by working with every sector, institution and community for results. *Want more info? Want to help?* Contact the campaign at ranadecampaign@gmail.com.

Authorized by the Official Agent for Sudit Ranade