

The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

Vol. 9, Issue 5

Newsstand Price \$1.50 per week

Thursday, September 30, 2021

HEAR YE SHOPPERS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Petrolia's Town Crier, Les Whiting, was getting the attention of about 250 people who came to Petrolia's downtown for the Shoppe Like Charlotte Event Friday night. The event - in its 10th year - raises money for the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital Foundation.

Up to 91 per cent of teachers vaccinated against COVID

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative
Heather Wright
The Independent

We're getting a better picture of just how many educators and staff in the local school boards are vaccinated against COVID-19. Statistics released by the Lambton-Kent District School Board show 91 per cent of teachers and trustees say they have been vaccinated. The board doesn't require teachers to show their vaccine certificates. At the St. Clair Catholic District School Board 89 per cent of teachers and trustee report being double vaccinated. The vaccination rate among other people in close contact with students in the public board is not as high. That includes visitors,

volunteers, contractors, other professionals and bus drivers.

The public board reports about 17.5 per cent in that category have not been vaccinated.

In the Catholic board, 19.5 per cent of the people in the other category haven't submitted their COVID-19 vaccine forms yet, so it is unclear exactly how many people in the category are not yet vaccinated.

The public board has 126 employees who have not yet reported.

And the number of medical exemptions is very low - just seven at the public board and five at the Catholic board.

The statistics come as the boards deal with a rising number of COVID-19 cases in the schools. In Lambton Tuesday, there were 13 cases of COVID-19 in local schools, far

fewer than in Chatham-Kent where 38 staff members and students have tested positive for the virus.

The case rise in Ontario schools has people questioning when a vaccine will be available for elementary school students under 12. "We anticipate that will become available in Canada in the weeks to come," says Lambton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Christopher Greensmith. "There'll be 9,000 children we'll be preparing to get the vaccine to once that does become available."

Greensmith says public health is considering school and drive thru clinics. "We were trying to get something that's more child friendly and less intimidating." So far the uptake for students between 12 and 18 has been good with 64.8 per cent fully vaccinated.

No temporary fix for the Highland Glen boat ramp

Heather Wright
The Independent

Boaters hoping to be able to use the Highland Glen boat ramp next year are out of luck.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's board of directors has decided a temporary fix suggested by a consultant wouldn't ease safety concerns at the boat ramp and it would be better to look for funding for a more permanent fix.

The conservation authority closed the ramp in late 2019 after the original groyne wall on the west side of the boat launch ramp was ripped away by wave action. High water levels in 2020 eroded the west and east sides of the ramp, exposing the steel wall and eroding the banks on the beach. That's putting the parking lot in jeopardy.

When the launch closed, the authority and Plympton-Wyoming - which is home to the park - were inundated with complaints. The launch is seen by many as a safe harbour to get off Lake Huron rapidly when the storms come up.

The conservation authority hired an engineer which came up with a temporary and long term fix. But Greg Wilcox, the manager of conservation areas, told board members Sept. 24, a temporary breakwater wouldn't work.

"There's still the same safety concerns we've had since we closed it in that wave action coming from the west is coming in without being broken up by any sort of structure and we still have those concerns that it creates unsafe conditions at the ramp," he says.

"If the board is going to move to repair the facility, our hope was that we could move right to trying to find funding for the permanent fix versus the temporary fix."

That permanent fix costs \$1.7 million. The authority's board wants at least half of that paid by the federal or provincial government. Some don't think even the permanent fix is a good idea.

SEE HIGHLAND GLEN PG 3

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to come, watch
The Independent
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for updates.

Highland Glen ramp won't be fixed yet

CON'T FROM PG 1

“I see this to be a very significant price tag,” says Sarnia Councillor Bill Dennis saying 900 paid uses over the last three years, wasn’t significant enough to justify the cost of even the permanent fix. “This seems to me to be a huge price tag for such a small user impact, especially when basic road infrastructure is desperately competing for scarcity of dollars.”

Plympton-Wyoming Councillor Tim Wilkins disagreed, implying the conservation authority had been dragging its feet. “We got to get this thing up and going and the fact that we haven’t got it, it’s kind of unacceptable to be honest.” He added Plympton-Wyoming had been able to plan and begin constructing shoreline erosion projects in a much shorter time frame.

But Point Edward Councillor and the

board’s vice chair, Larry Gordon, says the authority wants to get it right. “If and when we decide to invest in his boat ramp, it’s going to last.”

And he says the authority should be working to declare the ramp a safe haven, which can open up more federal funding for the fix.

Instead of approving the temporary fix, the authority has formed a committee to find a solution for funding mainly. Wilkins suggested Plympton-Wyoming might be willing to take out a loan for the authority to have the work completed. That idea may be part of the discussion.

Meantime, the commission did agree to install an aluminum beach access stairway at the park next year so beach goers can get down to the water without fear of falling. That will cost about \$10,500.

Petrolia looks at water/sewer increases

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia water and sewer users are facing a higher bill in 2022.

The town held a 16 minute public meeting to talk about the proposed 2.5 per cent hike in both the water and sewer fees.

“Council froze our water and sewer rates in 2021 - that’s no increase - because of the impacts of COVID on our ratepayers,” said CAO Rick Charlebois in a prerecorded presentation to council.

“As of the end of August, eight months of our fiscal year operations, our water revenue was about \$40,000 behind our budget, and our sewer revenues were about \$90,000 behind our budget.”

The spring of 2021 was also one of the wettest in recent memory. For example, in June, 127.6 millimeters of rain fell in the area in 2021, compared to 87.6 in 2020, 73.3 in 2019 and 85.3 in 2018.

Municipalities have to run their water

and sewage systems on a break even basis, including charging rates high enough to plan for future capital needs.

Charlebois says if lower usage continues, the town will have a problem. “With our current water and sewer rate fee structure, the town is at financial risk and our rates into increase for 2022.”

Charlebois pointed out that in the last five years the town has reduced water and sewer rates between five and 10 per cent per year. That was done after the town raised rates dramatically to pay for a new waste water treatment plant and then reduced the rates when it received a large grant to help pay the capital costs.

In 2020, the rate was increased 2.4 per cent.

The town proposes raising both rates 2.5 per cent in 2022, and two per cent in 2023 and 2024.

Council will discuss the rate increases when it begins budget deliberations. Last year, that took place in October.

Campbell museum to be demolished

Heather Wright
The Independent

Campbell House, an old farmhouse at the AW Campbell Conservation Area in Alvinston, is being torn down.

The building is so dilapidated, staff don’t like going up the stairs for fear they’ll collapse.

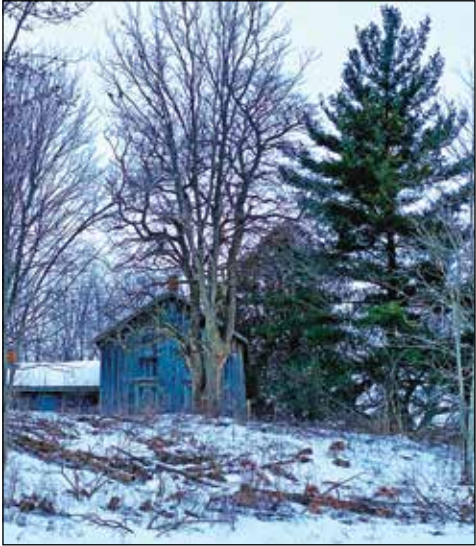
The authority opened the Campbell House Museum in the early 1970s. The house was furnished with items from the late 1800s - donated by local residents - to look like a typical farmhouse from that period. It was open a few days a week in the summer months with the province pitching in some of the money to run it.

But in the 1980s, the money ran out and the museum would only operate during the annual Maple Syrup Festival until 2001. That’s when the museum was broken into and thieves stole the more valuable artifacts. It never reopened.

Greg Wilcox, manager of conservation areas for the authority, says the building has now deteriorated to the point where it is unsafe for public use.

“I don’t see this being fixed,” he says adding there are “holes in the roof, holes in the floors. I don’t even like to walk up the stairs to look at the items upstairs. It’s in really poor condition.”

Wilcox didn’t think there would be a way to repair it, adding kids are still breaking in occasionally and that’s a safety risk.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is tearing down Campbell House at its Alvinston conservation area.

Wilcox says Brooke-Alvinston and Mossa Township, which are home to the conservation area, have been notified and offered any exhibits that they want. Anything that is left will be offered to other museums or sold, if there is interest. “And if there is no interest in the items, then moving forward with trying to dispose of them through options, sale or other methods.”

The demolition is likely to cost about \$16,000.

THE BIG MOVE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Dozens of Hydro One crews, leader vehicles, police officers and Mammoet employees worked through the night to bring the 70 foot long, 33 foot high, 632,000 pound piece of equipment to Shell Canada on the St. Clair Parkway.

Officials had to take a 16 hour route – the vehicles were moving at the pace of a walk – to get from the Sarnia Harbour to Shell because a small bridge over Talfourd Creek wouldn’t bear the weight of the unit. It took 21 months of planning to get the details of the move down pat. The unit made its way down Hill Street in Corunna in complete darkness as the power had to be cut to over 2,200 homes so the lines could be lifted to let the 33 foot high unit through. The crews were stuck between Highway 40 and the outskirts of Corunna for about two hours while hydro crews worked to lift the lines. Officials from Shell say the operation was complete by 3:45 am Sunday – just 15 minutes earlier than the company had earlier estimated.

Authorized by the official agent for Marilyn Gladu

THANK YOU SARNIA-LAMBTON

A heartfelt thank you to all volunteers, my campaign staff, and constituents. Together, we make Sarnia-Lambton better!

Marilyn GLADU^{MP}
SARNIA-LAMBTON

519-383-6600
MARILYN.GLADU@PARL.GC.CA

Editorial

Truth then reconciliation

In July, the federal government declared Sept. 30 Truth and Reconciliation Day.

It is, according to the government, a day to give “the public a chance to recognize and commemorate the intergenerational harm that residential schools have caused to Indigenous families and communities, and to honour those who have been affected by this injustice.

The establishment of a day of reflection was one of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The TRC spent six years travelling to all parts of Canada and heard from more than 6,500 witnesses and hosted seven national events across Canada to engage the Canadian public, educate people about the history and legacy of the residential schools system, and share and honour the experiences of former students and their families.

And yet, in June, when the Tk’emlups te Secwepemc First Nation used ground penetrating radar to find 215 bodies in a graveyard on the grounds of a residential school near Kamloops, the nation was surprised and horrified.

It was, of course, only the beginning. The TRC in 2015 estimated there were 3,200 unmarked graves. It couldn’t verify this, because when the commission asked the government to provide funding to dig deeper into the issue, it was refused. So far, nearly 7,000 undocumented graves have been found.

Canadians have a long history of avoiding this ugly truth. Governments from the beginning of confederation ignored staff sounding the alarms about the schools. Citizens didn’t give a second thought to the schools in their neighbourhoods if they even knew of them. And then, in 2015, when the TRC laid the evidence bare for all to see - we turned away again.

Even now, after a period of shock and calls for action, the public desire to begin to reconcile - to make right what was done for so many years - has waned.

We cannot as a country turn away again from the injustices Indigenous people face even today. Take Sept. 30 to remember the children who died at Indian Residential Schools or survived them never to be the same again. And then begin Oct. 1 to do something to bring justice for Indigenous people.

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

It will be a busy weekend in Alvinston as the Brooke-Alvinston-Watford Fall Fair hosts everything from a tractor pull to a demolition derby. We thought that deserved a look at downtown Alvinston at the turn of the century as we see it in this postcard from the Dave Burwell Collection.

Is the cart leading the horse to develop new parks?

Petrolia is applying for a \$900,000 grant to develop its “Backyard Plan” for the grounds around the YMCA-Oil Heritage Community Centre.

It’s kind of a surprising move considering the municipal council didn’t authorize the application nor have there been any public discussions, that we can find, on what exactly will be included in the Backyard Plan.

The plan, as I understand it, has been to use the land around the facility for a number of recreational facilities, everything from basketball courts, a tennis venue, a tennis academy, a splash pad and soccer pitches.

The term Backyard Plan has been used for a while now. In 2015, the \$1.7 million plan for the development of the property around the Y was floated during a budget session, surprising some members of the community and councillors.

Some questioned the costs, others questioned the location considering the building is beside an industry which sometimes emits odours.

After hearing the complaints, staff

recommended the idea be put on hold to be reviewed. The mayor of the day even said there would be a full public meeting.

So far that hasn’t happened.

There has been a parks and recreation master plan since then which recommended buying more parkland. Council did that this past spring; it is next to the YMCA - 1.3 acres for \$111,000.

The Master Plan also called on the town to “update the conceptual park plan for Petrolia YMCA Open Space.”

One would have to assume that has happened, however it hasn’t returned to council for approval or for direction.

Neither did the grant application, which one assumes would be based on an updated conceptual plan we haven’t seen. Staff tells me council approval isn’t necessary. As a taxpayer, I disagree.

The concept behind municipal government is politicians plot the direction and administrators work out the details. If council hasn’t approved a Backyard Plan, how does administration know what direction to take? It

looks like the cart is leading the horse.

You might think - well it will be great if we’re getting grant money! Grant money is great, but it isn’t free; municipalities will have to pay a share of it. Right now we don’t even know what that share is.

And if town staff secures a grant and councillors hear from the public that they don’t like the plan or it doesn’t meet the needs of the community, do you really think they’re going to turn the money down? Just by applying, the decision to spend the money has been made and not by the politicians we elect. And if they did approve the plan without letting the public know what’s going on or holding the promised full public meeting, that’s unacceptable.



Heather Wright

The

Independent

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Publisher / Editor: Heather Wright
news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Reporters: Alex Kurial

Sales Associates: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Classifieds / Graphics: Meg Forstmanis
office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

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HILLCREST CELEBRATES FRANCO-ONTARIAN DAY



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Students at École Publique Hillcrest in Petrolia celebrated Franco-Ontarian Day on Friday. The annual September 25 day of celebration is held to recognize the contributions of the Francophone community to the province. At Hillcrest the children sang French songs and flew the Franco-Ontarian flag, both full size and miniature versions, for the first time.

Dawn-Euphemia’s rights to Shetland Park secured

Heather Wright
The Independent

A dispute over the fate of Shetland Park should the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority decide to sell it has finally be settled.

The issue started when the municipality was speaking with the authority about the possibilities of the municipality taking over the park in 2020. During the discussions, local historians pieced together the history of the park and its ownership since the legal paperwork wasn’t in order.

A group of farmers owned the area in the 1900s and held an annual picnic there. In 1934 a non-profit group bought the land from owner Duncan Bolton and formed the Shetland Picnic Corporation.

By 1963, the group had turned over the grounds to the then Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority for \$1 on the condition that it would remain a conservation area and park forever and not sold.

As Dawn-Euphemia worked with the St. Clair Region to come up with an operating agreement, the authority’s lawyer suggested the agreement included wording which would allow the township to match any offers if the land was to go up for sale.

That angered Dawn-Euphemia Council. Mayor Al Broad called the idea “absolutely ridiculous.

“Why would we even be considering selling a piece of property to start with? And you can say, well, we’re not going to do it? Well, then why do you need the term in the lease agreement?”

Authority staff said it was a standard clause for all of its properties and it was recommended to be included by a lawyer advising them. Broad said that was also ridiculous.

“I can’t believe the lawyer wouldn’t point out that part of your condition was that you’re to keep the property and maintain it.

“I just can’t believe the lawyer didn’t point that out and say, ‘Look you can’t sell it, because you’ve got a condition here under how it was given to you conveyed to you for the dollar.’”

In the end, the board agreed with Broad and changed the term of the agreement so if St. Clair no longer wants the property, it will be returned to Dawn-Euphemia for a token amount, like \$1.

Petrolia applies for \$900k grant for ‘Backyard Plan’ at the Y

Heather Wright
The Independent

It was never discussed at council, however the Town of Petrolia is applying for a \$900,000 grant from the federal government for its “Backyard Plan” at the Y.

Minutes of the Community Services Committee state the town has applied to the Community Revitalization Fund for “\$900,000 for implementation of

the Backyard Plan”. They’ll know the outcome in November 2021.

The plan, which was delayed once before in 2015 when councillors and the public questioned the \$1.7 million plan, has not been seen by council in a public forum recently and is called “conceptual” in the 2020 Recreational Master Plan.

Clerk Mandi Pearson, in an email to *The Independent* says “Under the application procedure as set out by

the Community Revitalization Fund through FedDev council endorsement is not a requirement of application. Some grants do outline this parameter, and when they do we present to council for endorsement.

“Community Services has only applied, once we hear the result of our submission, and update to council for direction would be provided.”

The grant would cover a maximum of 75 per cent of the cost of the project.

CORRECTION

In an article in the Sept. 23, 2021 edition of The Independent titled Fairbank Oil Celebrates 160 years, it was incorrectly stated that JH Fairbank came to Petrolia after being in Oil Springs. In fact, he set out for the village of Petrolia before Oil Springs and that is why he was a founder of Petrolia. He had a house built for his family ready to move into in the spring of 1865, the King Well was not struck until November of that year and did not become an official village until December 1865. Also Jacob Englehart was the founder of Imperial Oil. We regret the errors and any confusion they may have caused.

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4

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2. SIT UP STRAIGHT

It's important to sit up straight while texting. This way, you can maintain good posture, relieving your back and shoulders from the strain of being hunched over.

3. HOLD THE PHONE A LITTLE HIGHER

Holding the phone closer to eye level helps maintain a healthy posture and puts less strain on your neck. Consider using a stand for devices, even periodically, to change the way that you hold and look at your device.

4. STRETCH

Be sure to stretch often between long periods of extended use of devices. Put your hands at your sides and rotate your shoulders to relieve tension. You can also tuck your chin down to your neck and then look up. This action helps relieve some of the tension built up in your neck due to the forward-down position we often adopt when looking at our device.

If you do experience pain from device use, consult a chiropractor to assess your specific needs and recommend a treatment plan that's right for you.

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MOUNTAIN OF FOOD



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Petrolia Leo's Club did some heavy lifting this weekend with the clubs annual Stuff the Bus campaign at Heidi's Independent Grocers. The members are seen here with the food collected at the Petrolia Food Bank.

Enniskillen councillor wants cannabis deemed commercial

Heather Wright
The Independent

Enniskillen Councillor Mary Lynne McCallum wants the provincial government to deem cannabis production a commercial industry instead of an agricultural product. And she wants municipalities to have more say in where the operations can set up shop. McCallum says Enniskillen, which until this month was home to one of the largest cannabis greenhouses in southern Ontario, has been working to change its own official plan to have tighter controls on things such as light and odour pollution. Those problems caused

neighbours of the High Park facility to take the company to the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board. That hearing stalled when the company moved its operation to Essex County. McCallum says municipalities need more control over the operations. "There is little a municipality can do to regulate these facilities," says McCallum. "OMAFRA tells us to use our tools in the toolbox but when we do, our decisions are appealed and then we foot the bill for the hearings." McCallum says the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has to recognize cannabis is not an agricultural product but is an

industry. She says the provincial planning policies point out agriculture is "food, fur and fibre and this reference sets the playing field for agricultural resources. Cannabis is neither food, fur nor fibre." McCallum hopes to bring a revised resolution to council's next meeting to be circulated to other communities. McCallum feels compelled to get this done because the agency which is supposed to police the industry - Health Canada - are not investigating complaints from the public or doing routine inspections.



David Rogers (right) and David Hogan (left) accept Anne Gelinas' \$20,000 donation.

Volunteers among first to give to VPP capital campaign

Anne Gelinas and Rita Vanderwerf already give their time to help keep Victoria Playhouse Petrolia running smoothly. Now, they're splashing out their cash to help improve it. The pair recently donated \$20,000 and \$10,000 respectively to the VPP's future Capital Campaign. The theatre hopes to improve accessibility to the playhouse, including adding new elevators, through public donations and

government grants. Gelinas says the donation is in memory of her husband, Andy, and her son, James, who cut grass for the town. Vanderwerf offered the money she says, because "I love my town and the VPP is the heart of Petrolia. Over the years, my friends and I have attended many of the shows. The performers are not only the most amazing, hardworking, talented people, but they have become family."



Truth be told.

Our communities are powered by local newspapers. Celebrate how trusted journalism sparks important conversations at nationalnewspaperweek.ca. This artwork was created by Canadian artist Ola Valo in celebration of National Newspaper Week from October 3-9, 2021.





This Month In Lambton

September 2021

[f](#) [t](#)



Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival

Families have been coming to the Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival to shop and enjoy the fall canopy of the beautiful oak forest at Lambton Heritage Museum for over thirty years. It is Lambton Heritage Museum's largest fundraising event. This year, the Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival will be taking place on Saturday, October 16 and Sunday, October 17. Admission is \$5 for adults, seniors, and students, and children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. The festival is open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. both days. If you're interested in volunteering to help with this wonderful event, please reach out to the Heritage Museum at heritage.museum@county-lambton.on.ca.

Oil Museum of Canada renovation

The Oil Museum of Canada, National Historic Site is nearing the completion of their renovation. Final touches are underway, including the addition of accessible sidewalks and landscaping. Visit oilmuseum.ca or the Oil Museum of Canada Facebook page for updates and reopening announcements.


Proof of vaccination

As of Sept. 22, Ontario residents 12 years of age and over must provide proof of vaccination to access certain public settings and facilities. Residents currently have access to a paper or PDF vaccine receipt that includes all relevant information to prove you are fully vaccinated. You can download your receipt at <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca>. Lambton Public Health has partnered with Lambton County Library to make it easier to obtain copies of your vaccine receipt. You can visit any of the 25 Lambton County Library locations to print your vaccination receipts for free, or receive guidance navigating technology to access receipts. LPH is urging anyone who is eligible but not yet been vaccinated to do so. Visit getthevaccine.ca to book an appointment or view upcoming walk-in clinic opportunities.


Looking Ahead

9:30 a.m., Oct. 6, 2021 - County Council
9 a.m. & 11 a.m., Oct. 20, 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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Discoveries
That Matter

St. Clair fire chief retiring

Retirement comes after probe into online comments

Heather Wright
The Independent

St. Clair Fire Chief Walt Anderson is retiring at the end of the month.

He tendered his retirement papers after township council met privately with him to review a report about comments promoting violence in the federal election on the chief’s social media feeds.

Earlier this month, users on Twitter flagged the personal account of Anderson under a National Post story about protestors following the Prime Minister around on the campaign trail. There were widely condemned photos depicting the hanging of Justin Trudeau. Under the post, Anderson’s feed said “Time for Canadians to stand up if that means violence so be it.”

Online, people questioned the exchange. By the noon hour, Anderson was warning his followers, he might have been hacked.

The township launched an investigation, but Mayor Steve Arnold said Anderson had been “impersonated” online.

The chief – in an email to *The Independent* – suggested the same thing. “I contacted the providers to see what accounts they were posted on and to have the accounts deleted.”

A day after the comments were questioned, Anderson’s personal Facebook and Twitter accounts had been deleted, although screenshots of the offending tweets were circulating on Twitter.



A scan of Anderson’s personal Facebook feed before it was scrubbed showed several posts criticizing the current government including one which seems to compare Trudeau with Adolf Hitler and Karl Marx.

Arnold says the results from the investigation into the chief’s social media use were discussed privately this week. “We had discussions with him. The evidence came forward from all the different investigations stuff and so council asked a whole bunch of questions. And it was all in camera, of course. Then after the in camera session was done within a couple of days that’s when Chief Anderson announced he was going to retire,” says Arnold.

Anderson’s last day will be Sept. 29. It’s not clear how long it will take to recruit a new chief for the municipality.



Don McGugan and Dave Ferguson present a grant for the HAM (Hope Alvinston Ministries) Camp programme to Jim Breen (Camp Director) and Patsy Ikert (Treasurer). It provides jobs for youth and summer programming for children .

Community foundation starts in Brooke-Alvinston

The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston has set up a community fund.

The municipality is working with the Sarnia Community Foundation which manages funds for several Lambton County communities.

Brooke-Alvinston decided to move forward with the idea earlier this year to give people a place to donate money to invest in community projects. The municipality unveiled it Thursday.

“Our community has come together to build a community park and many other community upgrades,” Mayor Dave

Ferguson says in a news release. “The Brooke Alvinston Community Fund is one means for its citizens to continue building on the rich heritage of neighbours helping neighbours for the common good.”

“Donations to the Brooke-Alvinston Community Fund are being handled by SCF to ensure that donors know the funds are only spent on community betterment. Decisions on spending income and grants will be made locally by our local committee.”

The arts, children and youth, education, the environment, health, and social services are all areas the foundation makes grants to on an annual basis.



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Sports

Petrolia Flyers, Mooretown Flags open new PJHL season Saturday

Barry Wright
The Independent

The long wait is almost over! After not being able to finish the 2019-20 campaign and having the entire 2020-21 season cancelled due to COVID, the Petrolia Flyers and Mooretown Flags are scheduled to get back to meaningful PJHL action this Saturday at the Moore Sports Complex. Face off time is 7:30. “We’re young, but we’ll be OK,” said Flyers General Manger Dennis Meston this week. He says the Flyers have signed seven

rookies this season, including 16 year-old Evan Morningstar of Camlachie as their underage player and the team still has four rookies signed in 2020 that have yet to play a minute of league action for Petrolia. They are Daniel Gibson, Cam Hackett, Jake MacLean and Bailey Moffatt. “I’d like to think we’ll be in the middle of the pack,” said Meston in response to a question about expectations for the 2021-22 season. Meston says the team will need to dig deep this weekend with six players missing because of

vaccination protocols. He expects most if not all of them to be available for Petrolia’s home opener on Oct. 14. Conspicuous by his absence on the Flyer roster is veteran blueliner Shane Boelens. He will not return this season because of work commitments. “Had he returned, he would have been our captain,” said Meston noting that he understands and respects Boelens’ decision

not to come back. The Flags return many forwards but only a couple of rearguards from its 33-7 team in 2019-20 and both goalies are rookies. Mooretown has signed Lambton Junior Sting grad Bo Duxtator as its 16 year-old for this season and have signed four others from their

local midget (U18) squad. They are Mason Flett, Konnor Adams, Parker McKegan and goalie Logan Phillips. Mooretown has acquired veteran forward Kyle Flamminio from the Petrolia Flyers. The Samia product had three goals and an assist in 37 games with the Flyers in 2019-20.

Killer Bees ready for Alvinston home opener

The Independent

The Alvinston arena will be humming as the new Super Hockey League takes to the ice for the first time Saturday. And Justin Lightfoot has been named the captain of the Alvinston Killer Bees of the newly formed Western Ontario Super Hockey League. The 31 year-old from Lucan is a veteran of the senior hockey wars having played for several teams since 2010, including the former WOAA franchise in Thedford.

The assistant captains will be Watford’s Scott Case, Courtright’s Tyler Ryan and Highgate’s Matt Clark. The Bees open their inaugural season this Saturday against Elora at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre. Game time is 8 pm.



Justin Lightfoot

Dupuis scores twice in Legionnaires opening loses

The Independent

A four-goal outburst in the third period, including a shorthanded marker and an empty net goal propelled the visiting St. Thomas Stars to a 5-3 win over the Legionnaires in the GOJHL opener for both teams. Corunna’s Dylan Dupuis scored twice in a losing cause for the Legionnaires with Brayden Krueger registering the other. Plympton-Wyoming’s Ryan Richardson and Forest’s Bradyn Santavy both had two assists. Wyoming’s Jace McGrail, a draft selection of the OHL’s Peterborough Petes, made his

Junior B debut for the Legionnaires as an affiliated player from the Lambton Junior Sting U18 squad. The same two teams play Thursday at the Sarnia Arena at 7:10 before Sarnia travels to Chatham for a match up with the Maroons on Sunday afternoon at 3:30. Among other games last week, the Strathroy Rockets, with Petrolia minor hockey products Carson Perry and Blake Hull in their lineup, lost 4-1 to the LaSalle Vipers. The LaSalle roster includes former Lambton Junior Sting rearguard and Windsor Spitfires prospect Tanner Winegard.

Alvinston’s Redick registers mound victory for Durham

Sydney Redick tossed five innings of two-hit ball last weekend to lead Oshawa-based Durham College to an 11-1 romp over Mohawk in Ontario College Athletics Association women’s softball action. The LCCVI grad didn’t allow an earned run and struck out eight for her first win of the season. She also helped her own cause at the plate with an RBI double. Redick also hit a solo home run against Seneca last weekend. Durham, 4-2 on the season, will have a big test this weekend when they host St. Clair for a doubleheader Saturday. The Windsor school is in first place with a 10-0 record. They have outscored their opposition, 107-14 in the process.

ONTARIO CHAMPS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

After losing their opening game at the Ontario Slo-Pitch Championships in Niagara Falls, the Watford Hurricanes put together a seven-game winning streak to claim the title in their division. The Canes erased a 12-run deficit in the semifinals to come away with a 22-21 victory and then defeated Orillia, 19-12 in the championship contest. With the victory, the Watford team qualifies for the Nationals next summer in Brampton.

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- 5: Email a photo of your chalk message along with your name, age, and contact info. to fireprevention@petrolia.ca. Entries will be accepted until Tues., Oct. 12, 2021. Submissions from Petrolia and North Enniskillen Township residents under the age of 18.

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Classifieds



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Obituary



WELSH Terry

Terry Welsh, of Petrolia, passed away peacefully at Fiddicks Nursing Home on **Monday, September 27, 2021**, he was **66 years** of age. Terry was the son of the late Fred (1988) and Betsy (2019)(nee Egan) Welsh. He is survived by his brother Dave and Liz Welsh of Petrolia and nieces and nephews of Cory (Elyse) Welsh and their children Ellie and Owen, Amy Welsh, Sydney Welsh, and Keely (Michael) Vanhevel and their son Clark. He is also survived by uncles John and Margaret Egan and John Evans. Terry was also predeceased by a brother Robert (2021) and niece Melissa (2015). Terry Welsh was a loving son, brother, uncle, nephew and friend to many. He had the greatest belly laugh known to mankind. When he laughed, the room lit up! His nieces and nephews adored his curiosity of life, and they in turn, gave him joy as he watched them grow throughout the years. Terry worked at and was supported by LCDS and was forever grateful for his companionship and friendship with his counsellor Ben. With Ben's support, and the encouragement of his brothers, Terry created personal goals and took pride in his accomplishments. He dreamt of singing the Canadian anthem at local hockey games for the Squires and Sting, and made that dream a reality. Terry went on to sing at many community events and at church. He sang just like Jim Nabors! Terry loved to travel, take in sports games and wrestling, and was often found at Tim Hortons enjoying a tasty treat. His favourite place to be was at Dave and Liz's house for his weekly Sunday dinner. His eyes lit up when he picked out a pop, and sat down to enjoy a full plate of food! Watching him laugh while his brothers told stories and shenanigans of their childhood, was the greatest gift. He idolized Bob and Dave and they truly loved him unconditionally. Terry was a gentle, sweet man who became the wonderful person he was because of the community love and support shown throughout his life in Petrolia. If ever there was an example of a community raising a child, Terry was blessed to feel such love. Our sincere thanks to everyone in Terry's LCDS family, the staff, fellow residents and Mike Fiddick at Fiddicks Nursing Home and all of his Petrolia friends for spoiling Terry all his life. Heartfelt thanks to Terry's sister in law Patti for writing this wonderful tribute. **Interment will be held privately in Hillsdale Cemetery. A celebration of life will be announced later.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Lambton County Developmental Services (lcdspetrolia.ca). Arrangments by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.

Obituary



TODD Michael James

With saddened hearts, the family of Michael James Todd "Toader" announces his sudden passing on Monday, September 20th, 2021 at the age of 57. Beloved son of Marie Todd and the late James Todd. Cherished brother of Jan (Dave) Moran and Robert Todd. Loving uncle to Brad Moran, Cameron Todd, Eric Todd and Brooke Moran. Treasured nephew of Sandra Steeves of St. John, NB, Doug and Blanche Todd of Elora, ON, and Al and Nancy Lawton from London, ON. Predeceased by his uncles Robert Todd, William Todd and Edward Todd. He will be deeply missed by his close friend Kathryn Vandenbroek. Michael was a dedicated employee at Arlanxco for many years. He was extremely generous, thoughtful, caring and considerate. Michael was a fan of the Detroit Lions and the Detroit Red Wings. He cherished his time spent hanging out with close friends, family and neighbours. Michael enjoyed his many trips to Mexico. He will be fondly remembered by all those who knew and loved him. Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life took place on Saturday, September 25th, 2021 at Crabby Joe's in Petrolia at 2:00 p.m. Sympathy may be expressed through donations to the Sarnia & District Humane Society or the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada (cheques only at the funeral home please). Arrangements entrusted to Smith Funeral Home, 1576 London Line, Sarnia. Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.smithfuneralhome.ca

Death Notices

September 20 - September 27, 2021

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 PAQUETTE, Steven-Stuart Age 37 Smith Funeral Home	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, cont'd POSEY, Margaret Williams Age 53 Smith Funeral Home
PELLETIER, David Lawrence Age 61 Smith Funeral Home	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 DESJARDINE, Mable Lorraine Age 99 Gilpin Funeral Chapel
TODD, Michael James "Toader" Age 57, of Petrolia Smith Funeral Home	GEORGE, Gloria "Jennie" Age 84, of Town Denning's of Forest
VOGELGSANG, Helga Age 50 Smith Funeral Home	HOPPER, Lynne Marie Age 67 Denning's of Watford
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 DURLEY, David Wayne Age 64 McCormack Funeral Home	LANGIS, Mary Margaret Age 75, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home
HUGHES, Erica Age 72 Smith Funeral Home	MACKENZIE, Tyler Birten James Age 36 Smith Funeral Home
LEYSTRA, Julie Age 83 Smith Funeral Home	VAN WYNEN, Barbara "Barb" Age 79 McCormack Funeral Home
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 FISHER, Bruce Wayne Age 79 Smith Funeral Home	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 KERRIGAN, Mary Alice Age 92, of Petrolia Smith Funeral Home
MAATEN, Janna Age 95 Smith Funeral Home	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 CAPES, Ella Marie Age 94 Denning's of Watford
MCQUINN, Raymond John Age 77 Smith Funeral Home	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 DOUCETTE, Rev. Michael Fintan Age 72 Denning's of Forest
MOBERLY, Donald Eric Age 91 Smith Funeral Home	WELSH, Terry Age 66, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home
SHORTT, Harold "Bud" Age 90 McCormack Funeral Home	
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 KEYS, Annie "Margaret" (n. Robb) Age 90, of Sarnia DJ Robb Funeral Home	

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

WARWICK TOWNSHIP EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Public Works Department

ONE (1) Public Works Labourer/Heavy Equipment Operator, Seasonal
This is a Union Position, CUPE. Local 2393.3
Wages based on approved CUPE Collective Agreement

The Township of Warwick invites applications for one (1) full-time Seasonal Public Works Labourer/Heavy Equipment Operator to assist in day-to-day winter operations for the Public Works Department in an effective, efficient, safe and environmentally responsible manner. Monitor municipal roads to provincial minimum maintenance standards, conduct repairs, and maintain necessary records. Provide winter control, road and sidewalk maintenance under the direction of the Lead Hand and Manager of the Public Works Department. Successful applicant will work on a full time basis from November 15 to April 15 annually.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to organize tasks and complete them on a timely and effective basis.
- Demonstrated knowledge in the use of appropriate equipment associated with the position: Backhoe, grader, tandem truck, tractor and vehicles.
- Physical ability to undertake significant physical labour.
- Required to be available for emergency response rotations as needed for overtime, including evenings, weekends, and holidays.
- Minimum DZ Ontario Driver's Licence for equipment outlined.
- Post-secondary certificate, preferably from a technical program; or an equivalent combination of experience and education.
- Courses in specific functions and/or equipment preferred (Winter Control, Road Grading, etc).

Resumes will be received until **12:00 noon on Friday, October 15th, 2021**

and shall be addressed to:
Andrew Maver – Public Works Manager
Township of Warwick,
6332 Nauvoo Road, R.R. #8
Watford, Ontario N0M 2S0

Work (519) 849-3926 • Fax (519) 849-6136
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For a copy of the job description email: MEsselment@warwicktownship.ca



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4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca



Clara Martin nee Jubenville celebrated her 100th birthday at Fiddicks Nursing Home on Sept. 10 with her family. Clara was born in Kent County and moved to Lambton in 1960 with her husband and six children for better farming opportunities. Clara had several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her mother also lived to be 100 years old.

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Directory

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Calendar

of events

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	
Oct 2	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion Thanksgiving Double Meat Raffle		
Oct 9	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle with 50/50		
Oct 14	7pm	Samia	Lambton Branch Ontario Genealogical Society Meeting in South Hall of LDS Church. Featuring Penny Walters, searching for ancestors when you are adopted. FREE open to public and members.		
Oct 16	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle with 50/50		
Oct 23		Watford	Watford Legion Fish Fry		
Oct 23	3:30	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle with 50/50		
Oct 29		Forest	Poppy Campaign begins. Forest Legion Flag raising		
Oct 30	11am	Watford	Watford Legion Dart Tournament		
Oct 30	3:30pm	Forest	Forest Legion Meat Raffle with 50/50		
Nov 7		Watford	Remembrance Brunch		
Nov 11			Remembrance Day Services		

CLUBS AND REGULAR EVENTS					
DAY	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO	
Mondays	7:00p	Watford	LEGION - Darts (starts Oct 18)	519-876-2360	
Tuesdays	7:00p	Watford	LEGION - Euchre	519-876-2360	
Thursdays	7:00p	Watford	LEGION - Cribbage	519-876-2360	
Fridays	6:00p	Watford	LEGION - Meat Raffle & Catch the Ace	519-876-2360	
Saturdays	2-4p	Petrolia	LEGION - Meat Raffle and 50/50 draws	519-882-1557	
Saturdays	3:30p	Forest	LEGION - Meat Raffle with 50/50	519-786-5357	
E/O Sat	4-6p	Oil Springs	LEGION - Meat Raffle and 50/50	519-834-2537	
2nd Tues	7:00p	Samia	Lambton Br Ont Genealogical Society Meetings	519-339-8144	

Deadline for submitting free events is Mondays at noon.

To have your event included in the above Calendar of Events the following information is required:

Date: _____
Time: _____
Town: _____
Event Title: _____
Phone # / website: _____

You can drop this off at our office or email the information to us at office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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DIRECTORY

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Pastor John MacIntosh

St. Paul's
United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In Person Services
now taking place
Sunday's @ 10:30am

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
wymoming_united@outlook.com
Find us on Facebook

"In his memoirs, Harold Cardinal wrote, 'Any initiative a young Indian might have had when he started through the church school system was beaten out of him before he finished. Rules and regulations counted for everything and discipline was severe. Such an environment conditioned the student to act only under strictly controlled circumstances. When he left the institution he was unable to function in an environment where initiative was needed to guarantee survival.'"





National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Quote: TRC Final Report, Vol 1, Part 2, pg.
Photo: 19b-c000009-d0032-001


In July, the federal government declared Sept. 30 Truth and Reconciliation Day. It was a day already marked by Indigenous people across the nation as Orange Shirt Day - a day to remember the horrors Canada inflicted on children in Indian Residential Schools. They mourn and through their stories, Canadians begin to understand the genocide which occurred, ordered by our governments and carried out at the hands of religious organizations. Today, we dedicate this space to some of their stories as told by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. To learn more the Truth and Reconciliation Commission go to www.nctr.ca. The Centre also has a National Residential Crisis Line for Survivors at 1-866-925-4419.

TRUTH

then reconciliation

Marking Orange Shirt Day and Truth and Reconciliation Day
A time for reflection and action ~ Sept. 30, 2021

"Reconciliation must mean real change for all of our people in all the places we choose to live, change that addresses the wrongs in a way that brings all of us closer together. Human rights, hope, opportunity and human flourishing are not the privilege of one group or one segment of Canadian society; they belong to all of us." AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine, speaking to the Senate on June 11, 2009.






National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Quote: Summary of the Final Report, pg. 717, 2015
Photo: 13a-c004554-d0338-001


"The northern mission schools were often great distances, sometimes hundreds or even thousands of kilometres, from children's home communities, and transportation was difficult and often dangerous. Children often went years without seeing their parents."





National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA


Quote: TRC Final Report Vol. 2 The Inuit and Northern Experience, Pg. 16
Photo: 70a-1027921-d0001-002



"It can start with a knock on the door one morning. It is the local Indian agent, or the parish priest, or, perhaps, a Mounted Police officer. For tens of thousands of Aboriginal children for over a century, this was the beginning of their residential schooling. They were torn from their parents, who often surrendered them only under threat of prosecution."


Quote: Summary of the TRC Final Report, 2015, pg. 37
Photo ID: 01c-c000005-d0008-001

"Not only were students stripped of their home clothing, but their long hair, part of their cultural identity, was usually cut off. Many children knew from their own beliefs that the cutting of hair was part of a mourning tradition. When Daniel Kennedy had his braids clipped at the Qu'Appelle school in the 1880s, he wondered if his mother had died, since his hair had been cut so close to his scalp."




Quote: Volume 1, TRC Final Report, 2015, pg. 599
Photo ID: 13a-c005000-d0092-001

"And I remember one time we were, we were always in lineups all the time, and, and one time we were going by a hall, and I saw him (father). He had work boots. and his work clothes, and he was talking to a nun, and apparently later on I found out that the nuns refused him a visit, but he tried to visit us all the time, but they wouldn't allow him."



Quote: TRC, The Survivors Speak, 2015, pg. 100.
photo: 05b-c005503-d0003-001

"I was kidnapped from Port Renfrew's elementary school when I was around six years old, and this happened right in the elementary schoolyard. And my auntie witnessed this and another non-Native witnessed this, and they are still alive as I speak. These are two witnesses trying, saw me fighting, trying to get away with, from the two RCMP officers that threw me in the back seat of the car and drove off with me. And my mom didn't know where I was for three days, frantically stressed out and worried about where I was, and she finally found out that I was in Kuper Island residential school."
Howard Stacy Jones






National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Quote: TRC Final Report, Survivors Speak, pg. 23
Photo: 13a-c004554-d0931-001

"Elise Charland, who attended residential schools in Saskatchewan and Alberta in the 1940s and 1950s, recalled: 'There was no one there to help us, to love us, to take us in their arms and take the hurt and tears away. That loneliness was unbearable. No one cared whether we lived or died.'"






National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Quote: TRC Final Report Vol 1, Part 2, pg. 148
Photo: 10a-c000529-d-0001-001

"At the Carcross school, Gerald McLeod was hit in the head by a supervisor when he was trying to break up a fight. 'I didn't realize he broke my eardrum right there and then, til a few days later my ear started running and everything, and so I started complaining about it, and nothing got done about it. [th]ey checked it. [th]ey say, 'Oh, you just got a running ear, running ear.'"





National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Quote: The Survivors Speak, 2015, pg. 183
Photo: 13a-c007822-d0001-001