

The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

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SUMMER'S SWEET GOODBYE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Buttery family was among those drawn to the shores of Lake Huron to say farewell to summer. Megan Buttery helped her 10 month old son, Edmond, put his feet into the waters at Lamrecton Park Sept. 2 while Atlee, 5, played in the sand behind her.

Hydrogen plant possible in St. Clair Township

Heather Wright
The Independent

A St. Clair Township company is considering building its own hydrogen ready power plant, in part to prove a cleaner fuel source for its power plant.

Eastern Power has started an Environmental Review on the site of the Greenfield South Power Corporation facility on Oil Springs Line. Brendan Holbein, Eastern Power's environmental manager, says hydrogen "is an alternative energy carrier... to use in place of fossil fuels to

reduce the carbon footprint" which "is becoming a growing possibility with a bright looking future."

Many of Lambton's petrochemical companies already produce it, including Nova Chemicals, CF Industries and Imperial Oil.

But Holbein says this project could reduce the environmental impact of the natural gas power plant.

"We look at hydrogen as a good way to switch over to cleaner fuels, carbon cleaner fuels... Hot natural gas is pretty clean otherwise, but it's fossil and there's

carbon emissions."

Holbein says if the studies point them in the right direction, construction could start in 2023.

He didn't have an estimate on the cost of the plant but did say a facility of that size could create between 15 and 20 jobs once it is up and running.

Sarnia-Lambton Economic Development has been promoting the region as a Hydrogen Hub, hoping the province will give the region the designation. Officials add the province and the feds need to create policies to grow the industry.

Warwick mayor rejects vaccine passport

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick's mayor says the province's 'vaccine passports' will create a split society and she wants no part of it.

Premier Doug Ford says starting Sept. 22, Ontarians will have to prove they are fully vaccinated to do a number of things, including eating indoors at restaurants, going to bars, clubs, sporting events, concerts and strip clubs. There will be no restrictions placed on essentials, like grocery shopping or going into retail stores. Take-out dining will also be permitted for people who choose not to vaccinate.

Rombouts, in a social media post, called the practice discriminatory and said she won't be revealing her personal health information. She also won't frequent businesses which ask for proof of vaccination.

The social media post drew a strong response with 4,500 people showing their approval on Twitter.

Rombouts tells The Independent she is not against the vaccine but doesn't understand the need to keep unvaccinated people separate. "So if the vaccine works, and the people who wanted the vaccine are, then they should not have a problem sitting across the room from somebody who is unvaccinated?"

That has already been a concern for some of Rombouts' colleagues.

SEE ROMBOUITS PG 2

Community fridge in the works

The Independent

There will soon be a very big fridge behind St. Paul's United Church in Petrolia with the door open to all.

Larry Leckie says the church is starting a Community Fridge project. A company in Toronto is donating a 12 foot long refrigerated truck to use for the winter months. The church and the Inn of the Good Shepherd will stock the unit with food. Anyone will be able to step inside and get what they need at anytime of the day.

Leckie says the Community Fridge will complement what the Petrolia Food Bank is doing. It gives out food boxes once every three weeks. "This is going to be seven days a week, 24 hours a day," he says. And residents will be able to donate items as well.

The box is scheduled to arrive in October. Before that, the church will hold a community meeting Sept. 22 to explain the concept.

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NOVA SCOTIA’S SONG



Mark Payne was leading a Nova Scotia Kitchen Party with Michael Vanhevel, Jennifer Walls, and Alex Baerg, in the first show at Victoria Playhouse Petrolia since 2019. The theatre - like every other venue around the world - had to shutdown during the pandemic. Songs We Love will be the only show in the 2021 season. Audiences will be limited to 150 per performance - the first of which was Sept. 7.

Rombouts won’t reveal personal health info, use passports

CON’T FROM PG 1

Councillor Todd White, who owns a Watford retirement home, will not be in a room with unvaccinated people. Seniors are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

For her part, Rombouts says she is standing up for the people in her community who are hurting because of the vaccine. She says parents of teen in her circles are “afraid to sleep” fearing their depressed children will harm themselves.

Her concern for the plight of school children prompted her to meet with the parliamentary assistant for the Education Minister recently. Rombouts says thanked MPP Sam Oosterhoff that vaccines aren’t mandatory “because I think parents, along with their children’s health care providers,

should be able to make those choices and do what’s right for their individual children.”

Rombouts adds “I did express on behalf of my community and a number of parents on the community that masks are perhaps not the best tool, and could be more harmful than helpful at this point.” She believes it makes it “difficult to connect with their peers” and engage in classroom discussions.

The mayor added the point of issuing the statement was to “start reasonable dialogue not turn into this divisive, group think where it is us versus them.”

Late Tuesday, Warwick Township issued a release saying the mayor voiced personal opinions and the township continues to follow COVID-19 rules .

Liberals move forward to deliver better care for seniors



- Raise wages for personal support workers, including a guaranteed minimum wage of at least \$25 per hour
- Train up to 50,000 new personal support workers
- Double the Home Accessibility Tax Credit
- Improve the quality and availability of long-term care home beds
- Continue to implement strict infection prevention and control measures
- Develop a Safe Long Term Care Act collaboratively

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Want more info? Want to help? Contact the campaign at ranadecampaign@gmail.com.

VOTE Ranade For Lambton - Kent - Middlesex

Authorized by the Official Agent for Sudit Ranade

Hospitals may fire unvaccinated workers

Heather Wright
The Independent

People who work in hospitals in southwestern Ontario will have to be vaccinated or they may be fired.

Bluewater Health, Chatham-Kent Health Alliance, Windsor Regional Hospital, Hotel Dieu Grace and Erie Shores Health Care released a statement Friday morning saying they have “agreed to implement a progressive plan to ensure that all employees, credentialed staff and volunteers...will be subject to progressive policies beyond mandatory education and testing, leading to unpaid leave and/or termination for cause.

“Mandatory vaccination for new staff will also be implemented by all hospitals to support this effort.”

The news release adds medical exemptions will be honoured.

Mike Lapaine, the CEO of Bluewater Health, says it’s clear Ontario is in the fourth wave and vaccines are the best protection.

“Our staff, frankly, are quite tired. Our staff has been through a tough 18 months, and just the mere prospects of a fourth wave is unsettling for many of us. So we want to ensure that every layer of safety we can put in place is in place, and we believe vaccines is a very important one of those layers,” he tells The Independent.

And Lapaine says it is important for the hospitals to be a safe place.

“We are an institution that receives and cares for people when they’re the most vulnerable, when they’re critically ill and we believe that we have an obligation to follow the precautionary principle and use everything at our disposal to ensure we’re there when people need us to be there. And we strongly believe that vaccines have shown they’re very effective at curbing severe illness, and that our staff and the patients being

treated by our staff should expect our staff to be fully vaccinated,” says Lapaine.

Hospitals have been losing employees as the pandemic rolls on, mostly because of burnout. Lapaine believes this new policy will not make things worse. “I think we need to understand that that whole core group is really in the minority. And we’re basically following the science.

“I would also be concerned if one of our staff has contracted COVID and particularly the Delta ... they’re often ill for quite some time, which takes them out of the workforce as well so, there’s two sides to that. We do not want to lose staff through illness and yes, we are risking that some staff may leave. That will be a choice that they will have to make.”

While he doesn’t have exact numbers yet, Lapaine says the vaccination rate among staff is very high. Chief of Staff Dr. Mike Haddad said 95 per cent of physicians at the hospitals in Sarnia and Petrolia have already been fully vaccinated.

“We don’t want to go through that again or see anyone get that sick. We also don’t want to see any care displaced for anyone due to system strain. We can mitigate the impact of a fourth wave, but we’re at risk still. The misinformation hurts everyone in a finite shared health system.”

Lapaine says while the public may not be paying attention to the COVID-19 trends now it “will become real” through the fall.

“We also know that people are quite fatigued with lockdowns and so anything we can do to avoid lockdowns is critical and lockdowns are usually generated by hospitals becoming overwhelmed with seriously ill patients. And what we also know and have real world evidence to support is that the vaccines are very, very effective in preventing severe illness should someone contract COVID.”



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Corrine Elliott serves up some hotdogs to John Sanderson and his wife, Dayna, of the Dawn-Euphemia fire department during a fundraising barbecue in Florence.

Florence remembers Joe, help raise mental health funds

Heather Wright
The Independent

Joe Elliott was always around to help in Dawn-Euphemia.

So when his family approached Bailey Reckman and Ashley Sanderson about holding a charity barbecue in memory of the Shetland man who recently died of cancer, they were all in.

The Grade 9 students were in the centre of the action in Florence as the community stopped by Florence Mills to have a hotdog Friday.

Elliott and his family have sold Pioneer Seeds for seven decades in Dawn-Euphemia. As a seed dealer, Elliott would host a hotdog barbecue each year during Seed Day. So, as his life was ending in August and he and his family planned his celebration of life, Elliott wanted a hotdog barbecue for his friends.

Connie Elliott - Joe’s cousin - says the community support was amazing. “The community has been fantastic through the whole thing. Joe had chosen to do palliative at home because he wanted to see everyone and say his goodbyes,” she says.

“The community was fabulous; meals brought constantly for the three weeks he was home. And then after, it was just miraculous, when he had a celebration of life, the people that came it was it was wonderful.”

But there were a lot of hotdogs left over. So Elliott’s family approached the teens to help. Both Reckman and Sanderson were glad to help after knowing Elliott their entire lives recalling why they liked Elliott.

“I think about how passionate he was about this community we have, and he seemed to always be giving to others in need in our community,” says Sanderson.

“I always think about how kind he is and how he was always there and he’s always willing to help,” added Reckman.

The family and the teens settled on raising money for youth mental health issues. Elliott’s son, Trevor, died by suicide. His cousin says the promotion of mental health “has a special place in Joe’s heart.”

And Sanderson says it is especially important during the pandemic. “There’s a lot of people that are having a hard time with this,” she said. “And I think with all of this, it just helps people to know that they have somebody that they can talk to you and that they can reach out for help.”

Over \$3,600 was raised during the event in Florence. Elliott’s wife, Kim, who works at the Florence hardware store, shared her thanks on social media . “Joe has a huge smile and very proud of the community involvement and result...You have continued to make Joe Elliott’s name honourable.”

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

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Back-to-School in a Fourth Wave

by Dr. Charles Winegard

— ADVERTORIAL —

**CHARLOTTE ELEANOR
ENGLEHART HOSPITAL**
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Charlotte's Corner

We are officially in the fourth wave that we were all hoping to avoid. Neighbouring Windsor/Essex now has the highest rate in the province for the main COVID variant, which is the delta variant, and it is spreading this way. Sarnia/Lambton's numbers may look hopeful, but past projections have shown that cases in our region spike 2-3 weeks behind other areas of the province. We also need to remember that during the height of the third wave, Sarnia-Lambton had the highest cases in Ontario. We don't want to end up there again.

We all want to open up the province and keep kids at school. The delta variant is twice as contagious and more lethal; and children and young adults are now a

leading cause for hospitalization (due to low vaccination rates).

So what does this all mean for you? It means we are in for a rough ride.

But, there is a way out...if everyone gets vaccinated.

You are 99.99% less likely to go to the hospital or the morgue if you are fully vaccinated. If you are fully vaccinated and contract COVID-19, you are more likely to experience minor illness only.

And let's dispel some of the myths:

- The vaccine is extremely safe for pregnant women; no evidence has been found for sterility or fertility issues
- Only 1 in 700,000 blood clot deaths as a result of the vaccine
- If you have had the COVID virus, you still need the vaccine as your immunity is not as good as if you had the vaccine

If we don't all get vaccinated, businesses cannot open up as much, there will be more adult and youth mental health and addictions issues, more healthcare workers quitting due to the stress, and the next variant (and there will be one) could be even worse.

So please.

Get fully vaccinated if you haven't already done so. Mask in public places, even if vaccinated. Distance as best as you can. Get your kids vaccinated when the under 12 vaccine becomes available.

Let's prevent another lock down.

Editorial

We can agree to disagree

Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts says she doesn't want to live in a divided society but that train has already left the station.

The East Lambton mayor put out a personal statement on social media Sunday saying she would not be revealing her personal health information nor being part of the 'vaccine passport' program which goes into place Sept. 22 in Ontario. The provincial government says people will have to show proof of vaccination to get into some places - mostly those where COVID-19 transmission is more likely; restaurants, bars, night-clubs, big sporting events and gyms.

The system is, in effect, a lockdown 'lite' for people who don't want to be vaccinated. In Canada, people can choose whether or not to be vaccinated, but that doesn't mean there will be no consequences. Proof of vaccination to do somethings is one of those.

Rombouts says it's discriminatory and she won't be a part of it; she won't disclose her personal health information and she won't go to businesses which want her to. She doesn't want a "split society."

Rombouts - like everyone else - is allowed to have an opinion. And some people - a lot on social media - agree with her.

The problem is long before she decided to speak out, society was split; the pressures of COVID-19, whether you're concerned about its spread or believe it's a big conspiracy, have put everyone on edge and frankly, it only seems to be getting worse.

Rombouts wanted to promote a discussion without "group think or us versus them" attitudes creeping in. Very few people can do that right now.

We fear that's not going to get any better as the number of COVID-19 cases again begin to rise and pressure builds.

What do we do about this great divide in our community, our province, our nation and across the globe? It sounds trite, but a little bit of kindness and understanding would go a long way. You don't have to engage in violent verbal battles with everyone you meet. We can agree to disagree. It might help ease the tension in our communities and in our own personal lives.

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



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

Nothing could be finer then closing out the summer with a day at the beach. This photo, from the Dave Burwell Collection, is of the Hotel Imperial in Grand Bend. It appears at the time, there were no seatbelt laws.

Sitting MP not scheduled for local debates: why not?

The federal election has been occupying some of my thoughts recently - an almost welcome change to writing/talking/living COVID-19.

And while people are voicing concern about people throwing stones, literally, at Justin Trudeau or the possibility Erin O'Toole will change the gun laws (likely since he's a former military man with the endorsement of the lobby group for Canada's gun owners), I've been thinking about the riding of Lambton-Kent-Middlesex.

This should be one of the most interesting races in southwestern Ontario, however, it's getting little attention and it's not about to get much better.

Lianne Rood is the incumbent Conservative MP. She won the riding with 49 per cent of the popular vote last time around. And you would have to be practically dead not to realize that right now in southern Ontario, there are a lot of people who don't want Trudeau as the PM anymore.

But the Liberals have put up a high-profile candidate (at least in the Lambton part of the riding) the medical offi-

cer of health, Dr. Sudit Ranade. He led the community's COVID-19 response and is probably the most quoted person in Lambton since March 2020. That's a good base to start from. Also, he's a pretty smart guy who knows how to deal with people and the media.

Normally, the NDP candidate doesn't impress me much during federal elections. They often seem like a person who was convinced to run because no one else would. But this time around Chief Jason Henry from Kettle and Stoney Point is on the ballot. I've listened to him speak a number of times and he's thoughtful and passionate about his community.

Both Jeremy Hull and Kevin Mitchell of the Green and PPC, are businessmen who would no doubt add to the flavour of debates.

But here's the problem; it appears Rood isn't going to be part of any debates. She turned down an opportunity given by *The Independent*, the Lambton Federation of Agriculture is still waiting to see if she'll grace their presence next week and the other

candidates tell me she's not confirmed to be a part of any debates and has already missed one in the largest community of the riding, Strathroy.

I have to wonder why that is?

The only debate Rood appears to be doing is a federal debate on agriculture Sept. 15. It makes me believe she has her eyes set on bigger things, like being minister of agriculture in a Conservative government. And while agriculture is very important in her riding and it certainly would be nice to have a local voice in the portfolio, would it do any good?

If she's not willing to engage with the public during an election campaign when she needs their vote, will she talk to them when she's in power?



Heather Wright

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Opinion

Hospitals explain new mandatory vaccine policy for staff

EDITOR: *The following letter was issued as an open letter to the community.*

Bluewater Health, Chatham Kent Health Alliance, Erie Shores Health care, Hôtel Dieu Grace Health care and Windsor Regional Hospital were recently among the many hospitals in Ontario which moved forward with a staff vaccination policy.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 cases are continuing to increase again in our communities and across the province, with the most severe impacts affecting those who are unvaccinated.

As of August 29, 2021, Windsor-Essex had the highest number of active COVID-19 cases in Ontario - at 119 cases per 100,000 in population, compared to the Ontario average of 40.3 active cases per 100,000.

Over the same time period, Windsor-Essex also had the highest number of new COVID-19 cases in Ontario - at 101 cases per 100,000, compared to the Ontario average of 32.6 new cases per 100,000. (Source: Ontario Government Open Data)

In Chatham-Kent, Sept. 2, there were 18 new cases in the community and eight hospitalized.

There were 13 active cases in Sarnia-Lambton, up two from the previous day. Past projections have shown that cases in Sarnia-Lambton spike two to three weeks behind other areas.

During the height of the third wave, Sarnia-Lambton had the highest cases in Ontario.

The vast majority of our hospitalized COVID-19 positive patients in Erie St Clair hospitals are not fully vaccinated. This is consistent with the provincial trend.

As health care leaders, we need to do everything possible to continue to safeguard our patients, families, communities and those who provide their care. We are grateful to all those who have already been vaccinated. It is our best defense against this virus and the best effort to lessen the impact of a fourth wave.

Effective Sept. 7, the provincially announced **Directive #6** - which is consistent with our previously announced policies - requires all employees, credentialed staff, contractors, learners/students, and volunteers to provide evidence of full vaccination or the completion of regular testing. Anyone who is not fully vaccinated will also be required to complete a mandatory education module on the COVID-19 vaccine unless a medical exemption is provided.

However, Directive #6 sets a minimum standard to meet. It can be influenced by local conditions. Our goal is to have our vaccination rates at 100 per cent.

After reviewing the conditions with our respective boards, the five hospitals of the former Erie-St. Clair LHIN have collectively agreed to implement a progressive plan to ensure that all employees, credentialed staff and volunteers (not including those with an accommodation for medical exemption or under the Ontario Human Rights Code to full vaccination), will be subject to progressive policies beyond mandatory education and testing, leading to unpaid leave and/or termination for cause. Mandatory vaccination for new staff will also be implemented by all hospitals.

Each hospital will announce a deadline for all impacted employees, credentialed staff, contractors, learners/students, and volunteers to confirm they have been vaccinated, or face an unpaid leave of absence and/or termination of employment and/or privileges.

This decision was not taken lightly. However, it is the right decision to protect our patients, colleagues and community whom we are obligated to ensure receive safe, quality care while we do everything we can to reduce the potential risk of COVID-19 amid the delivery of vital health care services.

For Bluewater Health
Mike Lapaine, President and CEO,
Dr. Michel Haddad Chief of Staff,
Brian Knott Board Chair

Drivers need a refresher course on cyclist rights to be on the road

EDITOR:

A couple of situations have prompted me to write this letter. Last summer, while cycling downtown, a gentleman in his passing vehicle suggested I was a silly old b-----d and I should get off the road. I immediately rode to the OPP station to confirm my rights as a cyclist. Apparently that chap has never had a car door opened in his face while

riding to close to the curb.

This September, another large pickup truck came right up behind me and blew his horn, followed by another vehicle that asked me if I had a death wish. I feel bad that some have fallen into this 'It's all about me - don't get in my way' society.

I wonder if it is time for a refresher course for those driving these powerful

machines to be reminded of everyone's rights on the road.

Can we be a little more tolerant of those in our community who choose to exercise and maintain healthy habits in this critical time we are going through. Thanks to the majority of motorists who kindly give us space.

Richard Bradley
Petrolia, ON

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PLYMPTON & WYOMING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

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The Plympton and Wyoming Agricultural Society, formerly known as the Plympton Agricultural Fair, was formed in 1846. It is the oldest fair in Lambton County.

The first fall fair was held on the farm of John Fisher, Lot 14, Concession 8, Plympton Township. It was located there for many years and on February 22nd, 1907 it was moved to Thames Street, Wyoming, and later to Main Street. A hall was erected in 1911 and extra land was bought in June 1926 for race tracks.

The current day fairbuilding was erected in 1973 by Wilpstra Construction Ltd, on Part of Lot 15, Concession 2. The building was clear of debt by 1977 and was used for community dances, local banquets and the Wyoming Business Association with their very successful trade shows.

Since 1846, the Plympton Wyoming Agricultural Society has been an integral part of the local community. In its early years (1929) - the Society would sponsor a St. Andrews Supper for 75¢ a plate with a noon luncheon the next day of 15¢ a plate.

Times have definitely changed, and now we can host weddings and corporate events of up to 350 people with modern amenities such as a Large Screen Projector, a complete sound system, ultra high-speed internet and a newly expanded WiFi system. With a modern fully-equipped commercial kitchen, the Agricultural Society carries on the tradition of our forefathers, as always being a place where serving lots of food for very reasonable prices - "is just the right thing to do."

In 2011 we can all remember the Snowmageddon that took place in our area. Once again, the Agricultural Society was called upon to become a designated Emergency Warming Centre for all of the stranded motorists that were unfortunate to be stuck in the storm. The helicopters brought in people from along Highway 402 to seek warmth and a bite to eat.

Our grounds have been utilized for training seminars, the annual Truck and Tractor Pull, and hosting various animal shows, clubs and sports teams. As fall turns to winter, you can utilize our numerous out-buildings for indoor storage, at a reasonable rate.

In 2021 we were asked to become one of the designated COVID-19 vaccination centres for rural Lambton, and again we were honoured to take our place in history offering our familiar hospitality to the community.

Carrying on the tradition of giving back to our community, we donated \$25,000 to the New Plympton-Wyoming Wellness Centre in our Town.

If you've ever wanted to become part of the tradition that the Plympton Wyoming Agricultural Society offers, we would love to hear from you.



- 12th-15th

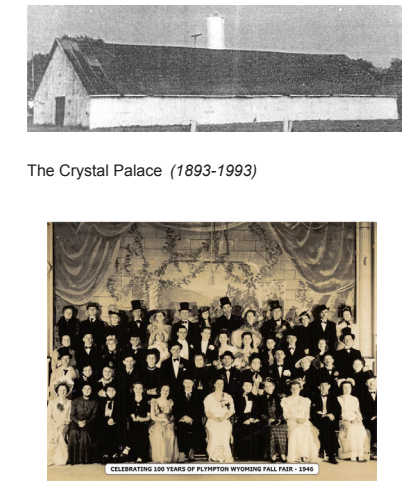
VIRTUAL PIE AUCTION BIDDING
PROCEEDS TO CEE PETROLIA
- 17th
7:30pm

FAMILY NIGHT MOVIE
ON A 26 FOOT SCREEN WITH
FREE FAIR FOOD
- 18th
12:30pm

ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL
BEER TENT
- 4:30pm

CAR-BARN CHICKEN DRIVE-THRU
- 19th
11:00am

PW CAR RALLY
PRIZES AVAILABLE TO BE WON
- SEE WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK FOR DETAILS FOR ALL THE ABOVE
- ACTIVITIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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Snowmageddon (2011)



175

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"If you Mustache..."

Stop gobbling up farmland: OFA

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is worried the current provincial government is gobbling up farmland for development.

Crispin Colvin of the OFA told Lambton County councillors recently only eight major countries in the world, including Canada, are self sufficient for crop production.

“That’s a very small number of countries that have to supply food to 9.8 billion people by the year 2050. So, we simply cannot continue to lose agricultural lands at a rate of 175 acres a day. And we have, as an organization, a deep-seated concern with the recent proliferation of ministers zoning orders. To date, I believe there’s in the neighborhood of 57 that had been issued.”

Municipal governments can apply to the minister of municipal affairs to ignore local planning to build industrial projects. It used to be rare, but the current Conservative government has used them extensively including in a competition to draw Amazon to build a warehouse near Toronto.

Colvin told councillors the OFA is concerned the Conservative government will continue removing some of the most valuable farmland in Ontario from production.

“Once the farm is turned into a shopping center, or a warehouse or a subdivision, it’s never going to produce food again,” he says. “The bottom line is we’re down to less than five per cent of Ontario’s land base that can be suitable for agricultural.”

He added, “the minister did order the minister zoning in order to protect Glen Abbey golf course, so I find it fascinating that he’s willing to protect the golf course from development but we don’t care about food.”

Colvin says the OFA is trying to build support among municipalities to convince the current government to stop overriding planning rules to keep agricultural land for food production. And he says municipalities have a role to play.

“Zoning orders short circuit your long established planning principles and your policies and it is short sighted.”

Councillors agreed and will be sending a letter to the minister.

‘Do we need to do this every single meeting?’

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton County councillors will acknowledge the Indigenous people who lived here before European settlers arrived before each council meeting.

But not all the politicians agree the act of reconciliation is necessary at every meeting.

County councillors first agreed to post the Land Acknowledgement in county buildings in July. It reads; “We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.”

But county councillors didn’t approve the idea of the warden or other councillors reading the acknowledgement at each meeting.

Lambton Shores Mayor Bill Weber asked for council to reconsider the idea Wednesday which council approved but not without opposition.

Three councillors, Sarnia City/County Councillor Margaret Bird, Oil

Springs Mayor Ian Veen and Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley wanted first to delay the vote and later asked the acknowledgement only be on the top of an agenda in written form.

“I would be alright with this being on the head of every agenda,” said Veen. “And that way, councillors would have time to take it and truly reflect on what’s being said. I don’t believe that we need to say it in every meeting.”

“I have to question why wouldn’t we do this once or twice a year? Do we need to do it at every single meeting?” said Loosley.

“My other concern is are we setting a precedent for other groups that may want to come and say ‘I want this read for me or for us every meeting?’”

St. Clair Mayor Steve Arnold voiced concern he didn’t really understand the acknowledgement. “I, for one, do not understand what ancestral land we would be talking about, and how we would ever do it without having their consent,” he said.

Arnold suggested members of the local First Nations educate county council. Sarnia City/County Councillor Brian White thought it was a good idea “so that when we read these words at the beginning of every meeting, they’re not just empty words, that we truly understand and can process the value of the words.”

The Indigenous leaders will be asked to provide an education session in the future.

Vaccine protestor tests positive for COVID

The Independent

Lambton Public Health are asking people who might have been at a vaccine protest at Mike Weir Park Sept. 1 to watch for symptoms of COVID-19.

Officials say someone who attended the protest “focused on COVID-19 vaccines and youth” tested positive for the virus.

“The individual was contagious at the

event, and indicated they had a lot of conversations with fellow protestors unmasked for greater than 15 minutes,” said Lori Lucas, Supervisor of Health Protection in a news release.

“They also noted that physical distancing was not being observed.”

“We are now encouraging anyone who attended the event to monitor for symptoms. If symptomatic, individuals should isolate immediately, and get tested at their earliest convenience.”

Multicultural and Indigenous Communication Services

Become a Preferred Vendor

The **Ministry of Government and Consumer Services** seeks proposals from highly qualified, experienced vendors to provide multicultural and indigenous communication and marketing services to Ontario government ministries and agencies. Only Preferred Vendors will be invited to compete for projects as they become available.

To apply, go to www.ontario.ca/tenders, select Current or Published Opportunities, enter Project Info filter, click Go, enter Tender#, click Search.

Tender# 15383 for Multicultural and Indigenous Communication Services (projects \$25,000 or more)



RE-ELECT
MARILYN GLADU

Advance Poll Info

Advanced polls will take place from
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. from Sept. 10-13

Petrolia Advanced Polls

Petrolia YMCA
360 Tank St., Petrolia

Plympton/Wyoming
Agricultural Society
595 Main St.,
Wyoming

You can also vote any time
at our local Elections
Canada office in the Sarnia
Walmart Plaza until
6:00 p.m. on Sept. 14



Authorized by the official agent for Marilyn Gladu

Petrolia sends off summer with a bang



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS
Petrolians and their neighbours sent off the summer with some fun over the weekend. Friday night, families were treated to a 50 minute fireworks show at Greenwood Park. Then Saturday, the Farmers' Market was hopping as the crowd gathered for Scott Manery and the Barnburners.





NOTICE

FLUSHING OF HYDRANTS AND WATERMAINS

Monday, September 13th – Friday, September 24th , 2021
7:30am to 4:30pm

The Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) will be flushing water mains throughout Watford and Warwick Township, as part of the annual flushing program.

You may experience discoloured water coming from your tap. If this happens, we suggest you try the following:

- Remove the aerators from your taps and flush all the house lines until the water runs clear.
- You may also decide to refrain from doing laundry during this period to avoid staining of your clothing.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

OCWA will continue to work on the flushing programs to ensure consumer satisfaction. Any concerns, please contact OCWA at the phone numbers below.

Township of Warwick 6332 Nauvoo Rd. Watford, Ontario N0M 2S0 www.warwicktownship.ca	Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) Southwest Region 9210 Graham Rd. West Elgin, Ontario N0L 2P0
---	--

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Although Dr. St. Pierre is currently not providing OHIP insured services as part of an ongoing funding dispute between Ontario Optometrists and the Ontario Government, Petrolia Optometry remains open to non-OHIP eligible eye exams (adults aged 20-64) and the dispensing of eyeglasses and contact lenses to patients of all ages.

Please call the office with any questions or concerns for patients of all ages and we will properly direct you to the service provider most appropriate at this time.

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Sports

Cattlebarons OBA champions

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Wyoming Cattlebarons rode the right arm of Corey Saunders to an Ontario Baseball Association Senior B baseball title.

Saunders pitched a pair of complete games Sunday in Port Lambton to give the Barons the championship.

After beating Fort Erie in the semi-finals, Wyoming had to defeat previously unbeaten Corunna twice to claim the crown and they did exactly that with victories of 8-1 and 7-2.

Saunders feat was remarkable. He threw all 14 innings for the champions, scattering 14 hits and striking out seven.

Travis Moore suffered the loss in the decisive game.



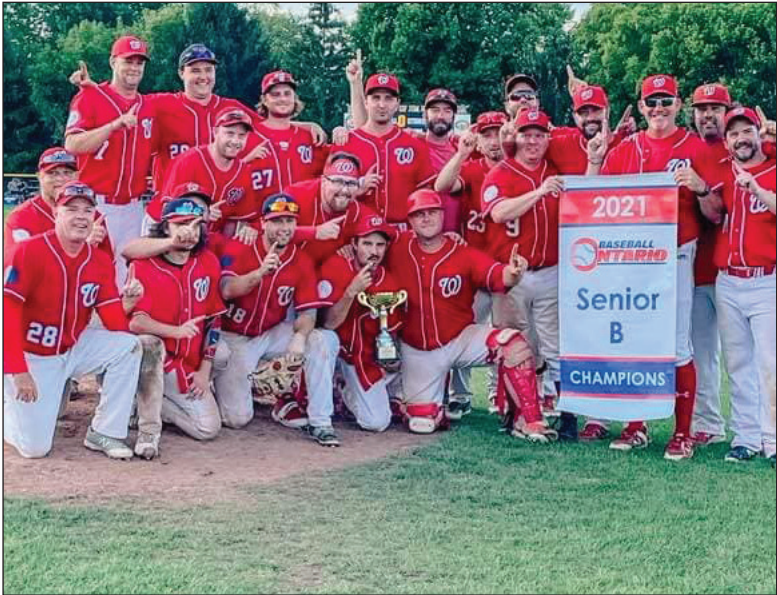
HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Jeremy Park of the Wyoming Cattlebarons tries to make the play at second during the team's defeat to the Petrolia Raiders Saturday en route to the championship.

Travis Helps led the Cattlebarons in the title game with three hits and three RBI.

Joe Stock had two hits for the Giants.

In the first game Warren Boersma had two hits and an RBI for the Cattlebarons, while Garrett Miller had three hits for the Giants. Kristopher Lotz was the



The Wyoming Cattlebarons are the 2021 Senior B Champions

losing pitcher in the opener, although only one of the runs he surrendered was earned. The Petrolia Raiders placed in the

top four at the event. They had victories over Fort Erie and Wyoming before losing twice to Corunna and being eliminated.

Alvinston's Dolbears win Grand Slam

The Independent

The Owen Sound Selects, with Alvinston brothers Clay and Carter Dolbear in their lineup, beat Team Newfoundland, 8-1 to win the U23 division at the Grand Slam of Softball in Saskatoon last weekend. The invitational tournament was in place of Softball Canada Nationals that were cancelled by COVID for a second consecutive year.

Clay had two hits in the championship tilt and hit .400 for the tourney, while Carter had a hit and an RBI. Former Lambton College baseball star Brady Hogg was also on the Owen Sound roster. He had a hit, an RBI and a run scored in the final contest.

Meantime, the Alvinston Junior Aces played at the same tournament. They jumped out to a 3-0 record with wins over teams from Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, including a no-hitter by Andrew Van Boekel, but then lost to Owen Sound and Tavistock and were eliminated from the nine-team affair.

In the men's senior draw, Bear Creek Express, with former Alvinston fastballers Jeff Lyons and Ty Sebastian in its lineup, advanced to the semi-finals before losing to a team from BC, 12-5

McGrail heads back to Jr Sting hoping to play some Jr B

Jace McGrail plans to return to the Lambton Junior Sting organization this season after being reassigned by the OHL's Peterborough Petes following training camp.

The 16 year-old Wyoming product was selected by the Petes in the 10th round of Priority Selection earlier this year.

McGrail will return to the Jr. Sting

U18 this season with hopes of spending some time as an affiliated player with the Sarnia Legionnaires which has already signed their allotted two, 16 year-olds for the season.

Meanwhile, two graduates of the Jr. Sting program have now signed with OHL clubs. Landen Hookey and Josh Hoover signed with the Soo Greyhounds and Sudbury

Wolves respectively last weekend. Both 2020 draftees.

Meantime Veteran power forward Brayden Guy has been named the captain of the Sarnia Sting for the 2021-22 season because of his professionalism and character.

"It means a lot to me and from the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank everybody for the opportunity."

Senior hockey leagues require COVID-19 vaccine to play

Both the Western Ontario Senior AA and the Super League will be requiring all players coaches trainers, staff, volunteers, executive and officials to be double vaccinated

before the new hockey season starts.

The Petrolia Squires play in the Senior AA league which is expected to begin action in October.

The new Alvinston Killer Bees

will be on the ice for its home opener Oct. 2 in Alvinston during the Brooke-Alvinston-Watford Fall Fair weekend. The Killer Bees take on Elora.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Bluewater Power will be held at the **Alvinston Community Centre** 3310 Walnut Street – Alvinston

Thursday September 14 2021
at 6:00 pm,
in the Auditorium Room

Residents of Bluewater Power's Shareholder Municipalities are invited to attend!

Please note Bluewater Power's Annual General Meetings will now rotate through our Shareholder Municipalities upon request

Please note COVID related requirements (as mandated at that date) will be in place.



AdamKilner.ndp.ca

adam.kilner@ndp.ca

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Adam Kilner Sarnia-Lambton

The last year has shown that when you send New Democrats to Ottawa, we get results.

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Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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Wanted

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

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

Tenders

FARM FOR SALE BY TENDER

David, Susan and Scott Stocking are accepting tenders for the purchase of **East 1/2 Lot 28, Concession 12, Except Part 1 Plan 25R10433; 1637 Oakdale Road, Township of Dawn-Euphemia, County of Lambton, consisting of 98 acres.**


The Vendor makes no representations about the state of the land or its fitness for any particular purpose. Inspections of the farm can be arranged by calling Scott Stocking at 519-401-7133.

Tenders are to be submitted in a sealed envelope to: **THOMAS G. CHALMERS, 12 Victoria Street, P.O. Box 190, Thamesville, Ontario, N0P 2K0.** Tenders are to be accompanied by a **certified cheque in the amount of \$10,000.00** payable to Thomas G. Chalmers, In Trust. Cheques will be returned if the tender is not accepted.

Tenders will be accepted until 4:30 pm on October 22, 2021.

Inquires are to be directed to Thomas G. Chalmers (519-692-3842). Tender forms are available at his office, 12 Victoria Street, Thamesville, Ontario N0P 2K0.

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



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Card of Thanks


SMITH

The Gerald Smith family would like to thank the Fiddicks Nursing staff - who took such good care of Gerald, to Needham-Jay Funeral Home for their professionalism and guidance. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Bob Gibson who touched all of our hearts with his words. Also we would like to thank all those who sent flowers, cards and made contributions, and for the many kind words during this difficult time.

**Geraldine & Ken Wilkins
Shirley & Kim Adams
and families**

Notice

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



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

Obituary



SMITH
Gerald James Lamont

Gerald Smith formerly of Wyoming passed away peacefully with his daughters by his side on **Wednesday, September 1, 2021** at Fiddick's Nursing Home, Petrolia. Gerald was **91**. Beloved husband to the late Viola (nee Taylor)(2013). Loving father to Geraldine and Ken Wilkins of Wyoming and Shirley and Kim Adams of Sarnia. Cherished grandfather to Gerry Wilkins and Jill Lumley, Tom and Kim Wilkins, Tim and Gratiana Wilkins, Amy Adams, Kelly and Ryan Egan, Kimmy and Mark Clark. Treasured great grandfather to Kyle, Katlyn, Kendra, Kayla, Kole, Keagen and Kadence Wilkins, Taylor and Hailey Wilkins, Alicia, Adam, Ava, and Austin Wilkins, Jesse Adams, Ava, Gracie, and Sophie Egan, and Cooper and Maya Clark. Great great grandfather to Case, Brody, Landon, Skyler, Ryder, Walker, and Colt. Gerald was an employee of Fiberglass Canada, where he worked till his retirement. They loved to travel, with some of his and Viola's top trips being the Yukon and trips to the West Coast and East Coast. He loved to fish and hunt and spend time under the Bluewater Bridge watching the ships going up and down the river watching. **A private funeral was held with interment in Wyoming Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceeef.ca). **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home** www.needhamjay.com.

Obituary



RIEDL
Dr. Frank William

Died suddenly at Victoria Hospital, London on **Friday, May 28, 2021. Dr. Frank William Riedl, of Petrolia**, was **81** years of age. He was a Loving husband for 53 years to Lynne (nee Lampitt). He will be missed by his children Becky (David), Craig (Marit), Jenny (Liam), and Frankie, and his grandchildren Jared, Vala, Linus, Oliver, Kennan, Maelyn, Sam, Andrew, Jessica, Maya, and Frankie IV. Frank is the brother of Ed (Odra) Riedl and Ron (Loretta) Riedl, a brother-in-law to Brenda Young, Donna (Bill) Heffron, Kathy (Jeff) Heximer, and an uncle to nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Frank (1990) and Helen (2019) and his sister-in-law Judy McLachlan (2021). A dedicated family physician who was devoted to his patients, Frank has practiced medicine in Petrolia and Alvinston since 1967. In his spare time Frank was an avid gardener. **A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.** Due to the current requirement for social distancing, attendance will be limited to those who have currently been invited. The mass will be live streamed at www.facebook.com/NeedhamJay. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceeef.ca). **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home** (519)882-0100.

Obituary



AUDETTE
Hector Joseph
Jan 12, 1958 - Aug 31, 2021

Passed away peacefully on **Tuesday, August 31st, 2021** at St. Joseph's Hospice, Sarnia at the age of **63**. Loving husband to Jennifer (nee Young) and cherished father of Philippe (Kaitlynd) Audette and Dominique Audette. Beloved son of Marguerite (nee Parker) and predeceased by father Albert Audette. Brother to Lorraine (Charlie) Caissie, Germaine (Bill) Firth, Fernand (Cindy) Audette, Michelle (Dawn) Audette, Susanne (Allie) Dunn, Serge Audette, and Francine (Craig) Murray. Sorely missed by many nieces, nephews, in-laws and friends. An engineer in training and temperament, Hector worked at Suncor for the last 14 years, following 25 years with Dow Chemical. He enjoyed cycling, playing Zelda, and restoring the beautiful Victorian home he shared with his family in Petrolia. He will be remembered for his wit, quiet humour, bright smile, and thoughtfulness towards all he knew. **Due to COVID 19 concerns, a private family service was held at Lakeview Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to St. Joseph's Hospice or to the Canadian Cancer Society. Stories and condolences may be shared with the family directly, or online through DJ Robb Funeral Home at djrobb.on.ca




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or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

of events

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Sep 9	6pm	Petrolia	Optimist Club of Lambton Central/ Petrolia Meat Draw at Crabby Joe's Petrolia. 6 Rounds played.	
Sep 9	6-8pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle @ Haywood's Tap & Grill	
Sep 10	8:30-12noon	Petrolia	Petrolia & Enniskillen Fall Fair are present the Rumble Fish at the fair grounds.	
Sep 11	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vender's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Sep 11	4-6p	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion Meat Raffle .	
Sep 11	3:30-5:30p	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle . Entertainment on the patio.	
Sep 14			Bluewater Anglers General Membership Meeting - CANCELLED	
Sep 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.	
Sep 15	7pm	Camlachie	Plympton-Wyoming Historical Society September Meeting with Guest Speaker Tom Slater at the Camlachie Community Centre	
Sep 15	12-4pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Ladies' Legion Auxiliary 3rd Wednesday Jamboree . Lunch served 12-1pm, lunch cost \$7; donations for music only starting at 1pm at Petrolia Legion	
Sep 16	6pm	Petrolia	Optimist Club of Lambton Central/ Petrolia Meat Draw at Crabby Joe's Petrolia. 6 Rounds played.	
Sep 18	7:30-noon	Petrolia	The Petrolia Farmers' Market with local vender's. 396 Fletcher St. Behind the Library. COVID-19 guidelines in place.	
Sep 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	
Sep 19	12 noon	Watford	Zone A-4 Drumhead Service , hosted by Br#172 Watford Legion, form up at KalTire - 5350 Nauvoo and march off @ 12:15 pm	
Sep 19	10:30a	Petrolia	Special Presentation " Fall Feasts of Israel " by Jews for Jesus. First Baptist, Petrolia	
Sep 19-25			Legion Week 2021 – check your local Legion for events	
Sep 25	4-6p	Oil Springs	Oil Springs Legion Meat Raffle .	
Sep 25	1-5p	Petrolia	Reunion Open House , First Baptist, Petrolia	
Sep 25	4-7pm	Petrolia	St Paul's United Church " 100km Take-Out Dinner " advance tickets only, ordering deadline Sept 15, arsyer@brktel.on.ca , call or text 519-383-9085	

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@ 11:00 am
Church Service

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

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
www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia

Wyoming United Church
730 Second Street, Wyoming

In Person Services
taking place
Sunday's @ 9:30 am

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

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FEDERAL ELECTION / MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20



#ItsOurVote

There are ways you can vote early.

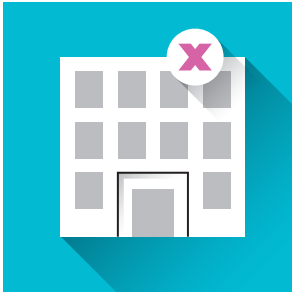
You can vote:



At your assigned advance polling station from Friday, September 10, to Monday, September 13, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.



By mail – Apply by Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m.



At any Elections Canada office before Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m.

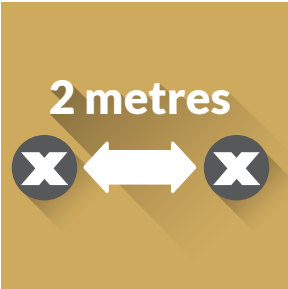
Check your voter information card for all the ways you can vote.

Your health and safety is our priority.

At your polling station, poll workers will be wearing masks. There will also be:



Hand sanitizer stations



Clear physical distancing markers

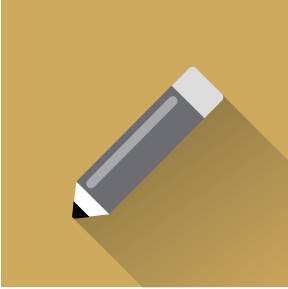


Only one poll worker per desk behind a plexiglass barrier

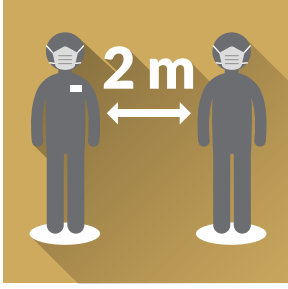
When you go to vote, don't forget:



Wear a mask



We will provide you with a single-use pencil to mark your ballot, or you can bring your own pen or pencil



Practice physical distancing by staying at least two metres away from voters and poll workers

If you have tested positive for or have symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have been in contact with someone who has the virus, visit elections.ca to apply to vote by mail. You have until Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m., to apply.



It's Our Vote

Stay safe. Vote safe.

Visit elections.ca for the official information on voting and the health and safety measures in place

1-800-463-6868 / elections.ca / TTY 1-800-361-8935

